



The Peregrine

Three Rivers Birding Club Newsletter

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

Vol. 20, No.2 March/April 2021

Spain Is a Birding Treasure; We'll Learn Why on April 7

Birding in Spain will be the focus of our April 7 membership meeting. Carlos Sanchez, birding tour guide in Central and South America, will present a comprehensive look at the birds of this European country situated on a major migratory flyway.

Carlos will guide us from the mountains of central Spain to grasslands and forests in Extremadura, south to the wetlands of Doñana National Park, and east to Castille-La Mancha. We'll see such birds as White-capped Dipper, Citril Finch, Marbled Teal, White-headed Duck, and nesting raptors.

A native of Miami, Florida, Carlos led tours in Ecuador and Brazil. He graduated from the University of Miami and then conducted pelagic bird surveys in the Gulf of Mexico on a U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration research ship. He has birded throughout Florida, Costa Rica, and Australia, and has led tours to Costa Rica, Cuba, and from Brazil to Madagascar.

As usual, this will be a Zoom meeting online starting at 7:00 PM, giving you access time to log on. The business meeting will begin at 7:30 PM, and Carlos's presentation will start at 8:00 PM. Details on joining the meeting (Zoom passwords and other instructions) will be supplied in the days before the meeting.



GREATER FLAMINGO – This snazzy European counterpart of our New World's American Flamingo is one of many exotic birds Carlos Sanchez will show us in his presentation for our virtual Zoom program on April 7. (photo courtesy of Carlos).

Pittsburgh CBC Counters List a Fine Total of 78 Species



WONDERFUL SURPRISE – Frank Izaguirre and Adrienne Izaguirre were astonished to discover this Baltimore Oriole at their feeder in Pittsburgh's Oakland neighborhood on December 20, 2020. It remained as a superstar for the Pittsburgh CBC, and stayed well into February. Frank took this photo on January 2.

By Brian Shema, Pittsburgh CBC Compiler

Two hundred and sixteen hardy people participated in the Pittsburgh Christmas Bird Count on December 26, 2020. The annual count is hosted and coordinated by the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania and always occurs on the Saturday after Christmas.

Count day looked a bit different than it had in previous years, because of the pandemic. All area leaders were instructed to eliminate gathering locations and group activities, and to ask participants to wear masks and social distance during the count, even while in the field. The pandemic probably pushed a few more participants indoors this year: 67 people watched feeders, but a whopping 174 still ventured outdoors for a portion of count day.

Weather for count day was cloudy and frigid. The temperature ranged from 14 to 22 degrees at the count's geographic center in Shaler Township. It was breezy, too, with wind speeds up to 15 miles per hour, which made it feel even colder. Lakes and ponds were partly frozen, but rivers and streams were unfrozen.

Although it was cold, snow blanketed the ground, making viewing conditions ideal. Species diversity was high, with 78 species found. Our past 10-year average was 73. A few species are now regularly found, pushing our 10-year average upward. These include almost annual Turkey Vulture, Common Raven, Fish Crow, Eastern Towhee, and Chipping Sparrow. These were unlikely on this count just a decade ago.

A total of 24,522 individual birds were tallied on count day.

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

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President's Message

Interested in Birds? You'll Like the PSO, and Be Glad You Joined

By Sheree Daugherty

When compilers for the Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas met in October of 1989 the idea of a statewide network of birders was proposed; an organization that would contribute to the field of ornithology and be a resource for anyone interested in learning more about our state's birds. The Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology (PSO) was the result of that conversation.

The association is composed of both amateur and professional birders with a goal of advancing knowledge of Pennsylvania's birds. Anyone is welcome to join, from beginners to pros.

PSO President Evan Mann explains, "We are committed to the future of birds and birding in the Commonwealth."

The organization's conservation initiatives, avian research, and nurturing of the next generation's birders and ornithologists are all supported by membership dollars. Mann adds, "We need continued support, and we encourage others to join. The challenges are great, but so are the rewards."

He emphasizes that one of PSO's most important functions is to serve as an online community for all bird enthusiasts. The organization likes to increase the volume of our collective voices by partnering with bird clubs and birders, especially when it comes to dealing with state and federal agencies and the like.

Two excellent publications are produced by the organization. The journal *Pennsylvania Birds* is published quarterly and records bird sightings throughout the state.

