

Audubon Pennsylvania IBA Site Information

Green Pond Marsh -- Important Bird Area

1. Name of site: Green Pond Marsh or Green Pond Road ponds
2. County: Northampton
3. Municipalities: Bethlehem Township, Easton, PA (zip code 18020)
4. General Location and Boundaries: East-Southeast of Green Pond along Farmersville Road. Green Pond Marsh is fed by overflow from the adjacent pond, Green Pond. Northern boundary of IBA is the Green Pond Road and the Western boundary is Farmersville Road and the edge of Pond (see attached map).
5. Geographical coordinates (center of marsh site): N 40.68003° W 75.30840°
6. Approximate area: 20 acres for Green Pond and Green Pond Marsh alone; 69 acres including field area around Marsh. Four additional acres on north side of road would include some buffer to both water bodies and includes an additional intermittently wet field area and thickets that attract some birds.
7. Physiographic province: Per DCNR- RIDGE AND VALLEY PROVINCE, Great Valley section
8. Elevation range (in feet): 400'
9. USGS Quads used to delineate site: Nazareth, PA quadrangle.
10. State legislative districts of site: Congressional District 15, Senate Legislative District 18.

Criteria for Green Pond Marsh Qualification as Pennsylvania IBA:

D3-PA: Species in rare/unique habitat

D4ii-PA: waterfowl (2000+ at one time)

D4v-PA: shorebirds (100+)

Green Pond Marsh is best qualified as a shorebird and waterfowl stopover site in spring and fall migration (D4-PA). It is also used during winter months for resting and feeding by waterfowl and waders. The wetland habitat of shallow pools with adjacent open field habitat is a rare and unique habitat (D3-PA). Many wetlands designated as IBAs in Pennsylvania are forested wetlands or shrub thicket habitats, but few are wetlands in open fields as seen at this site. These "pothole" open-field, shallow pools are rare particularly in eastern Pennsylvania. They may occur more in northwest corner of the state but in southeast region, Green Pond Marsh may be one of the few remaining sites characterized by such habitat. Wetland birds in general have lost considerable habitat in recent decades, these remaining sites that provide important stopover habitat for shorebirds and waterfowl are even more important as wetland habitat diminishes regionally. The Green Pond Marsh has been used by shorebirds consistently since the 1970s. It

consistently attracts unique concentrations of birds and in many ways it is the birds that have chosen the site to be an important area.

Records from eBird are incomplete but when considered in conjunction with long term records from Lehigh Valley birders (see Appendices) the criteria of 100 plus shorebirds has been met annually (see Least Sandpiper numbers alone in tables below). The waterfowl using the site, such as Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, and Blue-winged Teal are found in notable numbers as well.

11. General description of site:

a) short description -- Green Pond Marsh is characterized by a large open field with 2-3 depressions that collect water during most of the year, becoming dry sometimes during summer months. It is fed periodically by a nearby permanent, six acre pond that lies across the rural road from the Green Pond Marsh area. The fields are planted with corn and left fallow during winter and spring. Thickets adjacent to fields and pond attract wet-thicket birds, including occasional Rusty Blackbird. The Green Pond Marsh is a premiere site for wetland birds in eastern Pennsylvania with large numbers of shorebirds and waterfowl using the shallow pools for stopover on migration with numbers of shorebirds exceeding 100 individuals often.

b. longer description -- *Green Pond Marsh Proposed Important Bird Area* is characterized by a large open agricultural field with 2-3 depressions that collect water during most the year and becoming dry sometimes during summer months. It is fed periodically by an adjacent six acre pond that lies across the rural township road from the Green Pond Marsh area. The soils have been examined by an ecologist and determined to be hydric, characteristic of wetlands (see Appendices). In recent years the fields are planted with corn and left fallow during winter and spring. Thickets adjacent to fields and pond attract wet-thicket birds, including occasional blackbird flocks including Rusty Blackbird. The Green Pond Marsh is a premiere site for wetland birds in eastern Pennsylvania with large numbers of shorebirds and waterfowl using the shallow pools for stopover on migration. Records of concentrations date back to 1970s but may have occurred over a longer period. Compared to other pond or lake areas in the region it appears to offer a unique habitat and attracts larger concentrations than seen in many areas of eastern Pennsylvania. The shorebird and waterfowl numbers can rival current IBAs such as Middle Creek WMA in concentration for areas in eastern counties.

