

A friendly reminder . . .

It's time to renew your subscription if this box is checked.

Autumn 2004 Overview and Reports by Bill Whan.....	1
Further Afield by Robert Harlan.....	22
Early Ohio Ornithologists: John Maynard Wheaton by Bob Glotzhober.....	29
Fifty Years of Spring Migration in Lorain County: Lynds Jones's Notes, 1896-1945 by Bill Whan.....	32
Fourteen Years of Raptor Records for Ohio by Lawrence Hicks.....	36
Swimming in the Black-crowned Night-Heron by Christopher A. Distel.....	38

The Ohio Cardinal
2338 Harrington Road
Akron, OH 44319

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 487
AKRON, OHIO

The  *Ohio*
CARDINAL

Vol. 28, No. 1
Fall 2004



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

Please send all reports to:

Bill Whan
223 E. Tulane Road
Columbus, OH 43202
billwhan@columbus.rr.com

Subscriptions

The subscription rate for one year (four issues) is \$25 including membership in the Ohio Ornithological Society. Please send all subscription requests to:

The Ohio Cardinal
c/o Edwin C. Pierce
2338 Harrington Road
Akron, OH 44319

Because it is sent as bulk mail, subscribers should remember that the Post Office will not forward this magazine to a new address. Please notify the Publisher promptly if you move.

The Ohio Cardinal

Bill Whan, *Editor*

Edwin C. Pierce, *Publisher*

Jim Glover, *Design Manager*

The Ohio Bird Records Committee: **Jim McCormac**, *Secretary*

ODNR Division of Wildlife
2045 Morse Road, G-3
Columbus, OH 43229

ISSN 1534-1666

On the Cover: Brian Zwiebel took this remarkable photo of a trusting juvenal buff-breasted sandpiper in Conneaut Harbor, Ashtabula Co. on 4 Oct 2004.

Autumn 2004 Overview and Reports

Bill Whan

223 E. Tulane Rd., Columbus, OH 43202
billwhan@columbus.rr.com

The world's ten warmest years in recorded history have all occurred since 1990, with 2004 ranking fourth; this October ranked as the warmest ever. Inuktitut tribes living north of the Arctic Circle were puzzled this year by the appearance of insects they'd never seen; it turned out they were the vespids we know familiarly as yellowjackets. Here in Ohio, August was actually cool—2.9 degrees below normal—but the months that followed were warmer than average, with November 2.5 degrees up. October and November were wet, with rains running about an inch above normal statewide, due in large part to the effects of hurricanes to our south.

Warm weather and open water up north kept waterfowl and the scarcer gulls away until quite late in the period, and encouraged some perching birds to linger with the persistence of insect prey. Several observers noticed that insects inhabiting "flags" of dead leaves in trees affected by periodical cicadas this summer had attracted unusual numbers of migrant warblers, vireos, etc. Three big storms out of the southwest in November raised hopes of rarities, as did deep snow in the western mountains. Fluctuations of various seed crops in Canada brought good numbers of pine siskins, purple finches, and red-breasted nuthatches, but there were few signs that grosbeaks or crossbills were to follow suit. Great gray owls, boreal owls, and northern hawk owls in record numbers invaded areas to our north, but did not reach Ohio.

With many reservoirs and impoundments full, shorebird reports were mostly restricted to Conneaut Harbor, Berlin Reservoir, and Ottawa NWR (which commendably and successfully managed a couple of impoundments for migrant shorebirds this fall). Meanwhile, a seemingly unproductive locale on Findlay Reservoir #1—wide slopes of riprap, deep water, and narrow graveled dike-top roadways—produced shorebirds of fifteen species during two weeks—all without a square foot of shallow water or mudflat!

Two individual birds—a prairie falcon and a rufous hummingbird—both rarities from the West, made history by showing up in the same spots in the same county—Muskingum—for the second consecutive fall season. As a friend reminded us, this site fidelity makes it look foolish to call these birds "lost." Eleven other review species were reported this fall: Ross's goose, western grebe, *Plegadis* ibis (6), yellow rail, piping plover, black-necked stilt (4-5), least tern, white-winged dove, varied thrush (2), Kirtland's warbler, and Harris's sparrow. The newly-split cackling goose seems unlikely to receive review species status, as increased scrutiny of Canada goose flocks by birders yielded reports of no fewer than thirteen of these diminutive high-Arctic breeders in their "inaugural" migration. Merlins added two more older urban cemeteries to their chosen haunts during the season. Several six-figure flocks of blackbirds were reported.

Finally, we announce a slight change in style. Because readers have persuaded us that when scanning for salient information they are better served by bold-facing names of locations rather than of observers, we have changed our practice.

Corrigenda:

- Charles Bombaci's article on prothonotary warblers was headed by an erroneous e-mail address; it should be charlesbombaci@aol.com
- 5 July 2004's sedge wren record came from the VOA site, not Gilmore Ponds.
- In our spring 2004 issue, the first gnatcatcher date should of course have read 17 Apr 2004 rather than 17 Mar.
- Please correct the table accompanying Craig Holt's piece on Conneaut in the previous issue, Vol 27 p. 161: remove symbols indicating December records for sanderling, semipalmated sandpiper, and western sandpiper.
- Finally, there has been no change in the scientific name of the green heron *Butorides virescens*; we mistakenly referenced the old scientific name of this species, since attributed to the striated heron of the Neotropics.

For the Record:

- Hermit thrush:** Fourteen were detected at **Mohican SF** 27 Jun 2004 (G. Cowell, T. Leslie), where the species is known to nest.
 - Cliff swallow:** Having heard no October date for this species was in the published literature, D. Overacker was able to offer the following dates to the record: 3 Oct 1993, two at **GLSM**; 12 Oct 1997 at **BCSP**; and 26 Oct 1997 at **BCSP**.
 - Double-crested Cormorant:** L. Rosche reported that at least seven pairs nested, with several young present, during the summer of 2004 at **Lake Rockwell** in **Portage**.
- Study of unpublished manuscripts of Edwin L. Moseley regarding the **Sandusky** area found the following worthy of note:
- 5/20/1893: "The first uncaged mocking bird I ever observed in the north."
 - 11/28/1901: "Brünnich's Murre one at Cedar Point." In yearly report to USDA, "Birds Observed at Station" (Sandusky). Apparently a new record, the only one for 1901.
 - 4/18&20/1904: "two Eurasian Widgeons brought to taxidermists" (cp Deane, *Auk* 22(2):206)
 - 12/1-3/1907: "Sandusky. Brünnich's Murre." (extends existing record by two days)
 - 3/18/1907: "Barrow's Goldeneye, Sandusky."

The Reports follow the nomenclature and taxonomic order of the 7th edition of the *AOU Check-list of North American Birds* (1998), including the 45th Supplement (July 2004). Underlined names of species indicate those on the OBRC Review List; documentation is needed to add reports of these species to official state records, or to attributed records in the Reports. When supplied, county names appear *italicized*. Unless numbers are specified, sightings refer to single birds. Abbreviations, conventions, and symbols used in the Reports should be readily understood, with the possible exceptions of the following: ad=adult; alt=alternate (breeding) plumage; BCSP=Buck Ck SP in *Clark*; BIWA=Big Isl WA in *Marion*; BSBO=Black Swamp Bird Observatory; CCE= Crane Ck estuary in ONWR; CVNP=Cuyahoga Valley Natl Pk in *Cuyahoga* and *Summit*; Dike 14=the Gordon Park impoundment in Cleveland; EFSP=East Fork SP in *Clermont*; cop=end of the

period, in this case 30 Nov 2004; EHSP=East Hbr SP in *Ottawa*; fide="in trust of," said of data conveyed on behalf of another person; Gilmore Ponds is in *Butler*; GLSM=Grand Lk St Marys in *Mercer/Auglaize*, HBSP=Headlands Beach SP in *Lake*; HBSNP=Headlands Beach SNP in *Lake*; HWSP=Hueston Wds SP (*Butler/Preble*); imm=immature; Killbuck=Killbuck Marsh WA in *Wayne/Holmes*; KPWA=Killdeer Plains WA in *Wyandot*; LSR=Lakeshore Reservation (MP) in *Lake*; Magee=Magee Marsh WA in *Ottawa/Lucas*; MBSP=Maumee Bay SP in *Lucas*; MP=Metropark; m obs=many observers; MWW=Miami-Whitewater Wetlands in *Hamilton*; NCR=North Chagrin Res'n in *Cuyahoga*; NWR=National Wildlife Refuge; OBRC=Ohio Bird Records Committee; ODOW=Ohio Division of Wildlife; ONWR=Ottawa NWR in *Ottawa/Lucas*; ONWRC=monthly bird census at ONWR; PCWA=Pickerel Ck WA in *Sandusky*; ph=photograph, Res=Reservoir; Res'n=Reservation; SF=State Forest; SNP=State Nature Preserve; SP=State Park; SVWA=Spring Valley WA in *Greene/Warren*; The Wilds=large grasslands managed for exotic quadrupeds in *Muskingum*; VOA=the former Voice of America property in *Butler*; WA=Wildlife Area.

Summer 2004 Reports

Greater white-fronted goose: Some of the same birds may have been involved in sightings of one at **MBSP** (T. Kemp) 7 Nov, four at **CPNWR** 21 Nov (E. Tramer), two at **MBSP** 26 Nov (J. Grabmeier), and five there 29 Nov (N. Bixler). Elsewhere, G. Stauffer came upon four at **Pickerington Ponds** 27 Nov.

Snow goose: Unaccustomedly early was one over the **CVNP** 19 Sept (B. Roach, ph), and about sixty singly or in small groups were reported in northern locales over the ensuing month. Nov brought more, with 11 for the **ONWR** census on the 4th, on 14 Nov 1500-2000 flying over **Findlay** (B. Hardesty), then on the 29th "hundreds" in a field near **ONWR** (60% blue morph) noted by N. Bixler.

Ross's goose: One discovered at **Ravenna (Portage)** on 10 Oct. Details with the OBRC.



Feeding brants in Lakewood, Cuyahoga Co., 27 October 2004. Photo by Bob Finkelstein.

Brant: A single bird found in **Rocky River** 22 Oct (M. Stetz) was followed by 10 in adjacent **Lakewood** (M. Egar) the following day, then 11 (P. Lozano) a day later, diminishing to five by the 29th (Lozano). Most of a group of five at **HBSP** 23 Oct (L. Rosche) were eventually killed by hunters. J. Pogacnik had a flock of 10 passing **LSR** 24 Oct.

Cackling goose: As predicted, new vigilance found it to be rare-uncommon among southbound migrants. First noted 15 Oct in **Cleveland** (B&D Lane), then in **Lake Twp** in **Stark** (19 Oct, K. Miller) through at least 31 Oct (N. Bixler). On 13 Nov six passed **LSR** in **Lake** (J. Pogacnik) when another was found near **Springfield** (B. Whan), and four stayed a couple of days at **Castalia** beginning 20 Nov (Pogacnik).

Mute swan: This potentially harmful invasive species was found in normal numbers in its **Sandusky Bay** winter stronghold, with 106 counted there 23 Nov (V. Fazio), though as many as 70 at **Mogadore Res** in **Portage** (L. Rosche) 19 Oct was a little alarming.

Tundra swan: Reported entirely in Nov, 2600+ came in two pulses. The first probably contained Ohio's small wintering population in a protracted movement from the 4th through the 13th, led by 211 for the census at **Ottawa NWR** 4 Nov. After a week's pause, over 2200 passed through on their way to the mid-Atlantic wintering grounds 21-23 Nov, with a high count of 600+ at **Lk Rockwell** the 22nd (L. Rosche). Full moon was 26 Nov.

Wood duck: KPWA harbored 45 females and young on 28 Aug (R. Sempier), but many more resorted to **Magee Marsh**, with 375 on 19 Sep and 272 on 17 Oct (H&S Hiris).

Gadwall: First reported at **Ottawa**, with 22 on 5 Sep (ONWRC), and big aggregations later counted at **Magee** with 272 on 17 Oct (H&S Hiris), **CPNWR** with 2012 on 21 Nov (E. Tramer), and 430 at **Medusa Marsh** 23 Nov (V. Fazio).

American wigeon: The census had one on 1 Aug, eight on 5 Sep, 476 on 3 Oct, and 111 on 4 Nov at **Ottawa NWR**. The high count was 955 at **CPNWR** 30 Oct (E. Tramer).

American black duck: A few were reported early on, such as one 29 Aug in **Columbus** (R. Thorn), or three in the **western Lake Erie marshes** 1 Oct (D. Overacker), but high reported counts reached only 250+, at **Port Clinton** 20 Nov (V. Fazio).

Mallard: Larger numbers of migrants appeared only late in Nov, with 3100+ at **Port Clinton** 20 Nov (V. Fazio) and 3710 for the **Ottawa NWR** census of 4 Nov.

Blue-winged teal: Four were at a **Findlay Res** 10 Aug (B. Hardesty). Departed early as usual: the **Ottawa NWR** census found 651 on 5 Sept just after the start of the teal season, then 84 on 3 Oct, then none in Nov. Late birds included two at **Medusa Marsh** 23 Nov (V. Fazio) with one remaining there 25 Nov (J. Pogacnik).

Northern shoveler: Few found, or at least reported. The **Ottawa NWR** census produced 13 on 5 Sep, 24 on 3 Oct, and but nine on 19 Nov. On 2 Oct 25 were near **Columbus** (R. Thorn).

Northern pintail: An oddball showed up at **Conneaut** 5 Sep (R. Rickard), and two at **Pickerington Ponds** 8 Sep (R. Thorn). The **Ottawa NWR** census found only 36 on 3 Oct and 43 on 4 Nov; one hopes the 524 counted at **CPNWR** on 21 Nov more accurately reflected its true abundance this fall.

Green-winged teal: Scarce outside the western lake marshes, with larger counts of 520 for the **Ottawa NWR** census 3 Oct and 315 there 23 Nov (V. Fazio). **Hancock** did have 45 on 21 Sep (B. Hardesty).

Canvasback: Trickled in, with a first report from **Berlin Res** 25 Oct (B. Morrison), and no double-figure reports during the period.

Redhead: Two drakes splashed down in the **Shaker Lks** 20 Oct (R. Rickard), but two-figure numbers came only on 6 Nov, with 50 at **Wellington Res** (K. Ostermiller).

Ring-necked duck: Individuals perhaps sick or injured continued in **Holmes** through 7 Aug, and at **Metzger Marsh** 21 Aug (both S. Snyder). At **Camp Dennison** in **Hamilton**, B. Foppe counted 13 on 4 Oct, 61 on 24 Oct, and 455+ on 19 Nov. At **Mogadore Res** 14 were present 19 Oct, with 360 by 14 Nov (both L. Rosche).

Greater scaup: Not expected in big numbers before December, and did not disappoint, with a first report from **Avon Lake** 4 Nov (V. Fazio) and a high of 14 at **LSR** in **Lake** 14 Nov (J. Pogacnik). **Hancock** rarely has them, but 15 were near **Findlay** 25 Nov (B. Hardesty).

Lesser scaup: Quite poky during this mild fall, with high counts of only 125 at **Port Clinton** 20 Nov (V. Fazio) and 298 at **Caesar Ck SP** 22 Nov (B. Foppe).

Surf scoter: First reported were two in **Lucas** 9 Oct (J. Pogacnik); the same observer totaled 21 during daily lakeshore censuses at **LSR** in **Lake**, with a high of eight 9 Nov. **Bradstreet Ldg** and nearby **Rock River Pk** remained a hot spot, with 22 reported during Nov, the high eight 26 Nov (P. Lozano, m obs). Fifteen reported at **Caesar Ck SP** during Nov, with a high of seven the 24th (L. Gara, m obs). Other Nov reports came from **Upper Sandusky** (R. Counts, three), **Lima** (D. Dister, four), **Alum Ck Res** (R. Thorn), **MBSP** (E. Tramer, three), and **Crane Ck SP** (the seasonal high of 11 on the 14th, G. Leidy).

White-winged scoter: Once the commonest, now the scarcest scoter, with only four singles: 6 Nov at **BCSP** (D. Overacker), 7 Nov at **Caesar Ck SP** (J. Lehman), at **LSR** in **Lake** 9 Nov (J. Pogacnik), and at **SVWA** 27 Nov (L. Gaynor).

Black scoter: All reports from Nov: fifteen reported from the **Rocky River** shore, with a high of five the 22nd (P. Lozano, m obs); eight from **LSR** in **Lake**, with a high of four 28 Nov (J. Pogacnik, A. Boone); seven from **Caesar Ck SP**, with a high of four 9 Nov (L. Gara, m obs); three were at **Crane Ck SP** 14 Nov (G. Leidy).

Long-tailed duck: All reports came from Nov, with only two—a duo at **HBSP** the 14th (L. Rosche) and one in **Lake** the 29th (J. Pogacnik)—from Lake Erie waters. The seven others were of single birds at reservoirs or ponds, except for the high count of six at **Deer Creek Res. Pickaway** 13 Nov (L. Patterson).

Bufflehead: Appeared inland at **Upper Sandusky** 3 Nov (R. Counts), and as usual by far the high count (though a modest one for the locale) came from the Lake Erie Islands, 586 from **Kelleys Island** 20 Nov (V. Fazio).