Mike Fialkovich, past President of PSO, says, "Bird data is collected through county reports collected by county compilers and published in the PSO journal." He adds, "Rare bird submissions are reviewed by the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee, and reports for those sightings are published in the journal and on the PSO website."

In addition to *Pennsylvania Birds*, the organization publishes The *PSO Pileated* newsletter four times a year. It, too, is filled with informative bird-related articles.

3RBC has many connections to the PSO besides Mike's:

--Tom Kuehl has served as PSO's President.

--Roger Higbee is the current Secretary.

--Margaret Higbee is the editor of the *Pileated*.

--Paul Hess writes a bird research column and a bird quiz for each newsletter.

--Tessa Rhinehart is Secretary of the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee, which evaluates the validity of rare bird reports and maintains the official list of the birds of Pennsylvania..

--Other 3RBC members have served PSO in the past, and many of our members are also PSO members.

PSO membership supports many worthwhile activities and programs. To encourage the next generation's interest in ornithology, monetary support is given directly to students. An annual scholarship is given so that a young birder might attend a birding camp. Grants are awarded every year to college-aged students for avian research.

Mike adds, "We also support various conservation efforts through letter writing and awareness, monetary donations, and

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participating in online meetings with conservation organizations."

Many 3RBC members attend the PSO Annual Meeting, which is held in a different part of the state each year. Unfortunately, the event was canceled for 2020 and will be postponed again in 2021. Activities include a banquet and two days of speakers and outings to local birding hotspots. It's a great way to learn of new birding areas, and a chance to meet fellow birders from across the state. It's always fun to put a face to the name that you've been seeing for years on various posts on eBird!

But don't wait till then to check out the PSO website, pabirds.org. It's a great resource for learning more about bird conservation, counts, and surveys.

You'll find links there about how to participate in the PSO Facebook page and special member groups such as "PA Birders," "ID That PA Bird", and "Notable Sightings and Discussion." These offer a wealth of helpful information.

And for shoppers, there is also PSO merchandise! These include handy checklists for recording your state birds, as well as caps, T-shirts, decals, and patches to promote your interest in the state's birding and ornithology.

Most importantly, you can support and be part of the good works of the PSO by becoming a member.

Our Members Are Amazing!

By Sheree Daugherty

Our mission statement, “To gather in friendship to enjoy the wonders of nature and to share our passion for birds!” created by Margie Kern back at the club’s inception, describes what holds the club together so enthusiastically.

There were concerns that the safety protocols brought on by the COVID-19 virus and the lack of outings and meetings would have a negative effect on the club’s membership numbers. Those concerns were unfounded.

Since March 2020, when the pandemic became an issue, 3RBC has actually gained 32 memberships. Not only have we grown, but new and renewing members have often increased the amount of their donations. Our membership list now totals 330. Including family household memberships, we estimate our overall total of members at approximately 466 at the time this is written!

Thank you all for your continued support. We look forward to the day when we can again meet face to face and enjoy outings, meetings, and the companionship of fellow bird enthusiasts.

(Editor's note: Sheree's message is great news. How would you like to be our Outings Director Steve Thomas, who must lament over and over that our COVID-era outings are cancelled?

How would you like to be Dave Brooke, our Program Chair, or Tom Moeller, our cyber-guru, who have worked hard to give us Zoom to replace in-person programs? Let's hail them!

I join Sheree to thank all of our leaders and members. We don't know every club member individually, of course, but we remain close friends in birding. Amazing and wonderful indeed!)

...and Our 3RBC Friends Attract National Attention

Pittsburgh area birders are receiving national attention in the American Birding Association's *Birding* magazine and on the ABA's website. Here are recent examples.

--Frank Izaguirre describes his experiences with Pileated Woodpeckers in Pittsburgh's Frick Park and includes extraordinary photos in the January 2021 issue. See the entire article and photos on our 3RBC website.

--Our Treasurer and Webmaster Tom Moeller has an array of photos depicting American Robins accompanying an article in the November 2020 issue by Paul Hess, Editor of *The Peregrine*.

--Our Program Chair Dave Brooke photographed a Pileated Woodpecker feeding chicks in their nest at Harrison Hills Park in Allegheny County. It appears in the January 2021 issue, although accidentally mis-credited to Tom Moeller.