Highest numbers of birds are seen in spring and autumn migration. In spring after heavy rains, Green Pond Marsh holds water in shallow pools for long periods. It often stays wet for extended periods of time providing a muddy shoreline where shorebirds and waterfowl can feed. Many of these birds remain for days and sometimes a week or more feeding on organisms in the soft mud. It is especially important to the shorebirds since it provides an area where they can refuel and build up body fat they need to complete their long journey to their Arctic and sub-Arctic nesting grounds. .

Over the years, the wet fields at Green Pond have attracted over 160 species of birds and at least 20 different species of shorebirds, including such rarities as American Avocet, Wilson's Phalarope, and Red-necked Phalarope (see Appendices). Sometimes flocks of Least Sandpipers reach 100+ individuals. On one occasion, a flock of 11 Glossy Ibis were seen here, the largest

flock ever recorded in the region. Once a Sandhill Crane spent an entire winter in the fields around Green Pond, which at the time was the longest stay of a Sandhill Crane in Pennsylvania during the winter months. Green Pond Marsh has also attracted over 20 species of migratory waterfowl. Over 100 Northern Pintails have been seen here at one time and Green-winged Teal and Blue-winged Teal are seen regularly. The first county record of the rare Ross's Goose came from Green Pond. In addition, the Greater White-fronted Goose has been recorded here several times. The site is presently one of the largest staging areas of Lesser Black-backed Gulls in North America, with counts of 200+ individuals. Other gulls seen here have included Iceland, Glaucous, Bonaparte's and Laughing Gull. Occasionally terns are seen, particularly after storms, including Black Tern, Royal Tern.

The area is also a great spot for Neotropical songbirds including breeders like Eastern Kingbird, Warbling Vireo, Yellow Warbler, Baltimore Oriole, and Orchard Oriole and migrants like Blackpoll Warbler and Northern Waterthrush. During migration, one can see five different species of swallows feeding on insect life over the water.

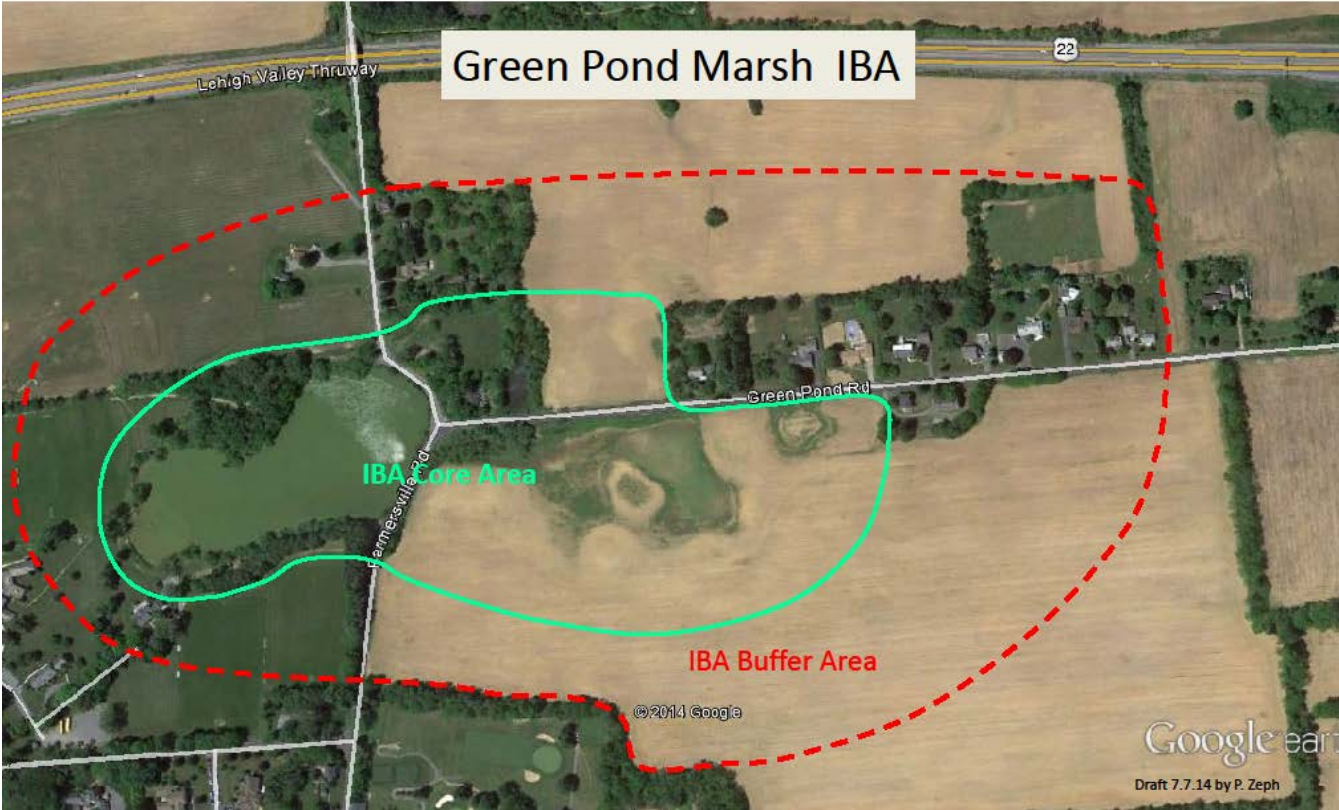
Habitat of the field/marsh area of IBA could be improved with minor changes. If the agricultural fields around the Marsh flooded area could be planted in native grasses and wildflowers the invertebrate abundance would increase and provide additional foraging for birdlife. Most importantly, Green Pond Marsh would be an ideal location for outdoor education. Being located adjacent to the Moravian Academy there are opportunities for immediate use by high school and middle schools. A community college nearby could also use the site if it was protected. It would be an excellent location for teaching students about the characteristics and importance of wetlands and preserving habitat. The students could be involved in management projects such as planting native wetland plants, erecting and placing nesting boxes, and collecting data on the bird life. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service sponsors a "Shorebird Sister Cities Program" where cities are nominated as a "Shorebird Sister City" if they have demonstrated their commitment to shorebird conservation through good city planning. Green Pond Marsh would be an ideal model for this program. The local land conservancy, Wildlands Conservancy, is interested in adopting the site and has approached the current landowner regarding conservation opportunities.

