



# The Peregrine

## Three Rivers Birding Club Newsletter

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

Vol. 20, No.5 September/October 2021



FAR NORTH – Jean Iron will take us where few of us have been, and where she photographed this gorgeous Ivory Gull.

### Visit the Arctic? Our October 6 Speaker May Entice You

Arctic birds have a special attraction for birders and are among our most sought-after species.

In our online meeting on Wednesday, October 6, Jean Iron, a well-known Ontario birder, will take us far north to look at birds very few of us have seen on their breeding grounds. In fact, most of us have not seen some of them anywhere, such as the gorgeous Ivory Gull pictured above.

In her program titled “The Nature of Arctic Birds,” Jean will teach us how these species’ exceptional endurance and lifestyle are determined by the relentless forces of nature. Physical adaptations of Arctic birds, their color schemes, short breeding season, populations, and impressive migrations are characteristics that she will highlight in photos.

Jean has a special interest in the qualities and adaptations of Arctic birds. As a leader for Quest Nature Tours to Canada’s High Arctic, Greenland, Iceland, and Svalbard in the Norwegian Arctic, she experienced Arctic birds in their natural habitats.

From 2002 to 2018, Jean went north to Hudson Bay and James Bay to survey shorebirds and geese for the Canadian Wildlife Service and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

She was president of the Ontario Field Ornithologists (OFO) for nine years and editor of its newsletter for 14. In 2016, she received the OFO Distinguished Ornithologist Award.

Jean entranced 3RBC members previously when she presented a program on shorebird identification and ecology in April 2012. We expect a similarly entrancing program this time.

\*\*\*

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 Jean’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.

### Yes! Our Outings Resume, But with Some Restrictions

After many disappointing seasons, our President Sheree Daugherty and Outings Director Steve Thomas announce that fall outings will come back again.

See Steve’s schedule on page 3 and note that some special requirements are required for participants in most outings.

All of the leaders emphasize that a Covid-19 threat remains across the nation, and that 3RBC’s goal is to avoid infection by limiting the outings to small numbers of well-spaced participants in outdoor settings.

Our fall outings have always produced uncommon migrants that are often hard to find – such as the subtly colored Lincoln’s Sparrow photographed by Dave Brooke at Harrison Hills Park on October 21, 2020.



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

# The Peregrine



GOLDEN EAGLE -- Acrylic painting by Sheree Daugherty.

## President's Message

### If You Haven't Watched Migrating Hawks, Try It!

#### By Sheree Daugherty

Fall is the best season for hawk watching. It is a different kind of birding. Perch yourself on a rocky outcropping along one of Pennsylvania's mountain ridge tops and wait for the raptors to come to you.

Weather is important. Sunny days with wind from the east tend to be best at our nearest hawk watching site on the Allegheny Front because easterly winds tend to push migrants closer to us on the ridge. Think of dozens of Broad-winged Hawks in early fall and at least a few Golden Eagles in late fall flying low almost over your head.

But if you happen to plan a trip on days with less than perfectly clear weather, anticipate seeing fewer birds soaring farther away. Rainy and foggy days are rarely productive. Watch the weather forecasts in advance.

Best wind conditions in eastern Pennsylvania may differ from those at the Allegheny Front. For example, Laurie Goodrich, Hawk Mountain's expert, tells 3RBC members that winds from the northwest are best after a cold front passes the famous Hawk Mountain site and other sites along the Kittatinny Ridge.

Since most hawk watching sites are located at higher elevations, expect the temperatures to be lower and the winds stronger. Hawk watching is a stationary activity, and you won't be generating heat from strenuous hiking, so remember to dress appropriately. Take more than you think you will need. Hats,

# The Peregrine

Three Rivers Birding Club Newsletter

Published bimonthly:

January, March, May, July, September, November

**Send articles and/or illustrations to:**

Paul Hess, Editor

[phess@salsgiver.com](mailto:phess@salsgiver.com)

1412 Hawthorne St., Natrona Heights, PA 15065

**Send ideas or items for the website to:**

Tom Moeller, Webmaster

[thosjmoel@gmail.com](mailto:thosjmoel@gmail.com)

**Send questions and suggestions to:**

Sheree Daugherty, President

[shereedaugherty@gmail.com](mailto:shereedaugherty@gmail.com)

522 Avery St., Pittsburgh, PA 15212

**Suggest or volunteer to lead outings to:**

Steve Thomas, Outings Director

[thomassj22@verizon.net](mailto:thomassj22@verizon.net)

309 Center Ave., Aspinwall, PA 15215

**Report bird sightings to:**

Mike Fialkovich, Bird Reports Editor

[mpfial@verizon.net](mailto:mpfial@verizon.net)

805 Beulah Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15235

**Membership: FREE Student-Youth, \$15 Individual,**

**\$20 Family, \$50 Contributing, \$100 Sustaining**

Send check to Three Rivers Birding Club

c/o Thomas J. Moeller, Treasurer

6357 Ebdy St., Pittsburgh, PA 15217-3035

[thosjmoel@gmail.com](mailto:thosjmoel@gmail.com)

Copyright © Three Rivers Birding Club. All rights reserved.  
(Photographers and illustrators retain their copyrights.)

gloves, and a windproof outer layer may be the difference between having an enjoyable hawk-filled day and a miserable teeth-chattering experience.

Many sites have official counters. Counters spot, identify, and gather data for various studies on raptor population and movement trends. Hawk counters are experts at identifying raptors. I've been amazed to hear a counter call out "Bird!" and identify a distant bird that looks like a speck in the sky to me.

\*\*\*

The closest site to the Pittsburgh area is the Allegheny Front Hawk Watch near Central City, Pennsylvania. Last year it was closed to the public due to the COVID- 19 pandemic. This year, plans were to open again on August 15. November is the prime time for Golden Eagle migration at the Allegheny Front. In past years there have been days when more than 50 Golden Eagles were counted. Before making the approximately two-hour drive from Pittsburgh, check the Allegheny Plateau Audubon website for up-to-date information: [www.allegenyplateauaudubon.org](http://www.allegenyplateauaudubon.org).

Brian Wargo, president of the Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society, and a past speaker for 3RBC, is the Saturday counter at the Allegheny Front. Brian reminds us, "We go about our daily lives forgetting that high up in the sky large birds of prey are watching from above. If you stare at the sky long enough, you realize how much activity is occurring. Everyone marvels at a chance to see an apex land predator such as a bear, a large cat, or a

# The Peregrine

## Outings to Come

### Finally, We Have a New Chance for Fall Migrants!

#### By Steve Thomas, Outings Director

We are pleased to announce that our fall outings are restarting. Below is a general statement of rules that will be followed for all our outings. Also, the leader may have specific requirements that are stated in the outing description.