--Pittsburgh native Ted Floyd, the Editor of *Birding*, writes a series of essays titled “How to Know the Birds” on the ABA website. Mike Fialkovich, our Bird Reports Editor, and Frank Izaguirre have photos of Tufted Titmice and Common Ravens in the Number 50 and Number 51 installments of Ted's column. See <https://www.abab.org/how-to-know-the-birds>.

--Tessa Rhinehart's article in the April 2020 issue describes her project at the University of Pittsburgh which uses autonomous recording of bird songs in the field and then identifies the species and estimates their numbers by computer.



Steve Gosser
©2020

PITTSBURGH CBC HIGHLIGHTS – Steve Gosser first heard and quickly photographed this noisy flock of Tundra Swans flying southward just after he returned home from his day in the field. Eric Hall discovered and photographed the Fox Sparrow below at the Longue Vue Country Club.



Pittsburgh CBC

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For the most part, individual numbers fluctuated around their 10-year averages. A few birds were found in high numbers – their highest in the recorded history of this count. Most notable is Tundra Swan, with a high count of 344 individuals. Several flocks were seen overhead, ranging from 60 to well over 100 individuals.

This is an irruption year for winter finches – species that move southward during years of diminished cone seed availability in the northern boreal forests. This boosted our species diversity, with Red-breasted Nuthatch and Pine Siskin widely detected, as well as a single Evening Grosbeak, found in North Park. Although only one grosbeak was recorded on count day, the location was hosting upwards of 30 birds recently.

A few exciting species such as Black Scoter and Baltimore Oriole were also recorded.

The Audubon Society of Western PA would like to thank each of the 216 participants who contributed to the count this year. We are thankful that you joined us! A special thank you to the area leaders who help compile bird numbers and participant information. Their work makes compiling the data much, much easier, and undoubtedly more accurate.

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STUNNED – This Northern Saw-whet Owl rests quietly on the snow after slamming into a window while being chased by a cat. Shortly after Hannah Floyd took this photo from a safe distance, the owl regained some energy and flew off to a tree.



RECOVERING – Hannah photographed the owl again while it was resting and evidently recuperating from its near-death experience. The unpleasant event took place in her family's yard in Lafayette, Colorado, and her narrative ends with a plea to cat owners.

An Owl, a Cat, a Window, an Unsettling Experience, and a Caution about Cats

By Hannah Floyd

This Northern Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*) collided with our kitchen window on the morning of February 20, 2021, after being attacked by a cat.

The owl was roosting in a juniper tree in our backyard (which we didn't realize) when a cat snuck onto the fence and attacked it, frightening the owl from its perch, which led to both the owl and the cat slamming into our window.

I chased the cat off with multiple snowballs and ran back to check on the owl. The owl was stunned and sitting in the snow. We let it sit in the snow, keeping a safe distance and looking out for the cat. After a few minutes, it flew off into a nearby oak tree.

The owl seemed much more alert and sat perched on an oak branch for another 10 minutes before flying back into the safety of the juniper tree. Bushtits, a Red-breasted Nuthatch, American Robins, a Townsend's Solitaire, House Finches, and Dark-eyed Juncos began to go berserk in our backyard.

After the owl endured 15 minutes of harassment from the smaller birds, the cat came back. At this point, the owl flew away, out of our backyard.

We hope that the Northern Saw-whet Owl found a sheltered tree, safe from any outdoor cats. This is a friendly reminder to either not let your cat go outside or, at the very least, put it on a leash, please!

About the Author

Hannah's yard in Lafayette, Colorado, was the scene of her experience with the owl.

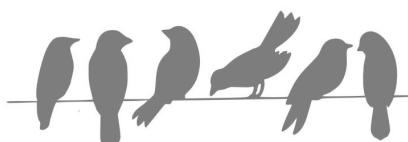
She is an extraordinary young naturalist, as you'll find out at https://www.instagram.com/hannahfloyd_naturalist. This will also link you to an immense array of her photos on the iNaturalist website.

Hannah's father is Pittsburgh native Ted Floyd, Editor of the American Birding Association's *Birding* magazine.

