



# THE DRUMMER



[www.senecarocksaudubon.org](http://www.senecarocksaudubon.org)

March/April 2021

Volume 37, No.3

## Conneaut Marsh — Saturday, March 20

by Deb Freed

This annual outing is a favorite of members and friends. Larry Towse and Mal Hays will lead the all day birding to Custards, Conneaut, Pymatuning and points in between.

We will begin the day at the spillway at Custards gathering from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. to observe the waterfowl and other species. At about 9 a.m. we will caravan to other points that Larry and Mal have scouted out for the day. There will be a mid-morning snack and bathroom stop. Around noon we will meet in Conneaut Lake at Fireman's Beach Park on North Second Avenue off of route 322 (Water St.) There we will have our lunch break and observe the waterfowl on the lake.



*Sandhill Cranes are a possibility on this outing. Photo by Flo McGuire*

For lunch bring a packed lunch or stop at one of these carry-out lunch establishments: Sheetz (Water St. & North Third Ave); Subway (Water St. across from Sheetz); Vacavi Café ( Water St. & First St.); Ice House Pizzeria & Grille (Water St. beside Subway)

Join us for all or part of the day. Bring a friend or tell a friend. It's always fun and there's no telling what we might see. That's the lure of birding!

**DIRECTIONS:** The spillway bridge at Custards, off Route 285. Follow Route 322 west from Clarion, through Franklin, to Route 173 near Cochranon. Turn left and follow Route 173 south about 1 mile, through Cochranon and across French Creek, to Route 285. Follow Route 285 about 6 miles to Custards and turn right on Mercer Pike Road. Follow Mercer Pike about a half mile to the bridge. The drive from Clarion area is as long as to Meadville.

Like us on Facebook!  
<https://www.facebook.com/SenecaRocksAudubon>

## Bird Walks for Beginners

by Deb Freed

Our first bird walk will be along Rail66 on **April 21 at 10 A.M.** Parking will be at the trailhead along route 322 next to O'Neils Market. The trail is paved. We will walk and observe for about 1 1/2 hours. More details will be posted on our website and Facebook page. As of now, we will ask that walkers wear masks. We will do our best to maintain distance. This is a popular bike trail so we will be watching for bike traffic and give bikers the right of way. We hope to help new birders with using binoculars and identifying birds by behavior, song and key characteristics. We hope to have regular walks throughout the year at a variety of locations.



*An early migrant like this Blue-gray Gnatcatcher might be found on this April hike.*

## SRAS Spring Schedule!

by Deb Freed

Covid virus is still a concern for planning travel and social engagement so we have put together events and programs that will be safe and fun. All programs and events through August will be outside and require masks. Sometime in April or May we will have a Big Sit. This is an event where we observe all the bird activity from one location for the entire day. Watch for more details.

The *Drummer* is the newsletter of Seneca Rocks Audubon Society (SRAS), PO Box 148, Clarion, PA 16214. SRAS is a chapter of the National Audubon Society. The *Drummer* is published 4 times per year – September, November, March and May.

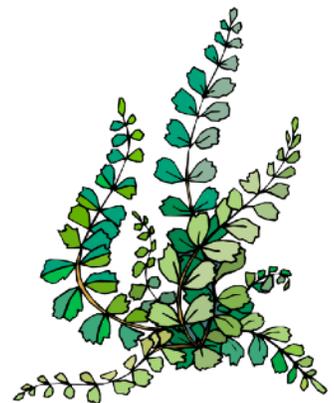
The *Drummer* is available on our website in Adobe pdf and may be read or downloaded from the site — [www.senecarocksaudubon.org](http://www.senecarocksaudubon.org).

Members are encouraged to contribute announcements, articles, photos, etc., to Editor Flo McGuire, 609 Ponderosa Lane, Tionesta, PA 16353 (814 755-3672) or email at [fmcguire1@verizon.net](mailto:fmcguire1@verizon.net).

