

The Todd Nuthatch



Indiana, PA

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

January 2020

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, January 7 – This is our annual Members' Night. Please bring something to share – pictures on a flash drive, camera card, or computer; photos; stories; memorabilia; etc. It's always more fun when everyone participates.

Tuesday, February 4 – Kate St. John, Pittsburgh's main Peregrine monitor, will present "Peregrine Falcons: An Environmental Success Story" at this meeting.

Peregrine Falcons are an environmental success story from their extinction in eastern North America in the 1960s to their reintroduction and removal from the Endangered Species list in the US and many eastern states. As the lead volunteer peregrine



Kate St. John will present our February program featuring Peregrine Falcons.

Photo by Tom Moeller

monitor in southwestern PA, Kate St. John has more than a decade of experience observing these charismatic birds. She'll describe their breeding strategy, the history of their crash and recovery, and notable breeding sites and peregrine dynasties in western Pennsylvania. Her engaging account of their lives and histories will give you a new appreciation for these fierce and beautiful raptors.

Fascinated by birds, curious about nature, and addicted to Peregrine Falcons, Kate St. John is a birder and blogger, as well as Pittsburgh's lead Peregrine Falcon monitor. She writes about birds and nature every day at Outside My Window, www.birdsoutsidemywindow.org.



Anthony Frazier photographed this Great Blue Heron flying in the snow at Keystone State Park.

Tuesday, March 3 – Anthony Frazier will present "Photography, Nature, and Birds" at our March meeting. Over the past few years

Anthony has peeked into a world that has always existed but one which he had never fully understood. Using the skills of photography and this new found interest in birds and nature, he stumbled into a fantastically diverse,

somewhat obscure, and creative world which he will share with us.

Anthony writes, “For most of my life, I saw parks and woods as places you go through or play in. I didn’t give much attention to the environment, the resources, or climate. Birdwatchers were people who wore funny, rounded hats and were always seen looking through their binoculars. Growing up in Washington, DC, I enjoyed going to parks and seeing animals in zoos. But there was something mysterious about the woods. To be honest, there was something scary about them, too.”

Anthony experimented with photography as a kid and loved it. He can still remember going into the darkroom and smelling the chemicals and watching images come to life. There was something magical about it for him.

Sadly his love for photography faded as other hobbies took center stage, but it was only in his adult years that his interest in photography returned. In recent years, Anthony has begun exploring the world of birds, but he especially enjoys the raptors.

Anthony believes that it was his work in Juvenile and Family Services where he developed his skills for patience and persistence. Becoming a specialist working with troubled youth and their families requires unlimited time, patience, and an even temper. This work took him to various locations throughout the region. Traveling the back roads, he began to notice the woods that surrounded his journeys and began wondering, “What’s in there?” Anthony will share his commentary along with many of his amazing photos with us at our March meeting. Be sure not to miss this interesting program highlighting raptors.

Outings

Tuesday morning outings will continue, weather permitting. For all Yellow Creek outings, 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 or weather concerns, please contact Lee Carnahan (724-388-4667) or Margaret Higbee (724-354-3493).

Saturday, February 15 – Winter birding at Yellow Creek, led by Tom Glover (tomnglover@comcast.net, 814-938-5618). Meet at the parking lot of the Boy Scout Camp Seph Mack on the north shore of Yellow Creek State Park at 8:00 a.m. We will explore the camp for foraging birds. Take US 422 east from Indiana for about 8 miles. Look for signs for the North Shore and the Boy Scout Camp. Turn right onto S. Harmony Rd. for about 2 miles then turn right into the camp.

Monday – Thursday, March 9- 12 – Coastal New Jersey. This trip will target Barnegat Light, Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge, Cape May, and possibly Sandy Hook. Target species include Brant, Harlequin Duck, King Eider, Great Cormorant, Northern Gannet, Purple Sandpiper, and American Oystercatcher. We will 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 14 – Yellow Creek State Park, led by Lee Carnahan (724-388-4667). Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the park office.

Saturday, March 21 - Blue Spruce Park, led by Tom Glover (814-938-5618, tomnglover@comcast.net). We will check for winter birds and hand feed the chickadees. Meet at 8:00 am at the first large parking lot near the park office.

Saturday, March 28 – 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 4 – 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 11 – The Ghost Town Trail, led by members of the Todd Bird Club. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Dilltown access.

Saturday, April 18 – Yellow Creek State Park, led by Lee Carnahan (724-388-4667). Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the park office.

Todd Bird Club Trip to the Niagara Frontier

December 8-11, 2019

By Debbie Kalbfleisch

Our Canadian birding adventure began early on Sunday, December 8, when Margaret and Roger Higbee, along with Ed Donley, picked up Linda Wagner and me in New Castle. We were barely out of Linda's neighborhood when she pointed out a Red-shouldered Hawk sitting in a tree! We all felt this was a very good omen for the trip. As we traveled north, we called out the common roadside birds: Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Red-tailed Hawk, Blue Jay, American Crow, European Starling, House Sparrow, and Northern Cardinal. Amazingly, Roger spotted a Merlin as it and we zoomed by on the highway in opposite directions, and a few of us were able to see it!

At a rest stop just off I-90 near Erie, we saw our first gulls. About 500 Ring-billed Gulls created a white cloud over the Sheetz, with a few Herring Gulls thrown in. From the back seat, I was surprised to see a Double-crested Cormorant flying with the gulls, but it came and went in a flash, so I was the only one to see it. The explanation for all the gulls is a landfill just a short distance away!

We reached Dunkirk on the shore of Lake Erie just before 11 a.m. and were pleased to find a nice assortment of birds in the harbor. We noted Canada Geese, Mallards, American Black Ducks, Bufflehead, Hooded and Red-breasted Mergansers, Horned Grebes, and Common Loons. Double-crested Cormorants sunned on the rocks. A white lump on the far shore turned out to be a Mute Swan. We were able to pick out a single Greater Scaup, a single Common Merganser, and several American Coots. A Great Black-backed Gull was among the Ring-billed and Herring Gulls. We tried to get a bit closer to the Mute Swan by driving along the lakeshore, but the road proved to be closed to all but local traffic because of a significant amount of damage to the lakeshore road, possibly from the spring flooding. Since this was Ed's first winter trip to Niagara, we decided it was time to introduce him to his first lunch at Tim Horton's!