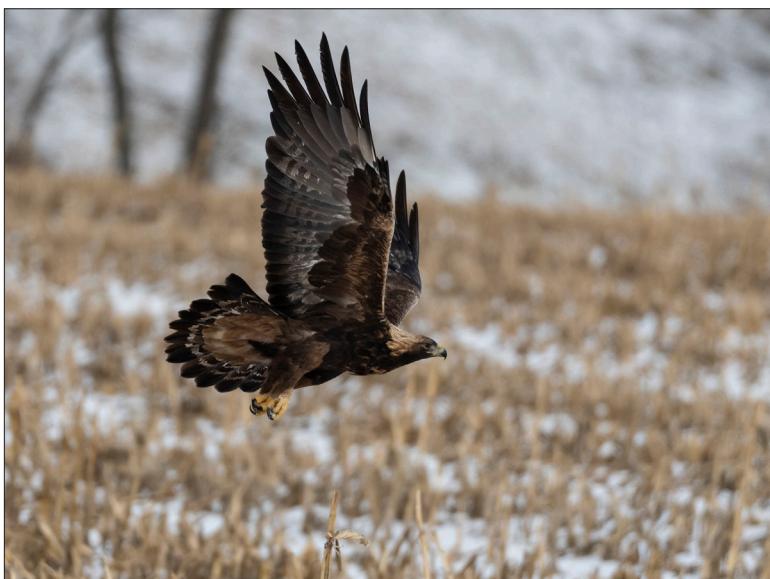
While they were on a holiday visit to Pittsburgh in 2014, Hannah and her grandmother, Mary Floyd, had a notable experience on the day of the Pittsburgh Christmas Bird Count: They discovered a Rufous Hummingbird inside the Phipps Conservatory in Oakland.

Meanwhile, father Ted has an essay about the owl experience in his series titled "How to Know the Birds" on the ABA website.

See it at <https://www.ababirds.org/how-to-know-the-birds>



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A Raptor Rapture

Winter 2020-2021 gave our area's photographers many opportunities for great images of raptors.

LEFT: Golden Eagles are not often seen in the winter in western Pennsylvania. Tony Bruno found this beautiful example at Montgomery Hill Flat in Armstrong County on January 20, 2021.

CENTER: At Midway in northern Washington County, Steve Gosser saw four Short-eared Owls "chasing each other around and barking non-stop" on January 11, 2021. Here are two. In the same area, he took this dynamic photo of an American Kestrel.

BOTTOM: Along Green Acres Road south of Worthington in western Armstrong County Dave and Kathy Brooke had an extraordinary experience on December 18, 2020. On one side of the road was this juvenile Peregrine Falcon and on the other side this Short-eared Owl.



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Observations

If You Crave Diversity, Visit This Arizona Hotspot; It Won't Disappoint You

By Tom Moeller

Nancy and I arrived in Tucson a day early. Our birding tour of southeastern Arizona would start later in the afternoon of May 17, 2016, giving time for participants to arrive that day, but we wanted to acclimate to the time change and explore a little ourselves beforehand. We planned to visit the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum above Tucson in the morning.

The Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum was created in 1952 by William H. Carr with the financial backing of Arthur Pack, conservationist and editor of *Nature* magazine. Carr wanted to educate the residents in the area who were woefully unaware of their desert surroundings. The museum has since become one of the premiere educational museums in the country. It covers 98 acres of the Sonoran Desert and is 85% an outdoor experience. Trails lead through the region dotted with 1,200 taxa of native plants which attract wildlife including birds, insects, reptiles, and mammals. The museum's collection contains over 240 species of animals.

Our first encounter with the beauty of the area was a desert prickly pear cactus in bloom in the museum's parking lot. At the entrance, an interpreter held a Great Horned Owl as an educational bird. Little statues of javelinas in the courtyard also greeted us. Unfortunately, we had missed a 7:30 AM bird walk through the area, but there were still plenty of birds to be found. The open-air entrance building contained various educational placards on the desert geology, ecology, flora, and fauna, which were interesting, but we wanted to get out and see the birds before it got too hot.

Saguaro cacti dotted the area with well-maintained trails wandering throughout. Being mid-May, many of the cacti were in bloom, thus attracting birds and insects. We saw the first of many Cactus Wrens on top of the tall cacti. Next we sighted a Hooded Oriole nibbling at Saguaro flowers. Holes had been dug into the Saguaros probably by Gila Woodpeckers. These holes are used by many cavity-nesting birds in the desert. A Wild Turkey wandered by, which we did not think was a resident of the museum. This would be the western *merriami* subspecies of Wild Turkey, with more white on its rump and a white tail margin unlike our darker eastern *silvestris* subspecies. White-winged Doves also dropped in for visits to the grounds.