## Membership

by Deb Freed

The membership year begins August 11 with the Membership Picnic. Local chapter memberships are \$10 for the year. National members are automatically members of a chapter based upon zip codes. Information postcards are mailed to members twice a year. Join using the forms on our website [www.senecarocksaudubon.org](http://www.senecarocksaudubon.org).



# Seneca Rocks Christmas Bird Count Final Report

by Debbie McCanna



"It's the most wonderful time of the year!" Our Christmas Bird Count participants tell us this every year, and even a pandemic couldn't stop us from getting out in the field to do our part in keeping track of our birds!

This year, our 34th Christmas Bird Count, we had a few changes. We added a team of hiker/walkers who did a great job of surveying the area they patrolled - an area that was neatly within our Circle, but inaccessible by car. This worked out so well that we already have plans to add more of these teams, and provide identification training and practice hikes for those who would like to join the Count next year. Watch *The Drummer* and our website for further plans.

*There was only one Hermit Thrush found on our CBC, by two of our stalwart hikers.*

Now for the birds—we spotted 58 species (plus a Count Week Merlin and a Count Week Fox Sparrow) and counted a total of 6,929 individual birds. We had nine teams (26 individuals) in the field as well as 18 Feeder Watchers. We covered just over 497 miles by vehicle, and another six-plus miles on foot, with a total of 70 hours in the field, plus another 38 hours at the Feeders. Four and three-quarters hours followed for the nocturnal watchers, with a total of 16 miles. They spotted 16 Eastern Screech Owls, one Great Horned Owl, two Barred Owls and three Short-Eared Owls, a good owl total.

One thousand, six hundred seventeen Dark-eyed Juncos, 818 European Starlings, 761 Blue Jays, 481 Mourning Doves and 403 Canada Geese were our top five counted species. One bird each were seen for these species: Ruffed Grouse, Wild Turkey, Northern Harrier, Rough-legged Hawk, Great Horned Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Hermit Thrush, White-Crowned Sparrow, Red-Winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark and Brown-Headed Cowbird. No Bald Eagles were spotted, birds that often turn up on our count. Two Ring-Necked Pheasants were seen, a bird that has become more and more scarce now that farmland has fewer windrows and other brushy areas.

All in all, we were very pleased with the number of observers and the total birds seen. Hopefully by the next Christmas Bird Count the pandemic will be under control, and we will have a few more teams to help cover our diverse Circle. Thanks to all who participated, and congratulations to the sharp-eyed spotters, intrepid drivers and meticulous recorders who made our count another one for the books!

Thank you to all Field Participants:

Dennis Beaver, Paulette Colantonio, Pat Conway, Peter Dalby, Jeffrey Diamond, Don DeWolf, Gary Edwards, Jolene Frampton, Randy Frampton, Deb Freed, Vicki Gotaskie, Shelley Gracey,

Jeffrey Hall, Mal Hays, Janice Horn, Ann Hunt, Mike Leahy, Flo McGuire, Jim McGuire, Ron Montgomery, Ellie Prebich, Tabassam Shah, Alice Thurau, Larry Towse, Jim Wilson, Carole Winslow.

And thank you to all the Feeder-watchers! They found our only Pine Siskins, Red-winged Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, and Common Grackles!

Feeder Watchers were:

Hendrika Bohlen, Cindy Bonner, MaryEllen Borovick, Vicki Daniels, Jeanne Drayer, Susan Faunce, Ben Freed, Layne Giering, Brad Grant, Keith Hileman, Tony Linnan, Judy Montgomery, Terry and Phyllis Morrow, Ruth Schurr, Barb Songer, Alice Thurau, and Dee Wenner.

(All compilers are required to have their reports filed by February 28. The Regional checks will be completed and the reports certified, then the breakout reports will be available and we'll be able to tell you more about what CBC reports showed in our Region, in Pennsylvania and beyond.)

---

## Some CBC Analysis

~ Flo McGuire



*Male Evening Grosbeak—this irruptive species has been sporadic in the McGuires' yard this winter.*

There is a lot of interesting data available from our circle over the past 34 years. Our total of 58 species is well above our average of 51.9, even though hours and participants stayed about the same. Total number of birds was actually below average, but the average was buoyed by common species such as American Crow and European Starling.

