



# The Peregrine

## Three Rivers Birding Club Newsletter

<https://www.3rbc.org>

Vol. 20, No.4 July/August 2021



### Learn How We Can Help to Save Our Area's Birds at Our August 4 Meeting

We will hear about a collaborative effort to preserve bird diversity in the Pittsburgh area at 3RBC's online meeting on Wednesday, August 4. The project includes many volunteers.

Luke DeGroot, who oversees bird studies at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History's Powdermill Avian Research Center in the Ligonier Valley, will tell us about the project in his program titled "The Allegheny Bird Conservation Alliance: Making Pittsburgh a More Livable City for Birds."

Powdermill Nature Reserve teams up with other conservation organizations to aid declining bird populations through research, restoration, and education. This effort includes community involvement to mitigate bird window collisions, restore native plants, and reduce pesticide use.

Luke received his Master of Science degree in Natural Resources from the Ohio State University and his Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife Ecology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He studies songbirds' migration, disease, breeding timing, and perception of glass. His aim is to promote avian conservation through research, partnerships, and outreach.

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This will be a Zoom meeting online starting at 7:00 PM ET, giving you access time to log on. The business meeting will begin at 7:30 PM, and Mark's presentation will start at 8:00 PM. Details on how to join the event, including Zoom passwords and other instructions, will be supplied a few days before the meeting.

*(At left, Luke holds an Eastern Screech-Owl at the Powdermill banding station.)*

### Great News: Our Outings May Resume This Fall. Let's Hope It Will Happen

**By Steve Thomas, Outings Director**

It appears that at this time we have a good chance to resume our bird outings this fall. We will continue to monitor any CDC recommended guidelines that may be in place.

To implement the requirements prior to the outing, attendees will need to contact the leader by email or by phone so that the leader(s) will know how many to expect.

There may be limitations on the number of participants depending on the outing location. The outing locations, dates, times, and leaders will be posted in *The Peregrine*, on our website, and on our Facebook page.



*GOOD FIND – If we have outings this fall, we might be lucky enough to see a migrating Mourning Warbler such as this one David Yeany II photographed last September at Frick Park.*

See *The Peregrine* in beautiful color at [3rbc.org](https://www.3rbc.org)

## President's Message

### The Glitter and the Green: a Salute to Hummingbirds

By Sheree Daugherty

One of the delights of summer is enjoying hummingbirds. Whether you hang a sugar water feeder for our local Ruby-throated Hummingbirds or travel to find more exotic ones, hummingbirds capture our attention with their striking beauty and aerobatic flight.

British natural history writer, Jon Dunn, has written an entertaining and well-crafted new book about hummingbirds, *The Glitter in the Green*. The writer lives in the Shetland Islands where there are no hummingbirds. His quest to see many of the over 350 species of hummingbirds from Alaska to the southern tip of South America makes for an informative, adventurous, and entertaining read.

Dunn's interest in hummingbirds was ignited as a boy on a visit to London's Natural History Museum. There he was transfixed by glass cases filled with hundreds of hummingbirds. It was years later when, in his 30's, he saw his first live hummingbird, a Magnificent (now called a Rivoli's) in Madera Canyon, Arizona.

His book begins in Alaska, where he finds the tiny but intrepid Rufous Hummingbird, the most northern species of hummingbird. From Alaska, he works his way to Arizona, where he treks through well-known hotspots around Patagonia, Sycamore Canyon, and the Chiricahua Mountains, where he adds several more species.

Crossing the border into Nogales, Mexico, and strolling through the sidewalk shops that sell everything from trinkets for tourists to medicinal plants, Dunn makes a startling discovery. Sparked by his interest in botany, Dunn stopped at a vendor table offering herbs and medicinal cures. To his surprise, he found tiny scarlet satin bundles holding a slip of paper with a written prayer and a dried hummingbird corpse—*chuparosas*—which are offered as charms to be worn next to the buyer's heart. The shopkeeper guaranteed Dunn that they would bring the wearer good fortune in love!