Common goldeneye: Even later to show up than usual, first reported 26 Nov at **HBSP** (L. Rosche). A report of 280 at **Mosquito Lk** 30 Nov dwarfed all others (D. Hochadel).

Hooded merganser: Eleven at **Medusa Marsh** 17 Sep probably represented a family group or groups (P. McCoy). Larger numbers appeared in mid-Nov, with 25 on the 9th at **Rocky River Pk** (S. Walker) and ~250 at **Hoover Res** by 10 Nov (R. Thorn).

Common merganser: A female seen as early as 28 Aug at **Conneaut Harbor** (P. Lozano) was sick or injured, or perhaps part of the tiny breeding population recently discovered in that corner of the state. Sites hosting early migrants were led by **Lake Rockwell**, with three there 21 Nov and 25 by 23 Nov (L. Rosche).

Red-breasted merganser: A lone female was seen at **Metzger Res** in **Lima** 22 Aug (D. Dister), and J. Pogacnik witnessed six passing **LSR** in **Lake** 29 Aug, but the first big movement of this abundant winterer came from the latter location 6 Nov, with 1228 birds. As with most other waterfowl, these mergansers peaked late, but numbers seemed normal. L. Rosche estimated 35,000 offshore between **Lorain** and **Rocky River** 27 Nov.

Ruddy duck: Two were at **KPWA** 8 Aug (R. Sempier). The first big flock was of ~700, at **Lima's Metzger Res** 16 Oct (B. Whan), where the same number was reported 13 Nov (D. Dister). The high count of 1000+ came from a favored resort, **Wellington Res** in **Lorain**, on 14 Nov (C. Rieker).

Red-throated loon: A good flight; all reports follow: 23 Oct at **Caesar Ck SP** (D. Overacker) through 25 Oct (L. Gara), **Avon Lk** 4 Nov (V. Fazio), 7 Nov **LSR** (J. Pogacnik), an imm at **La Due Res** 11&13 Nov (L. Rosche), **Rocky River Pk** 13 Nov (J. Brumfield), **LSR** on 14 Nov (Pogacnik), 23 Nov **Caesar Ck SP** (D. Graham), two 26 Nov at **LSR** (Pogacnik), 26 Nov at **BCSP** (Overacker), 27 Nov at **Killdeer Plains WA** (R. Sempier), 27 Nov at **Nimisila Res** in **Summit** (G. Bennett).

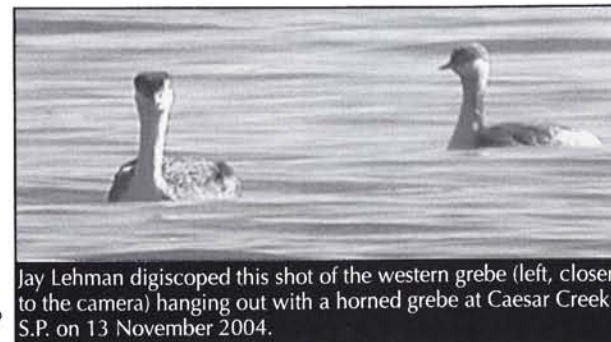
Common loon: Good numbers. The first report came from **LSR** in **Lake**, with one 17 Oct, where the lakefront high of 101 was made 26 Nov (both J. Pogacnik). More impressive numbers emerged inland, where E. Schlabach counted flyovers in **Holmes** of 87 on 9 Nov, 64 on 12 Nov, and 105 on 26 Nov, and Ohio's high count came from **Lawrence** (!), where H. Slack and W. Argabrite witnessed ~400 in flight from south to north (!) on 12 Nov.

Pied-billed grebe: Larger aggregations included 34 seen at **Medusa Marsh** 17 Sep (P. McCoy), 45 at **Killdeer Plains WA** 16 Oct (B. Whan), 50 at **BCSP** 7 Nov (D. Overacker), 28 on 14 Nov at **Nimisila Res** (G. Bennett), and 56 at **EHSP** on 23 Nov (V. Fazio).

Horned grebe: Quite early was one at **Cedar Pt NWR** 26 Sep (E. Tramer). This did not presage good numbers, however, as the inland high was 15 at **Hoover Res** 15 Nov (A. Boone), and that for Lake Erie 78 on 17 Nov off the **Rocky River** shore (P. Lozano).

Red-necked grebe: An average (i.e. scanty) showing, with three reports: one at **Huron** 6 Nov (B. Sparks), one at **Upper Sandusky** 12 Nov (R. Counts), and one at **Springfield Lake** near Akron 29 Nov (K. Miller).

Western grebe: This rarity was reported during Nov in Ontario, Indiana, Michigan, and Illinois, so in retrospect that one should be



Jay Lehman digiscoped this shot of the western grebe (left, closer to the camera) hanging out with a horned grebe at Caesar Creek S.P. on 13 November 2004.

found at **Caesar Creek SP** on 8 Nov and seen by m obs through the eop was not a shock. Documentation is with the OBRC.

American white pelican: About average, with four birds. The *Mahoning* bird remained 7 Sep (C. Holt). An imm at **Medusa Marsh** from 26 Sep (L. Brumbaugh) through at least 17 Oct (S. Snyder) was seen by m obs. So was an imm at **Indian Lk. Logan**, from 21 Oct until it was found shot 9 Nov (T. Shively). S. Pawlowski spotted one of indeterminate age in flight at **EFSP** 7 Nov.

Double-crested cormorant: After three years of stable populations there, the number of breeding pairs at **West Sister Island NWR** increased a significant 44.7% to ~3780 ($\pm 10\%$) this summer (ONWR report). Fifty at **Knox Lk** on 1 Aug (D. Plant) were among summering gatherings of immature birds, a number which swelled with migrants to 110 on 29 Sep (S. Snyder). Early migrants numbered 50+ at **Van Wert Res** (J. Perchalski) and 60 at **Hoover Res** (R. Thorn) on 14 Aug. Two hundred were over **Caesar Ck SP** 30 Aug (L. Gara), and on 8 Sep ~1200 visited **Upper Sandusky Res** (R. Counts). About 400 were seen in flight over **The Wilds** in *Muskingum* 21 Nov (N. Smith). The customary untold thousands passed along the Lake Erie shore during the period (m obs).

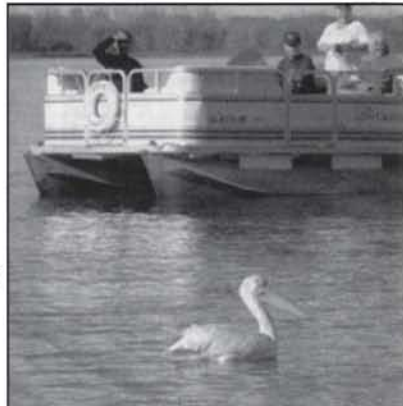
American bittern: Sightings of silent bitterns came from **Walnut Beach** in *Ashtabula* 12 Aug (G. Leidy), **ONWR** 21 Aug (B. Whan), 5 Oct in a *Tuscarawas* field (E. Schlabach), and in *Lucas* 9 Oct (J. Pogacnik). Lingering in a mild fall were birds at **ONWR** (census of 4 Nov) and one at **The Wilds** 26 Nov (J. Tharp).

Cattle egret: Far from the Sandusky breeding site, singles were found at **Conneaut** 28 Aug (M. Vass) and north of **Loudonville** 19 (D. Plant) through 23 Oct (S. Snyder). The species has abandoned **West Sister Isl**, but birds were seen in former haunts 8 Aug at **Magee** (S. Jennex), **ONWR** on 2 Oct (D. Overacker), and two nearby 30 Oct-3 Nov (B. Zwiebel). D. Morse intercepted three south-bounders at **EFSP** in *Clermont* 31 Oct.

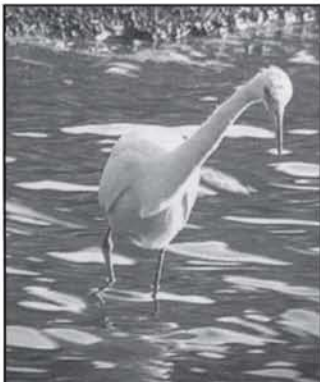
Great egret: Their numbers at the **West Sister Isl** colony remained stable at 707 pairs $\pm 10\%$. Scarcer in the NE, one at **Conneaut** 26 Aug-8 Oct (C. Holt) was remarkable, along with birds at **Berlin Res** 14 Oct and **La Due Res** 10 Oct, 21 Oct (two), and 21 Nov (L. Rosche). High count 236 on the 3 Oct **ONWR** census, with 59 there 4 Nov. On 12 Oct J. Kappa found 15 in *Hamilton*. Latest 30 Nov at **Toussaint WA** in *Ottawa* (V. Fazio).

Snowy egret: Fourteen nesting pairs were counted at **W. Sister Isl** (ONWR). High counts came from the western marshes, with 39 at **Magee** on 15 Aug (S&H Hiris) and 38 on the 5 Sep **ONWR** census. Elsewhere, one was at **Killdeer Plains WA** 22 Aug (R. Sempier), another at **Conneaut** 9 Sep (E. Schlabach, W. Shaffer), and a late bird at **Sandy Ridge MP** in *Lorain* 29 Oct (T. Fairweather).

Little blue heron: Out-of-the-way were an imm at **HWSP** 11 Aug (D. Russell) through 2 Oct (T. Uhlman), another in *Lake* 18 Aug (J. Pogacnik), and one 22 (S. Snyder)-28 Oct (E. Snively) quite late near **Wooster**. Despite rumors that nesting pairs had returned to **W. Sister Isl**, no record appeared in the official report; complicating matters were speculations that three egrets seen during the **ONWR** census of 5 Sep may have been hybrids involving this species. Barring conclusive documentation, these mysteries will remain unsolved, but closer attention next year might produce interesting results.



First reported 21 Oct., this American white pelican was found shot dead 9 Nov. Indian Lake, Logan Co. Photo from the *Bellefontaine Examiner* of 30 Oct. 2004.



This immature little blue heron was photographed at Overton Ponds near Wooster 23 October 2004 by Delores Coles.

Green heron: The high count was of 13 at **Knox Lk** 28 Aug (S. Snyder), and warm weather encouraged singles to stay through 16 Oct in **Columbus** (R. Thorn) and 30 Oct in *Lorain* (T. Fairweather).

Black-crowned night-heron: Interesting post-breeding roosts were noted in Aug, with four adults in *Mahoning* the 14th (B. Jones), and five in **Columbus** the 15th (M. Skinner). Numbers at the **Shaker Lks** in *Cuyahoga* varied from one to nine 1 Aug-22 Oct (L. Deininger). The high count was 19, at **Magee** 19 Sep (H&S Hiris). Warm spots along the Lake Erie shore produced small numbers near the eop. The nesting colony at **West Sister Island** did not decline significantly, and was reported as 433 pairs ± 159 (ONWR report).

Yellow-crowned night-heron: Seldom detected in migration, an imm was found at **Big Island WA** in *Marion* 5 Oct (J. McCormac).

***Plegadis ibis* sp:** Six reports emerged, two with m obs and conflicting identifications; for the latter, a lot of documentation was produced, which we trust is with the OBRC. On 20 Oct, two dark ibises were reportedly seen overhead north of **Newark**. On 24 Oct, another ibis was found and well photographed at **Medusa Marsh**. At **Ottawa NWR**, a dark ibis was seen by the census team on 4 Nov. Another *Plegadis* ibis, discovered at **Columbia Reservation** in *Lorain* 13 Nov, was studied by m obs through 22 Nov. Finally, a dark ibis was described from **EHSP** on the late date of 20 Nov.

Black vulture: Numbers near traditional areas included 25 on 19 Sep at **Shawnee Lookout** in *Hamilton* (L. Peyton) and a flock of 63 in *Adams* 16 Nov (P. Whan). Farther afield, J. White found five at the **Columbus Zoo** on 1 Sep, D. Weber nine in *Athens* 6 Nov, and J. Larson located 38 at a new **Knox** roost 24 Nov.

Turkey vulture: In *Holmes*, 365 migrants on 19 Sep was a good count (J. Miller). Late migrants sailed overhead through the eop in many locales. Large roosts included 521 on North Hill in *Athens* 31 Oct (B. Whan) where only 83 had roosted 5 Sep, and 200+ at **Deer Ck SP** 3 Nov (J. McCormac). Many persisted through the eop.

Osprey: The western marshes have been pretty much devoid of August ospreys for many years, but one haunted **Pickering Creek WA** early this fall (e.g., 8 Aug, C. Caldwell), probably from the **Resthaven WA** nesting pair. Late birds included one at **The Wilds**, *Muskingum* (P. King) and one at **LSR** in *Lake* (J. Pogacnik), both 26 Nov.

Bald eagle: Continues to proliferate, chiefly because its less-than-choosy diet is not so contaminated. In *Columbiana*, one was seen devouring a ring-billed gull on 2 Oct (B&D Lane), and in *Wyandot* five young birds gathered at a deer carcass 22 Nov (M. Misplon).

Northern harrier: Hints of local breeding came from three juv on 7 Aug, and three juv and two adults in n. *Wyandot* 22 Aug (R. Counts), a juv at **KPWA** on 8 Aug (R. Sempier), one in *Defiance* 14 Aug (J. Yochum), two way down in **Crown City WA** 11 Aug (K. Kazmierski), and an adult male at **The Wilds** on 25 Aug (K. Carlsen).

Northern goshawk: J. Klug reported one in **Toledo** 6 Nov (*vide G. Links*), and Links one in S. **Toledo** 8 Nov. H. Petruschke observed an adult in *Lake* 12 Nov. T. Shively spotted an adult near Bellefontaine in *Logan* 15 Nov, and on 19 Nov Leanne Brown photographed an adult in a western *Montgomery* backyard.

Broad-winged hawk: Many seem to evaporate upon crossing the border from the Michigan hawk-watch towers, but S. McNamee still managed to see 300-400 over **Toledo** on 11 Sep.

Red-tailed hawk: E. Schlabach reported the very scarce light-morph "Harlan's" form, an adult seen near Sugar creek in *Holmes* on 16 Oct, and wondered if it might be the same individual he'd seen in the general area on 11/18/2000.

Rough-legged hawk: Early reports came 9 Oct from **BIWA** (light morph, J. McCormac), 15 Oct from N.



This rare look at a northern goshawk was captured on film by Leanne Brown in her *Montgomery Co.* back yard 19 Nov. 2004.

Chagrin Res'n (K. Metcalf), and 16 Oct from **Lucas** (E. Tramer). The high count was ~30 at **The Wilds** 14 Nov (J. Kuenzli).

Golden eagle: Toledo-area sightings came from 6 Nov (two, M. Anderson) and 7 Nov (two, E. Tramer). A. Parker reported the first returnee to **The Wilds** 14 Nov, where eagles were not as easy to relocate this fall, but on 26 Nov reports were received of one (J. Tharp) and two birds (S. Brown), more than were reported last fall.

Merlin: Thirty-two reported. On the odd date of 10 Aug, one appeared in urban **Columbus**, only a few hundred yards from **Union Cemetery** (A. Boone, ph), and remained faithful to the spot through 17 Sept for m obs. This merlin, or one indistinguishable from it, returned to the same perch for a brief stay 15 Nov (C. Caprette, ph). In this same period, R. Royse reported another merlin at **Conneaut** on 14 Aug, which by itself would have been a record early date. Seven were reported from the southwest, led by four at **MWW** 24 Oct (B. Hull). All other merlin records came in Nov, most significantly when on 2 Nov male and female merlins returned to **Calvary Cemetery in Cleveland** (L. Gardella) and a probable male to **Spring Grove Cemetery in Cincinnati** (L. Brumbaugh). The Cleveland birds persisted through the eop, but the Cincinnati bird seemed lost, until B. Zimmerman photographed a male and a female at **St. Joseph's Cemetery in Cincinnati** on 20 Nov, which stayed through the eop. The other records, of routine Nov migrants, pale beside the preceding remarkable events.

Prairie falcon: On 13 Nov, a bird trip led by naturalist Al Parker of **The Wilds** discovered one, almost certainly the individual that established an unprecedented record by spending last winter at this location through 19 Mar. Always elusive, this adult was nevertheless seen there by m obs through the eop.

Wild turkey: Despite ups and downs in population, the range of the turkey continues to expand in Ohio, largely due to continuing reintroduction. E. Tramer had this to say: "Continues to increase and spread in the



Jim McCormac shot this stunning, intimate portrait of the prairie falcon at **The Wilds** in Muskingum Co. 19 November 2004.



Ron Sempier pulled off a rail trifecta with five juvenile king rails (above), five Virginia rails (right) and three soras (below) 14 Aug. at KPWA.



Toledo e.g., at dawn on Nov 7 a lone bird was roosting high in the canopy in a wooded area at CPNWR, and flew off when we were



still about 75 yards away. On the other hand, some birds in the oak openings act as if they just fell off the truck. We're counting these birds, but we wonder about some of them. Of course, many countable 'wild' Canada geese and mallards are just as approachable."

