



# *Lancaster County Bird Club*

Lancaster, Pennsylvania

*Founded December 8, 1937*

*... observing and preserving our community's native bird life*

## **Call Notes**

**APRIL – JUNE 2020**

### **FROM PRESIDENT BARBARA HUNSBERGER:**

In light of the national situation and concern over the Coronavirus, and out of an abundance of caution, the Lancaster County Bird Club (LCBC) Officers and Board of Directors have agreed to cancel the April 2, 2020, club meeting and all field trips through May 21. However, we encourage all who are able to still try to get outdoors on your own and enjoy the therapeutic value of nature during this time while practicing social distancing as recommended by the CDC and PA Department of Health. We hope that all our club members remain healthy during this time.

After a thorough review of the bylaws, we have determined that it is appropriate to postpone the annual meeting until further notice and to continue the current officers and board members until an annual meeting with an election can be held at some future date. We will be operating with one board vacancy until the next election since Ann Wilson has resigned because of her recent move to Landenberg, PA. The date of our election and rescheduled annual meeting will be announced as soon as it can be rescheduled. Thank you for your understanding as we best try to deal with this unprecedented situation.

Over the last few years Len Eiserer has been generously sponsoring the LCBC Photo competition in conjunction with the PA Game Commission and Middle Creek WMA. After discussion with Len and others, the LCBC Board and Len have decided to change our efforts to working directly on habitat restoration and preservation in partnership with a local conservation organization. Additional information will be available as the project details are finalized.

**\*\*Save the Date\*\***  
**PSO Annual Meeting 2020**

**Sept 18-20, 2020**  
DoubleTree Resort  
*2400 Willow Street Pike, Lancaster, PA 17602*

This annual PA Society for Ornithology (PSO) gathering of birders and birdwatchers from across the state will be held at the beautiful DoubleTree Resort in Lancaster. Lancaster County is one of the best places for birding in PA! PSO 2020 will include a Friday Night Social with a Birding Trivia Contest, Saturday and Sunday Morning Field Trips, Saturday Afternoon Seminars, and Saturday Night Banquet with a special guest speaker. There will be various bird related exhibitors with all types of things to sell and information to share. All Things Birds! Something for everyone, including you! Please join us. Registration will open in June. Stay tuned for further details!

Questions? Contact Lancaster County Bird Club's liaison to PSO for the event, Ted Nichols II, at [tanicholsii@gmail.com](mailto:tanicholsii@gmail.com).

**PREVIEW OF COMING EVENTS**

These events have been cancelled due to the Coronavirus.

**Saturday, March 28, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. – Birding Along the Susquehanna River**

**Thursday, April 2, 7 p.m. – Ecology and Management of PA Black Bears**

**Saturday, April 4, 6 a.m. – Memorial Lake (Lebanon County)**

**Saturday, April 4, 9 a.m. – Riverfront Park (East Donegal Township) – Beginning Birder Field Trip**

**Saturday, April 11, 7 a.m. – Memorial Lake Area, Lebanon County Field Trip**

**Saturday, April 11, 7 a.m. – Safe Harbor Park Field Trip**

**Monday, April 13, 7 a.m. – Safe Harbor & Shenk's Ferry Field Trip**

**Saturday, May 2, 7 a.m. - Lock 12 (York County) Field Trip**

**Saturday, May 9, 7 a.m. - Chickies Rock County Park Warbler Walk**

**Saturday, May 9, 7 a.m. - Central Hammer Creek Warbler Walk**

**Saturday, May 9, 7 a.m. - Middle Creek WMA Warbler Walk**

**Saturday, May 16, 6 a.m. – Birding in Juniata County**

**Wednesday, May 20 – Bird the Ridge Tour at Fort Indiantown Gap**

**MEMBERSHIP NEWS BY LARRY BERNHARDT**

The current LCBC membership stands at 328 members. Welcome to all new members and we hope you can join us on field trips to discover some excellent birding locations in the region and to meet fellow members of LCBC.