Ruffed Grouse were found every single year up to 2016, with an average of 9.8, but missed the past three years, and luckily one was reported this year. Only one Wild Turkey was found, which was very disappointing. Our count has had turkeys every single year, and the average number is 90!

Northern Harriers have turned up on our count all but two years, with an average of 6.8, and this year only one was found. It was a very good year for accipiters, though. One

or two Sharp-shinned Hawks are noted almost every year—this year they made a good showing of four. Coops average 4.1, and this year seven were found. Red-tailed Hawks also came in well above their average of 38, at 54! The first Bald Eagle was on our 2004 CBC; they have been recorded 11 times, with a high of nine last year. As Debbie has said, none were spotted this year—hopefully that was just a fluke.

Red-bellied Woodpecker numbers have been climbing—this year we had our second-highest count of 35, almost double average.

We had our third-highest tally of Blue Jays, double their average at 761.

Others have noted that Golden-crowned Kinglet numbers are down lately, and our CBC was no exception. Only two were tallied, compared with our average of 21. Carolina Wrens are doing well—we had our highest ever tally at 22, well over average of 6.9.

Hermit Thrush have been found only 12 times, so the one our hikers tallied was significant.

Nick Bolgiano of State College has been analyzing data of six boreal birds that are irruptive species in Pennsylvania this winter. Here is how our CBC fared with these species:

- Red-breasted Nuthatches, at 17, are almost double our 34-year average of 10.3.
- This was only the third time Evening Grosbeaks have been found here since 1999; 57 were tallied. This was still below our average of 164; although we only recorded them on 12 CBCs, we had numbers in the 100s up to 1995.
- Purple Finches seem to be more common in our area; we've had them every year of the count and in fact were below average this year at 17.
- Common Redpolls do not seem to be irruptive here this year: they have been reported on eight of our CBCs, with an average of 14.9, but only two were found.
- No Red Crossbills were reported; our history shows only 100 in 1995 and 83 in 2005.
- Pine Siskins also seem to be more common in our area—they have been reported on 21 CBCs with an average of 51.2, but only two were reported this year.

House Finch numbers have been declining from the hundreds that we counted in the 1980s and 90s; we tallied 47, compared to an average of 266. This year was our third-lowest count of American Goldfinch, at 118, compared to our average 253. The Dark-eyed Junco tally was surprisingly high at 1617, almost double the average of 867. A single White-crowned Sparrow was a significant addition to the list, only the 11th CBC for that species.

The single Eastern Meadowlark was also a great find; only the sixth time it was tallied on our CBC. This year was only the sixth time a Brown-headed Cowbird was reported since 1994.

Again, thanks to all for going out and contributing to this valuable citizen-science project!



*Mal finding a gray-phase Screech-owl!  
Photo by Larry Towse*

## Owl Box Report

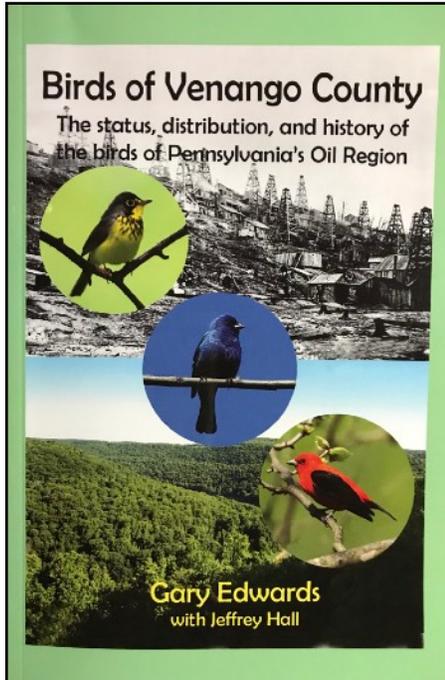
by Mal Hays and Gary Edwards

The owl boxes in Clarion County were checked Jan. 13, 2021, by Gary, Larry and Mal. We had a gray-phase Eastern Screech-owl in Box #25. We had several handfuls of Blue Jay feathers and two owl pellets in Box #24A. Box #20 had several cracked hickory nuts and acorn halves in it. Box #8 in Oil Creek also had Blue Jay feathers and owl pellets in it.