Traffic was fairly light crossing the Peace Bridge, and the Canadian guard looking at our passports asked why we were coming through at that time. Roger told him we were birding, and instead of regarding us suspiciously, the guard volunteered that his brother had just cowritten a book about birding in Ontario. This is the book titled "Best Places to Bird in Ontario," and Margaret mentioned that she had read a good review of it in the Ontario Field Ornithologists' newsletter. We made a quick stop at an Envoy International to change our American dollars to Canadian before pausing along the waterfront in Old Fort Erie to look at our first Long-tailed Ducks and Common

Goldeneyes. We estimated approximately 110 Long-tailed Ducks among the 250 Buffleheads on the Niagara River. A few Common Goldeneyes and Red-breasted Mergansers were scattered among them. Another stop along the waterfront produced 150 Bonaparte's Gulls, our first for the trip.

We continued our trek north along the Niagara Parkway, accumulating more Canada Geese, Mallards, Long-tailed Ducks, Buffleheads, Common Goldeneyes, and Hooded and Common Mergansers. One quick stop at a marina yielded a Belted Kingfisher. We reached the Control Gates at Niagara late in the afternoon. On the water were about 24 Tundra Swans, and roughly 230 Canvasbacks, both new for the trip. In the fading light, we raced to the Whirlpool, but all the Bonaparte's Gulls had already departed, leaving only a few Ring-billed and Herring Gulls.

We checked into the Super 8 Motel and then enjoyed a good dinner at John's Family Restaurant. On the way back to the motel, Roger detoured through the town and Dufferin Islands Park so we could ooh and ahh at their Winter Festival of Lights. One of our favorites is an owl flying from a tree!

Monday morning found us at the Grimsby Welcome Center where we met Sandra and Frank Horvath who were going to take us under their wing for the next two days. We had several target birds in mind, and we thought that a Slaty-backed Gull, Black-headed Gull, King Eider, and Snowy Owl were all possibilities on this trip. Barrow's Goldeneye has always eluded us in the past, but this year, several had already been sighted along Lake Ontario. Our first stop after breakfast was Grays Road where we added Surf and Black Scoters to our list. We continued traveling along the western edge of Lake Ontario, stopping at Confederation Park, Sayer's Park, and the Burlington Ship Canal, always combing through the Common Goldeneyes in search of a male with more black on his back and a dark spur down the breast. We found Black-capped Chickadees, a Brown Creeper, an American Robin, and several American Goldfinches at Confederation Park, and White-winged Scoters at Sayer's Park, but no odd goldeneyes. At the Burlington Ship Canal, Ed saw more Long-tailed Ducks than he had ever seen in his life, and we were pleased to find our only Northern Mockingbird of the trip, chattering at us as we made our way along the path to the canal. While it was chilly, it was not cold enough for snow, and it had been raining on and off all morning.

By the time we arrived at La Salle Park, the rain had mostly let up. A flock of 15 Trumpeter Swans waddled towards us, and we introduced Ed to the joys of feeding very large waterfowl from our hands. Margaret counted 183 Mallards, some of which also came in to be fed; fortunately, not all at once! We took a lovely trail that ran along the water's edge and watched a nice variety of waterfowl bobbing in the water at fairly close quarters — American Black Ducks, Canvasbacks, Greater Scaup, White-winged Scoters, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneyes, and a single Horned Grebe. A Redhead and Ruddy Ducks, new for the trip, were added to our list. We paused several times on the trail to entice Black-capped Chickadees and White-breasted Nuthatches to eat from our hands, and Roger made friends with a black squirrel. A White-throated Sparrow teased us by singing only part of his song, and that only once. Feeding birds and mammals made us realize that we were also feeling a bit peckish, so we took a break for a late lunch at Hutch's near Van Wagner's Beach.

Afterwards, we headed to Windermere Basin, adding more species, including Northern Shovelers, a Gadwall, and a Great Blue Heron. We remembered the excellent dinner we had last year at the Grimsby Thai Restaurant, and Sandra and Frank needed only the slightest of hints from us to lead us there once again.

On Tuesday after breakfast at Tim Horton's, the Horvaths led us to the fields behind St. Catharines Hospital, just northwest of Niagara Falls, where we easily found the Snowy Owl that seems to hang out there every winter. This was a lifer for Ed, and we were all happy to see it.

While we were enjoying good looks at the Snowy through our scopes, Frank mentioned that the people who make the best maple syrup he had ever tasted were only a short distance down the road. We don't usually go shopping on birding trips, but we decided to check this out. White Meadows Farm turned out to be a family-run farm and gift shop with a very helpful person behind the counter. As soon as we came in, she passed out the tiniest of spoons to each of us, and took out a tray with the four grades of maple syrup — Golden, Amber, Dark, and Very Dark. Each of us sampled a drop of sweetness and, interestingly, we all had different favorites.

After our shopping spree, we made our way to Lakeview Cemetery in Thorold, next to a landfill. We were on the hunt for a Slaty-backed Gull! Eventually, we realized that there was a parking lot right next to where heavy



Ed Donley, Frank Horvath, Debbie Kalbfleisch, Linda Wagner, and Roger Higbee watch the Snowy Owl. Missing from the photo is Sandra Horvath who was chatting with another birder.

machinery was dumping trash, so we were able to get quite close. The trash was a magnet for at least a thousand Herring Gulls, and we were excited to get good looks at an Iceland, a Lesser Black-backed, and a few Glaucous Gulls. The Iceland and Glaucous Gulls were lifers No. 2 and 3 for Ed. We continued to explore the docks and locks of Thorold, eventually finding a Great Black-backed Gull and another Glaucous Gull among the hundreds of Ring-billed and Herring Gulls. Unfortunately, we weren't able to locate the Slaty-

backed Gull.

After lunch at, you guessed it — at Tim Horton's, we traveled to Niagara-on-the-Lake, stopping at the golf course overlook and Queens Royal Park. Here were more White-winged Scoters, Long-tailed Ducks, Common Goldeneyes, Red-breasted Mergansers, and Horned Grebes, and we found a single Red-necked Grebe, new for the trip. Only a few Herring Gulls were flying, but we did find another Great Black-backed Gull.

At the Queenston Boat Launch on the Niagara River, we squeezed in among the fishermen to look for a Little Gull, and I was extremely happy when we spotted it flying at our end of the launch; this was definitely the best look I've ever had at this small gull! Oh, and Lifer No. 4 in the same day for Ed! It was flying with roughly 1,200 Bonaparte Gulls, but the flashing black underwings are surprisingly easy to see. At one point, I turned around to see the rest of the group chatting with several policemen who were wondering what we were up to! From there, we drove to the Queenston Overlook and eventually located two Black Vultures and two Turkey Vultures.

On our way to the Sir Adam Beck Hydro Plant, we spied a Merlin sitting in a tree and paused to admire it. In the fading light, we were able to pick out two Iceland Gulls in among the many Bonaparte's, Ring-billed, and Herring Gulls. We made a quick stop at the Whirlpool, but were quickly surrounded by a busload of 11-year-old Russian boys, fresh off a victory in an international hockey tournament in Toronto. We spent the rest of our time chatting with them and letting each one take a turn looking through our scopes.

