

# The Todd Nuthatch



Indiana, PA

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

January 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, February 6** – Member Tony Bruno will present “Birding Near and Far” at our February meeting. Tony’s adventures into birding and photography started in 2015 when a pair of Bald Eagles constructed a nest that was visible from his work location. While warblers and raptors are his favorite subjects, this evening’s presentation will cover a variety of species that he has photographed during the past several years.

**Tuesday, March 6** – Patrick Snickles, Pennsylvania Game Commission Wildlife Education Supervisor, is no stranger to our group. Patrick, who served northern Indiana County for 19 years as a Wildlife Conservation Officer,



Tony Bruno photographed this gray morph Eastern Screech-Owl in Indiana County.



This striking Spotted Eagle Owl is just one of the many species MarLa Sink Druzgal has photographed.

has presented many interesting programs to our group.

Our March meeting will feature the Barn Owl – its life history, range, and habits as well as little known facts about this owl. Don’t miss this great program!

**Tuesday, April 3** – MarLa Sink Druzgal will present *South African Twitcher* at our April meeting. Bird enthusiasts will enjoy this one-hour presentation of the colorful, crazy birds of southern Africa. Bird calls will accompany the photo and video presentation. See and hear the bird with “The Call of Africa,” and listen to folklore and behavioral accounts of the vibrant, flying wildlife of the country. Presentation will include an exhibit of crafts and other items related to birds of southern Africa, along with a Q&A following the talk.

MarLa photographed the Spotted Eagle Owl to the left in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park in Botswana.

MarLa Sink Druzgal, an Indiana County native, is a freelance writer, digital photographer, and global explorer. She holds an IUP Bachelor’s in English, and an MFA from Chatham University. Her

travel essays, poetry, and photography have appeared in both print and online publications. She is currently revising a book about her years living and traveling throughout southern Africa. Follow her work on her website: [TravelingMarLa.com](http://TravelingMarLa.com)

**Tuesday, May 1** – Wayne Laubscher will present “*Frosty Forests and Frozen Fields: Winter Birrdding in Ontario.*”

Going north in the winter for birdwatching? Yes! It's quality more so than quantity as this program highlights the various far northern specialty bird species that appear in Ontario and even the northeastern U.S. during certain winters. Irruptive species of raptors and finches, wintering northern species of waterfowl and gulls, and the occasional western vagrants will be covered. Where and

when to find them and reasons why they show up so far south of their normal range will also be discussed. The emphasis of the program will be on the areas of southern and eastern Ontario and also a few nearby areas in Quebec.

Wayne is the Clinton County compiler for the *PA Birds* publication and a member of the Lycoming Audubon Society board as well as the Northcentral PA Conservancy Technical Committee. He also coordinates the Audubon Christmas Bird Count centered in the Lock Haven area. He is a native of the Lock Haven area in Clinton County, residing in Swisssdale. Some of Wayne's recent work was as a bio aide for the PA Game Commission. He currently is employed as a QA technician for First Quality/Nutek in McElhatten and bands owls and hummingbirds in his spare time.

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## Outings

**Tuesday morning outings** will continue at Yellow Creek State Park; meet at 8:00 a.m. at the park office located on Route 259 just off Route 422 east of Indiana. In case of inclement weather (impassable roads, ice, etc.), please contact Lee Carnahan (724-388-4667) or Margaret Higbee (724-354-3493) to ascertain whether the outing will happen.

As the days lengthen, early comers are invited to meet at the pavilion on the north shore shortly after dawn. Everyone – from beginner to expert birder – is welcome.

**Saturday, February 24** – Open Country Birding. Meet at **3:00 p.m.** at the Yellow Creek State Park office. We will caravan to Hoffman Road to check the open fields. We will then backtrack to PA Route 56 and continue to the West Lebanon strips. Target birds will include Short-eared Owls, Northern Harriers, and Rough-legged Hawks. Note: This outing is subject to weather and road conditions. Please contact Tom Glover (814-938-5618).

**Saturday, March 10** – Yellow Creek State Park, led by Lee Carnahan (724-388-4667). Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the park office.

**Monday, March 12 through Thursday, March 15** – Coastal New Jersey. This trip will target Barnegat Light, Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge, Cape May, and possibly Sandy Hook. Possible species include Brant, Harlequin Duck, King Eider, Great Cormorant, Northern Gannet, Purple Sandpiper, and American Oystercatcher. We'll remain flexible so that we can check the local list-serves for possible vagrants. If you are interested in going, please contact Roger or Margaret Higbee (724-354-3493).

**Saturday, March 17** – Yellow Creek State Park, led by Sue Dickson (scd83@comcast.net). Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the park office.

**Saturday, March 24** – Yellow Creek State Park, led by Gloria Lamer (724-349-1159). Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the park office.

**Saturday, March 31** – Yellow Creek State Park, led by Roger and Margaret Higbee (724-354-3493) and other Todd members. This is a joint outing with the Friends of the Parks. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the park office.

**Saturday, April 7** – 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 joint spring outing with the Three Rivers Birding Club. This field trip will culminate with lunch at the Chinese buffet in Indiana.

**Saturday, April 14** – Blue Spruce Park, led by Ray Winstead (724-349-2506). Besides early migrants, we'll take some time to feed the Black-capped Chickadees and a few other species from our hands. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the first large parking lot near the park office.

**Saturday, April 21** – Yellow Creek State Park, led by Lee Carnahan (724-388-4667). Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the park office.

**Saturday, April 28** – Mahoning Shadow Trail, led by Tom Glover (814-938-5618; tomnglover@comcast.net). Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Fordham trailhead parking lot. Take US Route 119 north toward Punxsutawney. Just

(continued on page 3)

## From the President's Desk

Have you checked the thermometer outside lately? The first week of the New Year my wife and son saw -15° F on the bank sign in Big Run! The start of 2018 has been bone-chilling cold. The birds have been lining up at our backyard feeders. It is common to see American Goldfinches at every feeding portal on our five feeder tubes. The Dark-eyed Juncos are scrounging every seed they can find under the feeders. Remember our feathered friends during these cold months.

With the cold weather, the birding has proved to be a challenge. Nevertheless, some interesting observations have been made in Indiana County. Five Short-eared Owls were found by fellow member Tony Bruno at the West Lebanon strips on November 10, 2017. Checking the records, this observation proves to be the highest count eBirded for Short-eared Owls in the county. In our tri-county database, however, Karen DeSantis tallied 14 on 3/14/2008 at West Lebanon. Eight Short-eared Owls were reported by knowledgeable non-birders on Hoffman Road. Note as you drive around the area's open fields keep an eye out for Short-eared Owls, Northern Harriers, and Rough-legged Hawks. Also look for the smaller birds like Horned Larks and Snow Buntings.



As you drive around the area's open fields, keep an eye out for Short-eared Owls.

Photo by Roger Higbee



Watch also for Northern Harriers hunting the fields.

Photo by Roger Higbee

Good birding!

Speaking of owls, the Todd Bird Club's February 6 meeting will feature Tony Bruno. And if you know Tony, he will definitely have photos of owls he has found over the years. In March we'll learn about the Barn Owl from Patrick Snickles.

Time for a Phoebe update.... She will turn two this coming March. This past year in 2017 Phoebe and her father Tom set a goal of 52 hikes throughout the year. At various times they were joined by her mother Elyse and her dog Winnie. The hikes took place on numerous trails around their home. The hikes were anywhere from 3 to more than 5 miles long. Tom totes Phoebe around in a backpack carrier. The first hike took place the first week of 2017 and the 52<sup>nd</sup> hike was 5.37 miles long, completed on a cold Thursday, the 21<sup>st</sup> of December 2017. Yes, Phoebe enjoyed every hike. She was introduced to all kinds of new experiences. It has to be noted that over the year Phoebe did grow. In fact, Tom said that starting in 2018, Phoebe can do a lot more hiking on her own two feet! As I always say, you've got to love it!

Tom Glover  
Punxsutawney, PA

## Outings *(continued from page 2)*

before Punxsy, turn left onto PA Route 210. In about 2.5 miles Route 210 will take a sharp left but continue straight on Valier Drive for another half mile into Valier.

Turn right onto Fordham Road. Just after the bridge turn right into the trailhead parking lot.