*It is our intention to follow the CDC and local county guidelines that are in place during the fall. We request that social distancing still be observed and encourage people not to share equipment. The leader may have other restrictions in place and can end a walk if an uncomfortable situation arises.*

**Friday, August 27 – Sewickley Heights Park:** In collaboration with the Fern Hollow Nature Center, Sheree Daugherty will lead this bird walk, which will begin at 8:00 AM at the upper parking lot. Directions to the park are on the 3RBC website (<http://www.3rbc.org>). Be prepared for muddy trails. It is also advisable to bring water and a lunch.

*This outing will have a 15-person limit. Please contact Sheree at ([shereedaugherty@gmail.com](mailto:shereedaugherty@gmail.com)) to reserve a spot.*

**Saturday, September 4 – Harrison Hills Park:** Meet leader Jim Valimont (412-828-5338) at 8:00 AM at this county park off Freeport Road between Natrona Heights and Freeport. We will meet and begin our walk at the Rachel Carson parking lot near the pond. As you enter the park, take the right fork and proceed to the parking lot at the end of the road. Dress for wet grass and mud.

*Starting August 30, you will need to contact Jim by phone (412-828-5338) or by e-mail ([valimont49@comcast.net](mailto:valimont49@comcast.net)) to reserve a spot. The number of attendees will be limited to 15.*

**Friday, September 10 – Sewickley Heights Park:** See the August 27 listing for details.

*This outing will again have a 15-person limit. Please contact Sheree at ([shereedaugherty@gmail.com](mailto:shereedaugherty@gmail.com)) to reserve a spot.*

**Sunday, September 12 – Frick Park Environmental Center:** Susie Solomon (412-521-3365) will lead this outing starting at 8:00 AM. We will meet at the Frick Environmental Center located at 2005 Beechwood Blvd. in Squirrel Hill. The park can be an excellent migrant trap where we hope to find lots of fall warblers.

**Sunday, September 12 – Deer Lakes Park:** Meet Dave Brooke (724-487-3586) at 8:30 AM in the parking lot at these GPS coordinates: 40.618722, -79.815371. From Creighton-Russellton Road, enter the park (at Kurn Road), drive past two ponds on the right, then make a right turn and proceed to the last parking lot. Although the trails are fairly well maintained, please dress for possible wet grass, mud, and rainfall.

*Please e-mail Dave ([davbrooke@gmail.com](mailto:davbrooke@gmail.com)) to let him know that you are coming.*

**Sunday, October 10 – Pymatuning Area:** Meet leader Bob VanNewkirk at 8:30 AM in the parking lot of the former Pymatuning Wildlife Learning Center (Waterfowl Museum), 12590 Hartstown Road, Linesville, PA (41.635779, -80.436634) for

this all-day outing. Plenty of waterfowl, lots of Bald Eagles, and migrant songbirds should be around. Arrangements will be made to have lunch at a local restaurant for those interested in attending.

*Bob will limit the number of birders to 15. All birders must be fully vaccinated. Participation is on a first-come basis by phone: 412-366-1694 or by email: [van126@comcast.net](mailto:van126@comcast.net). The cut-off day to sign up for this outing is September 30.*

**Saturday, October 30 – Moraine State Park:** Meet Michael David at 8:30 AM at the South Shore Pleasant Valley parking area for this mid-fall outing, which includes possibilities of many waterfowl at Lake Arthur as well as late-fall songbird migrants.

*Please e-mail Michael ([michaeldavid@gmail.com](mailto:michaeldavid@gmail.com)) to let him know you will be attending.*

**Saturday, November 6 – Yellow Creek State Park:** This will be a joint outing of the 3RBC and the Todd Bird Club. Meet Margaret Higbee (724-354-3493) at the park office at 8:00 AM. The office is on Route 259 just off Route 422 east of Indiana. Allow an hour and a half to drive from Pittsburgh. The park has a wide variety of habitats and a large lake that attracts a wide variety of water birds and sometimes exciting rarities.

*Please e-mail Margaret ([bcoriole@windstream.net](mailto:bcoriole@windstream.net)) to let her know you will be attending.*



**VISITOR FROM THE MIDWEST – Dickcissels, common breeders on the Midwestern plains, sometimes spread eastward to nest in Pennsylvania. It happened in 2021, where Steve Gossler found this one of several singing males on July 11 at the “Volant Strips” in northern Lawrence County.**

# The Peregrine

## President's Message

continued from page 2

wolf. Hawk watchers know how to see aerial apex predators...that is by looking straight up!"

\*\*\*

One of the best known and oldest hawk-watching locations is Hawk Mountain, located farther east in Pennsylvania, on the Kittatinny Ridge of the Appalachian Mountains.

Hawk Mountain has a fascinating history. In the early 1900's it was a popular place for shooting hawks. Families gathered to have picnics while the menfolk shot hundreds of raptors a day. Many of the sharpshooters felt that they were providing a service by eliminating birds they considered a threat to livestock and small game animals. The Pennsylvania Game Commission even offered a \$5.00 bounty for each Northern Goshawk shot.

Since most of the shooters were not very good at identifying birds, they shot everything. The carnage seems barbaric to us now, but it was common then to view raptors as an enemy. In a hundred years, who knows which of our current practices will be considered just as distasteful?

Rosalie Edge, a wealthy socialite, conservationist, and bird enthusiast, was appalled by the slaughter. In 1934 she leased 1,400 acres on Hawk Mountain and hired Maurice Broun as a warden to prevent hunters from shooting hawks. Broun along with his wife Irma lived there and protected the birds.

There was much opposition from the local population and at times hostility toward the Brouns. Thankfully, they persevered, and in 1938 The Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association was formed as a non-profit organization, and the site became the world's first refuge for raptors.

Hawk Mountain has expanded by adding adjoining acreage, a visitor center and trails. For up-to-date visitor information and a chart of the peak months for seeing each raptor species, check [hawkmountain.org](http://hawkmountain.org). Today, for a fee, hawk enthusiasts can walk trails and view these majestic raptors from the same spots where hunters once gathered to shoot them. Sometimes things do change for the better!

\*\*\*

To learn more about hawk migration in general, you'll find interesting information on the Hawk Migration Association of North America website, [hawkcount.org](http://hawkcount.org). There you can see count data, site profiles, and maps of more than 300 North American hawk-watch sites.

(Editor's note: (After Sheree's column was written, Sean Grace, President of Hawk Mountain Association, sent birders an enthusiastic message of his own:

"One of the coolest things you can do from August 15 through December 15 is to visit Hawk Mountain Sanctuary and see the natural history phenomenon of migrating raptors. And you will be smarter and healthier for doing so. I guarantee it."

The Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society adds a special message to novice hawk watchers in a welcome to its re-opened Allegheny Front:

"If you are a beginner, don't become frustrated if someone calls out a bird and you have trouble finding it. Allegheny Front has some of the most experienced hawk watchers, so relax, listen to their instructions, and enjoy the experience."



INTERESTING WOODPECKER (photo by Margaret Higbee)

## A Subtly Unusual Variant of Red-bellied Woodpecker

By Paul Hess

Just another ordinary Red-bellied Woodpecker? No, and it took a sharp eye to see why not.

Study this photo closely. Can you see something unusual?

