



# *Lancaster County Bird Club*

Lancaster, Pennsylvania

*Founded December 8, 1937*

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

## **Call Notes**

**APRIL - JUNE 2025**

### **President's Perch**

Spring is here, and migration is in full swing—what a fantastic time to be a birder in Lancaster County! Membership is strong, enthusiasm is high, and our calendar is packed with opportunities to connect, learn, and advocate for birds and their habitats. I continue to be impressed by the engagement and energy of this club. Your support is what powers all we do, and it's never been more vital or more appreciated.

This season, we've lined up a fantastic mix of field trips, educational programs, and monthly meetings — ranging from migration-focused outings to skill-building beginner walks and inspiring talks that spotlight not only regional conservation efforts, but also work being done as far away as Hawaii, as well as a unique, firsthand look into the lives of American Kestrels and Barn Owls through the lens of their time in a nestbox. Whether you're a longtime member or just joined, there are plenty of ways to get involved, sharpen your birding skills, and enjoy the richness of our local birdlife. Be sure to check out the full listing of events running through mid-July inside this newsletter—and bring a friend along! Introducing someone new to the joy of birding is one of the best ways we can grow our community and deepen our collective impact.

Of particularly important note, our year-round monthly meetings shift in April to the **Middle Creek Visitor Center**, where we'll continue gathering through **August**, before returning to the **North Museum in September**. These venue changes allow us to experience a variety of natural settings and continue building strong partnerships with local conservation organizations.

We've seen incredible momentum so far this year—not only in attendance at our meetings and events, but also in the number of members stepping forward to help lead walks, assist with outreach, and share their expertise at club and community events. The Lancaster County Bird Club (LCBC) is more than just a gathering of birders — it's a true community. If you're looking for a way to get more involved, we'd love to hear from you. There's always room for more helping hands, fresh ideas, and enthusiastic voices as we grow together in our mission to protect birds and inspire others.

And with that, enjoy this Spring 2025 issue of *Call Notes*. Get outside, enjoy the season, and I look forward to seeing you at a meeting or out on the trail!

Warm Regards,  
Ted Nichols II  
President

PS - *A Quick Note on Membership Renewals*: We've noticed that an unusually high number of memberships are still due for renewal this year — if you haven't yet renewed, please take a moment to do so. Some members have continued to experience trouble with the club website during the renewal process and the submit button "spinning." If you try to renew online and it doesn't work on your computer, switching to a different browser or using a cell phone often resolves the issue. Of course, you can always mail in your renewal form or bring it to an upcoming meeting. We'll continue working with our website support team to get to the bottom of these technical issues ahead of the 2026 renewal cycle. In the meantime, if we haven't received your renewal, look out for a mailed reminder arriving by mid-to-late-April. Any questions on your membership can be directed to Larry Bernhardt. Thanks for your patience and continued support!

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

#### **WORLD MIGRATORY BIRD DAY EVENT – May 10, 2025, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (WMA)**

The theme of this year's World Migratory Bird Day is "Shared Spaces – Creating Bird-Friendly Cities and Communities". Learn about bird migration, threats birds face, and how to help, while meeting local organizations involved in bird conservation. The event will include bird banding demonstrations, a habitat hayride, guided bird walks and educational presentations.

**Stay tuned to email and social media for specifics on LCBC's involvement with this year's event and associated volunteer opportunities!**

#### **ELECTIONS TO BE HELD AT APRIL MEETING, NOMINATING COMMITTEE BEING HEADED UP BY JEFF MUSSER**

Elections for club officers and board of directors will be held at our April 10 monthly meeting being held at 7 p.m. at Middle Creek. Club Second Vice President Jeff Musser is heading up the nominating committee again this year. If you are interested in serving on the board, please contact Jeff at 717-471-2032 or [jmusser1956@gmail.com](mailto:jmusser1956@gmail.com). The slate of nominees will be presented at the meeting; nominations can also be made from the floor. A reminder that due to a bylaws change for our board of directors and officer, terms approved at our March 2025 meeting, those elected will serve until the end of 2025. We will hold elections for 2026 at our December 2025 meeting.

## **REMINDER APRIL MEETING MARKS SHIFT TO MIDDLE CREEK FOR MEETINGS UNTIL SEPTEMBER - BIRDING LIKELY BEFORE MEETINGS**

A reminder that the April meeting marks our shift to the visitor center at Middle Creek for our monthly meetings. Don't show up at the wrong venue! The club's April 10, May 8, June 12, July 10 and August 14 meetings will each be held at Middle Creek. Great talks and engaging speakers in store! As we did last year, we encourage members to come out early and bird in advance of the meetings. For those who wish to bird with a group prior to the meeting, meetup info will be posted on the Lancaster County Birding Chat WhatsApp Text Group in advance of the meeting.

Meetups for group birding prior to the Middle Creek meetings usually happen at 5 p.m. at the visitor center parking lot, weather permitting. You can also contact Ted Nichols if you would like pre-meeting birding info or if you'd like added to the WhatsApp group.

## **PREVIEW OF COMING EVENTS**

### **Thursday, April 10, 2025, 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. - Monthly Club Meeting – “Bird Migration in Lancaster and Beyond”**

Location: Middle Creek WMA Visitor Center, 100 Museum Road, Stevens, PA

Presented by Shelly Eshleman, MS, Willistown Conservation Trust

This program will focus on bird migration research using the Motus Wildlife Tracking System. You will learn about the birds that have been detected by the Middle Creek receiving station and the pathways that those birds have taken. We will also discuss the role that private landowners can play in helping local birds thrive.

Shelly Eshleman is the Motus Avian Research Coordinator at Willistown Conservation Trust and a PhD student at the University of Delaware. Her research follows birds throughout the year to better understand their movement patterns. As someone who grew up in Lancaster County, she is particularly passionate about conserving Pennsylvania's birds.

### **Saturday, April 12, 2025, 7 a.m. - 11 a.m. – Safe Harbor Park Field Trip**

Location: Safe Harbor Park Tennis Courts (meetup location), 5365 River Rd., Conestoga, PA

Kim Morelock will lead a field trip to Safe Harbor Park in search of the Yellow-throated Warbler and other early spring migrants. Meet at the Safe Harbor Park tennis court by 7 a.m. Much of the time will be spent walking through the park along the Conestoga River and Warehouse Road. The trip will end by scoping the Susquehanna River below the dam from the platform viewing area. Contact Kim at 717-471-0787, or email motherunitof5@aol.com by 6 p.m. the night before if you plan to attend.

**Monday, April 14, 2025, 7 a.m. – 11 a.m. – Shenk's Ferry Wildflower Preserve Field Trip**

Location: Safe Harbor Park Tennis Courts (meetup location), 5365 River Rd., Conestoga, PA

Warren and Nina Wolf will lead a field trip to Shenk's Ferry Wildflower Preserve to observe birds and the wide selection of wildflowers, including Trillium, Virginia Bluebells, and Dutchman's Britches. Participants will meet at the Safe Harbor Park Tennis Courts at 7 a.m. After a short period of birding at Safe Harbor Park we will head to Shenk's Ferry. Trip limited to 15 participants. Wear sturdy walking shoes and bring binoculars. This trail will be mostly level and well-groomed. The walk is anticipated to last 3 to 4 hours. Contact Warren and Nina at 717-284-2663 or wolfers@aol.com if you have any questions and by 6 p.m. the day before if you plan to participate.