Yellow rail: One was reported from the **Miami Whitewater Wetlands** 12 Sep, then one heard there the following day, with another sighting 15 Sep. Details are with the OBRC.

King rail: The obliging family at **Prairie Oaks MP** in **Madison** was seen through mid-Aug, with one chick noted the 14th (L. Brumbaugh). A more successful pair at **Killdeer Plains WA** (**Marion/Wyandot**) produced five healthy young, photographed 14 Aug (R. Sempier). The last reported was in **Tuscarawas** 13 Oct (D. Sanders).

Virginia rail: Birds seen at **Funk WA** 12 Aug (W. Sarno) and five at **KPWA** on 14 Aug (R. Sempier) were likely local nesters. Elusive as migrants, and R. Royse (11 Sep at **Conneaut**) and J. Pogacnik (9 Oct in **Lucas**) were lucky to see them. An injured bird in **Findlay** was last seen 29 Oct (B. Hardesty).

Sora: Generally not hard to detect in fall in good habitat, but no large numbers reported this time.

Common moorhen: A sign of healthy marshes, two ad and eight young were at **Killbuck** 12 Aug (W. Sarno), then two with five young 18 Aug (S. Snyder). At **ONWR**, the census found 12 on 1 Aug and 35 on 5 Sep. Fourteen were at **Magee** on 15 Aug (S&H Hiris), and four adults with apparent young at **Killdeer Plains WA** 28 Aug (R. Sempier).

American coot: The **ONWR** census found 51 (10 ad) 1 Aug, 157 on 3 Oct, and 835 on 4 Nov. D&M Dunakin had a local record early migrant in **Pauiding** 27 Aug. The 5592 at **CPNWR** 30 Oct (E. Tramer) dwarfed subsequent highs further east, of 175 at **Wellington Res. Lorain** on 6 Nov and 500+ at **Portage Lks, Summit** 14 Nov (G. Bennett). **Camp Dennison** in **Hamilton** harbored 849 on 8 Nov (B. Foppe).

Sandhill crane: Cranes from summer were reported this fall in **Geauga** and **Wayne**, and three early migrants showed up in **Hamilton** 29 Oct (T. Uhlman). Fewer than 20 were seen during the subsequent week, but after a lull 800+ were seen on eleven Nov occasions, all in the western third of the state; a schedule similar to that adopted by tundra swans this season. The high count was 170 on 26 Nov at **MWW** (N. Keller). Four that arrived 8 Nov (B. Royse) to roost nightly on the **Fayette** end of **Deer Ck Res** were reliable through the eop.

Black-bellied plover: Down somewhat, their first arrival rather late, with four ad at **Conneaut** 14 Aug (B. Royse). High count only 14, at **Berlin Res** 20 Oct (K. Miller). The last to depart came on 19 Nov at **Burke airport** in **Cleveland** (P. Lozano).



Piping plover discovered in **Gallia** Co. by Harry Slack. Photo by Joe Browning.

American golden-plover: First noted at **Conneaut**, with two on 21 Aug (B. Whan); subsequent counts were no larger until 72 at **Findlay Res** 26 Sep (R. Counts). High count ~100 at **Big Isl WA** 9 Oct (J. McCormac). Last reported 8 Oct at **Conneaut** (B. Royse).

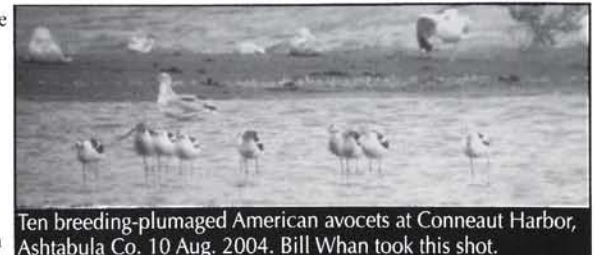
Semipalmated plover: Numbers were down, with one double-figure count: 12 at **Conneaut** 18 Aug (C. Holt). Last seen were two at **Berlin Res** 20 Oct (K. Miller).

Piping Plover: One was photographed late in **Gallia** 10 Oct; details with the OBRC.

Killdeer: Three-figure counts persisted across unglaciated Ohio through the end of October, with a high count of 275 at **Berlin Res** the 20th (K. Miller).

Black-necked Stilt: Their remarkable presence continued, with one 11-16 Oct a first record at **Pickerington Ponds** in **Franklin**, two at **Ottawa NWR** 11 Oct and one there 17 Oct; details are with the OBRC.

American avocet: A surprising 40 reported, with a high of ten adults at **Conneaut** 10 Aug (B. Whan). Seen in



Ten breeding-plumaged American avocets at **Conneaut Harbor**, **Ashtabula Co.** 10 Aug. 2004. Bill Whan took this shot.

Van Wert, Madison, Lake, Sandusky, and Lucas, with 27 from **Conneaut Harbor** over the season. Last seen 3 Oct at **HBSP** (L. Rosche).

Greater yellowlegs: The high count of 75 came on 1 Aug at **GRWA** (D. Hochadel), and the last seen was at **Huron** 28 Nov (J. Watts).

Lesser yellowlegs: Sixty were with their larger congeners at **GRWA** on the first day of the period (D. Hochadel). The first reported juvenile was early at **Conneaut** 14 Aug (B. Royle). High count 90 at **Ottawa NWR** 3 Oct (census team), and several Nov records culminated with three at **BCSP** on the 13th (B. Whan).

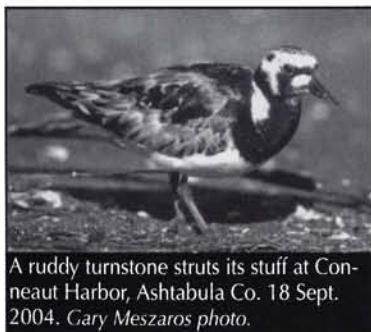
Solitary sandpiper: At **GRWA** on 1 Aug the high count of 25 was made by D. Hochadel. Bringing up the rear was a single bird at **Pleasant Hill Lk** 23 Oct (S. Snyder).



This juv. whimbrel dropped in briefly at Conneaut Harbor, Ashtabula Co. 18 September 2004. Photo by Gary Meszaros.

Whimbrel: Two touched down at **Conneaut** 10 Aug (B. Whan), where others were found 21 Aug (M. Vass), 24 Aug (B. Finkelstein), 2 Sep (B. Royle), 11 Sep (Royle) and 18 Sep (G. Meszaros). One stalked the **Crane Creek SP** beach 21 Aug (B. Zwiebel); the census team at **Ottawa** found one 5 Sep, and E. Schlabach another at **Huron** 9 Sep.

Hudsonian godwit: An adult graced **Conneaut** 20 Aug (W. Shaffer), but Conneaut did not hog the sightings of this species, which showed up at **ONWR** 21 Aug (ad, B. Whan), then two there 18 Sep (S. Snyder, m obs), then two 2 Oct (census team), then three 9 Oct (J. Pogacnik), then one 4 Nov (census team) that lingered through 7 Nov (E. Tramer). Elsewhere, B. Morrison found a juv at **Berlin Res** 12 Oct.



A ruddy turnstone struts its stuff at Conneaut Harbor, Ashtabula Co. 18 Sept. 2004. Gary Meszaros photo.

Marbled godwit:

Decent numbers, all from **Ottawa NWR**. Six were there 10 Aug (B. Whan), then three on 5 Sep (census), two 18 Sept (C. Caldwell), three 5 Sep (census), one 3 Oct (census), then two 4 Nov (census), with probably the same two there 7 Nov (E. Tramer).

Ruddy turnstone: The beach-like setting at **Conneaut** attracted four ad 14 Aug (B. Royle), a remarkable 28 adults 18 Aug (C. Holt) one 20 Aug (B. Jones), two 21 Aug (M. Vass), two juv 26 Aug (Holt), five juv 10 Sep (Royle), and eight 9 Sep (W. Shaffer). Elsewhere, B. Zwiebel had one at the **Crane**



This Hudsonian godwit splashed down during the auto tour at Ottawa NWR 18 September 2004 where Jay Lehman took this photo.

Willet: Only six: Two ad at **Conneaut** 10 Aug (B. Whan), 12-15 Aug at **Cowan Lk** (L. Gara), 13 Aug at **Burke Airport** (G. Leidy), 21 Aug at **ONWR** (B. Zwiebel), and one at **Pipe Creek WA** 28 Aug (Whan).

Spotted sandpiper: Again, the high count came from **GRWA** on 1 Aug (D. Hochadel), with only 10. Didn't stay long either, with the last report from **Berlin Res** 20 Oct (K. Miller).

Upland sandpiper: Presumably migrants were one along **Girdham Rd** in the oak openings 2 Aug (M. Anderson) and two in **Holmes** 1 Sept (S. Snyder).



Brian Zwiebel snapped this beauty: one of two red knots at Conneaut Harbor, 4 Sept. 2004.

of ~100 at **Conneaut** on 26 Aug (C. Holt), but no other numbers nearly this large later. One was reported to have stayed at **ONWR** 4 Nov (census team) and 7 Nov (E. Tramer), surpassing last year's record-late 2 Nov occurrence.

Western sandpiper: Commendably enough, many observers tend to solve ID problems involving this and the previous species by calling them all semipalmateds unless they show a diagnostic western-type bill. While any errors this causes will slightly overestimate the number of the more common species, it would be worse to err on the other side and greatly over-estimate the numbers of the rarer. Still, since sexual dimorphism largely controls bill structure, it seems reasonable to assume this practice may misidentify as many as half of westerns as semipalmateds.

This fall, after not a single report of this species in July, no adults were reported in the fall season. Twenty-three reports were received, involving a total of 29 westerns. The first came from 14 Aug, a juv at **Conneaut** (B. Royle). The high count was of three birds, at **Indian Lake, Logan**, on 13 Sep (T. Shively), and the latest was of a single bird at **Toussaint WA** on 23 Nov (V. Fazio).

Least sandpiper: Seemed down in numbers overall. The high count was 61, on the **ONWR** census on the first day of the season; the census had 32 in Sep, 18 in Oct, and none in Nov. The latest were three at **BCSP**, where leasts have wintered in the past, on 6 Nov (D. Overacker). This species at least may have borne out warnings of a sub-par breeding season in the Arctic.

White-rumped sandpiper: With no July returnees noted, the first fall bird was reported 16 Aug at **Prairie Oaks MP** (J. Lehman). Groups of five were seen in **Gallia** 20 Aug (first local record for this month) and at **Ottawa NWR** the following day (census). B. Royle noted one at **Conneaut** 11 Sep in basic plumage. The high count was also the latest, 18 birds at **Berlin Res** 20 Oct (K. Miller).

Baird's sandpiper: Seventy-five reported, all whose ages were reported juveniles with the exception of two adults rather late on 12 Aug at **Conneaut** (G. Leidy). First reported 5 Aug at **Caesar Ck SP** (L. Gara), but through the next two months **Conneaut** and **ONWR** dominated reports. The high count, of 11, came from the former on 23 Aug (B. Royle), and seven from the latter 30 Aug (N. Smith). In a mild fall, one was found as late as 11 Nov, at **HBSP** (L. Rosche).

Pectoral sandpiper: The high count was 50, at **Englewood Pk** in **Dayton** 8 Aug (N. Smith). For Sep, when hordes of juveniles are scheduled, 20 reports totaled only 99 birds. This high-Arctic breeder may have had a bad season, as Oct reports peaked at only 31 birds, at **GLSM** the 16th (B. Whan). The **ONWR** census found the last reported, six on 4 Nov.

Purple sandpiper: Unlike other shorebirds*, the narrow niche for this one—rocky habitats along the Lake

came from the western marshes: one 21 Aug at **ONWR** (S. Snyder), three there 18 Sep (R. Rogers), and one at **CPNWR** 10 Oct (E. Tramer).

Sanderling: Another beach-lover, 220 were counted at **Conneaut Harbor** from 4 Aug (ten, M. Vass) through 30 Sep (a "near basic" bird, B. Royle), with the state high count of 95 there on 10 Sep (Royle). Fewer than 20 were found at state park beaches and similar settings elsewhere, the latest of them one early at **Hoover Res** 19 Oct (A. Boone) and six at **Berlin Res** the following day (K. Miller). Juveniles seemed down.

Semipalmated sandpiper: Normally among the most numerous of our sandpipers, this species had a high count of ~100 at **Conneaut** on 26 Aug (C. Holt), but no other numbers nearly this large later. One was reported to have stayed at **ONWR** 4 Nov (census team) and 7 Nov (E. Tramer), surpassing last year's record-late 2 Nov occurrence.



A juvenile western sandpiper was photographed as it foraged in a drawn-down pool at Ottawa NWR 14 Aug, by Laura Stiefel.

Erie shore—is stable or increasing. All the same, we had but one record: four birds briefly at the **Mentor Headlands** lighthouse 28 Nov (G. Meszaros et al.). We had reports of nine, on six occasions, last year. Too few to draw any conclusions of course, but this is another High-Arctic nester...

Dunlin: Dunlins undergo a complete prebasic molt in the Arctic, so we seldom see any in breeding plumage in Ohio in fall, nor many dunlins at all before September. The appearance of birds with breeding plumage on 8 Aug (**Pickerel Creek**, C. Caldwell), 14 Aug (**ONWR**, R. Hinkle), and 15-16 Aug (**Conneaut**, S. Cagan and Caldwell) was very unusual and possibly evidence for problems on the breeding grounds. Numbers of juveniles seemed OK, however, with reports of numbers such as ~850 at **Berlin Res** 20 Oct (K. Miller), 480 near **Sheldon Marsh** 6 Nov, and ~1100 and ~1200 at **ONWR** on 4 Nov (census) and 11 Nov (B. Whan) respectively.

Stilt sandpiper: Appeared in late July, and later in decent numbers, and unlike many other shorebirds less restricted to **Conneaut** and **ONWR**. High counts were of 40 at **ONWR** 21 Aug (S. Snyder) and 40+ at **Medusa Marsh** 26 Sep (L. Brumbaugh). The last reported was one at **BCSP** 6 Nov (D. Overacker).



One of three buff-breasted sandpipers found on the auto tour at Ottawa NWR on 18 Sept. 2004. Photo by Jay Lehman.

Buff-breasted sandpiper: Mostly a normal year, with reports—all juveniles, nearly all single birds—from **Knox**, **Williams**, **Ashtabula**, **Lucas**, and **Hancock**. Reports from the latter county at **Findlay Res #1** were the story. This location often produces small numbers of this species, but this year it was many, peaking on 23 Sep with nine (B. Sparks), 24 Sep with 20 (R. Counts), and 10 on 26 Sep (L. Brumbaugh), with two remaining as late as 5 Oct (B. Hardesty).

Short-billed dowitcher: Adults continued to move through into the period, among them 202 at **Ottawa NWR** 1 Aug (census) and ~90 in **Tuscarawas** the same day (E. Schlabach), but were replaced by juv, “hundreds” of them at **ONWR** by 14 Aug (M. Bolton).

Long-billed dowitcher: First reported in the form of three adults arrived at **Ottawa NWR** on 14 Aug (M. Bolton), then eight there 21 Aug (B. Whan). Reports in small numbers of juveniles came from the NW: **Paulding**, **Erie**, **Williams**, **Lucas**, **Ottawa** in Sep and Oct, with one from the east, in the **Portage** area of **Berlin Res** 14 Oct (L. Rosche), and groups of five and six 6 and 9 Sept at **MWW** (N. Cade et al.) in the southwest. The survival of the unique staging population in the NW seems evermore tenuous: since the eradication of habitat at **Metzger Marsh WA** eight years ago, a band of ~100 has spent several autumn weeks undergoing a complete molt at **ONWR** before continuing south, some as late as mid-Nov. This year, slightly higher Lake Erie levels made their staging areas in the **Crane Creek estuary** unusable, and small numbers seem to have been able to take advantage of moist-soil units newly managed for shorebirds by **ONWR**, but no great concentrations were noted: the census team found nine on 5 Sept, 26 on 3 Oct, and only three on 4 Nov. Some reason for hope was the discovery of a flock of 40 (the seasonal high count) at adjacent **CPNWR** 10 Oct (E. Tramer). The last long-bill was reported from the **Crane Creek estuary** on 7 Nov during a period of wind-induced low water (Tramer).



The auto tour at Ottawa NWR on 18 Sept. featured this red-necked phalarope. Photo by Jay Lehman.

Wilson's snipe: High count was ~20 at **Big Isl WA** 6 Oct (N. Smith), and the latest were seven near **Wooster** 27 Nov (S. Snyder).

Wilson's phalarope: One was seen on the 1 Aug **ONWR** census, and another on 5 September's. An ad basic bird was early at **Prairie Oaks MP** 12 Aug (J. Watts). Later at **Ottawa NWR**, two birds were reported on 14 Aug (R. Hinkle), 21 Aug (S. Snyder), 28 Aug (B. Whan), and 30 Aug (N. Smith). A molting juv spent 28 Aug-2 Sep in **Williams** (J. Yochum).

Red-necked phalarope: First reported were two at **ONWR**

28 Aug (D. Sanders), with one at **Conneaut** 2 Sep, one at **MWW** 9 Sep (F. Frick), one at **ONWR** 18 Sep (C. Caldwell), and one at **ONWR** 2 (D. Overacker) and 3 (census) Oct.