We set up a camera on the box with the Blue Jay feathers in Oil Creek and will swap out the SD card next time.

# The Birds of Venango County: The status, distribution, and history of the birds of Pennsylvania's Oil Region

by The Old Curmudgeon



What do you do if you have four decades of birding data plus anecdotal information on birding in Venango County? Of course! You write a book, which many of us have considered, and few have completed. *The Birds of Venango County* by Gary Edwards with Jeffrey Hall is such a book. Similar tomes omit the historical background—few complete the relevant research. Both Edwards and Hall have backgrounds in biology and apply stringent guidelines to their research. Gary is friends with all of the local birders and regularly collects data from them, some of whom consistently provide sightings on a monthly basis. The self-effacing author is quick to acknowledge all of his contributors. It is a major achievement to assemble all of this data into such a well-organized book.

Chapter Two, authored by Jeffrey Hall, lists and describes 15 recommended birding locations, including directions, habitat, and species that might be found there.

Gary has researched the few bird records for Venango County back to the 1700s. There are thumbnail sketches of the early birders that make them feel more like contemporaries.

In addition to the inviting cover, the book includes several pages of excellent colorful photos of birds that have been seen in Venango County. As noted, these were taken by either Jeffrey Hall or Gary.

Edwards provides information from both of the recent Breeding Bird Atlas Projects—(1984 to 1989 and 2004 to 2009). In 2001 Greg Grove initiated the Winter Raptor Survey; Edwards included data from the two routes in Venango County, which he helped to establish, as well. There is also a notation of how often each species was identified during the Pleasantville Christmas Bird Count (which is primarily in Venango County). Safe Dates are included for nesting birds. Equally important is the format and terminology. Each documented species includes Frequency and Season following PSO definitions: Winter (December, January and February), Spring (March, April and May), Summer (June and July), and Fall (August, September, October & November).

The Species Accounts are listed in taxonomic order (*ABA Seventh Edition, 2008*), with similar families grouped together. For example, Ducks, Geese and Swans are grouped together. So, if you see a goose, but cannot determine if it normally comes to Venango County, Gary's book will help you determine if it is an accidental sighting. If it's not in the book, call Gary! You may be cited in the next edition. The Species Accounts are meticulously

researched, and are valuable as more than reference material—the “Comments” are often entertaining and insightful.

There is a section titled “Seasonal Occurrence Bar Charts.” This is an important quick-reference section that was compiled by Nick Bolgiano using Gary’s data. Finally, there is a comprehensive species index, something that is often overlooked in many local guides across the United States.

Gary lists 274 total species for the past 40 years, including 25 species of nesting warblers. Are we lucky, or what? We highly recommend this readable, well-organized volume for anyone who birds in the area. As Scott Stoleson said in his cover blurb: “Read this book and you’ll want to bird in Venango County, and have Gary as your guide.”

The book will be available directly from Gary when we start to meet! For a mailed copy, it is \$20 plus \$3.50 postage. Address is:

Gary Edwards

224 Meadow Rd. Apt.9

Seneca, PA 16346

You may email Gary at [gedwards3011@gmail.com](mailto:gedwards3011@gmail.com).

---

## Bird Seed Sale Report

by Alice Thurau

The Spring Bird Seed Sale has concluded and was very successful. The sale supports the conservation, education, and environmental activities of our Audubon chapter. Thank you to the members and friends of Seneca Rocks who ordered bird seed. We gained \$133 from the sales, and an additional whopping \$325 from donations. We appreciate your generosity! And the birds certainly appreciated the extra food this winter! Almost 3000 pounds of seed was purchased, along with 45 suet cakes. Black oil sunflower was the most popular purchase, followed by J&J Blend.



*An irruptive species this winter, a Common Redpoll showing off his cap in Meg Kolodick’s yard, photo by Meg*

The next SRAS Bird Seed Sale will be in September.