We had our traditional dinner at Lee's Chinese Restaurant that evening and said our goodbyes to the Horvaths. It was fun birding with you, Sandra and Frank! We hope to see you at Magee in the spring!

On our last morning, Wednesday, we loaded up the van and checked out of the motel at 6:30, then headed back to Lakeview Cemetery, for one last shot at the Slaty-backed Gull. The landfill crew were working farther back from the road, and we realized we had been lucky the previous day to see the gulls as close by as we did. Snow started coming down as we drove back along the docks and locks, but we saw no new birds. Next we headed back to the Whirlpool to search for the Black-headed Gull. In winter plumage, this gull looks very similar to the Bonaparte's Gulls only it's a bit larger with a blood-red bill. There were at least 250 Bonaparte's, with a smattering of Ring-billed and Herring Gulls, at the Whirlpool and we tried our best to sort through them. Two Great Black-backed Gulls were easy to make out, but it seemed almost impossible to pull out a Black-headed Gull! However, Margaret suddenly announced that she had it, and I jumped to her scope and was able to get a quick look. How did she do it? The bird was sitting on the water preening, and the red bill showed up against the white feathers! Unfortunately, we were the only two to see it. The scene below us became more and more a blizzard of white gulls and snow. Extremely pretty, but not good for picking out the oddball gull! Someone casually mentioned that Niagara was predicted to get 7" of snow that day, and we

realized that it might be wise to start back earlier than we had planned!

We crossed the Peace Bridge around 10:30 and made a brief stop at Buffalo Harbor State Park, finding around 400 Redheads in the water. Among them were many Canvasbacks, Greater Scaup, and Red-breasted Mergansers. We crossed the road to the Tiff Nature Preserve, but it was quiet, with not a bird in sight, and we reluctantly decided we should continue on our way.

The weather eventually cleared and it was still light when we arrived back in Pennsylvania. We took a detour through Volant, before Linda and I were dropped off, and managed to see a Northern Harrier and seven Sandhill Cranes flying in the distance.

We listed 67 birds on the trip, including 21 species of waterfowl. The highlight, of course, had been the Snowy Owl sitting in a field! We did well on gulls, finding nine species: Bonaparte's, Black-headed, Little, Ring-billed, Herring, Iceland, Lesser Black-backed, Glaucous, and Great Black-backed Gulls.

Thank you, Margaret and Roger, for another fun trip and a wonderful birding adventure!

A Note from Anthony Frazier

Over the years I have learned new photographic skills while capturing birds in their environments. For the most part, it's not an easy task. The amount of time and the miles spent tracking birds can take their toll. I found that birders will spend practically an entire day camped out watching and documenting birds.

Here are a few things bird photographers need to know that can help with birding photography:

1. Learn about the nesting, migration, and feeding habits of the birds you want to photograph.
2. Become familiar with different habitats and locations – trails, rivers, trees, cliff, caves, etc.
3. Wear and purchase the right equipment – clothing/ shoes, binoculars, camera/ tripod , GPS / phone
4. Be prepared to spend some extended time in an area. Be patient; you will need a healthy dose of patience.
5. Set aside time to edit, print, or post your work.

While I have gathered much experience and knowledge in capturing photographs of birds, I'm also grateful for local bird organizations and environmental education specialists

and park rangers for their assistance and knowledge as well. There is so much to learn and experience while photographing birds and wildlife.

I remember as a kid watching my uncle fishing. I thought, "How can he just sit there for hours waiting for a fish to bite? Wouldn't it be easier to just go to the supermarket?" Now as I'm walking the trails and spending hours in the park waiting for the raptors to reveal themselves, I have found the answers. There's a kind of peace that's acquired when being out and about. There's something almost magical that pulls you further in. Whether it's the environment, the habitat, or just being outside, the birds offer a unique treat.

While I am relatively new to photographing nature, wildlife, and birds, I have been able to capture and share many amazing photographs. There's a lot happening out there. All we have to do is take the time to observe.

This region has some of the most amazing parks, trails, and lakes, and within these places live some of the most spectacular inhabitants. Take some time to explore. No matter what time of the day or year, nature's show is always on display!

2019 Update on the Trumpeter Swan Family

By Tom Glover

When we last noted the swan family, Z603, Z675, and their immature, in the October 2019 issue of *The Todd Nuthatch*, they were seen at a farm pond south of Reynoldsville, PA, almost daily through the month of August and into the third week of September. Lisa Catarouche and her family last observed them September 29, 2019, in Jefferson County on the beaver pond outside of Richardsville, where they had nested in 2018. The pair did not nest in 2019. The swan family was not reported during the month of October.



The Trumpeter Swans were photographed by Patty Lane in Sperryville VA, on 12/3/19.

On November 2, the three swans were reported in eBird on a private pond 2.5 miles south of Sperryville, VA, in Rappahannock County. They were also noted in eBird again on the same pond by Patty Lane and Drew Chaney December 3. This is the same private pond where Z603

and Z675 were found on December 23, 2017. They showed up southeast of the noted private pond in Mountain Run Lake Park, Culpeper County, VA, January 9, 2018. Z603 and Z675 spent the winter of 2017-2018 in Virginia.

If you have been following the saga of the swan family, you will remember they were found on a pond in Blair County, PA, February 16, 2019, by Pam Illig. I wonder if the reason they wintered

in Pennsylvania was that their juvenile was not ready to make the trip farther south. This winter of 2019-2020 the young bird proved to be healthy and had made the trip to Virginia, as noted in the attached photo.

Stay tuned for the next installment of the Trumpeter Swan family saga.

CBCs Past and Present

Year	Total Species	Count Week	Individuals	Year	Total Species	Count Week	Individuals
1983	56	3	4188	2002	62	2	9739
1984	57	5	9540	2003	72	4	9687
1985	51	2	4468	2004	72	5	8788
1986	54	2	7453	2005	62	7	12130
1987	60	3	5676	2006	64	5	8762
1988	48	3	6670	2007	82	3	14344
1989	52	4	4309	2008	71	8	14329
1990	65	6	8502	2009	56	5	8472
1991	60	5	6004	2010	55	2	7174
1992	67	8	6435	2011	71	4	9029
1993	70	9	13490	2012	80	3	9094
1994	67	4	10759	2013	68	6	8843
1995	71	5	8637	2014	74	7	5693
1996	65	7	9994	2015	70	4	8835
1997	74	3	10180	2016	70	5	7665
1998	82	7	10873	2017	67	4	6243
1999	73	2	18833	2018	66	6	5295
2000	64	2	12397	2019	62	4	5726
2001	77	2	14365				

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Indiana Christmas Bird Count Revisited

December 26 dawned cold with the thermometer reading 27 degrees. Much still water, including Yellow Creek Lake, was frozen while moving water was open. Amazingly the temperature hit 52 degrees in the afternoon, so field birders enjoyed the warmer weather with the sun peeking through the clouds. However, the warmer weather did not fare well for the feeder-watchers as many birds, seemingly tired of “fast food,” spent their day in the fields and forests and did not make repeated trips to bird feeders.

