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

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

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

Seasonal Report Due Dates Winter (Dec.-Feb.)-March 25 Spring (Mar.-May)-June 25 Summer (June-July)-August 25 Autumn (Aug.-Nov.)-December 25	Please send all reports to: Bill Whan 223 E. Tulane Road Columbus, OH 43202 billwhan@columbus.rr.com
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On the Cover: An adult lesser black-backed gull in winter plumage, photographed in Cleveland on 5 Mar by John Pogacnik. The yellow legs do not show in this photo, but the heavy dark streaking around the head and the dark mantle, still noticeably lighter than the blacker exposed primaries, indicate this species.

Winter 2004-2005 Overview and Reports

Bill Whan

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Spring seemed so long delayed it was easy to forget that winter was warmer than average. Despite memorable storms, of ice or snow depending on the region, what is usually our coldest month was warmer than average by 3.7° in Cincinnati, 2.4° in Columbus, and 1.7° in Cleveland. January was also extraordinarily wet, with precipitation in Columbus 6.42, Cincinnati 3.68, and Cleveland 3.41 inches above normal. Flooding was widespread across the state. Earlier, December had been a bit drier than normal downstate, but was Cleveland's eighth wettest ever, with 4.47 inches of precipitation, and the snowiest in recorded history, with 35.1 inches. Winds there peaked at 62 mph on the 7th. February, though it too was markedly warmer than average (by 3.5° in Cincinnati, 2.0° in Columbus, and 2.5° in Cleveland), was a bit drier than normal, to the relief of many.

A warm wet winter supported stays by waterfowl. We had pretty good numbers of half-hardy species and odd lingerers, and snow and ice cover did not seem to kill many edge-of-range birds like Carolina wrens. Lake Erie did not freeze extensively until well into January, and until that time nearly half the sightings of scarcer gulls came from the Western Basin, whereupon near-shore concentrations of gulls and waterfowl became easy to study farther east well into March.

Ten or fifteen years ago, tundra swans were first confirmed as wintering in the NW Lake Erie marshes, but this year midwinter reports of more than the odd bird or two came from several other locales; sandhill cranes have a similar schedule, and this winter ~60 were seen in January and early February. Huge rafts of common mergansers overshadowed red-breasteds on Lake Erie for a while, and numbers of pintails and redheads leading the northbound hordes were very encouraging. Winter vulture roosts continued to prosper. Merlins kept finding new urban cemeteries for wintering grounds, and one wonders if a pair might nest in time to come. With a handful of exceptions, only large gulls were present mid-January through mid-February, and except for a couple of California gulls rare species went unreported. Winter hummingbirds have come to seem routine, but homeowners girding for hordes of birders coming to see their rufous hummingbirds are still surprised when no one shows up.

This makes all the more valuable the contributions of researchers who document these birds, and folks who keep feeders full and then report hummers. Six warbler species were reported. Over the past eight years, 16 warbler species are on record in winter: orange-crowned, Nashville, yellow, Cape May, black-throated blue, yellow-rumped, yellow-throated, pine, palm, black-and-white, American redstart, ovenbird, northern waterthrush, Louisiana waterthrush, common yellowthroat, and Wilson's.

Rare review species reported were western grebe, gyrfalcon, prairie falcon, California gull (2), rufous hummingbird (4), loggerhead shrike, and varied thrush (2). Out-of-season birds—a pelican, a couple of white-eyed vireos, an ovenbird, a Wilson's warbler, a lesser yellowlegs, woodcocks—profited from fairly mild conditions to stay late or arrive early. Any promise of irruptives from the north, such as winter finches or the many northern owls seen elsewhere, went unfulfilled. Because documentation was not always available for rarer species and unusual numbers, we have not completely incorporated CBC data into the reports that follow.

We borrowed Rob Harlan's time machine, and after a few false starts with this balky device (ask me about the Wisconsin glacial period in this part of Ohio some time) had a look at Ohio's winter of 20 years ago. In the relevant issue of *The Cardinal*, able compiler Larry Rosche related a report of a green heron near Dayton 1-2 Dec, a brant at Lorain 6 Dec, three blue-winged teals at Ottawa through 30 Dec, and a couple of king eiders. Other observations notable at the time included a black vulture in Highland Co, a turkey vulture near Wooster in Dec, and 13 bald eagles during the season, along with three merlins and a gyr. The Cincinnati CBC had 137 bobwhites (*CBCs totaled 20 statewide this time*). Four purple sandpipers (*a review species at the time*) were reported along the lakefront, three of them in January, and a long-billed dowitcher lasted through 1 Dec at Turtle Creek. Gulls in a winter when very little of Lake Erie froze included one Franklin's, six little gulls, a black-headed gull, eight Thayer's gulls, six Iceland gulls, at least six lesser black-backed gulls, numbers of glaucous gulls, up to ten black-legged kittiwakes (!), and thousands of Bonaparte's gulls through mid-January. Killdeer Plains had up to ten long-eared owls (27 Jan), and 16 short-ears haunted MBSP (*two remained on 31 May 1985*). A barn swallow was found in Lucas County 16 Dec. Five thousand crows for the Mansfield CBC was noteworthy. The Cincinnati CBC found 486 Carolina wrens (*it was 229 this year*). A varied thrush wintered in Ottawa Co. The Lake St Marys CBC reported 546 meadowlarks (*the CBC total for the entire state this winter was 234*). Five yellow-headed blackbirds were reported (*none this winter, and only one last fall*), and reports of evening grosbeaks came from "only" three counties (*we had one Ohio report this winter*). Five present-day review species were tallied.

We gratefully acknowledge the invaluable help of Troy Shively, who designed and prepared this issue for printing.

Corrigenda:

Omitted from the previous issue were two records of **Say's phoebe**: one was found at a **Holmes** farm 14 Oct-20 Nov 2004 (m obs, ph) and another at Dike 14 in **Cleveland** 23-24 Oct (m obs, ph). Details are with the OBRC.

Embarrassingly, a correction of a corrigendum: the third correction in the last issue (p. 2 of Vol 28, #1) should read "the first redstart date should of course..."

For the Record:

Thick-billed Murre: Robert Foppe discovered an Ohio specimen of this species in the Canadian Museum of Natural History. The bird was found far inland from Lake Erie at **Belmont Lk** in **Belmont** (present site of **Barkcamp SP**) in Nov 1899 and collected by the famed naturalist and Boy Scouts founder Ernest Thompson Seton. This is the first known Ohio specimen from this year (see *Cardinal* 27(2):85-92).

Chuck-will's-widow: Foppe also found, this time in the collection of the Cincinnati Museum of Natural History, an extraordinarily early record of this species: specimen #35258, which was found dead on a **Cincinnati** street on 28 Feb 1994.

Smith's Longspur: Foppe located two Smith's longspur specimens at the Field Museum in Chicago: both were collected at the **Oxford** airport, one 4/20/50, the other 3/27/54. These should be added to the list in the article on this species in *Cardinal* 25(3):134, for a total of 42 known Ohio specimens.

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; CBC=Christmas Bird Count; 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*; eop=end of the period, in this case 28 Feb 2005; 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; ODOV=Ohio Division of Wildlife; ONWR=Ottawa NWR in *Ottawa/Lucas*; ONWRC=monthly bird census at ONWR; PCWA=Pickerel Ck WA in *Sandusky*; ph=photograph, PP=Power Plant, 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 reclaimed strip-mines with grasslands managed for exotic quadrupeds in *Muskingum*; VOA=the former Voice of America property in *Butler*; WA=Wildlife Area.