12. Bird Conservation Region: Piedmont Region, BCR 29; Delaware River Basin drainage

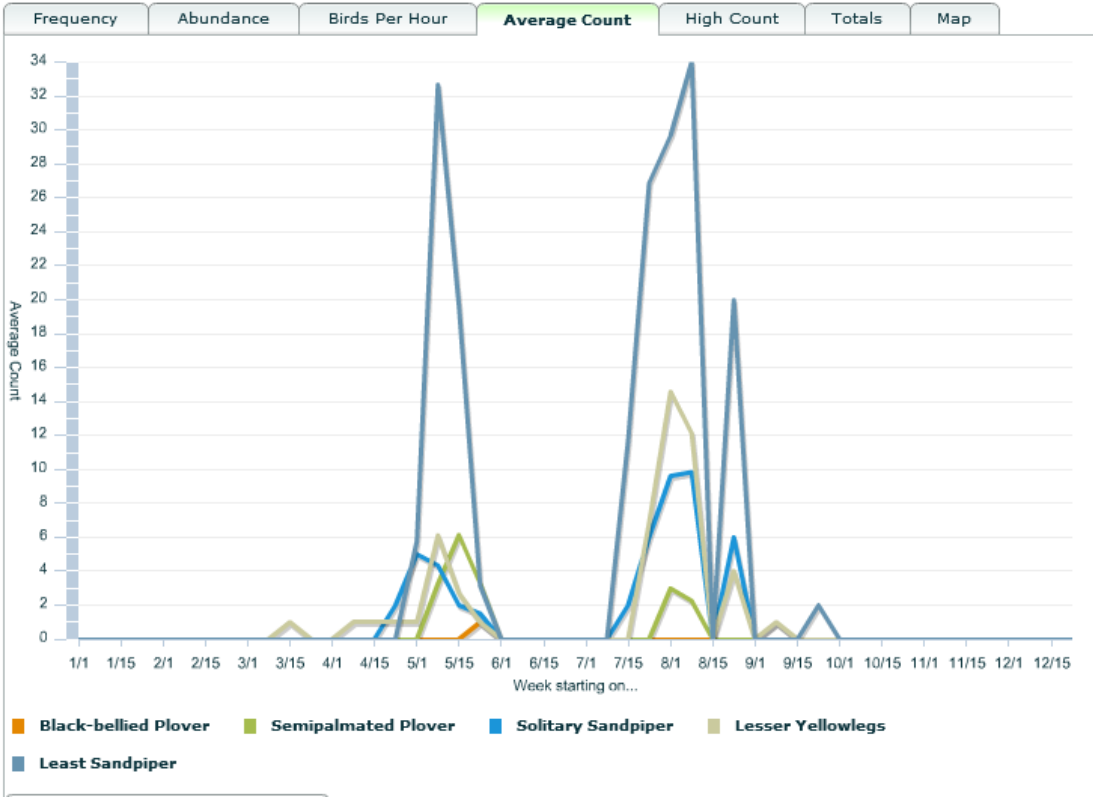
Ownership: The permanent pond is owned by Moravian Academy, a private high school. The marsh across the road is owned by Green Pond Country Club. A smaller field adjacent to permanent pond and across from main marsh area is owned by Jaiindel Turkey farms. The most critical part to protect is the marsh and field area where shorebirds and waterfowl concentrate, but the pond is essential to keeping the water flowing to marsh.