The bird appeared at Roger and Margaret Higbee's feeder near Shelocta in Indiana County in January 2021 and was seen through early March. They noticed something subtle that many birders might not have looked carefully enough to see.

The front of its crown has a blackish and grayish patch. This is an uncommon variation. Usually, the crown's red color extends all the way to the front of the forehead where the feathers reach the base of the bill.

Margaret asked about it, so I sent her photo to woodpecker expert Stephen A. Shunk, author of the *Peterson Reference Guide to Woodpeckers of North America* (Mariner Books, 2016). In the species account about Red-bellied variations, he says, "Female rarely shows small amount of black at forward edge of red nape."

About this particular bird, Steve told Indiana County's Todd Bird Club and our Three Rivers Birding Club members:

"Interesting bird! The only thing I can come up with is a bird showing some partial melanism. Like a leucistic bird shows plumage lacking in melanin, this can occur in reverse. It certainly does in raptors with a broad range between dark-morph and light-morph birds."

"My only other explanation is that the crown may be showing extensive wear and some delayed molt pattern, which is difficult to confirm from this photo. Thanks for sharing!"

Bob Mulvihill, ornithologist at the National Aviary in Pittsburgh, offers this comment: "I feel like I've seen this sort of dark coloring on the crown of Red-Bellied Woodpeckers in the past, but I checked all my archived Powdermill banding station posts and didn't find anything like it. Juveniles certainly can show dark feathering there." Bob has a photo example of a somewhat similar bird at <https://tinyurl.com/ef2eaewx>.

The Indiana County woodpecker suggests something valuable: Look closely at birds of any common species. You might see something even slightly unusual. Photograph it and send to Paul Hess, editor of *The Peregrine* ([phess@salsgiver.com](mailto:phess@salsgiver.com)). I will forward your information to experts for evaluation.

## Notes About Our Birders

From Margie Kern: "I enjoyed Tom Moeller's article about "His Robin" and can certainly relate to it. I myself was once "guilted" by a robin to provide meal worms on demand.

"The first birds that nested on my porch were Tufted Titmice. I wanted to help mama bird so I went to the bait shop in North Park and bought a supply of live 'thingies' for her to feed to her nestlings. I put the critters in a saucer on my porch.

"Five titmice fledged from that nest and I was on the porch when every one of them left the rusty bucket that they nested in."

"Sure enough, the saucer was very soon discovered by the backyard robin. If there weren't any meal worms or maggots in the

saucer, the robin would perch on the back of my porch chair and look into the patio door directly into my living room and he would perch there for a long time.

"Of course I had to respond and refill the saucer because he was demanding it! I mean, I felt guilty for letting it get empty. He was one smart robin!"

\*\*\*

It's a banner year for new birds on the Butler County list. Oscar Miller, the county's official compiler for *Pennsylvania Birds* magazine, reports that the first half of 2021 brought the first county records of three species: White Ibis, Black-necked Stilt, and Wilson's Phalarope.

\*\*\*

A look far ahead to one of our 3RBC meetings planned for 2022: President Sheree Daugherty has arranged a second appearance by Katie Fallon, who gave us a fascinating program about vultures at our meeting on June 1, 2016. Katie's new program will be titled "Cerulean Blues," and the "blues" not only refer to this species' adorable color but also to the sadness about its tragic decline in numbers everywhere in its breeding and winter range.

The "blues" reflect a special sadness for long-time birders who once found the species common at many breeding locations in southwestern Pennsylvania, but it has disappeared. One example is Harrison Hills Park, where Paul Hess regularly found 8 to 10 singing males in the 1970s. In recent years, birders have rarely heard even one.

\*\*\*

Another bird disappearing from our state is the Northern Goshawk, which is closely related to our smaller and common Cooper's Hawk and Sharp-shinned Hawk. Most 3RBC members have never seen this larger and more spectacular raptor.

It was never really common, but a severe recent decline was especially evident between the first Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas period in 1983-1989 and the second period in 2004-2009. The Pennsylvania Game Commission Bureau of Wildlife Management recently asked for comments on a proposal to declare the goshawk as a state-endangered species.

3RBC President Sheree Daugherty sent a comment on behalf of our club urging the Bureau to list it as such, which will add increased protections for its population. If so, perhaps it will become easier for our members to find.

Incidentally, the following species that extremely rarely breed in Pennsylvania are already on the state-endangered list: American Bittern, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Black Tern, Blackpoll Warbler, Common Tern, Dickcissel, Great Egret, King Rail, Least Bittern, Loggerhead Shrike, Piping Plover, Sedge Wren, Short-eared Owl, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, and Yellow-crowned Night Heron.

\*\*\*

A scientific paper coauthored by Bob Mulvihill is cited in Scott Weidensaul's new book *A World on the Wing*, which investigates worldwide migrations of birds and their environmental hazards. The paper in the scientific journal *Oecologia* is titled "The Influence of Climate on the Timing and Rate of Spring Bird Migration" (2005), pp.307-315. The research notably used on long-term data accumulated at the Powdermill Nature Reserve banding station in Westmoreland County.

Scott, a Pennsylvania native now living in New Hampshire, is internationally recognized for his extensive research on hawks, owls, hummingbirds, and migrations.

A chapter of his book describes pelagic birding trips conducted by Captain Brian Patteson assisted by seabird expert Kate Sutherland aboard his *Stormy Petrel II*. A number of 3RBC



## A Surprising Mirror Image

(Editor's note: We sometimes see a cardinal or a mockingbird pecking in agitation on a window or car mirror, believing that its own reflection is an intruder on its territory. Here is a more unexpected agitator photographed by the author.)

### By Jeffrey Cohen

I found this Yellow-throated Warbler on April 22, 2021, at the Deer Creek boat ramp in Harmar Township. I posted it on eBird, and I noticed that a couple of people went back the next day to get the same photos!

The big trees along the river between the boat ramp and the Deer Creek inlet have been pretty consistent for me to find Yellow-throated Warblers over the years. I tried a bunch of places this spring, but it wasn't until a second visit here that I found one singing at the far end of the parking lot.

When I slowly cruised back about 15 minutes later, it almost flew in the car window trying to get at the mirror. After a few minutes of sitting there getting these pictures, almost able to reach out and grab it, I left before it got too agitated or hurt itself.

# The Peregrine

## Notes About Our Birders

continued from page 5

members have seen many exciting life birds on Brian's trips far out into the Gulf Stream from Hatteras, North Carolina.

\*\*\*

Our member Frank Izaguirre is increasingly active in American Birding Association editing and writing. His newest venture is an online column on the ABA website titled "Birds and..." Announcing it, Frank said:

"Birds occupy a central part of our lives, but it's never really just about birds, is it? There is always an "and" when it comes to birds, whether they're introducing us to other fields of natural history, facilitating friendships, helping us learn geography—the list is endless."

"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."

Read the columns at [aba.org/birds-and](http://aba.org/birds-and). His second installment calls attention to a hot spot for seeing Golden-winged Warblers in Pennsylvania, and a set of his extraordinary photos accompanies it.

