

The Ohio



CARDINAL™

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The Ohio Cardinal is a quarterly publication devoted to the study and appreciation of Ohio's birdlife.

The Ohio Cardinal exists to provide a permanent and timely record of the abundance and distribution of birds in Ohio; to help document the occurrence of rare species in the state; to provide information on identification of birds; and to provide information on birding areas within Ohio.

The Ohio Cardinal invites readers to submit articles on unusual occurrences of birds, bird distribution within the state, birding areas in Ohio, identification tips, and other aspects of ornithology. Bird reports and photographs are welcome from any area of the state. Report forms are not a necessity but will be supplied upon request. Unusual species should be documented, and forms to do so are available upon request from the Editor, Publisher, and Records Committee Secretary.

Seasonal Report Due Dates

Winter (Dec.-Feb.) - March 25
Spring (Mar.-May) - June 25
Summer (June-July) - August 25
Autumn (Aug.-Nov.) - December 25

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The Ohio Cardinal

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On the Cover: Brown-headed Nuthatch - South Russell, Geauga County, 21 November 2001. Photo by Warren Gilbert.

Autumn 2001 Overview

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The scents of flowers mingle with that of burning leaves, and a few of summer's warblers share the skies with waterfowl arriving from the Arctic. Butterflies and juncos, warblers and morning hoarfrost, chanting crickets and snowy owls, all the oddest couples of autumn, seemed particularly evident this year...in December. It is becoming tedious to recite such announcements, but here they are: October was the warmest on record worldwide, November was the second-warmest ever in the U.S., and 2001 seems likely to rate second only to 1998 as the warmest worldwide since records have been kept.

It is tempting to over-estimate the effect of temperatures on bird abundance and distribution. Boreal birds, however, do not come to Ohio because it is too cold up north, any more than southern birds come our way for a break from the heat. But weather warm enough to sustain a food source can delay departure for certain southbound species. Open water in the north and unusually late flushes of insects may prolong migrations. We had a flycatcher—a vermilion one—right into December, a virtual absence of several hardy waterfowl species through November, and August arrivals of forerunner species like red-breasted nuthatches and pine siskins that raised hopes for a winter finch irruption.

We picked chiles out of the editorial garden until the first local hard frost on 12 December. The season's only measurable snow in Cleveland—an inch—fell on 26 October, where November was a hefty 6.2°F above normal—with only four days with temperatures below freezing—and the winds blew from the north on only seven days. Perhaps the most significant event of the season's weather involved high winds, which dominated the scene in the latter half of October. Nearly all the season's negligible snow fell at this time, and strong westerlies may have influenced the period's arrivals of western birds like Franklin's and Sabine's gulls, our only Eurasian wigeon, and big fallouts of migrant sparrows, of which fully 13 species were found at Headlands Beach State Park on the 21st. The weather grew much calmer and warmer after that. As a likely consequence, waterfowl were late and low in numbers this fall. Shorebirds lingered remarkably long in the few habitats allowed to exist; the Crane Creek estuary and Sheldon Marsh, two areas still open to natural fluctuations in the Lake Erie water levels, hosted most of them, and both areas are threatened—the former by government land managers, the latter by a private developer. Although there were some notably early arrivals, passerines from the north seemed to do their passing on a leisurely schedule.

An excellent nine Review Species were documented this fall, among them an astounding three potential first Ohio records. Two other Review Species were widely rumored, but could not be refound, and without documentation to back them up are not included in the Reports. One additional species that would be new to the state list remains in recirculation in the Records Committee. By and large we prefer to spend the money on additional content rather than on color photos, but excellent flycatcher images contributed by Sharon Cummings tempted us to include a vermilion crayon with each copy of *The Ohio Cardinal* so readers could kick it up a notch.

As the ornithological journal of record for Ohio, we inaugurate here *For the Record*, a regular brief listing of significant bird records not covered in previous issues. Gleaned from tardy reports, omissions, publication elsewhere, etc., they are intended to more nearly complete the published record, and appear for the first time below. We trust the delayed publication of a few records will be more acceptable to readers than delayed publication of *The Ohio Cardinal* until all such reports become available.

The Reports follow the taxonomic order of the 42nd Supplement (July 2000) to the 7th edition of the *AOU Check-list of North American Birds* (1998). Underlined names of species indicate those on the OBRC Review List; acceptable documentation is needed to add reports of such species to official state records. When supplied, county names appear *italicized*. Unless numbers are specified, sightings refer to single birds. Abbreviations, conventions, and symbols used should be readily understood, with the possible exception of the following: BCSP=Buck Creek SP in *Clark*; BIWA=Big Island WA in *Marion*; BSBO=Black Swamp Bird Observatory; CCE=Crane Creek estuary in Ottawa NWR; CPNWR=Cedar Point NWR in *Lucas*; CVNP=Cuyahoga Valley National Park in *Cuyahoga* and *Summit*; CVNPC=the 15 September census at CVNP, reported by **D. Chasar**; EFSP=East Fork SP in *Clermont*; EHSP=East Harbor SP in *Ottawa*; *fade*=“in trust of,” said of information conveyed on behalf of another person; HBSP=Headlands Beach SP in *Lake*; Killdeer=Killdeer Plains WA in *Wyandot*; Magee=Magee Marsh WA in *Lucas* and *Ottawa*; MBSP=Maumee Bay SP in *Lucas*; MP=Metropark or Metro Park; m obs=many observers; MW=Miami-Whitewater Wetlands in *Hamilton*; NWR=National Wildlife Refuge; OBRC=Ohio Bird Records Committee; ONWRC=monthly census of Ottawa NWR, reported by **E. Pierce**; Ottawa=Ottawa NWR in *Lucas* and *Ottawa*; ph=photograph; Res=reservoir; Res'n=reservation; SF=State Forest; SNP=State Nature Preserve; SP=State Park; SVWA=Spring Valley Wildlife Area in *Greene* and *Warren*; WA=Wildlife Area; ~≈approximately.

Corrigenda

H. Slack's report of double-crested cormorants in the previous issue should read “four in *Lawrence* on 26 July.” In “Early Works on Ohio Birds by J. P. Kirtland,” the scientific name of mourning dove should be *Zenaidura macroura* (p. 201).

For the Record

American White Pelican: **J. McConnor** saw one in *Cuyahoga* on 5 July 2001.

Northern Harrier: Last summer at Woodbury WA, **J. Beechy** observed one on 30 June 2001. **R. Schlabach** noted a juvenile in *Tuscarawas* on 26 July 2001.

Piping Plover: The US F&WS (2 Oct 2001, **J. Dingledine**) reported that the Great Lakes population actually increased from 30 nesting pairs in 2000 to 32 in 2001. These pairs fledged 71 chicks in 2001.

Willit: One was observed 23 July 2001 at HBSP (**R. Hannikman**).

Jaeger sp.: **F. Downs** saw a jaeger in Leesville Lk, *Carroll*, while fishing on 4 June 2001. Details diagnostic of species were not available.

Laughing Gull: A bird in first-summer plumage was observed on 16 June 2001 at Fairport Harbor by **R. Hannikman**.

Common Tern: **T. LePage** noted three at Lorain on 17 July 2001.

Forster's Tern: One was at Tappan Lk, *Harrison*, on 4 June 2001 (**L. Miller**).

Barn Owl: *The Bobolink* reported 17 nests in *Holmes* and *Tuscarawas* in summer 2001.

Alder Flycatcher: **L. Rosche** counted 28 on BBS routes in the Ravenna Training and Logistics Site (RTLS) in *Portage* during summer 2001.

Least Flycatcher: Two were singing on 30 June 2001 at Woodbury WA, with breeding unconfirmed (**J. Beechy**).

Cliff Swallow: **A. Troyer**'s farm in *Holmes* hosted 545 pairs in summer 2001.

Veery: **L. Rosche** counted 76 on BBS routes in the RTLS in *Portage* during summer 2001.


Tennessee Warbler: **B. Glick** had a singing male in *Coshocton* on 9 June 2001.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: **L. Rosche**'s 2001 BBS routes at the RTLS found 25.

Prairie Warbler: Odd indeed was one at Mentor Lagoons, *Lake*, on 22 July 2001 (**R. Hannikman**).

White-throated Sparrow: **J. E. Miller** observed one on 1-2 July 2001 in *Wayne*.

Dark-eyed Junco: As in four of the past five years, **J. Beechy** found a male singing at Mohican SF on 30 June 2001.

Pine Siskin: **T. Shrock** had one at his *Holmes* feeder on 10-12 June 2001. 



White-winged crossbills appeared across Ohio during late October and early November. This male was one of two coming to a Franklin County feeder on 7 November 2001. Digitized photo by Joe Hammond.

Autumn 2001 Reports

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Red-throated Loon: Seven birds were in the vanguard at Pymatuning Res on 1 Nov (E. Cornelius), then flybys were seen over Lk Erie, with two on 4 Nov and one on 10 Nov (J. Pogacnik), and another at Fairport Harbor on 30 Nov (B. Morrison). One was as far south as BCSP on 18 Nov (D. Overacker).

Common Loon: Over 600 birds reported, far fewer than last year. A basic-plumaged bird on Mosquito Lk 3-4 Aug had to be boycotting the breeding season (D. Hochadel). The earliest migrant was at HBSP on 30 Sept (K. Metcalf), with another in Lake on 6 Oct (J. Pogacnik). The bulk of the migrants arrived on schedule, with 35 over Holmes on 27 Oct (E. Schlabach), where the season's high count of 74 was made on 20 Nov by L. Yoder. Loons persisted well into the next period.

Pied-billed Grebe: Breeders were noted, with six at BIWA on 1 Aug (T. Nickerson), on which date one in Ross was intriguing (B&D Lane). Migrants appeared as early as 29 Aug in Holmes (E. Yoder), then peaked at 41 on the 7 Oct ONWRC, with some remaining through the period. Numbers seemed down overall.

Horned Grebe: Like many waterfowl breeding to the north, their numbers were down this fall. First noted at Kelleys Isl on 29 Sept (K. Metcalf), numbers in double figures did not appear until Nov, with 44 at Rocky River, Cuyahoga, on 2 Nov (P. Lozano) far outstripping other counts.

Red-necked Grebe: A few, all in Nov, and most inland. A first-winter bird in Lima on 3 Nov (B. Whan et al.) was joined by another the following day (D. Sanders). J. Pogacnik found one in the Ashtabula harbor on 18 Nov. One stayed at Hoover Res, Delaware, from 20-25 Nov (R. Thorn, m obs).

Eared Grebe: This, the most common grebe species worldwide, spared Ohio only a few individuals this season: basic-plumaged birds in Paulding 9-11 Sept (D&M Dunakin), at Sheldon Marsh 4-10 Oct (J. Hammond, m obs), and two in Lk Erie in Lake on 18 Nov (J. Pogacnik).

American White Pelican: A bird in Medusa Marsh, Erie, from 4 (B. Morrison) to 17 Aug (P. Lozano) was intermittently seen. Another made a one-day show at the CCE on 12 Sept (G. Miller).

Double-crested Cormorant: Widespread inland, but in relatively low numbers. Instead of hundreds, H. Slack saw only six in Lawrence along the Ohio River in Oct and Nov, and J. Herman's 425 at Clear Fork Res on 17 Oct was far and away the highest count away from Lk Erie. Four thousand-plus at CPNWR on 21 Oct (E. Tramer) and 3923 on the 17 Nov Kelleys Isl census (T. Bartlett) were expected, but an estimated 25,000 on 25 Oct off S. Bass Isl (S. Wulkowicz) was not.



To the delight of many, this eared grebe spent several October days along the Cedar Point Chaussee in Erie County. Photo by Jay Lehman on 6 October 2001.

AUTUMN 2001 REPORTS

American Bittern: Characteristically both hardy and scarce, one bird was reported at BIWA on 14 Aug (G. Miller), then on 17 Aug and 11 Sept (V. Fazio). Two were seen at Metzger Marsh on 20 Oct (T&P Bihm), and one at MWV on 30 Oct (E. Roush). A mild Nov invited one to Ottawa on the 6th (R. Harlan, S. Wagner), one at Sandy Ridge MP, Lorain, the 8th (J. Pogacnik), and one on the 24th in Summit (D. Castell *vide* L. Rosche).

Least Bittern: K. Beal reported young birds at SVWA, a traditional nesting spot, on 12 Aug, where two were seen through 28 Aug (E. Roush). G. Miller noted one at BIWA on 14 Aug. No reports were received from the Lk Erie marshes.

Great Blue Heron: The ONWRC had 102 on 2 Sept, 85 on 7 Oct, and 96 on 4 Nov. Big Nov roosts included 90 at EHSP on the 4th (R. Harlan, S. Wagner) and on the 11th 42 at Mosquito Lk WA (C. Babyak). On 18 Sept, B. Hardesty reported 30 in Hancock, intriguingly including one "white with yellow bill and legs."

Great Egret: Widespread but sparse inland, with high counts of 13 at Berlin Res on 7 Sept (B&D Lane) and 12 at Mosquito Lk WA on 30 Sept (C. Babyak). The ONWRC had the Lakeshore high count of 212 on 2 Sept, then 165 on 7 Oct, and 31 on 4 Nov, the latter the highest of four Nov counts. Only one bird was reported as persisting through a mild Nov, one at Firestone MP in Akron that had remained since mid-Aug (E. Pierce).

Snowy Egret: Most reports came from Aug: on the 2nd one at Toussaint WA and two at Medusa Marsh (J. Hammond); at the CCE on the 9th (V. Fazio) and the 16th (E. Tramer), then four on the 17th (P. Lozano) and three on the 23rd (Hammond), with one remaining on 2 Oct (J. Haw). A healthy 18 were tallied on the 2 Sept ONWRC.

Little Blue Heron: Aug birds included an imm at MWV on the 3rd (F. Frick) through the 5th (S. Reeves), and an ad at Magee 26 Aug (T. Manley). A molting bird at Hoover Res, Delaware, on 2 Sept (R. Thorn) was last seen on 18 Sept (J. Hammond). E. Bruder reported one at Sandy Ridge MP, Lorain, on 9 Sept. D. Sanders et al. found one at the CCE on 12 Sept.

Cattle Egret: In Erie, G. Miller had five on 22 Aug, and J. Hammond 12 on 23 Aug. The ONWRC found one on 2 Sept. The Dunakins found a remarkable 26 in Paulding on 19 Oct. Two were at Sheldon Marsh on 23 Oct (V. Fazio) and one at a Fostoria res 30 Oct-6 Nov (B. Hardesty). Hammond had one in Auglaize on 4 Nov, and D. Overacker another the same day through the 18th at BCSP. A bird at BIWA on 12 Nov (T. Nickerson) was perhaps the same one seen at Killdeer on the 15th (M. Misplon). At Ottawa, two were found by R. Harlan and S. Wagner on 19 Nov, remaining through 24 Nov (N. Bixler).

Green Heron: Goody Aug roosts included 15 at Buckeye Lk, Licking, on the 5th (D. Linzell), and a noteworthy 52 at Wright Marsh in Killbuck WA, Wayne, on the 22nd (L. Deininger), where 38 were found on the 19th last fall. The ONWRC had 14 on 2 Sept and the state's last reported bird on the census of 7 Oct.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: The Mill Ck colony in Hamilton revealed nine ad and one imm on 13 Aug (D. Brinkman). Further north, scattered individuals were the rule, with an imm at BIWA on 14 Aug (G. Miller), one at the Shaker Lks on 18 Aug (B. Fambrough), and three at Walnut Beach, Ashtabula, on 19 Aug (J. Pogacnik). Eleven were found on the ONWRC of 2 Sept, and 19 on the Magee census of 17 Sept (H&S Hiris). Five were in Cleveland on 11 Oct (P. Lozano), 13 roosting at Medusa Marsh on 23 Oct (V. Fazio), and another spent 12-20 Oct near a Findlay res (B. Hardesty).

Plegadis Ibis: J. Perchalski discovered one in Van Wert on 28 Oct, which persisted into the following day. Details are with the OBRC.

Black Vulture: Interesting finds included one in central Crawford on 12 Aug (J. Pogacnik), four early in Licking on 3 Aug (where the flock stabilized at 22 on 28 Nov) for R. Thorn, one at Rocky Fork SP and three at Paint Ck SP on 26 Oct (J. Glover), one over Oak Openings MP on 7 Nov (B. Morrison), five at Lk Buckhorn, Holmes, on 9 Nov (E. Schlabach), and six at MWV on 25 Nov (D. Brinkman).

Turkey Vulture: **J. Miller's** 150 in *Holmes* on 21 Aug was impressive for the date, as were 110+ at a *Mahoning* landfill on 7 Sept (B&D Lane) and 70+ at HBSP on 27 Sept (**K. Metcalf**). On 26 Oct, **J. Glover** had 55 at Rocky Fork SP, 120 at Paint Ck SP, and ~400 at Madison Lk SP, while **E. Lotz** counted 150 in *Clermont*. Migrants continued through the end of the period, with numbers like 110 at Cowan Lk SP on 19 Nov (**E. Roush**) and 230 at the Granville, *Licking*, roost by 28 Nov (**R. Thorn**).

Greater White-fronted Goose: Scarce, with *Paulding* providing nearly all the reports. The **Dunakins** had six there 28 Oct, then three on 4 Nov, one of which remained on 30 Nov. **J. Pogacnik** had one at Ottawa on 24 Nov.

Snow Goose: May be exploding in numbers, but not in Ohio: 181 were reported, with high counts of 70 in *Lake* on 10 Nov (**J. Pogacnik**) and 22 at the CCE two days earlier (**V. Fazio**). Migrants first appeared in late Sept, with one at Sandy Ridge MP on the 22nd (**D. Sanders**), one at Ottawa on the 29th (**D. Overacker**), and another at Mosquito Lk on the 30th (**D. Hochadel**). Reported blue geese outnumbered white ones 75 to 8.

Canada Goose: **K. Metcalf** reported the return of ~150 migrants from the Hudson and James Bay populations in *Geauga* on 16 Sept. **V. Fazio** reported 17 of the "Richardson's" form at Ottawa on 18 Nov.

Brant: One reported, a bird at Conneaut 20 Oct by **D. English**.

Mute Swan: High counts of fall gatherings were 43 at EHSP and 26 at Medusa Marsh on 23 Oct (**V. Fazio**).

Tundra Swan: Nearly 1500 birds reported, all in flocks, the largest of 242 in *Lake* on 20 Nov (**M. Huey**). Earliest to arrive were birds at Ottawa, with 16 on 27 Oct (**J. Pogacnik**) and 135 on the 4 Nov ONWRC, in an area where they regularly overwinter, but fully half the reported numbers passed through on 20 Nov in nine large flocks, a peak over two weeks later than in recent years.

Trumpeter Swan: These introduced birds bear watching. **D. Hochadel** reported "a pair at Shenango WA had one young with them on 27 Aug. Were they responsible for the absence of pied-billed grebes and moorhens which had been annual breeders at this site until this year?"

Wood Duck: Gathered in normal fall numbers beginning in late Aug. The ONWRC counted 135 on 2 Sept, 39 on 7 Oct, and 21 on 4 Nov. The Magee census by **H&S Hirs** tallied 159 on 17 Sept and 197 on 21 Oct.

Gadwall: First reported by the ONWRC, with 31 on 2 Sept, where 3400 were present on 27 Oct (**J. Pogacnik**) and 1898 on 4 Nov (ONWRC). Persisted through the period in robust numbers, with 24 Nov counts of 300 at Ottawa (**Pogacnik**) and 144 at Lk Rockwell, *Portage* (**L. Rosche**).

Eurasian Wigeon: One reported, 27 Oct at Ottawa (**J. Pogacnik** et al.).

American Wigeon: A 31 Aug bird in *Paulding* (**M&D Dunakin**) could have been an early migrant, or perhaps a rookie sitting out the breeding season. At the Lake, 58 were around for the 2 Sept ONWRC, with 444 on the 7 Oct count. Elsewhere, good numbers did not appear until late Oct. High counts were ~600 at the CCE on 1 Nov (**V. Fazio**) and 598 there three days later for the ONWRC.