**Saturday, April 19, 2025, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. – Safe Harbor Park & Chestnut Grove Field Trip**

Location: Safe Harbor Park Tennis Courts (meetup location), 5365 River Rd., Conestoga, PA

Carl Groff will lead a field trip at Safe Harbor Park and Chestnut Grove Natural Area. Meet at 8 a.m. at the Safe Harbor Park tennis courts. In Safe Harbor and Chestnut Grove, the focus will be on different habitats and "hot spots" within those areas. Some target birds include Yellow-throated Warbler, Palm Warbler, White-eyed Vireo, and Fox Sparrow. Walking will be mostly level and dry. Bring water and snacks. There is a porta-john at each location. Please contact Carl at 717-471-9969 or fledge19@verizon.net by 6 p.m. the previous day if you plan to attend.

**Saturday, May 3, 2025, 7 a.m. – 11 a.m. – Chickies Rock Warbler Walk**

Location: Chickies Rock Breezy View Overlook (meeting location), 770 Breezyview Dr., Columbia, PA

Roger Stoner will lead a field trip to Chickies Rock County Park. Meet at 7 a.m. at Breezy View Overlook along Rt. 441 just north of Columbia. After birding Breezy View, which includes a view of a Bald Eagle's nest on the York County side of the Susquehanna River, the group will proceed to the Chickies Rock Overlook parking lot and bird in the park on both sides of Rt. 441. The field trip will end in the day-use area of the park. In addition to warblers, target species include orioles, tanagers, and flycatchers. Be prepared for ticks and bring water and snacks/lunch. Contact Roger (717-393-9030) if you have questions or by 6 p.m. on the previous day if you plan to attend.

**Saturday, May 3, 2025, 7 a.m. – 11 a.m. – Middle Creek WMA Warbler Walk**

Location: Middle Creek WMA Visitor Center, 100 Museum Road, Stevens, PA

Doug Anderson will lead a field trip looking for spring migrants and resident species in the various habitats at Middle Creek. Good weather and good bird activity may lead to walking 2-3 miles on trails with some hills and tall grass. Hiking boots recommended, bring a hat, sunscreen, water, and snacks/lunch and be prepared for ticks. The trip could last into the afternoon. Meet at the visitor center parking lot at 7 a.m. The visitor center does not open until 8 a.m. but there is a porta-john nearby. Contact Doug at 717-203-2482 or douglas.anderson58@yahoo.com with questions or call by 6 p.m. the night before if you plan to attend.

**Saturday, May 3, 2025, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. – Pumping Station Road Warbler Walk**

Location: Horseshoe Trail Parking Lot at U.S. Route 322 & Pumping Station Road, 80 Pumping Station Rd., Lititz, PA

Carl Groff will lead the Pumping Station Road warbler walk. Meet at 8 a.m. at the parking lot at Rt. 322 and Pumping Station Road. The morning will be spent looking for migrants and resident birds along this popular stretch of Hammer Creek. A wide variety of birds are possible with special attention paid to the warblers that use this area as their home or a brief stopover during migration. Some other target birds will include thrushes, flycatchers, tanagers, orioles and grosbeaks. This trip will last until around noontime so dress for the weather. Please contact Carl at 717-471-9969 or fledge19@verizon.net by 6 p.m. the previous day if you plan to attend.

**Sunday, May 4, 2025, 7:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. – Northwest River Trail Field Trip**

Location: Conoy Wetlands Preserve (Prescot Road), Prescot & River Rd, Bainbridge, PA

Warren and Nina Wolf will lead a field trip on the Northwest River Trail. Participants should plan to meet at the Conoy Wetlands Preserve / Prescot Road Parking Lot. In addition to birds, there is also the possibility of wildflowers in bloom. Wear sturdy walking shoes and bring binoculars. The walk is anticipated to last between 3 and 4 hours and will be on a level well-groomed trail. Contact Warren and Nina at 717-284-2663 or wolfers@aol.com if you have any questions and by 6 p.m. the day before if you plan to participate.

**Thursday, May 8, 2025, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. – Monthly Club Meeting – “Avifauna of Hawaii: Birds on the Brink”**

Location: Middle Creek WMA Visitor Center, 100 Museum Road, Stevens, PA

Presented by: Mandy Talpas, Hawaii Bird Tours. Hawaii is tragically known as the endangered species capital of the world and the archipelago is home to approximately one third of all endangered species in the United States. We will introduce you to Hawaii’s rare endemic birds, from petrels to honeycreepers, share the threats they face, and highlight the conservation initiatives in place to help save them from the brink of extinction.

As a Pennsylvania native, and a tremendous lover of birds and wildlife, Mandy Talpas has dedicated her life to avian conservation. She’s worked as a Naturalist, a Conservation Educator at an AZA-accredited zoo, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, and a Bird Banding and Education Specialist at the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center. She continued to broaden her studies with the Ornithology Lab at Villanova University, as well as studying tropical ecology throughout Latin America.

She is now Hawaii’s premier nature and bird guide with her very own birding tour company, Hawaii Bird Tours.

**Saturday, May 10, 2025, 7 a.m. – 11 a.m. – Muddy Run Recreation Park Field Trip (new this year)**

Location: Muddy Run Recreation Park (last parking lot on left past Observatory), 172 Bethesda Church Rd W., Holtwood, PA

New offering for 2025! Larry Bernhardt will lead a field trip to Muddy Run Recreation Park near Holtwood. Meet at the last parking lot on the left past the Ryan Observatory by 7 a.m. The following GPS coordinates can be used for the parking area: 39.8446000, -76.2828612. The walk will cover three total miles (out and back) and look for spring migrants and anything that may be on the lake. Contact Larry at 717-314-1461 or [sjbernhardt@verizon.net](mailto:sjbernhardt@verizon.net) by 6 p.m. the previous day if you plan to attend.

**Saturday, May 10, 2025, 8 a.m. – 10 a.m. – Beginner Birder Trip to Flory Park**

Location: Flory Park (Meet at Clark Pavilion), 416 Dohner Rd., Lancaster, PA

Sarah Gotwols will lead a morning spring migration beginner birder walk along Mill Creek at East Lampeter Township's Flory Park. Meet the leader at 8 a.m. at the Clark Pavilion. This trip is for all ages and open to anyone who is new to birding or would like to polish their skills. Participants can expect to learn proper use of binoculars, field guides, and apps to help hone your bird watching skills. A variety of birds – to include resident and seasonal migrant species – should be expected on the trip. Please bring binoculars if you have them – a limited number of binoculars will also be available to borrow. Contact Sarah (717-940-3804 call/text or email [sarahann71880@gmail.com](mailto:sarahann71880@gmail.com)) by 6 p.m. on Friday if you plan to attend. If necessary, weather-related cancellations will be made the day prior and registered participants will be notified, walk-ons are also permitted. This event is part of a partnership between Lancaster County Bird Club (LCBC) and East Lampeter Township Recreation. Learn more about LCBC at [www.lancasterbirdclub.org](http://www.lancasterbirdclub.org).

**Sunday, May 11, 2025, 7 a.m. – 11 a.m. – Millport Conservancy Field Trip**

Location: Millport Conservancy, 737 E. Millport Rd., Lititz, PA

Doug Anderson will lead a field trip through Millport Conservancy. Meet at 7 a.m. in the main parking area located just off 737 E. Millport Rd., Lititz. This will be an easy morning walk through the Conservancy trail along Lititz Run to identify a variety of target species including warblers and wading birds. Bring binoculars, water and snacks. Contact Doug at 717-203-2482 or [douglas.anderson58@yahoo.com](mailto:douglas.anderson58@yahoo.com) with questions or call by 6 p.m. the night before if you plan to attend.