Land Use: Farming and recreation primarily. Bird watching. School uses the pond for educational activities.

Appendix A. Site Map for Green Pond Marsh IBA.



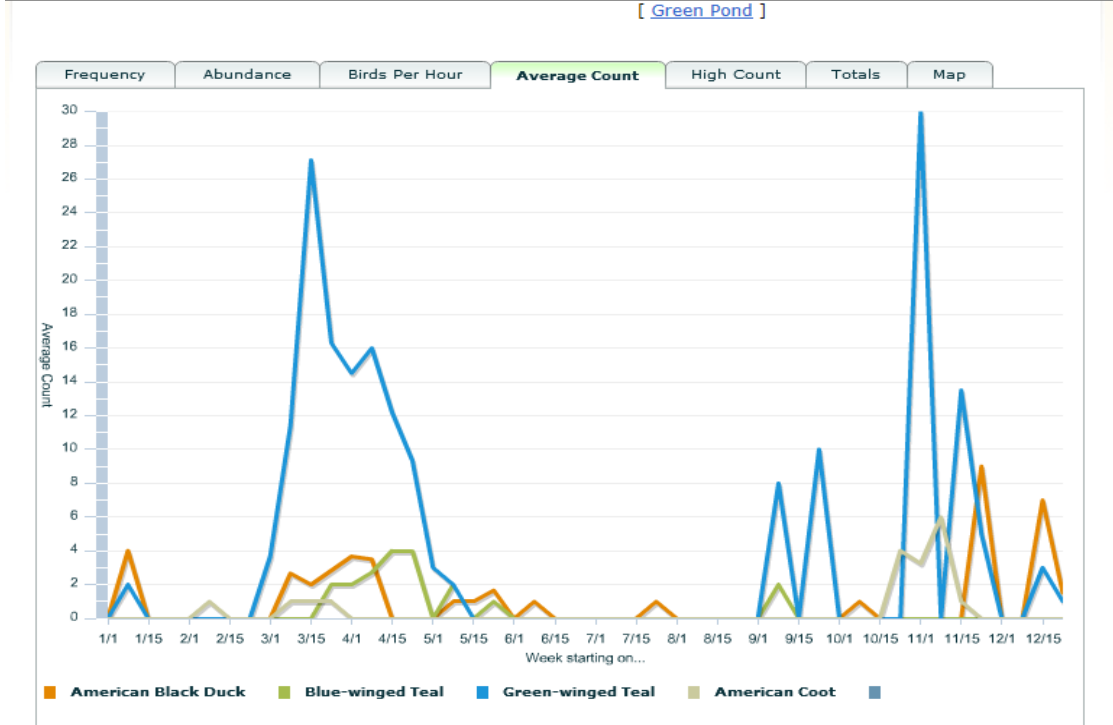
Appendix B. Information on timing and abundance of shorebirds and waterfowl from www.ebird.org.



Average daily count and timing of five species of shorebirds, Green Pond Marsh, Easton, PA, from www.ebird.org.