American Black Duck: Their numbers were unimpressive. Fifteen were at Magee on 29 Sept (**D. Overacker**), but the largest numbers showed up only in Nov, with a high of 550 on the 4th (ONWRC). Fifty-two were at Lk Rockwell on 24 Nov (**L. Rosche**).

Mallard: Big numbers were at Ottawa, with 1950 on 2 Sept (ONWRC), ~8000 on 27 Oct (**J. Pogacnik**), and ~10,000 on 4 Nov (ONWRC).

Blue-winged Teal: Parents with young were at Ottawa on 2 Aug (**B. Whan**) and at SVWA on 12 Aug (**K. Beal**). Migrant numbers peaked in early Sept, with 904 on the 2nd (ONWRC) and 1160 at Killdeer on the 11th (**V. Fazio**). Three lingered till 27 Oct at Ottawa (**J. Pogacnik**).

Northern Shoveler: In the vanguard were two at Medusa Marsh on 17 Aug (**G. Leidy**), and the ONWRC found 31 on 2 Sept, but most appeared later, with decent counts of 70 at ONWR on 29 Sept (**D. Overacker**) and 180 there on 28 Oct (**J. Pogacnik**).

Northern Pintail: First reported by **K. Johnson**, with eclipsed males at Medusa and Sheldon marshes on 8 Sept. **V. Fazio** had 16 at BIWA on 11 Sept. As with other dabblers, decent numbers waited till late Oct and early Nov, with 440 at the CCE on 28 Oct (**J. Pogacnik**), then 680+ there on 1 Nov (**V. Fazio**).

Green-winged Teal: The 2 Sept ONWRC produced 1115 birds, and two were at Berlin Res on 7 Sept (B&D Lane) for starters, but most substantial reports came from Oct and Nov at Ottawa: 700 on 7 Oct (ONWRC), 850 on 27 Oct (**J. Pogacnik**), 950+ on 1 Nov (**V. Fazio**), 1660 on 4 Nov (ONWRC), 400+ on 18 Nov (**Fazio**), and 220 on 24 Nov (**Pogacnik**).

Canvasback: **J. Herman** reported the first at Clear Fork Res 27 Oct. Three were at Wellington Res 4 Nov (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**), where the high count of seven followed 23 Nov (**S. Snyder**). One spent 1-21 Nov at Wilmington Res (**L. Gara**), one was at Lk Rockwell 24 Nov (**L. Rosche**), and one was near Wooster 27 Nov (**Snyder**).

Redhead: On schedule, but hardly plentiful, the first two arriving 8 Oct at Mentor (**J. Pogacnik**), and with high counts in Oct of 60 at Magee on the 21st (**H&S Hirs**) and 290+ at Findlay Res on the 27th (**V. Fazio**).

Ring-necked Duck: Arrived on schedule, but in singles, with one on the 7 Oct ONWRC, one at Mentor the following day (**J. Pogacnik**), and another the next day at Killbuck Marsh WA (**S. Snyder**). By 27 Oct, 280+ were at Wellington Res, *Lorain* (**V. Fazio**). On 11 Nov, 90 were at Clear Fork Res (**J. Herman**) and on the 24th the high count of 605 was made by **L. Rosche** at Lk Rockwell, *Portage*.

Greater Scaup: Very few reports, with Ohio's waters perhaps too steamy for the species; the high count was two, inland at Oberlin Res on 3 Nov (**G. Leidy**).

Lesser Scaup: The bird summering near Wooster persisted, proving itself airworthy on 4 Sept (**S. Snyder**). The first report of migrants came from Conneaut on 14 Oct (**J. Pogacnik**), and numbers remained low, with the only reports of more than single digits being 45 at Wellington Res on 26 Oct (**V. Fazio**) and reports the following day of 55 at Clear Fork Res (**J. Herman**) and 230+ at Findlay (**Fazio**).

Surf Scoter: Fifty-seven birds reported, all in a span of 24 days. **J. Pogacnik** found the first on 20 Oct in Conneaut, with the last two by **P. Lozano** in Rocky River on 12 Nov. The highest count by far was 15 at HBSP on 27 Oct (**K. Metcalf**) among 29 birds at three locations along the Lake that day. Oddly, all but two at BCSP on 21 Oct (**D. Overacker**) were in or over Lk Erie.



An adult white morph snow goose occupied a residential lawn near Clear Fork Reservoir in Richland County on 3 November 2001. This photo of the bird was digitized by Joe Hammond.

Black Scoter: One hundred sixty-one reported, between 20 Oct (four birds in *Paulding* for the **Dunakins**) and 30 Nov (three birds off S. Bass Isl for **S. Wulkowicz**). The actual number of birds involved was probably smaller, as there were eight Nov reports of 1-17 birds at Fairport Harbor, and five Nov reports of 6-11 birds at Rocky River. All the same, beyond the *Paulding* foursome were four other inland reports of singles: 28 Oct at Lima (**D. Dister**), 4 Nov at Lima (**D. Sanders**), 4 Nov in Columbus (**M. England**), and 11 Nov at Maumee (**M. Anderson**, m obs).

White-winged Scoter: A single report, from Rocky River Park on 15 Nov (**T. Gilliland**).

Long-tailed Duck: Again a single bird, found at Findlay Res on 12 Nov and shot by a hunter two days later (**B. Sams** *vide* **B. Hardesty**).

Bufflehead: A female at Hoover Res 9 Sept (**B. Sparks**) was probably opting out of motherhood this year. The first migrant was at La Due Res 20 Oct (**D. English**), and the Lk Erie Islands again hosted the big numbers, with 900+ off S. Bass Isl 27 Nov (**S. Wulkowicz**).

Common Goldeneye: Anything but common this fall. Drakes appeared in *Paulding* (**M&D Dunakin**) and at HBSP (**K. Metcalf**) on 27 Oct, and the seasonal high count was only 30, off S. Bass Isl on 30 Nov (**S. Wulkowicz**).

Hooded Merganser: Few reports of breeding, with a family group of six at Medusa Marsh on 2 Aug (**J. Hammond**). The high count was 240 at Ottawa on 24 Nov (**J. Pogacnik**). Inland numbers were more modest, with ~100 in *Geauga* on 11 Nov (**D. Ferris**) and 70+ at Hoover Res on 20 Nov (**G. Stauffer**).



Fairport Harbor in Lake County hosted up to 17 black scoters during November. These three were very cooperative for Jay Lehman when he photographed them in flight on 10 November 2001.

Red-breasted Merganser: Late, but plentiful as usual. Three were on Pleasant Hill Lk on 17 Oct (**J. Herman**) for the first of the late ones, and for the plentiful ones **D. Brinkman** watched long enough to count 10,000+ at Huron on 11 Nov, and **S. Wulkowicz** 15,000+ off S. Bass Isl on 30 Nov. **S. Reeves** made a nice inland tally of 175 on 27 Nov at Caesar Ck SP.

Ruddy Duck: First reported 29 Sept at Ottawa by **D. Overacker**, numbers peaked in late Oct, with 4700+ in Sandusky Bay the 23rd (**V. Fazio**), 900+ at Sheldon Marsh on the 28th (**Fazio**), and 1300 at Mogadore Res on the 29th (**L. Rosche**). Best inland counts were 46 at Clear Fork Res on 6 Oct (**J. Herman**) and 64 at Wilmington Res on 15 Nov (**L. Gara**).

Osprey: Likely early migrants were at Sheldon Marsh 4 Aug (**B. Sparks**), two at Dillon Res 14 Aug (**R. Thorn**), two on Kelleys Isl 17 Aug (**T. Bartlett**), one at Conneaut 19 Aug (**J. Pogacnik**), and another at Kelleys Isl 24 Aug (**P. Lozano**). The latest soared over Lima on 3 Nov (**K. Johnson**). Eighty-two reports of migrants overall.

Bald Eagle: Over one hundred reports statewide, not counting the strangely brachyrynchous individual on the license plates. The high counts came from expected places, with 19 in the CPNWR on 26 Aug (**E. Tramer**) and 11 on the ONWRC of 2 Sept, plus six (two ad, four imm) at Mosquito Lk on 11 Oct (**C. Babyak**).

Northern Harrier: August reports came from *Paulding* on the 2nd (**D&M Dunakin**), an adult male in *Sandusky* the 10th (**B. Conlon**), an adult male at MWV the 16th (**J. Hays**), three at BJWA on the 20th (**G. Miller**), and a female at CPNWR on the 26th (**E. Tramer**). High count was eight at Killdeer on 18 Nov (**J. Hammond**). Nearly 100 reported.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: The first migrant noted was 25 Aug in the Oak Openings (**E. Tramer**). Observers at Kelleys Isl counted 33 on 30 Sept (**T. Gilliland** et al.).

Northern Goshawk: A record 70 overflew the SE Michigan hawk-watch, but few were detected a few miles further south in Ohio; among them was one 7 Nov in the Oak Openings (**B. Morrison**) and an adult near Bay View, *Erie*, 11 Nov (**J. Lehman** et al.).

Red-shouldered Hawk: Rare local breeders were probably those seen by **E. Tramer** in the Oak Openings 17 Aug, 8 Sept, and 17 Sept. Like the previous species, few migrants from further north were noted, with a high count of only five, seen along I-75 south of Toledo on 3 Nov (**J. Hammond**).

Broad-winged Hawk: A bird on the 2 Sept ONWRC was decidedly early. During the usual period, the high count was 370 over *Lucas* on 16 Sept (**E. Tramer**). Twenty-eight miles from the Ohio border, Lk Erie MP counters in Michigan had 81,909 this fall.

Red-tailed Hawk: A "mostly albino" individual was reported from *Tuscarawas* on 17 Nov (**E. Schlabach**).

Rough-legged Hawk: There are published reports of this Arctic hawk in Ohio from every month of the year, but only a couple from August: **G. Miller** and **D. Sanders** had good looks at a light morph in Woodbury WA on the 17th. Another early bird appeared over Ottawa on 8 Sept (**B&J Bossenbroek**, et al.). These did not presage large numbers, as fewer than 20 others were reported during the rest of the period.

Golden Eagle: Hawk-watchers just over the border in Michigan counted 174 this fall, the first on 29 Sept, the last on 22 Nov; thus **R. Harlan** and **S. Wagner**'s adult from southern *Noble* on 17 Sept was doubly curious—in time and space. Keeping to a more standard itinerary was an imm over the Oak Openings 30 Oct (**D. Sanders** *vide* **J. Hammond**), another over *Lucas* the following day (**R. Johnson**), a juv in *Hancock* 3 Nov (**Hammond** et al.), and an adult in *Lucas* 11 Nov (**J. Lehman** et al.).

Merlin: An imm spent some days in mid-Aug at Mentor Lagoons in *Lake (fide L. Rosche)*. Almost as early were one at Conneaut 19 Aug (**J. Pogacnik**) and another 24 Aug at Kelleys Isl (**P. Lozano et al.**), where the high count of six was reported 30 Sept (**T. Gilliland**). A good total of 54 statewide.

Peregrine Falcon: A juv at Sandy Ridge MP 5 Sept (**S. Wright**), and a banded juv at the CCE 8 Sept (**J. Hammond et al.**) were probably of locally introduced stock. More timely migrants arrived 22 Sept, with one at HBSP (**K. Metcalf**) and another in *Holmes (L. Yoder)*. Thirty-four birds were reported, the last of them two imm at Fairport Harbor 24 Nov (**L. Rosche**).

Wild Turkey: A good flock for the CVNP was ~100 on 30 Nov (**D. Whitehead fide D. Chasar**). The DOW estimated 260,000 turkeys in Ohio this year, versus none 50 years ago. **J. McCormac** noted their numbers have increased considerably in the hills of the southeast, where it is "now common to see large areas of forest floor denuded by the scratch-feeding of foraging flocks."

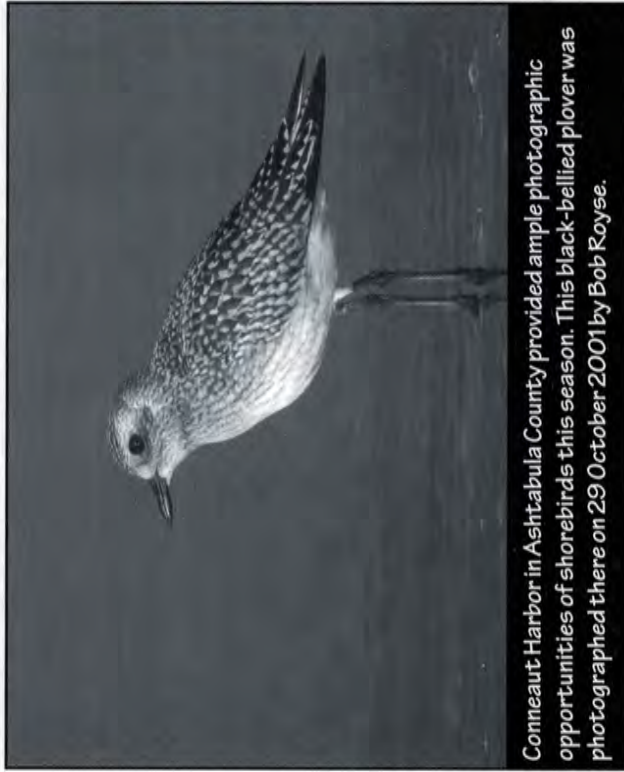
Northern Bobwhite: Two on Kelleys Isl on 17 Aug were a surprise (**T. Bartlett**). The high count of ~30 came from **B. Stanley's** property in *Clermont*.

Virginia Rail: Elusive as always in fall, two were detected on the 2 Sept ONWRC, and **J. Pogacnik** found one at Sandy Ridge MP on 8 Nov.

Sora: One was in *Clark* on 5 Aug (**D. Overacker**), and seven at Magee on 17 Sept (**H&S Hiris**).

Common Moorhen: Eleven at BIWA on 1 Aug were local breeders (**T. Nickerson**). Seventeen were at Ottawa on 5 Aug (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**). An adult with young was at Killbuck on 9 and 29 Sept, and one remained on 24 Oct (**S. Snyder**). Ten were counted on the 2 Sept ONWRC. The latest seen was in Columbus on 4 Nov (**M. England**).

American Coot: Twenty-five at Ottawa on 2 Aug probably summered locally (**J. Hammond**), and by 2 Sept the ONWRC found 161, which must have included migrants; their census of 7 Oct tallied 1200. By 21 Oct, 5404 were at Magee (**H&S Hiris**) and 1000+ at CPNWR (**E. Tramer**). On 1 Nov, 2300+ were at Ottawa (**V. Fazio**). Away from the western Lk Erie marshes, 450 were at Sandy Ridge on 4 Nov (**T&M Romito**), and 130 at Clear Fork Res on 9 Nov (**J. Herman**).



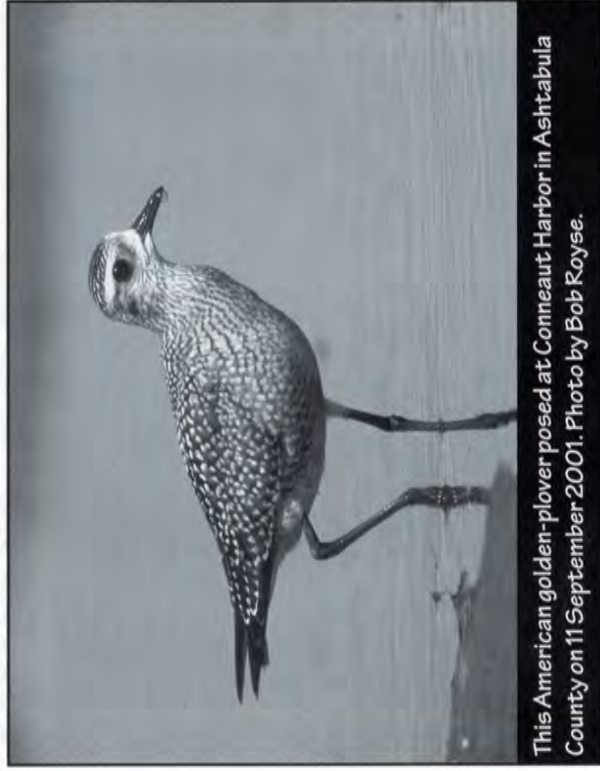
Conneaut Harbor in Ashtabula County provided ample photographic opportunities of shorebirds this season. This black-bellied plover was photographed there on 29 October 2001 by Bob Royse.

Sandhill Crane: An unbanded adult at Berlin Res 15 Aug (**C. Holt**) may have strayed from nearby breeding populations. Two tame birds at Sandy Ridge 25 Aug (**M. Hendrick**) and thereafter included one with band #355, which had been led by an Operation Migration ultralight to the Carolinas in the fall of 1998 and later failed to migrate back north; it and others were hauled up to New York by truck, where it stayed put, an unfortunate case of imprinting on humans and a photogenic but ineffective attempt at induced migration. Elsewhere, over 2000 wild migrants were counted, all in the western part of the state, with 100-125 as far east as Hoover Res on 20 Nov (**G. Stauffer**) and Ross on 10 Oct (**J. McCormac**). Their timing very close to that of tundra swans this season, the lion's share passed 20-23 Nov. High counts were on the 20th, with 370-570 at a roost in *Montgomery (J. Wilson)*, 400+ over Spring Grove Cemetery in *Hamilton (B. Jorg)*, and ~450 in Finneytown, *Hamilton (J. Lippert)*. At Cowan Lk SP, *Clinton*, 20 were present on 20 Nov, 40 on the next day, and three persisted 23 Nov to 8 Dec (**E. Roush**). The *Wayne* breeders were seen 24 Aug (**S. Snyder**). Among the *Geauga* cranes, the "Troy Trio" remained through the fall, and the Claridon cranes numbered two at the outset of the period, but increased with a report of "four gray flamingos" to the local police on 15 Nov; they remained on 23 Nov (**D. Best**).

Black-bellied Plover: Over 800 were reported, most at the CCE's bounteous shorebird habitats. **R. Hannikman** had the first at HBSP on 4 Aug. On 9 Aug **V. Fazio** spotted 10 ad and two juv at the CCE, but relatively few reports emerged until October's juveniles arrived, with ~200 on the 4th at the CCE (**J. Hammond**), 125 on the ONWRC of the 7th, and 29 on the 28th at Conneaut (**B. Royse**). There were many Nov birds, with 104 on the 4th ONWRC, 28 at the CCE on the 8th (**Fazio**), 39 there on the 18th (**Fazio**), six there the 24th (**J. Pogacnik**), and one at Findlay Res on the 26th (**J. Taber fide B. Hardesty**).

American Golden-Plover: Three were on the CCE on 10 Aug (**B. Conlon**). September's largest count was 20 in *Paulding* on the 11th (**M&D Dunakin**). October sightings were dominated by the CCE, with a good high count of 430 there on the 10th (**V. Fazio**); nine were at Berlin Res on the 5th (**B. Morrison**). One report came from Nov, a single bird at the CCE on the 3rd (**J. Haw**).

Semipalmated Plover: Returned during the previous period, and August numbers were decent, with 30 at the CCE on the 2nd (**J. Hammond**), and 96 there on the 30th (**V. Fazio**). Relatively skimpy numbers were found thereafter, and of only four Oct reports, the latest was of a single bird at Conneaut on the 23rd (**G. Miller**).



This American golden-plover posed at Conneaut Harbor in Ashtabula County on 11 September 2001. Photo by Bob Royse.

Killdeer: On 2 Aug 100+ were at Toussaint WA, with ~400 at the nearby CCE (J. Hammond). A survey of shorebird spots in the western Lk Erie marshes yielded 3700+ on 5 Aug for V. Fazio. At Berlin Res, 599 were present 11 Aug (K. Miller) and 649 on 6 Sept (B. Morrison). Significant numbers in Nov were 52 in *Van Werrt* on the 2nd (J. Perchalski) and 90 at Hoover Res on the 3rd (R. Thorn).