Several enclosed areas contained mammals of the desert. A Black Bear emerged from its man-made cave to stalk around in the morning sun, while a Rock Squirrel clambered up out of reach on the "rock" walls. A Mountain Lion exhibit featured one skulking in its lair, hardly visible to us. We passed a small enclosure for a Western Screech-Owl on the way to see a female Mexican Wolf, an endangered species of Gray Wolf. Mule Deer were in another exhibit area. Later in our journey we found a family of Bighorn Sheep, but there were only young sheep with small horns.

As we walked the trails and boardwalks of the museum, many ramadas offered shade to the visitors. No, not Ramada Inns – *ramada* is a Spanish word for shelter or covering made of branches. We noticed lizards all around us, from a large Spiny-tailed Iguana to a small Desert Spiny Lizard. In the museum's "Walk-In Aviary," we found a Coachwhip Snake desperately trying to get out through the wire fence, poking its head at every opening



WESTERN SPECIALTY – Birders who go out West are likely to see a beautiful Hooded Oriole. Tom Moeller photographed this one attractively atop a Saguaro.

all of which were too small for it to escape. Whether it was part of the museum collection or not, we did not know.

Other birds on the trails were a Curve-billed Thrasher, a Brown-crested Flycatcher, and the best bird was a Gray Flycatcher in migration, again nibbling on cactus flowers. Besides the "Walk-In Aviary," the museum has a "Hummingbird Aviary." Species in the Walk-in Aviary included Black-headed Grosbeak, Great-tailed Grackle, Pyrrhuloxia, Gambel's Quail, a Greater Roadrunner, and Inca Doves. The Hummingbird Aviary featured Black-chinned Hummingbird, Anna's Hummingbird, and Costa's Hummingbird, which we had not seen in many years.

Nancy and I had only explored a small portion of the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum. We needed to get back down into Tucson to meet our group for our nine-day birding tour of the southeastern Arizona hotspots. The museum is a great concentrated introduction to life in the desert, including the Warden Aquarium, an Earth Sciences Center, and art activities in the Ironwood Art Gallery. All worth a day trip. Even during the pandemic, it is open every day of the year. And a unique extra is the free sunscreen provided in most restrooms in the facility.

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Wikipedia. "Mexican Wolf." *Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia*. January 27, 2021. Accessed 27 January 2021. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mexican_wolf.

See more of Tom's photos from the Arizona trip at his online gallery on the 3RBC website. They include not only birds, but also some marvelous desert plants, a wolf, and an iguana!

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Birds in the Three Rivers Area

Northern Finches Were Highlights in Fall 2020

By Mike Fialkovich, Bird Reports Editor

Uncommon here, a white morph **Snow Goose** was at North Park 10/8 (KK, JP, LS, DN) where it remained until 10/13. Perhaps the same bird was at Allegheny Cemetery in Lawrenceville 10/15-27 (AB, CB, various observers). Once again a white morph was at North Park 11/4-8 (ME). This was probably a bird moving between the two locations during its stay.

Tundra Swans were reported from 10/29 to 11/22 in small numbers. High counts included 45 over Bridgeville 11/13 (RT) and 60 at Tarentum (RP). Four flocks totaling approximately 270 birds flew over Boyce-Mayview Park 11/28 (DW).

A **Northern Shoveler** was at Dashields Dam 10/7 (MV), 3 were at the main pond at Imperial 10/29-30 (AP), and 5 were at the truck stop pond at Imperial 10/31-20 (JF and others), presumably the same group. **Gadwalls** were reported from five locations in November; the high count was 5 at Bell Harbor Marina in Blawnox 11/22 (AH). An **American Wigeon** was seen at Wingfield Pines 11/25-26 (JVa, SVa, AP), the lone report of this uncommon migrant in the county. A **Northern Pintail** was at Wingfield Pines 10/31 (ST).