\*\*\*

From Paul Hess: When I learned the middle name that Frank

and Adrienne Izaguirre gave to their newborn daughter Maya Zenaida Izaguirre on April 1, 2021, I was curious: Why Zenaida? It's the scientific name of a genus of doves. Frank explained:

"When Adrienne and I got married on February 21, 2015, in her parents' house, it was cold and snowy. Against that cold and snowy backdrop, the first birds we saw after saying our vows were a pair of Mourning Doves, *Zenaida macroura*."

"About five and a half years later, during a fall bird walk in Schenley Park, sometime near the beginning of Adrienne's second trimester, we were thinking about names. Adrienne said, 'What do you think about Zenaida for a middle name?' I almost felt the question more than heard it, the way you feel a great bird sighting more than you see or hear it."

"On April 21, 2021, Adrienne and I spent the day in Magee-Womens Hospital, perhaps less than a mile from the spot we got married, where Adrienne had begun to go through labor. Toward the end of the day, during a relative lull, I realized I had not seen a bird all day, so I opened the blinds for a moment to see if anything was around, and I saw a single Mourning Dove. I knew then that our daughter Maya Zenaida Izaguirre would be born that day, and she came into this world just a few hours later."

An addendum by Paul: Zenaida refers to Princess Zenaide Laetitia Julie Princesse Bonaparte (1804-1854), the wife of French ornithologist Prince Charles Bonaparte. Princess Maya, indeed.

*continued on page 7*

## 3RBC Members Saw Historic PA Plovers in Ohio: a Nesting Success

### By Susie Solomon

During the last week of May, 2021, 3RBC members Claire Staples and Deborah Kibbel observed three Piping Plovers that had been reported on Maumee Bay Beach along Lake Erie in Ohio. Leg bands had confirmed that the two females were originally from Presque Isle State Park in Pennsylvania and the male was from Chicago.

A pair mated and set up a nest, requiring officials to quickly block off a large area of the Ohio beach. Black Swamp Bird Observatory (BSBO) recruited volunteers to monitor the site and help visitors observe the activity through spotting scopes.

The male's name is Nish, in honor of Native American tribes near Chicago. The female is Nellie, suggested by Mary Birdsong of Presque Isle Audubon Society after the first human baby born and living in the Presque Isle lighthouse.

Both parents incubated their four eggs, and Ohio is celebrating the state's first Piping Plover nest in over 80 years. On July 1, BSBO Executive Director Kim Kaufman announced the hatching of the first chick, and three other eggs hatched soon after.



Mandy Roberts

As of July 24, the four chicks have been named: Erie, Maumee, Ottawa, and Kickapoo, after local tribes. They were banded and flying short distances, under the Nish male's watch. Mother Nellie left because females need time to replenish their fat reserves for migration, and the male stays behind. Soon the chicks would fly south, perhaps to Florida, where Nellie and Nish wintered last year, five miles apart.

You can find out more about Nellie and Nish at [maumeebaypipingplovers.org](http://maumeebaypipingplovers.org) and on Facebook at [facebook.com/NellieandNish](https://www.facebook.com/NellieandNish). Their fame has aided Plover conservation efforts, and we can support Black Swamp with purchases of T-shirts and Plover cookies.

\*\*\*

(Editor's note: The photos below are by Mandy Roberts, one of the volunteer plover-watchers at Maumee Bay Beach in Ohio. At left is Nellie, the historic female born at Presque Isle. At right is one of Nellie's four equally historic chicks hatched in Ohio.)



Mandy Roberts

# The Peregrine

## Notes About Our Birders

continued from page 6

\*\*\*

From Linda Sporrer, an original 3RBC member from Pittsburgh who now lives in Arizona:

"I saw an eBird posting (a rare bird alert actually) by a birder named Paul Hess today in Black Canyon City, AZ and immediately wondered if it was the same Paul Hess that I had the pleasure of meeting many years ago when we were first forming the Three Rivers Birding Club about 20 years ago." [No, he was not 3RBC's Paul Hess.]

"I was a founding and active member for a number of years and had the pleasure of birding with you in and around Western Pennsylvania on several occasions, and of course reading your wonderful articles in *The Peregrine*."

"My husband and I have since retired and moved permanently to near Cottonwood, Arizona, where I'm having a blast learning to recognize exciting western bird species in the Verde Valley! My latest lifer was a Rivoli's Hummingbird, which literally gave me goose bumps and gasping at its sheer beauty. Birding never fails to bring delight in unexpected ways."

"We are permanently in northern AZ now, so am becoming active with Northern Arizona Audubon. Now that restrictions are lifting, I was able to participate in a nightjar survey – lots of fun and thrilled to hear Common Poor-Will as well as Lesser Nighthawk. I even nabbed a Mexican Whip-poor-will up on Mingus Mountain about five weeks ago. It made me think about the Woodcock walks that Chuck Tague led, where we would also get to hear Eastern Whip-poor-will! Great memories.

"Stay well, and say hello to the old gang for me. Happy birding, and kind regards."

\*\*\*

From Mark Vass: "I unfortunately found a dead immature Bald Eagle on June 25, laying on railroad tracks along the access road to Dashields Dam. The body was intact with no apparent injury visible."

"I contacted the local police department, who contacted the Pennsylvania Game Commission. With the police officer's permission I retrieved the body from the tracks and brought it to the side of the road. I waited for the PGC officer to arrive. After arriving, he said he would need to bag it and put it in a freezer and then it would be sent to a lab for examination and cause of death."

"It will then be sent to Colorado to the eagle lab, where feathers and body parts are distributed to Native American tribes."

\*\*\*

Our long-time southwestern Pennsylvania birders Larry Helgerman and Mary Gray from Elm Grove, West Virginia, made an extraordinary discovery on May 31, 2021, in nearby Ohio: a White-tailed Kite. It hung around long enough for other birders to add it to their life list.

P.S. from Paul Hess: By an extraordinary coincidence, Larry and Mary live in Elm Grove, West Virginia, where my late mother and aunt were children a century ago.

\*\*\*

From Tom Moeller: "I know from observations that Song Sparrows are feisty, bold birds. They often take on larger birds at feeders, and they are usually the first to arrive when I spread seeds on the ground, even close to me."

"Yesterday I was mowing the lawn, and on the other side of the lawn, where I had just mowed, a female Song Sparrow was gathering blades of grass I just cut! Obviously for a nest. She even came back after I was done for more grass."

"The birds watch us as much as we watch them."



*ACROBAT* – Cris Hamilton discovered this Northern Parula that had no trouble reaching down for a snack. She photographed it during Ohio's migration hot spot at Magee Marsh in May 2021

## Piping Plovers Are Nesting Along Ontario's Shore, Too

On page 6, Susie Solomon reports the return of Piping Plovers nesting on Lake Erie's southern shore in Ohio, enabled by birds from Presque Isle in Pennsylvania.