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

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# Delaware and New Jersey Trip

by Debbie Kalbfleisch

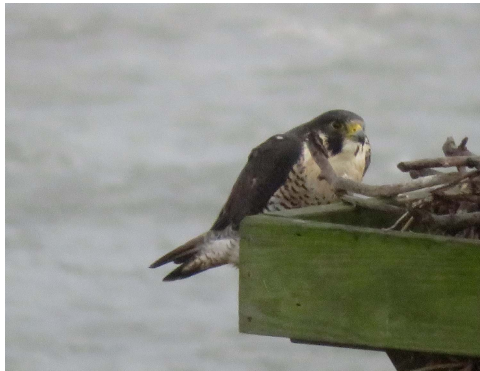
On Monday, October 22, I accompanied Margaret and Roger Higbee to Delaware, hoping to witness the late fall migration along the shore. We made good time and arrived about 2:30 p.m. at Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge, where we met Shirley Martin. Her son, Steve Graff, joined us about an hour later. We spent about four hours birding the refuge, finding Northern Shovelers, American Black Ducks, Northern Pintails, Green-winged Teal, and Ruddy Ducks, along with American Avocets, Black-bellied Plovers, American Golden-Plovers, Semipalmated Plovers, Least Sandpipers, Western Sandpipers, Long-billed Dowitchers, Wilson's Snipe, and Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs. Dunlin were the most numerous bird of all, totaling at least 600 individuals. It was nice to see Great Egrets and Snowy Egrets, as well as Great Blue Herons. A Great Black-backed Gull put in an appearance, and we also counted Laughing, Ring-billed, and Herring Gulls. Caspian, Forster's, and Royal Terns joined the flying gulls. We spotted one Peregrine Falcon, four Bald Eagles, and a Northern Harrier.

The big birding news of the day was that a Common Greenshank had just been spotted in the Brigantine Division of the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge, just next door in New Jersey. What is a Common Greenshank? What a good question! If you look at a bird guide, you will see that it looks almost exactly like a Greater Yellowlegs, about the same size and coloring, but with dull green legs. It occurs only in Europe, Asia, and Africa, and there are very few North American records, especially on the east coast. The best way to tell them apart seems to be the long white stripe going up the greenshank's tail and back, visible when the bird flies. By dinner that night, we had made the decision to pick up Shirley and Steve early the next morning and go hunting for it, since we were only three hours away.

So, at 7:30 on Tuesday morning, with Shirley and Steve in the van, we were heading north in the rain through Delaware. By 10:30, we were at Brigantine, joining other vans and cars filled with birders along the Wildlife Drive.



One of the Red-throated Loons at Edwin B. Forsythe NWR still retained red on its throat. Photo by Margaret Higbee



We spotted one Peregrine Falcon. Photo by Margaret Higbee

We almost immediately came upon a flock of Greater Yellowlegs in the shallows close to the road and were puzzling over one individual that looked a bit lighter than the ones next to it when we fell into conversation with a nearby birder and photographer who said that he had seen the bird the day before, and, no, this was not it. Once we looked at his photos, we realized how very white the greenshank's head was, and it was overall much, much paler than the yellowlegs around it.

We spent the next 3½ hours slowly navigating the Wildlife Drive, stopping to study any flock of yellowlegs that we came across. Most of them were Greater, but we did find two Lesser Yellowlegs. There was a lot of birdlife on the marsh, and we added Snow Goose, Brant, Mute Swan, Blue-winged Teal, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Pied-billed Grebe, American Bittern, Merlin, Field Sparrow, and Boat-tailed Grackle to our list. Two Red-throated Loons were fairly close,

and one of them still retained some red on its throat. Red-winged Blackbirds were numerous, at least 660, and we watched a large flock of 200 Common Grackles take flight. Savannah Sparrows kept popping up, and we tried hard to locate a Seaside Sparrow. When a Bald Eagle cruised by, it triggered an explosion of birds into the air. By mid-afternoon we decided to take a break to go to find lunch. The light rain from the morning had tapered off, although it was still overcast.

We resumed our search late in the afternoon, snagging White-rumped and Pectoral Sandpipers, as well as a Cooper's Hawk, but we had no luck finding the greenshank. Brigantine is huge, however, and we had the feeling that it was still somewhere on the marsh. As we found out later, no one was able to locate the bird that Tuesday. While we never got our target bird, we left New Jersey with a dozen species that we might not have gotten otherwise in Delaware, and we agreed that the excursion had been well worth it.

Early Wednesday morning found us searching the marshy area near the Dupont Nature Center, just south of the

Mispillion River, for sparrows and other elusive swamp birds. Besides Shirley and Steve, we were joined by their friend, Brian Griffin, a budding birder. In the early morning light, we watched a Northern Harrier and several Bald Eagles fly over the marsh. Two Eastern Meadowlarks, as well as several Horned Larks, were also observed. We parked near a likely spot with a small creek running through the grasses, and by patiently waiting, we eventually saw two Clapper Rails saunter out into the open! In addition, Nelson's, Saltmarsh, and Seaside Sparrows put in brief appearances. At one point, Steve and Brian took a walk up the road and came back to report having heard the low grunt of a King Rail.

After a couple of hours, we moved on to Slaughter Beach, the north end of Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge, where we had a high count of 80 Royal Terns and 47 Great Black-backed Gulls.

Still working our way south down the coast and farther into the refuge, we reached the Fowler Beach Road where we found small birds twittering and darting everywhere in the trees and undergrowth. Besides the swarms of Tree Swallows, we added Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, American Kestrel, Carolina Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Palm Warbler, and Swamp Sparrow to our list. We also counted Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Northern Mockingbirds, many Yellow-rumped Warblers, White-throated and Song Sparrows, Northern Cardinals, and American Goldfinches. On Cods Road, we picked up our first Belted Kingfisher; and on Broadkill Road, we found our first Red-breasted Mergansers and Sanderlings.

By 2:30 that afternoon, we were walking out the half-mile Pine Grove Trail. Steve and Shirley got a quick glimpse of a Lincoln's Sparrow, but try as we might, the rest of us could not find it. A Winter Wren skulking in the bushes was a nice consolation prize. We also picked up Hairy Woodpecker, Cedar Waxwing, and Common Yellowthroat. While we had already seen some American Robins on this trip, there were at least 50 at this location.



Another species at Indian River Inlet were Forster's Terns.  
Photo by Roger Higbee



A group of Royal Terns were also on the beach at Indian River Inlet.  
Photo by Roger Higbee

Steve and Brian had to leave when we got back to the cars, but Margaret, Shirley, and I took a walk in the woods on the Turtle Pond Trail while Roger took the van to meet us at the other end. We noted a Pileated Woodpecker and several Golden-crowned Kinglets while we strolled along.

On Thursday, our last day of the trip, we met Shirley, Steve, and Brian on the beach at Indian River Inlet. In spite of the cold wind, we were amazed to see surfers in the water. Ruddy Turnstones were on the rock jetty along with Sanderlings and one American Coot. A small flock of Brant, a Brown Pelican, and an Osprey flew by. A group of Surf/Black Scoters were too far out to identify, but eventually, a group of eight Surf Scoters ventured nearer to us. A flyby of a Northern Gannet was a nice surprise.

About mid-morning, we decided to swing by Cape Henlopen State Park.

A visit to Delaware is never complete without a look at a Brown-headed Nuthatch! We walked one of the trails next to the park office and were lucky to encounter three of the nuthatches in a small mixed flock of Carolina Chickadees, Pine Warblers, and a Brown Creeper.

Around noon, we were standing on the farthest point of Cape Henlopen, looking north out on the bay, and preparing to say goodbye to our Delaware friends. Earlier that morning, we had briefly discussed taking the ferry across to New Jersey for one last try at the Common Greenshank. This, however, would have added several more hours to our homebound trip, and while the greenshank had been briefly seen the day before, we felt that our chances weren't that good to merit adding all that extra time on the road. The 12:15 ferry had just pushed off, and we could see it from our vantage point when Margaret got a call from Evelyn Fowles, a friend who was at Brigantine, and was just at that moment getting her life North American look at a Common Greenshank! Oh, well, better luck next time! Our excellent adventure to the East Coast netted us 114 species.