American Avocet: About 25 birds, half or so inland. One of the summer's Medusa Marsh birds persisted through 9 Aug (T. Bartlett *vide* V. Fazio). One was at Conneaut on 11 Aug (T&M Romito), with 1-3 at BCSP 12-14 Aug (D. Overacker). Five were at Conneaut on 10 Sept (B. Royse), and one in *Paulding* on 21 Sept (D&M Dunakin). High count was of eight at Caesar Ck SP on 20 Oct (L. Gara), and the last report came from the CCE, with a bird on 24 Nov (J. Pogacnik).

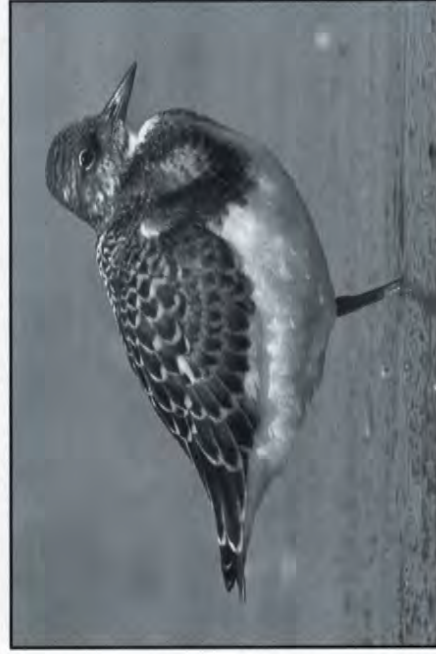
Greater Yellowlegs: Forty birds inland in *Paulding* on 16 Aug were unusual (D&M Dunakin), and would have been the season's high count, save for 44 found on the 2 Sept ONWRC. Six reports came in Nov, with one of 26 birds at Port Clinton on the 18th (V. Fazio), and the last of a singleton on the CCE on the 24th (J. Pogacnik).

Lesser Yellowlegs: The high count came early, with 380+ at the CCE on 9 Aug (V. Fazio). *Paulding* had another local record number with 135 on 16 Aug (M&D Dunakin). Numbers were relatively low once juveniles showed up, perhaps because Pe Mouillee in Michigan was attracting lessers by the thousands. Remarkably, six sightings came from Nov, including 44 at Port Clinton on the 18th (Fazio) and three at the CCE on the 24th (J. Pogacnik).

Solitary Sandpiper: High counts were 31 at Beach City WA in *Tuscarawas* on 4 Aug and 24 the following day at Berlin Res (B. Morrison). Singles lingering into Oct were at BCSP on the 5th (D. Overacker) and at Caesar Ck SP on the 14th (L. Gara) and the 21st (N. Cade).



Larry Gara was able to photograph seven of the eight American avocets present at Caesar Creek State Park in Warren County on 20 October 2001.



Ruddy turnstones were not widely reported this season. This one was present on 11 September 2001 at Conneaut Harbor in Ashtabula County. Photo by Bob Royse.

Willet: Thirteen reported, the first at Sheldon Marsh 16 Aug (G. Miller), with a high count of but two at Pipe Ck WA 26 Aug (A. Osborn). Remarkably, though nearly routine for some shorebird species this fall, there were an unusual number of late sightings, four in Oct: one the 2nd at SVWA (B. Royse), one the 4th at Crane Ck SP (B. Whan), one the 7th at the CCE (ONWRC), and one the 20th at Conneaut (J. Pogacnik).

Spotted Sandpiper: Thirty-one at Berlin Res on 9 Aug was an excellent count (B. Morrison). R. Thorn had a couple on the Greenlawn Dam in Columbus on 7 Oct, and T&P Bihn reported 16 at Metzger Marsh on 20 Oct.

Upland Sandpiper: Mostly undetected, but five were in *Paulding* on 6 Aug (D&M Dunakin), and another at Berlin Res on 21 Aug (B. Morrison).

Whimbrel: Eleven birds reported, all near Lk Erie, the first the continuing individual at Medusa Marsh through 2 Aug (J. Hammond), the last not at all late on 22 Sept at Conneaut (D. Le Gallee). High count was four at Conneaut on 19 Aug (J. Pogacnik).

Hudsonian Godwit: As many as 50 birds reported, with a high count of 18 at the CCE on 27 Oct (J. Pogacnik). Most were near Lk Erie, but an adult in near-basic plumage was at Caesar Ck SP on 23 Aug (E. Roush), three molting adults on 8 Sept at Hoover Res (G. Balson et al.), and six in *Fulton* 5 Oct (J. Yochum). R. Harlan and S. Wagner had a flyover during an Indians game in Cleveland on 30 Sept. The last seen was 8 Nov at the CCE (T. Gilliland et al.).

Marbled Godwit: At the CCE, three were found 8 Aug (V. Fazio) and were observed being flushed by humans on 10 Aug (B. Conlon); three were reported the following day at nearby Pe Mouillee, Michigan. Also at the CCE were one 21 Aug (J. Lehman), one 23 Aug (J. Hammond), one 30 Aug (T. Shiveley), then one 9 Sept (Hammond), 12 Sept (G. Miller), and one 27-28 Oct (J. Pogacnik). At Sheldon Marsh, one was found 16 Aug (Miller), 17 Aug (P. Lozano), 21 Aug (E. Yoder), 25 Aug (D. Sanders), 30 Aug (Fazio), 8 Sept (Hammond), and 12 Sept (Miller). Anyone's guess as to how many individuals were involved at these, the only two locations where the species was found.

Ruddy Turnstone: Not a good showing, with only 19 birds reported. The high count was four, at the CCE on 9 Aug (V. Fazio). The last two sightings were inland, with one at Findlay Res on 18 Sept (B. Hardesty) and another at Grand Lk St Marys on 30 Sept (J. Ruedisuel).



Autumn sanderlings always provide a nice contrast. This one was present at Conneaut Harbor in Ashtabula County on 11 September 2001. Photo by Bob Royse.

Red Knot: Around 50 birds reported, all at the CCE, Sheldon Marsh, or Conneaut Harbor. The first came from 15 Aug at the CCE (**J. Brumfield**), and the latest on 10 Oct there (**V. Fazio**). The high count of 11 also came from the CCE, on the 2 Sept ONWRC.

Sanderling: Nearly a thousand birds for the season, with a high count of 286 on 10 Oct at the CCE (**V. Fazio**), where nearly 700 of the season's total were found.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: Fall birds, nearly all juveniles, were not numerous. The high count was 250+ at Marblehead on 26 Aug (**V. Fazio**); 120 were at Sheldon Marsh on 2 Aug (**J. Hammond**), and 135 at the CCE on 5 Aug (**Fazio**). Fifty-two were at Berlin Res on 10 Sept (**B. Morrison**). Oct reports included two at CCE on the 6th (**Hammond**) and 10 at Mosquito Lk WA on the 11th (**C. Babyak**).

Western Sandpiper: Fewer than 30 reports, nearly all juveniles in the glaciated portion of the state. On 11 Aug two were at Berlin Res (**K. Miller**), one at MWV (**N. Cade**), and another at W. Branch SP (**L. Rosche**). The high count was three, in *Paulding* on 17 Aug (**M&D Dunakin**), at the CCE on 27 Oct (**V. Fazio**), and on 5 Nov at the CCE (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**).

Least Sandpiper: Unusually skimpy in numbers this fall. The high counts were early, with 180 at the CCE on 9 Aug (**V. Fazio**), and 141 at Berlin Res on 11 Aug (**K. Miller**), with other inland counts less than 50. A poor breeding season? Clement weather kept two at the CCE through 24 Nov (**J. Pogacnik**) and one at BCSP the following day (**D. Overacker**).

White-rumped Sandpiper: Only ~25 reported, with a high of six at the CCE on 26 Sept (**G. Miller**). Inland numbers included two at Berlin Res on 10 Sept (**B. Morrison**) and one at SVWA on 2 Oct (**S. Reeves**). Did not linger, with the latest on 27 Oct at HBSP (**K. Metcalf**).

Baird's Sandpiper: Of ~125 reported the first was in *Paulding* on 12 Aug (**D&M Dunakin**). Twenty-five or more were inland, the furthest south one at SVWA on 22 Aug (**S. Reeves**). The high count was 15 at the CCE on 8 Sept (**J. Hammond** et al.), and the latest were two at the CCE on 3 Nov (**J. Haw**) and two at Port Clinton 18 Nov (**V. Fazio**).



This white-rumped sandpiper was photographed on 10 October 2001 at Conneaut Harbor in Ashtabula County by Bob Roysse.

Pectoral Sandpiper: Customarily numerous through the period, reported almost entirely from western Lk Erie; the high count of nearly 2000 in a 8 Aug survey of that area by **V. Fazio**, and the largest flock was 500+ at Sheldon Marsh on 16 Aug (**G. Miller**). On 18 Nov, two were at Port Clinton (**Fazio**) and one at BCSP (**D. Overacker**).

Purple Sandpiper: Only one, at Ashtabula on 18 Nov (**J. Pogacnik**).

Dunlin: More than 14,000 reported, the highest count a remarkable 6500+ at the CCE on 28 Oct (**J. Pogacnik**); the next highest was 2600+ there on 1 Nov (**V. Fazio**). Also notable were the following early arrivals: an albinistic individual at the CCE 9 (**Fazio**) and 10 Aug (**B. Conlon**), an adult at Sheldon Marsh 21 Aug (**J. Lehman**) and 25 Aug (**D. Sanders**), one at the CCE 30 Aug (**J. Brumfield, T. Shiveley**), and a basic-plumaged bird at Hoover Res on 5 Sept (**Sanders**).

Stilt Sandpiper: Nearly 200 reported. New to Kelleys Isl records was one on 17 Aug (**T. Bartlett**). The high count of 25 at the CCE (**J. Hammond**) was no surprise, and 17 on 1 Oct at BIWA (**D. Sanders**) was good, but of greater interest was its persistence: 24 Oct in *Wayne* (**S. Snyder**), 26 Oct at BCSP (**D. Overacker**), and 18 Nov, when 11 were at Pt Clinton (**V. Fazio**).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: About 50 birds reported, all or nearly all juveniles. In Minnesota this fall, by contrast, 480 adults were found the first week of Aug, with a high count of 164 in a single field (**C. Mandel**). Our first, a bird on 13 Aug at Berlin Lk (**B. Morrison** et al.) was indeterminate as to age because of viewing conditions. The high count was eight at Sheldon Marsh 30 Aug (**T. Shiveley, J. Brumfield**). Inland reports included one at Hoover Res 30 Aug (**G. Balsom**), three there 3 Sept (**D. Sanders**), one there 18 Sept (**J. Hammond**), one there 22 Sept (**Balsom**), three in *Paulding* 4 Sept (**M&D Dunakin**), one at BCSP 14-16 Sept (**D. Overacker**), one at MWV 26 (**P. Wharton**) and 27 Aug (**S. Reeves**), one at EFSP 9 (**B. Stanley**) and 10 Sept (**B. Foppe**), and one 21 Aug, six 11 Sept, and four 25 Sept at Findlay Res (**B. Hardesty**).



This buff-breasted sandpiper was photographed at Conneaut Harbor in Ashtabula County by Bob Roysse on 11 September 2001.

Short-billed Dowitcher: Migrants tapered off in Aug, with the seasonal high count only ~100 at Sheldon Marsh on the 16th (G. Miller). Only ~30 reported inland, with a high of five on 8 Aug at Mosquito Lk WA (D. Hochadel), and the furthest south one in Ross on 9 Aug (B&D Lane). The latest was in the CCE on 4 Oct (J. Hammond et al.).

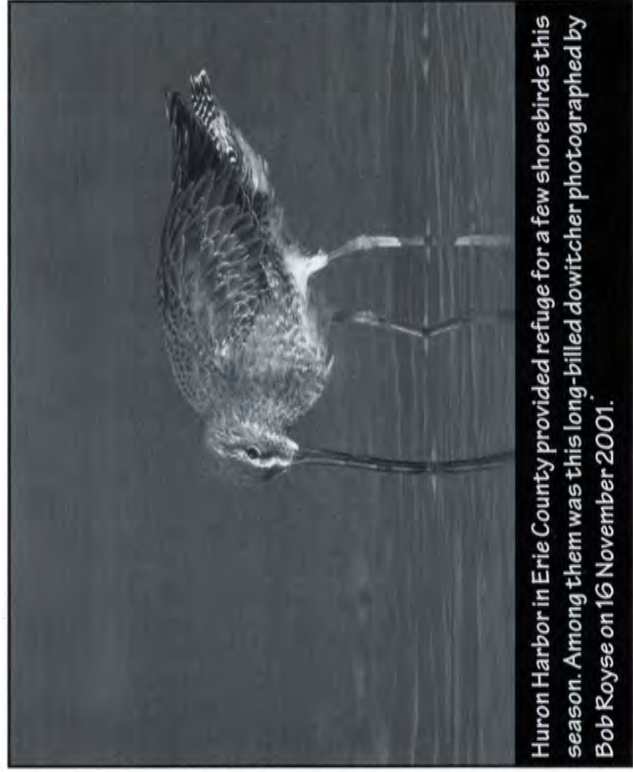
Long-billed Dowitcher: After one summer report, the first fall bird was on the CCE on 2 Aug (B. Whan), an adult already in molt; four were there the 9th (V. Fazio), and six the 10th (B. Conlon). The first basic-plumaged adult was seen at BIWA 11 Sept (Fazio). On 4 Oct 110 were at the CCE (Whan), and 214 by the 10th (Fazio); 46 were counted 27 Oct (J. Pogacnik), and 60 on 5 Nov (ONWRC). Has the staging population displaced from Metzger Marsh WA resorted to temporarily low water levels at CCE? The last seen was at Huron on 16 Nov (B. Roysse).

Common Snipe: Eleven were at Sheldon Marsh 4 Oct (B. Whan), 21 at the CPNWR on 21 Oct (E. Tramer), two in *Van Werr* on 2 Nov (J. Perchalski), five at the CCE on 8 Nov (V. Fazio), and 28 at BCSP on 10 Nov and 39 on 18 Nov (D. Overacker). On the latter date, Fazio observed a remarkable 310 at Metzger Marsh WA.

American Woodcock: Sightings were customarily sporadic, the first 7 Sept in Columbus (B. Roysse), and the last of two in Lake 26 Nov (J. Pogacnik). R. Campbell had two in *Belmont* on 3 Nov, and N. Keller relayed a report of one in downtown Cincinnati on 17 Nov.

Wilson's Phalarope: All reports: 2 Aug, an adult and a juv at CCE (B. Whan, J. Hammond); 17 Aug one at Marblehead (V. Fazio); one at Pipe Ck WA 22 (G. Miller) and 23 Aug (Hammond); one at Conneaut 3 Sept (J. Pogacnik); one late at Port Clinton on 18 Nov (Fazio).

Red-necked Phalarope: Twenty to 25 birds reported, the high count seven at Sheldon Marsh on 8 Sept (B. Whan). The first, a juv, appeared at the CCE 12 Aug (P. Lozano), and an adult there 15 Aug (J. Brumfield). A juv in *Paulding* 18-24 Aug was unusual (M&D Dunakin). Two at Pipe Ck WA 18 Aug (B. Morrison) grew to five 30 Aug (T. Shively). Two were at Fairport Harbor 29 Oct for G. Meszaros.



Huron Harbor in Erie County provided refuge for a few shorebirds this season. Among them was this long-billed dowitcher photographed by Bob Roysse on 16 November 2001.

Red Phalarope: Nine birds, all on or near Lk Erie: one at Ashtabula 14 Oct (J. Pogacnik); one at Sheldon Marsh 12 Oct (D. Sanders *vide* J. Hammond); one 23 Oct at Little Portage WA (V. Fazio); three 27 Oct at HBSP (K. Metcalf); one at Rocky River, *Cuyahoga*, on 3 Nov (N. Walesch); one 9 Nov at Huron Harbor (D. Sanders, m obs) through the end of the period, and one at Conneaut 18 Nov (Pogacnik).

Phalarope sp.: One at Clear Fork Res on 19 Oct was too far out to identify (J. Herman).

Pomarine Jaeger: One passed a Lake lookout 22 Nov (J. Pogacnik), and another was at Fairport Harbor the 24th (L. Rosche); two were at Rocky River Pk 25 Nov (G. Leitdy), where as many as five were subsequently seen (T. Gilliland: see article in this issue).

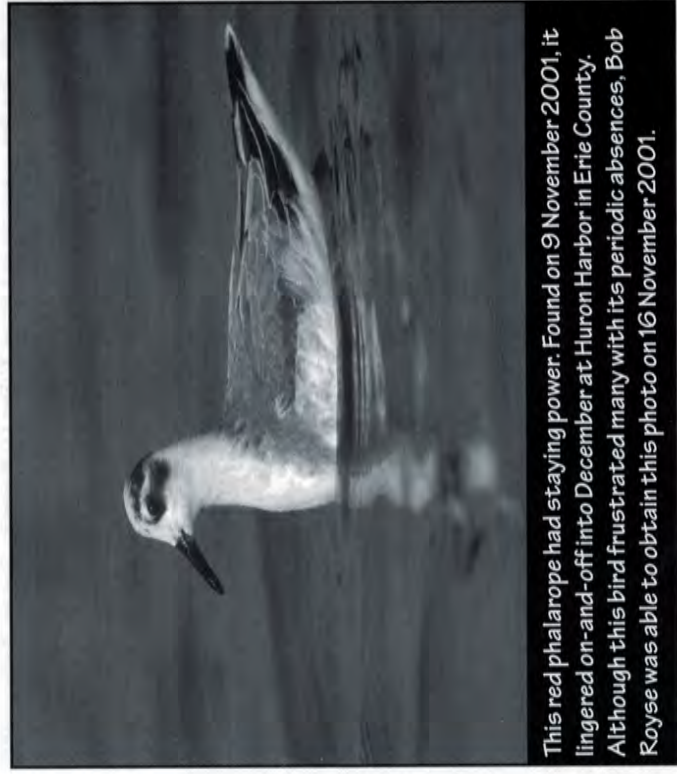
Long-tailed Jaeger: Quite late was one reported at HBSP 27 Oct. Details are with the OBRC.

Jaeger sp.: A dark jaeger was reported passing Lake on 10 Nov (J. Pogacnik).

Laughing Gull: A juv was at Fairport Harbor on 16 Aug (J. Pogacnik), and a first-winter bird spent 20 Sept-4 Nov at Pleasant Hill Lk. *Richland/Ashtand* (J. Herman).

Franklin's Gull: Four were at Indian Lk in Logan on 4 Oct (M. Mispilon), and one in Lake on 7 Oct (J. Pogacnik). Twelve at BCSP on 17 Oct (L. Jeanblanc *vide* D. Overacker) dwindled to a single bird the next day for D. Sanders, and two were at Caesar Ck SP 19-24 Oct (L. Gara). An ad was at Clear Fork Res, *Richland*, on 17 Oct, and it or another there on 26 Oct (both J. Herman). Four were on the CCE on 28 Oct (Pogacnik). Five were at BCSP 3 Nov (J. Hammond et al.); the same observer also had one at Grand Lk St Marys the following day. On 5 Nov, B. Roysse had two more at Indian Lk in Logan.

Little Gull: Not many: one at Conneaut on 14 Oct (J. Pogacnik), and another there on 3 Nov *vide* L. Yoder.



This red phalarope had staying power. Found on 9 November 2001, it lingered on-and-off into December at Huron Harbor in Erie County. Although this bird frustrated many with its periodic absences, Bob Roysse was able to obtain this photo on 16 November 2001.

Bonaparte's Gull: By 2 Aug 1480 had assembled at the CCE, and 1050 at Sheldon Marsh (**B. Whan**). 10 Oct brought ~5000 to the CCE, and 23 Oct 5600+ to EHSP (**V. Fazio**). Eastbound Nov migrants at inland reservoirs numbered 280+ at Mosquito Lk (**C. Babyak**) on the 11th, and 250+ at Charles Mill Lk. *Ashland/Richland*, on the 27th (**J. Herman**).