Continuing through Central and South America, Dunn has encounters with an astounding variety of hummingbirds. Many have forked or trailing tail feathers or spiked head feathers. Size ranges from the smallest living bird, the Bee Hummingbird that measures slightly over 2 inches, bill included, to the Giant Hummingbird whose 8 to 9 inch size makes it a less agile flyer than the typical hummer.

Many hummingbirds have a very small range, perhaps only a remote valley or mountain slope in Central or South America. These tiny ranges make the birds especially vulnerable. Deforestation and climate change may wipe out some hummingbirds before they are even discovered—a great loss that may never be acknowledged.

The author ends his quest in Tierra del Fuego, at South America's southernmost tip, where he finds the hardy Green-backed Firecrown, on a day with the first of the season snow flurries.

Dunn's travelogue is peppered with fascinating facts about hummingbirds throughout history, as he tells of the emphasis many cultures have placed on the birds. In frequent folk tales, hummingbirds were admired for their bravery and friendliness, and featured in local folklore, often as heroes.

Hummingbird mania hit Europe in the late 1800s. Wealthy collectors and museums sent envoys to the Americas to collect specimens. The number of hummingbirds brought back to

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Europe is mind boggling. On one day, March 21, 1880, 400,000 hummingbird carcasses were offered at auction in London!

Jon Dunn weaves a compelling story, combining his love of birds, natural history and world events. His writing throughout is clear and engaging. He does not mince words about the gloomy prospects that these flying gems face as he ponders their future and the fate of the specialized environments which they absolutely require in order to survive.

I thoroughly enjoyed *The Glitter in the Green*. For anyone who wants to expand their knowledge of hummingbirds, the history of their relationship to humans, and their delicate and fragile environments, this book is for you!

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(Editor's note: British author Jon Dunn is not "our" ornithologist Jon L. Dunn, author of North American field guides, who once gave us a program about sparrows in 3RBC member Claire Staples' basement – the weirdest program we've ever had..)



# The Peregrine

## Notes About Our Birders

(Editor's note: I had hoped that this new feature of *The Peregrine* would be of interest, and I was correct judging by the response from members submitting items. If you have something of interest to pass along about our region's birders, please let me know at [phess@salsgiver.com](mailto:phess@salsgiver.com). The birders need not be 3RBC members.)

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Frank Izaguirre, one of our prominent 3RBC members has a new column on the American Birding Association's website intriguingly titled "Birds and..." In each essay he poses a question about birds, birders, and how birding enriches us.

Frank says, "This column will be about exploring the endless ways birds blend with everything else, the many 'ands' of birding. As we engage those 'ands,' I hope to keep learning not just about how we know the birds, but about how birds and birding connect us to so many other things."

See his new column at <https://www.aba.org/birds-and/>.

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Sad notes: Two prominent southwestern Pennsylvania birders and naturalists passed away in June 2021. More about them will come in the next issue of our newsletter. Few 3RBC members may have known them, but more about their important background will come in the next issue of *The Peregrine*.

One is Rob Protz, an Allegheny County resident, who was widely known for his nationally known website reporting rare western hummingbirds' appearance in our state and for reporting regularly on the status of Peregrine Falcons nesting on the Allegheny River bridge between Tarentum and New Kensington.

The other is Dick Byers, whose decades of educational contributions ranged from organizing the former Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania young birders' group to pioneering the Westmoreland County Bird & Nature Club which contributed notably to knowledge of birds in our region.

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Bob Mulvihill, ornithologist at the National Aviary and one of our club's experts, co-authored a recent paper in the journal *Ornithology*. Titled "High-intensity flight feather molt and comparative molt ecology of warblers of eastern North America," the analysis includes molt features described in birds captured for banding at Powdermill Nature Reserve in Westmoreland County. Access it at <https://doi.org/10.1093/ornithology/ukaa072>.