A special thanks to Janice Horn who has handled the biannual bird seed sale for many years and to Peter Dalby who started the sales. Alice Thurau has recently assumed the project.



# Owl Surveys

Part of Carole Winslow's Fall Report is an analysis of the Owl Surveys done this fall by Mal Hays. We are printing it here accompanied by Mal's table.

Throughout this fall season, one contributor (Mal Hayes) undertook an extended survey of owl populations for Clarion County. This survey consisted of 10-12 stops and roughly three hours of survey work for each township in the county with some small variations for size. Twenty-two townships are evenly divided between those located north of I-80 and those south, as it almost evenly divides the county. Habitat south of I-80 is predominantly grassland, scrubland, and farms with scattered smaller forest lots, although there are remaining larger forested areas along waterways. North of I-80 has agricultural areas as well and woodlots, but also many more areas of extensive forest.



Who can resist the charm of an owl? This red-phase Eastern Screech-owl was photographed by Meg Kolodick.

Between Oct. 11 and Nov 23, 2020, Mal Hays conducted an Eastern Screech Owl survey in each of the Clarion County Townships. He divided the townships into those north of I-80 and those south of I-80. His results were:

### North of I-80:

Township	Date	Hours	Stops			Owls			Phase		
			Number	+	-	Screech	Barred	Gr. Horned	Gray	Red	Unk
Ashland	22-Oct	3.0	12	1	11	1	---	---	---	---	1
Beaver	7-Nov	3.5	12	6	6	8	---	---	3	---	5
Clarion	11-Oct	3.5	12	6	6	6	2	---	1	---	5
Elk	4-Nov	3.0	12	11	1	10	1	1	3	---	7
Farmington	21-Oct	3.5	12	7	5	6	1	---	3	--	3
Highland	25-Oct	3.0	11	4	7	3	2	---	---	1	2
Knox	15-Oct	2.0	8	0	8	---	---	---	---	---	---
Millcreek	28-Oct	3.0	12	3	9	3	---	---	---	---	3
Paint	13-Oct	2.5	10	3	7	2	1	---	---	---	2
Salem	19-Oct	3.0	11	4	7	5	---	---	1	--	4
Washington	23-Oct	3.0	11	3	8	3	---	---	---	---	3
<b>Total North</b>		<b>33.0</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>35</b>

### South of I-80

Licking	18-Oct	3.0	12	10	2	12	---	---	3	---	9
Limestone	1-Nov	3.0	12	5	7	7	---	---	2	--	5
Madison/Brady	22-Nov	3.5	12	8	4	8	2	---	2	1	5
Monroe	20-Nov	3.0	12	7	5	12	---	---	1	2	9
Perry	23-Nov	3.0	12	7	5	10	2	---	2	---	8
Piney	13-Nov	3.0	11	6	5	6	1	---	3	---	3
Porter	15-Nov	3.0	12	7	5	7	1	---	1	1	5
Redbank	11-Nov	3.5	12	8	4	14	2	---	---	2	12
Richland	8-Nov	2.5	11	7	4	8	1	---	2	1	5
Toby	3-Nov	3.0	12	11	1	15	---	---	3	---	12
<b>Total South</b>		<b>30.5</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>73</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>63.5</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>108</b>

North of I-80: 92% gray phase

South of I-80: 73% gray phase

The surveys were run at night from 10/11-11/27, with stops done at areas of potential habitat and playback used for northern saw-whet, eastern screech-owl and barred owl. Eastern screech-owls that were able to be seen were noted as to color phase as well. A total of 33 hours were completed north of I-80 and 30.5 hours south of I-80.

Only one **Great Horned Owl** was located, near Knox. A total of 146 **Eastern Screech-owls** were located, with notably 99 of those south, and 47 north where habitat is less suitable. **Barred Owls** were more equally distributed, with seven north and nine south. No **Northern Saw-whets** were found. Success rate for locating owls is reflected in the totals, with only 48 out of 123 stops producing owls in the north, while in the south 76 out of 118 were successful.