Greater white-fronted goose: Good numbers. Migrants included one at **Pt Clinton** 8 Dec (N. Bixler), two at **ONWR** 12 Dec (J. Pogacnik), and 11 at **KPWA** 15 Dec (V. Fazio). B. Whan et al. had one in **Ross** 1 Jan. On 15 Jan, R. Counts found two at **Upper Sandusky** and R. Royse two at **KPWA**, possibly the same birds. During Feb, D. Kramer saw one in n. **Tuscarawas** the 6th and R. Schieltz five in **Darke** the 21st.

Snow goose: Reported in small numbers throughout the western part of the state through Dec, but thereafter mostly in the NW marshes, with **ONWR** census numbers of 27 on 2 Jan and 24 on 6 Feb, where a small band overwinters.

Cackling goose: Said to be most numerous as a fall migrant, three were reported at **HWSP** 5 Dec (J. Stenger), one in **Auglaize** 7 Dec (J. Bowers), two in **Pt Clinton** 8 Dec (N. Bixler), three at **HWSP** 16 Dec (B. Pratt), four in **Butler** 17 Dec (M. Busam), and five in **Knox** 21 Dec (J. Larson). Later were five in **Wyandot** 16 (Larson)-17 Jan (R. Counts), two in **Columbus** 20 Jan (D. Linzell) with four there 21 Jan (A. Sewell), five at **Camp Dennison (Hamilton)** 22 Jan (B. Foppe), then another at **Pt Clinton** 13 Feb (J. Pogacnik), and one at **KPWA** 27 Feb (R. Sempier). Thirty-odd seems a lot; or is it more common than we thought? Beginning with the next season, documentation will be required for records of this species, and observers are asked to get photos.

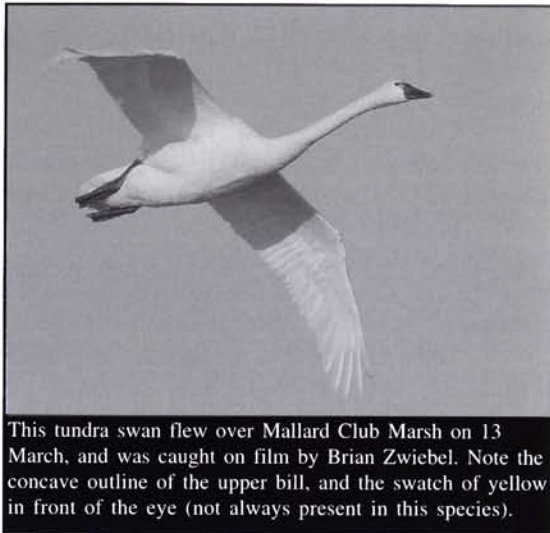
Mute swan: No unusually large numbers were noted at its customary winter haunts. Now that its protection via the Migratory Bird Treaty Act has been withdrawn, lethal controls may reduce its numbers, though in the absence of real migration in this exotic species we may not see decreases in Ohio in the immediate future.

Tundra swan: Wintered in the NW marshes as usual, with **ONWR** census numbers of 538 on 5 Dec, 298 on 2 Jan, and 186 on 6 Feb. Noteworthy among 19 reports from January were four in **Conneaut** the 1st (J. Pogacnik) and 124 for the **Gypsum** CBC the same day, 576 for the 2 Jan Ottawa CBC, 105 in **Wyandot** the 14th (R. Counts), and 60 over **Columbus** on the 24th (B. Conlon). B. Morrison reported one possibly overwintering at **Walborn Res.**, and dozens were regular in the **Killdeer** area through the period. During the last week of the period, major northwestward movements brought numerous reports of hundreds, mostly near **Lake Erie**.

Wood duck: A few persisted in open water, such as two pairs on the Scioto in **Columbus** 23 Jan (B. Royse), another quartet below the Mohawk Dam in **Coshocton** 15 Feb (L. Yoder), as well as the customary few at **Castalia** (m obs).

Gadwall: On 4 Dec, 282 remained at **Ottawa** for the census. Forty-six for the **Gypsum** CBC was a good number for 1 Jan. Numbers at **Camp Dennison** peaked at 110 on 26 Dec, and 20-30 wintered there (B. Foppe et al.).

Eurasian wigeon: An early one seen 26 Feb in **Killbuck Marsh** probably lingered into the spring period there (A. Troyer).



This tundra swan flew over Mallard Club Marsh on 13 March, and was caught on film by Brian Zwiebel. Note the concave outline of the upper bill, and the swatch of yellow in front of the eye (not always present in this species).

American wigeon: Wintered at **Castalia** of course, where 62 spent 16 Dec (V. Fazio), with a few through the period at **Hoover Res** (R. Thorn) and 15-30 at **Camp Dennison** (B. Foppe et al.).

Blue-winged teal: A drake was at **Wellington Res** 4 Dec (R. Hatfield, m obs), and one quite tardy 16 Dec at **Port Clinton** (C. Caldwell)

Northern shoveler: Moderate numbers overwintered at **Castalia**, with as many as 51 on 16 Dec (V. Fazio), and **Camp Dennison** had numbers in the 20s through the season (B. Foppe et al.).

Northern pintail: A few hung around with open water: four in **Seneca** 3 Jan (V. Fazio), eight in **Stark** 9 Jan (B. Morrison), 13 at **KPWA** 15 Jan (C. Bombaci), even one at E 55th St in **Cleveland** 4 Jan (D&J Hoffman). Encouraging numbers returned in late Feb around the state as migrants.

Green-winged teal: Scattered birds were found throughout winter's first half: one at **Lk Phippen** in **Portage** 29 Dec (L. Rosche), two at **Camp Dennison** 1 Jan and one 8 Jan (B. Foppe), and one in **Knox** 2 Jan (B. Morrison).

Canvasback: No four-figure reports came from **Lake Erie**, and few three-figure ones. Inland, one was at **Summit Lk** 13 Jan (L. Rosche), 21 in **Coshocton** 5 Feb (L. Yoder), 28 at **Camp Dennison** 6 Feb (B. Foppe), and three in **Adams** 19 Feb (L. Gara). At **Mosquito Lk** in **Trumbull**, 61 were a nice find on 21 Feb (D. Hochadel).

Redhead: Most reports from **Lake Erie**, with a first February record for **Kelleys Isl** of seven on the 28th (T. Bartlett). Inland, one was at **Summit Lk** 13 Jan (L. Rosche), and **Camp Dennison** hosted them winter-long, as many as 50 in Jan and 80 in early Feb (B. Foppe). Satisfying numbers moved through later, with the first big flock 203 in **Coshocton** on the 15th (L. Yoder).

Ring-necked duck: At **Wellington Res.** 640+ on 2 Dec (V. Fazio) dwindled to 25 by 1 Jan (R&S Harlan). A healthy 625 for the 26 Dec **Cincinnati** CBC was enabled by 600 at **Camp Dennison** (J. Stenger); they wintered here, with the lowest Jan count 91 on the 31st. By 27 Feb, 350+ eager returnees could be found at **Killbuck** (B. Whan).

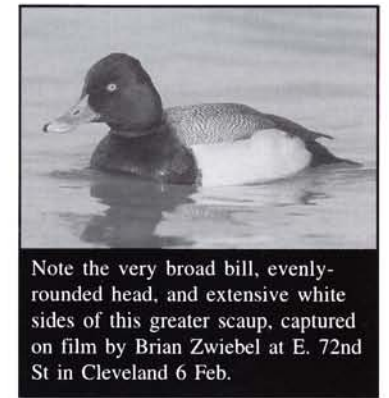
Greater scaup: The largest number from **Lake Erie** was ~200 in **Lucas** 5 Feb (D. Overacker) in a warm winter. A few were noted from time to time at a fair number of inland spots, e.g. two-three regularly seen throughout the winter at **Camp Dennison** (B. Foppe et al.).