We fielded 22 parties and had 15 birders counting 11 feeders. Field birders hiked 44.1 party miles and drove 570 party miles, spending 109.86 party hours in the field. Of the 51 participants, 24 met at Hoss’s for our Christmas Bird Count dinner at 6:00 p.m. After everyone had ordered and finished eating, we compiled the list. There were no surprises this year. Highlights included a Gadwall on a farm pond, spotted by Tom and Jud Glover; Roger and Margaret Higbee’s three Hermit Thrushes; and two single Winter Wrens, observed by two groups – by Lee Carnahan and Dennis Lauffer; and by Chris and Paula Williams. These two groups also coughed up individual towhees. Since Yellow Creek Lake was completely frozen except for a small section of Little Yellow Cove where the stream enters the lake, the only ducks were two Mallards sitting at the edge of the ice, reported by the south shore crew, and a Bufflehead noted by Rich Carlson and thanks to a phone call from Rich, also seen by the Higbees as they were leaving the park.

When nominations for the James Dearing Award were requested, John Taylor nominated the three Hermit Thrushes. There were no other nominations, despite numerous pleas, so the Hermit Thrush was named “Bird of the Count.” After the compilation, Roger Higbee counted the number of species which had reached 59. In addition, Lee Carnahan, who had birded in the circle on December 23, 24, and 25, added two count week birds – Canvasback and Ruddy Duck; John Taylor added a Great Blue Heron he had seen the day before on his IUP exercise hike.

Since everyone was not able to attend the count dinner, more data was still to arrive. Tom Simmons added five Wood Ducks to the count, Bird #60! Bob Ramsey listed a Great Blue Heron which went from a count week bird to



This is one of the Hermit Thrushes voted “Bird of the Count.”

Photo by Margaret Higbee

actually be Bird #61, then Carol Guba emailed her list which noted that she had observed two Pied-billed Grebes at Two Lick for Bird #62. On Sunday, the 29th, I got an excited call from Lee Carnahan who said, “Guess what I have outside my window!” He had sighted and photographed an adult male Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, another count week bird. Special thanks to Lee for his count week effort!!!

Five species hit all-time highs this year – Wood Duck, Red-breasted Merganser, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, and Carolina Wren.

Once again this year no one found any Ruffed Grouse, which we wanted but had little hope of listing. I thought it amazing that with all the coverage only one Wild Turkey was noted. Mark Strittmatter spotted it at the South Sixth Street State Game Lands. Pat Johner noted all five of the Killdeer on the list. This is also the first year that we missed Red-breasted Nuthatch; we had them on the previous 36 CBCs.

James and Joseph Pumford counted four Swamp Sparrows at Yellow Creek; Lee and Dennis Lauffer found three; and Chris and Paula Williams observed the last one for a total of 8 this year.

When kiddingly “chastised” for locating neither a sapsucker nor a Townsend’s Solitaire on the north shore, the Taylor crew – Ed Donley, Mark Strittmatter, Adam Taylor, John Taylor, and Wil Taylor – informed us that the fruit crop that had been abundant last year is non-existent this year.

This was not our best count, but it was also not the worst. But it was a lot of fun!!! We actually had 416 more individuals than last year even though we had 4 fewer species. The years when we have high species counts, we also have an abundance of waterfowl. With Yellow Creek’s freezing, all waterfowl were found on Kovalchick’s Pond, Two Lick, or small farm ponds fed by springs.

Thanks to everyone who participated! Happy New Year and good birding!