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**Corrigendum:** In the October issue of "The Todd Nuthatch" on page 7, it was incorrectly stated that Ron Alcott who lives near Brush Valley succeeded in attracting Purple Martins after eight years of trying. The correct name is Ron Alsop, and he actually lives near Penn Run. Apologies! MAH

# Todd Bird Club Trip to the Niagara Frontier

by Debbie Kalbfleisch

It was chilly and still dark early on the morning of the day after Thanksgiving, November 24, as Kathy Saunders and I settled into the back seat of Margaret and Roger Higbee's van and set our sights northward for the Niagara Frontier. The first bird of the day was an American Crow, followed by more crows, lots of Canada Geese, European Starlings, Rock Pigeons, a few Mallards, Red-tailed Hawks, Ring-billed Gulls, Mourning Doves, and Red-winged Blackbirds. We were surprised and pleased to spot a Downy Woodpecker and a Northern Cardinal from the van!

We decided that a quick stop at the Niagara Boat Launch at Presque Isle State Park was in order to see if the Red-necked Phalarope and Eared Grebe that had been reported were still there. Alas, we could not locate either of these birds, but we did find a few waterbirds: Lesser Scaup, one Long-tailed Duck, Buffleheads, Red-breasted Mergansers, Horned Grebes, American Coots, and Bonaparte's Gulls, as well as a Blue Jay and one Dark-eyed Junco.

A nice variety of birds greeted us at Dunkirk Harbor in New York, including Redheads, Ring-necked Ducks, Greater Scaup, Black Scoters, one Hooded Merganser, a Pied-billed Grebe, Herring Gulls, and Great Black-backed Gulls. We introduced Kathy to her first Tim Horton's lunch and told her it would not be her last! [Editor's Note: Ask Debbie about her ice cream!]

There was not much traffic on the Peace Bridge, and we were able to go quickly across into Canada. We spent a little bit of time exploring the waterfront in Fort Erie, examining the gulls for any oddballs. Only the usual assortment of gulls were on the river, but we did spot our first American Black Ducks, Surf Scoters, Common Goldeneyes, Common Mergansers, and Double-crested Cormorants in among thousands of Buffleheads and Red-breasted Mergansers. As we were leaving one of the pull-offs, a lady with pink hair approached the van and knocked on the window. She told us that she had locked herself out of her house and asked if we would mind dropping her off at an exercise class up the street? She was certainly not dressed for the weather, and Kathy and I made room for her in the back so she could come in out of the cold! She said we looked like tourists (and therefore, we were probably safe), and this would save her from hitchhiking with just anyone! Her husband was at the class, and she could go back to her house with him. In case you were wondering, Canadians are very friendly!

After we dropped our hitchhiker at a church, we con-

tinued traveling north on the Niagara Parkway, arriving at the Control Gates just south of Niagara Falls before nightfall. There seemed to be nothing new here, but the sight of hundreds and thousands of Redheads, scaup, Buffleheads, Common Goldeneyes, and Red-breasted Mergansers with many Bonaparte's, Ring-billed, and Herring Gulls swirling above is a beautiful sight. Even Margaret had given up counting and was trying to pick out a Little Gull in the fading light when she noticed a white lump on the concrete breakwater – a Snowy Owl! After checking in at the Super 8 Motel, we enjoyed dinner at the nearby John's Family Restaurant.

We were up early the next morning and met Sandra and Frank Horvath for breakfast at the Grimsby Welcome Center. They are good birders and great guides to have in Canada! We started poking around in the little neighborhoods that line Lake Ontario, easily adding White-winged Scoters to our list of Surf and Black Scoters. Long-tailed Ducks, Common Goldeneyes, and Red-breasted Mergansers were the most common water birds, stretching out onto the lake by the hundreds. We added American Kestrel, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Northern Mockingbird, and American Tree Sparrow to our list. We had scattered light rain from time to time, but by late morning it had stopped.

Lunch was at Hutch's, right on the lakefront, where we noticed a Great Black-backed Gull and a few Herring Gulls in among the many Ring-billed Gulls. On the outskirts of Hamilton, we caught a glimpse of a Peregrine Falcon flying near the bridge. We parked and walked a short distance to a creek and marshy area known as Windermere Basin. We had barely set up our scopes when Roger directed our attention to a Glaucous Gull resting on a sandspit. A minute later, he announced that he had a Snowy Owl sitting a short distance away from the Glaucous! When we could tear our gaze away from the owl, we saw that there were other new birds to add to our list: Mute Swans, Northern Shovelers, Gadwalls, Green-winged Teal, and Great Blue Herons. We watched as a male American Kestrel pounced on a small snake and returned to his perch in a bare tree to eat his meal, starting with the head. Song Sparrows and House Finches were also new for the trip.

Not far away at the Tollgate Ponds, several Canvasbacks were in among the many Lesser Scaup, Northern Shovelers, Long-tailed Ducks, Buffleheads, Common Goldeneyes, and Red-breasted Mergansers. At the Burlington Ship Canal and Lift Bridge, the canal was

crowded with at least 1,200 Long-tailed Ducks, along with a few Surf and White-winged Scoters. Quite a few birders were here, but it was a young boy who was the first to spot an immature Northern Gannet, a continuing rarity at this spot and the reason for the crowd. A search with the scopes produced both Red-throated Loon and Common Loon out on the distant water. On our way back to the cars, we spotted a pair of Peregrine Falcons on the bridge struts. Fifty Rock Pigeons sat just underneath them; apparently, they know how close they can get to a well fed Peregrine! The Horvaths soon led us to the Russell Williams Restaurant in Burlington so that we, too, could get that same well fed feeling.

The next morning, Sunday, Sandra and Frank met us early at the motel, and we drove along the Niagara River, stopping at the Whirlpool and the Sir Adam Beck Hydro Plant. All that gazing at gulls finally paid off at Sir Adam Beck when we got our first looks at several Iceland Gulls! We made a stop at the Queenston Overlook and counted 25 Turkey Vultures waiting for the sun to warm them before leaving their nighttime roost.

At the boat launch in Queenston, we set up our scopes among the fishermen and called out a soaring Bald Eagle and three Black Vultures that had been missing at the Overlook. Margaret diligently sorted through the many Bonaparte's, Ring-billed, and Herring Gulls and found a Little Gull darting through the larger gulls. It's not easy to get another person on a particular gull, but she did it, and I came away with my life Little Gull — thank you, Margaret!

We moved on to Niagara-on-the-Lake, birding the Golf Course Overlook and then Queen's Royal Park, and picking up a Red-bellied Woodpecker and a Red-breasted Nuthatch. We stopped for an early lunch at a Tim Horton's in Niagara-on-the-Lake, and managed to find a Sharp-shinned Hawk, probably looking for his own lunch, as well. We continued moving west along Lake Ontario and went for a lovely walk out to the East Pier at St.



At the Burlington Ship Canal and Lift Bridge, the canal was crowded with at least 1,200 Long-tailed Ducks.

Photo by Roger Higbee



From left to right are Sandra Horvath, Margaret Higbee, Debbie Kalbfleisch, Roger Higbee, and Kathy Saunders looking for Little Gull at Queenston.

Photo by Frank Horvath

Catherine's Port Weller, where we saw a variety of small birds including our first Northern Flicker, Golden-crowned Kinglets, and White-throated Sparrows. Roger and Margaret spotted a Hermit Thrush low in the bushes while a large flock of American Robins foraged up and down the trail. We were thrilled when a Northern Harrier quietly flew by, quite close, following the shore. We had carted our scopes out to the point, and we now turned them onto the West Pier where we immediately spied two Snowy Owls, numbers three and four for the trip, sitting companionably together on the concrete wall!

We traveled back to Niagara Falls to check out the thousands of gulls near the Old Hydro Building and were able to pick out a Lesser Black-backed Gull and three Great Black-backed Gulls in the fading light. That evening we celebrated with a Chinese dinner at Lee's Restaurant and said our goodbyes to the Horvaths. Thank you, Sandra and Frank, for a grand tour of the Niagara region! On our last morning in Canada and because this was Kathy's first trip to Niagara Falls, we went to the observation deck above the Horseshoe Falls to get the full tourist treatment...not to mention that it was another excuse to look at thousands of gulls flying in the mist. This paid off with a look at a Black-legged Kittiwake, a lifer for both Kathy and me!