**Saturday, May 17, 2025, 7 a.m. – 11 a.m. – Susquehannock State Park field Trip**

Location: Susquehannock State Park Overlook, 1880 Park Dr., Drumore, PA

Larry Bernhardt and Tom Amico will lead a field trip to Susquehannock State Park. Meet at 7 a.m. at the Hawk Point Parking Lot / Susquehanna River overlook at the far end of the park which is just past the main parking lot and senior parking area. If you have a scope, bring that out to the overlook which provides distant views of the river. We will see birds moving up and down the river, and some stopping

near the overlook. We will then walk about 3/4 mile back through the park looking for late spring migrants and other birds which nest in the park. Contact Larry at 717-314-1461 or sjbernhardt@verizon.net by 6 p.m. the night before if you plan to attend.

**Sunday, May 18, 2025, 7 a.m. – 5 p.m. – Birding in Juniata County (Members Only Trip Offering)**

Location: Karl B. Guss Picnic Area, Licking Creek Rd, Lewistown, PA

Carl Groff will lead a field trip to Juniata County for spring warblers and other migrants. Target species include both Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warblers. This trip covers several areas of the county. The group is limited to eight club members and registration is required. We will be meeting at 7 a.m. at Karl B. Guss Picnic Area along East Licking Creek Rd. Participants are welcome to drive to the location Sunday morning or get a motel in the area Saturday night. Bring water, snacks, and lunch and be prepared at times to walk on rough and hilly terrain. Contact Carl at fledge19@verizon.net or 717-471-9969 if you have questions or want to make a reservation to attend.

**Thursday, June 12, 2025, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. – Monthly Club Meeting - “Collaborations in Conservation: Working Together to Solve the American Kestrel Mystery”**

Location: Middle Creek WMA Visitor Center, 100 Museum Road, Stevens, PA

Presented by: Mercy Melo, Pennsylvania Game Commission. Migratory birds don't obey state and international borders, and neither should our studies of them! Research projects that span large geographic areas are key to truly understanding bird populations and how we can protect them best. In this talk, Mercy Melo from the Pennsylvania Game Commission will discuss how teamwork makes the dream work in conservation studies using examples from her research on American Kestrels.

Mercy Melo is a Wildlife Management Supervisor with the Pennsylvania Game Commission with a background in raptor biology and ecology. She got her start in raptor research through her undergraduate work with American Kestrels at Cedar Crest College and continued following this passion throughout her graduate career. She completed her PhD at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst last year where she was able to research potential causes of the population decline in American Kestrels, with the goal of developing management strategies for the species.

**Sunday, June 22, 2025, 7 a.m. – 11 a.m. – Ferncliff Preserve & Bald Eagle Road Field Trip**

Location: Ferncliff Preserve, Wildlife Preserve Rd., Drumore, PA

Club President Ted Nichols will lead a field trip exploring Lancaster Conservancy's Ferncliff Preserve and nearby Bald Eagle Road checking out some of Lancaster County's prime breeding bird habitat. Meet at 7 a.m. at the main parking lot for Ferncliff Preserve located on Wildlife Preserve Road, Drumore. Please contact Ted at 717-856-3851 or tanicholsii@gmail.com by 6 p.m. the day before if you plan to attend or have questions.

**Thursday, July 10, 2025, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. - Monthly Club Meeting – “Life in a Nestbox: American Kestrels and Barn Owls”**

Location: Middle Creek WMA Visitor Center, 100 Museum Road, Stevens, PA

Club Meeting presented by Jon Kauffman, PSU’s Shavers Creek Environmental Center. Jon will present an in-depth look at the breeding phenology of American Kestrels and Barn Owls through live nest-cam footage. Footage will include activities within the box before egg laying begins, parental role in incubation and brooding, and clues to help nestbox managers to better understand the needs of parents and nestlings to successfully fledge.

Jon promotes conservation through citizen science projects such as Project NestWatch and the American Kestrel and Barn Owl nestbox program at Shaver’s Creek Environmental Center. He has served as a hawk-watcher for Tussey Mountain Hawk Watch and has also traveled and worked with other organizations such as Cape May Bird Observatory and Intermountain Bird Observatory in Idaho.

**Saturday, July 12, 2025, 7 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. – Conoy Wetlands Preserve Field Trip (Prescot Road)**

Location: Conoy Wetlands Preserve (Prescot Road), Prescot & River Rd, Bainbridge, PA

Sarah Gotwols will lead a summer walk through a forested area along the Susquehanna River. We will meet at 7 a.m. in the parking area located at the end of Prescot Road near Bainbridge. This will be an easy guided walk, with both grassy and paved trail surfaces. Please bring binoculars, water, and be prepared for insects, including ticks. Contact Sarah (717-940-3804 call/text or sarahann71880@gmail.com) by 6 p.m. on Friday if you plan to attend. If necessary, weather-related cancellations will be made the day prior and registered participants will be notified.

**MEMBERSHIP NEWS BY LARRY BERNHARDT**

The LCBC would like to welcome the following new and returning members who joined during the last quarter. Please help them feel welcome!

As of the time of printing this newsletter, we have 350 members which is a decline from where we ended in 2024. We still have an unusually large number of memberships (over 50) still due for 2025. A good deal of these are likely due to problems with the online renewal process and the renewal form not submitting and just “spinning.” If this happens, payment does not go through. The problem was apparently remedied by our web team but still seems to intermittently impact some people trying this method. We hope to get to the bottom of this for next year. If you are still not having success, please consider mailing in your renewal, bringing it to a meeting or trying a browser on your cell phone if you are having problems on your computer. Thanks for your patience and we apologize for the problems. If by chance we haven’t received your renewal by the middle of April, we will do a hard-copy reminder to those who are still outstanding for 2025.



### **NEW MEMBERS:**

Ellen Brown – Lancaster  
Julie Broich – Lancaster  
Ad Crable – Lancaster  
Loren Dissmore – Akron  
Cindy Heffley – Lancaster  
Randolph & Deborah Hernandez - Lancaster

Julie Mallon – Conestoga  
Olivia & Bethany Polaski – Wrightsville  
Dave & Joy Snader – New Holland  
Garry Steffy – Lititz  
Gayle Steffy – Lancaster

### **RETURNING MEMBERS:**

Michael Mutchler – Millersville  
Susanna Roland – New Holland

### **SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS:**

#### **Sustaining Members:**

Dr. Charles E Alexander  
Douglas Anderson  
Yvonne Beck  
Ellen Brown  
Emily Broich  
Julie Broich  
Paul E Brubaker  
Robert E Coley  
Mary Coomer  
Ann Copeland  
Ad Crable  
Loren Dissmore  
Mike Epler  
James & Carol Feister  
Pam Fisher  
Carl R Groff  
Franklin Haas  
Cindy Heffley  
Bettina A Heffner  
Fritz Heilman  
Richard A Hill  
Gladys Horst  
Peter & Barbara Hunsberger

James & Carolyn Karl  
Tim Kirk  
John Lahr  
Teresa McMillan  
Joe Meloney  
Ted & Kim Morelock  
Michael Mutchler  
Stephen R & Sharon L Rannels  
Robert & Elizabeth Sandkuhler  
Dr. Mary M St. John  
Dennis & Lorri Schmick  
John Sharp  
Kelly M Spangler  
Ann Swartzbaugh  
Philip Taylor  
James Titus  
Gerald M Trout  
Ginger Weismantel  
Mary Alice Wheeler & Andre Dominguez  
David & Laurel Wiegand  
Matthew Wiggins  
Dr. Jack Wolgemuth