Terry Brown, Lancaster                      Alice Danak, West Lawn  
Bronwen S. Hartranft, Lancaster        Mark Hubers, Lancaster  
Mary Alice Wheeler & Andre J. Dominguez / Lancaster

**SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS:**

**In memory of Carl Beck**

Robert Coley  
Barbara & Peter Hunsberger  
John Lahr

**In memory of Barbara Haas**

John Lahr

**Harold Morrin Scholarship Fund**

John Lahr

**Special Conservation Project (details TBD)**

Len & Patricia Eiserer

**Contributions for General Club Support**

Lt. James McMullin

**Sustaining Members**

Bronwen Hartranft                      Lt. James McMullin  
Ted Nichols II                          Vince Pantanella                      Ida Williams

## IN MEMORIAM

Club member, **Barbara Haas**, age 80 and wife of Franklin Haas, Narvon, PA, passed away on January 8, 2020 after a short bout with cancer. Born in Philadelphia, she grew up in Delaware County, graduated from Sharon Hill High School and Ursinus College. She got her master's degree in Audiology from Kent State University. She worked at Geisinger Medical Center in Danville and the Elwyn Institute in Delaware County before moving to Narvon and opening her own hearing aid business in 1990. She was the first audiologist to serve on the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Hearing Healthcare Association. Along with her husband she co-founded and edited the magazine *Pennsylvania Birds* for 14 years. As a birder, she traveled to 36 states, Canada, Switzerland, and France. Her North American Life Bird List was 724 and her Pennsylvania List was 393.

Since 2005 she and Frank traveled to Adak Island in the Aleutians twice a year (spring and fall) in search of Asian birds who made a wrong turn during migration and ended up in the Bering Sea. This pursuit resulted in finding and photographing the first North American record of Eurasian sparrowhawk. We send our deepest condolences to Frank and her family.

## IN MEMORIAM

Club member, **Carl R. Beck**, 86 of Woodcrest Villa, Lancaster, formerly of Strasburg Township, died January 9, 2020. He was born January 19, 1933, in Strasburg Township at the home of his parents the late Enos W. Beck and Mary Reamer Beck.

Carl is survived by his wife of 63 years, Yvonne M. Beck, whom he knew his entire life. They were married December 23, 1956, at Zion Evangelical and Reformed Church, New Providence, where he was an active lifetime member. Carl graduated from Franklin and Marshall College with a degree in science in 1955. At F&M he was a member of the Delta Sigma Phi fraternity, the Arnold Air Society, and the ROTC. He received a commission as a second lieutenant upon graduation. His combined service in the U. S. Air Force, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard, lasted from 1955 to his retirement in 1983. Carl was also an educator for 37 years in the Solanco School District with degrees from Millersville State College and Temple University.

An avid bird watcher, Carl was a member of the Lancaster County Bird Club. Since 1990 he and Vonnie traveled throughout North America observing over 725 species of birds. Their interest in gardening led them to the recreation of an authentic German four square garden at their former home. It was featured in the 1983 Demuth Garden Tour and several national publications. Carl and Vonnie have three children and six grandchildren. We extend our deepest condolences to Vonnie and Carl's extended family.

### IN MEMORIAM

Club member **Joan Renninger** of Harrisburg passed away on March 2, 2020. Joan was born in Oberlin, PA, in 1934, graduated from Steelton High School, and worked for the U.S. Air Force and Army for 36 years as an administrative assistant and executive secretary for the Protocol Officer. She also obtained a private pilot's license. Joan loved the outdoors and adventure. As a birder she travelled to 27 countries seeing many wild animals and exotic birds. She was active in several environmental organizations, including the Stony Creek Valley Coalition, Susquehanna Trail Club, Appalachian Audubon Society, and Lancaster County Bird Club since 1992. She was married to her husband Jack L. Renninger for 31 years, who predeceased her in 2011. Joan has no surviving family but many friends. To them we send our deepest condolences.

### IN MEMORIAM

Former club member Milton G. Steffy, Jr., age 92, passed away on March 17, 2020, at Ephrata Manor and is survived by his wife Lavonne of 54 years. He served in the U. S. Navy from 1945-1947. He spent 21 years in partnership with his brother and father at M.G. Steffy and Sons Electrical Contractors of Denver. After the retirement of his father, he worked for Kalas Mfg. for 20 years, retiring in 1992. He became interested in birds and fishing early in his life and first became a member of Lancaster County Bird Club in 1954. He was a regular member from 1993 until 2015 and loved trips to Chincoteague NWR, other shore points and to Mexico to observe them. He was also a member of the Lititz Art Association and created realistic paintings, especially of birds and other wildlife. We extend our deepest condolences to his wife Lavonne, daughter Gayle, son Glenn, and his extended family.