We opted to return to the United States by way of the Rainbow Bridge and drove to Goat Island, which in spite of its name, is one of the prettiest places I've ever visited. Three Sisters Island is an even smaller island next to it. Here we hoped to find a Harlequin Duck. A couple of Carolina Wrens were calling to each other, and a Brown Creeper was foraging along the tree trunks. Dark-eyed Juncos and other small birds darted among the trees. We followed a path through the trees and over a small arched bridge where we were surprised to see several Northern Rough-winged Swallows flying over the water. A female Northern Pintail had joined a flock of Mallards, but alas, there were no Harlequins at this location. On our way back to the van, we noticed that the chickadees seemed to be extremely friendly, and Kathy and I held out some

peanuts for them which they were quick to take.

Our first Tundra Swans, a large scattered flock of 86, were at our next stop, a Waterfowl Observation Area just off the Niagara Scenic Parkway. We continued our way south, and arrived at the Tiff Nature Preserve a little after 1:30. We set out on a wooded path where Black-capped Chickadees soon arrived and loudly demanded that we pay them tribute. Fortunately, we were prepared with black oil sunflower seeds and peanuts. Not only chickadees, but a Downy Woodpecker, White-breasted Nuthatch, and Tufted Titmice also came in for the treats!

Our one new bird here was a Swamp Sparrow. After a couple of hours, we drove across the highway to the

NFTA Boat Harbor Park for a restroom stop. Margaret hauled out her scope and announced Snowy Owl Number 5 sitting on the breakwater — Yay! I have never before seen Snowy Owls four days in a row!

Finally setting our sights for home, we followed a spectacular sunset west for a good two hours. Thank you, Margaret and Roger, for another wonderful trip! We had a total of 82 birds for the long weekend, including five Snowy Owls and nine gulls: Black-legged Kittiwake, Bonaparte's Gull, Little Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Iceland Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Glaucous Gull, and Great Black-backed Gull.



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## Trumpeter Swans – Z603 and Z675

by Tom Glover

Trumpeter Swans Z603 and Z675 were introduced to Todd Bird Club members in the October 2017 issue of *The Nuthatch*. My son Jud and I observed them in a beaver pond along the Five Bridges Trail, Jefferson County, on September 4, 2017, and the birds' neck tags Z603 and Z675 were noted. The observation was a surprise, and the sighting proved to be the first Trumpeter Swans ever recorded in Jefferson County on eBird. Preliminary research on the tagged birds created a mystery. The tags were not standard issue noted on the Trumpeter Swan Society website. Alex Lamoreaux recorded on his Nemesis Bird website that the tags were discontinued in 2002 and were used on domestic swans (Trumpeter, Tundra, and Mute) in Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Ohio. The swans were sighted numerous times throughout southern and eastern Pennsylvania in 2016 and 2017. It was obvious that these two Trumpeter Swans required further research, and their story proved interesting.

After researching the observations of the two birds in eBird and the records submitted by county compilers in past issues of *Pennsylvania Birds* (See table on page 9), clues pointed to Virginia as the origin of the birds. The trail led to the "Environmental Studies on the Piedmont" (ES), located at a 914-acre field station just north of Warrenton, Virginia. A phone call placed to the organization cleared up the mystery of Z603 and Z675. Sue Garvin, Educational Specialist, confirmed that the two birds' origin was the ES. Z603 is a twelve-year old female and Z675 is a five-year old male. Sue noted the

travels of Z603 and Z675 may have been due to overcrowding pressure on the field stations' ponds. The two swans are part of a study and effort to reestablish Trumpeter Swans in the Chesapeake Bay area. The effort was initiated by Dr. William J. L. Sladen. His life story is an interesting adventure.

Dr. Sladen, born in Wales, was originally a trained physician. He was the British medical officer for research studies in Antarctica during the 1940s, but in the 1950s he changed to part scientist, part conservationist, and part adventurer. In 1955 he completed a doctorate in zoology from the University of Oxford. Soon after, he settled in the United States and became a citizen in 1962. He was a professor at Johns Hopkins University for many years. His research and adventures took him all over the world, from the Arctic to the Antarctic. Dr. Sladen retired in 1990 to the Warrenton, VA, area where he started research into Trumpeter Swans and their reestablishment in the Chesapeake Bay area. He was one of the original scientists who studied the use of ultralight aircraft to aid captive bred Canada Geese in their migration. That effort was dramatized in the 1996 film *Fly Away Home*. Dr. Sladen died this past May 2017 at the age of 96. The swans Z603 and Z675 are part of his legacy.

According to Sue Garvin Z603 and Z675 are presently wintering on a pond at a private preserve near Sperryville, VA. It will be interesting where Z603 and Z675 will show up in the coming year.

<b>Sightings of Z603 and Z675 in PA, WV, and VA</b>			
3/20/16 – 6/15/16	Swatara State Park	Schuylkill County	PA
6/18/16 & 9/17/16	Union Canal Veterans Memorial Park	Schuylkill County	PA
1/25/17	Wildwood Lake Pond, Harrisburg	Dauphin County	PA
2/6/17	Bullfrog and Gordon Roads	Adams County	PA
3/2/17 & 3/11/17	Swatara State Park	Schuylkill County	PA
3/24/17	Ranch Road	Schuylkill County	PA
3/26/17	Kettle Road	Schuylkill County	PA
4/1/17 – 4/7/17	Pier 87 Private Pond	Lycoming County	PA
9/4/17	Five Bridges Trail	Jefferson County	PA
11/4/17 & 11/5/17	Lake Somerset	Somerset County	PA
11/12/17	South Mill Creek Lake	Grant County	WV
12/23/17 – Present	Seven Islands, Private Pond near Sperryville	Rappahannock County	VA

## **Prince Gallitzin State Park Enjoys Another Successful Bluebird Season**

Prince Gallitzin S.P. boasts a volunteer bluebird program that has been active for more than 35 years. Seven bluebird volunteers monitor the park's 125 nesting boxes recording bird species on a weekly basis through the spring and summer months, recording bird species, number of eggs, and the number of hatchlings fledged. A total of 191 young bluebirds fledged during the 2017 nesting season. In addition 247 tree swallows and 38 house wrens began their existence this year.

Prince Gallitzin's nest box program includes 3 American Kestrel nests and 14 Purple Martin nests. The kestrels fledged 14 young while 14 purple nests successfully

fledged 53 young. These results were achieved by the dedication of David Gobert from Patton.

Dedicated volunteers Arlene Ayer from Ashville (14 years), Judy Letso from Patton (12 years), Richard Shovestall from Northern Cambria (7 years), Robert and Winnie Illig from Carroltown (2 years), and Mimi Bradley from Dysart (2 years) contributed to produce another successful year. The success at this park would not have been achieved without the complete cooperation of Prince Gallitzin Park management.

John Salvetti  
Prince Gallitzin Park Volunteer

[John Salvetti fails to mention his 30+ years of dedication to this program.]

## **2018 Dues Are Due**

If you haven't yet remitted your 2018 dues, please send them to Gloria Lamer, Treasurer, 515 Laurel Run Road, Penn Run, PA 15765. Cost is \$5 for student, \$10 for individual, and \$15 for family memberships. Please indicate whether you prefer a hard copy or the electronic copy of the newsletter. Please include your name, address, phone number, and email address. Thanks for your cooperation.