– Margaret Higbee
Indiana CBC Compiler

Indiana Christmas Bird Count Results

37th Annual CBC – December 26, 2019

Snow Goose (CW)		Turkey Vulture (4)		Evening Grosbeak (566)	
Greater White-fronted Goose (2)		Bald Eagle (5)	3	Pine Grosbeak (1)	
Canada Goose (2081)	901	Northern Harrier (9)		House Finch (1563)	127
Mute Swan (4)		Sharp-shinned Hawk (14)	4	Purple Finch (89)	3
Trumpeter Swan (2)		Cooper's Hawk (15)	3	Common Redpoll (63)	
Tundra Swan (533)		N. Goshawk (1)		White-winged Crossbill (62)	
*Wood Duck (2)	5	Red-shouldered Hawk (5)	1	Pine Siskin (375)	
N. Shoveler (2)		Red-tailed Hawk (71)	52	American Goldfinch (637)	94
Gadwall (30)	1	Rough-legged Hawk (3)		Lapland Longspur (6)	
American Wigeon (14)		Eastern Screech-Owl (13)	5	Snow Bunting (225)	
Mallard (670)	146	Great Horned Owl (10)	5	Eastern Towhee (3)	2
American Black Duck (190)	13	Barred Owl (5)		American Tree Sparrow (483)	17
N. Pintail (10)	3	Long-eared Owl (1)		Chipping Sparrow (4)	
Green-winged Teal (4)		Short-eared Owl (2)		Field Sparrow (13)	4
Canvasback (15)	CW	Belted Kingfisher (9)	4	Savannah Sparrow (2)	
Redhead (14)		Red-headed Woodpecker (1)		Fox Sparrow (3)	1
Ring-necked Duck (41)		*Red-bellied Woodpecker (75)	81	Song Sparrow (152)	136
Greater Scaup (5)		Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (8)	CW	Lincoln's Sparrow (1)	
Lesser Scaup (32)		Downy Woodpecker (177)	77	Swamp Sparrow (14)	8
Surf Scoter (CW)		Hairy Woodpecker (58)	38	White-throated Sparrow (214)	80
White-winged Scoter (1)		Northern Flicker (40)	2	White-crowned Sparrow (36)	1
Black Scoter (1)		*Pileated Woodpecker (36)	38	Dark-eyed Junco (2272)	341
Long-tailed Duck (3)		Am. Kestrel (26)	7	Eastern Meadowlark (10)	
Bufflehead (52)	1	Merlin (2)		Red-winged Blackbird (3570)	
Common Goldeneye (7)	CW	Peregrine Falcon (1)		Brown-headed Cowbird (46)	
Hooded Merganser (34)	11	Eastern Phoebe (1)		Rusty Blackbird (13)	
Common Merganser (29)	23	Northern Shrike (1)		Brewer's Blackbird (CW)	
*Red-breasted Merganser (2)	6	Blue Jay (566)	277	Common Grackle (503)	
Ruddy Duck (223)	CW	American Crow (3275)	353	Pine Warbler (1)	
N. Bobwhite (1)		Fish Crow (8)		Yellow-rumped Warbler (18)	
Ring-necked Pheasant (21)	4	Common Raven (9)	4	Northern Cardinal (584)	218
Ruffed Grouse (22)		Horned Lark (225)			
Wild Turkey (345)	1	Black-capped Chickadee (808)	276	Total Individuals (18,833)	5726
Pied-billed Grebe (29)	2	Tufted Titmouse (394)	194		
Horned Grebe (7)		Red-breasted Nuthatch (51)		62 Species on 12/26/19 +4 for CW	
Red-necked Grebe (1)		White-breasted Nuthatch (201)	148		
Rock Pigeon (392)	104	Brown Creeper (25)	3	CW = Birds Seen During Count	
Mourning Dove (1117)	270	Winter Wren (4)	2	Week but Not Count Day	
Virginia Rail (1)		*Carolina Wren (61)	74	CW = December 23-29	
Am. Coot (811)		Golden-crowned Kinglet (106)	44	*Record-breaking or Equal High	
Sandhill Crane (2)		Ruby-crowned Kinglet (4)		Tally (5)	
Killdeer (20)	5	Eastern Bluebird (152)	79	**Species New to the Count (0)	
Am. Woodcock (2)		Townsend's Solitaire (1)		() Highest No. Seen on Any	
Wilson's Snipe (3)		Hermit Thrush (6)	3	Previous Indiana CBC, 1983-2019	
Bonaparte's Gull (6)		Wood Thrush (CW)			
Ring-billed Gull (50)	14	American Robin (1626)	84	134 Species on Count since	
Herring Gull (1)		Gray Catbird (2)		1983 including 4 CW only species)	
Red-throated Loon (1)		Brown Thrasher (1)			
Common Loon (9)		Northern Mockingbird (22)	17		
Double-crested Cormorant (1)		European Starling (8656)	973		
Great Blue Heron (8)	1	Cedar Waxwing (212)	5		
Black Vulture (3)		House Sparrow (809)	328	<i>Bird of the Count =</i>	
				<i>Hermit Thrush</i>	

Christmas Bird Count Observers

Pat Andrascik	Sue Dickson	Carol Guba	James Pumford	Rodger Stormer
Steve Andrascik	Ed Donley	Margaret Higbee	Joseph Pumford	Mark Strittmatter
Alice Beatty	Bob Fairman	Roger Higbee	Bob Ramsey	Adam Taylor
Buck Beatty	Emmy Fairman	Dory Jacobs	Tom Simmons	John Taylor
Tom Betts	Gary Ferrence	Pat Johner	Scott Simms	Wil Taylor
Tony Bruno	Barb Fletcher	Paul Johner	Peggy Skinner	Chris Williams
Jeremy Carlson	Don Frew	Gloria Lamer	Amy Staffen	Paula Williams
Rich Carlson	Marie Frew	Dennis Lauffer	Rich Staffen	Daniel Winstead
Lee Carnahan	Jud Glover	Mary A. Little	Linda Stormer	Ray Winstead
Dan Cunkelman	Tom Glover	Donna Meyer	Luke Stormer	Jan Woodard
Marcy Cunkelman				Jim Woodard

Indiana - Armstrong - Cambria Counties – Fall 2019

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

Abbreviations: Blacklick (BL), Blue Spruce County Park (BS), Ghost Town Trail (GTT), Indiana (IN), Keystone Reservoir (KR), Kittanning (KT), Lewisville (LV), Lock & Dam (L&D), Murphy's Bottom (MB), Prince Gallitzin (PG), Shelocta (SH), Waterworks Conservation Area (WCA), Yellow Creek State Park (YC).

First **Tundra Swans** were 6 flying over the West Penn Trail near Blairsville 10/29 (DL); largest flock mentioned included 135 individuals over a yard near SH 11/1 (MH, RH); this is the largest *Indiana* flock reported since 11/9/13 (LC, MH, RH) when 137 were counted at YC.

Last **Wood Ducks** noted were 36 on 11/4 (TR) n. of L&D 8, 4 on 11/6 (TD) at PG, and 3 on 11/9 (BF, MH, RH) at YC. Top counts, both at YC, were 66 **Wood Ducks** 9/17 (LC, BF, MH, RH, BH, PH) at YC, the highest YC count on record since 8/23/2011 (LC, TG, MH, ML) when 72 were tallied and 50 **Blue-winged Teal** 9/25 (MD), which was the top tally since 9/11/2014 (LC, MH, RH) when 97 was the count. First **Northern Shoveler** arrived 9/14 (AW) at YC where the last 5, the maximum tally, appeared on 10/8 (LC, SD, TG, BH, PH); 3 stopped at PG 11/10 (TD). **Gadwalls** moved through the region between 10/27 (TD) when 3 were found at PG and 11/29 (TD) when the last 4 were listed at PG; the high of only 11 occurred at YC 11/5 (LC, MH, RH, GL). **American Wigeons**, too, were almost absent at YC with a singleton on two dates – 10/1 (LC, RC, PF, BF, TG, MH, RH, BH, PH, DK) and 11/13 (DR); PG hosted one on 10/22 (TD) and 3 on 11/10 (TD). The top tallies for **American Black Duck** included 20 at PG 11/23 (TD), 14 at CC 11/28 (TR), and 5 at YC 11/19 (TR). A lone **Northern Pintail** 11/19 (LC, TG, DK, JS, TR) at YC comprised the entire regional report for this species. **Green-winged Teal** first arrived 9/17 (LC, BF, MH, RH, BH, PH) at YC with top count of 32 on 10/1 (LC, RC *et al*); single birds were found at CC 10/1 (TR) and at PG 10/19, 27 (TD).

Canvasback numbers peaked at 9 on 11/5 (LC, MH, RH, GL) at YC while PG hosted only one all season on 11/8 (TD).