### **MEMBERS' ADVENTURES AND ACTIVITIES BY BARBARA HUNSBERGER**

The American Birding Association (ABA) announced the results of the 2020 Young Birder of the Year program a few weeks ago. The ABA Young Birder of the Year exists to encourage, mentor, and develop the talents of our teenage birders. Begun in 1998, ABA reports that it has an incredible track record of influencing up and coming leaders of the birding community.

Participants choose among five modules: Field Notebook, Conservation and Community Leadership, Photography, Illustration, and Writing. They work in these areas from April through October, at which point they submit portfolios to the panels of judges/mentors.

I am pleased to announce that club member, **William Young**, age 15 from Willow Street, PA, has won the gold medal for writing in the 14-18 age group. Congratulations **William** for your hard work in this competition and your enthusiasm for ornithology.

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LCBC Board member, **Mike Shull**, sent a note on behalf of LCBC to the homeowner that notified us about the Varied Thrush at his house this winter. Jack Reese sent this response to Mike. “We greatly enjoyed having her around and enjoyed the company of the many that came to see her. The birding community is full of very wonderful and conscientious people, we are just so happy she stuck around long enough for so many to enjoy her presence!”

### **BIRDS ON THE MOVE (DECEMBER 2019 – FEBRUARY 2020) BY CAROL FEISTER**

**Editor’s Note:** Please report your sightings to Carol Feister. She prefers to have reports sent to her e-mail address ([cjfeister@comcast.net](mailto:cjfeister@comcast.net)), but will accept mail (225 Spencer Avenue, Lancaster, PA 17603) or phone reports (717-435-8678). Our focus is not just on rare or uncommon birds, but also on more common species appearing in unusual numbers, out-of-season, or exhibiting behavior that would be of interest to our members. Your help is needed in making this column a way of recording the county’s bird life. Carol receives sighting reports from the *Pennsylvania Birding List*, *eBird*, *WhatsApp*, and *Facebook – Lancaster County Birding*. **If you make a verbal report at a LCBC meeting, please send that report to Carol.**

These three months of sightings had several birds with very large numbers of ebird reports. The Sandhill Crane (78 reports) that over-wintered at Chestnut Grove Natural Area was first reported on November 5, 2019, and was last reported on February 20, but was later reported in March. A Varied Thrush in East Hempfield Township had 53 reports and a Virginia Rail at Woods Edge Park had 38 reports. The big winner in sightings this period is the Lark Sparrow on Boyer Run Rd. north of Manheim which had 112 reports. I think the bird seed piles helped keep it at that location!

The Pink-footed Goose was first reported on February 16 and continued through the end of the month at Woods Edge Park. It was reported 72 times with all the reports at Woods Edge Park except two reports of sightings at Middle Creek. It is unknown if there are one or two birds since there were no reports of one being reported at each site at the same time.

The other rarity is the Painted Bunting that was first reported on February 26. This bird has been coming to the same feeder in Northern Lancaster County since 2016. It arrived that year on December 18 and stayed until the first week of April 2017. On December 17, 2017, it returned staying until April 18, 2018. It skipped the winter of 2018 and returned on December 20, 2019. It was still being viewed through the end of February. To view please contact Zach Millen at [zjmillen@gmail.com](mailto:zjmillen@gmail.com) or 717-723-1279.