Eight **Surf Scoters** were just off The Point in Pittsburgh 10/30 (LFH, VO); the group remained to 10/5 (various observers). One or two remained 11/7-23 (MV, LK, ROR). One was at the Leetsdale Boat Launch on the Ohio River 11/26-30 along with 2 female/immature **Black Scoters** (MV and others). A **Long-tailed Duck** was on the Ohio River just downriver from The Point 10/31-11/4 (BP and others). An adult male **White-winged Scoter** was at East Deer Recreational Area 11/28 (MF, DB, AP, and others). It was found 11/27 (AH, PM) but on the Westmoreland side of the Allegheny River. I don't recall the last time we had all three scoter species in the county at the same time!

A **Red-breasted Merganser** was at Brunots Island 10/29 (AP), and 1 was at The Point in Pittsburgh 10/31 (FI, various observers). Four **Ruddy Ducks** were at Duck Hollow 10/25 (JS, SS) and 1 was on the Highland Park Reservoir 11/26 (JL).

Chimney Swifts remained into October with a high count of 3,000 in East Liberty 10/22 (MKu). A male **Rufous Hummingbird** briefly visited a yard in Hampton Twp. 11/24 (LS).

A dead **Virginia Rail** was found in Shadyside 10/26 (OL). A **Sora** was at Wingfield Pines 10/11 (ST).

Rather late, up to 38 **Killdeers** gathered in a field at South Park 11/15-23 (MM, JP, JF). Two **Sanderlings** were quite a surprise near Dashields Dam on the Ohio River 11/1 (MV). Unfortunately, a **Peregrine Falcon** flew in and flushed the birds a few minutes after their arrival. This was Allegheny County's fifth Sanderling record. **Dunlins** were at Imperial 10/3-11/7 (various observers) with a high count of 5 on 11/3 (MV). Late **Pectoral Sandpipers** were at Imperial 10/12 (MV) and Boyce-Mayview Park 10/29 (AP). The juvenile **Long-billed Dowitcher** at Imperial reported previously remained to 10/3 (MV and others). A **Wilson's Snipe** was at Imperial 10/30 (ON). Late **Spotted Sandpipers** lingered into October with single birds at Harmar Twp. 10/20 (MD) and Dashields Dam 10/21 (MV). Single **Solitary Sandpipers** were reported in four locations through October.

A flock of 83 **Double-crested Cormorants** flew over Schenley Park 10/30 (FI), an unusually high count.

Late **Great Egrets** included singles at Dashields 10/17 (MV),



A REDPOLL WINTER – Mike Fialkovich reports that Common Redpolls, always an exciting winter visitor, began to arrive in Allegheny County in late November 2020. In early 2021 3RBC members saw large numbers in northern Butler County, where in January rough estimates ranged from 30 to 75 at “The Glades” wildlife area. Steve Gosser photographed this one on January 9.

South Fayette Twp. 11/2 (confirmed by RT), and Imperial 11/6-7 (MV).

A **Black Vulture** was photographed in Ohio Twp. 10/7 (EPH). Another was observed in Franklin Park 11/22, followed by 4 there on 11/25, 5 on 11/27 (OM), and 1 on 11/28 (AP).

A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was calling in West Deer Twp. 10/8 (LC). A **Short-eared Owl** was at Imperial 11/28 (AP).

There were quite a few **Merlin** reports including 1 photographed at Homewood Cemetery 10/4-17 (eBird), 1 along Route 8 near Etna 11/1 (JVa, SVA), 1 in Schenley Park 11/3-23 (FI), 1 at Calgary Cemetery in Greenfield 11/8 (FI), and 1 at the Leetsdale Boat Launch 11/26 (LFH). There were two eBird reports: singles at North Park 10/27 and Frick Park 11/22.

Fish Crow flocks were reported including 30 at Chatham University 11/8 and 20 there 11/20 (MKu). A **Common Raven** was observed in Franklin Park 10/17 (OM), which I believe is the first report from that area.

A **Horned Lark** was heard singing at Schenley Park 10/30 (FI), likely the first for that location.

Red-breasted Nuthatches were widely reported this fall. Reports continued through November with eBird entries in over 30 locations for the season.

After a **Marsh Wren** was reported at Wingfield Pines in September, 2 were there 10/1 (JM). One or two were seen regularly through November (various observers).

Large numbers of **American Robins** were tallied 11/13-14 flying to a roost site in Cecil Twp. Approximately 600-800 were tallied 11/13 and approximately 1,000 were counted 11/14 (RT).