Ring-billed Gull: Notable were ~1000 at Pleasant Hill Lk on 9 Oct (**J. Herman**) and as many as 8000 at the CCE on 23 Oct (**V. Fazio**).

Thayer's Gull: A first-year bird was early in Eastlake on 4 Nov (**J. Pogacnik, L. Rosche**).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: First report from Conneaut on 14 Oct (**J. Pogacnik**); a first-year bird was at Eastlake on 4 Nov (**L. Rosche**). One at Huron on 8 Nov (**Pogacnik**) persisted through the period.

Great Black-backed Gull: The summer's adult remained at Sheldon on 2 Aug (**J. Hammond**). One was on the 7 Oct ONWRC, and **P. Lozano** counted 17 in Cleveland on 11 Oct. No counts of notable numbers were reported.

Sabine's Gull: The first, a juv, was in *Lake* on 27 Sept (**J. Pogacnik**). One on 26 Oct at HBSP (**J. Brumfield**) may or may not have been the juv seen there by **B. Winger** on the 27th. **G. Miller** located a juv inland at Indian Lk, *Logan*, on 3 Nov.

Caspian Tern: No large numbers, with a high count of 104+ at Hoover Res on 14 Aug (**B. Royse**). A pair at Conneaut was the last to depart, judging by reports, present from 20 (**J. Pogacnik**) to 28 Oct (**B. Royse**).

Common Tern: Dozens of local breeders were around earlier, but ~1000 at the CCE on 17 Aug were staging migrants (**P. Lozano**). A month later on 18 Sept, ~3000 were there (**B. Whan**). At EHSP on 27 Oct, 300 were present, but the only Nov report came from the 1st, with five birds at Pt. Clinton (both **V. Fazio**).

Forster's Tern: The largest concentration was of 900+ at the CCE on 9 Aug (**V. Fazio**), and the same observer had 480 at Port Clinton on 23 Oct. The latest reported were four at EHSP on 21 Nov (**B. Royse**).

Least Tern: **D. Overacker** discovered an imm bird near Springfield, *Clark*, on 12 Aug, which remained nearby on the 13th (**B. Whan, B. Conlon**).



Two Franklin's gulls visited Caesar Creek State Park in Warren County this season. This one (foreground) was photographed there by Larry Gara on 23 October 2001.

Black Tern: Like last fall, nearly sixty birds reported, nearly all away from Lk Erie. Over 20 were at Winton Woods, *Hamilton*, on 6 Aug (**B. Leaman**) for the high count. The last were at Pipe Ck WA and Sheldon Marsh SNP on 26 Aug (**J. Brumfield**).

Eurasian Collared-Dove: A bird shot on 1 Sept in *Crawford* was retrieved 3 Sept, it and accompanying details were sent to the OBRC. If accepted, it will be the long-awaited first state record of this species.

Black-billed Cuckoo: One was still calling in *Athens* on 20 Oct (**C. Corbin**). The CVNP census found two on 15 Sept for the high count, if you can call it that, and the last was detected 26 Sept at the CCE by **G. Miller**.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Persisted, with one seen by the ONWRC on 7 Oct, and one banded at Shawnee Lookout, *Hamilton*, on 13 Oct (*file* BSBO).

Barn Owl: A pair in *Holmes* produced a second brood of six, of which one remained in the nest on 11 Nov (**E. Yoder**), and a nest with four young near Sugar Creek in *Holmes* was active at the end of the period (**E. Schlabach**).

Snowy Owl: Much like last fall, with more than a dozen birds statewide. The first (imm male) appeared at Indian Lk, *Logan*, on 30 Oct (*file* **T. Shiveley**), where the local paper breathlessly informed readers that adults of the species "grow to be 3-4 feet tall." Most birds were at customary Lk Erie shore sites, but others penetrated as far south as BIWA on 15 Nov (**V. Fazio**) and *Holmes* on the following day (**E. Schlabach**).

Long-eared Owl: **G. Leidy** photographed one in *Cuyahoga* on 23 Nov.

Short-eared Owl: Migrants appeared near Lk Erie first in a mall in Rocky River on 26 Aug (**P. Lozano**), in Conneaut on 23 Oct (**G. Miller**) and 18 Nov (**J. Pogacnik**), at Gordon Pk in Cleveland 15 Oct-5 Nov (max of five on 2 Nov) (**S. Zadar**), and two at HBSP on 31 Oct (**L. Rosche**). In *Columbiana*, numbers were noted from 20 Oct through the end of the period (**B&D Lane**), with a max of 11+ on 3 Nov. Five were in *Paulding* on 14 Nov (**D&M Dunakin**), and one in *Holmes* on 17 Nov (**E. Schlabach**).

Northern Saw-whet Owl: **S. Zadar** monitored their passage through Gordon Pk, finding 7+ from 27 Oct to 30 Nov, with a max of three on 14 Nov. **A. Osborn** found one on the Magee Bird Trail on 18 Nov.



This leucistic Caspian tern was photographed at Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge in Lucas County on 23 August 2001. Digitized photo by Joe Hammond.



Sean Zadar kept track of northern saw-whet owls this season at Gordon Park in Cuyahoga County. This obliging individual was photographed there by him on 28 October 2001.

Common Nighthawk: Six three-figure counts came in for late August: the first migrants were 16 in *Cuyahoga* on the 22nd (**P. Lozano**) and the seasonal high count of 400+, in *Washington*, came on the 29th from **B. Placier**. Four large counts came from Sept, and one in Oct (138 in 25 minutes over Columbus on the 2nd, **B. Whan**). In Nov, one was seen the 1st in *Cuyahoga* (**G. Leidy**), and one on the 2nd in Columbus (**M. Skinner**).

Whip-poor-will: **B. Lund** heard the last calling bird in *Adams* on 8 Sept, and **T. Gilliland** saw the last reported migrant 25 Sept in Rocky River, *Cuyahoga*.

Chimney Swift: Will renovation of aging Ohio schools hurt swift populations? Large colonies seem restricted to chimneys of schools statewide, with more modern structures going swiftless. Big roosts appeared in *Franklin* with "close to a thousand" on 23 Aug (**D. Sillick**), then ~1500 on 30 Aug (**G. Miller**), and 2000+ in *Licking* on 3 Sept (**T. Nickerson**). The largest reported migrant flock was of 2000+ at Gordon Pk in Cleveland on 5 Oct (**S. Zadar**). **B. McCullough** of *Geauga* watched the local high school chimney (built circa 1936, for coal-fired boilers) for swifts, with the following results: 9/28: 700 birds; 10/7: 113; 10/8: 1812; 10/19: 600; 10/20: 333; 10/24: 156; 10/26: 3; 10/28: 1; 10/29&30: 0. He relates that "several years ago on a Friday night either late in August or early September Berkshire [HS] had a home football game. The county fair just six houses down the street from my house was in full swing, and I was out in the yard greeting people walking to the fair. All of a sudden the air over our house was filled with swifts. I counted 495 that went down my chimney. What had happened was that the band members for the game were tuning up at the base of the chimney, and that was too much for the swifts. The next night there were about 250 at my house, and then the numbers dropped off until in a few days they were all back at the school chimney."

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: The high count was eight, all feeding on natural sources, in *Holmes* on 19 Aug (**E. Yoder**). Last sightings spanned the second half of Sept, with immature birds in *Mahoning* on the 17th (**C. Babyak**), in *Paulding* on the 24th (**M&D Dunakin**), and in *Adams* on the 27th (**B. Lund**). Their rapidly-decreasing numbers in late Aug are illustrated by amounts of nectar used at Lund's feeder: on the 18th two quarts, on the 20th one quart, on the 25th one pint, and on the 28th one-half cup.

Rufous Hummingbird: A reported subadult male was photographed in *Adams* on 6 Nov, and documentation is with the OBRC. The homeowners reported two adults had been at the feeder in early Oct, and reported photos of these birds are being sought. Not unprecedented, as three birds were banded this fall in adjacent yards in Georgia (*vide* **K. Theodorou**) and two in Virginia from the same neighborhood (*vide* **L. Lynch**); nor are these tough birds doomed: this year one was captured in Michigan on 1 Nov that had been banded in North Carolina on 2 Dec 2000 (*vide* **Allen Chartier**); a banded in Missouri captured another in the first week of Dec that had been banded two years earlier in Louisiana (*vide* **N. Newfield**).

Selasphorus Hummingbird: An immature bird present 14-16 Nov in *Wood* was photographed, and details are with the OBRC. **S. Peterson** tallied fall and Dec 2001 reports of birds of this genus in 172 counties in 26 of the 37 states east of Colorado; last year it was 204 counties in 28 states.

Hummingbird sp.: One was at HBSP on 30 Sept (**K. Metcalf**), and one in *Hancock* on 2 Oct (**D. Kohl** *vide* **B. Hardesty**). From *Franklin* (*vide* **L. Poteet**) came a belated report from 24 Nov of a bird "much smaller than a ruby-throated, with green back, dark front, no visible gorget." Ouch.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: The high count of migrants was four, at HBSP on 18 Oct (**L. Rosche**), and a late bird was at Black Hand Gorge, *Licking*, on 9 Nov (**H. Nagy**). One seen 22 Nov in *Clinton* (**E. Roush**) may be among southern-wintering birds.

Northern Flicker: The largest numbers passed through in Sept, with 25 on the ONWRC of the 2nd, 106 on the CVNP census of 15 Sept, and 60+ the same day at Gordon Pk (**S. Zadar**).

Pileated Woodpecker: The 15 Sept CVNP census tallied 28, outstripping hairy woodpecker numbers for the first time locally.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Twenty-two birds reported was a good result. A very early report came on 5 Aug at the Shaker Lks (**R. Rickard**), with the next two on 9 Aug (**T. Bartlett**) in *Seneca* and 19 Aug at HBSP (**L. Rosche**). The latest came from the CVNP on 24 Sept (**T&M Romito**).

Eastern Wood-Pewee: A high count of seven in *Medina* on 28 Aug perhaps included migrants (**R. Harlan**, **S. Wagner**). On the late side were one in *Holmes* on 13 Oct (**E. Yoder**) and one in Columbus on 18 Oct (**K. Kaufman** *vide* **J. Switzer**).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Returnees dated from 18 Aug (**N. Barber**) and 24 Aug (**R. Hannikman**) at HBSP. One was banded at Navarre Marsh on 9 Oct (BSBO).

Acadian Flycatcher: **R. Harlan** and **S. Wagner** had an adult and a juv in *Medina* on 1 and 18 Sept, and **E. Yoder** a singing bird on the 22nd in *Holmes*. **S. Zadar** et al. encountered one in Gordon Pk, Cleveland, as late as 7 Oct.

Willow Flycatcher: One was at MWV on 1 Sept (**P. Wharton**), two at Magee on 8 Sept (**J. Hammond**), and one on the CVNP census of 15 Sept.

Least Flycatcher: **E. Yoder's** bird of 15 Aug in *Holmes* was likely a migrant, and by 25 Aug, **B. Winger** had five at HBSP. The last was banded at Navarre Marsh on 27 Sept. (BSBO).

Empidonax Flycatcher: One seen at Sandy Ridge MP, *Lorain*, on the intriguing date of 8 Nov (**J. Pogacnik**) could neither be conclusively identified nor refound.

Eastern Phoebe: Six were on the CPNWR on 26 Aug (**E. Tramer**). One was at Mosquito Lk on 11 Oct (**C. Babyak**), and one in a likelier wintering clime at Cowan Lk SP on 21 Nov (**E. Roush**).

Vermilion Flycatcher: What promises to be the state's third verified record, a young male, was found by **S. Cummings** and **B. Zwiebel** at Ottawa on 4 Nov. It remained through the period for those able to see it, as Ottawa managers permitted birders to venture ~200 yds into an off-limits area, with supervision, during three days of the first week of its stay. Documentation of this tricky ID is with the OBRC.

Great Crested Flycatcher: One was still in song in *Pickaway* on 7 Aug (**R. Thorn**), and another remained on 22 Sept in *Highland* (**D. Overacker**).

Eastern Kingbird: Migrant concentrations of 28 occurred at Kelleys Isl 17 Aug (**T. Bartlett**), and 26 Aug, with 35 at Killdeer (**D. Sanders**) and 31 at Ottawa (**E. Tramer**).



An immature male vermilion flycatcher was found at Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge in Ottawa and Lucas Counties this season. This photograph was obtained there on 8 November 2001 by one of the original finders, Sharon Cummings.

Northern Shrike: Appeared on 7 Nov at Killdeer with two birds (**B. Morrison**), Ottawa on 8 Nov (**J. Pogacnik**), Bayshore PP on 12 Nov (**G. Klug**, **fade G. Links**), MBSP on 23 Nov (**R. Johnson**), and a less commonly-seen adult at Fairport Harbor (**L. Rosche**) on 24 Nov; **H. Hendrickson** found another shrike the same day in *Geauga*.

White-eyed Vireo: One was still in song in *Adams* on 23 Sept (**B. Lund**). October birds were at Gilmore Ponds (**M. Busam**) and Shawnee Lookout (*fade* BSBO) on the 6th, Cowan Lk SP on the 9th (**E. Roush**), and an imm at Gordon Pk in Cleveland on the 18th (**S. Zadar**).

Bell's Vireo: Five birds from the breeding site at MWW were last noted 11 Aug (**N. Cade**).

Yellow-throated Vireo: Seen in *Franklin* (**J. Hammond**) and in *Holmes* (**E. Schlabach**) on 27 Sept, and last on 6 Oct at BCSP (**D. Overacker**).

Blue-headed Vireo: First two migrants reported at Shaker Lks 14 Sept (**B. Fambrough**). Eight were at Kelleys Isl 30 Sept (**P. Lozano**) for the high count. Late birds were found 2 Nov at Ottawa (**J. Yochum**) and the next day at Magee (**J. Haw**).

Warbling Vireo: Fifteen were at Magee 2 Sept (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**). One was banded at Navarre Marsh 8 Oct (BSBO). Strange was one at Bay Village, *Cuyahoga*, 9 Nov (**P. Lozano** et al.); it was impossible to tell if this silent bird was of the western race.

Philadelphia Vireo: Ten late Aug reports, beginning the 24th at HBSP (**R. Hannikman**), and four during the first week of Sept, all near the Lake save for one in *Holmes* on 3 Sept (**E. Yoder**). No Oct reports, oddly. Last bird was one banded at Navarre Marsh on 29 Sept (BSBO).

Red-eyed Vireo: Last reported 23 Oct at *Cuyahoga*'s N. Chagrin Res'n (**K. Metcalf**).

Blue Jay: Fifty were at Gilmore Ponds, *Butler*, on 22 Sept (**M. Busam**). A good fall count was 300 migrants in *Lake* on 8 Oct (**J. Pogacnik**).

American Crow: **D. Brinkman** estimated the Cincinnati roost at 50,000 on 26 Nov. In Cleveland, 2500 were contrastingly notable on 24 Nov (**G. Leidy**).

Purple Martin: The last report came from the site of Ohio's one-time record roost, S. Bass Isl, on 11 Sept (**S. Wulkowicz**).

Tree Swallow: Seen in unspectacular numbers, with 1370 at CPNWR on 26 Aug the month's reported high, but scarce thereafter, with an Oct high count of only 12 on the 26th at Clear Fork Res (**J. Herman**). Last report came from 8 Nov at Sandy Ridge MP (**J. Pogacnik**).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: One hundred were at Castalia, *Erie*, on 5 Aug (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**), another 100 in *Pickaway* on 29 Aug (**J. Hammond**), and ~80 at MWW on 6 Oct (**D. Brinkman**), not bad for a standoffish species. One at Fairport Harbor on 18 Oct was latish (**L. Rosche**), but two at Buckeye Lk, *Licking*, on 15 Nov were lagging way behind.

Bank Swallow: No reports were later than that for 7 Sept in *Pickaway* (**D. Overacker**).

Cliff Swallow: A hundred or more in *Delaware* 29 Aug (**J. Hammond** et al.) easily qualified as the high count, and the last were 10 in *Pickaway* on 8 Sept (**D. Overacker**).

Barn Swallow: No huge flights reported, though 300 inland in *Holmes* on 21 Aug was a good one (**E. Schlabach**). Late was a bird in *Ottawa* on 23 Oct (**V. Fazio**), and later still one at MBSP on 24 Nov (**J. Pogacnik**).

Black-capped Chickadee: High count was 24 on 18 Oct at Gordon Pk (**S. Zadar**), and regional reports signaled a possible southward push. At least in *Holmes*, two were around on 23 Oct (**E. Schlabach**), one on 24 Oct through the end of the period (**E. Yoder**), and seven on 27 Oct (**Schlabach**).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Early sightings can passage invasions by northern birds, as in 1995, when early Sept nuthatches were followed by higher than usual numbers of redpolls, siskins, and evening grosbeaks; appearances of nuthatches as early as 15 Aug in 1993 were followed by flushes of the same species. This year Aug sightings began on 13 Aug in *Cuyahoga* (**S. Wright**), two in *Lake* on 23 Aug (**J. Pogacnik**), and five in Cincinnati on the 29th (**D. Brinkman**). Later, the CVNP census counted 36 on 15 Sept, and **B. Zwiebel** had ~20 at Magee on 7 Oct.

Brown-headed Nuthatch: What should prove to be a first Ohio record was found 21 Nov by **L. Gilbert** on private property in *Geauga*, with m obs and ph through the period. Details are with the OBRC, whose job on this bird seems almost as onerous as that on the vermilion flycatcher. The Gilberts were so hospitable and generous as to put other hosts of rare birds—even the public servants at Ottawa NWR—to shame.

Brown Creeper: An early migrant was in *Medina* on 1 Sept (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**), and four remained at BCSP on 25 Nov (**D. Overacker**).

Carolina Wren: We'll see what this winter brings, but northern populations looked good, with 15 on the CVNP census of 15 Sept, and 22 on the Kelleys Isl census of 17 Nov (**T. Bartlett**).

House Wren: The latest report came from Gilmore Ponds, *Butler*, on 27 Oct (**M. Busam**).

Winter Wren: The high count was 10, on the Kelleys Isl census of 16 Sept (**T. Bartlett**), and the latest report in the north was 12 Nov on the CVNP (**T&M Romito**).

Sedge Wren: August birds included eight on the 5th at the Voice of America grounds in *Butler* (**M. Busam**), four at Ottawa on the 5th (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**), at least five at MWW on the 5th (**P. Wharton**)—with two still there on 6 Oct (**D. Brinkman**)—and five in *Franklin* (nest, ph) on the 16th (**J. Watts**). **S. Zadar** had five between 15 Sept and 20 Oct at Gordon Pk, *Cuyahoga*, where **B. Finkelstein** saw one, for the last report, on 22 Oct. **L. Rosche** had one at HBSP on 18 Oct.

Marsh Wren: Migrants continued through Oct, with birds at HBSP the 6th (**J. Lehman** et al.), two at Gordon Pk in Cleveland on the 10th (**S. Zadar**), and one on the 20th at HBSP (**K. Metcalf**).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: Three in *Lake* 12 Sept (**J. Pogacnik**) and seven in Hinckley MP in *Medina* on 22 Sept (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**) were likely local nesters, but the BSBO was to band 107 at Navarre on a single day, 29 Sept. **D. Overacker** found two at BSCP on 25 Nov.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: **F. Renfrow** found one very early on 23 Aug in *Hamilton*, but the first real wave began with one at HBSP on 14 Sept (**R. Rickard**), and on the following day ruby-crowns were seen in *Clark* (**D. Overacker**), *Delaware* (**J. Hammond**), *Cuyahoga* (**D. Chasar**), and *Holmes* (**E. Yoder**). The high count was ~350 on 18 Oct at Gordon Pk (**S. Zadar**), and the final northern report came from Kelleys Isl on 17 Nov (**T. Bartlett**).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Perhaps it was balmy weather that allowed one to bask in Springville Marsh SNP, *Seneca*, as late as 3 Nov (**T. Bartlett**).