#### **General Club Support:**

Betty Beck and Jere Long  
Lisa Black  
Craig Boyhont

Herb & Shannon Mauzy  
Thomas & Gail McKinne  
Michael Mutchler

**General Club Support (continued):**

Valerie Buller	Robin Ondrusek
Leslie J Burlingame	Frederick D & Donna M Paley
Michael & Victoria Carr	Patty Pfennig
Charles & Margaret Cooper	Kim Roberts
Gregory & Alberta Elliott	Robert & Elizabeth Sandkuhler
Tom Garner	Dr. Mary M St. John
Lisa Garrett and Adam, Clarice & Lillian Doughty	
Jay & Shirley George	Ann L Schweitzer
Suzanne Hartz	Michael & Rose Shull
Fritz Heilman	Ed & Linda Spotts
Mary Alice High & John Shenk	Roger R Stoner & Linda Lueck-stoner
Michael & Pamela Holmes	Ana Gavrilis Stran
Katherine Hopkins	Gerald M Trout
Peter & Barbara Hunsberger	Jim Via
Sarah Jeffords and Samuel & Charlotte Radcliffe	
James & Carolyn Karl	Dennis & Judy Weaver
Laura Kemmick	David & Laurel Wiegand
Thomas Kurtz & Nancy Clupper	
Gregory & Joanna Martin	

**In Memory of Charley Albin:**

Meredith Lombard

**In Memory of Gene & Dale Regener:**

Troy & Dawn Alderfer

**In Memory of Rita Smith:**

Beth Morrison

**In Honor of Barbara Hunsberger:**

James & Carol Feister

**In Honor of Randy Miller:**

Edward & Rosemary Spreha

**Special Contributions:**

**Employer Matching Donation:** Mike Epler

**Birdseed:** Marie Johnston

**Harold Morrin Scholarship:** John Lahr

**Non-member contributions:**

**General Club Support:** Debbie Nixon

**Birdseed:** Philippa Lammey, Mary Normandia, Cameron Martin, Kimberly Speers, Kathryn Yelinek

**Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area Art Show – Club receives 25% of proceeds; this year the donation was made to Natural Lands.**

**Special Thanks** to Sarah Gotwols for providing refreshments for the February River Watch event held at Columbia Crossing River Trails Center; Kim Morelock for providing refreshments and Cammy Freed for providing homemade macarons for the Members' Social held at the North Museum.

### **MEMBERS' ADVENTURES & ACTIVITIES**

Please send trip reports and pictures to Carol Feister ([cjfeister@comcast.net](mailto:cjfeister@comcast.net)). Our next newsletter comes out in early July. Please submit items by June 30, 2025. Birders travel, please consider sending in a report!

#### **Winter Birding Southern California by Mary St John**

One way to take relief from winter in PA is a birding tour of San Diego and Imperial Counties in Southern California. Mary St John joined a Victor Emanuel Tour of the area in mid-January. This short tour (5 days) covers everything from the coast to the Salton Sea and back. Starting at the San Elijo Lagoon Reserve we were able to see some of the California specialties the first day. These included: Allen's Hummingbird, California's Scrub Jay, Thrasher, Gnatcatcher and Towhee. At Pt. La Jolla we saw Black Turnstone, Heermann's Gull and a colony of nesting Brandt's Cormorants. While at Mission Beach, 74 Snowy Plovers snuggled down in the sand. Visiting a parrot roost at sunset, we had both Red-crowned and Lilac-crowned Parrots, my life bird of the trip.

Moving on into the mountains and toward Imperial County, stops at Alpine and Lake Cuyamaca added Spotted Towhee and Tricolored Blackbirds. Anza Borrego Desert S.P. hosted a sleepy Long-eared Owl, while Cattle Call Park had a friendly Vermillion Flycatcher, Verdin and Black-tailed Gnatcatcher. Several sites at the Sonny Bono Salton Sea NWR added Abert's Towhee and Ridgway Rail to our list.

Our return trip took a northern route stopping at Borrego Springs and Ocotillo Wells to look for Bell's and Sagebrush Sparrows (a split of the Sage Sparrow) and Prairie Falcon. A final stop at Ramona Grasslands Reserve gave us good looks at Ferruginous Hawk, Western Meadowlark and Mountain and Western Bluebirds. In the five days, we spent two and a half days in each county and visited 43 e-bird locations tallying 184 species.

#### **LANCASTER COUNTY BIRD OBSERVATIONS – Fall 2024**

This fall season 248 species were recorded, just above the 5-year average of 244 (244, 245, 239, 255, 239 previous). The first MacGillivray's Warbler, second Anhinga, and second and third Cave Swallows were especially notable. My unofficial all-time county list would have increased to 366, but since all redpolls were lumped this year into a single species named "Redpoll," it remains at 365. Weather-wise, August and September brought temps and rainfall that were exceptionally average. October, however,

held warm and only brought half an inch of rain. November was also exceptionally warm, with multiple high temperature records exceeding 80F set in its first week. As a whole, the season saw about 60% of its normal rainfall. Weather information is sourced from the NWS Harrisburg station, and the “normal period” is 1991-2020.

A **Greater White-fronted Goose** arrived at WEP 11/24, where it has wintered (SSt, m.ob.). The summering **Trumpeter Swan** at SRCF was captured for rehabilitation 9/22, however, a severe *Aspergillus* fungus infection sadly forced the bird to be euthanized. Fortunately, sightings of this magnificent, formerly breeding bird are still on the rise, and hopefully our wait is short before they once again breed in the county. Three **Surf Scoters** floated around SRCF 10/26 (ME), who also found four Long-tailed Ducks there on 11/24. The Motus tower at MCWMA logged migrating **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** 9/21 and 9/30.

An impressive 27 shorebird species were documented. MCWMA was very low due to the scarce rain, and pulled in 23 of these. **American Avocets** were seen frequently at SRCF, with four observations of a total of eight birds from 8/10-9/1 (WB, ME, TG, SSc, EW). Two **Upland Sandpipers** continued at Lancaster Airport through 8/4 (m.ob.). A **Marbled Godwit** drew a crowd at MCWMA 8/15-20 (BM, m.ob.), and a **Long-billed Dowitcher** made MCWMA its home, residing from 10/2-11/16 (NW, WW, m.ob.) over a remarkable six and half weeks. A **Wilson's Phalarope** lighted briefly at SRCF 8/19 (ML, AMk). A **Willet**, which are less than annual, was found for the third time this year at SRCF 8/9 in the remnants of hurricane Debby (ME, TG, ML, TN, EW). **Ruddy Turnstones** were spotted at MCWMA and SRCF in August. **Baird's Sandpiper** were difficult, with a few sightings between MCWMA and Conewago Recreation Trail & Wetlands 8/22 and 8/27 (BC, ME, JHe, TN). Two **Western Sandpipers** were at SRCF 8/18 (SSc), and one at MCWMA 8/31 (JK).

**Laughing Gulls** wandered up the Susquehanna R, with a notable flock of 13 on 8/9 in Debby's remnants (DS). Two **Black Terns** were spotted on the same day, out of only three total. Congregations on SRLC have not been found for several years. A high count of 10 **Common Terns** were on SRCF 10/1 (JHo). **Red-throated Loons** sometimes avoid detection in fall, but one hung around SRCF 11/19-30 (ML, m.ob.).

A birder in the right place at the right time observed an Anhinga soaring over SRCF 8/3 (ME)! This was the second county record, following the first just last year at the same location. It too was seen and photographed by only one person. Perhaps one will choose to actually spend some time in the county soon.