Red phalarope: The first came to **Mallard Club Marsh** 9 Oct (J. Pogacnik). Three were among those at **HBSP** in Oct on the 15th (L. Rosche), with one still there the 31st (M. Rohr). The last was a flyby at **LSR** 6 Nov (Pogacnik).

Laughing gull: At least twelve individuals reported, nine from inland reservoirs, the first from **Caesar Ck SP** 30 Aug (L. Gara), the latest quite late from 28 Nov at **Huron Harbor** (J. Watts). Staying a while were an imm at **EFSP** 30 Sep (D. Morse) through 17 Oct (L. Brumbaugh), and one at **Berlin Res** 12-26 Oct (B. Morrison) that was likely a first local record.

Franklin's gull: Seven of eight reported spent time at inland reservoirs, the first 25-29 Sep at **Pleasant Hill Lk**, **Richland** (S. Snyder), the last of two birds at **Caesar Creek SP** 11 Nov (N. Cade).

Little gull: Hard to find. A first-year bird was along the **Cleveland** lakefront 6 Nov (G. Leidy, and another at **LSR** 26 Nov, where an adult appeared 28 Nov (both J. Pogacnik).

Bonaparte's gull: Two birds, in alt and basic plumage, were at **Caesar Ck SP** 9 Aug. A leucistic adult was photographed at **Conneaut** 14 Aug (B. Royse). Numbers increased on the lakefront in Nov, when on the 5th 2820 were in **Cleveland** (V. Fazio), and later in the month numbers began to appear inland, with 1100 (including only one first-winter bird) at **Hoover Res** 15 Nov (A. Boone), an unprecedented ratio of Bonaparte's to ring-billed at **Caesar Creek SP** of 380:7 on 18 Nov (B. Powell), on 27 Nov 50 at **Tappan Res** in **Harrison** and 100+ at **Leesville Lk** in **Carroll** (both D. Kramer), and 550 at **Mosquito Lk** 15 Nov (C. Holt). At the **Lake Erie** shore 28 Nov, J. Pogacnik counted 11,073 passing **LSR**, and B. Whan estimated 23,000 in the **Lorain Harbor**, nearly all adults; 5600 passing by were carefully observed, of which only seven or eight were immature birds.

Herring gull: In a local tradition, flocked to an inland feast of gizzard shad at Station Rd in the **CVNP** on 1 Nov (D. Chasar).

Thayer's gull: Only one report, a first-winter bird at **Port Clinton** 20 Nov (V. Fazio).

Lesser black-backed gull: Fourteen reported, most along the Lake shore, but one stood out at **Oberlin Res** 13 Oct (L. Rosche), as did a second-winter bird at **Springfield Lk** near **Akron** 24 Nov (K. Miller).

Glaucous gull: An adult ventured into our comparatively warm climate 28 Nov in **Toledo** (G. Links).

Sabine's gull: Typical one-day wonders were immatures at **MBSP** 1 Oct (D. Overacker), another 15 Oct at **Caesar Ck SP** (L. Gara), and one passing **LSR** on a delayed schedule 26 Nov (J. Pogacnik).

Black-legged Kittiwake: A juvenile passed **LSR** in **Lake** on 6 Nov (J. Pogacnik).

Caspian tern: A normal season, though a flock of 22 inland at **Springfield Lk** near **Akron** 21 Aug (G. Bennett) was of interest, as were four as late as 29 Oct at **EHSP** (V. Fazio).

Common tern: Inland numbers reached 35 on 8 Sep at **EFSP** (D. Morse) and 20 at **Caesar Ck SP** the following day (L. Gara), with the latest a juv at **Indian Lake SP** 16 Oct (B. Whan). **ONWR** numbers were the largest, with 353 on 1 Aug and 500 on 5 Sep, but none in Oct, when terns were found further east, such as 85 at **EHSP** on the 29th and 24 in **Cleveland** 5 Nov (both V. Fazio). The last was in **Cleveland** 29 Nov (R. Rickard).

Forster's tern: Seen at **Conneaut** early, with 15 on 18 Aug (C. Holt) and 45 on 15 Sep (B. Royse). Later seen more often in the west, as on 29 Oct when 18 were at **Medusa** and 75 at **EHSP** (V. Fazio). High count only 250, for the **ONWR** census on 5 Sep; latest date only 6 Nov at **Sheldon's Marsh** (B. Whan), with 35 birds.



Larry Gara spotted this laughing gull on 21 Sept. at Caesar Creek SP, where Jay Lehman took this photo on the 26th.

Least tern: This rarity was seen once, on 19 Aug at **MWW**. Details with the OBRC.

Black tern: After large movements in late July, the following occurred on 1 Aug alone: three at **Caesar Ck SP** (L. Gara) and three others there (J. Konst), one at **Alum Ck Res** (R. Thorn), one at **Prairie Oaks MP** (R. Thorn), eight at **Buckeye Lk** (J. Estep), and four for the **ONWR** census, for a total of 20. Thirty-eight turned up thereafter, with a high count of nine at **KPWA** 28 Aug (R. Sempier) and the latest bird at **Conneaut** 1 Sep (B. Royse). Of 26 reports, only three from the Lake Erie shore, which included individuals from the precious last breeding spot at **CPNWR**.

White-winged dove: One was reported coming to a feeder in **Rootstown, Portage**, on 16, 17, and 19 Aug. Details are with the OBRC.

Black-billed cuckoo: Latest reported in **Toledo** 15 Sep (R. Nirschl).

Yellow-billed cuckoo: The high count was six, at **KPWA** 12 Sep (R. Sempier), and the last was reported 30 Oct in **Holmes** (E. Schlabach).

Barn owl: Unusual at **KPWA** (despite so much likely-looking habitat) was one there 19 (J. Kuenzli)-27 Nov (M. Packer). ODOW monitored a record 56 active nests this year statewide, with a record 44 successful and a record 202 young fledged (K. Shipley).

Long-eared owl: Trickled in as usual, with only two fall reports, a bird on **Kelleys Isl** 21 Nov (T. Bartlett), and one 29 Nov at **ONWR** (J. & J. Volker)

Short-eared owl: Sighted at **Dike 14** on 17 and 23 Oct (S. Zadar). K. Phillips noted 3-5 at the **VOA** on 14 Nov. N. Smith found 22 at **The Wilds** 18 Nov.

Northern saw-whet owl: The banding operation in **Ross** found the first, six of them, on 24 Oct. All other finds (six in all) came from Nov, the last from J. Volker of one at **ONWR** 29 Nov. Far more common as a migrant than our meager sightings can attest.

Common nighthawk: While declining in unnatural urban settings as nesters in Ohio, nighthawks still delight us in migration. After two flocks of 8-12 likely migrants in **Franklin** 4 Aug (D. Sillick), the passage peaked statewide late in the month and early in Sep, with noteworthy numbers 419 in **Franklin** 23 Aug (B. Whan), 85 in **Holmes** 28 Aug (E. Schlabach), 265 in **Clermont** 29 Aug, 238+ in the **CVNP** 6 Sep (P. McCoy), and a local-record 388 in **Lawrence** 10 Sep (H. Slack). Late were four over **Akron** 10 Oct (J. Brumfield), and in **Hamilton** seven 15 Oct and one 27 Oct (both W. Hull).

Chimney swift: Urban roosts have become fashionable spectacles, especially in greater **Columbus**, where in excess of 8000 were reported 16 Aug-8 Oct, nearly all from old school chimneys. From **Kent**, where Ralph Dexter conducted so many studies of this species (a chimney swift appears on the official seal of Kent State University), came a report of 550+ on 17 Aug (G. Bennett). Very late, almost record late, were ten in **Fairfield** 5 Oct (J. Watts) and one in **Marion** 6 Nov, then two 8 Nov (both R. Sempier).

Ruby-throated hummingbird: Adult males skedaddle first, and the latest reported were in **Greene** 2 Sep (C. Beckman) and in **Licking** 11 Sep (J. Watts). Four other ruby-throats persisted into the next month, the latest of them a female reported 18-24 Oct north of **Dayton** (C. Hawley).

Rufous hummingbird: Five were reported, but more records may well emerge as colder weather finally makes feeders attractive. An ad female appeared at a **Ross** feeder that hosted an imm/female in fall of 2003; the latter was never banded, but a returning bird is a possibility (L&T Bradley, A. Chartier, ph). One male in **Marysville** 26-27 Sep was photographed (D. Snapp). On 10/1, M. Wise (fide A. Chartier) found an adult male at her **Muskingum** feeder; Chartier captured this bird, and found it to be the immature male he'd banded at this very same feeder 20 Nov last year—an extraordinary event; it remained through the eop. An adult male showed up 3 Oct at a feeder in **Knox** (fide D. Daniel, ph), and persisted through the eop. An adult female showed up in **Hamilton** in early Oct, staying through the eop (A. Chartier, ph).

Yellow-bellied sapsucker: A nice flight, with high counts of six 26 Sep at **CPNWR** (E. Tramer) and eight at **HBSP** the same day (L. Rosche). The last reported up north came from 13 Nov in the dense conifers of **Secret Arboretum** in **Wayne** (S. Snyder).

Olive-sided flycatcher: Fifteen reports spanned 14 Aug to 16 Sep, with the latter date sporting the high count of two, at **Oak Openings MP** in **Toledo** (E. Tramer).

Eastern wood-pewee: This common breeder bid us farewell at the late date of 24 Oct, with one banded at **Navarre** (BSBO).

Yellow-bellied flycatcher: Thought to be our most easily identified *Empidonax* flycatcher, especially among silent fall birds, so most often reported. One was netted at **Springville Marsh WA** in **Seneca** as early as 22 Aug (T. Bartlett), and the last report came from **Navarre**, with a bird banded 2 Oct (BSBO)

Acadian flycatcher: One was calling 29 Aug at **Hoover Res** (R. Thorn). Last reported was one netted at **Navarre** 5 Oct (BSBO).

Willow flycatcher: One was in **Columbus** as late as 7 Sep (R. Thorn).

Least flycatcher: Last reported at **Hoover Res** 15 Sept (R. Thorn).

Eastern phoebe: Two at **Mosquito Ck** 24 Oct (C. Babyak) and one in **Lakewood Pk** the following day (P. Lozano) were rather late, more so one 14 Nov in **Clermont** (B. Foppe).

Great crested flycatcher: Latest reported in **Lakewood** 18 Sep (P. Lozano).

Eastern kingbird: Fifty-plus were at **Killdeer** 28 Aug (R. Sempier), and one in **Paulding** 20 Sep recorded a record late date locally, but one 8 Nov in s. **Toledo** (G. Links) is probably a record late date for Ohio.

Northern shrike: Twelve reported, with the highest count also the farthest south: birds in **Wyandot** included an imm at **KPWA** 20 Nov (R. Schieltz et al.), an adult there the following day (N. Smith), and another further north 16 Nov (R. Counts).

White-eyed vireo: Very late ones tend to be immatures, as was one in **Pearson MP** in **Lucas** 26 Nov (P. Chad).

Yellow-throated vireo: Hastened south in numbers, with eight at **Shawnee Lookout** in **Cincinnati** 19 Sep (L. Peyton) and five the next day in **Coshocton** (E. Schlabach).

Blue-headed vireo: High count five, on **Kelleys Isl** 18 Sep (P. McCoy), with a late one in **Paulding** 5 Nov (M&D Dunakin).

Philadelphia vireo: Widely reported, with a high of four on **Kelleys Isl** 18 Sep (P. McCoy), and a late bird at **Navarre** 4 Oct (BSBO).

Red-eyed vireo: Running a bit late was one at **Navarre** 24 Oct (BSBO).

American crow: Widespread was the feeling that crow numbers are rebounding; we'll see if the CBCs support this. D. Chasar, for example, reported a low in crow numbers for last fall's **CVNP** census of 159; this fall they were up to 392. Optimistically, such increases could mean the West Nile virus has done its worst to crows, and the remaining population, now immune, is rapidly filling territories left by those who succumbed.

Horned lark: High count 330+ in **Wyandot** 30 Nov (R. Counts).

Purple martin: On schedule, with roosts in **Hamilton** of ~500 on 15 Aug (J. Hays) and 22 Aug (L. Peyton).

Tree swallow: About 2500 gathered at **Mentor Lagoons** 19 Sep (L. Rosche), and a long-delayed migrant was at **EHSP** on 20 Nov (J. Pogacnik).

Northern rough-winged swallow: A first for the Sep **CVNP** census was 59 on the 11th (D. Chasar). Not usually a flocker, 100+ at **MWF** on 19 Sep were of interest (L. Peyton).

Bank swallow: A juv was late at **Mentor Lagoons** 7 Oct (L. Rosche).



This Say's phoebe at Gordon Park in Cleveland was ferreted out and photographed by Sean Zadar 23 Oct.

Cliff swallow: Ninety were found for the 1 Aug ONWR census. J. Watts reported an enormous gathering of ~1500 at **Charlie's Pond** in **Pickaway** 12 Sep, scene of another large flock at this location 7 Sep 2000.

Barn swallow: Two tarried at **Deer Ck Res** through 16 Oct (B. Roysel).

Red-breasted nuthatch: Unusually widespread, with the high count of eight coming from birdy **Van Wert**, on 14 Nov (J. Perchalski). The banders at **Navarre** netted a local record 34 this season (BSBO).

Brown creeper: Six haunted **Mogadore** 7 Nov (G. Bennett) for the high count.

House wren: Unexpected along the lakefront, 18 were found at **Dike 14** in **Cleveland** 10 Oct (S. Zadar).

Winter wren: Poured through **HBSP** on 21 Oct, when L. Rosche counted 35; the following day a local season-high 11 were banded at **Navarre** (BSBO).

Sedge wren: Detected at **Cowan Lk Sp** 5 Aug (B. Powell), when mowing of field evicted others in **Wayne** (S. Snyder). Four were singing at **Caesar Ck SP** 6 Aug (L. Gara), two were in **Wyandot** 7 Aug (R. Counts), and five heard at the **VOA** property in **Butler** 9 Aug (M. Busam). The **ONWR** census found a migrant 5 Sep, R. Thorn two in **Columbus** 25 Sep, and S. Zadar another at **Dike 14** in **Cleveland** on 5 Oct.

Marsh wren: The census at **ONWR** found 26 there on 1 Aug. E. Schlabach noted a migrant in **Tuscarawas** 5 Oct, and one was still singing at **CPNWR** 21 Nov (E. Tramer).

Ruby-crowned kinglet: Seemed late. The high count was 125 at **HBSP** 21 Oct (L. Rosche), the day on which the **Navarre** banders caught a season-high 48. One at **Alum Ck Res** (R. Thorn) and three on **Kelleys Isl** 21 Nov (T. Bartlett) were the last reported.



Photo of varied thrush, seen 11/26 & 28 and 12/1 in NW Medina Co.; details are with the OBRC.

Varied thrush: One appeared briefly in a SE **Williams** yard on 1 Oct (ph). Another was photographed on a few visits to a NE **Medina** feeder 26 & 28 Nov, and persisted into the winter period. Documentation is with the OBRC.

Gray catbird: Mild weather induced some late stays, such as through 14 Nov in **Gahanna** (R. Thorn), 25 Nov in **Akron** (G. Bennett), and 27 Nov at **Hoover Res** (M. Packer). BSBO banded a local record 454 at **Navarre** this season.

Brown thrasher: Like catbirds, extended their stays this fall, with one up in central Ohio as

late as 13 Nov in **Gahanna** (R. Thorn).

American pipit: E. Tramer observed one in **Oak Openings MP** on 1 Sep—which may be a new early fall date for the **Toledo** area. R. Counts found 25+ at a **Findlay** reservoir 21 Sep, and 80+ the following day there. L. Yoder counted 120 in **Coshocton** 27 Nov, and north of **Alum Ck Res** A. Boone found ~300 on 29 Oct, and small numbers persisted locally through the eop.

Cedar waxwing: Good berry crops brought waxwings, with the highest reported number 500+, in **Columbus** 13 Nov (D. Snapp).

Blue-winged warbler: Four were in **Hancock** 7 Sep (B. Hardesty), and a tardy one was discovered in **Holmes** 18 Oct (E. Schlabach).

Golden-winged warbler: Only four migrants reported: one 7 Sep in **Paulling** (D&M Dunakin), and on 18 Sep one in **Bowling Green** (B. Cullen) then two in **Spring Grove Cemetery** in **Cincinnati** (N. Cade).

Tennessee warbler: One was caught in nets at **Springville Marsh** in **Seneca** 22 Aug (T. Bartlett), and quite late was one seen in **Columbus** on 16 Nov (R. Thorn). The high count was 70 at **Spring Grove Cem** 18 Sep (N. Cade).

Orange-crowned warbler: Widely reported in the first half of October, one was seen as late as 6 Nov at **Winton Woods** in **Hamilton** (N. Cade).

Nashville warbler: Forty were around at **HBSP** on 23 Sep (L. Rosche), and by 1 Nov one could still be

found at **Gilmore Ponds** in **Butler** (M. Busam).



Craig Rieker caught this northern parula in an interesting pose at **Dike 14** in **Cleveland** 18 September 2004.