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Sam Sinderson reports interesting behavior by a raptor near his residence in Mount Lebanon, Allegheny County:

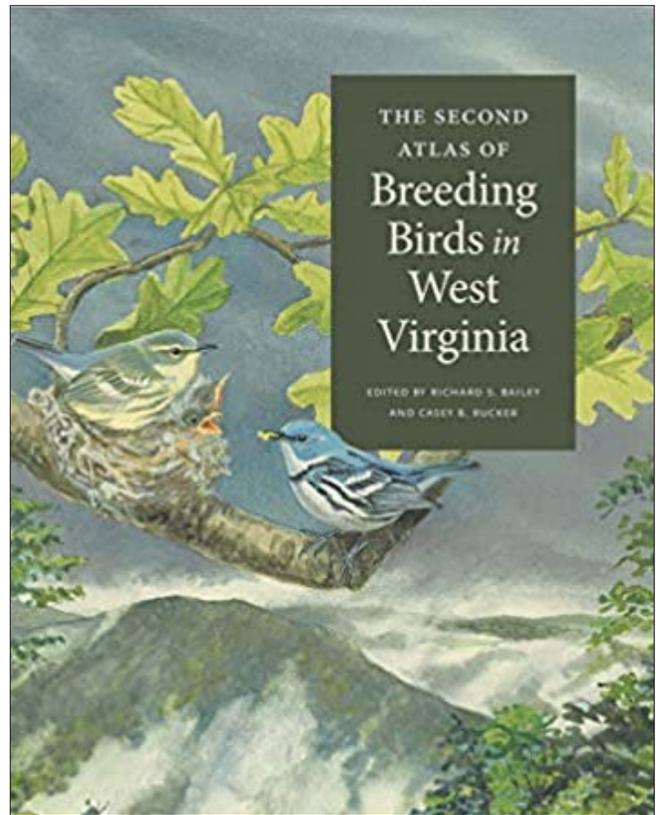
"I spotted a Red-tailed Hawk on the ground walking around on a steep bank about 40 yards away. It walked up to the edge of shallow snow bank a few yards away and began to poke with one talon at and grip something in its talons. Then to my surprise it began jumping up and down, flapping its wings and holding an object in its talons. It acted like it was trying to kill the object, which on closer examination was a cone of some sort, probably of a nearby spruce. I had to leave, so I don't know if the bird actually ate the cone. If so, it must have been an awfully hungry hawk."

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Julie Zickefoose, one of our favorite 3RBC program speakers, adds a new honor: Her painting of a Cerulean Warbler pair illustrates the cover of *The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in West Virginia*. (Editor's note: See the illustration. Do you agree that the cover's designer did Julie a disservice by jamming the title block against the beautiful male. Give the gorgeous guy a little space!)

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From Jack Solomon: "Susie Solomon, Paul Hess, and



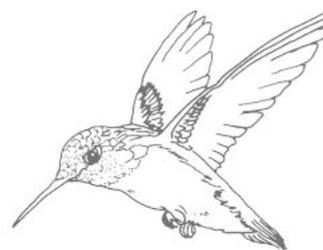
*A MEANINGFUL PORTRAIT – Choosing the Cerulean Warbler was appropriate to illustrate the cover of West Virginia's new breeding bird atlas. The species needs special attention as one of our region's most severely declining species needing conservation attention. The crucial danger is loss of its tropical winter habitat.*

I drove up to Sarver on June 12 for the grand opening of the newest property operated by the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania. It is the Babcock Nature Center at Buffalo Creek Nature Park. (<http://aswp.org/pages/buffalo-creek-nature-park>).

"It's situated in good birding territory along Little Buffalo Creek on the Butler-Freeport Trail. Facilities include a nature store and spacious meeting room, and is expected to serve as a base for outings and programs, including outings at nearby Todd Nature Reserve.

"The assembled crowd included many old Audubon stalwarts including Betsey Owens, George Reese, and Nancy Fales. Jim Bonner, ASWP's executive director, talked a bit about the property's status as a cooperative venture of ASWP with several governmental and private agencies.