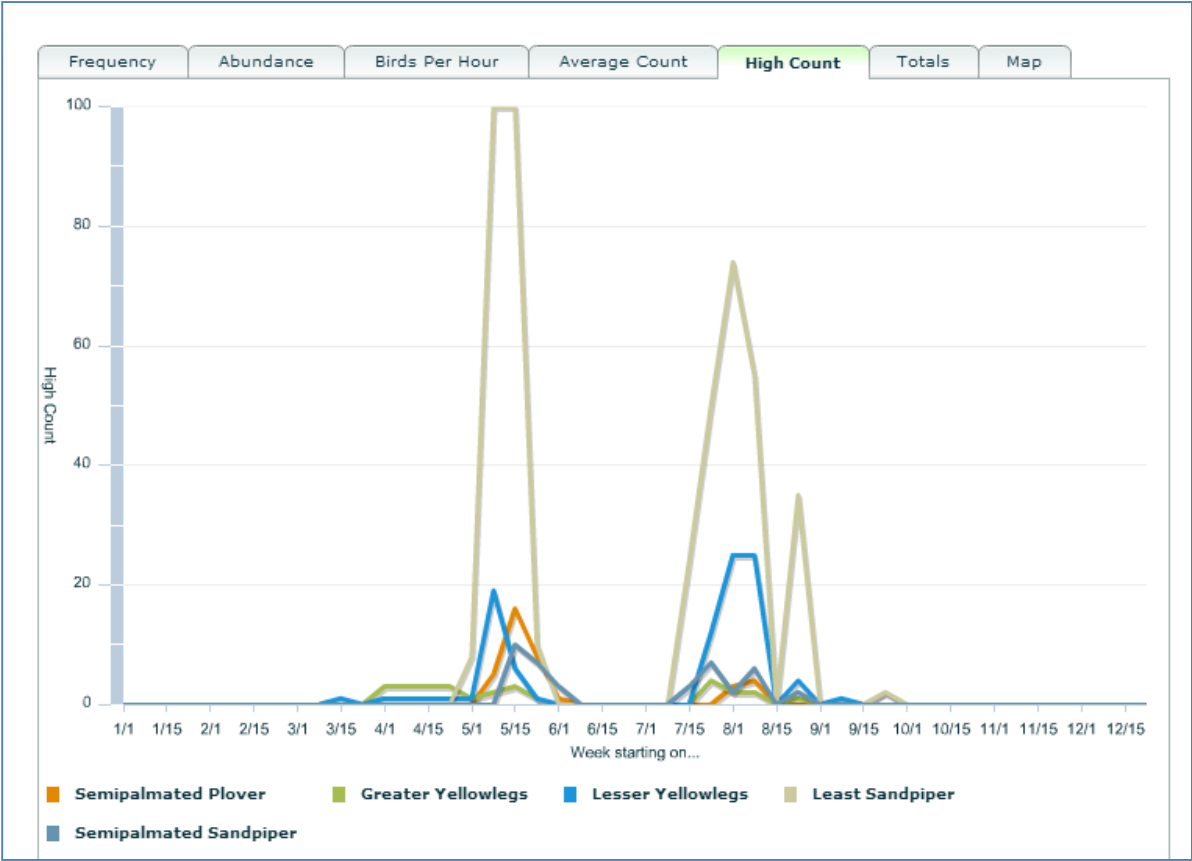


Sample of timing and abundance chart of shorebirds for Green Pond Marsh (ebird.org).



Timing and average abundance of several waterfowl species using Green Pond Marsh, Easton, PA.

See www.ebird.org for complete data.



High counts for five shorebird species from Green Pond Marsh records in eBird.org showing combined total exceeding 100 shorebirds per day and meeting IBA threshold.