The wader season sparkled. **White Ibis** descended on Lancaster August-September, with two at SRCF and at least 6 at MCWMA, perhaps young vagrants from the burgeoning colonies of coastal New Jersey (m.ob.). **Glossy Ibis** showed up singly at the same places, with a late record on 10/3 at CGNA (ML). **Least Bittern** was reported twice: At MCWMA 8/3 (PC), and Susquehannock SP 9/30 (TA). Juvenile **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** were noted at SRCF and WEP 8/9-11, and multiple **Little Blue Herons** were found at MCWMA, SRCF, and OR August-September per usual. Two juvenile **Tricolored Herons** were at SRCF 8/3-20 (JHo, m.ob.), which have recently become annual. Up to six **Snowy Egrets** were reported around SRCF in August (m.ob.), along with one or two **Western Cattle-Egrets** (ME, m.ob.).

A juvenile **Golden Eagle** was seen soaring at MCWMA several times following 11/3 (TD, DK, DS). Eminent **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were strongly represented from five locations, but the furtive **Yellow-**

**bellied Flycatcher** from just three. Our hardy **Say's Phoebe** returned for its third winter at the Blue Rock wastewater treatment plant 10/27 (ME, TN, m.ob.). It's incredible how far a bird will fly to reach a reliable food source. Instead of enjoying sunny Mexico, it has carved out a unique niche here in our snowy, northern latitude picking bugs from wastewater tank walls. **Philadelphia Vireos** were fairly frequent in September.

**Black-capped Chickadees**, **Tufted Titmice**, and **Red-breasted Nuthatches** staged strong irruptions. A calling *Sedge Wren* was sound-recorded at CGNA 10/12 (KC).

This November saw an intense movement of **Cave Swallows** from the Great Lakes to the Atlantic coast, and conditions were ripe for appearances in PA. Birders were aware of the trend, and indeed three were spotted at MCWMA 11/16 for the second county record (AMt, EM, MR). Birders scrambled to the area, finally providing hard photo evidence of this species in Lancaster. Another was photographed from Columbia along the Susquehanna R. 11/29 (DS), where it was "nearly hit by a truck" while foraging.

**Evening Grosbeak** were few this fall, but one was photographed at a Hopeland feeder 11/17 (MP). I also received a secondhand report of several at MCWMA the day before, just across the mountain from the feeder bird. **Purple Finch** and **Pine Siskin** sightings were widespread, but in somewhat low numbers. A **Lapland Longspur** at SRCF 10/20 (EW, TG) was likely a first for this location, an unusual place to find a field-dwelling bird. A flyover **Snow Bunting** at WEP 11/17 (FZ) put another tough fall bird on the list. A **Clay-colored Sparrow** spent November at NDP, first found 10/28 (SM).

**Orange-crowned Warblers** were seen at Muddy Run Recreation Park 10/3 (LB), MCWMA 10/5 (JHe), and NDP 11/6 (DK). **Connecticut Warblers** were found in four locations 9/8-10/5 (m.ob.). Birders seem to hone-in on these skulking migrants with increasing ease, often given away by their distinctive "pwik" calls from thick cover.

The surprise of the season came as a **MacGillivray's Warbler** at NDP 11/26 (DK). This first county record was only the fifth in the state, so birders descended on the area. It was difficult to see well, sticking to cover, but with patience many added it to their respective lists. A deformed or broken upper mandible didn't seem to dampen its spirits, and it was frequently seen for several weeks.

**Mourning Warblers** were seen at Speedwell Forge County Park 9/10 (BC), and MCWMA 9/22 (AW). **Cerulean Warbler** is rarely seen in fall, but one was described at Kelly's Run Nature Preserve 9/4 (CB).

Observers: **Zach Millen**, 101 Bridle Path, New Holland, PA 17557, (717) 723-1279, [zjmillen@proton.me](mailto:zjmillen@proton.me), Tom Amico, Warren Brubaker, Craig Burman, Karen Cappeluti, Bruce Carl, Paul Cooper, Tom Donahue, Mike Epler, Tom Garner, Jon Kauffman, Dave Kruel, Jonathan Heller (JHe), Jason Horn (JHo), Meredith Lombard, Andrew Markel (AMk), Austin Martin (AMt), Ervin Martin, Barb Matthews, Seth McComsey, Ted Nichols II, Monica Pfeiffer, Mike Ranck, Steve Schmit, Stanley Stahl, Derek Stoner, Eric Witmer, Andrew Wolf, Nina Wolf, Warren Wolf, Fred Zimmerman

Locations: Chestnut Grove Natural Area (CGNA), Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (MCWMA), Noel Dorwart Park (NDP), Octoraro Reservoir (OR), Susquehanna River Conejohela Flats (SRCF), Susquehanna River Lake Clarke (SRLC), Woods Edge Park (WEP)

## **LANCASTER COUNTY BIRD OBSERVATIONS – Winter 2025**

This winter 142 species were recorded, above the 5-year average of 135 (134, 130, 141, 133, 138 previous). Continuing first **MacGillivray's Warbler** and **Say's Phoebe** were notable. My unofficial all-time county list holds at 365. Weather-wise, the only thing remarkable about the season was that it was quite normal, which has been unusual the last few years. Temperatures, rain, and snowfall were all close to average, with January deviating a bit low on temperature and high on snowfall. Mid-winter ice covered Middle Creek WMA and Lake Clarke on the Susquehanna, waterfowl staged up the Susquehanna after late Jan, and **Snow Goose** aggregated at Middle Creek WMA in February. Comparatively, last year many birds flew through without stopping, or simply remained north of us, and waterfowl numbers were low. If you wanted to bird a standard winter in southeast PA, this was it. Weather information is sourced from the NWS Harrisburg station, and the "normal period" is 1991-2020.

The timing of **Snow Goose** migration was typical this year, compared with prior warm winters, peaking in the third week of Feb at MCWMA around 100,000 birds. Sadly, an outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza killed hundreds of Snow Geese and other species, resulting in the closure of much of MCWMA to the public during the peak of this seasonal spectacle. Single **Greater White-fronted Geese** were seen sporadically at WEP and Muddy Run Reservoir 12/15-2/17 (TA, EK, m.ob.), and seven were at MCWMA 2/28 (MJ). Along with **Ross's**, **Cackling**, and **Canada Goose**, the standard five geese species were found. with no rare vagrants. A **Trumpeter Swan** spent the entire winter on the lower Susquehanna R. below the Holtwood Dam (TA, m.ob.). Eurasian Wigeon was absent. For seaducks, a **White-winged Scoter** was on SRLC 1/30-2/2 (DS, m.ob.), and two were on the Susquehanna R. across from Riverfront Park 2/26 (AM). **Long-tailed Ducks** were found on a variety of dates between 12/17-2/1 along the lower Susquehanna R.

Two **Virginia Rails** wintered at WEP (DS, m.ob.), and a large flock of 19 **Sandhill Cranes** dropped in to MCWMA 12/7 (JH, m.ob.). By 12/15, only four were left which remained until 2/8 around when MCWMA closed. Down at OR, two were seen 12/12-30 (NW, WW, m.ob.), perhaps a piece of the original flock. Six gull species were located, notably a flock of 34 **Bonaparte's Gulls** 12/2 at SRCF (BO, KS), and a juvenile **Iceland Gull** on SRLC 2/4 (EW). Also on the Susquehanna R., a **Red-necked Grebe** was near Bainbridge 12/2 (LB), and a **Red-throated Loon** near Columbia 1/25 (KS).