Eastern Bluebird: **E. Tramer** called the species' numbers at Oak Openings MP "a success story," with 43 on 2 Sept, and ~100 migrants on 13 Oct. Other good numbers of migrants were 62 in loose groups in *Mahoning* on 7 Oct (**C. Babyak**) and 54 between Kent and Ashtabula 13 Oct (**L. Rosche**).

Veery: Five was the high count, on S. Bass Isl on 31 Aug (**S. Wulkowicz**). A few Oct sightings ended with an extremely late one on the 20th in CVNP (**T&M Romito**).

Gray-cheeked Thrush: Arrived as early as 24 Aug at HBSP (**R. Hannikman**), and the last was banded at Navarre Marsh on 20 Oct (BSBO).

Bicknell's Thrush: At Navarre Marsh on 28 Oct, alert BSBO banders captured and measured with care an individual they determined to be of this species (**M. Shieldcastle**). Details are with the OBRC.

- Swainson's Thrush:** First noted in *Lake* on 23 Aug (**J. Pogacnik**), the last was banded at Navarre Marsh on 28 Oct (BSBO). The unrivalled high count was 25 at Sheldon Marsh SNP on 6 Oct (**J. Lehman** et al.).
- Hermit Thrush:** The earliest report came from *Lake* on 28 Sept (**J. Pogacnik**). BSBO banders captured the high day count of 27 at Navarre Marsh on 4 Oct. The latest was in downtown Cleveland on 20 Nov (**T. Colborn**).
- Wood Thrush:** Few reports, the last of them from 28 Sept in *Lake* (**J. Pogacnik**).
- American Robin:** An extraordinary 9000+ were estimated at Woodbury WA on 24 Oct by **G. Miller**. More than a thousand were still around on 27 in nearby *Coshocton* on 27 Nov for **L. Deininger**.
- Gray Catbird:** **E. Tramer** counted 27 in Wildwood Preserve in Toledo 5 Sept. Late birds to the north were on Kelleys Isl on 17 Nov (**T. Bartlett**) and on 26 Nov in *Lake* (**J. Pogacnik**).
- Northern Mockingbird:** The CVNP census had its first ever on 15 Sept, and another was in the Park on 7 Nov (**D. Chasar**). **K. Metcalf** found one at N. Chagrin MP on 23 Oct, and **G. Links** one at Woodlawn Cem in Toledo on 27 Nov. A bird was still in song in Cincinnati on 20 Nov (**D. Brinkman**).
- Brown Thrasher:** Seven were at HBSP on 25 Aug (**B. Winger**); one was at the CCE on 27 Oct (**J. Pogacnik**), and a late bird touched down in *Holmes* on 17 Nov (**L. Yoder**).
- American Pipit:** Single birds appeared in *Ashtabula* (**J. Pogacnik**) and *Paulding* (**M&D Dunakin**) on 8 Sept, and ~15 were at Conneaut as early as the 11th (**B. Roysse**). Near Findlay, 310+ were counted on 23 Oct (**B. Hardesty**), and 56 were in *Holmes* on 1 Nov (**J. Miller**).
- Cedar Waxwing:** Not many noted this fall, so a count of ~200 in *Perry* on 26 Oct was a good one (**J. Faulkner**).



If accepted, this Bicknell's thrush would be a first Ohio record. It was banded and photographed at Navarre Marsh in Lucas County on 28 October 2001. Photo courtesy of Black Swamp Bird Observatory.

Blue-winged Warbler: Few reports, with the earliest migrant 28 Aug in Delaware (**J. Hammond**), and the latest on the CVNP census of 15 Sept.

Golden-winged Warbler: Curiously, as more often found than the foregoing species than they are less often in spring, with 11 in all. First was a male at Magee on 16 Aug (**E. Tramer**), and last a bird banded at the Shaker Lks on 15 Sept (*vide* BSBO). Nearly half the reports were from inland: birds on 21 Aug and 5 Sept in *Paulding* (**D&M Dunakin**), 1 Sept in Cincinnati (**A. Bess**), 8 Sept at Gilmore Ponds (**M. Busam**), 10 Sept in Cincinnati (**W. Hull**), and one in *Clermont* on 13 Sept (**B. Foppe**).

Hybrids of the above: A "Brewster's" warbler was at the Shaker Lks 27 Aug (**G. Leidy** et al.).

Tennessee Warbler: In normal numbers. The first was at HBSP on 13 Aug (**B. Winger**), the last two at EFSP on 28 Oct (**B. Stanley** et al.). Good finds included 24 in Cincinnati on 9 Sept (**N. Cade**) and 15 in *Adams* 2 Oct (**B. Lund**).

Orange-crowned Warbler: The first arrival was banded at Navarre Marsh 15 Sept (BSBO). The high count was seven at Gordon Pk on 20 Oct (**T. Gilliland** et al.), and the last report was of three birds in Parma 29 Oct (**G. Leidy**).

Nashville Warbler: A trickle, but on schedule. The first was at Navarre Marsh on 24 Aug (BSBO), the last in *Holmes* on 3 Nov (**E. Schlabbach**); in between, the high count was 20, on S. Bass Isl on 6 Sept (**S. Wulkowicz**).

Northern Parula: Two at the Shaker Lks 27 Aug (**B. Winger**) were the first report and high count. **J. Lehman** photographed the last to pass through, at Sheldon Marsh 6 Oct.

Yellow Warbler: The greatest numbers were 26 at Kelleys Isl on 17 Aug (**T. Bartlett**), and the last straggler reported was in *Holmes* on 6 Oct (**L. Yoder**).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: The first arrived on 17 Aug, with 10 at Kelleys Isl (**T. Bartlett**) and one at Magee (**P. Lozano**). Twenty were on S. Bass Isl on 26 Aug (**S. Wulkowicz**), and the last hurrah came from SVWA on 9 Oct (**S. Reeves**).

Magnolia Warbler: One was at HBSP by 13 Aug (**B. Winger**), and a noteworthy straggler was an imm female in *Medina* on 30 Oct (**R. Harlan**, **S. Wagner**). The high count was 50 at S. Bass Isl in 26 Aug's waves of migrants (**S. Wulkowicz**).

Cape May Warbler: An excellent flight. The commonest warbler at times. Counts in the twenties were frequent, the most interesting 26 in Paulding on 15 Sept (**D&M Dunakin**). **M. Busam** had seven in one tree at Sheldon Marsh on 2 Sept, and BSBO netted 121 on 20 Sept at Navarre Marsh, where the last was reported on 1 Nov.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: Arrived 23 Aug in *Lake* (**J. Pogacnik**), and last seen on 6 Oct, with one at Magee (**J. Hammond**) and two at HBSP (**L. Rosche**). The high count was a noteworthy nine in Rocky River on 14 Sept (**T. Gilliland**).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: Neither especially early or late, but numerous in between. No Aug reports, and only a few for Nov in the north. Nearly 1300 were reported near the Lake in the NE 29 Sept-4 Oct, with a high of ~400 in Cleveland on the latter date (**P. Lozano**).

Black-throated Green Warbler: No fall reports till 17 Aug, at Kelleys Isl (**T. Bartlett**). **E. Yoder** had seven on 22 Sept in *Holmes*. Latest was one at BCSP on 28 Oct (**D. Overacker**).

Blackburnian Warbler: Arrived with many others at Kelleys Isl on 17 Aug (**T. Bartlett**), and a straggler lasted till 6 Oct in Columbus (**R. Thorm**). Six were among the throngs at S. Bass Isl on 26 Aug for the high count (**S. Wulkowicz**).

Yellow-throated Warbler: Latest reports in Sept: on the 10th at Cowan Lk SP (**E. Roush**), on the 22nd in CVNP (**Chasar**), and on the 24th in Cincinnati (**B. Stanley**).

- Pine Warbler:** A family of seven at Lk Rockwell was a nice find on 8 Aug (L. Rosche), and three remained there on the 16th (Rosche). Singing birds were at Oak Openings MP on 15 Aug (E. Tramer), and one was rattling as late as 4 Oct at North Chagrin Res'n in *Cuyahoga* (K. Metcalf), with no later reports, singing or not.
- Prairie Warbler:** Few reports as usual, but interesting was one in *Paulding* on 15 Sept (M&D Dunakin), and one as late as 14 Oct at North Chagrin Res'n (K. Metcalf).
- Palm Warbler:** Earliest was one at Bacon Wds, *Lorain*, on 1 Sept (S. Wright), and numbers were healthy in Oct, the highest ~25 in Cleveland on 11 Oct (P. Lozano). One was seen 22 Oct in *Franklin* (R. Thorn).
- Bay-breasted Warbler:** Not in great numbers, with ~10 the high count, at HBSP on 25 Aug (B. Winger). J. Pogacnik saw the first and last of them in *Lake*, on 23 Aug and 30 Sept.
- Blackpoll Warbler:** First noted on 12 Aug at HBSP (B. Winger), they came in good numbers later—55+ there (K. Metcalf) and 21 in *Holmes* (L. Yoder) on 22 Sept, and 100+ the following day in the CPNWR (G. Links). The latest report came from *Franklin* on 16 Oct (R. Thorn).
- Cerulean Warbler:** Hard to find in fall, one—apparently a local nester still feeling his oats—was singing in *Holmes* on 25 Aug (E. Schlabach).
- Black-and-white Warbler:** Two were in *Holmes* on 11 Aug (L. Yoder). Eleven were on Kelleys Isl on 17 Aug (T. Bartlett), and a late bird was in *Cuyahoga* on 23 Oct (K. Metcalf).
- American Redstart:** Three joining the crowd at Kelleys Isl on 17 Aug (T. Bartlett) also made up the high count. An unmistakable male was in the front yard of R. Rogers in Columbus on the very late date of 20 Nov, joining a few Nov records of the species in the state, including another from this fall on 3 Nov at Hoover Res (R. Thorn).
- Prothonotary Warbler:** The BSBO captured the first, on 11 Aug at Navarre Marsh. Two were at Magee, on 16 (P. Lozano) and 17 Aug (E. Tramer). The last seen was on 1 Sept in Cincinnati (A. Bess).
- Worm-eating Warbler:** Two were found rather late in Cincinnati on 18 Sept (J. Cade).
- Ovenbird:** Seen as early as 25 Aug, at HBSP (B. Winger), and as late as 7 Oct in *Cuyahoga* (G. Leidy).
- Northern Waterthrush:** Seen in singles, the first at Sandy Ridge MP on 8 Aug (B. Winger), the latest on 28 Sept when one was captured at Shaker Lks (*vide* BSBO).
- Louisiana Waterthrush:** A good find was one in Rocky River on 27 Aug (S. Zadar).
- Kentucky Warbler:** Here today, gone tomorrow: a migrant was in *Holmes* on 12 Aug (E. Schlabach), and the last were seen 1 Sept in *Wayne* (S. Snyder) and *Hamilton* (A. Bess). In the interim, a male at Magee on 16 Aug was of interest (E. Tramer).
- Connecticut Warbler:** More than a dozen reported, and during the expected period. The latest was banded at Navarre Marsh on 4 Oct (BSBO).
- Mourning Warbler:** First found at HBSP on 24 Aug (R. Hannikman *vide* B. Winger), where the high count of two was made on 31 Aug (K. Metcalf), they trickled through till the last was banded at Navarre Marsh on 10 Oct (BSBO).
- Common Yellowthroat:** The news was late birds, with three in Nov: one on the CCE on the 8th (J. Brumfield *vide* V. Fazio), a male in *Holmes* on the 11th (E. Yoder), and another on the CCE on 24th (J. Pogacnik).
- Hooded Warbler:** Approximately 10 in *Washington* on 31 Aug was a good find (H. Nagy). One was singing in Columbus on 21 Sept (R. Thorn), and two were found in *Holmes* the following day (L. Yoder). The last was in *Lake* on 28 Sept (J. Pogacnik).

Wilson's Warbler: Appeared on 21 Aug in *Paulding* (D&M Dunakin) and in *Cuyahoga* (R. Harlan, S. Wagner). At HBSP 10 were found by R. Hannikman on 24 Aug. Last noted on 6 Oct, at Sheldon Marsh (J. Hammond).

Canada Warbler: E. Schlabach found a migrant on 12 Aug in *Holmes*. The high count was four, on 17 Aug on Kelleys Isl (T. Bartlett), and the last passed through on 18 Sept in *Holmes* (L. Yoder).

Yellow-breasted Chat: Surprisingly few detected. The BSBO reported the latest, netted in *Hamilton* on 15 Oct.

Summer Tanager: Eight reports clumped from 20-24 Sept, all in the breeding range. The last report of a migrant came from 27 Sept in *Adams* (B. Lund).

Scarlet Tanager: The high count was seven on the 15 Sept census of the CVNP, probably local nesters. A juv was at Hoover Res on 23 Oct (R. Thorn).

American Tree Sparrow: One on 5 Oct was earlier than expected, but showed up at one of Ohio's premier sparrow spots, Gordon Pk (S. Zadar). By 1 Nov, 60+ were at the CCE (V. Fazio), and 80 gathered at MWV on 23 Nov (N. Cade).

Chipping Sparrow: E. Yoder reported 35 in *Holmes* on 24 Sept, and by mid-Oct other large counts were almost routine, with 35-40 at HBSP on the 18th (L. Rosche), 45 at Gordon Pk on the 19th (S. Zadar), and 60+ at N. Chagrin Res'n on the 23rd (K. Metcalf). The latest report was of two at Hoover Res on 3 Nov (R. Thorn).

Clay-colored Sparrow: Two reported of this scarce species, one on 11 Oct in *Cuyahoga* (G. Leidy), and one 24 Oct in *Lake* (J. Pogacnik).

Field Sparrow: Many joined the sparrow throngs in the NE in Oct, with 17 at Gordon Pk on the 19th (S. Zadar) and 45 the 21st at HBSP (L. Rosche), but on the 13th 60 were already at MWV (N. Cade), where some may winter. On 11 Nov, three remained in *Holmes* (E. Schlabach).

Vesper Sparrow: J. Watts photographed fledglings in a *Madison* nest 16 Aug. The high count of migrants was three, at HBSP 22 Oct (L. Rosche) during the big sparrow movement. Latest were two at MWV 23 Nov (N. Cade). Continues its decline, it seems.

Savannah Sparrow: Migrants were widely noted in Oct, with high counts of 32 at MWV on the 6th (D. Brinkman) and 20 at HBSP on the 22nd (L. Rosche). One was in *Holmes* as late as 22 Nov (E. Schlabach) and 10 remained at MWV the 23rd (N. Cade).

Grasshopper Sparrow: N. Cade found one at MWV on 13 Oct.

Henslow's Sparrow: In migration Henslow's becomes as hard to find as other *Ammodramus* spp. On 14 Aug, 30+ could still be found at Crown City WA, *Gallica/Lawrence* (V. Fazio), but only two reports emerged from October: one in *Paulding* on the 2nd (D&M Dunakin), and one at HBSP on the 22nd (L. Rosche).

Le Conte's Sparrow: At Gordon Pk, S. Zadar found a juv on 18 Oct, and a first-winter bird on 24 Oct. M. Bussam had another at Gilmore Ponds on 20 Oct. Details for all are with the OBRC.

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow: J. Pogacnik found one in *Lake* on 30 Sept, then two more on 8 Oct. S. Zadar had one at Gordon Pk on 17 Oct, and L. Rosche one at HBSP on 18 Oct.

Fox Sparrow: The first was rather late, netted at Navarre Marsh on 6 Oct (BSBO), but fair numbers were around in Nov, with 25 on the 7th and 15 on the 10th at CVNP (D. Chasar), six or seven at Stage's Pond, *Pickaway*, on the 12th (R. Thorn), four at MWV on the 23rd (N. Cade), and one in *Hancock* on the 27th (B. Hardesty).

Song Sparrow: N.Cade estimated 350 at MWV on 13 Oct, and 120 there on 23 Oct. **K. Metcalf** had 90+ at N. Chagrin Res'n the following day, when 203 appeared at Gordon Pk (**S. Zadar**).

Lincoln's Sparrow: Three were found by CVNP census-takers on 15 Sept, where the high count of 10 was later made on 3 Oct (**D. Chassar**). **B. Winger** had one at HBSP on 27 Oct. Latest was 4 Nov in *Fairfield* (**R. Thorn**).

Swamp Sparrow: The first migrant was reported at the Shaker Lks on 14 Sept (**B. Fambrough**). As with other sparrows this fall, peaked in mid Oct, with 80 at MWV on the 13th and 85 on the 23rd (**N. Cade**). 30 each at Gilmore Ponds, *Butler* (**M. Busam**) and at HBSP (**L. Rosche**) on the 21st, and 45 at N. Chagrin Res'n on the 23rd (**K. Metcalf**). Five were in the CVNP on 26 Nov (**M&T Romito**).

White-throated Sparrow: The first was netted at Navarre Marsh on 12 Sept (BSBO), and by 7 Oct 436 were on the ONWRC nearby. **S. Zadar** had the high count, ~1000 on 18 Oct at Gordon Pk, and 316 were still passing through Kelleys Isl on 17 Nov (**T. Bartlett**).

White-crowned Sparrow: The first were reported 29 Sept, with three at Gilmore Ponds (**M. Busam**) and one banded at Navarre Marsh (BSBO). The high count of ~550 came from Gordon Pk on 18 Oct (**S. Zadar**), and **L. Deininger** counted 1000+ at the Shaker Lks 22-24 Oct.

Dark-eyed Junco: A bird was well seen in Bowling Green on the extraordinary date of 31 July (**B. Cullen** et al.). Another nine were found at Holden Arboretum on 26 Aug (**H. Petruschke**). Even **J. Fry's** first in *Hocking* on 3 Oct seemed early in the 80°F heat. The high count was 446 on 19 Oct at Gordon Pk (**S. Zadar**).

Lapland Longspur: Also early, two were in *Lake* on 30 Sept (**J. Pogacnik**), and 10-15 at Conneaut on 2 Oct (**B. Royse**). The high count was ~400 in *Marion* near Killdeer on 17 Nov (**J. Lesser**). On the following day, 75 were in *Van Wert* for **R. Harlan** and **S. Wagner**.

Snow Bunting: First noticed were five in *Lake* on 20 Oct (**J. Pogacnik**), and by 28 Oct birds were observed in *Allen* (**D. Dister**), in *Hamilton* (**S. Corbo**), and in *Clark* (**D. Overacker**). Well represented by mid-Nov, with 360+ at Ottawa (**D. Le Gallee** et al.).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: The high count of migrants was seven at Shaker Lks on 13 Sept (**B. Fambrough**). Its hardiness belies its tropical plumage, as one was singing in *Stark* on 22 Oct (**P. Soehnlén**), and birds were found on 4 Nov in *Preble* (**C. Tucker**) and in *Lake* (**R. Rickard**).

Blue Grosbeak: **V. Fazio** reported four of the Crown City WA breeders on 14 Aug. A male was found on the *Harrison/Belmont* line on 21 Aug (**R. Campbell**).

Indigo Bunting: The high count was 10 at Gilmore Ponds on 8 Sept (**M. Busam**). One pair gambled on the weather and won at the CVNP: **D. Chasar** observed an ad feeding young on 18 Sept, and birds remained through at least 15 Oct. **K. Metcalf** had one in N. Chagrin Res'n as late as 17 Oct.

Dickcissel: Not a big year for nesters in Ohio. Apparent migrants were at Ottawa on 5 Aug (**R. Harlan**, **S. Wagner**) and nearby on 17 Aug (**P. Lozano**). One late on 22 Oct was at HBSP, a first for **L. Rosche** in 38 years of observations at the site. An imm female was still later in *Holmes* on 17 Nov (**E. Schliabach**).

Bobolink: Fifty in *Butler* at the VOA site on 8 Aug (**M. Busam**) may have been local breeders, but by 26 Aug 53 were passing over CPNWR (**E. Tramer**), while 50 were at MWV (**P. Wharton**). On 1 Sept **Wharton** estimated 500 at MWV; on 6 Oct **D. Brinkman** was able to find 27 there, and on 17 Oct **N. Cade** found six. One passed through HBSP on 22 Oct (**L. Rosche**).