**Green Pond Marsh High Counts per species from
www.ebird.org reports, April 2014***

Green Pond Marsh High Counts per species from www.ebird.org reports, April 2014*				Identified in Action Plan's as
Species	Max Number	Date	Observer	CONCERN species
Blue-winged Teal	8	13-Apr-14	Dan Altif	NAWaterfwl.Plan
Greater White-fronted Goose	1	30-Dec-90	PORC Data	BCR declining
Bufflehead	2	3-Apr-07	Bill Etter	
Hooded Merganser	5	16-Mar-11	Dan Altif	
Double-crested Cormorant	2	1-May-11	Dan Altif	
Ruddy Duck	1	6-Nov-11	Edward Komito	
American Coot	6	9-Nov-11	Barbara Hiebsch	
Northern Shoveler	2	22-Nov-11	William Keim	
Mallard	120	22-Nov-11	William Keim	
American Black Duck	12	23-Nov-11	Stephen Kloiber	BCR declining; PIF Priority
Mute Swan	2	25-Nov-11	Matthew Sabatine	
Pied-billed Grebe	2	2-Dec-11	Ray Duffy	
Ross's Goose	3	31-Dec-11	Aidan Bodeo-Lomicky	
Snow Goose	30,000	19-Jan-12	Corey Husic	
Green-winged Teal	53	16-Mar-12	Dustin Welch	WAPlan spp.
Gadwall	6	16-Mar-12	Dustin Welch	
Canada Goose	3000	13-Jan-13	Andrew McGann	
American Wigeon	6	24-Mar-13	Leslie H	
Cackling Goose*	12	17-Mar-14	Michael Schall	
Wood Duck	15	19-Mar-14	Tom Johnson	
Ring-necked Duck	5	22-Mar-14	Edward Komito	
Northern Pintail	196	24-Mar-14	Michael Schall	
Tundra Swan	18	24-Mar-14	Michael Schall	
duck sp.	25	8-Nov-12	Corey Husic	
American Black Duck x Mallard (hybrid)	1	23-Nov-11	Stephen Kloiber	

Green Pond Marsh IBA

American Bittern	1	29-May-00	Michael Schall	PA Endangered., NE Priority
Great Egret*	19	24-Aug-06	Corey Husic	PA Endangered
Glossy Ibis*	11	20-Apr-07	Michael Schall	
Common Gallinule	1	1-Jun-07	Michael Schall	
Black-crowned Night-Heron*	1	7-Jun-08	Michael Schall	PA Endangered
Little Blue Heron	1	1-Aug-08	Corey Husic	
Snowy Egret	1	19-May-11	Dustin Welch	
Cattle Egret	1	31-May-11	Dustin Welch	
White Ibis	1	25-Jul-11	matthew sabatine	
Great Blue Heron	5	5-Apr-12	Dan Altif	
Sandhill Crane	1	12-Apr-13	Michael Schall	
Green Heron	8	6-Aug-13	Michael Schall	
Pectoral Sandpiper	8	23-Apr-06	Michael Schall	
Greater Yellowlegs	4	31-Jul-06	Michael Schall	
Baird's Sandpiper	1	24-Aug-06	Corey Husic	
Stilt Sandpiper*	21	2003	Corey Husic	
Spotted Sandpiper	11	18-May-07	Bill Etter	
Semipalmated Plover	17	18-May-07	Bill Etter	
Dunlin*	9	18-May-08	Michael Schall	
Wilson's Phalarope	1	19-May-08	Corey Husic	
Wilson's Snipe	4	24-Apr-10	Stephen Kloiber	
<u>Least Sandpiper</u>	<u>100</u>	9-May-10	Edward Komito	Shorebird Plan spp.
Semipalmated Sandpiper	10	17-May-11	Stephen Kloiber	
Red-necked Phalarope	1	19-May-11	Dan Altif	
Short-billed Dowitcher*	38	1996	Dan Altif	
Black-bellied Plover*	9	31-May-11	matthew sabatine	
White-rumped Sandpiper	5	june 2008	Dustin Welch	
Killdeer*	75	25-Jul-11	matthew sabatine	Shorebird plan SCC
Solitary Sandpiper	16	10-Aug-11	Bill Etter	