# Indiana Christmas Bird Count Results

## 35th Annual CBC – December 26, 2017

Snow Goose (CW)			Pine Grosbeak (1)		
**Greater White-fronted Goose	2	*Bald Eagle (4)	5	House Finch (1563)	147
Canada Goose (2081)	1115	Northern Harrier (9)	3	Purple Finch (89)	10
Mute Swan (4)		Sharp-shinned Hawk (14)	4	Common Redpoll (63)	
Tundra Swan (533)	1	Cooper's Hawk (15)	4	White-winged Crossbill (62)	
Wood Duck (2)		N. Goshawk (1)		Pine Siskin (375)	2
N. Shoveler (2)		Red-shouldered Hawk (5)		American Goldfinch (637)	87
Gadwall (30)		Red-tailed Hawk (71)	36	Lapland Longspur (6)	1
American Wigeon (14)		Rough-legged Hawk (3)		Snow Bunting (225)	
Mallard (670)	220	Eastern Screech-Owl (13)	2	Eastern Towhee (3)	1
American Black Duck (190)	8	Great Horned Owl (10)	CW	American Tree Sparrow (483)	62
*N. Pintail (10)	31	Barred Owl (5)	CW	Chipping Sparrow (4)	
Green-winged Teal (4)		Long-eared Owl (1)		Field Sparrow (13)	
Canvasback (15)		Short-eared Owl (2)	2	Savannah Sparrow (2)	
Redhead (14)		Belted Kingfisher (9)		Fox Sparrow (3)	1
Ring-necked Duck (41)	18	Red-headed Woodpecker (1)		Song Sparrow (152)	97
Greater Scaup (5)		Red-bellied Woodpecker (72)	60	Lincoln's Sparrow (1)	
Lesser Scaup (32)		Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (8)	3	Swamp Sparrow (14)	8
Surf Scoter (CW)		Downy Woodpecker (177)	70	White-throated Sparrow (214)	112
White-winged Scoter (1)		Hairy Woodpecker (58)	25	White-crowned Sparrow (36)	3
Black Scoter (1)		Northern Flicker (40)		Dark-eyed Junco (2272)	799
Long-tailed Duck (3)	1	Pileated Woodpecker (36)	14	Eastern Meadowlark (10)	
Bufflehead (52)	CW	Am. Kestrel (26)	5	Red-winged Blackbird (3570)	1
Common Goldeneye (7)	3	Merlin (2)	1	Brown-headed Cowbird (46)	
Hooded Merganser (34)	12	Peregrine Falcon (1)		Rusty Blackbird (13)	
*Common Merganser (15)	29	Eastern Phoebe (1)		Brewer's Blackbird (CW)	
Red-breasted Merganser (2)		Northern Shrike (1)		Common Grackle (503)	1
Ruddy Duck (223)		Blue Jay (566)	241	Pine Warbler (1)	
N. Bobwhite (1)		American Crow (3275)	405	Yellow-rumped Warbler (18)	
Ring-necked Pheasant (21)		Fish Crow (8)		Northern Cardinal (584)	203
Ruffed Grouse (22)		*Common Raven (6)	7		
Wild Turkey (345)	150	Horned Lark (225)	221	<b>Total Individuals (18,833)</b>	<b>6261</b>
Pied-billed Grebe (29)	6	Black-capped Chickadee (808)	238		
Horned Grebe (7)	CW	Tufted Titmouse (394)	142	67 Species on 12/26/17 + 4 for CW	
Red-necked Grebe (1)		Red-breasted Nuthatch (51)	2	CW = Birds Seen During Count	
Rock Pigeon (392)	63	White-breasted Nuthatch (201)	97	Week but Not Count Day	
Mourning Dove (1117)	426	Brown Creeper (25)	9	CW = December 23-29	
Virginia Rail (1)		Winter Wren (4)	3		
Am. Coot (811)	1	Carolina Wren (61)	19	*Record-breaking or Equal High	
Sandhill Crane (2)		Golden-crowned Kinglet (106)	51	Tally (6)	
Killdeer (20)		Ruby-crowned Kinglet (4)			
Am. Woodcock (2)		Eastern Bluebird (152)	32	**Species New to the Count (1)	
Wilson's Snipe (3)		Hermit Thrush (6)		( ) Highest No. Seen on Any	
*Bonaparte's Gull (6)	7	Wood Thrush (CW)		Previous Indiana CBC, 1983-2016	
Ring-billed Gull (50)	21	American Robin (1626)	1		
Herring Gull (1)		*Gray Catbird (2)	2		
Red-throated Loon (1)		Brown Thrasher (1)		132 Species on Count since	
Common Loon (9)		Northern Mockingbird (22)	10	1983 including 4 CW only species)	
Double-crested Cormorant (1)		European Starling (8656)	517		
Great Blue Heron (8)		Cedar Waxwing (212)	1		
Turkey Vulture (4)		House Sparrow (809)	380		
		Evening Grosbeak (566)			

## Christmas Bird Count Observers

Pat Andrascik	Jim Dickson	Roger Higbee	Scott Simms
Steve Andrascik	Megan Dickson	Pat Johner	Linda Stormer
Alice Beatty	Sue Dickson	Paul Johner	Luke Stormer
Buck Beatty	Ed Donley	Debbie Kalbfleisch	Rodger Stormer
Tom Betts	Emmy Fairman	Gloria Lamer	John Taylor
Jean Blair	Gary Ferrence	Dennis Lauffer	Wil Taylor
Sid Blair	Barb Fletcher	Mary A. Little	Mary Lu Tucker
Tony Bruno	Sue Gatti	Lisa Meadows	Chris Williams
Rich Carlson	Jud Glover	Donna Meyer	Paula Williams
Lee Carnahan	Tom Glover	Ed Meyer	Ray Winstead
Roger Carnahan	Carol Guba	Joseph Pumford	Jan Woodard
Dan Cunkelman	Alicia Hall	Bob Ramsey	Jim Woodard
Marcy Cunkelman	Margaret Higbee	Cindy Rogers	

## CBCs Past and Present

Year	Total Species	Count Week	Individuals	Year	Total Species	Count Week	Individuals
1983	56	3	4188	2001	77	2	14365
1984	57	5	9540	2002	62	2	9739
1985	51	2	4468	2003	72	4	9687
1986	54	2	7453	2004	72	5	8788
1987	60	3	5676	2005	62	7	12130
1988	48	3	6670	2006	64	5	8762
1989	52	4	4309	2007	82	3	14344
1990	65	6	8502	2008	71	8	14329
1991	60	5	6004	2009	56	5	8472
1992	67	8	6435	2010	55	2	7174
1993	70	9	13490	2011	71	4	9029
1994	67	4	10759	2012	80	3	9094
1995	71	5	8637	2013	68	6	8843
1996	65	7	9994	2014	74	7	5693
1997	74	3	10180	2015	70	4	8835
1998	82	7	10873	2016	70	5	7665
1999	73	2	18833	2017	67	4	6261
2000	64	2	12397				

## Indiana Christmas Bird Count Revisited

What a great bird count! The numbers above don't begin to show how interesting this year's count really was. Twenty of us met at Hoss's in Indiana at 6:00 p.m. on December 26 after a full day in the field or at feeders. Attending the dinner were Lee Carnahan, Dan Cunkelman, Marcy Cunkelman, Ed Donley, Barb Fletcher, Tom Glover, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Pat Johner, Paul Johner, Gloria Lamer, Dennis Lauffer, Mary A. Little, Cindy Rogers, Scott Simms, Adam Taylor, John Taylor, Wil Taylor, Chris Williams, Paula Williams. As usual, we ate first then tallied the list. Yellow Creek Lake was mostly frozen, so we knew that waterfowl numbers would

be low if even existent. It was surprising when Gloria Lamer reported for her group on the south shore, which included Alice and Dave Beatty, 18 Northern Pintails, 18 Ring-necked Ducks, and 3 Common Goldeneyes. On the north shore John Taylor and Ed Donley had counted 3 Hooded Mergansers (one upped by the Lamer-Beatty crew) and 16 Common Mergansers. We knew that Rich Carlson had spotted a Long-tailed Duck after he'd birded the morning with Lisa Meadows and before he met Debbie and me for the afternoon hikes. Adding to the waterfowl was Dennis Lauffer, who accompanied Lee Carnahan and his brother Roger, with 8 Hooded and 13

Common Mergansers at Two Lick Reservoir. The Yellow Creek birders were silent when we got to the grebes, but the Carnahan-Lauffer crew added six Pied-billed Grebes. We still weren't finished with water associated birds. When we called for gulls, the south shore group added 5 Bonaparte's and 20 Ring-billed Gulls. The response for Bald Eagle included 3 at Yellow Creek and 2 near Two Lick. We weren't doing too badly considering the frozen conditions.

We did well with the accipiters. Cindy Rogers even photographed one of the Sharp-shinned Hawks in her yard; she had seen two. Tom and Jud Glover listed a Cooper's Hawk. Dennis, Lee, and Roger had had one of each.

The excitement continued when we got the owls. Tony Bruno and Roger Higbee had found a roosting Eastern Screech-Owl. Barb Fletcher had heard "her" Great Horned Owl on Christmas Eve, so we at least had it for count week. Gloria had seen at least two and possibly three Short-eared Owls en route to the dinner. This was only the second time Short-eared Owl had been seen on this bird count.