Northern parula: One was still in song in **Bowling Green** 2 Sep (P. Chad), and six could be found at **Dike 14** in **Cleveland** 14 Sep (S. Zadar). Three remained at **Rocky River MP** 6 Oct (R&S Harlan).

Yellow warbler: One tarried through 9 Oct at **Big Isl WA** (J. McCormac), but one 7 Nov at **CPNWR** was close to a record late date for the **Toledo** area (E. Tramer).

Magnolia warbler: The high count was 45 at **HBSP** on 19 Sep (L. Rosche).

Cape May warbler: Some good local Sep numbers, led by 25 at **Spring Grove Cem** the 18th (N. Cade); also from **Cincinnati** was the latest reported, 29 Oct (F. Renfrow).

Black-throated blue warbler: High count 10 at **HBSP** 19 Sep (L. Rosche), and none later than 24 Oct (**Cuyahoga**, S&R Harlan).

Black-throated green warbler: Sixteen were in **Coshocton** 29 Sep (E. Schlabach), and the latest reported came from **Navarre** on 24 Oct (BSBO).

Blackburnian warbler: On time, arriving **Franklin** (R. Thorn) and **Magee** (S. Stockford) 26 Aug. N. Cade counted 15 in **Hamilton** 18 Sep, and E. Schlabach found a late one in **Holmes** 11 Oct.

Yellow-throated warbler: An inconspicuous migration, with the first report 26 Aug in **Franklin** (R. Thorn). A Sep 1 bird in **Cincinnati** frequented Austrian pines, not sycamores (F. Renfrow). Last reported from **MWW** on 25 Sep (N. Cade).

Pine warbler: Ten, three still singing, were in **Cincinnati** 26 Sep (F. Renfrow), and latest among four Nov reports was an imm female in **Holmes** the 23rd (E. Schlabach).

Kirtland's Warbler: A female was described 25 Sep in **Lake**; details with the OBRC.

Prairie warbler: Migrants were noted first 21 Aug in **Washington** (J. Zickefoose) and last at **Gilmore Ponds** 25 Sep (M. Busam).

Palm warbler: No Nov reports, but plenty in late Oct, the latest at **Dike 14** in **Cleveland** the 25th (B. Finkelstein); a day earlier there a "yellow" individual was present (S. Zadar).

Bay-breasted warbler: No remarkable numbers, with the last reported 19 Oct at **Navarre Marsh** (BSBO).

Blackpoll warbler: L. Rosche counted 30 at **HBSP** 19 & 23 Sep, and P. McCoy 46 on **Kelleys Isl** 17 & 18 Sep. Last reported 24 Oct, from **Navarre** (BSBO).

Cerulean warbler: Late migrants were observed 20 Sep in **Coshocton** (E. Schlabach) and 25 Sep at **MWW** (N. Cade).

Black-and-white warbler: Not seen after 25 Oct (**Holmes**, D. Overacker).

American redstart: Thirty were tallied at **HBSP** 19 Sep (L. Rosche), and the latest found 17 Oct at **Navarre** (BSBO).

Prothonotary warbler: Local breeders remained at the **Hoover Res** colonies as late as 14 Aug (R. Thorn).

Worm-eating warbler: Migrants were detected 18 Sep at **Spring Grove Cem** in **Cincinnati** (N. Cade) and in



A male black-throated blue warbler from **Whiskey Island** in **Cleveland** 19 Sept. Photo by Craig Rieker.

Hancock 21 Sep (B. Sams).

Northern waterthrush: A migrant appeared at Station Rd in the CVNP 5 Aug (D. Chasar). Late was one on 1 Nov near Swan Creek in *Lucas* (G. Links).

Louisiana waterthrush: R&S Harlan found a migrant at **Columbia Wds Pk** in *Medina* 20 Aug.

Kentucky warbler: Last reported 18 Sep at **Shawnee Lookout** in *Cincinnati* (L. Peyton). One on the 5 Sep ONWR census was a surprise.

Connecticut warbler: First of migration on Public Square in **Cleveland** 30 Aug (S. Wright), and last noted at **MWW** 25 Sep (N. Cade).

Mourning warbler: One was banded in *Ross* 19 Aug (K. Sieg). Last reported from *Coshocton* 29 Sep (E. Schlabach).

Common yellowthroat: Twenty-plus were in *Butler* 18 Sep (M. Busam), and one remained in *Tuscarawas* 27 Nov (E. Schlabach).

Hooded warbler: G. Bennett noticed a pair in **Akron** 8 Sep, and a male was singing repeatedly in *Stark* 24 Sep (S. Jackson). E. Schlabach observed one 18-22 Oct in *Holmes*.

Wilson's warbler: Arrived at **Magee** 26 Aug (S. Stockford), and last seen at **NCR** in *Cuyahoga* 21 Oct (K. Metcalf).

Canada warbler: T. Bartlett netted one at **Springville Marsh**, *Seneca* on 22 Aug. The high count was but two, at **Magee** 18 Sep (S. Snyder).

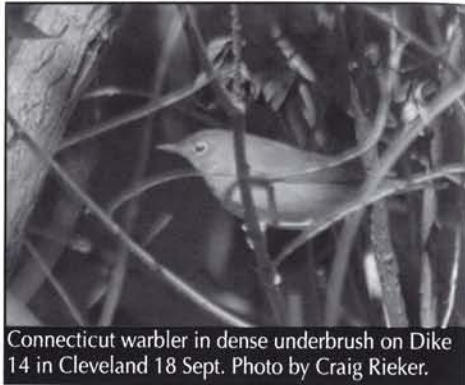
Yellow-breasted chat: Adults with two young were at **MWW** 1 Aug (L. Brumbaugh), and one was in *Beavercreek* 15 Oct (N. Smith).

Summer tanager: The last of the **Oak Openings** birds was seen 23 Sep (E. Tramer), and four were in *Cincinnati* two days later (B. Foppe). R. Thorn heard one in *Columbus* 27 Sep.

Scarlet tanager: A straggler was at **Pipe Ck WA** 9 Oct (G. Bennett).

American tree sparrow: Early birds arrived in *Paulding* 3 Nov (D&M Dunakin) and in *Washington* 10 Nov (J. Zickefoose).

Chipping sparrow: Forty-five lingered at **Dike 14** in **Cleveland** 29 Oct (S. Zadar), and one as late as 6 Nov at the **Shaker Lks** (V. Fazio).



Connecticut warbler in dense underbrush on **Dike 14** in **Cleveland** 18 Sept. Photo by Craig Rieker.



Banding operations turned up this first-winter clay-colored sparrow in *Ross* Co. 11 October. Photo by Kelly Sieg.

Clay-colored sparrow: Five reported, the first in *Logan* 1 Oct (T. Shively), the last 25 Oct at **BCSP** (J. Kuenzli).

Field sparrow: Fifteen were banded during three hours in *Ross* 1 Oct (K. Sieg); L. Rosche counted ten at **HBSP** 12 Oct.

Vesper sparrow: A last migrant was seen in *Butler* 7 Nov (M. Busam).

Lark sparrow: Last noticed in the **Oak Openings MP** breeding grounds 23 Aug (E. Tramer). Apparent migrants included a juv netted n. of *Chillicothe* 4 Aug (D. Hess) and one totally unexpected at the **Shaker Lks** 10 Sep (C. Distel).

Savannah sparrow: Big numbers included 80+ in one *Wyandot* field 5 Sep (R. Counts), 100+ in *Hancock* 22 Sep (Counts), 40 on 5 Oct in *Tuscarawas* (E. Schlabach), and 25 at **Dike 14** in **Cleveland** on 23 Oct (S. Zadar).

Henslow's sparrow: R. Counts found eight singing males in a *Wyandot* field 7 Aug, then 15 on 14 Aug. The **VOA** site in *Butler* produced six on 9 Aug (M. Busam).

Le Conte's sparrow: Always maddeningly hard to detect, one was well seen at **Arcola Ck** estuary in *Lake* 6 Oct (J. Pogacnik), and another was spied at **Dike 14** in **Cleveland** 24 Oct (S&R Harlan).



Nelson's sharp-tailed sparrow banded at **Miami Whitewater Wetlands** (Hamilton Co.) 9 October. Photo by Dave Russell.

Nelson's Sharp-tailed sparrow: Four were well seen by a group in *Darke* 25 Sep (S. Miller). D. Russell photographed one captured for banding at **MWW** 9 Oct, and another was there 15 Oct (J. Kuenzli). At least two crept through the vegetation at **Conneaut** 3 Oct (J. Pogacnik), and the same observer detected three at **Arcola Ck** on the 6th. Three were reported from a wet field in *Tuscarawas* 5 Oct (E. Schlabach) with one remaining 12 Oct, for a first county record and apparently also a first for unglaciated Ohio.

Fox sparrow: High count was seven, at **Alum Ck** 8 Nov (R. Thorn). One was at **NCR** 20 Nov (K. Metcalf), and another stayed through the eop in *Lucas* (E. Tramer).

Lincoln's sparrow: First seen in *Paulding* 25 Sep (M&D Dunakin), a surprising 19 were banded from

a single field in *Ross* 1 Oct (K. Sieg), with 10 counted at **Gilmore Ponds** 3 Oct (M. Busam) and 14 at **Dike 14** the 23rd (S. Zadar).

Swamp sparrow: M. Busam reported 100+ at **Gilmore Ponds** in *Butler* 23 Oct.

White-throated sparrow: One seen 30 Aug at **LSR** (J. Pogacnik) could have bred locally, for the next reports came from **Granville** 29 Sep (S. Woolard) and 30 Sep at **Alum Ck** (B. Shively). The 3 Oct ONWR census tallied 140.

Harris's sparrow: One reported from **Spring Grove Cemetery** in *Cincinnati* 28 Nov was not refund. Details to the OBRC.

White-crowned sparrow: First reported at **NCR** 24 Sep (K. Metcalf), the high count was 400+ at **Dike 14** on 12 Oct, deemed a "poor showing" by local guru S. Zadar.

Dark-eyed junco: K. McDonald reported the first, near **Cincinnati** on 29 Sep. At **Dike 14** and adjacent **Gordon Pk** in **Cleveland** ~800 were around on 26 Oct (S. Zadar).

Lapland longspur: One had arrived for the 3 Oct ONWR census, but more interesting were seven as far east as **HBSP** 12 Oct (L. Rosche). High count 200+ in *Wyandot* 12 Nov (R. Counts).

Snow bunting: First noted at the old Coliseum site in *Summit* was a single bird 19 Oct (C. Roberts); by 29 Oct 100+ could be found in *Defiance* (J. Yochum) and widespread thereafter. Two reached southern Ohio at **EFSP** on 29 Nov (M. Wessel), and the species showed up with purple finches and pine siskins as far south as Florida this year.

Rose-breasted grosbeak: Twelve were at Spring Grove Cem in *Cincinnati* 18 Sep (N. Cade), and reports came in of birds in *Washington* on 10 Nov (J. Zickefoose) and in *Clermont* on 14 Nov (M. Wessel).

Blue grosbeak: A group of three was in the *Chillicothe* area 4 Aug (D. Hess), one at **Prairie Oaks MP** 7 Aug (N. Cade), two in *Clermont* on 9 Aug (B. Stanley), and a female in *Sugarcreek*, *Tuscarawas* 14 Aug (E. Schlabach) through 30 Aug (R. Schlabach, *vide* E. Schlabach).

Dickcissel: Seven appeared for the 1 Aug ONWR census, and an errant bird touched down at **HBSP** 23 Oct (L. Rosche)

Bobolink: R. Counts's surveys revealed breeding successes at CRP lands, with 200+ in **Jackson Twp** in *Hardin* 7 Aug, a majority juveniles or adults already in molt, and 120 (60% hatch-year birds) in *Wyandot* on 16 Aug, where he estimated 100% breeding success among 25-30 territorial males. M. Busam

monitored birds at the **VOA site** in **Butler**, finding 200-300 there 9 Aug. E. Schlabach had a site in **Holmes** with 210 on 29 Aug and another with ~1600 on 5 Sep; at another **Holmes** site, J. Miller had 233 on 6 Sep. How well they do when we don't mow early.....

Yellow-headed blackbird: One report: a single male in a flock of ~2K blackbirds in SE **Pickaway** on 26 Oct (D.Horn).

Rusty blackbird: By all accounts this species is in a serious population decline, which may not be readily noticeable in Ohio. First report came from **NCR** on 30 Sep (K. Metcalf), and 70 were in **Columbiana** on 5 Nov (B&D Lane), then 1200+ in **Lucas/Ottawa** 30 Nov (V. Fazio).

Brewer's blackbird: T. Shively reported three from **Auglaize** 14 Oct.

Orchard oriole: B. Stanley found four juv in **Clermont** 9 Aug. E. Schlabach observed a group of 24 on 7 Aug in **Sugarcreek** in **Tuscarawas**; 20 remained on 14 Aug, then 11 on 21 Aug, and a single bird on 30 Aug.

Baltimore oriole: E. Tramer reported the following: "A flock of 30 was feeding with a large number of other birds in an oak grove in **Oak Openings Preserve** on August 16. This feeding aggregation included many bluebirds and waxwings, at least six Scarlet Tanagers and an Orchard Oriole, as well as chickadees, titmice and nuthatches. There must have been an insect outbreak at this spot; the heavy avian activity continued there through August 23."

Purple finch: Widely reported this season. Two were in song 30 Sep at **NCR** (K. Metcalf), four were in **Montgomery** 1 Oct (N. Smith), five in **Holmes** 26 Nov (E. Schlabach), and 15 at **MWW** 26 Nov (W. Wauligman), etc.

Red crossbill: No reports.

White-winged crossbill: One came to a **Logan** feeder 14 Oct (T. Shively), and an adult male did likewise near **Urbana** for a day on 15 Nov, *vide* J. Konst (ph).

Common redpoll: A few reports came from lakefront locales in Nov, with a high count of 10 in **e. Toledo** the 20th (G. Links).

Pine siskin: The first fall bird was reported by the 3 Oct **ONWR** census team. Many reports came later from across the state, with a high count of ~200 at **LSR** 14 Nov (J. Pogacnik). Generally fickle, though up to ten remained in nw **Coshocton** from the latter date for at least a month (L. Yoder).

American Goldfinch: Unusually abundant according to several observers. The **CVNP** survey produced 372 on 11 Sep, and J. Pogacnik had 1000+ at **LSR** 14 Nov.

Evening grosbeak: One report, seven at **LSR** in **Lake** 11 Nov (J. Pogacnik).

Contributors: We are indebted to the following individuals and organizations

who contributed data to the Reports: Matt Anderson, Wendell Argabrite, Hank Armstrong, Carole Babyak, Tom Bartlett, Cindy Beckman, Gregory Bennett, Joe Bens, Ned Bixler, Michael Bolton, Charlie Bombaci, Aaron Boone, Lisa & Terry Bradley, David Brinkman, Jeff Brown, Lori Brumbaugh, Jen Brumfield, Gina Buckey, Mike Busam, Greg Butcher, Neill Cade, Steve Cagan, Craig Caldwell, Chris Caprette, Kyle Carlsen, Paul Chad, Allen Chartier, Ann Chasar, Dwight Chasar, Jeff Climie, Delores Cole, Bob Conlon, Sam Corbo, Rick Counts, Colleen Cousino, Rich Cressman, Becky Cullen, Donna Daniel, Ken Davis, Julie Davis, Leo Deininger, Gary Dietz, Cheryl Dinkelbach, Fred Dinkelbach, Chris Distel, David Dister, Doug Dunakin, Micki Dunakin, John Edwards, Mike Egar, Dave English, Susan Evanoff, Jason Estep, Bob Evans, Ben Fambrough, Ginny Fantetti, Linda Fayerweather, Vic Fazio III, Bob Finkelstein, Bob Foppe, Frank Frick, Darlene Friedman, Jim Fry, Larry Gara, Lou Gardella, Paul Gardner, Louis Gaynor, Laura Gooch, Jeff Grabmeier, Darlena Graham, Dan Hadley, Joe Hammond, Betty Hardesty, Rob