"We viewed the array of exhibits in the attached picnic pavilion, toured the building, and hope to join some activities there soon. Meanwhile, ASWP has a bird and nature walk every Friday at nearby Todd Nature Reserve (<http://aswp.org/events/10209>) so you can bird, then stop in, and check out the new nature center."



# The Peregrine

## Aerodynamics

Our area's birders sometimes have photos of flying birds worth publishing in *The Peregrine*.

Clockwise from top right are examples:

--Allegheny County's third-ever Yellow-headed Blackbird in Elizabeth Township (Bob Greene, May 2021).

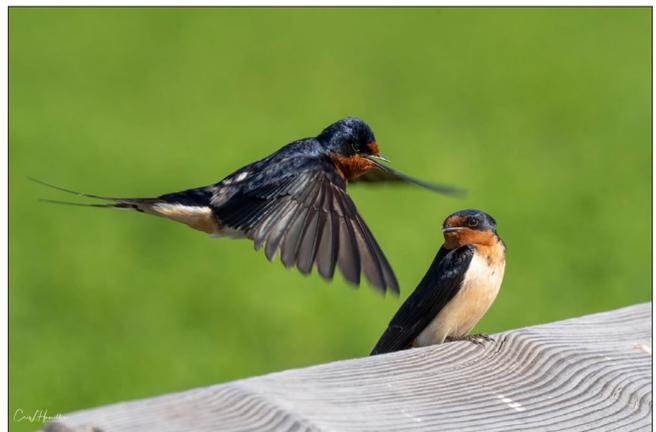
--Black Tern at a Brewer Road pond in Butler County (Dave Brooke, May 2021).

--Barn Swallow courting a female at Magee Marsh in Ohio (Cris Hamilton, May 2021).

--Pale Red-tailed Hawk over Pittsburgh's Frick Park (Charity Khesghi, May 2021.)

--Bonaparte's Gull at Greenlick Run Lake, Fayette County (Mike Fialkovich, April 2021).

The editor sometimes sees photos elsewhere and requests them – but don't hesitate to send one yourself to [phess@salsgiver.com](mailto:phess@salsgiver.com).



# The Peregrine

## Observations

### Here Is How a Robin Became a Good Friend

By Tom Moeller

Many people feed peanuts to squirrels in their yards. Often a squirrel will come to such a person whenever he/she appears in the yard, like Pavlov's dog, knowing peanuts may follow. I have robins who recognize me as a source of raisins. Part of my daily bird feeding has been casting seeds, nuts, and raisins in the yard for the ground-feeding birds – sparrows, cardinals, and robins.

A resident robin has seen me on many days putting out seeds and raisins. He started to hang around whenever I brought out the bird food and soon came closer when I put out raisins. It associates me with a treat.

There are a couple of videos on YouTube showing individuals digging up worms for juvenile robins, young wild birds that are not yet fearful of humans. "My robin" is an adult. If I go into the backyard, the robin will actually fly closer to me, expecting raisins and seeds. It is wary, but it does stay close. If I go back into the cellar to get some more feed, it will follow me to the door. Some mornings I can go out and not see the robin, but if I whistle a few times, he will come out of nowhere to get some raisins.

A wrinkle in this tale is that the robin and its mate now come to me for a handout! He will come close to me, maybe three feet away; she remains leery, keeping her distance. She raises the feathers up on her head in a distrustful way and hangs back. She'll grab one or two raisins and quickly fly off with a loud chirp. Sometimes when they're together, the male will get raisins in front of the female preventing her from getting them, almost as if they were in a competition. The male will often fly away with a series of chirps, as if to say, "Thank you!"

It became obvious to me that the pair of robins had a nest nearby. He would often fill his beak with as many raisins as he could manage. One day I was filling a feeder, and the male came by with worms in his beak. I got some raisins from my pocket (I keep a box there now.), and he grabbed some raisins too. Worms and raisins for lunch, kids!!