Lesser scaup: Appeared mostly in scattered groups of up to several hundred along the Lakefront. A dozen or so wintered at **Camp Dennison** in **Hamilton** (B. Foppe), and numerous migrants appeared in many spots during the last week of Feb.

Harlequin duck: An imm male passed LSR in **Lake** 4 Dec (J. Pogacnik), and a female was spotted at **Eastlake** 28 (N. Anderson) and 29 Jan (Pogacnik).

Surf scoter: Forty-nine reported, sixteen of them inland, with a high count of 14 along the Lakefront west of **Cleveland** 28 Dec (P. Lozano), where 12 remained at **Rocky River Pk** the following day (B. Finkelstein). Latest was a male at **Caesar Ck SP** 21 Feb (L. Gara).

White-winged scoter: All reports: imm female **Hoover Res** 31 Dec (R. McNulty)-12 Jan (m obs); **Sandusky Bay** 15 Jan (R. Morton); **Avon Lk** 28 Jan (C. Pierce)-30 Jan (V. Fazio); **Eastlake** 5 Feb (N Anderson)-6 Feb (J. Pogacnik); two at **LSR** 23 Jan (Pogacnik).



Note the very broad bill, evenly-rounded head, and extensive white sides of this greater scaup, captured on film by Brian Zwiebel at E. 72nd St in Cleveland 6 Feb.

Black scoter: Sparsely reported this season. At **LSR J. Pogacnik** witnessed one 4 Dec and two 21 Dec. Herman had one Dec 17-18 at **Clear Fk Res.** P. Lozano found four at **Rocky River** 28 Dec and six there 10 Jan. N. Anderson noted one at **Sims Park** in **Euclid** 22 Jan.

Long-tailed duck: Twelve reported, half inland. The high count was four at **Summit Lk** in **Akron** 9 Jan (G. Bennett), where one remained as late as 30 Jan (m obs, ph). Another persistent bird was at **EFSP** 28 Jan (M. Miller)-12 Feb (J. Brown). Latest was a drake at **Caesar Ck SP** 20 Feb (N. Smith).

Bufflehead: Numbers and distribution pretty much as usual, with a high count from **Kelleys Island** of 761 on 9 Dec (V. Fazio). Unusual inland numbers came from **Camp Dennison** (where else?), with 20-25 through the period (m obs).

Common goldeneye: Appeared in good numbers for the CBCs, with 717 for the **Lake Erie Isl** 19 Dec, 513 for **Lakewood** 26 Dec, and 414 for **Gypsum** 1 Jan. The **Kelleys Isl** census of 23 Jan had 415, and 509 on that of 28 Feb. (T. Bartlett). Five to ten wintered at **Hoover Res** mid-Dec—mid-Feb (R. Thorn). On 30 Jan, 28 were in **Butler** (J. Stenger), and 77 at **Mohawk Dam** in **Coshocton** on 12 Feb must have been among the first wave of migrants (L. Yoder).

Hooded merganser: Few reports after a final push south, when 465+ were at **Hoover Res** 9 Dec (R. Thorn), with 191 remaining for the 18 Dec CBC there. During Jan the high count was only 10, on the 25th at **Camp Dennison's** waterfowl extravaganza (B. Foppe).

Common merganser: Conditions favored large concentrations later in the season after western Lake Erie froze (though 588 remained for the **ONWR** census 2 Jan) and many counts in the thousands were made in January, the most dramatic on the 20th, when V. Fazio tallied 3600 in **Cleveland**, 675 in **Lorain**, and 920+ in **Avon Lake**; 3200 were at the latter location on 2 Feb in the warm water plume (B. Whan). Inland, a raft of 217 was noteworthy at **Hoover Res** on 26 Feb (C. Bombaci).

Red-breasted merganser: Present in the customary throngs. D&J Hoffman counted ~10,000 off **Eastlake** and an equal number off **Cleveland** 10 Dec, but near-shore ice put most out of sight by mid-Jan. Mergansers often segregate themselves by sex outside the nesting season, and many males do not attain alternate plumage until their second fall.

Ruddy duck: After migrant flocks (e.g., 880 at **Wellington Res** 2 Dec seen by V. Fazio), and lingering flocklets (25 at **Wellington** 1 Jan by R&S Harlan) passed, became customarily scarce. Interesting sightings included six near **Wilmington** 10 Jan (L. Gara) one at **Summit Lk** in **Akron** 13 Jan (L. Rosche), and 8-10 through the period at **Camp Dennison** (B. Foppe et al.).



Not everyone noticed that two long-tailed ducks lingered at Summit Lake, but Linda Stoller did, and took this photo of a male on 20 Jan. Note its paler overall appearance, the white scapulars, and the two-toned bill.



This female long-tailed duck shows pale-fringed dark scapulars, an overall darker look, and a bill lacking a pale stripe. Photo by Linda Stoller at Summit Lake in Akron 20 January 2005.

Hybrid ducks: The following apparent hybrids were reported: 9 Jan at **Conneaut**, a common merganser X common goldeneye (V. Fazio, ph), 12 Feb at **Bayshore PP, Lucas**, a tufted duck X scaup (J. Pogacnik), 13 Feb at **Port Clinton**, a common goldeneye X hooded merganser (J. Pogacnik, 14 Feb N. Bixler), and 19 Feb at **Lorain** a likely American wigeon X scaup (S. Zadar, ph).

Red-throated loon: A juv plied **Nimisila Res, Summit**, 1 Dec (G. Bennett), one passed **Vermilion** the next day (V. Fazio), and one hunted **BCSP** on the 4th (D. Overacker). J. Pogacnik had one flying by **LSR** 11 Dec, and a very rare mid-winter bird there 23 Jan.

Common loon: Sizeable fall passages persisted 2 Dec at **Vermilion**, with 77 (V. Fazio). One lingered at **Hoover Res** 1 Jan (R. Thorn), and at **Salisbury** in **Lucas** 2 Jan (T. Kemp). Another at **Caesar Ck SP** 12 Feb was early rather than late (C. Barnett).

Pied-billed grebe: Small numbers reported from many locations, with a high of 33 on the **Cincinnati** CBC of 26 Dec. Half a dozen wintered at **Camp Dennison** (B. Foppe et al.), and **Summit Lk** had 10 on 3 Jan (L. Rosche) and five on 23 Jan (R&S Harlan). One was present at **E. 72nd St** in **Cleveland** on 6 Feb (L. Deininger).

Horned Grebe: Twenty-four migrants dived off **Kelleys Isl** 9 Dec for the high count (V. Fazio), and a few appeared in ones and twos through Jan at open areas along the Lake and at inland reservoirs. Two in **Coshocton** 12 Feb (L. Yoder) either overwintered or were early migrants.

Red-necked grebe: Rather late was one on the **Grand Rapids-Waterville** CBC of 2 Jan, and one in **Lake** 29 Jan (J. Pogacnik) was very much so. A storm grounded one in **Holmes** on 22 Jan (a first county record); found in a weakened state, it was taken to a rehabilitation facility where it did not survive.

Western grebe: Last fall's individual at **Caesar Creek SP** was last reported 8 Dec (S. Landes).

American white pelican: A young bird rumored to be wounded and present in the area since summer was seen repeatedly in **Erie**, and last reported from **Lorain** on 27 Jan (C. Caldwell). Still more mysterious was an adult in the **Maumee R** south of **Toledo** 19 (J. McKinny *vide* G. Links) through 21 Feb (J&B Cullen *vide* Links, ph), Ohio's earliest in 100+ years.