Lesser Yellowlegs*	116	11-Aug-11	Matthew Sabatine	
Black Vulture	3	26-Apr-11	Rich Rehrig	
Turkey Vulture	5	19-May-11	Matthew Sabatine	
American Kestrel	3	15-Jul-11	Matthew Sabatine	
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	6-Nov-11	Stephen Kloiber	
Bald Eagle	1	26-Dec-11	Keith Michael	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	16-Mar-12	Dustin Welch	
Cooper's Hawk	1	27-Mar-12	Corey Husic	
Broad-winged Hawk	1	4-May-12	Michael Schall	
Osprey	1	4-Jul-13	Michael David	PA Threatened
Red-tailed Hawk	3	6-Sep-13	Edward Komito	
Peregrine Falcon	1	15-Mar-14	Dan Altif	PA Endangered
Northern Harrier	1	24-Mar-14	Michael Schall	PA Threatened
Great Horned Owl	3	5-May-02	Michael Schall	
Ring-billed Gull	500	18-Apr-07	Bill Etter	
Glaucous Gull	1	28-Apr-07	Bill Etter	
Forster's Tern	1	11-May-07	Michael Schall	
Lesser Black-backed Gull*	332	8-Mar-08	Michael Schall	
Iceland Gull	3	8-Mar-08	Michael Schall	
Bonaparte's Gull*	80	9-Apr-10	Dan Altif	
Black Tern	1	14-May-10	Edward Komito	PA Endangered
Great Black-backed Gull	4	15-Jan-12	Matthew Sabatine	
Herring Gull	40	15-Jan-12	Matthew Sabatine	
Wild Turkey	2	20-Apr-12	Edward Komito	
Least Flycatcher	2	21-May-03	Michael Schall	
Eastern Wood-Pewee	1	21-May-03	Michael Schall	
<u>Rusty Blackbird</u>	<u>24</u>	2-Feb-06	Michael Schall	BCR SCC; PIF High Priority
Cliff Swallow	20	9-Aug-06	Corey Husic	
Savannah Sparrow	2	13-Sep-09	Dennis Glew	

House Sparrow	4	4-Apr-10	Dustin Welch	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	14	11-Apr-10	Edward Komito	
Palm Warbler	4	11-Apr-10	Edward Komito	
Rock Pigeon	20	9-May-10	Edward Komito	
Louisiana Waterthrush	1	9-May-10	Dan Altif	WACPlan spp
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1	21-Apr-11	Dan Altif	
Field Sparrow	2	11-May-11	Matthew Sabatine	
Prothonotary Warbler	1	12-May-11	Dan Altif	
Baltimore Oriole	3	13-May-11	Dustin Welch	
Orchard Oriole	2	13-May-11	Dustin Welch	
Northern Waterthrush	2	13-May-11	Dustin Welch	
Chimney Swift	20	13-May-11	Dustin Welch	
Barn Swallow	50	16-May-11	Matthew Sabatine	
Tree Swallow	50	18-May-11	Rich Rehrig	
Northern Parula	1	19-May-11	Dustin Welch	
Blackpoll Warbler	3	21-May-11	Edward Komito	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1	27-May-11	Bill Etter	
Eastern Towhee	1	28-May-11	matthew sabatine	
Gray Catbird	4	29-May-11	Edward Komito	
Red-eyed Vireo	1	29-May-11	Edward Komito	
Mourning Dove	12	29-May-11	Edward Komito	
Scarlet Tanager	1	31-May-11	matthew sabatine	
Northern Cardinal	3	12-Jun-11	Edward Komito	
Yellow Warbler	3	13-Jul-11	matthew sabatine	
Northern Mockingbird	3	13-Jul-11	matthew sabatine	
Bank Swallow	3	18-Jul-11	matthew sabatine	
House Wren	2	22-Jul-11	matthew sabatine	
Eastern Kingbird	8	28-Jul-11	matthew sabatine	
House Finch	2	4-Aug-11	matthew sabatine	

Ruby-throated Hummingbird	1	6-Aug-11	matthew sabatine	
European Starling	500	6-Nov-11	Edward Komito	
American Crow	50	19-Jan-12	Corey Husic	
Black-capped Chickadee	2	18-Feb-12	Edward Komito	
Brown-headed Cowbird	75	8-Mar-12	Edward Komito	
Common Grackle	1100	8-Mar-12	Edward Komito	
Red-winged Blackbird	751	8-Mar-12	Edward Komito	
Belted Kingfisher	2	16-Mar-12	Dennis Glew	
Dark-eyed Junco	10	18-Mar-12	Edward Komito	
Eastern Bluebird	1	18-Mar-12	Edward Komito	
Carolina Chickadee	1	1-Apr-12	Michael Schall	
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1	9-Apr-12	Stephen Kloiber	
Horned Lark	1	16-Apr-12	Dan Altif	
American Goldfinch	20	20-Apr-12	Edward Komito	
Tufted Titmouse	2	20-Apr-12	Edward Komito	
Cedar Waxwing	13	30-May-12	Kurt Zimmerman	
American Robin	20	1-Aug-12	Kurt Zimmerman	
White-throated Sparrow	10	2-Mar-13	Dan Altif	
White-breasted Nuthatch	1	2-Mar-13	Dan Altif	
Downy Woodpecker	2	2-Mar-13	Dan Altif	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1	14-Apr-13	Edward Komito	
Eastern Phoebe	2	2-May-13	Kurt Zimmerman	
American Pipit	5	4-May-13	Michael Schall	
Song Sparrow	5	9-May-13	matthew sabatine	
Common Yellowthroat	1	9-May-13	matthew sabatine	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	1	9-May-13	matthew sabatine	
Carolina Wren	2	9-May-13	matthew sabatine	
Warbling Vireo	1	9-May-13	matthew sabatine	
Great Crested Flycatcher	1	9-May-13	matthew sabatine	