- Dec 3-        1 Golden Eagle – Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (WMA) – Josh Lefever
- Dec 3-        1 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher – Backyard overlooking Octoraro Creek - Sabrena Boekell
- Dec 4-        45 Snow Geese, 220 Canada Geese, 7 Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Kinglets: 2 Golden-crowned, 2 Ruby-crowned; 12 Eastern Bluebirds, 8 White-throated Sparrows – Lancaster County Central Park – Wed. Birding Group led by Barbara Hunsberger
- Dec 4-Jan 4   1 Varied Thrush – Backyard on Spring Valley Rd., East Hempfield Twp. – Jack & Tricia Reese, Patricia & Richard Williams, Zach Millen, Seth McComsey, Joseph Marks, Jason Horn, Fern Bauman, M. Lombard, Michael David, et al
- Dec 5-Feb 20 1 Sandhill Crane – Chestnut Grove Natural Area – Matt Hunter, Meredith Lombard, Jason Horn, Bob Reiter, Josh Lefever, Dean Newhouse, et al
- Dec 5-        1 Eastern Phoebe – Octoraro Reservoir, Mt. Eden Rd. – Carlton Groff
- Dec 6-Feb 24 1 Virginia Rail – Woods Edge Park – Matt Hunter, Zach Millen, Seth McComsey, Josh Houck, Megan & Mike Zettlemoyer, Josh Lefever, Patricia & Richard Williams, Pamela Fisher, Alex Lamoreaux, John McNamara, et al
- Dec 7-        1 Glaucous Gull – Turkey Hill Trail Nature Preserve – Jason Horn
- Dec 8-        1 Sharp-shinned Hawk – backyard in Marietta – Bill Libhart
- Dec 8-15     1 American Bittern – Woods Edge Park – Megan & Mike Zettlemoyer, Kurt Schwarz, Joseph Beiler, Josh Lefever, Tom Bisko, Patricia & Richard Williams, Fred Zimmerman, Josh Houck
- Dec 8-24     1 Eastern Phoebe – Backyard overlooking Octoraro Creek – Sabrena Boekell
- Dec 10-      1 Fox Sparrow – Backyard in Conestoga Twp. – Willis Ratzlaff, Genevieve Tvrdik
- Dec 13-      1 Chipping Sparrow – backyard in Peach Bottom – Bob Schutsky
- Dec 15-      1 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 1 Chipping Sparrow – Backyard overlooking Octoraro Creek – Sabrena Boekell
- Dec 15-      1 House Wren – Rock Springs Nature Preserve – Larry Bernhardt
- Dec 15-      1 Eastern Phoebe – Fishing Creek Rd., Drumore – Barry Blust
- Dec 20-      1 Ruffed Grouse – Speedwell Forge County Park – Brandon Brown
- Dec 21-      1 Iceland Gull – Blue Rock Rd. Boat Launch – Meredith Lombard
- Dec 21-      1 Golden Eagle, 1 Bald Eagle – South Cedar St., Lititz – Bruce Carl
- Dec 22-      4 Northern Rough-winged Swallows – Susquehanna Water Treatment Plant (WTP), Washington Boro – Meredith Lombard, Eric Witmer

- Dec 23- 1 Rough-legged Hawk, 2 Ring-necked Pheasants, 3 Northern Shovelers, 3 Tundra Swans – Middle Creek WMA – Randall Nett
- Dec 23- 1 Sandhill Crane – flying over Woodcrest Villa – Peter Hunsberger
- Dec 25- 1 Black-capped Chickadee – Backyard in Willow Street – Kim Hartquist
- Dec 29- 1 Palm Warbler – Muddy Run Reservoir – Tom Amico
- Dec 29- 1 House Wren – Woodlot along Mountain Rd. near Mt. Hope Church – Bruce Carl, Jim Fiorentino
- Dec 29-Feb 29 1 Lark Sparrow – Boyer Run Rd., Manheim – Bruce Carl, Jim Fiorentino, Zach Millen, Jason Horn, Eric Hartshaw, Carl Engstrom, Holly Hartshorne, Chad Kauffman, Robert Hosler, Eric Witmer, Peter Burns, Martin Seizer, et al
- Jan 1- 1 Lesser Black-backed Gull – Turkey Hill Nature Preserve – Jason Horn
- Jan 1- 1 Rough-legged Hawk – Cocalico Creek at Hickory/Sportsman Rds. – Robert Hosler, Chad Kauffman, Tiffany Willow
- Jan 1- 4 Northern Rough-winged Swallows – Susquehanna WTP, Washington Boro – Jason Horn
- Jan 1- 1 Rough-legged Hawk – Middle Creek WMA – Judy Stepenaskie
- Jan 1- 5000+ Snow Geese – Middle Creek WMA – Chad Kauffman
- Jan 4- 1 Red-tailed Hawk – Noel Dorwart Natural Area (NA) – Seth McComsey
- Jan 4- 1 Black-capped Chickadee – Backyard in West Lampeter Twp. – Janet Lind
- Jan 4- 4 Northern Rough-winged Swallows, 3 Chipping Sparrows – Susquehanna WTP, Washington Boro – Meredith Lombard
- Jan 7- 1 Black-capped Chickadee – Backyard in Mount Joy – Paul Brubaker
- Jan 8-9 3 Chipping Sparrows – Backyard in Lititz – Craig Boyhont
- Jan 10- 1 Gray Catbird – Noel Dorwart NA – Seth McComsey
- Jan 11- 132 Horned Larks - North and west of Manheim/North and west of Ephrata/North of Lititz – Jay George
- Jan 12- 1 Wilson’s Warbler – Backyard in Columbia – Dennis Weaver
- Jan 12- 8 Red-tailed Hawks, 1 Am. Kestrel, 71 Turkey Vultures, 1 Bald Eagle, 1 Cooper’s Hawk, 17 Horned Larks, 1 Belted Kingfisher, 1 Great Blue Heron, 450 Ring-billed Gulls, 12 Herring Gulls, 1 Northern Mockingbird – Winter Raptor Survey (WRS), New Holland – Frank Haas, Carol Light
- Jan 12- 116 Turkey Vultures, 221 Black Vultures, 9 Red-tailed Hawks, 11 Bald Eagles, 1 Peregrine Falcon – WRS, Conestoga – Tom Raub, Kim Steininger
- Jan 14- 1 Gray Catbird – Silver Mine Park, Conestoga Twp. – Pamela Fisher
- Jan 15- 1 Eastern Phoebe – Octoraro Reservoir, Mt. Eden Rd. – Larry Bernhardt
- Jan 17- 23 Red-tailed Hawks, 1 Harlan’s Hawk, 2 Red-headed Woodpeckers, 2 Ravens, 1 Redhead, 1 Red-breasted Merganser, 212 Turkey Vultures, 46 Black Vultures, 14 Bald Eagles, 1 Merlin – WRS, Northern Lancaster County – Bruce Carl
- Jan 18- 1 Chipping Sparrow – Lititz Rd., Manheim – Brian Brown, Brandon Brown
- Jan 19- 9 Red-tailed Hawks, 3 Am. Kestrels, 60 Turkey Vultures, 33 Black Vultures, 1 Red-shouldered Hawk, 4 Bald Eagles, 100+ Ring-billed Gulls, 10+ Horned Larks – WRS, Eastern Lancaster County – Frank Haas, Tiffany Willow