Double-crested cormorant: At **Sandusky**, 177 persisted through 9 Dec (V. Fazio), and 69 in **Hamilton** (CBC) on 11 Dec were surely southbound, though 56 tarried for the **Lakewood** CBC of 26 Dec. One was in **Delaware** 28 Dec (B. Shively), and a few singletons were seen along the **Lakefront** through the period (m obs). Nineteen on 19 Dec was an all-time high for the **Toledo** CBC.

Great egret: The only report was of two in **Dublin, Franklin** 12 Dec (R. Thorn).



Perhaps already paired, these red-breasted mergansers cruised the warm open waters of the power plant outflow at E. 72nd St.

Black-crowned night-heron: Hardy enough, seen 17 Dec for the **Hamilton-Fairfield** CBC; in **Cleveland's Flats** 30 Dec (seven) then 5 (19) and 11 (35) Jan and 20 Feb (19) by P. Lozano; the high count of 55 in **Sandusky** 30 Dec (S. Young); one in **Wayne** 6 Jan (E. Snively); four in **Columbus** 12 Jan (P. McSweeney); and in **Lorain** two on 29 Jan (S. Snyder) and eight on 6 Feb (J. Pogacnik).

Black vulture: The **Hamilton** MP count tallied 129 on 11 Dec, and the **Adams** counters had 196 on 18 Dec; the new **Hocking** CBC found 41 on 2 Jan. D. Dister counted 30 on 1 Jan at a traditional roost, the warm roof of the **HWSP** lodge. O. Troyer had 22 in **Coshocton** 7 Jan. The established **Granville** roost numbered 25-30 on 16 Feb (S. Woolard), and the **Batavia** roost in **Clermont** 85 on 27 Feb (B. Foppe).

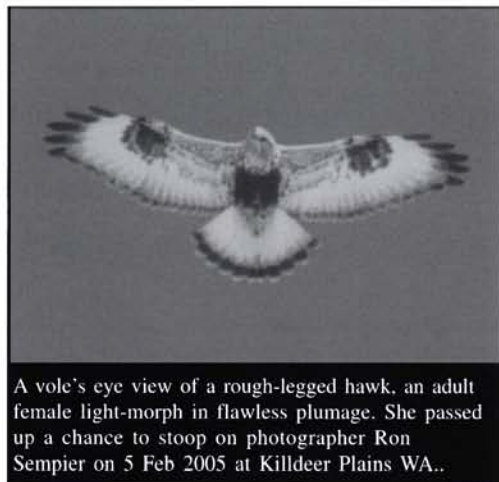
Turkey vulture: Late migrants included two in **Columbus** 13 Dec (B. Conlon) and one in **Bellefontaine** 17 Dec (M. Misplon). Unafraid of iconoclasm, L. Rosche reported the species present all winter at **Hinckley MP**. Wintering birds range widely, no doubt explaining 19 patrolling the **Wilds** on 15 Jan (L. Brumbaugh). The **Cincinnati** CBC tallied 185 on 26 Dec, and the **Ragersville** count 245 on the 28th. At other known roosting spots were 20 on the **HWSP** lodge 1 Jan (D. Dister), 130 in e. **Holmes** 9 Jan (E. Schlabach), and 140 at the **Clermont** roost near **Batavia** 17 Feb (B. Foppe).

Osprey: Different individuals were photographed in **Darke** 12 Dec (K. Schieltz) and **Clark** 15 Dec (B. Menker), for unusual winter records, rarely documented on film.

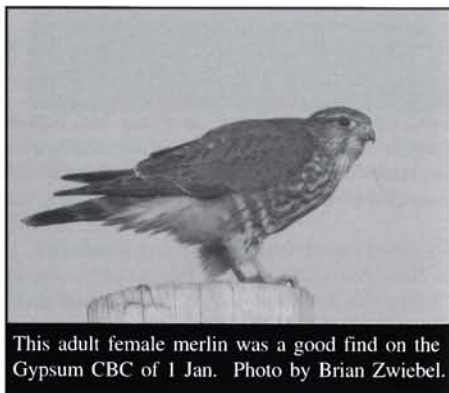
Bald eagle: The Division of Wildlife's mid-winter survey found 366 birds (a bit less than last year's 372) with 247 adults, in 55 of 88 counties. Young birds were found feeding on carrion on several occasions. By the end of the period, the ODOW had located 116 active nests (versus last year's total of 108), and 72 had eggs under incubation.

Northern harrier: Widely reported in habitat, with good numbers of 30+ at the **Wilds** 14 Dec (L. Gardella), 22 at **KPWA** 8 Dec (R. Sempier), 30 at **BIWA** 15 Dec (V. Fazio), and 46 for the 28 Dec **Ragersville** CBC. The statewide CBC total was 290.

Northern goshawk: At **LSR** in **Lake**, J. Pogacnik had an imm 11 Dec, and an adult 30 Dec and 17 Jan. H. Petruschke saw an adult at close quarters in **Kirtland** 26 Dec, and J. Brumfield photographed an adult at the **Wilds** 1 Jan. Unusual and perhaps a first county record was an adult photographed and seen repeatedly in **Hocking** during the week of 16-22 Jan (P. Knoop *vide* J. Watts).



A vole's eye view of a rough-legged hawk, an adult female light-morph in flawless plumage. She passed up a chance to stoop on photographer Ron Sempier on 5 Feb 2005 at Killdeer Plains WA..



This adult female merlin was a good find on the Gypsum CBC of 1 Jan. Photo by Brian Zwiebel.

Red-shouldered hawk: B. Zwiebel detected an early migrant 15 Feb in **Lucas**. J. Faulkner, true to his raptorial name, found no fewer than six locals calling and circling his place in **Perry** 20 Feb.

Red-tailed hawk: Dark-morph birds were found on **Kelleys Isl** 9 Dec (V. Fazio), at **Hoover Res** 10 Dec (R. Richards), in **Auglaize** 26 Dec (J. Bowers), and near **Bellefontaine** in **Logan** 28 Feb (T. Shively).

Rough-legged hawk: In many locations numbers fluctuated, as rough-leggeds moved elsewhere when ground iced over or rodent prey diminished. At and near the **Wilds**, with its hilly and well-drained grasslands (almost an oxymoron outside reclaimed strip mines in Ohio), high counts stayed around 40 (m obs).

Golden eagle: Found only at the **Wilds**, with at least one adult and one subadult reported sporadically throughout the period, but far less reliable than last winter.

Merlin: This species prefers stands of mature conifers, most often found (or at least searched by observers) in urban cemeteries in Ohio. L. During the period, L. Gardella had at least three males and two females in **Cleveland's** Calvary Cemetery, L. Brumbaugh one of each at Spring Grove Cemetery in **Cincinnati**, N. Cade one at St. Joseph Cemetery in **Cincinnati**, D&J Hoffman one at Lake View Cemetery in **Cleveland**, S. McNamee one near Forest Cemetery in **Toledo**, and D. Chasar one near Forest Cemetery in **Northfield** (**Summit**). Most of these were seen repeatedly; brief sightings came from ten other locations. Aaron Boone offered these good details for what he and John Kuenzli considered a "prairie" merlin *F. c. richardsonii* seen at **Killdeer Plains** 21 Feb: taking it at first glance for a female kestrel, they soon noticed the following: overall pale sandy-brown coloration, lack of an definable "mustache" mark, a distinct white supercilium, head and nape lightly streaked with dark, strikingly banded tail with alternating dark and white (approximately four relatively wide whitebands), yellow cere and feet, underparts with distinct light brown vertical stripes, feathering on thighs lacking any noticeable color, upperparts sandy-brown with tawny-brown feather edges (most noticeable in flight, this lent the bird a slight rusty hue), flight style very direct and powerful (like merlin, not buoyant like kestrel), and undersides of wings checkered but not as darkly as a *columbarius* merlin, with proportionally more white in the flight feathers.