Eastern Meadowlark: Its population at the VOA site in *Butler* was 37 on 27 Oct and 25 on 21 Nov (**M. Busam**), suggesting this may be a wintering as well as a breeding site. Twenty were on **D. Hochadel's** property in *Trumbull* on 8 Oct.

Western Meadowlark: Manifestly decreasing in Ohio recently. One report, a bird in song at *The Wilds, Muskungum*, on 17 Sept (**R. Harlan**, **S. Wagner**).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: No confirmed nests reported, but four birds were seen singly in or near the western Lk Erie marshes, the latest on 24 Nov in *Ottawa* (**J. Pogacnik**).

Rusty Blackbird: No large flocks reported, but ~100 at Killdeer was of local interest (**J. Hammond**).

Brewer's Blackbird: Scarce. **E. Roush** found one at Cowan Lk SP on 11 Oct, and **R. Harlan** and **S. Wagner** a male at Grand Lk St Marys on 18 Nov.

Brown-headed Cowbird: A flock of ~1600 in *Holmes* was notable (**E. Yoder**).

Baltimore Oriole: The high count of 41 migrants came from Kelleys Isl on the big day of 17 Aug (**T. Bartlett**). No lingerers reported in Oct or Nov.

Purple Finch: Some very early migrants included a female in *Hocking* on 16 Aug (**J. Fry**), one on 25 Aug near the Oak Openings (**E. Tramer**), and one in *Paulding* on 5 Sept (**M&D Dunakin**). The high count was 26 on the Kelleys Isl census of 16 Sept (*vide V. Fazio*).

Red Crossbill: One bird was reported, at Gordon Pk on 6 Nov (**S. Zadar**).

White-winged Crossbill: Reports came from 13 counties, the first way down in *Clermont* on 26 Oct (**E. Lotz**). The largest group was of six, seen during a stay 2-8 Nov at J. P. Kirtland's old hometown of *Poland, Mahoning* (**L. Warren**). As is often the case with winter finches, adult males were at a premium.

Common Redpoll: Staged a moderate incursion to all the counties on the Lakefront, but seemingly no further south than *Seneca* and *Geauga*. Numbers reached 36 at Gordon Pk on 18 Nov (**S. Zadar**) and 34 the same day in *N. Seneca* (**Z. Baker**); in fact, over two-thirds of the fall's birds were reported on the weekend of 17-18 Nov. Last were ~20 at Ottawa on 24 Nov (**J. Pogacnik**).

Pine Siskin: Appeared statewide, with reports from at least 35 counties. Three were at **J. Pogacnik's** feeders in *Lake* very early on 26 Aug, but large numbers arrived only late in Oct. The high count was ~200 along the Ohio R in *Clermont* (**D. Morse**) on 25 Nov, just when ~90 were tallied at feeders in Oak Openings MP, *Lucas* (**R. Johnson**).

American Goldfinch: On 24 Oct, **G. Miller** saw a flock of ~1000 in a field of sunflowers in *Stark*.

Evening Grosbeak: Reports came from 19 counties, from *Lake* to *Scioto*, from *Mahoning* to *Darke*. First seen in the south, with a bird in *Hocking* on 16 Sept (**B. Graves**), three there on 13 Oct (**D. Horn**), and at least seven at three *Scioto* locations on 19 Oct (**J. Glover**). During eight days, 30 Oct-5 Nov, 13 reports of 48 birds came from nine counties, including the season's high count of 16 in *Lake* on 30 Oct (**J. Pogacnik**). Very unfaithful to sites, the birds became harder to find in late Nov, with the last seen in *Cuyahoga* on the 22nd (**S. Wright**).



This female white-winged crossbill was the first to arrive in Ohio this season. It was photographed in Clermont County on 27 October 2001 by Edle Lotz.

Contributors

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Further Afield

Rob Harlan

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I saw the vermilion flycatcher at Ottawa this fall. It was rare. It looked nice. I liked it.

An oversimplified view, perhaps, but the vermilion flycatcher seen by many at Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge this November and December was indeed a "no-brainer." Now here was a bird that grabbed you by the binocular strap, looked you straight in the eye and said, "I am rare in your state. I represent only your third state record, and I am the very first of my kind to be widely seen here. Not only that, but my vivid shade of red blends quite fashionably with my understated browns and whites. My outgoing personality speaks for itself, and I have been faithful to a relatively small piece of property, providing you with reasonable odds to make my acquaintance. Furthermore, I have chosen to inhabit a normally off-limits area of what you know as Ottawa Refuge, which lends, I think, a certain indefinable exclusive quality to my presence. Thank you for visiting. You may count me now."

And indeed, many of us did count it, or at least made its acquaintance. All with good reason. There could be no doubt about its identification or its rarity in the context of Ohio's birding timeline. This bird is rare in 2001, it would have been rare in 1901, and, although I assume none of us will be around to verify the fact, it may be just as rare in 2101. But not all bird records are quite so straightforward. What is considered rare or noteworthy now wouldn't necessarily have been noteworthy a hundred, fifty, or even ten years ago. Likewise, a record considered significant fifty years ago might be considered commonplace today. Rarity is relative.

I have always found it enlightening to step back in time, so to speak, whenever possible, to let the voices of the past help us better understand our time and, we hope, the future. Fortunately, birders have a form of time machine that would have made H. G. Wells proud. We have the published record. Although these aging books and journals may now rest unassumingly on muted library shelves, each contains a wealth of valuable information for those who care to look. They may not all boast of mega-rarities like a vermilion flycatcher, but they are all filled with useful data that were at least deemed noteworthy at the time of publication. These works will never grab you by the binocular strap, but nonetheless they deserve your attention. Their small voices have a large story to tell.

We will set our time machine at ten-year intervals. We will use as our guides historical books as well as many national journals, including *The Auk*, *The Wilson Bulletin*, *Bird-Lore*, *Audubon Field Notes*, and *American Birds*, and also one particularly august local journal, *The Cleveland Bird Calendar*, which has been issued, I believe, in an uninterrupted series since 1905. Since this issue of *The Ohio Cardinal* covers the autumn season of 2001, we will also review the autumn seasons of the past, beginning, shall we, in 1861. Yes, we shall.

1861: Although the Confederate States of America had just been formed on 8 February, this did not deter J. M. Wheaton from having the presence of mind to report a large flock of American white pelicans on the Scioto River near Columbus during the fall of 1861. In his own words, Dr. Wheaton was "greatly astonished." I don't blame him.

1871: After a brief perusal, our time machine has found no published records from the autumn of 1871. Perhaps all Ohio birders were paying rapt attention to the 1871 event *The World Almanac* refers to as the "quasi-Socialist Paris Commune uprising," which, in case you were wondering, was "violently suppressed." Or perhaps they were still stunned by the Great Chicago Fire of 8-11 October. I suppose their distraction could have been based on either, or neither. I don't know. I wasn't there.

1881: Mr. A. Hall shot a black-necked stilt in Berea on 24 October. Members of the Winous Point Shooting Club shot a snowy owl sometime during the season. It was deposited in the clubhouse bird collection, and I wouldn't be surprised to learn it resides there to this day.

1891: In August, Charles Dury collected one of the very first specimens of Henslow's sparrow for Ohio in Hamilton County. Mr. O. B. Franks of the Wooster area shot an immature golden eagle on 10 November. Meanwhile, Mr. Harry Warden of Lorain collected a red knot in September, and presented it to Oberlin College. A lack of proper optics and the prevailing hunting mentality of the day helps to explain all these "collections"; I have no explanation, however, for some of the then-current synonyms for red knot, including "horse-foot snipe" and "blue plover." "Beach robin" yes, "white robin snipe" maybe, "blue plover" no.

1901: On 1 August, Rev. W. F. Henninger procured the first Ohio specimen of a certain species along the Scioto River, likely in Pike County. He observed two birds, and, "after an exciting chase of about three hours" succeeded in collecting a young male, "being pure white in color, but having the tips of the first seven quills of each wing a slate blue color." He shot another in Pike Co. on 3 August, and others took two more near there later that month. Four more were seen but not collected.

According to Henninger, the presence of eight individuals, the immaturity of the birds, and the time of year "would make it highly probable that they have been bred in the State." Although this certainly would have been the obvious conclusion at the time, today in retrospect we can more accurately assign the appearance of these little blue herons to an early record of post-breeding dispersal, an irregular and still poorly understood phenomenon. This dispersal would become particularly evident during the 1920s and 1930s. Almost thirty years after Henninger noted these eight herons, the species' largest post-breeding event would take place during the late summer and early fall of 1930, when L. E. Hicks tallied records from 40 Ohio counties, totaling 1185 little blues across the state. No, that is not a typo.

1911: The primary chronicler of Ohio birding during the early decades of the twentieth century, Lynds Jones, announced that E. Barnes and E. Tannehill had collected Ohio's first two surf scoter specimens on 20 October, at a seemingly unlikely spot—along the Muskingum River below McConnellsville (Morgan County). It might be interesting to find out if there have been any Morgan County

records since. Rev. Henninger makes another appearance, noting that on 17 November an Auglaize County farmer brought him "a fine live female" *Buteo borealis calurus*, or what we now know as the dark-morph western red-tailed hawk. For those scoring at home, this specimen represents No. 1018 in Henninger's personal collection.

1921: Autumn 1921 seemed rather low-key. Lynds Jones did note that "a considerable company" of chimney swifts was present around Oberlin, and that "about the first of October they left the chimneys that they had been using for roosting places and repaired to the cemetery, where they seemed to be roosting at night in some Scotch pine trees." Also, white-winged crossbills and a single pine grosbeak remained for several days in early November. Jones concludes by stating that by 20 November, migration had "settled down to winter conditions, and there has been nothing out of the normal to report since." Very low-key, indeed.

1931: Things had picked up by 1931. A young Lou Campbell was very active in the Toledo area, observing 101 species on 7 September alone. A month earlier, Campbell witnessed what I consider to be one of the greatest avian spectacles ever described for Ohio—a group of bank swallows at what is now Cedar Point National Wildlife Refuge measuring about one mile long by a thousand feet wide. He estimated that conservatively 250,000+ birds were present, with "nearly a million" possible. Elsewhere, R. L. Baird passes along "Good news about the Pileated Woodpeckers!" accounting for two pairs near Zanesville, and another pair in the Municipal Park in Poland (the Mahoning County Poland), but also had to relate some bad news: near Kinsman, "some ——— hunter shot one of these rare birds." On 25 October, a very late ruby-throated hummingbird was reported in the Cleveland area; today a hummer this late would certainly be carefully scrutinized in hopes of a western stray. Nor let us forget L. E. Hicks' astonishing flight of nine great crested flycatchers in Delaware County on 16 November (one of which was collected), as described in a previous column. Suffice it to say, this sighting is still rather unusual.

1941: Twelve Canada geese at Cleveland's Gordon Park on 6 August provided an "unusually early date." About a week later on 15 August, a black-necked stilt was found near Shaker Lakes; unfortunately it was a "dead bird on pavement, apparently hit by automobile." At Put-in-Bay on South Bass Island, C. F. Walker reported 300-400 warblers of 13 species on 27 August, "all crowded into an acre or so of brushy woodland." I certainly would have enjoyed birding my way through that flock. At nearby Bay Point (Ottawa County) on 24 September, W. Earl Godfrey, who later would pen the monumental *The Birds of Canada*, spotted two Forster's terns, with identification "made certain by rowing out in a boat to inspect birds at close quarters."

1951: It seems Milton B. Trautman had an interesting autumn in 1951. Working out of Put-in-Bay on South Bass Island, he could "follow the land-bird migration with something of the accuracy with which the inland observer follows waterfowl migration on a lake." On 8 September, he counted a thousand warblers leaving the southern tip of the island for the mainland, all in 42 minutes. He also collected Ohio's first harlequin duck specimen on 2 November, and had a close fly-by gyrfalcon on 26 November. Elsewhere, 23 pine grosbeaks, mostly immature males and females, were found in the Cleveland area from 20-30 November.

1961: The legends of the Cleveland lakefront, Bill and Nancy Klamm, counted 28 upland sandpipers at Cleveland Hopkins Airport on 26 August. Their careful surveys also focused on terns, with the peak black tern count (1300 birds) coming on 3 September, the peak common tern count (1500 birds) the next day, and the peak Forster's tern count (2 birds) also coming on 4 September. A western kingbird made its way to East Liverpool on 17 September. Regarding waterfowl migration in central Ohio, Milton Trautman summarized: "on Buckeye Lake and the Scioto River...[I] frequently recorded over 1000 ducks a day in November before 1930; after the decrease in the early 1930s the number was several hundreds; and this year 'in the dozens.'" Back in the far northeast, Ohio's first black-throated sparrow was found at the Conneaut feeders of Mrs. Mary Stump 5 November-9 December. We've had only once since then.

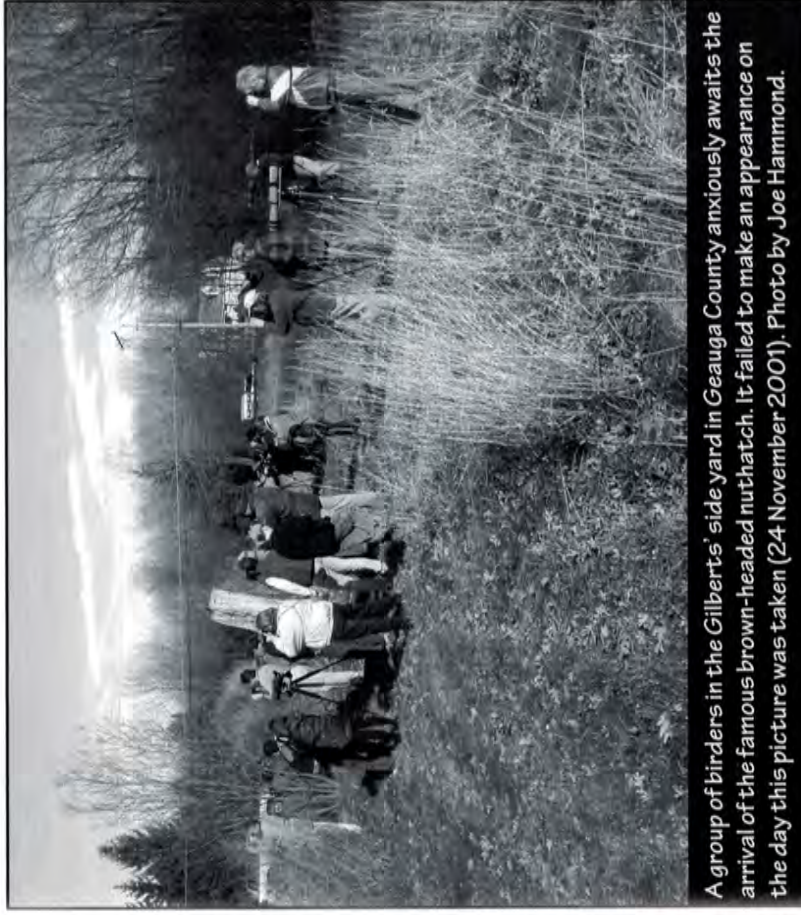
1971: An adult little gull was on Cleveland's east side at White City Beach on 26 September, while an immature great black-backed gull as on the west side at Rocky River Park on 7 November. The day before, the Klamms were treated to "a lone immature" double-crested cormorant which passed "within 100 feet at tree top level along the bluff at Perkins Beach." Tom Thomson was busy, reporting a western kingbird at Hoover Reservoir 10 October and an American white pelican in Greene County on 14 October. Seneca Lake hosted some interesting shorebirds including a red-necked phalarope in September and a late American golden-plover from 11-18 November.

1981: Armed with modern identification techniques combined with a widening range of correspondents, reports flourished. Shorebirds seen in Ohio this season included piping plover, whimbrel, willet, purple sandpiper, western sandpiper, buff-breasted sandpiper, both godwits, ruff, and red-necked and red phalaropes. Gulls, meanwhile, were represented by Ohio's first mew gull at Lorain 29 November, plus laughing, little, lesser black-backed and Thayer's gulls, and black-legged kittiwake. Cormorants reached an "exemplary peak" of 175 birds at East Harbor State Park on 24 October, and three flocks of sandhill cranes, containing 8-20 birds each, passed over southwest Ohio 6-8 November. A groove-billed ani graced the Arlene Brown farm in Clermont County from 9 October-19 November. All four Ohio groove-billed records occurred between 1963 and 1981. Another would be nice, right about...now.

1991: An eclipsed male harlequin duck surprised the Klamms on the very early date of 6 August. It remained along the Cleveland lakefront for most of the season. A long-tailed jaeger appeared at Headlands Beach State Park on 20 September—the third straight September for this species at this location. The next day, a yellow rail was captured by hand, photographed, and released in Tuscarawas County. Continuing progress in *Plegadis* ibis identification allowed for the designation of a white-faced ibis at Spencer Lake WA 10-17 October. Two Harris's sparrows in October and November, along with another earlier in the spring, ushered in a new period of "abundance" for this very rare bird. Since these three sightings, the species has almost come to be expected somewhere in the state each year.

2001: Crowds gathered at select vermilion flycatcher and brown-headed nuthatch sightings. Other bird species were also apparently present in the state at various times during the season; details presumably appear elsewhere in this issue.

2011: Listers continued to crisscross the state attempting to track down varieties of the recently split former "red crossbill." The great-tailed grackle roost in Lucas County reached double digits. The Eurasian collared-dove population proliferated to alarming levels; old-school traditionalists fearing for the well-being of Ohio rock doves initiated reintroduction programs. The highly-localized brown-headed nuthatch nesting colony in Geauga County continued to flourish; this fall up to eight pairs brought their young to the Gilberts' remarkable feeding station in South Russell. The Gilberts' construction of enclosed bleacher seating on their property in early 2002 once again paid dividends—after hosting Ohio's first sage thrasher in 2003 and first lazuli bunting in 2005, this year Jon Dunn's Great Geauga County Birding Extravaganza tour found Ohio's first golden-crowned sparrow there 23 November. The Gilberts, always the gracious hosts, invited the entire tour group to stay for Thanksgiving dinner. 🦋



A group of birders in the Gilberts' side yard in Geauga County anxiously awaits the arrival of the famous brown-headed nuthatch. It failed to make an appearance on the day this picture was taken (24 November 2001). Photo by Joe Hammond.

Albinism in Birds

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With the exception of gulls (most of which are various shades of gray above), we see very few species of predominantly white birds in Ohio. White birds tend to cause immediate excitement—after all, they may turn out to be goodies like Ross's goose, snowy owl, or white ibis. Only about 13 species of Ohio birds—out of 410—are mostly white at least in some plumage, and many are rare to uncommon visitors.

Every now and then, however, a white bird shows up that later proves to be an albinistic individual of a common species. These can be real puzzlers. Without the familiar colorations on which we are used to basing our identifications, the identity of even common birds can generate lots of debate. Witness the recent discussion of photos (16-20 December 2001) posted to the ID-Frontiers internet list of a sparrow-like bird in Texas. At a glance, it looked very redpoll-like, but ultimately the consensus among experts was that it was an albinistic chipping sparrow.

What is Albinism?

Essentially, albinism is a genetic disorder that inhibits the formation of tyrosinase, an enzyme that causes the synthesis of melanin, a dark pigment. There are four degrees of albinism, as defined by geneticists Hutt and Mueller in 1941: 1) *total albinism*, the rarest form, in which the individual is all white with pink eyes; 2) *incomplete albinism*, in which melanin (in birds) is completely absent from eyes, skin, or feathers, but not all three; 3) *imperfect albinism*, where melanin is only partially inhibited, creating a pale organism (a well-known example are the "white" tigers used by the entertainers Sigfried and Roy); 4) *partial albinism*, the most common form, where localized body parts are white or whitish. The majority of unnaturally white birds are in this fourth category.