Redheads topped out at 7 on 11/2 (3RBC, TBC) at YC, 4 on 11/6 (MH, RH) at KR, and 3 on 11/8 (TD) at PG. Ten **Ring-necked Ducks** arrived 10/27 (TD) at PG where high tally was 60 on 11/10 (TD); YC arrival date was 11/2 (3RBC, TBC), but peak number was only 23 by 11/19 (TG, DK, TR). A single **Greater Scaup** appeared 11/15 (MH, RH) at YC and was still present 11/19 (TG, DK, TR) at YC, the only location for this species this fall. A **Lesser Scaup** 10/17 (AM) at Lake Rowena, 3 on 10/18 (TD) at PG, and 2 photographed 11/13 (DR) at YC were amazingly the only reports for this usually more commonly noted species. Eight **Surf Scoters** 11/19 (TG, DK, TR) at YC were a great find. Best counts of **Buffleheads** included 110 in Killbuck Cove at PG (TD) and 22 at CC (TR), both 11/6, and 20 at YC 11/19 (TR). **Common Goldeneyes** were noted only at CC 11/19 (TR) and at PG 11/21 (MD) with respective counts of 4 and 2.

Top counts of **Hooded Mergansers** were 39 at PG 11/23 (TD), 9 at Blanco 11/9 (TB, MH, RH), and 7 at YC 11/19 (TG, DK).

Armstrong is the hotspot for **Common Mergansers** with the top tally of 165 at CC on 11/25 (AK, JK) while singletons were noted on three dates at YC – 10/5 (TG, MH, RH, PH, DK, KL), 11/13 (DR), and 11/30 (HH) – and only on 11/23 (TD) at PG. Six **Red-breasted Mergansers** were counted 11/19 (TG, DK) at YC, the only location for this species in the region this fall. **Ruddy Ducks** peaked at 73 at YC 11/26 (LC, PF, BF, TG, MH, RH), 12 at PG 10/22 (TD), and one at KR 11/6 (MH, RH).

Single **Ruffed Grouse**, observed 9/15 (SVH) near Loretto, photographed near WCA 11/16 (SD), and seen 11/17 (TD) near PG, were the only reports.

The first **Pied-billed Grebe** of the season appeared at YC 8/16 (AH) where the high count of 13 occurred 11/5 (LC, MH, RH, GL). In *Armstrong* single birds were found 11/6 (MH, RH) at KR and 11/15 (ABu) at L&D 7at KT. At PG first arrival appeared 9/21 (TD) with high count of 5 on 10/27, 11/10 (TD). The first **Horned Grebe** was sighted at PG 10/1 (TD); 5 arrived at YC 10/13 (MK), and one was at RT 11/25 (TR).

Lingering cuckoos included single **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** at Nolo 9/20 (GL), at MB 9/20 (MVT), at YC 10/8 (LC, SD, BF, MH, RH, BH, PH, DK), and near KT 10/9 (MH, RH); lingering **Black-billed Cuckoos** were at YC 9/10 (LC, RC, PF, BF, MH, RH, BH, PH, DK, GL) and on Creek Road south of CC 9/17 (MVT). *Indiana Common Nighthawk* reports included 3 along the West Penn Trail 8/30 (DL), 2 at BL 9/2 (DL), 21 near BL 9/12 (DL), and one 9/15 (DL) in IN; in *Cambria* singletons were found 8/26 (SVH) and 8/28 (SVH) at two separate Loretto locations as well as 9/14 (TD) at PG. There were no *Armstrong* reports. At least 28 remaining **Chimney Swifts** still fed over the water at YC 10/8 (LC, SD *et al*). Sept. 27 was the last date for **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds**, both at Nolo (AB) and near IN (SD).

YC hosted 44 **American Coots**, the high count, 11/2 (3RBC, TBC). As recently as 2017 the normal highs were in the triple digits. PG's Turtle Cove harbored 23 on 11/23 (TD).

Because of construction on the YC swimming beach, the water level at the lake had been greatly reduced, yielding nice mudflats during shorebird migration. This fall produced the best shorebirding at YC since 2005 when the water was drawn down to support downstream fisheries because of the drought. All shorebird, gull, tern, and egret reports are at YC unless otherwise noted. An **American Golden-Plover** visited the mud 9/24 (LC, SD, PF, TG, MH, RH, BH, PH, DK) and remained through 9/25 (MD); 10/5 (LC, TG, MH, RH, PH, DK, KL) yielded 3 Am. Golden-Plovers on the mud near the south shore boat launch; 3 is also the all-time high count for this species. These were the first sightings since 9/17/2013 (MH, RH) when one was present on the beach. Eighteen was a highest count on record for **Semipalmated Plovers** 9/1 (MH, RH). **Killdeer** maxima included 85 on both 8/6 (LC, TG, MH, RH, DK) and 8/20 (EB, JBr, LC, BF, CH, JH, MH, RH, GL) and 67 on 9/1 (MH, RH); last lingering Killdeer was present 11/19 (TR). CC's high Killdeer tallies were 14 on 8/25 (TR) and 12 on three dates – 8/31 (ABu) and 9/17, 25 (MVT).

First 10 **Dunlin** arrived 9/17 (LC, BF, MH, RH, BH, PH); the next and only report occurred 11/2 (3RBC, TBC) when 3 were found. A **Baird's Sandpiper** was a nice find 9/1 (MD) and was still present 9/3 for the Tuesday YC group (LC, SD, TG, MH, RH, GL, RN, TR, MAZ); it remained through 9/7 (MD). First 2 **Least Sandpipers** were at IUP 8/5 (JT); they moved through YC between 8/6 (LC, TG, MH, RH, DK) and 10/29 (LC, RC, PF, BF, TG, BH, PH) with the highest tally on record of 28 on 8/27 (LC, TG, MH, RH, BH, PH, DK); previous high occurred 8/9/1999 (MH, DJ, LW). In *Armstrong* at CC 4 Least were present 8/25 (TR), 3 on 9/3 (MVT), and one 10/1 (TR). Single **White-rumped Sandpipers** were found on three dates – 8/10 (LC, MH, RH), 8/13 (LC, BF, MH, RH, DK), and 9/7 (MD). Thirteen **Pectoral Sandpipers** 10/8 (LC, SD *et al*) and 43 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** 9/1 (MH, RH)