Gyr Falcon: A gray-morph bird was reported toting a murdered mourning dove near the **Guernsey/Noble** line not far from the **Wilds** 25 Jan; details are with the OBRC.

Peregrine falcon: Four on the 19 Dec **Toledo** CBC was a record Ohio CBC high count.

Prairie falcon: If, as seems likely, this was the same bird as last winter's, had it arrived in the fall of 2003 as it did in 2004? Either way, it apparently did not stay nearly as long at **The Wilds** this time as previously (19 Mar 2004), with the latest reports coming from 28 (D. Plant et al.) and 29 Jan (B. Crow et al.). On 25 Jan, volunteers from the Ohio Wildlife Center went to nw **Fairfield** responding to a call from a person who reported an incapacitated bird that had been under his porch since 22 Jan; they returned with what proved to be an emaciated (526 g. vs. 800 g.) adult female (wing chord 338 mm) prairie falcon that had been shot, and which died while under care 1 Feb (R. Stillwell). The specimen has been preserved. This bird was found only ~20 mi from Ohio's first accepted record of this species, also found with gunshot wounds, and only one day earlier in January of 1983 in southern **Franklin**. In light of reliable reports of a prairie falcon, also thought to be an adult female, at **The Wilds** ~50 mi away in **Muskingum** on dates subsequent to the capture of this bird, it seems Ohio had two *Falco mexicanus* simultaneously this season.

Virginia rail: One was calling near **Holmesville**, **Holmes** on 4 Jan, before the flooding began (S. Snyder). Found every winter recently at this spot.

American coot: Migrant numbers as high as 460 were seen 2 Dec at **Wellington Res** (V. Fazio). As usual, a few persisted at ice-free spots along the **Lake Erie** shore through the period. Many wintered in **Hamilton**, with numbers at **Camp Dennison** of 810 on 26 Dec (J. Stenger), 400 on 23 Jan (F. Renfrow), 150 on 16 Feb (Renfrow) and 528 on 27 Feb (B. Foppe), when the first was noted up at **CPNWR** by the census team.

Sandhill crane: Over 2000 reported during the period, with a high count of ~1000 on 14 Dec in **Hamilton** (B. Wharton), and 44 for the CBCs. D. Kline saw seven in **Holmes** 1 Jan. Four birds remained near **Dayton** 22 Jan (D. Dister). A flock variously reported in numbers from 12 to 26 (29 Dec-at least 8 Jan) in **Medina** was reported by S&R Harlan to contain eight birds distinctly smaller than the others on 1 Jan, suggesting the "lesser" form.

Killdeer: The **Portsmouth** CBC reported 147 for 18 Dec. Midwinter birds included one in **Tuscarawas** 8 Jan (E. Schlabach), two in **Butler** 22 Jan (J. Lehman), two at **Caesar Ck SP** 5 Feb (L. Gara), three at **BCSP** 6 Feb (D. Overacker), and one in **Medina** 9 Feb (R. Harlan).

Lesser yellowlegs: One found near **Gilmore Ponds, Butler** 20 Feb (C. Saunders) remained through the 27th (m obs) for a very early record.

Dunlin: Found in **Wyandot** 2 Dec (R. Counts), with 17 for the ONWR census 5 Dec, eight in **Lake** 19 Dec (J. Pogacnik), and one each for the 18 Dec **Ashtabula** CBC and the **Knox** CBC (20 Dec, J. Larson).

Wilson's snipe: The **Toledo** CBC's was its first (on 19 Dec, when J. Larson had one in **Knox** and B. Finkelstein five at the **Cuyahoga** airport); the high count was 14 for the 18 Dec **Wilmot** CBC, with six remaining for the 23 Dec **Cleveland** CBC; the CBC total was 31 statewide. Later, S. Snyder had two in **Holmes** 4 Jan, D. Dister found one in **Butler** 7 Jan, and J. Lehman another at a seep at **SVWA** 16 Jan.

American woodcock: First detected early near **Yellow Springs** 8 Feb (S. Patterson *vide* J. Karlson), with another the following day in **Lorain** (B. Segedi), and then on the 11th two in **Ashtabula** (H. Petruschke) and several over the few days before in **Vinton** (L. Andrews). On 15 Feb J. Ritzenthaler found one unconscious in a **Columbus** street, which later that day flew off upon being released near **Springfield**.

Little gull: J. Pogacnik saw an adult passing **LSR** 23 Dec, and a second-year bird there on 1 Jan. P. Lozano had one at **Rocky River Pk** 12 Jan.

Bonaparte's gull: D&J Hoffman estimated 10,000 at **E 72nd in Cleveland** 1 Dec, and V. Fazio an astonishing 64,000, nearly all adults, at **Lorain** harbor the following day. The last large group at **Lake Erie** was 1000+ in Fairport Hbr 17 Jan, a good number of which witnessed by K. Metcalf rising and heading south. A lone bird haunted **E 72nd St** as late as 30 Jan (Fazio). Inland, 35 tardy migrants passed over **EFSP** 12 Jan (B. Foppe).

Ring-billed gull: V. Fazio estimated 51,000 at **Lorain** 2 Dec (~98.5% adults), and J. Pogacnik watched 45,230 pass **LSR** on 19 Dec. Most departed the **Lakefront**, with 50-100 passing the colder periods at **E 72nd in Cleveland** (J&D Hoffman). A flock of ~1100 was unusual at **Cowan Lk** 23 Feb (B. Powell), probably all northbound migrants.



This saw-whet owl does its best to avoid being seen, but couldn't hide from Ron Sempier. The bird was found at Killdeer Plains on 27 Feb.

California gull: Many saw an adult found 8 Jan at **E 72nd in Cleveland**, but a third-winter bird at **Indian Lake** beach, **Logan**, 28 Feb had only one observer. Details are with the OBRC.

Herring gull: Very numerous at open water during late Jan and Feb along the **Erie Lakefront**. At **Camp Dennison**, 17 was a good local number 24 Jan (B. Foppe).

Thayer's gull: Two passed **LSR** 19 Dec and one 23 Dec (J. Pogacnik), and an adult **Huron** the following day (V. Fazio). The **Grand Rapids-Waterville** CBC had one 2 Jan. One was off **Kelleys Isl** 23 Jan (T. Bartlett). The bulk of the sightings came from **E 72nd St in Cleveland**, beginning with a 2nd-year bird 8 Jan (B. Winger), and birds of all age classes through the eop (m obs).

Iceland gull: Seen at **LSR** 19 & 31 Dec and 14 Jan (J. Pogacnik), at **Eastlake** 18 Dec (N. Barber), and on the 2 Jan **Grand Rapids-Waterville** CBC, with multiple sightings of all age classes at **E 72nd St. in Cleveland** through the period (m obs).

Lesser black-backed gull: Noticed in somewhat smaller numbers than in recent winters at Lakefront spots in the Central Basin, with a high count of three 14 Jan at **LSR** (J. Pogacnik). In the Western Basin, four were found for the 19 Dec **Toledo** CBC. Farther inland, four were found on the 2 Jan **Grand Rapids-Waterville** CBC, one at **Oberlin Res** (13 Dec V. Fazio, 29 Dec L. Rosche, 1 Jan S. Snyder), and one way down in **Tuscarawas** 11 Feb (T&B Sponseller). An adult with pink legs was repeatedly observed at **E 72nd St in Cleveland** in Jan, last reported the 31st (J. Larson).