An adult **Golden Eagle** was photographed at MCWMA 1/15 (ZS), the only sighting of winter. A few **Short-eared Owls** were seen around MCWMA, which is typical, and one was seen around the LCSWMA landfill 2/28 (ML).

The **Say's Phoebe** survived its third winter at the Blue Rock wastewater treatment plant (m.ob.). Early on it was found to be missing a foot, where the previous winter it had both, but that didn't slow it down one bit. A few **Black-capped Chickadees**, and a scattering of **Red-breasted Nuthatch** were reported around the county. A surprise **Marsh Wren** was described at OR 2/7 (CG). Both **Gray Catbird** and

**Brown Thrasher** were found, which are scarce, but regular. **Purple Finch** and **Pine Siskin** were scattered in low numbers.

**Lapland Longspur** and **Snow Bunting** were found in their usual farmland areas, primarily in Jan. A **Chipping Sparrow** was photographed at a feeder north of Lancaster 1/4 (LT), and one was observed foraging along a road near Conestoga 2/2 (NW, WW). The continuing **Clay-colored Sparrow** at MCWMA was observed through 12/27 (JH, TD), and another was found on CBC near CGNA 12/22 (LB, KL, JM), along with two **Vesper Sparrows**. An adult male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was picked out of a blackbird flock near Quarryville 2/20 (NW, WW). Also in Quarryville, a **Baltimore Oriole** visited a feeder 12/19 at an Amish residence (NW, WW), which had been seen for several weeks.

Six warbler species were documented. A **Black-and-white-Warbler** was viewed at BRWTP 12/22-26 (JH, AH). The continuing first county **MacGillivray's Warbler** at NDP was last seen 12/17 (m.ob.). **Cape May Warblers** are often on our winter checklist, but this season there were three photographed observations! The first was at a wastewater treatment plant south of Lancaster city 1/22 (AZ), the second at a feeder in Washington Boro 2/8-11 (anon.), and the third at a feeder in Marietta 2/20 (BL). A **"Yellow" Palm Warbler** was found at CGNA 12/27 (MM). There were four **Pine Warblers** about the county throughout the winter, primarily at feeders (PF, SS, anon.). **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were frequent, with a maximum of 14 at BRWTP 2/4 (EW).

Locations: Blue Rock WTP (BRWTP) Chestnut Grove Natural Area (CGNA), Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (MCWMA), Noel Dorwart Park (NDP), Octoraro Reservoir (OR), Susquehanna River Conejohela Flats (SRCF), Susquehanna River Lake Clarke (SRLC), Woods Edge Park (WEP)

Observers: **Zach Millen, 101 Bridle Path, New Holland, PA 17557, (717) 723-1279**, [zjmillen@proton.me](mailto:zjmillen@proton.me), Tom Amico, Larry Bernhardt, Tom Donahue, Pam Fisher, Carlton Groff, Aaron Hasircoglu, Jonathan Heller, Michelle Joyce, Ed Komito, Keath Leidich, Bill Libhart, Meredith Lombard, Michael Mayer, Andy McGann, Joe Meloney, Bill Oyler, Kevin Shannon, Zach Spatz, Stanley Stahl, Derek Stoner, Leo Tubay, Eric Witmer, Nina Wolf, Warren Wolf, Allison Zechman

## **REVIEW OF COMPLETED EVENTS**

**October 12, 2024 - Chestnut Grove Beginning Birder Field Trip.** Meredith Lombard led a group of beginning birders with some being "absolute first-timers." Notable species included Peregrine Falcon, American Kestrel and Palm Warbler. The weather was perfect and everyone had a great experience.

**December 22, 2024 – Lancaster Christmas Bird Count.** The Lancaster Christmas Bird Count (CBC) was held on December 22, 2024. Volunteer numbers were lower with 36 volunteers in the field (63 in 2023) and 9 volunteers watching feeders at home (15 in 2023). A total of 90 species was identified in 2024 compared to 85 for 2023 and 80 for 2022.

The Say's Phoebe returned to the water treatment plant in Manor Township for the third year in a row and was present for the count. Another rare species for 2024 was a Clay-colored Sparrow identified by Larry Bernhardt. Waterfowl numbers were up slightly with 17 species of ducks and geese. Waterfowl highlights included 1 Cackling Goose, 13 Common Goldeneye, 1 Common Loon and 1 Horned Grebe.

Other highlights included 1 red-breasted Nuthatch, 1 Black-and-white Warbler, 8 American Pipits, 12 species of sparrows including 1 Vesper Sparrow and 2 Savannah Sparrows. Falcons were only represented by the American Kestrel with 8 birds counted. The only owls seen this year were 5 Eastern Screech-Owls and 4 Great Horned Owls.

The temperatures ranged from 15 degrees in the early morning to 30 degrees mid-afternoon with one inch of snow on the ground. Many thanks to the volunteers for coming out on a cold day to help make another successful Christmas Bird Count. Hope to see you next year and bring some birder friends.  
Compiled by Barbara Hunsberger

**January 18, 2025 – Riverfront Park Field Trip.** Emily Broich led 12 participants for winter birding at East Donegal Riverfront Park on January 18th. The group didn't have much luck with winter waterfowl but observed 29 total species. Highlights included a flock of 10 Wild Turkey roosting across the river, good looks at five species of woodpeckers, both species of kinglets, and Winter Wren. A few life birds for some of the participants were celebrated along the way!

**January 25, 2025 – Safe Harbor Dam/Observation Road Beginning Birder Field Trip.** Wicked cold, 8°F to start the morning at Safe Harbor Dam. Twelve people were in attendance with Sarah Gotwols leading. We shifted from Safe Harbor Dam observation deck to the barn at Climbers Run for attendee safety with the frigid temperature where attendees could view the birds in the meadow and on the feeder cam station. Notable species included several Bald Eagles at the Safe Harbor Dam and the Pileated Woodpeckers at Climbers Run.



Frigid scope at Safe Harbor Dam



Pileated Woodpecker



**February 8, 2025 – River Watch Birding Event.** The club's second annual River Watch Birding Event took place at Columbia Crossing River Trails Center in Columbia led by Club President Ted Nichols. Despite an icy forecast predicted later in the day, club members showed up in force with plenty of scopes to allow over 30 people who stopped by to scope out the bird life on the river with us! Twenty-two species were observed during the three-hour event.

Highlights included more than 40 very active Buffleheads that seemed to always be providing views, 20 Lesser Scaup, a dozen Common Goldeneye, more than 750 Ring-billed Gulls, a half dozen Herring Gulls and a lone Great Black-backed Gull. Mergansers were well represented with 28 Common, 2 Hooded and one Red-breasted. A single Pied-billed Grebe also provided nice views. A complete account of the birds observed is available at: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S212493015>

Thanks also to Club Secretary Sarah Gotwols for facilitating a table display for the club in the center and donating refreshments and beverages for attendees. Many thanks also to Columbia Crossing for again partnering with the club on this event for a second year and their help promoting it.



River Watch Birding Event participants

**February 22, 2025 – Middle Creek WMA Field Trip.** Craig Boyhont had one participant for this modified trip to Middle Creek. Instead of the waterfowl focus, we were limited to the conservation trail and visitor's center due to the closures for the HPAI. The cold snap in the days ahead of this walk had frozen all the ponds and water within roadside viewing. We did get a view of a liftoff of about 3000 snow geese visible to the north. The bird list for the morning totaled 20 species. The most unusual sighting was not a bird, but a skunk foraging at the visitor center feeders in the middle of the morning.