- Jan 20- 34 Horned Larks, 2 Am. Kestrels, 3 Red-tailed Hawks, 7 Killdeer, 2 Black Ducks, 50 Mallards, 4 Bald Eagles – New Holland farm country – Leon & Jane Schreffler
- Jan 21- 1 Am. Kestrel, 1 Northern Harrier – Chestnut Grove NA – Dale Bicksler
- Jan 23- 225 Turkey Vultures, 45 Black Vultures, 17 Red-tailed Hawks, 13 Bald Eagles, 2 Am. Kestrels, 1 Peregrine Falcon, 1 Cooper’s Hawk, 1 Wilson’s Snipe, 10 Eastern Bluebirds, 28 Horned Larks, 4000+ Blackbirds – WRS, Southeastern Lancaster County – Bob Schutsky, Tom Amico
- Jan 24- 1 Red-tailed Hawk – Chestnut Grove Natural Area – Gordon Bosler
- Jan 25- 1 Rough-legged Hawk – Backyard in Holtwood – Tom Amico
- Jan 26- 1 Eastern Phoebe, 4 Northern Rough-winged Swallows – Susquehanna WTP, Washington Boro – Eric Witmer
- Jan 26- 16 Black Vultures, 85 Turkey Vultures, 13 Bald Eagles, 22 Red-tailed Hawks, 1 Am. Kestrel – WRS, NW Lancaster County – Frank Haas, Sandy & Gary Lockerman
- Feb 1- 250 Snow Geese – Valleybrook, Manheim Twp. – Leon & Jane Schreffler
- Feb 5- 2 Virginia Rails – Woods Edge Park – Seth McComsey
- Feb 9-17 1 Gray Catbird – Noel Dorwart NA – Mike & Megan Zettlemoyer, Keegan Tranquillo,
- Feb 9- 1 Eastern Phoebe, 4 Northern Rough-winged Swallows – Susquehanna WTP – Meredith Lombard
- Feb 9- 100+ Tundra Swans – Octoraro Reservoir – Sabrena Boekell
- Feb 9- 288 Turkey Vultures, 77 Black Vultures, 17 Red-tailed Hawks, 4 Bald Eagles, 21 Buffleheads, 16 Eastern Bluebirds – WRS, Southwest Lancaster County – Nancy & Bob Schutsky
- Feb 13-15 3 American Tree Sparrows – Middle Creek WMA – Rosemary Spreha, Cory Clawser, Brandon Brown, Stefani Brown, Brian Brown
- Feb 14- 1 Eastern Phoebe – Octoraro Reservoir, Mt. Eden Rd. – Carlton Groff
- Feb 14-15 3 Red-headed Woodpeckers – Cocalico Creek, Hickory/Sportsman Rds. – Eric Witmer, Bruce Carl
- Feb 14- 1 Common Raven, 1 Winter Wren, 2 American Tree Sparrows – State Game Lands 220 – Bruce Carl
- Feb 14- 1 Fox Sparrow – Northern Lancaster Co. – Bruce Carl
- Feb 14- 3 Purple Finches – Dolly Dr., Manheim Twp. – Charles Hall
- Feb 14-22 1 Dickcissel – Kramer Mill Rd., Denver – Fern Bauman, Bruce Carl, Pamela Fisher, Sabrena Boekell, Paul Bernhardt
- Feb 15- 1 Winter Wren – Speedwell Forge County Park/Speedwell Forge Lake – Bruce Carl
- Feb 15-20 1 White-crowned Sparrow – Boyer Run Rd., Manheim – Bruce Carl, Patricia & Richard Williams, Jim Fiorentino, Ted Nichols II, Sheryl Johnson, Roberta Menapace, Brett Matlock, Dave Brooke, Ramsey Koury, Annette Mathes, et al
- Feb 15- 1 Savannah Sparrow – Boyer Run Rd., Manheim – Bruce Carl
- Feb 15- 1 Common Raven – Susquehannock SP – Tom Amico