Indigo Bunting	3	29-Jul-13	Dennis Glew	
Northern Flicker	2	29-Jul-13	Dennis Glew	
Chipping Sparrow	5	3-Aug-13	matthew sabatine	
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	20	6-Aug-13	Michael Schall	
Blue Jay	5	6-Sep-13	Edward Komito	
Hairy Woodpecker	1	6-Sep-13	Edward Komito	
Swamp Sparrow	1	24-Mar-14	Michael Schall	
crow sp.	3	6-Aug-13	Michael Schall	
Carolina/Black-capped Chickadee	2	15-Jan-12	matthew sabatine	
Fish Crow	2	24-Mar-14	Michael Schall	

***Higher numbers in Lehigh Valley Audubon records see above**

WAP= Wildlife Action Plan listed species; Shorebird Plan=regional shorebird species of concern;

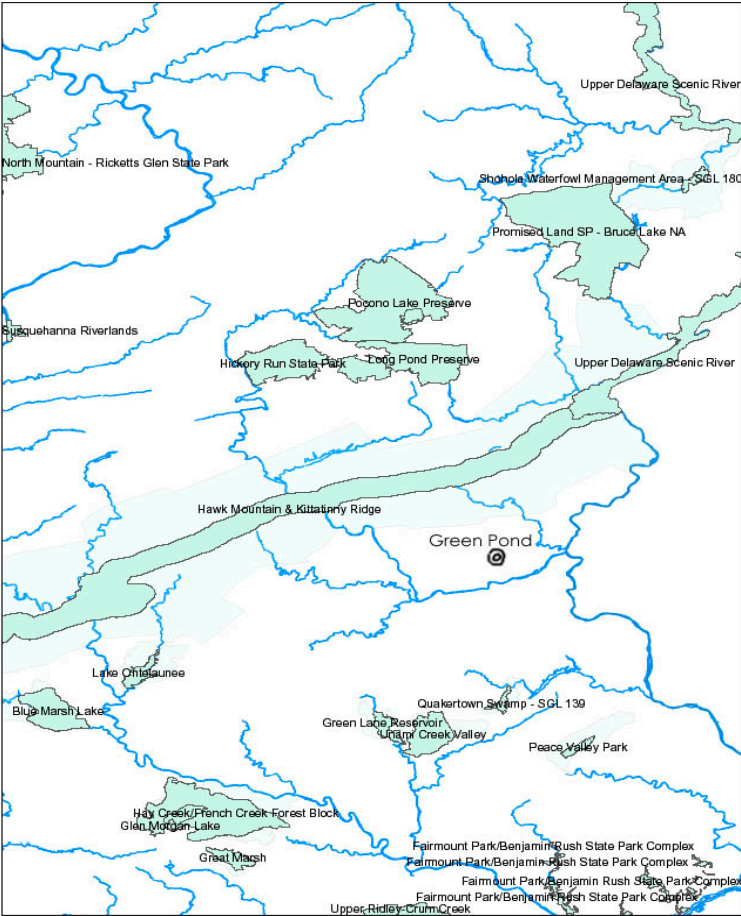
NE Priority or BCR Priority species=listed as “of Concern” by Partners In Flight region.



Photo of Green Pond Marsh in March 2014 with Snow Geese.



Common Gallinule at Green Pond Marsh, June 2007 (m.Schall).



Location of Green Pond relative to other Pennsylvania IBAs.



Photograph of Marsh area from Pond shoreline.