Glaucous gull: Many reports, of multiple birds of all age classes, emerged from **E 72nd St**, but the high count of 14, 11 of them adults, came from **Avon Lk** 30 Jan (plus four at **E 72nd, V. Fazio**). One for the 28 Feb **Kelleys Isl** count may have been a first for the area (T. Bartlett). Near **Toledo**, one was seen on the **Grand Rapids-Waterville** CBC of 2 Jan, and another at **Farnsworth MP** on 6 Feb (D. Dister).

Hybrid gulls: Herring X great black-backed gull: One, or perhaps two, seen 8 Jan at **E. 55th St in Cleveland** (T. Shively, B. Whan) were later fairly regularly seen among the throngs at **E 72nd St** (V. Fazio, J. Pogacnik, S. Zadar, et al., ph). Two were never seen at the same time, though close to it, and some reported the two had noticeably different markings. Given the rarity of this hybrid, and the fact that both were adults, it may be two came from the same clutch. Herring X glaucous gull ("Nelson's" gull): just one reported, an adult at **E 72nd St in Cleveland** 6 Feb (J. Pogacnik).

Barn owl: Two 15 Dec (V. Fazio, ph) were unusual at **KPWA**.

Eastern screech-owl: Excellent preparation gave the **Grand Rapids-Waterville** CBC team North America's second-highest CBC total ever of this species, 197 on 2 Jan.

Snowy owl: Three spotted on breakwalls of the **Bayshore PP in Lucas** on 19 Dec tied a record for the **Toledo** CBC. While homeland security concerns apparently excluded birders from the spot, armed men who claimed to be hunting ducks were permitted entry.

Long-eared Owl: At **ONWR**, one was found 28 Nov-5 Dec, then two 2 Jan-6 Feb in deciduous trees (J. Volker). A traditional **Williams** spot held five 26 Feb (J. Grabmeier), and another in **Holmes** two on 17 Feb (J.A. Miller). Only one was found with any regularity in the **KPWA** "owl grove" (Jan-Mar, m obs), but 4-8 were seen nearby at another roost through early Feb (m obs).

Short-eared owl: Seen in expected numbers in expected places, with **KPWA** birds numbering 10-20 and those at the **Wilds** 20-30 among the more fruitful areas. Highly unusual was one roosting daily in D. Hochadel's barn in **Trumbull** 26 Jan-7 Feb.

Northern saw-whet owl: The **Ross** project banded its last of the season, and the 45th, on 5 Dec (K. Sieg), offering a hint of its real abundance in migration. Seven other individuals detected without using lures or nets (in **Lucas, Lake, Logan, Ottawa, Tuscarawas, and Wyandot**) were rather more than usual.

Chuck-will's-widow: One was captured alive and under-nourished in **Miami Twp, Clermont** on 12 Dec, and after rehabilitation released into the wild in **Florida** 21 Dec; see J. Hays's note in this issue. An amazing record.

Rufous hummingbird: Three remained from the fall season: the **Knox** bird was last seen 4 Dec (*vide* A. Chartier), the **Muskingum** bird, back for its second consecutive winter, lasted through 17 Dec (*vide* A. Chartier), and the **Ross** bird persisted through 18 Dec (L. Brady *vide* A. Chartier). In a new record, a bird reportedly in **Cincinnati** since early Oct was captured 9 Jan and found to be wearing a band placed 9 Jan 2003 in **Americus, Georgia** on an adult @&, which makes this bird at least two years and seven months old; it stayed at this feeder through 15 Jan (*vide* A. Chartier, J. Hays). The Ohio late record is 23 Jan.

Yellow-bellied sapsucker: Quite a few reported statewide throughout the period, as witnessed in part by 139 CBC records.

Pileated woodpecker: A count-week bird in **Toledo** was a first for the local CBC.

Eastern phoebe: A number of reports came from CBCs in southern counties. J. Habig had one at **SVWA** on 21 Feb for the first reported arrival.

Loggerhead shrike: One was photographed for the **Kingston** CBC 1 Jan, and later seen by D. Hess on 23 Jan.

Northern shrike: Reported in normal numbers season-long in the top three tiers of counties. The southernmost report came from **Muskingum** on 15 Jan (J. Grabmeier).

White-eyed vireo: Exceedingly rare in December, two reports came from the 19th: a bird in **Kent** (L. Rosche) and another a first for the **Toledo** CBC.

American crow: F. Renfrow estimated the **Cincinnati** roost at ~20,000, up from ~18,000 last winter, but down from ~70,000 a few years ago.

Horned lark: Large single-observer counts included ~500 in **Champaign** 31 Jan (T. Shively) and 425+ in **Wyandot** 2 Feb (R. Counts).

Red-breasted nuthatch: Quite a few birds frequented feeders throughout the state this winter, but there were no compelling signs of new irruptions from the north.

Brown creeper: Most high counts came from the south, with 44 on the **Hamilton** parks count of 11 Dec, and 33 on the 26 Dec **Cincinnati** CBC, but the highest came from farther north, with 72 on the **Millersburg** count of 1 Jan.

Marsh wren: A rare winter inland record came from **Killbuck Marsh** 4 Jan (B. Morrison et al.).

Ruby-crowned kinglet: A report of five at two spots in one day in **Clermont** on 8 Jan (K. Robinson) was remarkable.

Hermit thrush: Good numbers were in the south, witness 24 for the **Cincinnati** CBC of 26 Dec, and **Kelleys Isl** always has some, such as three on the 9 Dec count there (T. Bartlett) and one on the **Cleveland** CBC of 18 Dec was nice.

American Robin: On 19 Dec 377 was the **Toledo** CBC's second-highest count ever.



Red-Headed woodpeckers can be found in many woodlots at Killdeer Plains. This one relished a favorite, a red oak acorn, in December 2004. Photo by Ron Sempier.

Varied thrush: The **Medina** bird of fall remained fitfully through at least 1 Dec (D. Riffle). A female in **Carroll** seen 26 Feb (W. Sarno) was said to have been present since ~16 Dec (C. Ickes), and persisted through the eop. Details are with the OBRC.

Gray catbird: On **Kelleys Isl** 9 Dec (V. Fazio), two in **Toledo** for the 19 Dec CBC (the state high count for the season), in **Butler** 17 Dec (M. Busam), on the **Hoover Res** CBC 18 Dec and at **Gilmore Ponds** 18 Dec (S. Pawlowski), the latest report came from 28 Jan (B. Wilson, ph) in **Oxford**.

Brown thrasher: Reports came from the **Hoover Res** CBC on 18 Dec and the 28 Dec **Ragersville** CBC during count week. One was photographed in Geauga and persisted through at least 22 Dec (C. Martin).

American pipit: Later records include 11 on 28 Dec in **Tuscarawas** (E. Schlabach), one in **Hocking** 2 Jan (J. Fry), 12 at the **VOA** in **Butler** 30 Jan (J. Van Coney), one in **Conneaut** 1 Jan (G. Bennett), one in **Delaware** 3 Jan (R. Thorn), three near **Dayton** 23 Jan (N. Smith), two at **Camp Dennison** 6 Feb (B. Foppe), and a remarkable 40-50 in northern **Tuscarawas** 7 Feb (D. Kramer). **Cape May warbler:** Unexpected but not unprecedented was one in eastern **Holmes** 18 Dec (F. Miller)

Pine warbler: Winter records came from **Holden Arb** 11 Dec (B. Sparks), **Hamilton** (N. Cade) 17 Dec, **Cuyahoga Falls** CBC 19 Dec, **Kent** 19 Dec (L. Rosche), **Brown** (D. Morse) 24 Dec, one and possibly three in **Parma Hts** 10 Jan-11 Feb (S. Zadar, ph), one in **Rocky River** 16 Jan-9 Mar (J. Andes, ph), one in **Lucas** 30 Jan (M. Anderson), and one 28 Feb in **Adams** (P. Whan, ph).