Harlan, Sandy Harlan, Paul Haskins, Christine Hawley, Jeff Hays, Lana Hays, Stan Hedeem, Dave Hess, Jim Hickey, Rebecca Hinkle, Hank Hiris, Sally Hiris, Scott Hite, Dave Hochadel, Craig Holt, Dave Horn, William Hull, Bob Jackman, Bill Jackson, Shari Jackson, Scott Jennex, Rich Johnson, Bill Jones, Joe Kappa, Kim Kazmierski, Ned Keller, Tom Kemp, Jerry Klug, Kurt Knebusch, Joanne Konst, Dan Kramer, John Kuenzli, Ruth Lapp, Bob Lacker, Steve Landes, Bob & Denise Lane, Jason Larson, Dave LeGallee, Gabe Leidy, Jay Lehman, Tim Leslie, Greg Links, Fred Losi, Rob Lowry, Paula Lozano, Bernard Master, Jim McCarty, Jim McConnor, Jim McCormac, Patrick McCoy, Kathy McDonald, Eric McElroy, Maureen McEnery, Steve McNamee, Gary Meszaros, Kevin Metcalf, Bruce Miller, Greg Miller, Jeffrey A. Miller, Joe Miller, Kent Miller, Steve Miller, Mary Misplon, Kathy Mock, Ben Morrison, Donald Morse, Scott Myers, Rick Nirschl, Kathy Noblet, Ken Ostermiller, Bill Oberjohn, Doug Overacker, Michael Packer, David Patick, Lori Patterson, Sharon Pawlowski, John Perchalski, Haans Petruschke, Lester Peyton, Ken Phillips, Ed Pierce, Joseph Pimentel, Ed Pitts, Bob Placier, Don Plant, John Pogacnik, Bob Powell, Cathy Priebe, Scott Reeves, Frank Renfrow, Ruth Richards, Richard Rickard, Craig Rieker, Dave & Linda Riffle, Bill Rinehart, Bob Roach, Bryn Roberts, Carrie Roberts, Keith Robinson, Paul Rodewald, Marilyn Rohr, Mary Anne Romito, Tom Romito, Randel Rogers, Larry Rosche, Sue Ross, Bob Royse, Dave Russell, Dave St. John, Dan Sanders, Willie Sarno, Regina Schieltz, Ed Schlabach, Robert Schlabach, Ron Sempier, Andrew Sewell, Walt Shaffer, Paul Sherwood, Kathy Shipley, Bill Shively, Troy Shively, Kelly Sieg, Darlene Sillick, Tom Sisson, Bruce Simpson, Mark Skinner, Harry Slack, Nick Smith, Doug Snapp, Elaine Snively, Su Snyder, Brad Sparks, Pat Soehnen, Chris Spagnoli, Brad Sparks, Bill Stanley, Gene Stauffer, Jay Stenger, Alexander Stevens, Laura Stiefel, Steve Stockford, John Tharp, Rob Thorn, Elliot Tramer, Casey Tucker, Tom Uhlman, Manon Van Schoyk, Mark Vass, Jack & Janet Volker, Suzanne Wagner, Sam Walker, Chris Warren, Mary Warren, John Watts, Wayne Wauligman, Dan Weber, Mark Wessel, Bill Whan, Pete Whan, Paul Wharton, Jim White, Mary Jo White, Marcella Wise, Susan Woolard, Scott Wright, John Yochum, Leroy E. Yoder, Sheryl Young, Sean Zadar, Julie Zickefoose, Bill Zimmerman, Brian Zwiebel. We also gratefully acknowledge information received from the editors of *The Bobolink* and *The Cleveland Bird Calendar*, the staff of Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, ODNR's Divisions of Wildlife and Natural Areas and Preserves, the Black Swamp Bird Observatory, and internet resources managed by Chuck Anderson and Ned Keller. ▲

Further Afield

Robert Harlan

3361 Columbia Woods Drive, Apt. F, Norton, OH 44203

kiskadee96@hotmail.com

In the cinematic world, sequels are often held in low regard. This notion is based on the idea that even a successful sequel would be merely derivative of the original. Of course, this hasn't prevented *Superman IV* or *Rocky 5*; but perhaps this is why filmgoers have never been treated to potentially intriguing sequels such as *My Fair Lady Rides Again*, *The Sound of Music II: Revenge of the von Trapps*, and *Really Gone With the Wind This Time*, to name but a few. We are all the poorer without them.

But the same cannot be said about my most recent Further Afield column, which appeared in *The Ohio Cardinal* 27(4):152-157. Considering that the original column is already held in low regard, we therefore fear no repercussions and trust that a sequel or follow-up column can only serve to clarify any questions brought up by the original.

If you will recall, the original column was presented as a short 25-question quiz, based on quotations gleaned from the text of my favorite Ohio bird book, Milton B. Trautman's classic *The Birds of Buckeye Lake, Ohio*, published back in 1940. I chose quotations that struck a chord with me based on their precision, their eloquence, and their historical value, and then asked my reader(s) to identify the 25 species in question, based on the limited data presented in each quote, and upon their logical assessment of the three choices offered for each. This follow-up column will attempt to examine *why* the correct answer was the best option for each question, and how the incorrect species could have been safely ruled out. Make sense? Assuming your answer is 'no,' your best option now would be to locate your copy of the Summer 2004 issue on your Official *Ohio Cardinal* Shelving Unit and TV Stand, and follow along eagerly as we proceed.

Welcome back. In the original column, we asked readers to "determine the correct species through your knowledge of behavior, timing, abundance, and distribution. Some options are straightforward, others may require a bit of thought or puzzlement, while others are just stupid." In addition to a basic understanding of a given species' food and habitat preferences, one of the simplest tools to help separate the straightforward from the stupid is the May 2004 edition of the *Ohio Bird Records Committee Checklist of the Birds of Ohio*, by Dave Dister, Joe Hammond, Rob Harlan (hey, imagine that), Bernie Master, and Bill Whan. The bar graphs help to define the timing of migrations and relative abundances of Ohio bird species as is currently understood; of course, patterns typical of the 1920s and 1930s, when Trautman was gathering his data, may be slightly, or sometimes dramatically, different from today. Most will be pretty close. But rather than repeating the quotations used in the original quiz, I will save space by abbreviating Trautman's thoughts (marked as MBT), and place them in italics. Let us begin with Question Number One:

1. *MBT describes a dainty swimming bird that was not a habitual fish eater. It would produce diminutive quacks on Indian summer afternoons.* Choose from: A. Bufflehead, B. Green-winged teal, or C. Common moorhen. Of the three choices, only the teal is much of a quacker. While buffleheads prefer to dine on invertebrates and fish, both the teal and the moorhen favor aquatic vegetation and invertebrates over fish. The Indian summer timing seems to better fit the teal, as moorhens have generally departed by early October. Green-winged teal is correct.

2. *MBT describes the most numerous nesting heron, with 40-90 pairs nesting annually in the local cattail marshes.* Choose from: A. Least bittern, B. Great blue heron, or C. Green heron. Today, we consider great blue and green herons to be much more common than least bitterns. However, since great blues are colonial tree nesters, and greens generally nest in brushy wetland margins, neither seems likely to be the correct choice. Only the bittern is a true cattail nester; here is an example of the drastic reduction in marsh nesting birds from the 1930s to today. Least bittern is correct.

3. *MBT indicates that occasionally during winter ice storms, the tails of this species would freeze to the top rail of a fence. Once, he witnessed 11 tails left behind as the birds were flushed.* Choose from: A. Mourning dove, B. Common grackle, or C. Brown creeper. Brown creeper is one of those stupid choices alluded to earlier; not only do they have fairly short tails, they very seldom congregate in flocks of 11 atop fence rails. The dove and the grackle are better options, but only the dove is particularly known for ice-induced tails of woe. Mourning dove is correct.

4. *MBT notes 32 of these tiny birds migrating low over Buckeye Lake in the span of two hours on 1 September 1931.* Choose from: A. Brown creeper, B. Ruby-throated hummingbird, or C. Golden-crowned kinglet. All three options are in fact tiny birds, and are migrants as well. But on this date the creeper and the kinglet would not yet have arrived in any numbers, and would be very rare at best. The hummingbird, however, would still be a common migrant in early September. Ruby-throated hummingbird is correct.

5. *MBT reports that a survey of Onion Island on 9 June 1928 discovered 35 nests, only five of which contained eggs or young, the remainder being dummy nests. The nests were of the customary globular shape.* Choose from: A. Baltimore oriole, B. Sedge wren, or C. Marsh wren. Baltimore oriole does indeed construct a fairly globby nest, but orioles are not known for creating dummy or false nests. Some wren species are, however, notorious for this behavior, although marsh wren seems more inclined to this activity than does sedge wren. Also, the fact that 35 nests were found on a single day certainly favors marsh wren over the generally rare sedge variety. Marsh wren is correct.

6. *MBT tracks the most remarkable change in status of any bird during his study, erupting from 0 in 1922, to 8000 in a day in 1929, to 132,300 birds in one roost in 1935.* Choose from: A. Brown-headed cowbird, B. House sparrow, or C. European starling. All three choices seem reasonable, as all are known for their exponential increases over the years. However, the native cowbird and introduced exotic house

sparrow were already common throughout Ohio by 1922. Conversely, the exotic starling was first noted in Ohio in 1916, with the first nesting observed in 1920. Numbers quickly mushroomed, and to this day they are still on the abundant side. European starling is correct, if vulgar.

7. *MBT meticulously describes the stomach contents of a bird collected on 11 November 1933. It contained mostly duckweed plants and smartweed seeds.* Choose from: A. Northern shoveler, B. Common goldeneye, or C. Hooded merganser. The timing seems suitable for all three; also, as duckweed and smartweed are both wetland plants, any species of waterfowl may seem reasonable at first glance. The merganser, however, is very strongly piscivorous, and the goldeneye also strongly prefers a meaty diet over salad greens. Shovelers are indeed fond of invertebrates, but they also love a good salad, especially a splendid duckweed salad, topped with savory vinaigrette dressing, and with a frosted glass of skim milk on the side. Northern shoveler is correct, if snooty.

8. *MBT recalls the beloved 'partridge,' which had become only a fond memory of the older men by the time of his study.* Choose from: A. Ruffed grouse, B. Greater prairie-chicken, or C. Gray partridge. Choice B seems a likely candidate; however this species was essentially a bird of the remnant prairie openings in northwestern and west-central Ohio, not the Buckeye Lake region of east-central Ohio. The exotic gray partridge was still being introduced into Ohio during Trautman's study in the 1920s and 1930s, leaving only ruffed grouse as a viable alternative. Habitat destruction and hunting pressures helped to eliminate the local grouse population by about 1900, making ruffed grouse the correct choice.

9. *MBT tallies 77 individuals of this heron on 9 August 1930.* Choose from: A. Cattle egret, B. Little blue heron, or C. Yellow-crowned night-heron. On the surface, none of the choices seem plausible. Cattle egret was not even discovered in Ohio until 1958, which makes 77 of them in 1930 exceedingly unlikely. Today we recognize little blue heron as a rare species, but the yellow-crowned was presumably just as much a skulker and a loner in 1930 as it is today. It hardly seems reasonable that 77 yellow-crowns would allow themselves to be tallied in a single day; this then brings us back to the little blue heron. Although it may now be hard to conceive, during Trautman's study this species was often a common late summer invader from the south. Astonishingly, the 1930 invasion accounted for no fewer than 1185 individuals being tallied from across the state. Little blue heron is correct, if astonishing.

10. *MBT describes the 'wild, free scream' of this hawk as they established their nesting territories in early March.* Choose from: A. Red-shouldered hawk, B. Broad-winged hawk, or C. Chimney swift. It should be apparent that chimney swift is a remarkably poor choice, since it is not a hawk, it does not produce a wild, free scream, and it is still cavorting about the Amazon Basin in March. The other two options are at least hawks, and although both could be said to scream, I'd call the broad-winged's vocalization more of a wild, free whistle than a wild, free scream. Also, since broad-wingeds don't arrive in Ohio in any numbers until mid-April, this clinches red-shouldered hawk as the correct answer.

11. *MBT reports that over 50 pairs of this species nested annually between 1922 and 1930, with nests found in a wide variety of habitats ranging from marshes, buttonbush swamps, wet prairies, and edges of marshy pools in swamp forests.* Choose from: A. Red-winged blackbird, B. Common yellowthroat, or C. King rail. The variety of habitats appears suitable for the wide-ranging blackbird and yellowthroat, but 50 pairs spread over 44 square miles of the Buckeye Lake area seems far too small a number for these very common species. But king rail—in these numbers and with this range of nesting habitats? Amazingly, king rail is correct. Today, five pairs statewide would be considered a banner year.

12. *MBT recounts that until 1900 this species was considered a game bird and was often used in the making of potpies.* Choose from: A. Northern flicker, B. Red-winged blackbird, or C. Black vulture. Ah, vulture pie. Let's quickly rule out that choice, except, perhaps, after a sumptuous meal of skunk flambé and a fine radish wine. More tastefully, you will recall the nursery rhyme "Sing a Song of Sixpence," in which four and twenty blackbirds were baked in a pie. But this was a British tale, and the blackbirds were the common blackbird *Turdus merula*, a European member of the thrush family. They made a fine flicker pie at Buckeye Lake, at least back when the yellowhammer was considered a worthy opponent for area sportsmen.

13. *MBT collects an unusual gull on 7 November 1925, after strong northeasterly gales. It provided Ohio's first specimen of the species.* Choose from: A. California gull, B. Mew gull, or C. Black-legged kittiwake. Assuming that the northeasterly gales influenced the presence of this bird, we can presumably eliminate California gull, a species of western North America. The North American race of the mew gull *Larus canus brachyrhynchus* is also primarily a western species, although there is a slim chance that one of the European races, known as common gull, could also appear here. In Ohio, black-legged kittiwakes are often associated with strong northeasterly winds, and are presumably brought down to us from points to the north and east. Any of these tenuous suppositions can quickly be set aside, however, when we consider that Ohio's first verifiable sighting of California gull wasn't made until 1979, and that our first mew gull wasn't recorded until 1981, some 55 years after Trautman collected his black-legged kittiwake.

14. *MBT tells of an abundant nesting species, found especially in lowlands and along the lakeshore. On 12 June 1928, he censused 218 singing males along one mile of shore; the birds sang a slowly drawled 'sweet-cheeuu.'* Choose from: A. Acadian flycatcher, B. Alder flycatcher, or C. Willow flycatcher. Think "habitat," and think "song." Acadian flycatcher is a bird of mature forests, not typically found in brushy lakeshore lowlands. Its explosive *peet-sa* song also helps to eliminate it from competition. Both alder and willow flycatchers, however, favor wet scrubby areas. The alder often prefers slightly wetter habitats in Ohio than does the willow, but this is only a general rule. The song of the alder, frequently described as *fee-bee-o*, consists of three syllables, while the song of the willow, a snappy *fitz-bew*, seems to better fit Trautman's description of the song. Nesting willows are also much more common in Ohio than alders; 218 in only one mile effectively eliminates Alder, and boggles the mind. Willow flycatcher is correct.

15. *MBT tells of a migrant more common between 18 September and 25 October than at any other time of the year. Daily, 50-500 could be found, primarily in close-cropped fields. Choose from: A. Vesper sparrow, B. Horned lark, or C. Lapland longspur. This one is tricky. First, the habitat seems suitable for all three options. We can eliminate the longspur, however, since it typically doesn't arrive here in peak numbers until mid-November. Based on current status, the best choice would seem to be the lark, since only a relative few vespers are noted as fall migrants today. Our nesting race of horned lark *Eremophila alpestris praticola* is indeed moving in numbers within this time frame, although we seldom pay them much attention. Believe it or not, the correct answer is actually vesper sparrow, which has certainly declined drastically since Trautman's day. Habitat alterations, including the move to "cleaner" farming practices, have undoubtedly played a major role in this decline.*

16. *MBT relates that he did not find this species at all from 1922-25, but then discovered it to be a rare but regular, if secretive, transient and nester, especially from 1930-33. He attributed this not to an increase in the species, but to his newly acquired knowledge of its song and habits. Choose from: A. Lark sparrow, B. Le Conte's sparrow, or C. Henslow's sparrow. This one is fairly straightforward. Le Conte's sparrow has never been known to nest in Ohio. Lark sparrows, although rare transients and nesters, are anything but secretive. The furtive Henslow's sparrow is the correct answer; its skulking habits and insect-like song have undoubtedly caused many a birder to overlook its presence over the years.*

17. *MBT describes the familiar nocturnal flight calls of fall migrants of this species, which could be heard almost nightly by early July. Only occasional migrants could be heard after 10 September. Choose from: A. Yellow warbler, B. Lesser yellowlegs, or C. Yellow-rumped warbler. Choices A and B are both known as early fall migrants, but yellow-rumped warbler does not usually begin to reach peak numbers here until late September. While both yellow warbler and lesser yellowlegs are moving by early July, the warbler also ends its flights over Ohio quickly, with the vast majority having passed through by late August and early September. Good numbers of lesser yellowlegs are normally present through mid-October. Yellow warbler is correct.*

18. *MBT describes the feeding and display habits of a raptor, in which the male flew over a nest and dropped a prey item. The female then rose from the nest, turned on her back, and caught the prey in midair. Choose from: A. Cooper's hawk, B. Northern harrier, or C. American kestrel. This behavior is a small portion of the classic display of the northern harrier. As Ohio's nesting harriers have declined to a precious few, we now only rarely have the opportunity to witness this spectacle. Northern harrier is correct.*

19. *MBT describes another fall migrant, this one peaking in late September and early October. When he persistently worked the dense marsh vegetation, he found 25-37 individuals, although he believed 100-200 to be present. Choose from: A. Pied-billed grebe, B. Sora, or C. American bittern. The timing seems reasonable for all three choices, but Trautman's wording that he "worked" the dense marsh vegetation*

suggests that he was actually amidst the vegetation, rather than just scanning the open water or watery edges. This seems to eliminate the grebe, but both the sora and the bittern would favor the cover of the vegetation. If we base our decision on today's abundances, the uncommon sora would seem the better choice, as the bittern is now decidedly rare. However, the correct answer is American bittern. I recognize that there really is no good way to make this distinction, but I included the question, along with several other similar examples, to illustrate dramatic historical changes. For most of our marsh birds, that would represent a dramatic change for the worse.