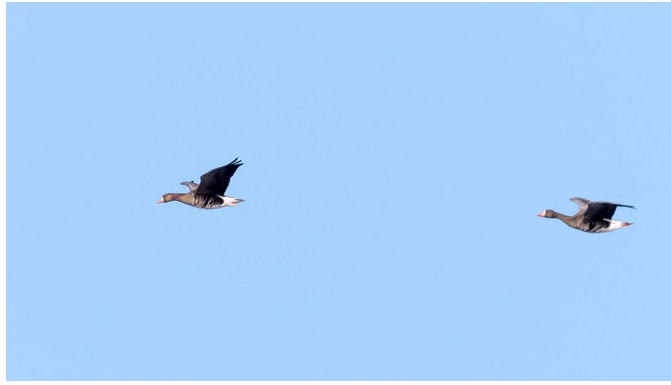
John and Ed added two Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, and Marcy and Dan Cunkelman added the third; this is another species that we sometimes miss.

Rich Carlson, Debbie Kalbfleisch, and I had seen a Merlin just across from the entrance to the day use area at Yellow Creek. The three of us had finished hiking the trails above the recreational area and were headed to the coves for more hiking when Rich first spotted it.

The only two Red-breasted Nuthatches were singletons at Barb's feeder and at ours.

When we got to Carolina Wren, Mary A. expressed concern that she had only seen one of her Carolina Wrens. I'm happy to report that several days later she spotted the two together.

Chris and Paula Williams, our New Jersey participants, reported 215 Horned Larks and at least one Lapland Longspur among them. Unfortunately, before they were able to scan the entire group, the birds flushed and flew off out of sight. In addition, they listed the count's lone



New to the count were these two Greater White-fronted Geese photographed by Tony Bruno.

American Robin.

Lee and Roger Carnahan and Dennis heard a Gray Catbird. Dennis pished and besides the catbird, an Eastern Towhee appeared. Barb added a second catbird.

Cindy added our first two Purple Finches; Barb added another three as well as the count's only two Pine Siskins.

The Fox Sparrow at our feeder

was the only one noted.

After we'd completed the tallying of the list, Lee added both Bufflehead and Horned Grebe as "count week" birds.

The next item of business was the tallying of the species. We had listed 62 so far, but, of course, all the data was not yet in.

We also had to vote for the bird of the count. Nominations included the Short-eared Owls and the Lapland Longspur. Chris and Paula's longspur won, so they got the stuffed owl.

When we arrived at home, the first email I received was from Bob Ramsey who added another species – one Red-winged Blackbird. The second email from Tony Bruno included the photo on this page. He had seen two Greater White-fronted Geese flying over Tonkin Road, grabbed his camera, and got a good ID shot. My response to him was that had he attended the dinner, he would have won "Bird of the Count" as we had never before had a Greater White-fronted Goose on any of our 34 previous CBCs! More emails arrived – Ray Winstead's and Gary Ferrence's. The next morning Joseph Pumford's report arrived. Joseph added the count's only Cedar Waxwing! Then more emails came from other participants – Lisa Meadows, Tom Betts, Sue Gatti, Jan & Jim Woodard, and Sue Dickson. Lisa added a Tundra Swan which she and Rich Carlson heard calling overhead.

Then the phone calls started. We increased numbers of each species but added nothing new.

Thanks to everyone who participated. Your count was important, even if you aren't mentioned here.

Our final total was 67 species plus four count week birds.

– Margaret Higbee

# Indiana - Armstrong - Cambria County – Fall 2017

If you notice that the species in the following report are in a new order, check out the 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 has been a major reshuffling, and it will probably continue as more studies are completed.

**Abbreviation:** Blue Spruce County Park (BS), Crooked Creek Park (CC), Indiana (IN), Keystone Reservoir (KR), Lewisville (LV), Prince Gallitzin State Park (PG), Shelocta (SH), Yellow Creek State Park (YC).

A single **Snow Goose** was reported near Munster 11/8 (SV); a flock of 7 Snow Geese visited Timber Lake 11/22 (AB, DB, RuW); these are the first reported in *Indiana* since 11/23/2014 (MH, RH) when one was sighted at YC. CC hosted a blue morph 11/30 (ABu). First **Tundra Swans** were heard overhead 11/3 (DaMo) at Camerons Bottom after dark and next appeared at YC 11/7 (LC, PF, TG, MH, RH); later that day (MC) a flock flew over a home near LV; the largest flocks noted this fall included 250 at CC 11/7 (MVT) and 88 individuals over YC 11/14 (LC, SD, PF, TG, MH, RH, DK). Hemlock Lake yielded the season's first **Blue-winged Teal** 8/17 (AK, JK). Two **Northern Shovelers** in Little Yellow Cove at YC were first arrivals 9/7 (JaP, JP); two days later (RC, DK, GL) 3 were counted at the same location; 2 were noted at KR 11/7 (JB) and one at PG 11/25 (TA); these are the only shoveler reports this fall. **Gadwalls** arrived 10/10 (LC, SD, TG, MH, RH, DK, RN) at YC where they were present in small numbers through the end of the season; YC's top count was 38 on 10/30 (GL). KR hosted 7 on 11/7 (JB) and again on 11/11 (AB, SGU). A flock of an estimated 100 **American Wigeons** at YC 10/29 (MH, RH) set the record for the third highest fall count; the YC highs were 212 on 10/31/2012 (BC, BM) and 188 on 10/20/1996 (GL). First **Northern Pintail** appeared at YC 9/23 (LC, RC, TG, MH, RH, DK, GL, LM, DM, KT); this is the third earliest date on record with the first being 9/15/1992 (MH, GL, GS, LW); in *Armstrong*, singletons were listed at KR 11/5 (ABu) and at Kittanning 11/15 (JB); 5 were found at Freeport 11/23 (TR). A **Green-winged Teal** 9/23 (HM) at YC was first; 4 lingered at YC through 11/7 (LC, PF, TG, MH, RH); KR's high of 9 occurred 11/4 (MD).

A single **Redhead** 11/25 (MD) at YC amazingly comprised the entire report for this species. **Ring-necked Duck** maxima at YC were low – 12 on both 10/30 (GL) and 11/14 (LC, SD et al); 8 at KT was the high *Armstrong* tally. Top count of **Lesser Scaup** was 15 at YC on both 11/19 (RLo) and 11/25 (MD); KR harbored a singleton 11/5 (ABu, MH, RH). Two **Surf Scoters** were listed at YC between 10/31 (LC, PF, TG, MH, RH, DK, GL) and 11/7 (LC, PF et al); 3 were noted 11/3 (LC); one was still present 11/14 (LC, SD et al); the previous Surf Scoter was present only one day four years ago on 11/5/2013. A single female Surf Scoter, found 11/5 (ABu) at KR, was still present the next day (RN, MVT). Two **White-winged Scoters** visited YC between 11/3 (LC) and 11/7 (LC, PF et al); the previous White-winged Scoter was last seen at YC 11/25/2014 (TG, MH, RH, GL, DM, EY). Six **Black Scoters**, one drake and

5 hens, were present at YC 10/29 (MH, RH); 5 were still present the next day (GL) while 2 hens lingered through 10/31 (LC, RH); this was the highest count since 10/31/2002 (MH, MS) when 16 were present. KR hosted 3 Black Scoters 11/4 (MD) while one appeared at CC 11/8 (ABu, MVT). A scoter trifecta occurred at YC 11/3 for LC when he observed 3 Surf, 2 White-winged Scoters, and 3 Black Scoters; this seldom happens in our region. A **Long-tailed Duck** on the *Armstrong* side of the Redbank Creek 10/30 (AK, JK) was the lone report in the region. High **Bufflehead** tally at YC was 69 on 11/7 (LC, PF et al); high *Armstrong* counts were 40 at KR 11/4 (MD), 19 at CC 11/7 (JB), and 16 at Park Bend Farm 11/7 (MVT). *Cambria* reports included 4 in Croyle Twp. 11/17 (MHu) and one at PG 11/25 (SVH). Two **Common Goldeneyes** were spotted at YC 11/14 (LC, SD et al) and 11/21 (LC, MH, RH, DK, DM); these are the region's only reports.