Palm Warbler: One of the eastern race showed up in **Holmes** 18 Dec (Mark Weaver)

Ovenbird: A very rare winter record came from **Leroy Twp** in **Lake**, from 3-14 Dec (D. Seman)

Common yellowthroat: One was observed at **Killbuck Marsh** 4 Jan (S. Snyder et al.).

Wilson's warbler: An adult male was found by the **Hamilton-Fairfield** CBC team on 18 Dec in **West Chester, Butler** for Ohio's first or second December record of this species.

Scarlet Tanager: One spent 12-24 Dec at a **Holmes** feeder (Marlin Weaver, ph). This is a new late Ohio record.

Chipping sparrow: Records other than from CBCs: on 23 Dec, one in **Clermont** (D. Morse) and another in **Tuscarawas** (E. Schlabach), one near **Dayton** 26 Dec (N. Smith), one west of **Cincinnati** 31 Dec (L. Peyton), one in **Wyandot** 10 Jan (R. Counts), and two in **Hamilton** 15 Jan and 3 Feb, then four on 8 Feb (all K. Westendorf).

Field Sparrow: The **Cincinnati** CBC had the high count, 51, on 26 Dec.

Vesper Sparrow: One spent 17-29 Dec at a **Holmes** feeder (Marlin Weaver)

Savannah sparrow: Reports from the north included one for the **Toledo** CBC 19 Dec (their second ever), another at a **Wood** feeder 8 Jan (C. Anderson), one at a **Knox** feeder 11 Feb (J. Larson), and several that overwintered in e. **Holmes**, with a max of 14 on 29 Jan (E. Schlabach).



This northern shrike, photographed by Brian Zwiebel at Maumee Bay SP on 15 Feb, shows a characteristically narrow frontal mask, vermiculations on the undersides, and overall very pale coloration: the bill structure seems fairly delicate for this species.

Grasshopper sparrow: Weird but not without precedent was one carefully observed at the VOA site in *Butler* 31 Dec (M. Busam).

Fox sparrow: Found at many winter dates in over twenty counties statewide, as far north as *Cuyahoga* (J&D Hoffman). A few overwintered in the south, where the high count of six came on the *Cincinnati* CBC of 26 Dec; by 26 Feb three were in song at *Gilmore Ponds, Butler* (M. Busam).

Lincoln's sparrow: The *Toledo* CBC of 19 Dec reported one, the count's third ever.

Swamp sparrow: A hardy sparrow, 27 were at *Springville Marsh* in *Seneca* 16 Dec (V. Fazio). In the southwest, 92 showed up for the *Hamilton* MP count of 11 Dec, and 45 for the *Cincinnati* CBC of 26 Dec.

White-throated sparrow: The *Cincinnati* CBC of 26 Dec racked up 920. **White-throated sparrow:** The *Cincinnati* CBC of 26 Dec racked up 920.

White-crowned sparrow: Its highest numbers came from CBCs in *Tuscarawas* at *Ragersville* on 26 Dec with 483, and in *Holmes* at *Millersburg* on 1 Jan, with 669.

Lapland longspur: By Jan widespread, with 51 on the *ONWRC* of the 2nd, 240 in *Seneca* on the 3rd (V. Fazio), 200+ in *Wyandot* the 12th (R. Counts) and ~350 in *Champaign* on the 31st (T. Shively). Small numbers reached the southwest through the period.

Snow bunting: First noted 3 Dec with one at *Mosquito Lk* (D. Hochadel), numbers reached 250 in *Tuscarawas* 28 Dec (E. Schlabach), 109 for the *Ottawa NWR* census 2 Jan, 500+ in *Wyandot* 12 Jan (R. Counts), 250+ in *Champaign* 31 Jan (T. Shively), and up to 200 in *Butler* on 29 Dec (P. Wharton, M. Busam).

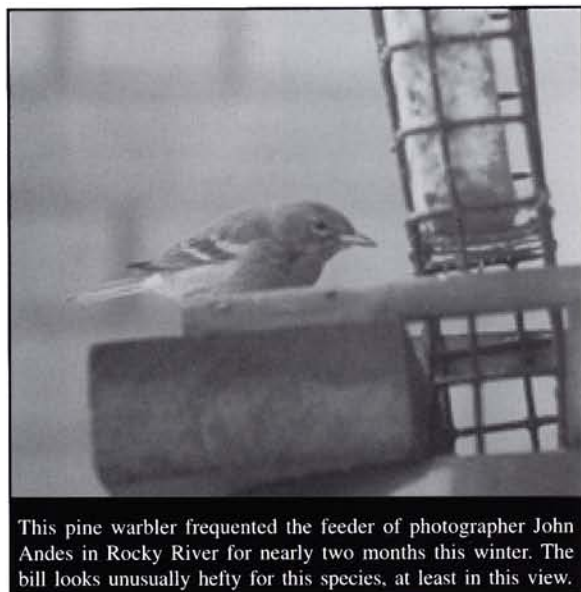
Eastern meadowlark: Late in the period numbers exceeding 100 were seen in the *Wilds* (m obs).

Rusty blackbird: The *Wilmot* CBC counted 297 in *Stark* on 18 Dec, and on 12 Jan ~200 gathered at *Gilmore Ponds* (F. Renfrow).

Brewer's blackbird: Three on 26 Dec was the second record of this species for the *Cincinnati* CBC. G. Links had two on 11 Feb, and J. Pogacnik three the following day, in fields of *Oregon Twp, Lucas*, the closest thing to a hot spot this species has in Ohio.

Brown-headed cowbird: The best—or at least largest—number was 2064 for the *Gypsum* CBC of 1 Jan.

Baltimore oriole: An adult female showed up in a back yard in *Cincinnati* in late February, and stayed into the following period (B. White *vide* M. Busam, ph).



This pine warbler frequented the feeder of photographer John Andes in *Rocky River* for nearly two months this winter. The bill looks unusually hefty for this species, at least in this view.

Purple finch: A pretty good year for this species, occurring over a wide area and with some consistency. Winter numbers best in the south as usual: the *Hamilton* MP count accumulated 67 on 11 Dec, and the *Adams* CBC 120 on 18 Dec.

White-winged crossbill: Only one report, a male in *Butler Twp, Montgomery*, on 2 Feb (D. Dister).

Common redpoll: Puny numbers overall. V. Fazio found the first two, at *Wellington Res* 2 Dec. Three were in *Rocky River* 23 Dec (P. Lozano), one in *Lake* 19 Dec (J. Pogacnik), two in *Wayne* 9-15 Jan (R. Miller), one in *Ashland* 25-30 Jan (T. Leslie), one in *Cleveland* 1 Feb (R. Rickard), and another in *Erie* 3 Feb (N. Bixler), and one in *Holmes* 24 Feb (*vide* D. Kline). Ten were reported by CBCs.