were amazing counts for YC; the previous fall high for Semipalmated Sandpipers was 23 on 8/21/2005 (CG, MH). Aug. 25 (TR) yielded the first Semipalmated Sandpiper at CC, where 3 were counted 8/31 (ABu). A **Western Sandpiper**, a third county record, was a great find 9/7 (MD). First **Short-billed Dowitcher** stopped near the waterfowl observatory early morning 8/16 (SM); 2 were present later the same day (AH) and again on 8/20 (EB, JBr, LC *et al*) when one of them was photographed (JaP, JP); last noted occurred 8/27 (LC, TG *et al*). The only **American Woodcocks** reported were at Josephine 8/19 (DL), at BS 9/23 (MH, RH), and at PG 10/27 (TD). **Wilson's Snipe** reports mentioned 2 on 9/10 (LC, RC *et al*) and singletons on 9/21 (LC, SD, TG, MH, RH, PH, KL, JaP, JP) and 9/25 (MD), all at YC. A Wilson's Snipe photographed next to a Mourning Dove in the parking lot at CC 9/11 (TR) was unusual. Last **Spotted Sandpipers** lingered 9/23 (AM) at Lake Rowena and 9/24 (PF, TG) at YC. Seven was the top YC tally of **Solitary Sandpipers** on 8/17 (MH, RH) and 8/22 (MV); last Solitary was listed 10/8 (LC, SD *et al*). Single **Greater Yellowlegs** visited CC 9/25 (MVT) and PG 10/24 (TD); 11 visited YC 9/24 (LC, SD *et al*) where 2 remained through 11/5 (LC, MH, RH, GL). Six was the top **Lesser Yellowlegs** count at YC 9/1 (MD); on 8/25 (TR) 2 visited CC where one remained 8/31 (ABu); a single bird was last observed at YC 10/1 (LC, RC *et al*).

A lone **Bonaparte's Gull** 11/19 (LC, DK) at YC and 2 on three dates at PG – 10/31, 11/8 (TD) and 11/14 (MD) – were the only ones reported. Single **Ring-billed Gulls** on 10/5 (LC, TG *et al*) and 11/5 (LC, MH, RH, GL) were the only ones noted at YC this fall; PG hosted one on four dates (TD), 2 on 9/2 (WI), and 8 on 11/29 (JJ). *Armstrong* reports included 3 at KR 11/6 (MH, RH) and 21 at CC 11/24 (MVT). Two Herring Gulls were listed at KT 8/1 (MH, RH) and 11/15 (ABu). Two **Caspian Terns** visited PG 9/8 (TD, RL) while 6 stopped at YC 9/14 (AG, JeH, AW). Ten **Common Terns** 9/7 (MD) and 2 **Forster's Terns** 9/1 (LC, MH, RH) were noted at YC; 9/2 (TD) yielded one at PG. The season's first **Common Loon** appeared at PG 8/4 (TD) where it lingered for several weeks; 22 was PG's high tally 10/31 (TD); first arrivals elsewhere appeared at YC 11/2 (3RBC, TBC) and at KR 11/6 (MH, RH).

Many reports of one to 2 **Double-crested Cormorants** were spread across the region, but PG harbored 119 on 10/26 (TD).

Great Egrets exhibited a strong presence at YC with as many as 6 individuals present on multiple Aug. dates (m.ob.) and 5 lingering through 9/24 (LC, RC *et al*); six is also the highest count on record for egrets at YC; single birds were found at the Toy Road pond in *Armstrong* 9/3 (RM) and at PG 10/18, 22, 24 (TD).

As **Black Vultures** continue to expand their range into our county, Nov. 18 produced 4 near Jacksonville (MC) and one at Lewis Natural Area (MS).

Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers lingered near LV 11/8 (MC) and near SH 11/9 (MH, RH).

IUP yielded a **Merlin** 8/12 (JT); a migrant flew over a yard near SH 8/30 (MH) while YC had hosted one between 9/7

(MD) and 11/2 (3RBC, TBC); one was at PG 9/8 (TD) and another at CC 11/29 (MVT). A **Peregrine Falcon** was sighted along the Butler-Freeport Trail 8/15 (DB) and one was at Manorville 9/13 (ABu).

Olive-sided Flycatcher reports included one near WT 9/19 (SG) and one at CC 9/25 (MVT). Last **Eastern Wood-Pewees** were found at BS 10/3 (MH, RH, RW), along the AT north of L&D 8 on 9/27 (TR), and at SGL 108-23 on 9/23 (TD). BS yielded the season's only **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** 9/7 (LC, MD, TG, MH, RH, DK, DL, JaP, JP, VS, JT, RW). Last flycatcher dates included 9/16 (MVT) for **Acadian Flycatcher** near Worthington; 8/4 (RL) for **Willow Flycatcher** at PG; 9/7 (LC, MD *et al*) for **Least Flycatcher** at BS; 11/2 (RHa, SM) at YC for **Eastern Phoebe**; 9/7 (LC, MD) for **Great Crested Flycatcher** at BS; and 9/6 (TD) for **Eastern Kingbird** at PG.

Last **White-eyed Vireo** was on the AT north of L&D 8 on 9/27 (TR). **Yellow-throated Vireo** and **Blue-headed Vireo** respectively lingered at BS 9/24 (DK) and near LV 10/27 (MC). Single **Philadelphia Vireos** stopped at BS 9/18, 23, 25 (MH, RH), at PG 9/21 (TD), and along the GTT near BL 9/28 (LC, TG, BH, PH, DL, KL); 2 were found at SGL108-22 on 9/25 (TD). A **Warbling Vireo** lingered 9/13 (TR) at MB while last **Red-eyed Vireo** was sighted 10/9 (MC) near LV.

Fish Crow reports included 7 calling as they flew over Regency Mall in IN 8/4 (MH, RH), 2 at IUP 8/6 (JT), 2 at WCA 9/20 (SD), and one near LV 10/1 (MC). In *Cambria*, Lake Rowena yielded 4 on 8/2 (AM) and 2 on 10/2 (AM).

Swallow last dates included 8/25 (RL) at PG for 4 **Purple Martin**, 11/2 (3RBC, TBC) at YC for 2 **Tree Swallows**, 9/16 (MC) near LV for one **Northern Rough-winged Swallow**, 8/27 (LC, TG *et al*) at YC for 2 **Bank Swallows**, 8/7 (MH, RH) near SH for 2 **Cliff Swallows**, and 9/26 (TD) at YC for one **Barn Swallow**.

Ruby-crowned Kinglets moved through the region between 9/22 (MH, RH) and 11/10 (TD). Not a winter for a **Red-breasted Nuthatch** invasion, the one listed on Creek Road 9/17 (MVT) was a good find. **Brown Creepers** were found only at YC (v.o.) and near Homer City (LC) this fall. Last **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was sighted on Creek Road 9/17 (MVT). Late **House Wrens** were near LV (MC) and at CC (TR), both 10/1. **Winter Wren** had arrived at BS by 9/25 (MH, RH) and remained through 11/14 (TR) along the AT north of L&D 8. A singing **Marsh Wren**, photographed at PG 9/21 (TD), was a great fall find.