20. *MBT pinpoints the many field marks he used to identify this fall shorebird. These include the preference for deeper water than many of its kin, their slightly down-curved bills, and the presence of chestnut-red feathering on their shoulders, back, and wings. Choose from: A. Dunlin, B. Baird's sandpiper, or C. Western sandpiper. We can eliminate the Baird's due to its preference for the drier portions of mudflats. Both dunlin and western have downwardly curving bills, but most fall migrant dunlins seen in Ohio have very plain gray backs and wings. Western sandpiper fits the bill. Although still rare, and still a difficult ID, Trautman accurately described the many field marks of the western sandpiper, and in great detail, back in 1940.*

21. *MBT portrays a spring migrant which arrived in late March and peaked in mid- to late-April, with as many as 15 seen in a day. They preferred osage-orange hedges and brushy pastures. Choose from: A. American woodcock, B. Loggerhead shrike, or C. Bewick's wren. Another toughie. Since the species in question arrives in late March, that seems a bit too late for the woodcock, which often arrives in late February or early March. However, the timing is appropriate for both the shrike and the wren; at least it was back when we had populations of both large enough to allow us to detect migrational patterns. Loggerhead shrike is correct, with their notable preference for osage-orange being the best clue provided.*

22. *MBT relates how his imitation of an Eastern screech-owl whistle could draw out many sparrows from brushy tangles and weedy fields. Once accomplished, the species in question would perch in the open with crest elevated; as many as 42 were found in a day. Choose from: A. Lincoln's sparrow, B. White-throated sparrow, or C. Grasshopper sparrow. Lincoln's sparrow is a notorious crest-raiser, and is therefore among the most furious appearing of all sparrows. Migrant grasshopper sparrows don't usually accumulate in numbers in Ohio, and they also sport a very flat-headed look. White-throateds are certainly flockers, and certainly respond vigorously to a screech-owl whistle, but they also aren't especially known for raising their crown feathers. Moreover, a maximum of 42 seems too few for this very common species. Lincoln's sparrow is correct.*

23. *MBT describes the loud, persistent song of this secretive late May migrant as 'chip-a-dilly, chip-a-dilly, chip-a-dilly, quoit'. Choose from: A. Mourning warbler, B. Connecticut warbler, or C. Belted kingfisher. You'd be very wrong if you chose belted kingfisher, and you know it. Choices A and B, however, are both late May migrants, and both are secretive. Their songs are different though; the mourning's*

song, which for some reason is frequently heard as background music in television commercials, is often described as a burry *churry*, *churry*, *churry*, *chorry*, *chorry*. The song of the Connecticut sounds more like a loud, ringing *chip-a-dilly*, *chip-a-dilly*, *chip-a-dilly*, *quoit*. Can you tell that I enjoy typing *chip-a-dilly*, *chip-a-dilly*, *chip-a-dilly*, *quoit*? Well, I do. Perhaps too much. Connecticut warbler is correct.

24. *MBT witnesses a peculiar performance on 31 October 1925, when two whitish birds on a brown mudflat noticed a Cooper's Hawk overhead. The whitish birds ran to a small patch of snow and remained motionless until the hawk had passed. Choose from: A. Piping plover, B. Sanderling, or C. American white pelican. If you chose the pelican, you probably also chose kingfisher for the previous question. The plover and sanderling are better choices, but most individuals of the rare piping plover would have already passed through between mid-July and mid-September. October 31 would be extremely late for the plover, but only marginally late for sanderling. Sanderling is correct.*

25. *MBT describes the fall nocturnal flight calls of another species, which peaked in August. He found the 'puttie-putt-putt' notes of the southbound migrants as pleasing as the prolonged whistles of the species in spring. Choose from: A. Eastern meadowlark, B. Swainson's thrush, or C. Upland sandpiper. We may not all find puttie-putt-putt sounds pleasing, but that is not the point. Instead, here is yet another case of a formerly common bird that has become quite rare today. Upland sandpiper is correct; neither the meadowlark nor the thrush produces the described vocalizations, and the August migrational peak is also inappropriate for both, with the meadowlark peaking in October, and the thrush in September. We need more upland sandpipers—what a great bird.*

That's all I can stand. I hope this clears up any lingering questions concerning the original column. If not, let me know. And you really should try and track down Trautman's *The Birds of Buckeye Lake, Ohio*, published in 1940 by the University of Michigan Press. It's worth the effort, and as you can tell, Milt writes better than I. Much better. ✎

Early Ohio Ornithologists: John Maynard Wheaton, 1840-1887

Robert C. Glotzhober

Curator, Natural History, Ohio Historical Society
1982 Velma Ave., Columbus, OH 43221
bglotzhober@ohiohistory.org

A number of years ago, as a fledgling employee of the Ohio Historical Society I was examining some of our bird study skins. While the OHS natural history collections are small compared to some other collections in Ohio, there are some interesting items among the 2300 or so bird specimens we maintain. As I went from drawer to drawer, I came upon one that held a sheet of metal, roughly 18 x 24 inches. One side was painted black, edged narrowly in gold, with gold letters reading "Doctor Wheaton." It was obviously quite old and well worn. As I looked further, I noticed a number of the oldest specimens in our bird collection carried an extra label: "Wheaton Collection." I have since learned that OHS has 100 birds from the Wheaton Collection in our facility, and has placed another 500 on long-term loan to The Ohio State University. In those early days, as a novice Ohioan I had no idea who this man was, but the doctor's shingle and two folding insect nets tucked into a cabinet of bird specimens captured my curiosity. I have found out over the years that Wheaton was a truly fascinating man. He was one of Ohio's premier nineteenth-century students of ornithology. Among the dozen or so works Wheaton published on birds, he is best known for his 1860 *Catalogue of the Birds of Ohio*, and his updated 1882 *Report of the Birds of Ohio*. But that is just the start of a look at his life and influence.

Wheaton was born in Columbus, Ohio on 18 May 1840. Even early in his youth he had a strong interest in birds as well as other animals. His father having died while he was quite young, his mother often had to reprimand him for not finishing work he had promised, instead spending his time in the woods.

Upon completing public schooling in Columbus in 1857, J. M. Wheaton entered Denison University in Granville. Denison had no gymnasium, but he got plenty of exercise from long walks in the countryside. Frequently he returned from such walks with insect or bird specimens collected along the way. In 1860 Wheaton graduated from Denison, and then joined the Starling Medical College, the forerunner of the University Hospitals at The Ohio State University.

Upon completing his studies at the medical college, Wheaton enlisted on 4 March 1865 at Camp Chase in Columbus as assistant surgeon to the 188th Ohio Volunteer Infantry to serve in the Civil War. At least one biographer suggests he was tempted to enlist earlier, but felt he would be more useful as a surgeon than a regular soldier. Wheaton's tenure in the military was short. Lee's surrender at Appomattox was just over a month away. He was mustered out on 21 September 1865, having served less than seven months.

After the war, Wheaton returned home and set up medical practice in his parents' home on the northeast corner of Fourth and Oak Streets in Columbus. I found it interesting that he was born, raised, conducted his medical practice, stored his natural history specimens, and finally died all in the same house. His mother continued to live

there with him and his wife and son until her death in 1884. The house has long since been eradicated by modern downtown businesses such as the City Center Mall.

Wheaton soon joined the staff of the Starling Medical College as a “demonstrator of anatomy.” In 1867 he was promoted to professor of anatomy. He maintained his private practice in his home while on the staff at Starling. In 1876 he married Lida Daniels, and three years later she gave birth to their only child, Robert J. Wheaton. He continued his medical practice, his teaching, and his natural history studies until his death from tuberculosis on 28 January 1887, just a few months short of his 47th birthday.

When Wheaton returned from the Civil War to set up medical practice in his home, some space had to be renovated to accommodate his practice. When it was set up the way he wanted, one room was reserved for bird cases and a second room for butterflies, beetles, snakes, and other natural history objects. Osman C. Hooper, reminiscing about Wheaton some twenty years after his death, recalled the following:

Dr. Wheaton's private office was a museum, in which at night he often worked late. Sometimes he slept in that back room, after hours of study, with living birds or reptiles as his companions. It is related of him that one night, while sleeping on the office couch, he was awakened by an extraordinary pressure on the bedclothes. Wondering what was the cause of it, he suddenly remembered a box of venomous snakes that had arrived that day from the West. While he slept, the reptiles had escaped and one of them had coiled itself upon him. It was an anxious moment, but he was equal to the emergency. Hastily throwing the covers over the snake upon him, he leaped to the middle of the floor and escaped to the adjoining room. There he secured a light and, returning, captured the snakes and restored them to their box . . .

I have not found much else about Wheaton's interest in reptiles and insects. They were obviously at least secondary to his work with birds. Still, in the collection of the Ohio Historical Society we have not only many of his bird skins, but also two insect nets that he used during his life. When his son donated the bird specimens and other objects a few years after his father's death, Robert commented that he and his mother still retained a butterfly collection at their home. The whereabouts of this collection is unknown.

Wheaton's fascination with insects was carried into his publication in 1875 on the food of birds as related to agriculture. In this paper he not only mentions insects as a source of food for birds, but also notes how many of them also eat other insects. He comments that in fact these “beneficial” insects probably eat more “injurious” insects than birds, so that “the destruction of insects by birds sinks into comparative insignificance.” He further notes with regret that while the state legislators “have shown sufficient zeal in protecting birds” that they needed to set up a State Entomologist, as other states had done by that time.

Wheaton's 1860 *Catalogue of the Birds of Ohio* was published in the same year as his graduation from Denison. This was no small work, and in it he expanded the 222 species of birds from Kirtland's 1838 list with 63 additional records for Ohio. Twenty years later his updated *Report* added only another 13 species.

Despite the obvious effort and attention to detail reflected in the 1860 *Catalogue*, there are some comments that puzzle us today. One wonders if some of these reflect his youthful 20 years, or merely the general attitude of the day. Within the *Catalogue* he comments on the game laws recently (1857) enacted by the Ohio Legislature. These were the first significant game laws in Ohio — preceded only by various wolf bounties,

the famous squirrel scalp tax of 1807 and an 1829 act to prohibit trapping of muskrats between May and October. There was no agency in charge of these laws until 1873; the first part-time wardens started in 1886, and the first full-time wardens not until 1901. Nevertheless, the 1857 laws offered what was then considered sweeping protection for numerous game and non-game animals. Wheaton commented on potential additions to these protections.

The yellow-hammer or flicker may be included and receive protection though its eatable qualities certainly do not rank very high . . . The meadow-lark . . . though not strictly a game bird, is yet quite eatable. The passenger pigeon needs no protection.

The 1882 *Report on the Birds of Ohio* not only added species newly discovered, but revised the nomenclature to reflect current work by national experts, and expanded information on the life history of the birds — based mostly on his own field observations. Elliot Coues, C. Hart Merriam and other nationally known ornithologists praised Wheaton's report for both his thoroughness and the quality of his writing.

Wheaton was one of the founders of the American Ornithologists' Union. In addition to his accomplishments as an ornithologist, he was an esteemed physician and teacher and a dedicated and active member of his church. His influence has carried on after his death, and not just for the important publications on birds and the specimens he left behind. In central Ohio today one of the most noted organizations for both amateur and professional naturalists is the Wheaton Club, named in his honor. The constitution of this club, voted on at its first meeting on 14 February 1922, says that the “object of this club shall be to provide a means for the interchange of ideas among those interested in ornithology and related branches of natural history.” Dues at that time were \$1.00 a year. Ten members were recorded as present at that first meeting, including prominent names in the natural history of Ohio as James Hine, James Hambleton, Robert Gordon, C.F. Walker and Edward S. Thomas. By March, Milton Trautman had also become a member. The Club continues to this day to promote the study of natural history. It serves as a fitting tribute to one of Ohio's noteworthy ornithologists.

Selected Bibliography

- Hooper, Osman C. (no date – c. 1911) An Ohio Ornithologist. *The Honey Jar* 17(2): 16-22.
- Taylor, Mrs. H. J. 1937. John Maynard Wheaton. *Wilson Bulletin* 49(4):276-282.
- Wheaton Club Records. 1921 – 1984. One cubic foot of manuscript papers. MSS851, Archives of the Ohio Historical Society.
- Wheaton, J.M. 1861. Catalogue of Birds of Ohio. *Ohio Agricultural Report for 1860* (1861), pp 359-380. Prepared with assistance of Messrs. John Kirkpatrick, R.K. Winslow, and Dr. J.P. Kirtland.
- Wheaton, J.M. 1882. Report on the Birds of Ohio. *Report of the Geological Survey of Ohio*. Vol IV, Part 1:189-628.
- Wheaton, John M. papers. 1871-1886. A small manuscript collection of about 1/4 cubic feet — most correspondence relating to the publication of his 1882 report. MSS741, Archives of the Ohio Historical Society. 🦋

Fifty Years of Spring Migration in Lorain County

Lynds Jones's Notes, 1896-1945

Bill Whan

223 E. Tulane Rd., Columbus, OH 43202

billwhan@columbus.rr.com

Lynds Jones (1865-1951) is among our eminent ornithologists. He founded the *Wilson Bulletin*, one of North America's leading ornithological journals, in 1888. At Oberlin College seven years later he became the first university instructor in ornithology in the United States. He later served as curator of Oberlin's zoological museum. Along with hundreds of articles about birds, he published in 1903 *The Birds of Ohio: A Revised Catalogue*, which he described as a revision of Wheaton's 1882 *Report on the Birds of Ohio*. Jones's catalogue formed the basis for *The Birds of Ohio*, a popular work published the same year by his student and colleague William Leon Dawson. To the latter work Jones contributed the introduction and an analytical key to the identification of Ohio's bird species. Jones and Dawson were tireless field observers, and started the first systematic "big days," traveling Lorain County by streetcar, rowboat, and on foot each spring to find birds, and challenging others to surpass their total numbers of species seen in a single day.

In the background of Jones's published work lay decades of field experience. He made Oberlin his home from 1890 until his death, during which time he kept copious records of bird observations made during innumerable field trips there and elsewhere in Lorain County. In many years records show he was out birding every day there from 1 January through 1 June. One hitherto unpublished distillation of his observations takes the form of 384 double binder pages covering the years 1896 through 1945, their contents arranged in a grid titled "Migration Record of [species name] at Oberlin, Ohio," on which are entered in a small neat hand migration dates, numbers, and comments for 194 Lorain County species. His records for spring migration in these pages are far more numerous than those for fall.

The careful accumulation of so many sightings in one locale by an authority on field identification of birds offers a very reliable picture of bird migration at this latitude in Ohio. It can form the basis for useful comparisons with the timing of migrations in the present day, providing insight, for example, into questions about whether and how much climate change and other factors may have altered migration schedules and the status of certain species over the past 50-100 years.

These dates should be widely applicable across Ohio for true migrants. Thus, while yellow-bellied sapsuckers winter sparingly in a number of spots in the state, the first real wave of migrant sapsuckers from the south occurs statewide over a brief period, and most spring migrants headed for Canada take only a few days to pass through Ohio. One important deviation from Jones's median dates for Lorain County will be most obvious in southern Ohio, among species that arrive much earlier there to breed—phoebes, gnatcatchers, some of the warblers, for example—and for these

species Jones's Lorain County median arrival dates may be weeks late, though his record early arrivals, probably representing overflights, may be much closer to normal southern Ohio arrivals.

Jones's compilation may be used in many ways, but for our purposes we present it in calendar form rather than taxonomic order. The first date in each entry is the median arrival date as calculated by Jones from 50 years of observations, and then in parenthesis follows the earliest date on which he found each species as a migrant between 1896 and 1945. A number of these species—eastern bluebird, song sparrow, red-winged blackbird, mourning dove, belted kingfisher, eastern towhee, common grackle, American robin, etc.—though they winter widely in Ohio today, were regarded as rare in Lorain County in winter by Jones in the early part of the study period. He apparently made an effort to record only migrants throughout. With his data presented as they are here, we can look forward day by day this coming spring, as an observer during the period 1896-1945 would have, to the most likely date on which each species will show up as a migrant at Lorain's latitude, and compare the extreme early dates on which each occurred there as recorded by Jones.

Not included are species—white-eyed vireo, lark sparrow, worm-eating warbler, etc.—Jones did not see frequently enough in Lorain County to provide comparable data. Some species now common—like double-crested cormorant or ring-billed gull—but very rare in Jones's day do not appear either. Also omitted are birds that wintered in Lorain County—such as siskins, tree sparrows, juncos—but could not easily be distinguished from migrants of these species from further south.