- Feb 15-20 1 Red-headed Woodpecker – Boyer Run Rd., Manheim – Patricia & Richard Williams, Ted Nichols II, Roberta Menapace, Sheryl Johnson, Dennis Harnly, Jonathan DeBalko, Michael Gardner
- Feb 16- 1 Winter Wren – Noel Dorwart NA – Bruce Carl
- Feb 16- 1 Winter Wren - Robert Fulton Birthplace – Carlton Groff
- Feb 16-29 1 Pink-footed Goose – Woods Edge Park – Tom Garner, Brett Matlock, Connor Gable, Rosemary Spreha, Robin Smith, Dennis Weaver, Brian Brown, Meredith Lombard, Mike Shull, Fern Bauman, Dennis Harnly, Seth McComsey, et al
- Feb 17- 13 Gadwalls – Woods Edge Park – Brett Matlock
- Feb 17- 2 Common Ravens – Chestnut Grove Natural Area/Turkey Hill Nature Preserve Holly Hartshome, Bruce Carl, Mark Johnson
- Feb 17- 1 Common Raven – Middle Creek WMA – Ann Pettigrew
- Feb 17-22 3 Ross's Geese - Woods Edge Park – Bruce Carl, Ann Pettigrew, Ken Walsh, Thomas Garner
- Feb 18- 1 Savannah Sparrow – Chestnut Grove Natural Area – Callan Murphy
- Feb 18-20 1 White-crowned Sparrow – Backyard on Penny Rd., Holtwood – Tom Amico
- Feb 19- 20,000+ Snow Geese, 1500 Tundra Swans, 4 Northern Shovelers, 6 Am. Wigeons, 14 Am. Black Ducks, 2 Green-winged Teals, 15 Ring-necked Ducks, 5 Hooded Mergansers, 4 Common Mergansers, 1 Bald Eagle, 2 Am. Kestrels, 1 Eastern Bluebird among 25 species – Middle Creek WMA – 8:30 Wed. Birding Group
- Feb 19- 1 Cackling Goose – Woods Edge Park – Ann Pettigrew, Ken Walsh, Mike Shull, Thomas Garner
- Feb 20- 4 American Tree Sparrows – Middle Creek WMA – Josh Lefever
- Feb 20- 2 White-crowned Sparrows – Woods Edge Park – Donna Kuhn, Mike Shull, Linda Benner
- Feb 20- 1 American Tree Sparrow – Chestnut Grove Natural Area – Richard Evans, Scott Thomas
- Feb 20- 1 Common Raven – East Main St., Leola – Zach Millen
- Feb 22-23 4 Short-eared Owls – Middle Creek WMA – Jonathan Heller
- Feb 22-29 1 Greater White-fronted Goose – Middle Creek WMA – Zach Millen, Pam Fisher, Bruce Carl, Joe Gyekis, Chad Kauffman, Jason Bojczyk, Mike Epler, Ron Schlegel
- Feb 23- 1 Canvasback – Middle Creek WMA – Larry Bernhardt, Mike Epler
- Feb 23- 4 Northern Harriers – Middle Creek WMA – Mike Epler
- Feb 24- 1 Am. Kestrel – Chestnut Grove Natural Area – Ann Pettigrew
- Feb 24- 1 Pied-billed Grebe – Ephrata Township Park Lake – Fern Bauman
- Feb 25- 1 Eastern Phoebe, 2 Northern Rough-winged Swallows – Susquehanna WTP, Washington Boro – Patricia & Richard Williams
- Feb 25- 1 Gray Catbird – Noel Dorwart NA – Seth McComsey
- Feb 25- 1 Swamp Sparrow – Woods Edge Park – Marvin Stauffer