Last **Gray Catbird** and **Brown Thrasher** were respectively noted south of West Valley 10/26 (ABu) and near LV 10/15 (MC). BS yielded the only reported **Veery** 9/23 (MH, RH) and **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** 9/19; 10/3, 4 (MH, RH) and 9/24 (DK). **Swainson's Thrushes** listed were more numerous with reports of 1-4 at BS between 9/18 (MH, RH) and 10/4 (MH, RH, FM, JM), at YC 10/1 (LC, RC *et al*); singletons were noted in *Armstrong* 10/1 (TR) at CC, 10/4 (TR) north of L&D 8, and 10/5 (TR) at SGL 247. Two **Hermit Thrushes** appeared at CC 10/12 (TR) and at BS 10/13 (MD); one arrived at Indiana Regional Medical Center Walking Trail

10/19 (SD), one near Loretto 10/25 (SVH), and another in IN 11/13 (JP). A **Wood Thrush** was still present at BS 10/4 (MH, RH, FM, JM).

American Pipits were noted at YC between 9/24 (LC, RC *et al*) and 10/5 (LC, TG *et al*) with best count of 20 on 9/24 (TR); the only other report came from PG where the count was 7 on 11/23 (TD).

After a plethora of August sightings, **Purple Finches** practically disappeared from our area until 10/2 (MH, RH) when 2 appeared near SH and singletons were noted 10/3, 4, 11 (MH, RH) at BS. Next reports were single birds 11/10, 12 (MC) near LV and 2 on 11/24 (BF) near Homer City.

Last **Eastern Towhees** were listed near LV 11/2 (MC) and along the AT between KT and Manorville 11/11 (MH, RH). A feeder near SH yielded a late **Chipping Sparrow** 11/23, 25 (MH, RH). **American Tree Sparrows** were not numerous with all reports including one at KR 11/1 (MH, RH), one at CC 11/6 (TR), 4 at SGL 247 on 11/10 (TR), one also on 11/10 (TD) at PG, another 11/14 (MD) at PG, and one 11/14 (TR) along the AT north of L&D 8. **Fox Sparrows** included one at KR 11/1 (MH, RH), one 11/6 (TR) at CC, 4 on 11/10 (TR) at SGL 247, 5 also on 11/10 (TD) at PG; and one remained 11/13-29 at a feeder area near SH. PG hosted the region's only **White-crowned Sparrows** beginning with 3 on 10/4 (TD) with one staying through 10/27 (TD). The first **White-throated Sparrow** arrived 9/29 (MH, RH) near SH. Lingering sparrows included a **Savannah** at Dugan's Marsh 9/24 (TD) and 4 **Henslow's** at SGL 108 - Bellwood 8/17 (JC, LiC, MN). Six **Lincoln's Sparrows** at PG 9/24 (TD) and 2 the next day (TD) at SGL 108-22 were the only ones noted.

Bobolink call notes were heard over PG 9/2 (TD) and one flew over BS calling 9/7 (LC, MD *et al*). Last **Orchard Oriole** was near Elderton 8/19 (MH, RH) while last **Baltimore Oriole** stopped near LV 9/16 (MC). Thirty **Rusty Blackbirds** was a good count at CC 11/2 (JB); 6 were counted near Loretto the next day (SVH); no others were reported in the region.

Warbler last dates included 11/3 (MD) along Rock Furnace Trail for a rather late **Ovenbird**; 8/13 (LC, BF *et al*) at YC for **Louisiana Waterthrush**; 9/19 (SG) near WT for **Northern Waterthrush**; 9/12 (TR) south of WT for **Blue-winged Warbler**; and 9/30 (MVT) at MB for **Black-and-white Warbler**. **Tennessee Warblers** moved through the county between 8/27 (LC, TG *et al*) and 10/15 (AB) south of West Valley. Single **Nashville Warblers** appeared 9/5 (TD) at PG, 9/25 (TD) at SGL 108-22, and 9/27 (TR) along the AT north of L&D 8; BS harbored singletons between 9/18 (MD) and 10/3 (MH, RH). A **Connecticut Warbler** at BS 9/18 (MD) was the season's lone report. Last **Common Yellowthroats** were found 10/18 (AB) south of West Valley, 10/14 (MN) in Northern Cambria, and 10/13 (MD) at BS. The last **Hooded Warbler** stopped at BS 10/3 (MH, RH). The last **American Redstarts** were at CC 10/1 (TR) and at IUP 9/29 (JT). **Cape May Warblers** migrated through between 9/6 (TD) and 10/4 (MH, RH). A **Cerulean Warbler** was a nice surprise at BS 8/29 (MH, RH). Last dates, all at BS, included 10/4 (MH, RH, FM, JM) for **Northern Parula** and **Bay-breasted Warbler**; 10/13 (MD) for **Magnolia Warbler**; 9/27 (DK) for

Blackburnian; and 10/1 (DK) for **Chestnut-sided**. The only **Yellow Warblers** noted were near LV 8/1 (MC) and at IUP 8/4, 12, 23 (JT). Single **Blackpoll Warblers** were found between 9/7 (LC, MD *et al*) and 9/23 (MH, RH) at BS; the only outliers were along the GTT near BL 9/28 (LC, TG, BH *et al*), 2 at CC 10/1 (TR), and one at CC 10/9 (MVT). BS produced the first 3 migrant **Black-throated Blue Warblers** 9/7 (LC, MD *et al*) and its last 2 on 10/4 (MH, RH, FM, JM); last sighted was south of West Valley on 10/6 (ABu). YC yielded the first **Palm Warbler** 9/24 (LC, RC *et al*) and its last 2 on 10/14 (MH, RH); south of West Valley last sighted occurred 10/18 (ABu). Last **Pine Warbler** was both seen and heard singing near SH 10/1-2 (MH, RH). **Yellow-rumped Warblers** arrived 9/24 (LC, RC *et al*) at YC and the following day (MH, RH) at BS; high count was 30 along the West Penn Trail 10/18 (DL); last report mentioned 2 at CC 11/28 (TR). YC yielded the season's only **Yellow-throated Warbler** 8/13 (LC, BF *et al*) while a yard near SH produced the only **Prairie Warbler** 9/2 (MH, RH). Last **Black-throated Green Warbler** stopped at BS 10/13 (MD). **Canada Warbler** sightings included one near SH 8/20 (MH, RH) and singletons at BS 9/3 (DK) through 9/7 (LC, MD *et al*). One **Wilson's Warbler** near

Blairsville 9/19 (DL) and one at PG 9/21, 23 (TD) and 9/22 (RL) were the only ones noted. Last dates included 10/7 (MC) near LV for **Scarlet Tanager**; 10/10 (TD) at PG for **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**; and 10/15 (MC) near LV for **Indigo Bunting**.

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Todd Bird Club

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