Gray morph to red ratio of screech-owls was 11:1 in the north and 19:7 in the south. This data will be valuable for future survey work, potentially for the next BBA, and provides insight into habitat utilized by different owl species in the county. It also shows how owl populations are often hard to predict without more dedicated work such as was done by this observer, with an example being screech-owl numbers which were higher than anticipated.

---

## Clarion County Fall 2020 Bird Sightings

by Carole Winslow

Locations: Beaver Creek Nature Area (BC), Clarion (CL), Curllsville (CV), Kahle Lake (KL), Lucinda (LU), Mt Zion (SGL 330/Piney Tract)(MZ), New Bethlehem (NB), Redbank Valley Trail (RVT), Rimersburg (RI).

Some early cold weather patterns in late October brought **Tundra Swans** down just a little early to KL. Several flocks numbering up to 68 were found starting 10/31 and continuing through 11/3 (DS, ES, TS). At this same location **Common Goldeneyes** were also found about a week ahead of normal dates, with three present 10/24 (ES).

**Ruffed Grouse** continue to be reported less frequently, and only one



*This Ruffed Grouse displaying was a fun encounter for the Kolodicks. Photo by Meg Kolodick.*

noted sighting was received, a single bird in forest land near LU 11/28 (ES). For the fourth year, a **Common Nighthawk** watch was held at Mill Creek along the Clarion River on a nightly basis from 8/16-9/9 (MH, FM, LT). The total count of birds was 394, the lowest number since the count started. The two highest count dates were 41 birds 8/30 and 120 birds 9/1. Rails are rarely recorded in *Clarion*, so a **Sora** was an excellent sighting, with one found 9/1 at the ponds area of SGL 72, the same location where Virginia Rail was found breeding this past summer (MW).

Shorebirds are a group of species not reported as often, so it is worthwhile to note several of them this year. The first of these is **American Avocet**, a rare migrant for *Clarion*. It was first seen at KL 8/12 (BK), and then found 8/13 at the far northeast edge of the lake (DD, CW). It was last seen 8/15 (JS). Others seen at KL 8/13 were three **Least Sandpiper**, one **Semipalmated Sandpiper**, one **Spotted Sandpiper**, three **Solitary Sandpiper** (CW). An additional spotted sandpiper was seen in NB 8/26 and 8/28 (J&AK), and an additional solitary sandpiper in RI 8/6 (MM). **Greater Yellowlegs** were found also at KL and later into migration than is typical. One was noted there 10/24 and up to five birds continued late into the season, last reported 11/14 (MD, PF, ES, DW). A single bird was also found not far away at BC 11/13 (ES). Two **Lesser Yellowlegs** were at KL 10/9 (DS).

The only notable gull species was a **Bonaparte's Gull** at KL 11/14 and again 11/23 (ES). **Great Egrets** are sporadically seen in migration, but it was rather unusual to see one as a flyover near CV 8/15 (CW). One was also reported in more typical habitat along the Allegheny River at Foxburg 8/23 (SK).

There were more than the usual sightings of **Osprey** this year, starting with one seen near NB 9/2 (J&AK), one near Fisher 9/11 (DK), and one near CV 9/15 (CW). Single birds were also reported at both KL and BC 10/31 (ES). After what seemed like an increase in the local population over the past winter, **Northern Harrier** numbers appear to have dropped considerably and for the season only one report was received, that of a single bird found at MZ 11/20 (NV). Monitoring of the numbers through winter and into next spring will hopefully reveal this not to be a long term trend, but it could be an area of concern for this species with limited habitat. **Bald Eagles** are happily not in this same situation, and



*Great Egret by Meg Kolodick.*

the number and variety of locations for sightings are such that it would be too lengthy to report in detail (m.ob.)

At a location near CV where **Eastern Screech-owls** are regular breeders, two young owls were noted still in the vicinity of the nestbox and interacting at dusk as they sparred over an object of prey, while both adults were still roosting in the same vicinity 8/14 (DD,CW). **Short-eared Owls** were first seen back on their usual wintering grounds on Rankin Rd near CV 10/26, with just one bird present, and then again seen 11/24 (DD, CW).