One wet afternoon around 6:00 PM a cat was in our yard, so I went out on the back porch and threw a rock at it to chase it away. It left quickly. I went back inside to the dining room window to be sure it was gone. The robin must have seen me on the porch and then in the window, and he came flying up to the little roof over our attached garage. It then ran along that roof toward me in the window, and finally flew up onto the porch wall, right near me. Naturally, I had to go out in the rain and spread some seeds and raisins for it to eat. He looked so pathetic – wet and bedraggled – that I had to throw some extra food for him. He has me trained. Who said birds have bird brains!

The robin may be in my driveway, which is down a floor below me, and he will see me or my wife come to the window, so he'll fly up to the porch railing and look into the house. His mate comes too sometimes, both looking toward the window. This has occurred more than once. One time I just peeked out around the edge of the window, and the robin saw me and came flying up from the ground to the back porch railing.

This was getting crazy. I couldn't go out of the house without the robin finding me, even on the front porch. But I was usually going somewhere, so I could not stop to feed him. Our road was being repaved, and as we watched some work vehicles on the street, the robin saw us looking out our front windows and hopped



HE IS "MY ROBIN" – This visitor found a friend in Tom's yard.

about the front porch walls trying to get our attention to feed it.

Don't get me wrong. The robins are not dependent on my handouts. He and his mate see me as a purveyor of treats – soft, mushy morsels like grubs. The pair do plenty of food gathering on their own. My raisins are just a nice extra.

I tried giving the robin dried mealworms. It swallowed a couple of them, then stopped and looked at me. It was not really interested – it wanted raisins. The robin just turned up his beak at the mealworms. I gave it some raisins but noticed the robin working at the raisins to make them smaller. They were too big for its nestlings, so I had to break or cut the raisins in half to accommodate them being fed to nestlings. Another day I was eating some raisins – dried cranberries. I tried to give the robin a few. He picked one up but immediately dropped it. No good – he wanted real raisins.

While I mowed the back lawn, both male and female robins came to our driveway. I had to stop mowing to throw out some raisins, a few close for him and a few farther away for her – she was still nervous about getting close. The noise of the lawn mower did not deter them from getting their treats.

One time I was working in my front yard where the robin found me. The front yard, however, includes the territory of another robin on the street. The two met, and a battle royal began. Both robins flew up at each other about three feet into the air, touching wings and bodies but no noise except for the flapping of wings. This confrontation lasted for three or four bouts, and "my robin" won, driving the other off. He then accepted his reward of raisins from the box in my pocket. Another time I went out to put something in my car that was parked across the street. When I turned around, there, standing in the middle of the street, was the robin waiting expectantly.

A bright spot one gloomy day was seeing the robin on the back porch brick railing, me going to the window, and the robin running toward me. I went out the cellar door, and it flew down for raisins. Then my other beggar, a squirrel, sat there with paws up as if praying, so I had to go back to get peanuts for it. Who needs a dog or a cat when you have these two pets!

*continued on page 6*

# The Peregrine



*A FAVORITE AT MAGEE – 3RBC members who visit Magee Marsh in Ohio in the spring always look for a Prothonotary Warbler that nests along the famous boardwalk, where this one carries nest material into its hole. (photos by Cris Hamilton)*

## We Enjoyed Magee Marsh in an Unusual Spring Visit

**By Susie Solomon**

Birding Magee Marsh in northwestern Ohio under Covid restrictions this May was a different experience from those we've had in normal spring visits. The Ohio Division of Wildlife regulated the famous boardwalk, allowing only 200 visitors to register in designated time slots. Toledo Zoo workers helped manage the entrances, requiring masks and social distancing. We found available time slots every morning, even without reservations.

The diversity of warbler species appeared as expected, but numbers of individuals were very low.