- Feb 26-29     **1 Painted Bunting** – Northern Lancaster Co. – Kurt Schwarz, Connor Gable, Daniel Hinnebusch, Peter & Jane Wolfe, Vicky & Richard Smith, Josh Graham, Travis Boyd, Mike Slater
- Feb 26-27     **1 Pink-footed Goose** – Middle Creek WMA – Bruce Carl, Pamela Fisher
- Feb 29-       **1 Green-winged Teal** – Middle Creek WMA – Brett Matlock
- Feb 29-       **1 Golden Eagle** – Middle Creek WMA – Jonathan DeBalko, John DeBalko, Ted Nichols II, Brett Matlock, Mike Epler, Andrew Brought, Stephanie Bills, Joe Gyekis, Chad Kauffman, Scott Bills
- Feb 29-       **1 Cackling Goose** – Middle Creek WMA – Chad Kauffman

## **REVIEW OF COMPLETED EVENTS**

### **January 9, 2020** –

Marci Mowery, president of PA Parks and Forests Foundation, gave a presentation entitled, “Exploring Your State Parks and Forests.” Marci led the audience on a photo tour of nearly two dozen unique areas within the state park and forest system, while introducing early champions Maurice Goddard and Myra Lloyd Dock, whose work and vision helped to establish the parks and forest that are enjoyed today. One of only nine states without admission fees, Pennsylvania’s 121 state parks and 2.2 million acres of state forests offer myriad opportunities for year-round outdoor recreation. Of the lands managed under the system, 86 are identified as important bird areas and hold significant conservation value. Audience members certainly left with a few good ideas of where to go on a future adventure.

*(Submitted by Secretary Emily Broich)*

### **January 25, 2020** – Safe Harbor Dam & Observation Road – Beginning Bird Trip - Cancelled

### **February 13, 2020** –

Dr. Lawrence Niles of Rutgers University presented a very informative program “Restoring Red Knots and the Delaware Bay.” Dr. Niles has led efforts to protect Red Knots and horseshoe crabs for over 30 years. The Delaware Bay is the defining stopover point for the Red Knot, an extraordinary long-distance migrant that travels from wintering areas in Tierra del Fuego to nesting grounds in the Arctic. The Red Knot’s journey is inextricably linked and dependent on a creature 450 million years old, the horseshoe crab. The presence of horseshoe crab eggs in the Delaware Bay defines the Red Knot’s survival and productivity on breeding grounds. Severe population declines of horseshoe crabs due to overfishing in the 1990s were followed by significant declines in shorebird populations, including the Red Knot.

Horseshoe crabs are valuable commercially for use as bait. In recent years they have also been harvested for their blood, which is valuable for use in the medical industry. While New Jersey has a moratorium on the killing of horseshoe crabs, not all coastal Atlantic states have enacted similar measures to help populations rebound. Dr. Niles explained that to restore Red Knot populations, the horseshoe crab population must also increase.