Canada has announced similar excitement on Lake Erie's northern shore in Ontario. Lindsey Greidanus, a Piping Plover technician for Birds Canada, tells us what's happening:

"2021 marks the 15th consecutive season that Piping Plovers have graced Ontario Great Lakes shorelines following a 30-year absence. This year we have had seven breeding pairs in Ontario, some more successful than others."

Lindsey reports that one of this year's top stories in Ontario is the nesting by a pair at Darlington Provincial Park: "They successfully fledged all of their chicks last year, and have just fledged four more. This kind of back-to-back success is almost unheard of. The Great Lakes Piping Plover continues to recover!"

## In Memoriam: Robert Protz and Richard Byers

*Editor's note: Many 3RBC members didn't know two notable figures in Pennsylvania ornithology and ecology: Robert "Rob" Protz in Allegheny County and Richard "Dick" Byers in Westmoreland County.*

*Both of them deserve memorials, and on page 9 are the remembrances I received.*

*Rob was known nationally for his comprehensive records of migrating hummingbirds from the West, which passed through Pennsylvania. Dick was an educator, author, and a mentor to many young birders in southwestern PA, some who went on to become experts themselves.*

*Learning of their deaths, Kate St. John, author of "Birds Outside My Window" in Pittsburgh ([birdsoutsidemywindow.org](http://birdsoutsidemywindow.org)), knew Rob well from his frequent reports about the Peregrine Falcons nesting on the Tarentum bridge over the Allegheny River. Marge Van Tassel's photo on this page shows them together.*

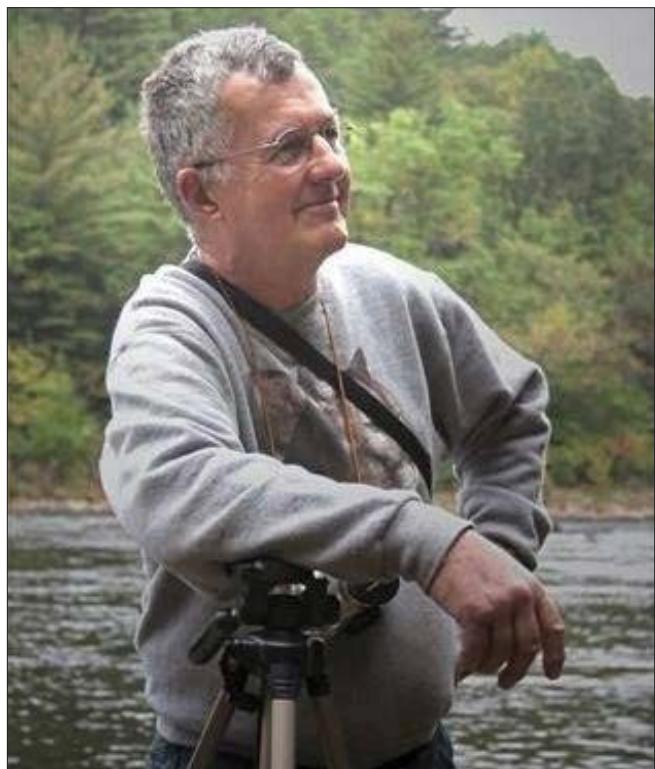
*Kate described Rob's and Dick's passing in a few words of wonderful imagery: "There are holes in the fabric of our birding community."*



**PEREGRINES AND HUMMERS** – Among Rob Protz's many interests were the Peregrine Falcons on the Tarentum Bridge, which crosses the Allegheny River from Tarentum in Allegheny County to New Kensington in Westmoreland County.

Above is Marjorie Van Tassel's photo of Rob and Pittsburgh's Peregrine expert Kate St. John atop the bridge in February 2015 while a nest box for the falcons was being installed on the bridge structure by PennDOT workers. Hummingbirds were an even more important interest to Rob, who was known nationally for compiling records of hummingbirds that began to migrate east to Pennsylvania before turning south to their winter range.

His website at [pahummers.tripod.com](http://pahummers.tripod.com) opens with the report of a female Rufous Hummingbird banded in Delmont, Westmoreland County, in December 1998, which he said "started the big craze."



**ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATOR** – Dick Byers was an enthusiastic teacher of biology and environmental science for decades, and his emphasis on education persisted long after he retired.

Among his many contributions to knowledge of birds and overall natural history in southwestern Pennsylvania is his book titled Natural Areas in and Around Westmoreland County published in April 2019. Compiled and interpreted from information documented by a team of volunteers, Dick described the natural history of 98 locations within a 35-mile radius of Greensburg.

In an interview published in the Greensburg Tribune-Review in 2019, Dick explained that he wanted to ensure that people reading about this area now can compare our present environment with what it might be in the future. Humans, he predicted, will continue to change earth's habitats in many harmful ways.

# The Peregrine

Robert M. ("Rob") Protz

December 18, 1951 – June 7, 2021

**Bob Mulvihill, Ornithologist at the National Aviary and an expert on winter hummingbirds in the eastern U.S.:** Rob was an avid student of hummingbirds and also of Pittsburgh's nesting Peregrine Falcons. He was an amateur ornithologist, but he pursued his interest in birds with every bit the zeal and attention to detail of a professional.

He created and dutifully maintained a website (<https://pahummers.tripod.com>) that provided full documentation for all the wintering non-Ruby-throated hummingbirds in Pennsylvania. Rob unfailingly tracked down first seen and last seen dates, and he connected hummingbird observers with hummingbird banders time and time again. Truly, he advanced the scientific study of hummingbirds by helping to make connections and fill in details.

**Sherri L. Williamson, author of *A Field Guide to Hummingbirds of North America*:** Devastating news. Rob has been an online friend since I was active on HUMNET over 20 years ago. He was not only very knowledgeable and passionate about hummingbirds but just a good human being. The hummingbird community is richer for his contributions and poorer for his passing.

**Marjorie (Marge) Van Tassel, Armstrong County compiler for *Pennsylvania Birds* magazine:** I first met Rob one day at the Tarentum bridge parking lot about seven years ago, when I had heard about the Peregrine Falcons who nested in the structure.

My most memorable memory of Rob is a cold day in February 2015 when he, Kate St. John, and I watched the installation of the first nest box on the middle pier of the Tarentum Bridge. We had walked at one point down the road to check one of the trees by the river that you could see from the street, which was one of the Peregrines' favorite perches. Rob had seen them there often, and we watched and I photographed the female "Hope," as Kate ID'd her for us. It was a fascinating day.

Rob was a kind and interesting man who was a wealth of information about the Peregrines on the bridge – as well as hummingbirds, which he taught me a lot through emails, phone calls, and chats at the bridge. Many of us have fond memories of him for many reasons. We often talked of other things as well (such as music, where he grew up, or someone he helped or took care of in the high-rise in Tarentum where he lived). Rob will be missed, and perhaps even by the falcons and hummingbirds he loved so dearly.