Albinism is a recessive genetic characteristic, and generally quite rare in any animal population. In humans, it manifests itself in about one person out of every 20,000. Perhaps the best-known people with this condition are the rock musicians Johnny and Edgar Winter. According to the Hardy-Weinberg Equilibrium (a formula for determining population genetics), about one human sperm or egg in 141 carries the recessive gene for albinism. This translates to a likelihood of 1.4% that an individual will become a carrier for albinism. Albinism is probably about equally rare in birds. It's been estimated that only 0.5% to 1.0% of all birds display any sign of albinism—partial or complete.

Albinism vs. Leucism

The difference between albinism and leucism is quite technical and, practically speaking, probably not that important to bird observers. Either condition causes a whitening of the plumage. But, for technophiles, here's the basic difference:

ALBINISM IN BIRDS

Albinism: mutant alleles of loci (position of a gene on a chromosome) involved in melanin production contribute to this condition. Manifested by loss of melanin not only from feathers, but also from soft tissues such as eyes, skin, and beak.

Leucism: mutant alleles of loci that control melanocytic life functions—particularly the migration of melanoblasts (melanocyte precursors) from the neural crest in the embryo—contribute to this condition. It results in a reduction or absence—either localized, or rarely throughout the plumage—of melanin. Partial leucism is fairly common, resulting in the "pied" birds; e.g., a bird with a white head but otherwise normal plumage.

Disadvantages of Albinism/Leucism

I consider 13 species of birds that regularly visit Ohio as primarily white in their natural state. There a few others, such as wood stork, ivory gull, and white ibis, but these are accidental in occurrence and not included here. They are American white pelican, great egret, snowy egret, cattle egret, snow goose, Ross's goose, mute swan, tundra swan, trumpeter swan (introduced), glaucous gull, Iceland gull, snowy owl, and snow bunting.

When looking at this group of only about 3% of our avifauna, two trends become apparent. First, most of these species are relatively predator-free, large enough or close enough to the top of the food chain that predation is generally not a problem. The others tend to flock, finding safety in numbers rather than protective coloration. Thus, the disadvantages of being white and sticking out like a sore thumb are offset by behavioral or morphological characteristics.

Generally speaking, there are probably no benefits for a bird in being albinistic or leucistic, and it's likely this genetic anomaly isn't selected for perpetuation. Most strongly albinistic birds have a short shelf life as compared to other normally plumaged individuals of the same species. They stand out to predators, and many albinistic passerines, for example, are likely picked off by accipiters in short order. As with humans, albinistic birds tend to have weak eyesight, and while people with this condition often have brittle bones, birds have weaker feather quills. In addition, there are numerous accounts of albinistic individuals being shunned by others of their kind, which is nature's indifferent way of reducing the likelihood that they will breed and perpetuate this trait.

Examples of Albinism in Birds

The incidence of albinism is just an odds game—the bigger the population, the more likely this condition will be observed. Unsurprisingly then, the number one species displaying albinism in North American birds is the American robin, followed by the house sparrow. In theory, however, any species may display albinism or leucism, and this can lead to some real puzzlers in identification. Oftentimes one does not have long to observe these birds, because of the aforementioned predation factor, but when a larger, relatively predator-free albinistic bird appears, it may be seen for years. This is the case with the turkey vulture that has frequented the area of Egypt Valley in Belmont County, Ohio for at least four years. While not a complete

albino, the bird displays extensive white in the body and wings, and is a very striking sight.

Sometimes, though, it is very difficult to determine the species of an unnaturally white bird. Imagine the surprise—then frustration—experienced by the owners of a South Carolina feeder when an essentially all-white hummingbird made an appearance. This bird, seen in 1999, was established as a ruby-throated hummingbird only when captured and closely studied. As would be expected, it was initially reported as an albino, but actually proved to be leucistic, as its feet, bill, and legs were normally pigmented.

In September 2001, a finch-like bird appeared in rural Licking County, Ohio, that was strikingly patterned in white and dark brown. Understandably, it was at first called a snow bunting. It was quickly realized that it was something else, though, as its behavior, size and shape, and coloration were not right for that species. Figuring out its true identity was very difficult, as is often the case with aberrant birds, and ultimately it could only be guessed at. While I have seen only pictures—and not great ones—I believe a good hypothesis can be made as to its identity.

Identifying Albinos

When working with an albinistic/leucistic bird, whose natural markings are mostly obliterated by white, there is a suite of factors to consider in drawing conclusions about its identity. One, closely examine the plumage. Oftentimes in a leucistic bird, the typical markings will bleed through the whitish overlay, although they may not be evident until the bird can be seen well. White feathering may not mask some markings. Two, examine its habits: is it feeding on the ground or in trees, hopping or walking, have an undulating or straight flight, etc.? Three, pay attention to structure, such as overall size, shape, length of tail, legs, and wings, type of bill, etc. Albinism/leucism will not affect these characteristics. Four, what are its associates? Sometimes, in flocking birds, the company “whitey” keeps will be a dead giveaway. And last, listen for vocalizations. They could clinch the identification.

With careful study, many albinistic birds are not too tough to figure out. The Licking County sparrow was, however. As can be seen from the photos, this bird is mostly white, with what appear to be blackish primaries and markings on the back. Any normally pigmented feathering will appear darker when set off against



This albinistic sparrow appeared in Licking County in September 2001. Its identity is still unknown, but field sparrow seems to be the best guess. Photo by Mike Flynn.

white. In this case, the plumage is so altered from the typical that coloration is no real help in making the identification. I was given some details of its habits from observers that assisted in the process of elimination. The bird hopped—rather than walked—and spent most of its time foraging on the ground. When startled, it would fly into bushes or trees. Unfortunately, no vocalizations were heard.

Because the bird was reported to hop rather than walk, snow bunting can be ruled out. It also displayed a skulking behavior, sticking close to cover and seeming to flatten to the ground periodically. This is very characteristic of sparrows in the genus *Spizella*, which tend to be shy and retiring. While somewhat more subjective, the relatively slender body, longish tail, and largish bill are also indicative of *Spizella*. Although hard to definitively ascertain from the photos, the bill also appears to be pinkish.

All in all, the overall shape, bill, and habits are consistent with one of our native sparrows, in particular the field sparrow *Spizella pusilla*, and that is my guess. If that is correct, this bird definitely falls into the realm of oddities, as I can find only one reference for an albinistic field sparrow; a bird documented in South Dakota in the early 1980s.

Albinistic or leucistic birds, in addition to providing an unusual spectacle, offer an excellent chance to hone one's observational skills and powers of deduction. They also serve as a good reminder that first impressions aren't always correct, and aberrant individuals must always be considered as a possibility—not just rarities. 🐦



Here is another look at the albinistic Licking County sparrow from September 2001. Photo by Mike Flynn.

A Leucistic Rough-legged Hawk in Ohio

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On 15 March 2000 a set of images (see below) was posted on the Ohio Birder Resources website. They were photos of a raptor found in Portsmouth (Scioto County) in early February and subsequently seen and photographed by a number of people. The bird had originally been identified as a gyrfalcon. When I studied the pictures, a couple of things bothered me about the identification. The bird was cream-colored, and had the overall shape of a buteo. Although no expert in gyrfalcon identification, I have seen a few through the years. Gyrfalcons should not be unmarked white, and they should show a typical falcon's shape.

The bird in the photos was creamy white overall, lacking any dark markings on the wings or back. When I see an all-white bird I suspect something other than a normal plumage, and first try to determine whether it might be leucistic or albinistic. Truly albinistic birds are extremely rare. Such a bird would be pure white, with pink eyes and pink legs and bill. In my 25 years of birding I can remember seeing only one albino bird. Leucistic birds, on the other hand, are a little more common. These birds are typically cream-colored and have soft parts of normal color. This bird's

bill, legs, and eyes showed no abnormal pinkish tones. I felt without a doubt I was looking at photos of a leucistic hawk. Which species, though?

My initial impression had been that this bird was a buteo. The heavy build, with smallish head and bill, were right for a buteo. The wingtips extending to the tail clearly ruled out all the accipiters, as well as gyrfalcon. The eyes also appeared pale, but this feature was difficult to see on the

website picture. To get a better view I decided to save the pictures as JPEGs and play with them in Paint Shop Pro 7.0. Once in the program I was able to sharpen the image slightly using the "unsharp mask" function. I also increased the size of the image, and was able to see clearly a pale iris on the bird. All the Ohio falcons have a large dark eye. This bird's eye was



This leucistic rough-legged hawk appeared in Portsmouth, Scioto County, during February 2000. Photo by Brad Sparks.

LEUCISTIC ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK

pale and relatively small. I was now positive this bird was a buteo. But which buteo was it?

Species of buteos regularly occurring in Ohio include red-tailed, red-shouldered, broad-winged, and rough-legged hawks. The shape of the bird—fairly bulky, with wingtips appearing to reach the tip of the tail—was more like one of the larger species. Red-shouldered and broad-winged are smaller, trimmer buteos. Nor do the wingtips in either species come close to reaching the tip of the tail. The time of year—February—should also eliminate broad-winged hawk. This left me with a choice between red-tailed or rough-legged hawk.

When perched, red-tailed and rough-legged hawks' wingtips extend nearly as long as the tail. Rough-legged hawk's wings are a little bit longer, extending to the tip of the tail, better matching the pictured bird. Another feature that stood out to me was the bird's noticeably small beak and head. Again, this is consistent with rough-legged hawk. With some effort, I was able to lighten up one of the pictures enough to see the legs and feet of the bird. The feet appeared proportionately small, and the small size of the branch the bird perched on seemed to confirm this. The tarsi appeared to be fully feathered. The bird's feathered legs, small feet, beak and head size, and long wings, along with its choice of small-diameter branches for perching, confirmed to me that this was a rough-legged hawk.

When invited to write this article I was given some additional photos. Included was one of the bird in flight on a cloudy day. In this picture a slightly darker narrow tail band is clearly evident. Leucistic birds will sometimes show the normal plumage bleeding through in shadowy patterns beneath the white, a feature readily apparent in this image. It leaves no doubt as to the bird's identity. It should be noted that a check through the literature and inquiries of experienced hawk watchers turned up no prior records of leucistic or albinistic rough-legged hawks. While a rough-legged hawk may not seem as exciting a find as a gyrfalcon, seeing what may be the first documented leucistic one is a one of a kind experience. 🦅



Here is a flight shot of the Portsmouth, Scioto County, leucistic rough-legged hawk from February 2000. Photo by Kiley André.

The Surprise Nuthatch

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South Russell is a small village in Geauga County where I have lived all my life. As a kid growing up in a rural setting, it seemed inevitable that I would become interested in nature, particularly birds. With a variety of habitats on our 38 acres of land, there was always an interesting assortment of songbirds and waterfowl to view throughout the year. I became quite good at identifying them. I wish I could attribute the sighting of a particular bird on 21 November 2001 to keen observational skills, but actually it had more to do with dumb luck and being in the right place at the right time when a small bird with a brown cap landed on the feeder just outside the kitchen window.

The first day the brown-headed nuthatch appeared at the feeder, the most obvious field mark was its brown cap and the pale splotch on the back of its neck. Its underparts were pale or whitish, its back and wings were blue/gray. It had the typical nuthatch body shape, and appeared only a tad smaller than nearby red-breasted nuthatches. It behaved like a nuthatch as well. We watched it climb headfirst down the side of the feeder. Then, it jumped to the suet basket and was eating suet upside-down. It inspected the peanut feeder and the sunflower seed mixture. It placed a seed in one of the crevices on the feeder and pounded on it. The bird came frequently to the feeder all day the first day, preferring to eat the suet, then the peanuts, and lastly, the sunflower seeds. In the ensuing weeks, however, its taste changed from the suet to the sunflower seed. It would make short trips to the feeder and pick through the seeds, tossing them aside until it found a black oil sunflower seed to its liking. Then it would fly off into one of the three white oak trees in the back yard. Placing the seed under a piece of bark, it would hammer on it and eat it up there. Occasionally, it would forage up and down an oak's trunk or along the limbs.

Between its trips back and forth to the feeder, it sometimes sang or gave a call note. Its song is very un-nuthatch-like; sort of squeaky phrases, some of them like the "dee-dee-dee" parts of a Chickadee song but higher. The call note was distinctive, too, a sharp "kip," but with different harmonics. It is hard to describe. Learning its voice, though, was a useful way to locate the bird when it wasn't at the feeder or in the oak trees. The nuthatch was certainly not intimidated by the presence of people. It would come to the feeder even if I was working around my little pond only 15 feet away, nor did the number of visiting birders gawking at it through binoculars, scopes, and cameras seem to bother it.

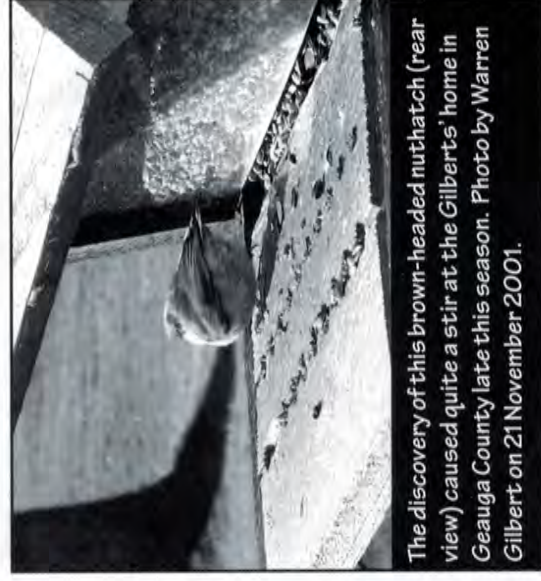
I am certainly not a bird expert, but I am a very careful birder. I like to have a really good look at a bird before it gets a check mark on my list. The bird feeder is only a couple feet from the kitchen window, allowing great, close-range observations. The bird appeared to be a perfect match to the picture in the Peterson field guide. The only thing that didn't match was the bird's range, but sometimes, I knew, birds get misplaced. After studying the new bird for some time, I was certain it was a brown-headed nuthatch so it was with pure innocence that I reported it to the rare bird hotline. I was totally ignorant of the fact that the brown-headed nuthatch had

THE SURPRISE NUTHATCH

not been seen in Ohio since the 1800s*, until I received a phone call from the man who posts the bird sightings on the phone line. When he told me about its rare status, I was worried that no one would believe that I'd seen it. Luckily, my brother had taken some digital pictures of the bird while it was on the feeder. We didn't think the pictures were very good, but apparently they were intriguing enough that an expert wanted to come out and have a look. Fortunately, Larry Rosche was sitting at our kitchen table on 23 November when the brown-headed nuthatch landed on the feeder right in front of him. He was able to confirm my sighting.

That is when everything started "hitting the fan," and the significance of what I had seen began to sink in. Later the same afternoon, some people on the Ohio Bird Records Committee were sitting in the kitchen waiting for the bird to show up. It did not. In the following days, various people from Columbus (including the editor of this journal) and other parts of Ohio, as well as people from Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Kentucky came to our house hoping to see this tiny bird. The nuthatch did not make an appearance for an entire week, even though the birders did. When it appeared again, it seemed to follow a routine of making morning visits to the bird feeder and oak trees. Finally, the visiting birders began to get some good looks at it. My parents and I have been very amused by the fanatical interest this bird has generated. Some of the people on the records committee finally got to see it on their fourth or fifth trip to our house—a three-hour drive each way! Someone else tallied fifteen hours of waiting before seeing it! We have met some really great folks, though, and it has been very satisfying to share the brown-headed nuthatch with bird watchers from near and far.

**Ed. note:* The author refers here to a specimen J. P. Kirtland reported collecting in Ohio sometime prior to 1838. Accepted by older authorities, the OBRC does not recognize it. For Kirtland's report see our previous issue, *The Ohio Cardinal* 24(4):199.



The discovery of this brown-headed nuthatch (rear view) caused quite a stir at the Gilberts' home in Geauga County late this season. Photo by Warren Gilbert on 21 November 2001.

Pomarine Jaegers at Rocky River Park

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Any occasion to see jaegers in Ohio is rare, but rarer still is a chance to study them at length. Fly-by jaegers often provoke little more than an increased heart rate and the opportunity to use the bold-face type on your sightings report, but lengthier observations can provide quite a bit more. Taking notes on behaviors such as hunting, roosting, and the birds' other interactions with their environments can heighten your enjoyment and might even add to our knowledge of these enigmatic birds.

A group of pomarine jaegers offshore from Rocky River Park (Cuyahoga County) provided me with one of these scarce opportunities. The first two birds were found by Gabe Leidy on 25 November 2001, and at least one was present through 7 December. During this period five individual jaegers were identified. They seemed to have accompanied an influx of gulls that appeared around Thanksgiving weekend. This concentration was unusually large for the area, totaling roughly 15,000 birds, approximately two-thirds of them Bonaparte's and one-third ring-billed gulls. The weather during the period mostly featured southwest winds, with only occasional shifts to the south or west. Temperatures were uncommonly mild for the time of year. After nearly two weeks the gull concentrations dwindled, and sightings of the jaegers seemed to do likewise.

Since comparatively little is known about the habits of these birds away from their breeding grounds, it is important for observers to take advantage of a prolonged stay by migrating jaegers. At such times, their interactions with gulls and waterfowl fill such a unique niche that they are a continual source of interest, and a joy to study in the field. The Rocky River birds stayed far offshore for the most part, but occasionally approached closer, usually in search of gulls. This group of pomarines was observed harassing only ring-billed gulls, ignoring Bonaparte's and avoiding herring gulls. On more than one occasion herring gulls actually pursued the jaegers, as if to chase them off. Rarely, two birds would be seen cooperatively harassing a gull: one jaeger would "dog-fight" with the gull, the other chasing close at hand. When looking for a victim to pursue, the jaegers adopted a distinctive posture, in which the head was pointed straight

Two of the Rocky River, Cuyahoga County, pomarine jaegers harassing a ring-billed gull. Drawing by the author.



POMARINE JAEGER

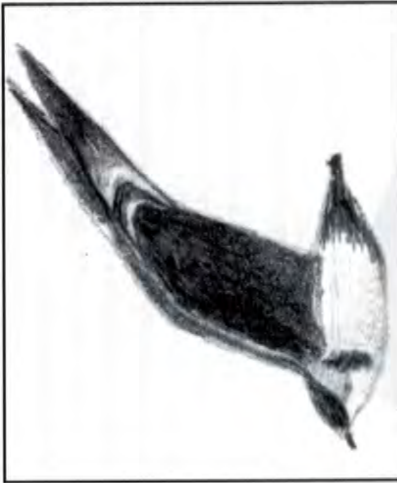
down and the legs dropped into the "down" position. The legs dangled there until the bird finally swooped after a gull. When the jaegers prepared to land they invariably performed the same distinctive gestures. When approaching the water they would begin to run their legs and flap their wings very faintly, in a manner reminiscent of a storm-petrel. When in the water the pomarines often associated with red-breasted mergansers, sitting either inside the flock or just on its periphery, perhaps to conceal themselves from nearby gulls. As night approached, the jaegers could occasionally be seen flying far offshore into open water before finally landing to roost for the night.

A later chance encounter with another pomarine jaeger at the Avon Lake Power Plant (Lorain County) on 8 December provided one more opportunity to study some of the behaviors of the species. This individual was much closer to shore than the group in Rocky River, allowing chances to examine it in more detail. Along with the usual harassment of gulls, this bird showed an interest in other food sources such as carrion. As a dead fish floated past, the jaeger showed a keen interest, approached it, and began to feed. This food source perhaps enabled the bird to save energy, reducing the time spent in the air hunting. Hunting time consumed no more than two minutes of the hour and a half during which it was observed. When flying the jaeger exhibited one obvious characteristic not observed on the Rocky River birds: on long glides very near the water's surface, the wings were held in a deep arc, which I estimated to be roughly 90 degrees of a circle. The Avon Lake bird was aged as an immature dark morph.