*See pages 8-9 for Carole's Special Addendum on Owl Surveys.*

**Merlins** are not always reported but there were two sightings not far from each other, one near Knox 8/16 (DR), another near Emlenton 10/30 (BB), both along I-80. There were also two records of **Peregrine Falcon** seen migrating over, one near CV 10/4 and one in CL 10/13 (TS).

**Philadelphia Vireo** is a fairly regular migrant but still not common, and so increased numbers this year was noteworthy. One was found on three occasions near CV 9/7, 9/23 and 9/25 (CW). A single bird was also found at MZ 9/19 (RC, LC) and one at CL 10/1 and 10/3 (TS). **Warbling Vireo** is also sparsely reported and this year there were three reports near CV 9/15, 9/23 and 9/25 (CW).



Thanks again to Meg Kolodick, for this Warbling Vireo!

There is a large amount of great habitat for **Northern Shrike** available and they are not common but still regular every winter, with the first showing up in an agricultural area near Wolf's Corners 11/25 (WD). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** continued throughout the area from fall with one or two birds at feeders near CV, at MZ and SGL 63 (RC, LC, ES, TS, CW) and up to four birds in several areas in CL through the season (ES, TS). **Winter Wrens** continued rather late at a breeding area along the river in CL, with up to three birds seen from 10/1-11/12 (TS).

As in the past several years, nocturnal flight calls of migrating thrushes were documented before dawn near CV on seven occasions from 9/5-10/8 (CW). About 90 total calls were heard on the first day and on the last day 10/8, 50-60 calls were still being detected but with a change in species. The peak counts were 9/15 with about 600 total calls in 35 minutes and 9/23 with approximately 1300-1400 total calls over about 20 minutes. **Veery** is the earliest thrush to pass through, and only two calls were heard on

the first date 9/5. **Gray-cheeked Thrush** were detected as early as 9/10 with a single call, but the most calls were heard 9/23 where 30-40 were noted. They were still being heard through the last morning 10/8 with four calls. **Swainson's Thrush** routinely make up the bulk of migrants and are the easiest to ID. They were detected on every day of counting, with the highest number 9/15 when there were 425 calls and 9/23 with over 1,000. **Wood Thrush** are the second most common thrush typically heard, detected on all counts but 10/8, by which time their migration is mostly completed. Their peak numbers occurred 9/10-9/15 with 100+ calls. **Hermit Thrush** are not usually passing through until October, as they are the latest thrush migrant. This was reflected in their calls only being noted on the last count day 10/8, where they made up the majority with about 30 calls.

Word was spread during the season that it would be another northern finch irruption year, and the first species on the list was **Evening Grosbeaks** which showed up at feeders near Strattanville in numbers up to 20 birds 11/4-11/12 (LT). Thirteen birds were also found at LU 11/5, 2 birds at KL 11/7-11/8, and 2 also at MZ 11/8 (ES). **Common Redpolls** also showed up at MZ with several small flocks noted 11/15 (MW), and 30 seen 11/18 (RG). **Pine Siskins** were found in multiple locations throughout the county starting 9/22 and last noted 11/22. Locations included feeders in CL, CV, and the LU area as well as groups found at KL and MZ (PC, ES, LT, MW). The highest count noted was up to 60 birds found at feeders in RI 10/10 (MM).

**Snow Buntings** were reported early in the season with ten located at KL 11/7 and then one still found in the area 11/8 and 11/14 (ES). The one sparrow species worthy of mention is **Lincoln's Sparrow** which had an increased number of reports this year. One was first seen in CL 9/18 (TS), and then at KL 10/9 (DS). At another location near CV they were found on seven days between 9/25-10/14, which is more frequent than normally seen (CW).