Still, after birding Frick Park, where the warblers were very high in the trees and hard to identify, I enjoyed the 25 warbler species appearing much lower during my nine days at Magee. Nesting Prothonotary Warblers kept photographers smiling. Tropical Birding Guides (a professional tour group) led a warbler tour and helped many participants, whether or not they were on the tour. The guides found a Golden-winged Warbler flitting under the Bald Eagle nest at the parking lot.

A female Kirtland's Warbler, always an exciting treat, appeared on the Magee boardwalk for Lauren Nagoda's life list. No Connecticut Warbler appeared, which was unusual.

My favorite non-warbler sighting was a group of 24 male Wood Ducks along the Magee causeway at sunrise. Claire Staples' favorite sighting was a Swainson's Hawk, a rarity east of its usual migration route in the spring. Black Terns at Metzger Marsh pleased Kate St. John.

We gathered with friends at our traditional dining spots, Blackberry Corners for lunch, and McCarthy's for dinner.

As always, birders helped other birders find the good birds and enjoy the Magee Magic.

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### **Observations**

*continued from page 5*

We went away for a few days on a short trip. The day after we returned, I walked from our parked car to the house. At the top of our driveway I looked down to see the robin standing at the bottom. I whistled a few times to it, and it recognized me and flew up the driveway to me. I laughed and went inside to feed him some raisins out the back door.

Since our trip, the urgency of the robins getting raisins has diminished. No more crammed beak of raisins rushing back to a nest full of open maws. I've heard the tell-tale squawks of baby robins in the area, so the nestlings have fledged. The two robins may still come for raisins, but they are both a bit more stand-offish, only taking a few raisins each. No need to butter me up without nestlings to feed. I was hoping they would teach their offspring to come for the raisin treats too. Still, interacting with these wild creatures has been a joy!

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Donald and Lillian Stokes. "American Robin / *Turdus migratorius*." *A Guide to Bird Behavior; Volume I* (Stokes Nature Guides). Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1983. Pages 213-222.

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YouTube Video. "Man Helps Baby Robin Find Tasty Worms." YouTube. 31 May 2015. <https://tinyurl.com/Man-Digging-Worms-2015>. Accessed 29 May 2021.



## Birds in the Three Rivers Area

### Feb.-Mar. 2021 Featured Good Late-Winter Species

By Mike Fialkovich, Bird Reports Editor

February brought snow and cold with a brief freeze of the rivers. As the Great Lakes and other bodies of water to the north began to freeze, we had a good variety of waterfowl and a few rare gulls on the rivers for about two weeks with good counts of various ducks.

Flocks of the first migrant **Tundra Swans** were heard flying over Indiana Twp. (DYe), Squirrel Hill (MK), and Bellevue (BP) 2/26. A flock of 45 flew over Homewood Cemetery (MK) and 2 were over West Deer Twp. (LC) 3/7. The following day 120 were seen flying over Oakmont (RB), and 2 were flying over Highland Park 3/20 (JL).

An **American Wigeon** was at the Highland Park Bridge 2/27 (JVA, SV, OL). A **Northern Shoveler** was at Wingfield Pines 2/11-23 (DBe and others) and 3 were at Verona 4/21 (MD). **Canvasbacks** were present in February with double-figure totals – good counts for here. **Redheads** are never common in Allegheny County, so their presence this winter was welcome. A small group spent nearly two weeks in early February just off The Point in Pittsburgh. A group of 80 on the Allegheny River at Harmar Twp. 2/25 (DB, LC) was the high count for the season and one of the highest counts in recent years.

A female **White-winged Scoter** was at The Point 2/13-27 (JVA and many others), an adult male was at the Fox Chapel Marina 2/15 (AP), a female was at Tarentum 2/20 (DB), and perhaps the same bird was upriver at Natrona Heights 2/27 (eBird with photo). Lingering from January, 3 **Black Scoters** were at Oakmont 2/8 (AH, PM).