**Hooded Merganser** numbers at YC were low with the only reports of a singleton 9/23 (LC, RC et al) and 3 near YC 11/21 (MH, RH); 12 was the *Armstrong* high at KR 11/11 (ABu, SGU); 4 were at Logansport 11/23 (TR) while 3 lingered at PG 11/25 (TA). Top **Ruddy Duck** counts at YC were 302 on 10/30 (GL) and 336 on 11/7 (LC, PF et al); KR hosted the high of 3 on 11/11 (ABu, SGU).

No **Ruffed Grouse** were reported in the region.

**Pied-billed Grebes** were widespread; maxima included 26 at YC 10/10 (LC, SD, TG, MH, RH, DK, RN), 7 at PG 11/25 (TA), 6 at Duman Lake 11/5 (JP), and 5 at KR 11/5 (MH, RH). KR hosted the region's only **Horned Grebes** this season between 11/4 (MD) and 11/6 (RN) with the high of 3 on 11/5 (ABu).

Late **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** still lingered 9/29 (MH, DK) at BS, 9/17 (JC, LiC) at PG, and 9/16 (MVT) at CC. A late **Black-billed Cuckoo** was still present along the Roaring Run Trail 10/4 (MVT); this is the second latest date on record in the region with the latest date of 10/13/1982 (MH) near SH.

It was a much better year for sightings of **Common Nighthawks** in *Indiana* with the top count of 30 in IN 8/20 (JaP, JP); this is the highest count since 8/28/2003 (SG) when 46 were tallied; nighthawks numbering 1-5 were seen at four other *Indiana*

locations.

Best count of **Chimney Swifts** in the region was an estimated 200 over IN 8/20 (JaP, JP). Last **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** were sighted 9/30 (MVT) at CC and 9/24 both near LV (MC) and near SH (MH, RH).

**American Coot** maxima at YC included 431 on 10/28 (TG) and 358 on 10/31 (TG); Hemlock Lake hosted a singleton 10/28 (AK, JK).

Two **Black-bellied Plovers** stopped at KR 11/4 (MD) and remained through 11/7 (JB). A single **Semipalmated Plover** was present at CC 8/6, 13 and 9/3 (TR); only one to 2 visited YC between 8/12 (MH, RH) and 9/5 (LC, TG, MH, DK). **Killdeer** peaked at 91 at YC on 10/21 (LC, TG, DK). A **Stilt Sandpiper** was a great find at YC 9/7 (JP); the bird lingered in Little Yellow Cove through 9/19 (LC, MH, RH); this was a fifth county record. A lone **Sanderling** was amazingly reported on three dates this fall; this is a species that does not occur every year. The first two sightings – 9/28 (DKo, RM) and 10/3 (LC, PF, MH, RH, DK, JT) – could possibly have been the same individual, but the third sighting on 10/29 (MH, RH) was in all likelihood another Sanderling as it was traveling with Dunlin. **Dunlin** moved through YC between 10/18 (JP) and 11/6 (LC) with the high of 23 on 10/29 (MH, RH); this was the highest fall count on record since Hurricane Sandy 10/31/2012 (m.ob.); a single Dunlin was spotted at CC 10/24 (JB). Ten **Least Sandpipers** on 8/15 (LC, MH, RH, DK) at YC was the highest eBirded count since 8/14/2015 (JH); CC yielded 5 on 8/13 (TR), 3 on 8/19 (ABu), and 2 on 9/3 (TR). A **White-rumped Sandpiper** appeared in Little Yellow Cove 9/23 (LC, RC *et al*) where it remained 9/26 (PF); this is another species that is not reported every year. Only one to 2 **Pectoral Sandpipers** were noted at YC on 12 dates between 8/19 (MH, RH) and 10/14 (LC, RC, TG, MH, RH, GL, DM); single Pectorals visited CC 9/3 (TR) and 10/14 (TR). Single **Semipalmated Sandpipers** stopped at YC 8/12, 19 (MH, RH) and at CC 9/3 (TR); 2 were found 8/15 (LC, MH, RH, DK) at YC, 8/19 (ABu) at CC, and 8/29 (LS) at CC. The only **American Woodcock** sightings reported were single birds at PG 9/19 (RL) and at YC 9/23 (HM). Top **Wilson's Snipe** counts were 5 at CC 10/21 (TR) and 3 at YC 10/10, 14 (LC, SD *et al*), and 10/24 (LC, TG, GL, DS). A **Spotted Sandpiper** 10/18 (ME, LS) at YC was the latest date since 2008 (MHu), but later yet was one 11/4 (MD) at KR, where it was photographed. **Solitary Sandpipers** migrated through our region between 8/6 (TR) and 10/18 (JP). Eight was the top **Lesser Yellowlegs** count at YC on 8/29 (TG); one at Elders Ridge 9/4 (MVT) was the lone report away from YC. Twelve **Greater Yellowlegs** at YC was the highest tally since 2010 (LC, MH, GL) and the fifth largest flock reported; 3 lingered at KR 11/5 (ABu, MH, RH). A **Red-**



Tony Bruno found and photographed this Glossy Ibis at Elders Ridge 9/3/17.

**necked Phalarope** photographed at PG 9/13 (JP) was a great find.

A **Parasitic Jaeger**, found 9/17 (JC, LiC) at PG, remained through 9/20 when the Tuesday Todd YC (LC, TG, MH, RH, DK, GL) group deserted YC to head to PG to see the jaeger.

A **Bonaparte's Gull** 8/29 (TG, MH, RH, DK, GL) at YC was only the fourth August record for this species, with the previous being 8/6/2002 (MH, JS, ScS); high tallies included 20 at KR 11/4 (MD),

9 at YC 10/29 (MH, RH), and 5 at CC 11/7 (JB). No large **Ring-billed Gull** flocks were noted with most reports mentioning only one or 2; best counts were 8 at PG 9/23 (HM) and 7 at YC 10/29 (MH, RH). Four **Herring Gulls** stopped at KR 11/4 (MD); this was the region's lone report.

Three **Black Terns** 8/22 (LC, TG, MH, RH, DK, GL) were a nice surprise at YC; one was photographed at CC 9/3 (TR) and again 9/9 (MVT). A **Common Tern** visited PG 9/18 (SS) and lingered through 9/20 (m.ob.); 2 showed up at the same location 9/23 (HM). Single **Forster's Terns** 8/12 (MH, RH) at YC and 9/17 (JC, LiC) at PG comprised the entire report for this species.

Single **Red-throated Loons** at KR 11/8 (JL) and at YC 11/14 (LC, SD *et al*) were nice finds; 2 on 11/21 (LC, MH, RH, DK, DM) at YC were even better. The tally of 20 **Common Loons** on 11/4 (LC) was the highest count since Hurricane Sandy in 2012 (TS); KR's high tally was 8 on 11/5 (ABu) and 11/6 (RN).

An **American Bittern** at Kovalchick's Pond 9/15 (JT) was a "one day wonder." Single **Great Egrets** were present at YC on seven dates bracketed by 9/7 (JaP, JP) and 10/10 (LC, SD *et al*); at CC on fourteen dates between 8/23 (TR) and 9/27 (MVT); and at PG 9/17 (RL) through 9/20 (TA). A **Cattle Egret** found near a pond s.w. of Climax 11/2 (AK, JK) was the second **Armstrong** record; the first was reported 5/1/2001 (VC) near Vandergrift. A **Glossy Ibis** near Elders Ridge 9/3 (TB) was the fifth county record.

**Turkey Vulture** maxima included 32 at Clymer 8/13 (CL, GL) and 12 at Kelly Station 8/30 (JB). A late **Osprey** was photographed 11/25 (TA) at PG. **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were found at 11 locations this fall; **Cooper's Hawks**, at 18. A kettle of 32 **Broad-winged Hawks** passed over YC 9/12 (LC, TG, MH, RH, DK, GL), the last date any were seen in *Indiana*; in *Cambria*. one was observed at PG

9/17 (JC, LiC), and 2 were near Chest Springs 9/20 (PW, RiW). The all white **Red-tailed Hawk** along Rt. 22 near Cresson was noted 10/30 (AB, DB).