The first two warblers of note are both boreal species that have been showing some increase in numbers. Up to two **Cape May Warblers** were found in CL on three days from 9/14-10/8 and also on three occasions at SGL 63 between 8/30-9/27 (TS). Near CV up to six birds were found on ten days between 9/7-10/8, feeding consistently in Norway spruce plantings (CW). **Bay-Breasted Warblers** were also found at this location with up to three birds found on five days between 9/11-9/25 (CW). They were reported in CL on multiple days with one or two birds seen from 9/24-10/8 (JH, TS). Two were also found near Marble 9/21 (DSn), and one at SGL 63 on the same date (TS). A late **Yellow-throated Warbler** continued singing at a breeding area on the RVT near RI 8/8 (CW). **Prairie Warblers** show fall migration predominantly in the eastern corridor on eBird data maps and are not frequently reported in fall migration even though they are a regular breeding bird in *Clarion*. For this reason it was unusual to find not one but two birds feeding together in the scrubby field habitat they prefer late in migration near CV 9/25 (CW).



The last species of note is one of the most surprising, as no recent reports of this bird are known to the writer. This was a **Summer Tanager**, which was found in a wooded area in the town of CL, observed feeding at treetop and heard calling as well 9/27 (ES).

Observers: **Carole Winslow**, [cjwinslow94@gmail.com](mailto:cjwinslow94@gmail.com), Brendyn Baptiste, Rich Carlson, Laurel Chiapetta, Paulette Colantonio, Pete Dalby, Michael David, W. Dwayne DelGrande, Don DeWolf, Patience Fisher, Ross Gallardy, Jeffrey Hall, Mal Hays, Danette Karls, John and Avis Keener, Barbara Kiester, Scott Kinzey, Flo McGuire, Mark Moore, Dan Richards, Eric Schill, Tabassam Shah, David Snyder (DSn), Daria Sockey, Jerry Stanley, Larry Towse, Daniel Weeks, Mike Weible, Nick Voris.



*Bloodroot - Sanguinaria canadensis*



*The Pennsylvania Native Plant Society  
advocates  
conservation of native plants and their  
habitats and promotes the increased use  
of native plants in the landscape.*

Do you know about Professor Douglas Tallamy's new project to enlist native plant enthusiasts across the country to build a Homegrown National Park?

To learn more about this and the Pennsylvania Native Plant Society, see <http://www.panativeplantsociety.org>.



*Yellow Trout-lily, Erythronium americanum*

## Events

March 20 - Conneaut Marsh Outing

April 21 - Beginner Birding Walk - Rail 66

### LOOKING AHEAD

May 8-15 - Birdathon

May 12 - Talk at Beaver Creek - 6:30 p.m.

May 15 - Warbler Walk, Oil Creek State Park

May 19 - Beginner Birding Walk - Rail 66

June 9 - Talk at Beaver Creek - 6:30 p.m.

June 16 - Bird Walk - Cook Forest

June (date TBA) - Piney Tract Talk

August 11 - Membership Picnic, Beaver Creek



Ptarmigan Lake Trail, Chugach National Forest, Alaska

### Leadership Team

Team Member	Role	Phone
Deb Freed	President	814-226-4719
Alice Thurau	Vice-President	814-319-2677
Kay John	Secretary, Membership	724-526-5960
Janice Horn	Treasurer	814-226-7367
Paulette Colantonio	Education	814-797-2031
Pat Conway	History, Facebook	814-752-2036
Gary Edwards	Outreach Programs, Website	814-676-3011
Jeffrey Hall	Facebook	
Mal Hays	Outings Leader	814-764-5645
Danette Karls	CBC Feederwatch	814-764-3251
Mike Leahy	Beaver Creek/IBA 21	814-229-1648
Debbie McCanna	CBC Coordinator	724-526-5693
Flo McGuire	Website, <i>Drummer</i> Editor	814-755-3672
Ron Montgomery	Outreach Programs	814-764-6088
Jim Wilson	Nest Boxes & Feeders	814-676-5455

*It is not so much for its beauty that the forest makes a claim upon men's hearts, as for that subtle something, that quality of air, that emanation from old trees, that so wonderfully changes and renews a weary spirit. —*

*Robert Louis Stevenson*

Seneca Rocks Audubon  
Society  
P.O. Box 148  
Clarion, PA 16214