There were numerous **Long-tailed Duck** reports. Birds on the Allegheny River included 2 at Verona 2/9 (MD), 3 at Chapel Harbor 2/13 (RT), 2 there 2/19 (MS), 3 at the Highland Park Bridge 2/14 (RB), 5 at Blawnox 2/16, 3 continuing there 2/19-21 (DBe, many observers), and 1 at Lawrenceville 2/17 (LFH) and 2/20 (AB, CB). Two were on the Ohio River at Brunots Island 2/15 (JF and others) and 1 was on the Monongahela River at Duck Hollow 2/24 (RB). Single Long-tailed were around the Acmetonia Dam in Harmar Twp. 3/7 (AH, PM) and 3/20 (JVA, SV), and 1 was at Tarentum 3/16 (DB).

**Common Goldeneyes** were widely reported in February. The high count was 46 at Blawnox 2/22 (MD). Three **Ruddy Ducks** were at Wingfield Pines 2/11 (DBe), 8 were at Brunots Island 2/12 (AP), 1 was there 2/17 (RB), and 6 were at McKees Rocks 2/15 (JF).

Two **Northern Bobwhites** were at a feeder at Chapel Harbor 4/17-21 (eBird). Bobwhites are always released birds in this area so their origin is unknown. The habitat was not appropriate, but the birds found a reliable food source of spilled seed under a feeder.

**Common Loon** reports included 1 at Duck Hollow 3/8 (AP), 2 at Dashields Dam 3/26 (AP), and 1 at North Park 4/21-22 (eBird). A **Red-necked Grebe** was at Verona 2/23 (AH, PM).

An early **Great Egret** was at Dashields Dam 3/30 (AP).

**Black Vulture** sightings continued from January in Franklin Park with 1 remaining 2/3 (DN). Single were found at Beechwood Farms 2/3 (DN) and Mount Lebanon 2/11 (ST). **Turkey Vultures** were reported in small numbers regularly through the winter.

An interesting event at the **Bald Eagle** nest in Hays made the local news. Twice in late February after dark, a Great Horned Owl



*UNUSUAL SCREECH-OWL – We are accustomed to seeing both gray and rufous colored Eastern Screech-Owls. These are called “morphs” – distinct color types. But there is a less common type not often seen in western Pennsylvania. It is brown, such as this one discovered and photographed by Oscar Nigam in Pittsburgh’s Frick Park in March 2021. An article about this interesting owl will come in a future issue of The Peregrine.*

knocked one of the eagles off its roost. A few minutes later the eagle returned to its roost. Two attempted raccoon raids were also captured on camera, both thwarted by the eagles. There are now four or five nests in the county.

A **Wilson’s Snipe** spent nearly the entire period at Imperial (MV and others).

A **Bonaparte’s Gull** was at The Point 2/5 (BC), a rare sight here in winter. One was photographed at the Sharpsburg Marina 3/12 (MH) and 3 were at Lawrenceville 3/30 (LFH). A first winter **Iceland Gull** was at The Point 2/5 (BC). A **Lesser Black-backed Gull** continued there from January to 2/21, and a first winter **Glaucous Gull** was there 2/11-21 (BC and many observers). The Glaucous was also seen at the Highland Park Dam 2/20 (OL).

A **Caspian Tern** was at Dashields Dam 3/30 (RB), which was a bit early.

The **Barred Owl** reported in Frick Park last fall was seen again in February and continued through March.

**Merlins** were reported from Homewood Cemetery, Schenley Park, and Allegheny Cemetery during the period.

The **Marsh Wren** present at Wingfield Pines last season was reported 2/25 (RT).

A **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** continued at Duck Hollow from December until 2/14 (LK, TRh, DBe, AP). Ruby-crowned Kinglets typically do not winter in the area and are notable for the season.

An out-of-season **Gray Catbird** visited a feeder in Squirrel Hill 2/1-24 (ON). A leucistic **American Robin** was photographed in Monroeville 3/27 (eBird).

## Bluebirds and Martins Can Survive with Help

Eastern Bluebirds sometimes need help to make it through the winter in our area. In a different way Purple Martins need help to form and survive new colonies in our area.