**Eastern Screech-Owls** were noted at 9 *Armstrong* locations and 3 *Indiana* spots. **Great Horned Owls** were listed at five locations, 3 in *Armstrong* and 2 in *Indiana*. **Barred Owls** were noted at four *Armstrong* locations; but in *Indiana*, Barred was consistent only at Nolo (AB, DB) throughout the season. Five was the top count of **Short-eared Owls** at West Lebanon 11/29 (TB, MH, RH); the previous sighting of a Short-eared Owl in *Indiana* occurred eight years ago on 11/27/2009 (MVT).

**Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** arrived 9/25 (MH, RH) at BS and 10/1 (TR) at CC. A Nolo yard is a true magnet for **Northern Flickers**; the top count this year was 22 on 10/2 (CL, GL).

**Merlins** were well reported this fall; sightings included one at CC 8/13 (TR); one to 2 at YC 8/29 (TG, MH, RH, DK, GL), 9/2 (TB, MH, RH, DK, FM, JM, JT, RW), and 10/10 (LC, SD *et al*); 2 at PG 9/8 (DG); one to 2 at CC 9/7, 15-16 (MVT); one at IUP 9/7, 11/30 (JFT); one in Carrolltown 9/23 (HM); one in IN 11/8 (JP). One of the **Peregrine Falcons** was sighted on the structures near the Graff Bridge in Kittanning 11/13, 30 (MH, RH).

PG hosted the first **Olive-sided Flycatcher** 8/27 (RL); 8/29 (TG, MH, RH, DK, GL) yielded an amazing 3 **Olive-sided Flycatchers** at YC, the highest count ever in one *Indiana* location; CC produced one and possibly 2 on 9/3 (TR); one of the CC flycatchers was seen again 9/5 (JB); one popped up at PG 9/17 (JC, LiC) and remained in the park through 9/18 (TA); another was noted along the Ghost Town Trail C&I Extension on 9/18 (MH, RH). Single **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** arrived at BS 8/28 (MH, RH, FM, JM); another was spotted there 9/4 (MH, RH, RN); CC harbored a singleton 9/13 (JB) and 9/16 (SGo); one near LV was sighted 9/16-19, 22 (MC).

A **Northern Shrike** was videotaped near Duman Lake 11/26 (RS).

The only **Philadelphia Vireos** noted were single birds at BS on five dates bracketed by 9/4 (RN) and 9/29 (MH, DK) and at YC 9/12 (LC, TG, MH, RH, GL).

Twelve **Purple Martins** stopped at PG 9/8 (DG). A **Tree Swallow** at YC 11/1 (MH, RH) was only the fifth Nov. record for the county. Eleven **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were last noted at Hemlock Lake 8/9 (AK, JK). Last **Bank Swallows** were 2 at YC 9/2 (TB, MH, RH *et al*) and 10 at PG 9/8 (DG). A single **Cliff Swallow** was spotted at YC 9/2 (TB, MH, RH *et al*).

**Red-breasted Nuthatch** was noted only near SH this fall between 8/6 and 11/19 (MH, RH). Last **House Wren** was listed 10/26 (MVT) near Leechburg. BS hosted 1-3 **Winter Wrens** between 9/21 (MH, RH, FM, JM) and 11/11 (TB, MH, RH, RW); single birds showed up at CC 10/7 (JB) and 11/22 (JB) and near LV 10/20 (MC). The only one

reported at YC appeared 11/4 (TBC, 3RBC).

**Ruby-crowned Kinglets** moved through our region between 9/15 (RM) and 11/25 (TA) when 3 still lingered at PG.

Only 2 **Veeries** were noted – one at BS 9/21 (MH, RH, FM, JM) and one at IUP 9/29 (JP). BS was the only location for single **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** found between 9/21 (MH, RH, FM, JM) and 10/7 (MH, RH). **Swainson's Thrushes**, however, were spotted at two *Cambria*, five *Indiana*, and 5 *Armstrong* locations this fall (v.o) between 8/28 (MH, RH, FM, JM) and 10/7 (JaP, JP). Last **Gray Catbird** and **Brown Thrasher** were respectively found 10/24 (LC, TG, GL, DS) at YC and 10/2 (MH, RH) at BS. Two **American Pipits** were sighted at YC 9/17 (LoM, DW); one was found in Little Yellow Cove at YC 9/19 (MH, RH).

Two **Pine Siskins** were found at CC 10/11 (JB) and YC hosted 18 on 11/21 (LC, MH, RH, DK, DM); these were the lone reports.

Three **Rusty Blackbirds** appeared at YC 10/30 (GL); maxima included 39 near LV 11/5 (MC) and a mere 7 at YC 10/31 (LC, PF *et al*); these were the only locations reporting rusties.

A **Fox Sparrow** arrived at CC 11/2 (MVT). Single **White-crowned Sparrows** were found 10/18 (MVT) at CC, 10/21 (JP) in IN, and 10/22 (SVH) in Munster; 2 were noted 11/7 (MH, RH) near YC. PG hosted a **Lincoln's Sparrow** 9/23 (HM, MSh).

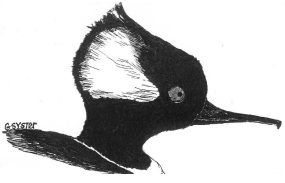
Last **Orchard Orioles** were 2 at CC 8/11 (MVT). Logansport yielded the last **Baltimore Oriole** 10/4 (JB).

An **Ovenbird** lingered at CC 10/4 (JB). Last **Louisiana Waterthrush** was found along the Roaring Run Trail 8/5 (TH); this was the lone sighting this season. A female **Golden-winged Warbler** was a good find at BS 9/15 (RM). Last dates included 9/12 (DK) for **Blue-winged Warbler** at BS and 9/30 (MVT) for **Black-and-white Warbler** at CC. **Tennessee Warblers** moved through our region between 8/28 (MH, RH, FM, JM) and 10/18 (MVT) while **Nashville Warblers** were found only between 9/4 (RN) and 9/29 (MH, DK). A **Mourning Warbler** at PG 9/8 (DG) was the lone report. A **Kentucky Warbler** was singing at BS 8/16 (MH, RH). Other last sightings occurred 10/7 (TA) at PG for **Common Yellowthroat**, **Hooded Warbler**, and **American Redstart**. **Cape May Warblers** arrived in the region 8/26 (TR) at CC and trickled through till 10/7 (TA) at SGL 108; high counts were 10 at Carrolltown 9/11 (WI) and 8 at YC 8/29 (TG, MH, RH, DK, GL). **Northern Parula** was last sighted at CC 10/1 (TR) while a **Magnolia Warbler** lingered at YC 10/10 (LC, SD *et al*). **Bay-breasted Warblers** moved through our area

between 8/30 (MH, RH) and 10/4 (JB). Last seen were **Blackburnian Warbler** at BS 9/29 (MH, DK), **Yellow Warbler** at IUP 8/24 (JT), and **Chestnut-sided Warbler** at SGL 108 on 10/7 (TA). **Blackpoll Warbler** migration in our region occurred between 9/4 (TA) and 9/29 (MH, DK). Oct. 7 was the last date for **Black-throated Blue Warblers**, both at SGL 108 (TA) and at BS (MH, RH). **Palm Warblers**, listed at five locations this fall, occurred only on one date and as singletons except at YC on 9/17 (LoM, DW) when 3 were noted; last occurrence was 10/4 (JB) at CC. **Pine Warblers**, noted at PG only 9/19 (LC, TG, MH, RH, DK, GL) and at YC on four dates, lingered at the latter location through 10/18 (ME, LS). Top **Yellow-rumped Warbler** tallies included 20 at YC 10/7 (JaP, JP), 12 at CC 10/30 (MVT), and 10 at Carrolltown 10/18 (WI). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was still present near LV 8/12 (MC); one well seen at CC on 9/13 (JB) was the third latest date on record in our region. Last **Prairie Warbler** stopped near SH 9/8 (MH) and last **Black-throated Green** was listed at CC 10/14 (JB). Sept. 6 was the last date for migrating **Canada Warblers** at both BS (MH, RH, DK) and Kelly Station (JB). Only 3 **Wilson's Warblers** were reported, all singletons – 9/4 (RN) at BS, 9/7 (MH, RH) near SH, and 9/13 (MVT) at CC

Last dates included 10/4 (MH, RH) for **Scarlet Tanager** at BS, 9/30 (JB) for **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** at CC, and 10/4 (JB) for **Indigo Bunting** at Logansport.

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