**March 1, 2025 – Middle Creek WMA Beginning Birder Field Trip.** Sarah Gotwols led 15 participants for the second beginner birder event of the year despite high winds. Road closures were in place due to the avian influenza as well. Snow Geese and Tundra Swans were visible on the lake while White-crowned Sparrows were in abundance at the feeders outside the observation area. On the small pond new birders enjoyed watching a pair of Northern Shovelers as well. A Pileated Woodpecker made a showy drive-by at the feeders for a brief up-close encounter.



Beginning birders observing waterfowl safely from the main road by the visitor center at Middle Creek WMA

**March 8, 2025 – Middle Creek WMA Field Trip.** My trip to Middle Creek to view the Woodcock and Short-eared Owls went very well this year. We were pleasantly surprised at the reopening of the refuge after the avian flu closure just the day before the trip. There were 15 people on the trip including several children. The timing of sunset led to an awesome Woodcock display flight with the waning sunset glow as a background. We were able to see at least 8 Woodcock display flights and we heard (well the Merlin app heard) one Short-eared Owl but it was too dark to find. Everyone was pleased with the trip and the weather cooperated with warmer than usual temperatures and the 30 mph winds died down to a 10 mph breeze. This trip was led by John Lahr.

**March 15, 2025 – Susquehanna River Field Trip.** A group of twenty participants took part in this trip along the Susquehanna River led by Derek Stoner. We viewed the birds from the launch at John Wright Restaurant, the Lemon Street access and Blue Rock Boat Launch.

Highlights among the 41 total species included good comparison looks at all three merganser species, lots of Bonaparte's Gulls feeding on emerging stoneflies, close views of Killdeer, recently-arrived Wood Ducks, large numbers of Green-winged Teal, courting Northern Pintails, and a Bald Eagle on a nest.



Birding the Susquehanna River



## **LANCASTER COUNTY YEAR LIST BY MIKE EPLER**

During 2024, birders in Lancaster County reported locating 271 different bird species.

One new species was added to the official list of Lancaster County birds. The addition of MacGillivray's Warbler brings the total to 363. \*

There were 33 species of waterfowl reported including all the expected species. Among the less common species located were Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Brant, Trumpeter Swan, Eurasian Wigeon, and Surf Scoter. Black-bellied Whistling-Duck has become more common, having been reported in five of the last 12 years. The sighting of Eurasian Wigeon was the first in five years. Prior to this they had been seen for 11 years running.

Among game birds Wild Turkey and Ring-necked Pheasant were found. Ruffed Grouse was not reported. It has only been found in the county during three of the past 15 years. Prior to that it was an annual occurrence.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird was the only hummingbird species reported.

Both Virginia Rail and Sora continue to be seen yearly.

Sandhill Crane has been spotted for 21 years in a row. Prior to 2004 they were seen an average of once every three years.

The shorebird species count for the year was 27, down one from last year and right at the 10-year average. Among the less common species reported were American Avocet, Upland Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Long-billed Dowitcher, Wilson's Phalarope, and Ruddy Turnstone.

There were 12 species of gulls and terns seen. The less common among these were Black-headed Gull, Laughing Gull, Franklin's Gull, and Lesser Black-backed Gull. Little Gull was missed for the first time in 30 years. All the usual tern species were reported including Black Tern and Common Tern.

Pied-billed Grebe and Horned Grebe were seen. The less frequent Red-necked Grebe was also reported.

Common Loon and the less common Red-throated Loon were both sighted.

An Anhinga was found for the second year in a row at the Conejohela Flats. The one sighted there last year was the first county record.

There were 13 species of wading birds seen. Among the less common species were White Ibis, Glossy Ibis, Least Bittern, Little Blue Heron, Tricolored Heron, and Western Cattle Egret.

All the expected raptor species were observed along with a Mississippi Kite. American Goshawk was missed for the thirteenth year in a row after being seen for 34 of the previous 35 years.

All seven of the normally occurring species of owls were seen. There was also a Snowy Owl photographed in the city of Lancaster.

All the usual flycatchers were reported. Additionally, a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was found in the county. This was the first sighting since 1942. The Say's Phoebe discovered during the 2022 Christmas Bird Count returned for a third winter.

Common Raven has been seen for the past 23 years in a row. They had been reported in just nine of the previous 25 years. They now have been confirmed to be breeding in the county.

Along with all of the common swallow species there were several sightings of Cave Swallows around the county. At Middle Creek WMA three individuals lingered for two days, allowing many people the opportunity to see them.

All expected wren species were reported including Marsh Wren. A Sedge Wren was also seen.

All the usual sparrows were seen this year. Nelson's Sparrow was missed for the fourth year.

The warbler species count was 35 with all expected species seen. The less common Connecticut Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, and Orange-crowned Warbler were all reported as well as a first county record MacGillivray's Warbler.

The choice of the bird of the year for 2024 is relatively easy, MacGillivray's Warbler. The bird was a first county record, and just the fourth state record for the species. It remained for three weeks giving those wishing to see it ample time. It was not always the most cooperative bird. It was wide ranging and spent much of its time in heavy cover, but with enough perseverance it offered some truly stunning views.

\*Per the official list from the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology

	Fulvous Whistling-Duck	X	Sora		Sooty Tern
X	Black-bellied Whistling-Duck		Common Gallinule		Least Tern
X	Snow Goose	X	American Coot		Gull-billed Tern
X	Ross's Goose		Black Rail	X	Caspian Tern
X	Greater White-fronted Goose		Limpkin	X	Black Tern
	Tundra Bean-Goose	X	Sandhill Crane	X	Forster's Tern
	Pink-footed Goose		Black-necked Stilt		Arctic Tern
X	Brant	X	American Avocet	X	Common Tern
	Barnacle Goose	X	Black-bellied Plover		Royal Tern
X	Cackling Goose	X	American Golden-Plover	X	Pied-billed Grebe
X	Canada Goose	X	Killdeer	X	Horned Grebe
X	Mute Swan	X	Semipalmated Plover	X	Red-necked Grebe
X	Trumpeter Swan		Piping Plover		Eared Grebe
X	Tundra Swan	X	Upland Sandpiper	X	Red-throated Loon
X	Wood Duck		Whimbrel		Pacific Loon
X	Blue-winged Teal		Hudsonian Godwit	X	Common Loon
	Cinnamon Teal	X	Marbled Godwit		Leach's Storm-Petrel
X	Northern Shoveler	X	Short-billed Dowitcher		Wood Stork
X	Gadwall	X	Long-billed Dowitcher		Northern Gannet
X	Eurasian Wigeon	X	American Woodcock	X	Anhinga
X	American Wigeon	X	Wilson's Snipe		Great Cormorant
X	Mallard	X	Wilson's Phalarope	X	Double-crested Cormorant
X	American Black Duck		Red Phalarope	X	White Ibis
X	Northern Pintail		Red-necked Phalarope	X	Glossy Ibis
X	Green-winged Teal	X	Spotted Sandpiper		White-faced Ibis
X	Canvasback	X	Solitary Sandpiper		Roseate Spoonbill
X	Redhead	X	Lesser Yellowlegs	X	American Bittern
X	Ring-necked Duck	X	Willet	X	Least Bittern
	Tufted Duck	X	Greater Yellowlegs	X	Yellow-crowned Night-Heron
X	Greater Scaup	X	Ruddy Turnstone	X	Black-crowned Night-Heron
X	Lesser Scaup		Red Knot	X	Little Blue Heron
X	Surf Scoter		Ruff	X	Tricolored Heron
	White-winged Scoter		Curlew Sandpiper	X	Snowy Egret
	Black Scoter	X	Stilt Sandpiper	X	Green Heron
X	Long-tailed Duck		Buff-breasted Sandpiper	X	Western Cattle Egret
X	Bufflehead	X	Sanderling	X	Great Egret
X	Common Goldeneye	X	Dunlin	X	Great Blue Heron
X	Hooded Merganser	X	Baird's Sandpiper		American White Pelican
X	Common Merganser	X	White-rumped Sandpiper		Brown Pelican
X	Red-breasted Merganser	X	Least Sandpiper	X	Black Vulture
X	Ruddy Duck	X	Pectoral Sandpiper	X	Turkey Vulture
X	Northern Bobwhite	X	Western Sandpiper	X	Osprey
X	Wild Turkey	X	Semipalmated Sandpiper		Swallow-tailed Kite
	Ruffed Grouse		Long-tailed Jaeger	X	Golden Eagle
X	Ring-necked Pheasant		Parasitic Jaeger	X	Sharp-shinned Hawk
X	Rock Pigeon		Pomarine Jaeger	X	Cooper's Hawk
	Eurasian Collared-Dove		Little Gull		American Goshawk
	White-winged Dove		Black-legged Kittiwake	X	Northern Harrier
X	Mourning Dove		Sabine's Gull	X	Bald Eagle
X	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	X	Bonaparte's Gull	X	Mississippi Kite
X	Black-billed Cuckoo	X	Black-headed Gull	X	Broad-winged Hawk
X	Common Nighthawk	X	Laughing Gull	X	Red-shouldered Hawk
	Eastern Whip-poor-will	X	Franklin's Gull		Swainson's Hawk
X	Chimney Swift	X	Ring-billed Gull	X	Red-tailed Hawk
X	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	X	American Herring Gull	X	Rough-legged Hawk
	Bahama Woodstar	X	Great Black-backed Gull	X	American Barn Owl
	Calliope Hummingbird		Glaucous Gull	X	Eastern Screech-Owl
	Rufous Hummingbird	X	Lesser Black-backed Gull	X	Snowy Owl
	Allen's Hummingbird		California Gull		
	King Rail		Iceland Gull		
X	Virginia Rail		Black Skimmer		