Ken Kostka in Natrona Heights, Allegheny County, helps both species.

At right is a row of bluebirds Ken photographed in his yard during a snow squall on February 16, 2021.

Of the bluebirds he says, "I think I cheated after attracting that first pair a couple years ago (to admittedly marginal habitat). I started feeding mealworms year-round, which kept them around in the winter." It worked – they have stayed!

Meanwhile, after years of difficult effort, Ken established Purple Martin colonies along the Allegheny River in Natrona, at Harrison Hills Park in Natrona Heights, and even at his own Natrona Heights property.

The park colony has become a "tourist attraction" even for non-birders. If you haven't seen and heard a colony of martins feed on flying insects in chattering aerial flight, go to the park to look and listen.

But go before mid-July when they begin to depart toward their distant winter range far away in South America.

(At right is Dave Brooke's photo at Harrison Hills Park on May 30, 2021.)



## Birds in the Three Rivers

continued from page 7

A flock of 13 **Common Redpolls** were in Wexford 3/6 (TW) and 2 were in Pine Twp. 3/7 (KC). **Pine Siskins** were reported in small numbers from various locations; there were too many to report here. The **Evening Grosbeaks** found at North Park in December continued through March (various observers).

A flock of **Lapland Longspurs** were found in Findlay Twp. at a fairly regular location for them in winter. From 2/5-8 several observers searched the site, and their counts ranged from 10-40 birds, all high counts for the county. This species was unusually numerous in surrounding counties this winter as well.

A **Fox Sparrow** was in Upper St. Clair 2/9 and 2/16 and was probably an early migrant (JM). **White-crowned Sparrows** are rare in winter, but there were a few reports. Eight were at Imperial 2/6 (MKu) and 1 was at Duck Hollow 2/27 (JC). The **Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco** subspecies continued to visit a feeder in Indiana Twp. intermittently through February (DYe).

The **Baltimore Oriole** continued to visit a feeder in Oakland from December remaining through February (FI, AI).

There were two **Rusty Blackbird** reports, a species rare here in winter. One was in a backyard in Upper St. Clair 12/1 (JM) and another was in Pine Twp. 12/16 (PL, SL). March brought more including 1 in Findlay Twp. 3/4 (MV), one in Pine Twp. 3/11 (PL, SL), 9 at Wingfield Pines 3/15 (RT) and one in Schenley Park 3/30 (AH). **Common Grackle** reports included one in Harmar Twp.

12/11 (JV), several at Chatham College in Squirrel Hill 12/18 - 2/26 with a high count of 5 on 1/6 (MKu), and 10 in Natrona Heights 12/31 (PH).

A **Tennessee Warbler** visited a feeder in Morningside 2/4-26 (SV, JVA) surprising the homeowners. It was carefully photographed, eliminating the more expected **Orange-crowned Warbler**. (Editor's note: This extreme winter rarity was featured in an article and photo in the previous issue of *The Peregrine*.)

Observers: Al Borek (AB), Carole Borek, (CB), Dave Brooke, David Bennett (DBe), Ron Burkert, Jack Chaillet, Kraig Cawley, Linda Croskey, Ben Coulter, Michael David, John Flannigan, Louis Freeland-Hayes (LFH), Margaret Haas, Amy Henrici, Paul Hess, Adrienne Izaguirre, Frank Izaguirre, Lisa Kaufman, Michelle Kienholz, Malcolm Kurtz (MKu), Judy Lesso, Oliver Lindhiem, Pat Lynch, Sherron Lynch, Jeff McDonald, Pat McShea, Oscar Nigam, Dick Nugent, Brad Peroney, Aidan Place, Tessa Rhinehart (TRh), Mike Smith, Shannon Thompson, Ryan Tomazin, Jim Valimont, Mark Vass, John Vassallo (JVA), Samuel Vassallo, Ted Weller, David Yeany II (DYe).