20 February: American crow (2/7/25)

22 February: American robin (2/7/25)

25 February: eastern bluebird (2/7/25)

26 February: song sparrow (2/8/25)

27 February: killdeer (2/8/25)

3 March: red-winged blackbird (2/12/38)

4 March: northern flicker (2/7/15), common grackle (2/6/45),
eastern meadowlark (2/7/19)

6 March: canvasback (2/17/00)

7 March: mourning dove (2/8/27)

8 March: Canada goose (2/8/27&38)

9 March: common merganser (2/22/06)

10 March: American wigeon (2/14/37), American black duck (2/13/38), redhead
(2/13/38)

11 March: mallard (2/13/38)

12 March: brown-headed cowbird (2/13/38)

14 March: rusty blackbird (2/12/38)

15 March: gadwall (2/16/41)

16 March: pintail (2/9/00), green-winged teal (2/16/41), eastern towhee (2/10/39)

20 March: lesser scaup (2/14/37), fox sparrow (3/3/23)

21 March: tundra swan (2/8/38), loggerhead shrike (3/2/19), turkey vulture

- (2/25/32), field sparrow (3/5/45)
 22 March: hooded merganser (3/1/06), American coot (3/4/45), eastern phoebe (3/8/21&36)
 23 March: bufflehead (3/4/39), northern shoveler (3/2/39), great blue heron (2/14/37)
 24 March: greater scaup
 25 March: ring-necked duck (2/16/41), red-breasted merganser (2/21/16), American woodcock (3/4/32), vesper sparrow (3/13/21)
 28 March: Wilson's snipe (3/3/21)
 31 March: pied-billed grebe (2/15/29)
 2 April: chipping sparrow (3/18/45)
 3 April: yellow-bellied sapsucker (3/5/35)
 4 April: blue-winged teal (3/3/25), pectoral sandpiper (3/1/04), hermit thrush (3/12/32)
 7 April: wood duck (3/8/42), ruddy duck (2/24/15), American bittern (3/15/25), purple martin (3/21/43)
 9 April: swamp sparrow (3/13/08)
 10 April: Bonaparte's gull
 11 April: common loon (3/19/97), black-crowned night-heron (3/18/43), tree swallow (3/14/04), upland sandpiper (3/22/04), ruby-crowned kinglet (3/15/45)
 12 April: barn swallow (3/29/42)
 13 April: greater yellowlegs (3/18/32), brown thrasher (3/21/35)
 16 April: Louisiana waterthrush (3/28/04), savannah sparrow (3/21/03), white-throated sparrow (3/14/28)
 18 April: osprey (4/5/34), spotted sandpiper (4/18/45), yellow-rumped warbler (3/16/45)
 19 April: chimney swift (3/19/45)
 20 April: common moorhen (3/30/00)
 21 April: lesser yellowlegs (3/18/99), house wren (3/15/45), grasshopper sparrow (4/4/28)
 22 April: bank swallow (4/6/02)
 23 April: green heron (4/6/13), American golden-plover (3/29/07), blue-gray gnatcatcher (3/29/07), Henslow's sparrow (4/10/15)
 24 April: yellow warbler (4/4/24), northern rough-winged swallow (4/8/29)
 25 April: gray catbird (4/13/38)
 27 April: red-headed woodpecker (4/10/31), marsh wren (4/21/01), bobolink (4/14/44&45)
 28 April: solitary sandpiper (4/8/45), black-and-white warbler (4/30/20), wood thrush (4/3/48), ovenbird (4/19/25)
 29 April: Caspian tern (4/17/38), black-throated green warbler (4/8/45), palm warbler (4/10/22), Baltimore oriole (4/4/43)

- 30 April: sora (4/11/08), Swainson's thrush (3/29/45), warbling vireo (4/17/96), cliff swallow (4/6/31)
 1 May: northern waterthrush (4/16/44), lark sparrow (4/5/42)
 2 May: common tern (4/7/23), Nashville warbler (4/17/35), blue-winged warbler (4/19/14&25), veery (4/3/30), blue-headed vireo (4/17/02), American redstart (4/7/39), white-crowned sparrow (4/12/42)
 3 May: great crested flycatcher (4/17/38), yellow-throated vireo (4/20/14), whip-poor-will (4/18/45)
 4 May: scarlet tanager (4/14/43)
 5 May: least flycatcher (4/11/03), American pipit (4/3/34), cerulean warbler (4/26/42), magnolia warbler (4/19/29), Blackburnian warbler (4/19/42), rose-breasted grosbeak (4/24/21&44)
 6 May: black-throated blue warbler (4/27/96&23), chestnut-sided warbler (4/30/33&42), sedge wren (4/26/25), indigo bunting (4/16/44)
 7 May: black tern (4/27/43), orchard oriole (4/25/96)
 8 May: eastern wood-pewee (4/26/15&42), orange-crowned warbler (4/19/42), golden-winged warbler (5/1/16)
 9 May: king rail (4/19/30), gray-cheeked thrush (4/26/44), pine warbler (4/17/42), yellow-breasted chat (4/25/45), Cape May warbler (4/27/14&25), hooded warbler (4/22/14)
 10 May: bay-breasted warbler (4/29/25), Tennessee warbler (4/30/42), Lincoln's sparrow (4/4/42), prothonotary warbler (4/27/13)
 11 May: least bittern (4/21/25), semipalmated plover (4/24/23), piping plover (4/1/34), ruby-throated hummingbird (4/17/17&38), yellow-billed cuckoo (4/26/15&25), prairie warbler [many Oberlin records] (4/28/99)
 12 May: least sandpiper (4/16/28), Acadian flycatcher (4/26/15), northern parula (4/28/23), Philadelphia vireo (4/23/38), sanderling (4/6/13)
 13 May: black-billed cuckoo (5/1/42), Canada warbler (4/28/96)
 14 May: Kentucky warbler (4/27/04).

Here the spring migration record ends. Median and early arrival dates for later migrants—such as among warblers mourning, Connecticut, Wilson's, and blackpoll—are missing, and one hopes they will someday be found. Other interesting Lorain County records in these papers involve a common redpoll 15 May 1929, a sanderling 10 June 1934, records of Kirtland's warbler 9-11 May 1900 and 9 May 1904 and 2 May 1906, 45 lark sparrows during the span, a Lapland longspur 19 May 1931, a second-hand report of trumpeter swan at Lorain 20 April 1891, 42 greater white-fronted geese 4 November 1907, and a short-eared owl 31 May 1932.

Acknowledgment

Students of Ohio's ornithological history owe a debt to E. & S. Wood of Oberlin, who rescued these and other valuable Jones papers from obscurity. Those from which this article is derived will be donated to the Oberlin Archives at Oberlin College, in whose care are many other Jones materials. ♣

Fourteen Years of Raptor Records for Ohio

By Lawrence E. Hicks

Among papers of Lawrence E. Hicks (1905-1957) preserved at Ohio State University's Museum of Biological Diversity is a single sheet presenting in tabular form the results

Year	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923
Total # of trips	47	49	51	68	64	81
Total # hrs observations	618	722	641	680	719	740
Total mileage on foot	276	281	308	421	406	492
Total mileage by auto	1120	2600	2910	3480	2840	3810
Turkey Vulture	461	896	691	1284	920	1230
Black Vulture	0	0	0	0	0	0
Goshawk	0	0	1	0	1	0
Sharp-shinned Hawk	8	7	3	4	9	11
Cooper Hawk	12	8	16	21	18	31
Red-tailed Hawk	18	12	21	16	28	36
Red-shouldered Hawk	9	11	14	11	10	18
Broad-winged Hawk	0	0	0	0	1	0
Rough-legged Hawk	2	0	1	0	3	1
Golden Eagle	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bald Eagle	1	0	1	0	1	0
Osprey	1	0	0	1	0	0
Duck Hawk	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pigeon Hawk	0	0	0	4	0	0
Sparrow Hawk	86	121	81	196	184	163
Barn Owl	8	12	6	17	18	21
Screech Owl	31	24	38	52	38	26
Great Horned Owl	18	19	28	36	21	43
Snowy Owl	1	0	0	0	0	0
Barred Owl	8	6	4	2	1	4
Long-eared Owl	1	0	0	1	0	1
Saw-whet Owl	0	0	0	0	0	1
Short-eared Owl	1	0	0	2	0	1
Marsh Hawk	31	26	18	34	21	61
TOTALS	697	1142	923	1679	1273	1648

of his yearly field observations of raptors as a youth from 1918 through 1931. The sheet is dated 26 March 1932. He says of the data it records that the "Field work has been done in each of the 88 counties during each of the last five years, in all, every township has been visited. Records before 1925 were limited to 20 to 40 counties each year." Fourteen years, over a hundred thousand miles traveled, every township in Ohio visited---it is a feat unlikely to be duplicated, and worth study even if only to compare what we know, or think we know, today. -Ed. ♣

1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	Totals
76	86	115	157	201	176	211	203	1575
920	864	525	1334	1095	1024	1690	1122	12694
460	511	454	866	1176	1370	1200	850	8071
4110	3740	1623	3525	10278	11670	26000	19000	96706
690	1821	826	1223	1211	1918	1426	1148	15745
0	0	24	21	3	38	6	19	111
1	0	6	1	1	3	0	1	15
8	6	7	13	12	12	12	15	127
89	46	22	34	45	30	27	43	442
49	47	19	36	176	31	57	92	538
38	16	20	23	43	12	9	29	263
1	0	1	1	3	0	2	2	11
1	1	4	2	1	1	3	5	26
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	1	1	2	4	6	9	37
1	2	1	20	2	1	4	2	35
0	0	1	0	1	0	1	2	5
3	0	1	2	2	3	0	18	33
214	171	101	203	470	965	415	472	3841
31	22	4	14	5	69	32	42	301
86	47	19	62	72	49	46	41	651
31	14	5	9	3	7	1	1	236
0	0	6	0	0	0	0	1	8
8	9	4	3	3	8	4	6	70
3	1	2	4	0	0	0	1	14
2	0	0	2	8	0	0	1	14
1	6	48	2	2	0	5	1	69
124	34	22	26	139	283	209	256	1284
1352	2237	1315	1698	2244	3434	2266	2207	23876

Swimming in the Black-crowned Night-Heron

Christopher A. Distel

2525 E. 127th St., Upper Suite, Cleveland OH 44120
eaglecd@hotmail.com

On 1 September 2004 at approximately 2000 hours, an adult black-crowned night-heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* was observed hunting from a low perch at Lower Shaker Lake in Shaker Heights, Cuyahoga County, Ohio. The heron was bent in typical hunting posture (Kushlan 1978, Sibley 2000) for several minutes, after which it crouched and then entered the water. The heron swam to ~3 m from shore with its head and neck positioned in a sigmoid, grebe-like fashion and then circled back, reassumed its position on the perch, and apparently continued to hunt. Observations continued for seven minutes, during which the bird did not move. Its entire time in the water lasted less than one minute. At no point did the bird appear distressed or disoriented, but appeared to make a deliberate decision to enter the water, swim for a short period, and return to its perch.

Black-crowned night-herons are known to swim (Davis 1993), but the accounts of this behavior are relatively few, and most accounts describe a bird alighting on the water from flight. In one of the first accounts of swimming, Wetmore (1920) reported a black-crowned night-heron alighting on water (six feet deep) to eat a floating, dead salamander (*Ambystoma* sp.). After seizing the carcass, the bird rested a moment and flew away. While this was Wetmore's only descriptive account of the behavior, he noted that black-crowned night-herons kept floating dead salamanders to a minimum. Hoffman (1941) reported a black-crowned night-heron flying from a sandy shore, alighting on the water, and swimming back to shore three times. The bird reassumed a relaxed posture on the shore, and appeared to have no particular motivation for the behavior. White (1947) documented three separate instances in which black-crowned night-herons floated on the surface of the water. One appeared to be resting, one had been displaced from a perch and was swimming to a new perch, and one appeared to be wetting its plumage for moisture in nest incubation. Of these behaviors, resting on the water is closest to what I observed at Lower Shaker Lake, although none of White's observations offer an exact description of what I observed. Allsopp & Allsopp (1965) also reported two instances of black-crowned night-herons alighting on calm water. One of the birds appeared to secure food.

In previous reports of black-crowned night-herons swimming, Kushlan (1978), Hancock & Kushlan (1984), and Martinez-Vilalta & Motis (1992) described "swimming feeding" as a foraging behavior in this species, but did not provide details about the behavior. Kushlan (1973) defined swimming feeding as striking at nearby prey while on the surface of the water. I did not observe the heron at Lower Shaker Lake capturing prey before swimming or consuming anything during

its time in the water. Swimming has been documented in other ardeid species. In a condensed summary of heron feeding behavior, Kushlan (1976) reported that the great egret *Ardea alba*, great blue heron *A. herodias*, tricolored heron *Egretta tricolor*, green heron *Butorides virescens*, and black-crowned night-heron will all swim to capture prey. Several modes of entering the water were described, including plunging, diving, feet-first diving, jumping, and wading. Kushlan (1976) noted that some herons may swim without feeding, but did not indicate which species. This most closely reflects my observations at Lower Shaker Lake. Kushlan (1976) also reported that some herons use their feet to agitate the substrate to dislodge prey, as documented in the snowy egret *Egretta thula*, reddish egret *E. rufescens*, tricolored heron, green heron, and little blue heron *E. caerulea*. In Meyerricks' extensive observations on herons' use of feet to dislodge prey (1959, 1966, 1971), he never documented such behavior in black-crowned night-herons. However, Meyerricks also never made mention of the yellow-crowned night-heron *Nyctanassa violacea*, indicating that he probably did not observe heron behavior after dark.

In conjunction with Kushlan's articles, Kelly et al. (2003) provide an updated summary of wading bird foraging behavior, describing plunging into the water after prey by the great egret, snowy egret, great blue heron, tricolored heron, green heron, and little blue heron, and diving in all but the great blue and little blue herons. Kelly et al. also add that great egrets use their feet to agitate the substrate. A. C. Bent (1926) documented both juvenal and adult green herons swimming by paddling their feet like anseriforms. A. R. Buckelew, Jr. (1993) documented a green heron swimming and diving in avoidance of an aerial predator (Cooper's hawk *Accipiter cooperi*). While swimming, the heron continuously watched the hawk until the hawk's departure.


During my observations at Lower Shaker Lake, no aerial predators were observed, and the heron did not seem distressed or watchful, so swimming was probably not a result of predator avoidance. It is possible that the heron described herein was agitating the substrate with its feet while swimming, although the actions of the feet were not observed. This possibility is reinforced by the heron's return to its perch and hunting posture. However, "foot stirring" by a swimming heron has not previously been documented.

Acknowledgments

I wish to thank Troy Emmons for his assistance in observation and characterization of the swimming behavior, Bill Whan for his helpful comments and suggestions throughout the preparation of this account, and Linda Birch of the Oxford University library for help in retrieving British publications.

Literature Cited

- Allsopp, E., and K. Allsopp. 1965. Night Herons Swimming. *British Birds* 58:297.
Bent, A. C. 1926. *Life Histories of North American Marsh Birds*. Smithsonian Inst.

- U.S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 135. Republished by Dover Publ. Inc., New York. 1963.
- Buckalew Jr., A. R. 1993. Green-backed heron swimming behavior. *Redstart* 60: 108.
- Davis, J. E., Jr. 1993. Black-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*). In *The Birds of North America*, No. 74 (A. Poole and F. Gill, Eds.). Philadelphia: The Academy of Natural Sciences; Washington, D.C.: The American Ornithologists' Union.
- Hancock, J. and J. Kushlan. 1984. *The Herons Handbook*. Harper & Row, New York.
- Hoffman, P. W. 1941. Black-crowned night heron swims. *Wilson Bulletin* 53:234.
- Kelly, J. F., D. E. Gawlik, and D. I. Kieckbusch. 2003. An updated account of wading bird foraging behavior. *Wilson Bulletin* 115(1):105-107.
- Kushlan, J. A. 1973. Black-crowned night heron diving for prey. *Florida Field Naturalist* 1:27-28.
- Kushlan, J. A. 1976. Feeding behavior of North American herons. *Auk* 93: 86-94.
- Kushlan, J. A. 1978. Feeding ecology of wading birds. Pp. 249-296 In Sprunt, A., Jr., J. C. Ogden, and S. Winckler (eds.). *Wading Birds*. National Audubon Society: New York.
- Martinez-Vilalta, A. and A. Motis. 1992. Family Ardeidae (herons). Pp. 376-429 In *Handbook of the Birds of the World*, Vol. 1: Ostriches to Ducks. (J. de Hoyo, A. Elliot, and J. Sargatal, Eds.). Lynx Edicions, Barcelona, Spain.
- Meyerriecks, A. J. 1959. Foot-stirring feeding behavior in herons. *Wilson Bulletin* 71: 153-158.
- Meyerriecks, A. J. 1966. Additional observations on "foot-stirring" feeding behavior in herons. *Auk* 83:471-471.
- Meyerriecks, A. J. 1971. Further observations on use of the feet by foraging herons. *Wilson Bulletin* 83:435-438.
- Sibley, D. A. 2000. *The Sibley Guide to Birds*. Knopf, New York.
- Wetmore, A. 1920. Observations on the habits of birds at Lake Burford, New Mexico. *Auk* 37:393-412.
- White, C. A. 1947. Night-heron alighting on water and swimming. *British Birds* 40: 314. 

A Parting Shot . . .



One of the regal Cleveland peregrines endures an earful from a highly perturbed mockingbird. It was unclear which candidate each was supporting. Chad and Chris Saladin snapped a picture of the exchange on 3 August 2004.