X Great Horned Owl	X Northern House Wren	Scott's Oriole
X Barred Owl	X Winter Wren	X Red-winged Blackbird
X Long-eared Owl	X Sedge Wren	X Brown-headed Cowbird
X Short-eared Owl	X Marsh Wren	X Rusty Blackbird
X Northern Saw-whet Owl	X Carolina Wren	Brewer's Blackbird
X Belted Kingfisher	X European Starling	X Common Grackle
X Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	X Gray Catbird	X Ovenbird
X Red-headed Woodpecker	X Brown Thrasher	X Worm-eating Warbler
X Red-bellied Woodpecker	X Northern Mockingbird	X Louisiana Waterthrush
X Downy Woodpecker	X Eastern Bluebird	X Northern Waterthrush
X Hairy Woodpecker	Mountain Bluebird	X Golden-winged Warbler
X Pileated Woodpecker	Varied Thrush	X Blue-winged Warbler
X Northern Flicker	X Veery	X Black-and-white Warbler
X American Kestrel	X Gray-cheeked Thrush	X Prothonotary Warbler
X Merlin	Bicknell's Thrush	X Tennessee Warbler
Gyr Falcon	X Swainson's Thrush	X Orange-crowned Warbler
X Peregrine Falcon	X Hermit Thrush	X Nashville Warbler
X Olive-sided Flycatcher	X Wood Thrush	X Connecticut Warbler
X Eastern Wood-Pewee	X American Robin	X MacGillivray's Warbler
X Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	X Cedar Waxwing	X Mourning Warbler
X Acadian Flycatcher	X House Sparrow	X Kentucky Warbler
X Alder Flycatcher	X American Pipit	X Common Yellowthroat
X Willow Flycatcher	X Evening Grosbeak	X Hooded Warbler
X Least Flycatcher	Pine Grosbeak	X American Redstart
Western Flycatcher	X House Finch	X Cape May Warbler
X Eastern Phoebe	X Purple Finch	X Cerulean Warbler
X Say's Phoebe	Common Redpoll	X Northern Parula
Ash-throated Flycatcher	Hoary Redpoll	X Magnolia Warbler
X Great Crested Flycatcher	Red Crossbill	X Bay-breasted Warbler
Tropical Kingbird	White-winged Crossbill	X Blackburnian Warbler
Western Kingbird	X Pine Siskin	X Yellow Warbler
X Eastern Kingbird	X American Goldfinch	X Chestnut-sided Warbler
X Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	X Lapland Longspur	X Blackpoll Warbler
X White-eyed Vireo	X Snow Bunting	X Black-throated Blue Warbler
X Yellow-throated Vireo	X Grasshopper Sparrow	X Palm Warbler
X Blue-headed Vireo	X Chipping Sparrow	X Pine Warbler
X Philadelphia Vireo	X Clay-colored Sparrow	X Yellow-rumped Warbler
X Warbling Vireo	X Field Sparrow	X Yellow-throated Warbler
X Red-eyed Vireo	Lark Sparrow	X Prairie Warbler
Loggerhead Shrike	X American Tree Sparrow	Black-throated Gray Warbler
Northern Shrike	X Fox Sparrow	X Black-throated Green Warbler
X Blue Jay	X Dark-eyed Junco	X Canada Warbler
X American Crow	X White-crowned Sparrow	X Wilson's Warbler
X Fish Crow	Harris's Sparrow	Summer Tanager
X Common Raven	X White-throated Sparrow	X Scarlet Tanager
X Carolina Chickadee	X Vesper Sparrow	X Western Tanager
X Black-capped Chickadee	Le Conte's Sparrow	X Northern Cardinal
X Tufted Titmouse	Seaside Sparrow	X Rose-breasted Grosbeak
X Horned Lark	Nelson's Sparrow	Black-headed Grosbeak
X Bank Swallow	X Savannah Sparrow	X Blue Grosbeak
X Tree Swallow	Henslow's Sparrow	X Indigo Bunting
X Purple Martin	X Song Sparrow	Painted Bunting
X Northern Rough-winged Swallow	X Lincoln's Sparrow	X Dickcissel
X Barn Swallow	X Swamp Sparrow	
X Cliff Swallow	X Eastern Towhee	
X Cave Swallow	X Yellow-breasted Chat	
X Ruby-crowned Kinglet	X Yellow-headed Blackbird	
X Golden-crowned Kinglet	X Bobolink	
X White-breasted Nuthatch	X Eastern Meadowlark	
X Red-breasted Nuthatch	X Orchard Oriole	
X Brown Creeper	Bullock's Oriole	
X Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	X Baltimore Oriole	

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:

President -	Ted Nichols II – 717-856-3851
First Vice President -	Emily Broich – 717-333-9146
Second Vice President -	Jeffrey Musser – 717-464-5273
Treasurer -	Nina Wolf – 717-629-6874
Secretary -	Sarah Gotwols – 717-940-3804
Membership -	Larry Bernhardt – 717-872-2946

Board of Directors:

Doug Anderson – 717-203-2482	John Lahr – 717-205-3030
Craig Boyhont – 717-368-5986	Kim Morelock – 717-471-0787
Anne Esbenshade – 717-517-0720	Vince Pantanella – 717-468-0984
Cammy Freed – 717-368-1979	Patty Pfennig – 630-699-2141
Carl Groff – 717-471-9969	Derek Stoner – 484-723-3348
Barbara Hunsberger – 717-984-2738	