Plumage sequences in jaegers seem not completely understood. Some immature plumages are not yet well mapped out, making them important to note in jaeger observations. As far as identification goes, the Rocky River birds showed the usual deep steady wing beats, big head, short body, and large size typical of pomarines. Good opportunities for size comparison arose while one was harassing a ring-billed gull, when the jaeger showed a slightly longer wingspan. Before I realized there were several jaegers present, I was in a bit of a quandary. I kept finding birds with contrasting field marks. Once a gathering of birds proved that five individuals were present, I realized the source of my confusion, and set about trying to distinguish among them. There was one adult light morph, but the rest were immature. Their distance from shore, and their customary solitary appearances, posed a real challenge for distinguishing among the latter individuals. All the immatures showed a contrast between the lighter uppertail coverts and the dark tail; less often seen was the contrast between the dark tail and the barred undertail coverts and vent. The mantles and bellies of these birds were dark, and in most individuals there was contrast between the belly and the still darker head. When they were cooperative, it was



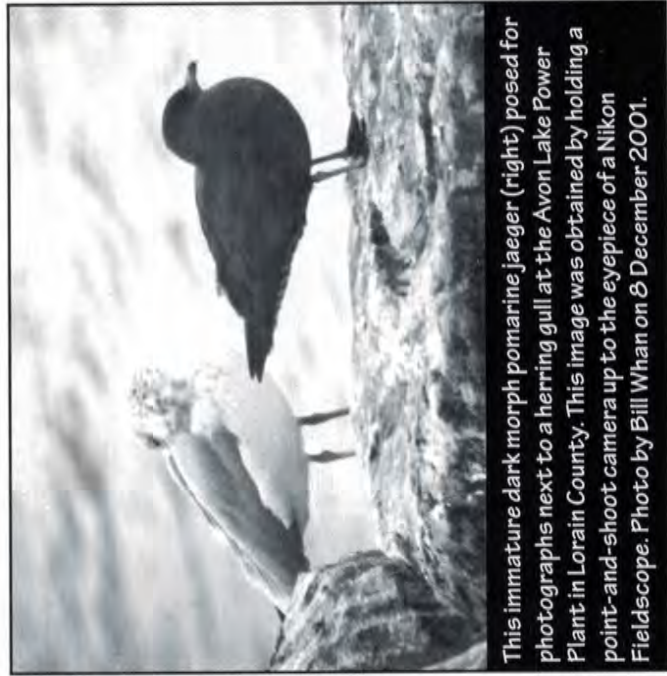
The Avon Lake Power Plant, Lorain County, immature dark morph pomarine jaeger as drawn by the author.



The author's drawing of the adult light morph pomarine jaeger at Rocky River, Cuyahoga County.

possible to see the two pale crescents on the underwing—one on the base of the primaries, another on the wing linings. Some showed more white on the dorsal side of the wings than others, but this was visible only when the birds were closer to shore. The only easily distinguishable immature bird was noticeable because of its tan-colored head and nape, possibly an indication that it was an intermediate morph.

It was truly a treat to be able to spend so much time with these birds, and I will not soon forget it. In some instances these birds approached close enough for great scope views, revealing the real personality of a jaeger—close enough to see the bill, feet, and even the eye. A chance to see an adult—the rarest plumage for jaegers in Ohio—at this range added to the excitement of the sighting. Just watching the jaegers in pursuit I could not help but marvel at their flight capabilities. The way they twist and turn in flight is certainly something to admire. I was blessed to have these birds for a whole two weeks, and even more so to have them just down the street! 🐦



This immature dark morph pomarine jaeger (right) posed for photographs next to a herring gull at the Avon Lake Power Plant in Lorain County. This image was obtained by holding a point-and-shoot camera up to the eyepiece of a Nikon Fieldscope. Photo by Bill Whan on 8 December 2001.

Recent Actions of the Ohio Bird Records Committee

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One of the missions of the OBRC is the validation of records of rare birds reported in the state. Thanks to observers who submitted documentation, the following decisions have been made since the last published summary of Review List species reported in Ohio.

Accepted Records

Documentations received from observers for the following records were judged sufficient to verify them for the record by at least nine of the eleven members of the Committee.

Glossy Ibis—Wyandot County, 13 April 2001, observer R. Rogers
Glossy Ibis—Erie County, 5 May 2001, observer G. Bernhardt
Mew Gull—Lake County, 12 March 2001, observer L. Gardella
Least Tern—Clark County, 13 August 2001, observer D. Overacker
Hoary Redpoll—Cuyahoga County, 20–21 January 2001 and 16–18 February 2001, observer C. Rieker

Records Not Accepted

Documentation received for the following reports received fewer than six votes to accept. Such votes do not reflect on the sighting itself, but on the adequacy of the documentation to validate it for the permanent record.

*Harlan's Red-tailed Hawk—Holmes County, 18 November 2000
Long-tailed Jaeger—Lake County, 15 September 2000
Black-legged Kittiwake—Warren County, 2 December 2000
Chestnut-collared Longspur—Marion County, 10 April 2001


Records in Recirculation

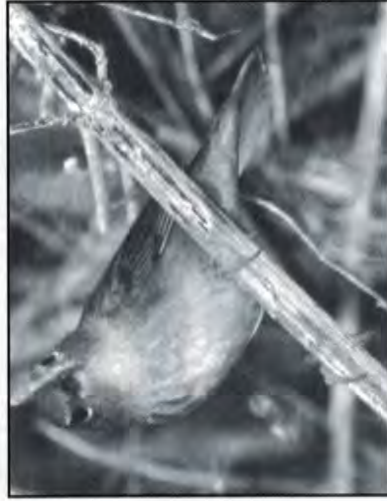
These records are being recirculated, the documentation for which having received between six and eight votes to accept.

Eurasian Collared-Dove—Crawford County, 1 September 2001
Bewick's Wren—Hocking County, 16 June 2001
Shiny Cowbird—Lucas County, 5 May 2001

Two species potentially new to Ohio are in recirculation, and as many as three others are among those to be circulated for the first time in December. The next packet of documentations for the committee will include:

Oporornis warbler—Lucas County, 21 May 2001
Le Conte's Sparrow—Butler County, 21 October 2001
Plegadis Ibis—Van Wert County, 28 October 2001
Long-tailed Jaeger—Lake County, 27 October 2001
Le Conte's Sparrow—Cuyahoga County, 18 October 2001
Le Conte's Sparrow—Cuyahoga County, 24 October 2001
Vermillion Flycatcher—Lucas & Ottawa Counties, 4 November 2001
Bicknell's Thrush—Lucas County, 28 October 2001
Brown-headed Nuthatch—Geauga County, 21 November 2001
Rufous Hummingbird—Adams County, 8 November 2001

The Committee's other activities include the development of a pocket-sized checklist of Ohio birds with bar-graphs indicating their seasonal abundances, planned for publication this spring. The Committee asks observers of Review List species to send documentation for such sightings to Committee Secretary Jim McCormac at ODNR/DNAP, 1889 Fountain Square Ct., Columbus, OH 43224, or to Jim.McCormac@dnr.state.oh.us. Information on documentation, and a form useful for the purpose, can be found at the Ohio Division of Natural Preserves' Ohio Birding site at <<http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/dnap/OhioBirding/ohiobirding2.htm>>. 



A puzzling *Oporornis* warbler for the OBERC along the Magee Marsh Wildlife Area boardwalk in Lucas County. Photo by Imre Karafiath on 21 May 2001.



This is the undertail of the Eurasian collared-dove shot in Crawford County on 1 September 2001. Notice the dark outer webs of the outer tail feathers. If accepted, this will become the first state record. Photo by Jim

North American Shorebird Population Estimates

The following list is adapted from Appendix I of the second edition of the United States Shorebird Conservation Plan 2000, published by the Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences. The complete text of the Plan, a product of years of work by many agencies, institutions, organizations and concerned individuals, as well as updates on these numbers, is available from Manomet (Manomet, MA 02345) and on the internet at <<http://manomet.org/USSCP/index.htm>>. A confidence level of "poor" means the estimate is an educated guess, "low" that it is in the correct order of magnitude, "moderate" that it is thought to be within 50% of the true number, "good" that it is an effort on which confidence limits can be placed, and "high" that it results from dedicated census effort and thought to be accurate and precise.

Species	Scientific Name	Population Estimate	Confidence
Black-bellied Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola cyanosurae</i>	150,000	low
	<i>P. s. squatarola</i>	50,000	low
American Golden-Plover	<i>Pluvialis dominica</i>	150,000	low
Pacific Golden-Plover	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>	16,000	low
Snowy Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus</i> (interior)	13,200	good
	<i>C. a. nivosus</i> (Pacific)	2000	good
Wilson's Plover	<i>C. a. tenuirostris</i> (Gulf & Caribbean)	500	good
	<i>Charadrius wilsonia</i>	6000	low
Semipalmated Plover	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>	150,000	low
Piping Plover	<i>Charadrius melodus circumcinctus</i> (Great Plains)	3300	high
	<i>C. m. melodus</i> (Atlantic)	2600	good
	<i>C. m. circumcinctus</i> (Great Lakes)	300	good
Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	2,000,000	low
Mountain Plover	<i>Charadrius montanus</i>	9000	good
American Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus palliatus</i>	7500	moderate
Black Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus bachmani</i>	8900	moderate
Black-necked Stilt	<i>Himantopus mexicanus mexicanus</i>	150,000	low
	<i>H. m. knudseni</i>	1600	good
American Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra americana</i>	450,000	moderate
Greater Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>	100,000	low
Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>	500,000	low
Solitary Sandpiper	<i>Tringa solitaria cinnamomea</i>	4000	poor
	<i>T. s. solitaria</i>	21,000	poor
Willet	<i>Catoptrophorus semipalmatus inornatus</i> (western)	160,000	poor
	<i>C. s. semipalmatus</i> (eastern)	90,000	poor
Wandering Tattler	<i>Heteroscelus incanus</i>	10,000	poor
Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularia</i>	150,000	poor
Upland Sandpiper	<i>Bartramia longicauda</i>	350,000	poor
Eskimo Curlew	<i>Numenius borealis</i>	<50	poor

Reports of Yesteryear: Lucas County

The abundances and distributions of our birdlife are subject not only to slow evolutions and glaciations, but to the unnatural selection imposed by humans. Even as recently as 1940, Lou Campbell, former dean of Toledo-area birders, reported observations that provoke thoughts about how quickly birds' numbers and ranges can change, and why. These reports come from his *Birds of Lucas County* of that year.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: Campbell remarked that their largest colony was on West Sister Island (now part of Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge), estimated to contain five to ten thousand nests in June of 1934.

American Bittern: Though he notes they are far more often heard than seen, Campbell's high count was nevertheless 35 American bitterns seen in the Jerusalem marshes on an August day in 1929.

Tundra Swan: Campbell cites reports of flocks of 25-30,000 birds seen during spring migrations in the county, though his personal high count was only about 5000, in March of 1930. He remarks that "[c]omparatively few Whistling Swans are seen during autumn in this district," with a record flock of only 275 in November of 1936, and notes "there is but one winter record."

Canada Goose: He comments that this species "is much less common in Lucas County than the Whistling Swan. Found regularly each spring and fall, it is never very abundant." He calls its status in Ohio that of an uncommon migrant.

American Black Duck: Campbell asserts the two forms of this species (*Anas rubripes rubripes*, the transient "red-legged black duck," and *A.r. tristis*, the locally nesting "common black duck") together "outnumber Mallards, with which they so often associate, more than two to one."

Red-breasted Merganser: Stating that these birds "are never numerous," and "far less regular...than either the Hooded or American Mergansers," Campbell goes on to say the "greatest number seen in one day in the county is thirty, January 14, 1932."

Northern Bobwhite: In decline though locally common in Lucas County at the time, reports Campbell, even though the species had been protected from hunting since 1912.

Sandhill Crane: A colony of 12-15 pairs nested in the Oak Openings around 1875, but in "the spring of 1913, Professor W.P. Holt saw a migrant Sandhill Crane which had been shot in the Oak Openings. This occurrence appears to be the last local record."

Black Tern: "Commonly found in the marshes" of the county, this species nested at the time only in Lucas, Ottawa, Sandusky, Erte, Lorain, and Ashtabula Counties.

Species	Scientific Name	Population Estimate	Confidence
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus rufiventris</i>	40,000	low
Bristle-thighed Curlew	<i>N. p. hudsonicus</i>	17,000	low
Long-billed Curlew	<i>Numenius tahitiensis</i>	10,000	low
Hudsonian Godwit	<i>Numenius americanus</i>	20,000	moderate
	<i>Limosa haemastica</i> (Hudson Bay)	36,000	moderate
	<i>L. haemastica</i> (Alaska)	14,000	low
Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	100,000	moderate
Marbled Godwit	<i>Limosa fedoa</i> (Great Plains)	168,000	moderate
	<i>L. f. beringiae</i> (Alaska)	2000	low
	<i>L. f. fedoa</i> (Hudson Bay)	1500	low
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres morinella</i>	180,000	moderate
	<i>A. i. interpres</i> (Alaska)	20,000	poor
	<i>A. i. interpres</i> (High Arctic Canada)	35,000	poor
Black Turnstone	<i>Arenaria melanocephala</i>	80,000	good
Surfbird	<i>Aphriza virgata</i>	70,000	moderate
Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus roseolaari</i>	150,000	moderate
	<i>C. c. rufa</i>	170,000	good
	<i>C. c. islandica</i>	80,000	good
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	300,000	low
Semipalmated Sandpiper	<i>Calidris pusilla</i>	3,500,000	low
Western Sandpiper	<i>Calidris mauri</i>	3,500,000	low
Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	600,000	poor
White-rumped Sandpiper	<i>Calidris fuscicollis</i>	400,000	moderate
Baird's Sandpiper	<i>Calidris bairdii</i>	300,000	moderate
Pectoral Sandpiper	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	400,000	poor
Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima belcheri</i>	15,000	moderate
	<i>C. m. maritima</i>	-?	poor
Rock Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ptilocnemis cousei</i>	75,000	moderate
	<i>C. p. ptilocnemis</i>	25,000	moderate
	<i>C. p. tschuktschorum</i>	50,000	low
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina pacifica</i>	550,000	low
	<i>C. a. arctica</i>	750,000	low
	<i>C. a. hudsonia</i>	225,000	low
Stilt Sandpiper	<i>Calidris himantopus</i>	200,000	low
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	<i>Tryngites subruficollis</i>	15,000	low
Short-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus griseus caurinus</i>	150,000	low
	<i>L. g. griseus</i>	110,000	low
	<i>L. g. hendersoni</i>	60,000	low
Long-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i>	500,000	poor
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	2,000,000	poor
Wilson's Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus tricolor</i>	1,500,000	low
Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	2,500,000	poor
Red Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicaria</i>	1,000,000	poor


Great Horned Owl: A "rare permanent resident," of which there was "a total of eighteen records from all sources for this area from 1929 to the present time."

Barred Owl: With only two definite nesting records for the county, "this permanent resident has been so reduced in numbers by hunters that it must now be classed as rare," and "within the next few years its weird hooting may become only a memory."

Red-bellied Woodpecker: Campbell saw only one of this species in Lucas County, and says it was "not known to breed in most of the northwestern quarter" of Ohio. In his 1968 *Birds of the Toledo Area*, he says that after only 12 records in the region between 1926 and 1960, the ravages of Dutch elm disease in the Toledo area attracted these birds in numbers.

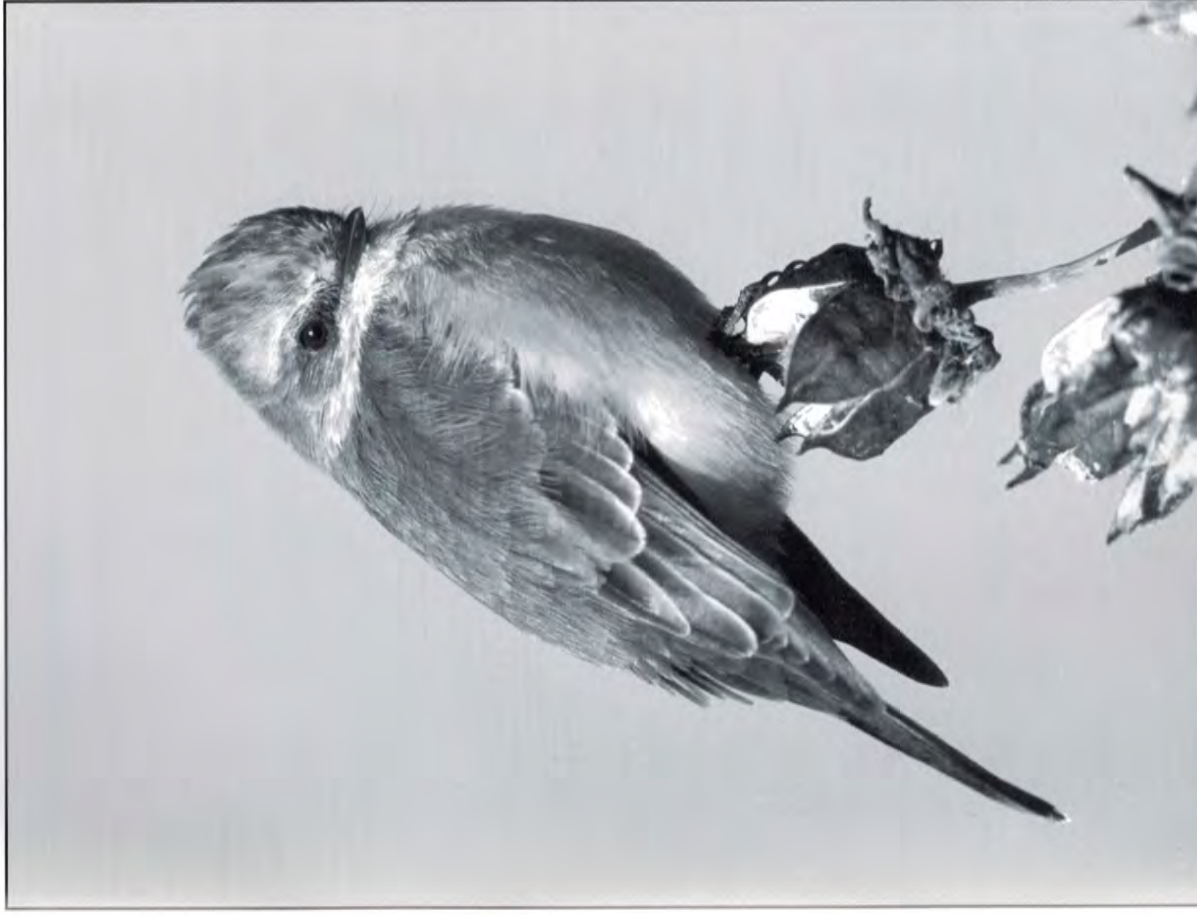
Golden-winged Warbler: A rare migrant and summer resident known to breed in fifteen counties, the "greatest number of these birds seen in one day was fifteen, June 14, 1933, in Spencer Township." Loss of habitat loomed as a serious problem.

Le Conte's Sparrow: From 30 August to 1 November 1936, a "great wave" of Le Conte's sparrows passed through Ohio, with highest concentrations in Lucas County, where in Jerusalem Township meadows on 25 October "fifty-three birds were actually seen and four hundred and ninety-five were estimated by means of a cross section of a field." Searchers found eight birds the following year locally, and none in 1938 or 1939.

Henslow's Sparrow: "Common summer residents in the fields and wet prairies of the Oak Openings," in the mid-30s the species colonized grassy borders in the Cedar Point and Erie marshes, where "at least fifty were found at the former location, August 1, 1936." 



This young red-tailed hawk disemboweled a gray squirrel in front of students at Wilmington College in Clinton County on 5 October 2001. Photo by Aaron DeNu.



This immature male vermilion flycatcher, Ohio's third, was discovered at Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge in Ottawa and Lucas Counties on 4 November 2001 by Sharon Cummings and Brian Zwiebel. Dozens of birders were allowed to visit the off-limits area to see the bird during the next few days, and it remained into December. This superb photo was taken by Sharon Cummings on 8 November 2001.

A friendly reminder...

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