**Paul Hess, editor of *The Peregrine*:** My first encounter with Rob came by chance along the ridge trail at Harrison Hills Park. His enthusiasm about the birds he saw is unforgettable. Decades passed until I last saw Rob when he showed up unexpectedly for a bird program I gave at the Tarentum library. Clearly his health was failing, but it was wonderful to hear his endless enthusiasm about the local Peregrines and the rare hummingbird visitors to PA.

His website linked in Bob Mulvihill's comment is an extraordinary combination of eye-catching expressionism and commitment to ornithology. Incidentally, Rob showed 3RBC members a hummingbird slide show at our February 3, 2010, meeting. The meeting minutes call the photos "amazing."

Charles Richard ("Dick") Byers

December 21, 1937 – June 16, 2021

Dick graduated from Latrobe High School in 1955, and then served four years in the Air Force as an air traffic controller. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree and his Master's in Education from Penn State University, and went on to teach high school biology at Penn Hills High School for 30 years.

Among his most notable achievements is a book titled *Natural Areas in and Around Westmoreland County* published in 2019, which documents 98 locations within a 35-mile radius of Greensburg. It's available online at <https://tinyurl.com/yfv8w4ur>.

Here are some fond remembrances:

**Jack Solomon, former Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania president and founding 3RBC president:** Dick was a stalwart of conservation, birding, and nature, and a widely respected high school biology teacher. He chaired ASWP's Junior Audubon program in the 1970s, led popular bird and nature outings for several groups from then until this year. He was one of the founders of the Westmoreland Bird and Nature Club, with which 3RBC had several joint outings. Dick was the Westmoreland club's first president, and its first newsletter editor, a position he capably held until his death. His passing leaves a big void in our hearts and in our community.

**Bob Mulvihill, ornithologist at the National Aviary in Pittsburgh:** I probably have known Dick for more than 40 years, ever since I was a teen-age volunteer at Powdermill Nature Reserve. Because of Dick, I had one of my first and best professional experiences as a nature educator at the National Audubon Ecology Workshop in Greenwich, Connecticut, where Dick had been an Animal Life Instructor for many years. It was a joy to learn from him, especially about insects, which was one of his many specialties. Another was animal droppings. Believe it or not, Dick had his very own collection of droppings! He was an excellent all-around naturalist of the kind that you don't find much anymore. Plants, dragonflies, moths, butterflies, fish, mice, shrews, snakes, and salamanders – Dick knew and loved them all. I was one among a great many who benefited from his endless curiosity about and love for nature.

**Dale Matuza, Executive Committee member of the Westmoreland Bird and Nature Club:** Dick was the foundation upon which the Westmoreland Bird and Nature Club was built. Dick's contributions to nature and the environment will be felt by all those he touched throughout his many years of volunteer and professional service. His guidance in all things nature will be missed by expert and novice alike. But, most of all, he will be missed as a friend.

**Paul Hess, editor of *The Peregrine*:** I can't add much to those comments, except to say personally how much Dick taught me about southwestern Pennsylvania's ecology. In the early 1970s, experts weren't easily available around here. For me, he was the best. His knowledge of the environmental context of birds, mammals, plants, and virtually all other biological aspects of my local world was unmatched. Incidentally, Dick's monthly columns in the *Pennsylvania Game News* would be worthwhile compiling for a book – alas, an effort unlikely by now.

## Observations

### My Robin Friends (Part 2)

By Tom Moeller

The saga with the robins in my back yard described in the past issue of *The Peregrine* continued into summer

After the first brood of robins in May, I kept feeding the robin intermittently. However, things got intense again in the middle June. The robin came AGAIN with worms dangling from his beak, and AGAIN grabbing raisins along with the worms. Same lunch for the kids in the nest – raisins with worms.

Now we had a planter on the wall in our back yard, so the robin would hop up on it to signal he was waiting.... I started to leave bits of raisins on the end of the wall for the robins to get when I was not around. At times the robin would walk along the wall, hop onto the planter, hop down, and then walk to the end of the wall for raisin bits.

On some evenings the sun would glare into our kitchen as it was setting. We would often tape a newspaper on the back window to stop the glare. One late afternoon in late June I saw a shadow above the shadow cast by the newspaper. It was the robin on a little sparrow-sized birdhouse under our back porch roof. Was it trying to get our attention? Of course it was!

As I went out our cellar door with some cut-up raisins. he heard the door unbolt and came to the driveway, hopping around in anticipation. I threw a bunch of raisins on the drive, and he started to collect as many as he could. Suddenly his mate arrived too, and she started to pick up pieces. It must have been the same mate as in May because she was not really fearful of me. And like before, he seemed to be in competition with her to get raisins. Silly.

The robin would also get our attention by perching on the lights we have to illuminate the back yard. Up there he also would start singing. Little did we know this was a territorial song, establishing our house as his!!

July 2 was funny with the robins. First, the male came demanding his raisins; then he left, and the female came wanting her share. Meanwhile, a bold Song Sparrow trotted by in front of me, and a Mourning Dove walked by less than ten feet away. The doves are usually more skittish than that. The trust shown by the robins may have reassured these other two birds

On July 3 the female robin came by herself. First I saw her above me on the neighbor's porch railing, an unusual place for her to first appear. Then she came down but kept her distance. She scarfed up more than one raisin. Little did I know that she was closer at hand than I thought, and she was busy.

On the Fourth of July Nancy looked out our dining room window and saw a pile of grass on the porch floor. How did that get there? Then she looked up and discovered a nest built on top of another light fixture next to our porch door (Tom's photo at right). It was rather slipshod with a mass of grass hanging down the side from a more complete cup right on top of the light fixture. A couple of times the female revisited the cup and sat inside, but she was scared off as I came up the porch steps.

All the signs had been there, but I missed them. The robin hanging around the back porch and singing on our back porch lights, the female being so close, coming by herself to the driveway from an unusual direction. I fed the robins raisins, got friendly with them, so they moved in!

We could not have the robins' nest there, both for our sakes and theirs. The birds would "spook" each time we looked out the window at them or came onto the porch. We would have liked to see the family grow, but the mess involved would have been too



*UNSUCCESSFUL NEST – Tom photographed his robin's nest next to his porch door. It was destined to be a poor site because the female was continually "spooked" when someone used the door.*

much right outside our kitchen door.

I took a photo of the nest with my phone camera to see if there were eggs inside yet. None, thank goodness. I took the nest down with gloves. The cup was still damp with mud but rather well built onto of the light fixture. In fact, the bottom of the nest was the light fixture top. The dangling grass was unnecessary. I put the nest in a bag and swept up all the extra grass on the porch. There was even another pile of grass blown to the opposite end of the porch. The female robin (maybe with some help from the male) had been very busy gathering all that vegetation!

After I took down the nest, both robins came to the empty light fixture. Obviously, they were puzzled by the disappearance of their nest. I thought the robins would hold it against me personally for taking it down, but both showed up two more times for raisins later that day. The loss of the nest seemed like just another day in the life of breeding robins. "Oh, well, let's start over."