An **American Pipit** was at Janoski's Farm in Findlay Twp. 11/8 (MV) and 1 flew over Homewood Cemetery 11/7 (MF), likely a first for that location.

A high count of 60 **House Finches** were at Boyce-Mayview Park 10/28 (ST). An orange variant was at Beechwood Farms 11/21 (MF). (Editor's note: See page 6 of the January/February

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Allegheny County Had 237 Species of Birds in 2020

Allegheny County's bird list included 237 species in 2020, according to our Birds Reports Editor Mike Fialkovich.

They included all three scoter species (on the same day!), Long-tailed Duck, Brown Pelican, Long-billed Dowitcher (*Mike's photo at right on September 7*), American Avocet, Rufous Hummingbird, Eastern Whip-poor-will, Clay-colored Sparrow, Painted Bunting, and Swainson's Warbler.

View the entire list and Mike's comments about rarities on our website at:

<https://tinyurl.com/9xf79nf6>.



Birds in the Three Rivers

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2021 issue of The Peregrine for Mike's photograph of an oddly colored "non-red" House Finch.)

The movement of northern finches continued. It initially started with **Pine Siskins** in September followed by **Evening Grosbeaks** reported in small numbers starting the end of October and continuing to late November. Small numbers were reported as flyovers or visiting feeders. High counts included 13 in O'Hara Twp. 10/30 (BSh) and 21 in Pine Twp. 11/1 (PL, SL). The last report I'm aware of in the county was in 2012. A **Common Redpoll** visited a feeder in Marshall Twp. 11/27 (JHz), the first report since 2015, and 1 was detected by calls flying over Sewickley Heights Park 11/29 (MK). A **Red Crossbill** was seen and heard flying over Indiana Twp. 11/24 (DYe), the first report since 2013. Pine Siskin reports continued through November at many locations. High counts included 50 in Oakland 10/8 (AP) and 53 in Library 10/8 (AN).

A **Lincoln's Sparrow** at Wingfield Pines 11/26 was a bit late (AP).

Three **Red-winged Blackbirds** visited a feeder in Harmar Twp. 11/29 (JV), which is late for this area.

Some late warblers were found after the main push in September: A **Tennessee Warbler** was photographed in Ross Twp. 10/24 (EPH) and another was at Beechwood Farms 11/4 (LFH). An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was photographed in Schenley Park 11/8 (HJ, LCH). A **Nashville Warbler** was in Oakland 10/29 (FI). A **Connecticut Warbler** was found in Library 10/25 (JP). A **Common Yellowthroat** was at South Park 10/25 (JF). A **Northern Parula** was at Deer Lakes Park 10/25 (DYe), and a **Bay-breasted Warbler** was there 11/14 (DYe). An eastern "Yellow" **Palm Warbler** was at Harrison Hills Park 10/18 (AH, PM). We typically see the western subspecies, but the eastern subspecies is found occasionally.

Observers: Al Borek, Carole Borek, Dave Brooke, Lauren Chronister (LCH), Linda Croskey, Michael David, Mary Eyman, Mike Fialkovich, John Flannigan, Amy Henrici, Louis Freeland-Haynes (LFH), Frank Izaguirre, Elizabeth Pagel-Hogan (EPH),

Hanna Jones, Lisa Kaufman, Ken Knapp, Malcolm Kurtz (MKu), Oliver Lindhiem, Jeff McDonald, Pat McShea, Michele Mannella, Oscar Miller, Oscar Nigam, Dick Nugent, Ryan O'Rourke, Joe Papp, Brad Peroney, Aidan Place, Rob Protz, Jack Solomon, Sue Solomon, Liz Spence, Shannon Thompson, Ryan Tomazin, Jim Valimont, Mark Vass, John Vassallo (JVa), Samuel Vassallo (SVa), Dave Wilton, David Yeany II (DYe).

Have Fun and Help Our Environment

Want to help protect the Pittsburgh region's wildlife – birds and all other animals and plants? You can do that and have spring fun at the same time, while maintaining COVID-19 safety.

Join Carnegie Museum's "City Nature Challenge" from April 30 to May 3 to document southwestern Pennsylvania's biodiversity. You'll aid ecologists and conservation experts to focus on wildlife, especially the species that may need special protection.

See <https://carnegiemnh.org/explore/city-nature-challenge> for detailed information on how to participate.