*(Submitted by Secretary Emily Broich)*

### **February 15, 2020** –

Zach Millen led a group of 12 birding enthusiasts to the Barnegat Light and Edwin B. Forsythe NWR in New Jersey on a cold but clear day. The group's first good bird of the day was a gorgeous adult Red-tailed Hawk feasting on a deer carcass at a New Jersey roadside. The group initially entered the Forsythe Visitor Center area and had great looks at a wintering Yellow-breasted Chat, as well as Gray Catbirds, and a Brown Thrasher, Fox Sparrows, Hermit Thrushes and an uncooperative Orange-crowned Warbler that only a few members of the group got to see. The wetlands were largely frozen, but in the bay south of the refuge were triple digit Canvasback and Brant, among other ducks. The next stop was at a cove north of Atlantic City, where a large flock of American Oystercatcher and "Western" Willet winter. Several Dowitchers, Marbled Godwits, and a Whimbrel were with them and were stars of the day! Finally, the birders made it to Barnegat to close out the trip. Several Gannets and Great Cormorants were seen, along with large numbers of Black Scoters. Relatively few Harlequin, Long-tailed Ducks and Common Eiders were present, but a large flock of 44 Purple Sandpipers was impressive! The group found 2 "Ipswich" Savannah Sparrows on the walk in, one of which was color banded. Zach reported the bands to the Breeding Bird Laboratory but has not yet heard back on the bird's origin. Likely it was ringed on Sable Island, Nova Scotia, where this sparrow population breeds. Zach said it was another incredible day on the Jersey coast!

### **March 1, 2020** –

There were 13 participants joining leader Bruce A. Carl on this annual waterfowl field trip to Middle Creek WMA. A total of 43 species were identified which included a very good variety of 15 species of waterfowl. There were many Snow Geese (estimate 50,000) to view which is always a crowd favorite. A very nice number of Redheads (ducks) gave all a nice view with a count of about 52. Some other notable species included Ring-necked Ducks, Lesser Scaup, Northern Pintails, American Wigeon, and Ruddy Ducks. Other highlights for the day included Killdeer, Northern Harrier, Bald Eagle, Pileated Woodpecker, and extended close looks at three Eastern Meadowlarks.

### **March 7, 2020** –

John Lahr and Roger Stoner led a group of 15 beginning birders to Middle Creek WMA on a clear and windy day of 45 degrees. Twenty-two species were observed. The group had a great view of the feeding behavior of Northern Shovelers. A scope was used to view American Wigeons, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, and Ring-necked Ducks. An Eastern Meadowlark and Northern Harrier were seen at Stop No. 3 and two Short-eared Owls were seen hunting in good light conditions east of Stop No. 3. A Great-horned Owl was heard calling while the group watched the Short-eared Owls.

### **March 12, 2020** –

Ornithologist, naturalist, and conservationist Bruce Beehler presented an illustrated lecture, “North on the Wing,” recounting his one hundred-day-long 2015 solo field trip following the spring migration of songbirds from the coast of southeastern Texas up the Mississippi flyway and into the boreal forests of northern Ontario. After spending much of his scientific career studying birds in distant locales as Papua New Guinea, Beehler wished to pursue birds a bit closer to home.

Partly inspired by the 1951 book, *North with the Spring* by Edwin Way Teale, Beehler began his own journey in the Bolivar Peninsula in Texas with an informal goal to spend time with all 37 eastern wood warblers on nesting habitat. He tweaked his route based on suggestions from local acquaintances as he drove, camped, kayaked, biked, and explored on foot varied habitats, small towns, state parks, national forests, and national wildlife refuges.

His travels took him from rare 500-year-old stands of sweetgum in the bottomland forests, to the headwaters of the Mississippi at Itasca State Park, to the northern limits of roads in Ontario and through lands of the Cree and Ojibwe First Nations. Reaching Algonquin Peak in Adirondack Park, he located the Blackpoll Warbler, his 37th warbler species for the trip. Part travelogue, part field journal, Beehler shared with the audience many important conservation areas and productive birding areas along the way.

*(Submitted by Secretary Emily Broich)*

### **March 14, 2020** -

Thirty species of birds were observed on a field trip led by John Lahr to Middle Creek WMA on an overcast day in the mid-40s. Sixteen birders walked and drove around Middle Creek and observed about 10,000 Snow Goose, 65 Canada Geese, 17 Northern Shovelers, 24 Ringed-necked Ducks, a Sandhill Crane flying with neck stretched out (seen twice), 23 Red-winged Blackbirds, 4 Short-eared Owls, 3 American Woodcock, and 2 Green-winged Teal, among others.

If you have any questions regarding items in the newsletter, Club meetings/programs, or field trips, please feel free to contact a member of the Board of Directors. For your convenience, their names and telephone numbers are listed below:

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