One of the visits by the robins that day was odd. I thought the male had brought an offspring to share the raisins because the second bird's breast was all smudged with spots. I almost got a photo, but the second bird took off. I decided it must have been the female with her breast stained with mud as she built and formed the cup of her nest earlier that day. She had had no time to preen and clean since I took away the nest.

I saw the male robin one more time. I kept putting out raisin bits on the wall for them to take. He came by, and I whistled to him and threw out some raisins, but he ignored me. He did go to the wall and pick up most of the raisins, but he never looked in my direction. Perhaps he did resent my taking down the nest?

Then word came from the bird conservation website to stop feeding birds from feeders due to a mysterious illness, so we stopped putting out raisin bits for the robins, too...

You'll find much more about Tom's remarkable robin experience in his online gallery on the 3RBC website

## Birds in the Three Rivers Area

### A Rare Blackbird Topped the List in April-May 2021

By Mike Fialkovich, Bird Reports Editor

April began with mild weather, some unseasonably warm. That was followed by a few days of winter returning the third week of the month with rain, some snow, and wind. We had very warm days in mid-to-late April, and early May was cool and rainy. Mid-May was unseasonably warm with clear skies, so migrants were not put down in great numbers this year. Most continued over the area due to the favorable conditions.

Some waterfowl lingered into April. Five **Gadwalls** were at Duck Hollow 4/21 (RC, LCh). Eight **Northern Shovelers** were at Imperial 4/14 (MV) and 3 were at Verona 4/21 (MD). Three **Surf Scoters** were on the Allegheny River at Verona 4/21 (MD). A late **Common Goldeneye** was at Duck Hollow 4/22 (AP).

**Red-breasted Mergansers** are regular spring migrants in small numbers. One was seen along the Allegheny River at Verona and neighboring Oakmont 4/21 (MD), 4 were at Brunots Island on the Ohio River 5/8 (MV) and 1 was at Dashields Dam 5/14-16 (MV).

A pair of **Northern Bobwhites** were at a feeder at Chapel Harbor in O'Hara Twp. 4/17-21 (eBird, m.ob.). The habitat isn't typical bobwhite habitat. (It's a mixed condo, townhome, and single family home development.) As always this species' presence raises the question of where they were released.

**Horned Grebe** reports included 3 at Pittsburgh 4/5 (ROR) and 5 at North Park 4/5 (DBe).

A **Virginia Rail** was heard calling at Harrison Hills Park 4/18 (AH, PM). One was at Wingfield Pines 5/5 (DM), 2 were there 5/6 (JF, RT, LF, DBe, RB), and 1 was detected again 5/7 (ON). A



*A VERY WELCOME FLYCATCHER -- Among the flycatcher species birders especially like to find is the large Olive-sided, a relatively uncommon migrant through our area. Many observers were fortunate to see this one at Frick Park in late May, where Charity Kheshgi photographed it on one of this species' typical perching spots – a bare treetop twig.*

**Common Gallinule** was a nice find at North Park 4/24 where it remained to 4/30 (DBe, many observers).

Most shorebird reports came from Imperial. A **Black-bellied Plover** was a nice surprise at Duck Hollow 5/14 (MJ). The bird was only seen briefly before flying off. A **Semipalmated Plover** was at Imperial 5/31 (MV). A **Greater Yellowlegs** was at Dashields Dam 4/21 (MV), up to 2 were at Wingfield Pines 4/25-5/12 (m. ob.). One was at Duck Hollow 5/4 and up to 6 were at Imperial from late April through May (m.ob.). **Lesser Yellowlegs** were at Imperial 4/26-5/1 (m.ob.), where 15 were found 5/12 (MV, DBe), and 4 were nearby at Janoski's Farm that day (MV); 3 were at Wingfield Pines 5/7 (ON), where up to 4 continued to 5/17 (m.ob.); 3 were at South Park 5/10 (JF, LF, JP, JB), 1 was at Brunots Island 5/11 (MJ), 2 were at North Park 4/21-5/14 (m.ob.), and 2 were at Duck Hollow 5/14 (TR). **Solitary Sandpipers** were widely reported. **Semipalmated Sandpiper** is uncommon in spring: 1 was at a mud spit near Dashields Dam 5/29 (MV), 3 were at Imperial that day (DBe), and 7 were at Imperial 5/31 (m.ob.). A **Least Sandpiper** was in Findlay Twp. 4/27 (MV), 2 were at Brunots Island 5/8 (MV), followed by 7 there 5/11 (MJ); 2 were at Wingfield Pines 5/19 (LF, JF), 2 were at North Park 5/16-22 (m.ob.), and 1 was at Peters Creek in Jefferson Borough 5/20-27 (JF). A **Dunlin** was at Imperial 5/29 (JVA, SV). A **Short-billed Dowitcher** was at Imperial 5/11-12 (MV and others). Nine **Wilson's Snipes** were at Imperial 4/11 (MV), 1 was at Wingfield Pines 4/21 (JF), and 1 was at Harrison Hills Park 4/21 (DB).

**Bonaparte's Gulls** were scattered along the rivers. Spring is the most reliable time to see this species in Allegheny County. Four were at the Highland Park Bridge (ON), 12 at Verona (MD) and 5 at Oakmont (MD) -- all on 4/21. A flock of 16 were at Imperial that day (MV). The Bonaparte's passage was not great at Dashields Dam this spring with 16 on 4/4 (MV) and 13 on 4/21 (MV). A flock of 22 was at Tarentum 4/8 (ON).

**Forster's Tern** reports included 3 at Verona 4/21 (MD) and one at Imperial 4/26 (DBe, m.ob.). A **Black Tern** was a nice find at Chapel Harbor 5/31 (MH).

A **Common Loon** was at North Park 4/21-22 (eBird).

An **American Bittern** was photographed perched in a tree in Frick Park 4/27 by a non-birder (reported to DY). A **Great Egret** was along the Allegheny River at various locations from the Highland Park Dam to Oakmont 4/12-27 (SK, RB, AH), and 1 was at North Park 4/30 (BP). A breeding colony of **Great Blue Herons** in Harmar Twp. contained 48 nests 4/10 (AH, PM). Six nests were seen downriver near the Highland Park Dam 4/12 (SK).

**Black Vulture** reports continued in Allegheny County this spring: 2 were spotted flying over I-79 near Coraopolis, 3 were in Hampton Twp. 4/24 (AW), 3 were in Fox Chapel 5/4 (CH) and 1 was over I-79 near Emsworth 5/6 (RT).

The **Barred Owl** reported last fall at Frick Park was relocated and seen regularly this spring by many birders.

For the second spring in a row **Red-headed Woodpecker** reports included 1 photographed at a feeder in Wilkins Twp. in early May (reported to BSh), 1 at a feeder in Jefferson Hills 5/8-10 (JHA), 1 at a feeder in Baldwin 5/9-14 (LK), 1 in Frick Park 5/4 (AP) and again 5/18 (eBird with photo), 1 in Homewood Cemetery 5/10-12 (MB, DM), and 1 in Elizabeth Twp. 5/14 (SF).

The only **Olive-sided Flycatcher** report came from Frick Park 5/22-24 (AF, m.ob.). A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was captured and banded in Upper St. Clair 5/16 (NL). Rare in the county, an **Alder Flycatcher** was at Frick Park 5/16 (KSJ, MK, CK, et al.).

**Fish Crow** maximum counts included 15 in Squirrel Hill 4/22 (ON) and 33 at Mercy Hospital in Pittsburgh 4/26 (ST).

# The Peregrine

## Birds in the Three Rivers

continued from page 11

**Bank Swallow** is the least common swallow in Allegheny County. Three were at Brunots Island 5/8-17 (MV and others).

**Red-breasted Nuthatch** was widely reported in eBird during the season. A **Marsh Wren** was a good find in Frick Park 4/30-5/1 (AH, PM, m.ob.). The bird was found along a stream instead of the usual nearby marsh habitat in the park.

**Gray-cheeked Thrush** was reported at six locations 5/1-24 (m.ob.). An early **Wood Thrush** was in Pleasant Hills 4/18 (HF).

There were many **Purple Finch** reports in eBird this season.

Following a number of reports of northern finches last winter, several spilled into the spring. **Pine Siskins** were reported from about 16 locations and well into May. A female **Evening Grosbeak** was at Frick Park 5/10-11 (MK, DM, KSJ, CK, SLA).

**Vesper Sparrow** is declining fast in the county as the grasslands at Imperial are shrinking with development, so reports are few these days. One was at Boyce-Mayview Park 4/9 (LN) and 1 was at Imperial 5/15 (MV). A few **Savannah Sparrow** reports came from unexpected places. Two were photographed at Bell Harbor Marina in Blawnox 4/8 (DBe, DM) and 1 was still there 4/14 (RB), 1 was photographed at the Deer Creek Boat Launch in Harmar Twp. 4/27 (PBr), and 1 was photographed at Hilltop Park in Cecil Twp. 5/1-4 (JSa). **Lincoln's Sparrow** reports were singles at Frick Park 5/10 (DM), Sewickley Heights Park 5/11 (AZ), Homewood Cemetery 5/12 (DM), Harrison Hills Park 5/16 (AH, PM), and North Park 5/16 (ON), and 2 in Frick Park 5/16 (ON).

A first-year male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was visiting a feeder in Elizabeth Twp. about a week prior to 5/3 when it was reported in eBird. It remained to 5/10 (SF) providing only the third Allegheny County record. (See the photo in the July-August 2021 issue of *The Peregrine*.) Two previous records are listed in Todd's Birds of Western Pennsylvania from 1895 and 1928. A **Rusty Blackbird** was at North Park 4/7 (DBe), 2 were at Wingfield Pines 4/10 (MBa), and 1 was at Frick Park 4/28 and 5/4 (AP).

The wintering **Baltimore Oriole** in Oakland was present to late April (FI, AI).

A total of 35 species of warblers were reported this spring. Up to 3 **Worm-eating Warblers** were at Harrison Hills Park this spring (one of the few regular breeding sites in Allegheny County), 1 was in Frick Park 4/28-29 (AP and others), and 1 was at Tom's Run Nature Reserve 5/16 (KS). Up to two **Northern Waterthrushes** were at Frick Park 4/28-30 (AP, BP, m.ob.) and 1 was at North Park 5/8 (SD). A **Golden-winged Warbler** was at Homewood Cemetery in Squirrel Hill 5/4 (AP). A **Prothonotary Warbler** was a nice find at Duck Hollow 4/28 (BP, m.ob.). Another was found for the second spring in a row at Wingfield Pines 5/5-6 (DM, m.ob.).

For the second spring in a row, a **Swainson's Warbler** was found in downtown Pittsburgh 5/16, unfortunately the victim of a window strike. It was taken to a wildlife rehab facility and hopefully made a recovery (TR). This furnished the sixth Allegheny County record. The wintering **Tennessee Warbler** in Morningside was last reported 3/30 (JVA). Rare in spring, an **Orange-crowned Warbler** was at Frick Park 4/25 (AP, m.ob.). **Mourning Warblers** were banded in Upper St. Clair 5/16 and 5/23 (NL), 1 was in Bethel Park 5/18 (JS), and 1 at Frick Park 5/19 (KSJ, CK). A "Yellow" **Palm Warbler** subspecies was photographed at Hartwood Acres 4/24 (MKu). **Canada Warbler** reports included 1 at Frick Park 5/4 (MS), 1 there 5/15-17 (m.ob.) and 2 on 5/18-19 (m.ob.); 1 at Harrison Hills Park 5/15 (DYe), 1 banded in Upper St. Clair 5/16 (NL), 1 in Bethel Park 5/18 (JS),



**RARE BREEDER**—Mike Fialkovich notes in his report that Harrison Hills Park is one of the few sites in Allegheny County to find nesting Worm-eating Warblers. Jeffrey Cohen photographed this one on May 20, 2021. It was one of two he found that day, and it gave him an interesting experience: "I got to watch it for 4 or 5 minutes when it found a rolled-up leaf, gradually unrolled it to the point where it extracted what looked like a small caterpillar."

and 1 at Chatham University in Squirrel Hill 5/23 (MKu). **Wilson's Warbler** is an uncommon but regular migrant. There were five reports: single birds on 5/4 at Homewood Cemetery (MK), 5/13 at Bethel Park (JP), 5/16 at Frick Park (ON), 5/16 at Harrison Hills Park (SLa), and 5/18 at North Park (TC).

A **Summer Tanager** was at Frick Park 5/8 (MF), providing the 18th Allegheny County record.

*Observers: James Baker, Martin Beal, Michael Barney (MBa), David Bennett (DBe), Paul Brant (PBr), Dave Brooke, Ron Burkert, Rich Carlson, Laurel Chiappetta (LCh), Thomas Connor, Michael David, Steve Denninger, Adrian Fenton, Leslie Ferree, Mike Fialkovich, John Flannigan, Holly Ferrett, Scott Furlong, Margaret Haas, Cecilia Hard, Jim Hausman (JHa), Amy Henrici, Adrienne Izaguirre, Frank Izaguirre, Matthew Juskowich, Lisa Kauffman, Michelle Kienholz, Charity Khesghi, Scott Kinzey, Malcolm Kurtz (MKu), Nick Liadis, Sam Lawrence (SLa), Pat McShea, Daniel Muller, Lauren Nagoda, Oscar Nigam, Ryan O'Rourke (ROR), Joe Papp, Brad Peroney, Aidan Place, Trinidad Regaspi, Kate St. John, Kathy Saunders, Jim Saracco (JSa), Marty Seltman, Brian Shema (BSh), Shannon Thompson, Ryan Tomazin, Mark Vass, John Vassallo (JVa), Samuel Vassallo, Andrew Wood, David Yeany (DYe), Anna Zizak., many observers (m.ob.)*