Pine siskin: Not widespread. Good numbers, all at feeders, came from *Clermont* (~50, D. Morse 18 Dec), *Cuyahoga* (15 at *NCR*, B. Finkelstein 19 Dec), *Coshocton* (20 on 25 Dec, L. Yoder), and *Hocking* (29 on 22 Feb, J. Fry). **Evening grosbeak:** B. Stambaugh reported two in *Holmes* 7 Dec. Contributors:

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Further Afield

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Sometimes, late at night, I sit contemplatively in my favorite silk smoking jacket, feet propped snugly, Honduran Robusto cigar in hand, and my faithful hound Wagtail Junior resting languorously by my side. As the last dying embers of what once was a glorious conflagration pop and sizzle in their final, irrevocable demise, the hearth in the Great Room of stately Ohio Cardinal Manor emits its crowning, lugubrious glow, and all is still. I swirl the residual traces of aged Cuban rum in the bottom of my glass, and hearken back to 1999, when I began to write these columns: days when men were men, women were women, and long-tailed ducks were oldsquaws. I hearken back to a series of promises I made to myself regarding the intended course and scope of my efforts. Some promises have been realized; but others, many others, have been left bitterly unfulfilled. I weep a silent tear.

When I began, I promised myself I would never use foppish or dandified language, with words such as “languorous”, “lugubrious”, and “hearken” being strictly forbidden. I have lived up to that promise, at least until very recently. I promised myself I would avoid lofty-sounding and needlessly high-handed technical jargon, and always write sensibly, appealing to communal interests; my majestic Ivy League education and controlling interests in the fabulous new *Hotel Pretensia*, and in the delightful bistro, *The Snobbery*, notwithstanding. Although these details might lead some readers to believe that I have a Donald Trump-esque ego, I simply must disagree—in fact, I like to think that I’m just a little bit better than that.

I also promised never to let my writing fall prey to trendy and banal words and phrases, such as “queue,” “blog,” or “back in the day.” And also “bling-bling,” “do the math,” and “the usual suspects.” And also “déjà vu all over again,” “win-win situation,” and “old school.” And, most especially, the vile and odious “diva.” And also “delightful bistro.” I promised never, *ever*, to write from the perspective of a bird, as if this hasn’t already been beaten to death, and as if one could ever *truly* aspire to fathom the innermost hopes and dreams of, say, a razorbill, or a smew.

I promised myself I would always attempt to be timely; to be entertaining (at least on a “what the heck is he talking about” level); to be historically accurate; to be provocative (at least on a “why doesn’t he just shut up already” level); and to be far-reaching. I would not strictly limit my ramblings to Ohio; occasionally, I would wander further afield when events warranted. Considering the roll call of rarities this past winter in Texas, events have certainly warranted. And so we dedicate this column to our recent January trip to Texas. I like Texas. Let’s wander aimlessly, being sure to close every gate behind us.

You should also like Texas. It’s large—quite large, actually—extending about as far from east to west as from Boston to Chicago, and north to south as from Nashville to Key West. It boasts (much boasting is done in Texas) at least 11 natural or ecological regions, ranging from the eastern Pineywoods, the Coastal Plain, the South Texas Brush Country (including the lower Rio Grande Valley), and west to the Trans-Pecos region, home of the Davis Mountains, Big Bend National Park, Judge Roy Bean’s Jersey Lily saloon, and the moderately mysterious yet strangely marketable Marfa Ghost Lights. If you happen to be in west Texas, a stop at the official Marfa Ghost Lights rest area on U.S. Highway 90 between the towns of Alpine and Marfa is worth a few moments of your time. This observation post provides an excellent vantage to scan for these seemingly inexplicable desert lights, or, perhaps more entertainingly, to observe other rest-stoppers as they mysteriously and indiscriminately identify distant car headlights as mysterious ghost lights. But be sure to wait for night, so the lights stand out; otherwise, you’ll only see the rest area, which, while frightening enough, is not nearly as spooky as the Ghost Lights.

There are also many birds in Texas, as might be expected given the girth of the state and the variety of habitats present. The new 2004 edition of *The Texas Ornithological Society Handbook of Texas Birds* lists 623 species accepted for the state by the Texas Bird Records Committee, which happens to be over 200 more than the 412 accepted for Ohio by the Ohio Bird Records Committee. Actually, it’s a fairly routine task to find more birds in Texas *in one year* than have *ever* been seen in Ohio. Bummer for us. A 1999 bird checklist for tiny Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge, the 2088-acre treasure near Alamo, Texas, boasts 396 species. For those keeping score, that’s 396 species in Santa Ana’s 2088 acres, versus 412 in Ohio’s 26 million acres. Hey, that’s not fair.

Texas is also full of interesting people. Once, on an earlier trip, we met a nice man, apparently the caretaker, at the thirsty and bedraggled Imperial Reservoir, not far from Fort Stockton, but nearer to nowhere. He could have charged us a modest admission fee to bird the area, but didn’t; I suspect this was because we listened politely to his discourse on the resurgence of the Republic of Texas as an independent nation. I half-hoped he would hum a few bars of *Bonnie Blue Flag*, or hoist his hat in a rousing “Huzzah!” for Civil War General John Bell Hood’s Texas Brigade, but such was not to be. Even so, I had to respect the man for his independent thinking. I too dally with independent thought—but only rarely, and only with my wife’s permission.

At this point, I should confess that although I enjoy travel within the U.S., I’m not much of a world traveler. Language difficulties give me fits; I speak only passable English, and less than passable Latin. Like many other impressionable youngsters, I was convinced to study Latin in school. I’ve forgotten exactly why, but presumably it had something to do with the Latin instructor needing to keep her job, a position she had seemingly held, based on her profoundly advanced maturity, since the time of the Caesars. In retrospect, I should have taken Spanish or French, but I took Latin; I probably would have benefited just as much by taking Amalekite or Minoan, but apparently those classes were unavailable for lack of contemporary instructors.

Volume 28, No. 2 Winter 2004-05

Short Note: A late date for chuck-will's-widow in Ohio

Jeff Hays

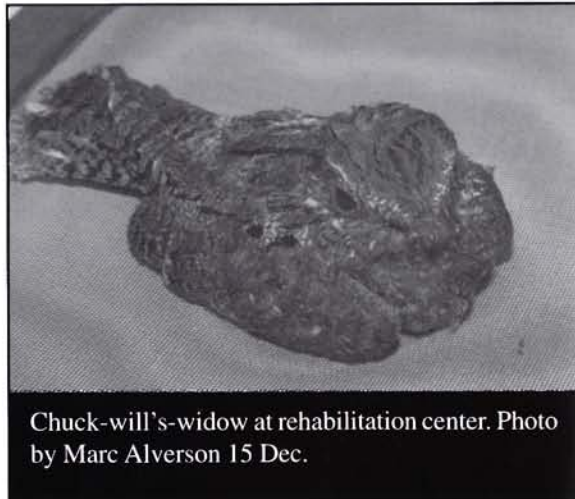
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On 12 December 2004 Raptor, Inc., a Cincinnati-based raptor rehabilitation organization, received a call about an injured hawk. Richard Connor, of Clermont County's Miami Township, had been alerted by his dogs to the presence of a bird on his property. It was roosting in pine straw on the ground under a small pine stand in his back yard. Volunteer Curt Vonderhide went there after the call. Upon seeing the bird, he knew immediately it was not a hawk, but a goatsucker. There was extensive white in the tail, and upon further examination it was determined that the bird was a male chuck-will's-widow. Although it was in poor health overall, weighing only 130 grams, its feather condition was excellent. Its intact feathers suggested that it had not been held in captivity, as it is very difficult to keep goatsuckers without some feather damage.

The bird was taken to an experienced rehabilitator of challenged birds. With much care and attention, its weight increased to 160 grams and it was ready for release. Jane Van Coney of Cincinnati then drove the bird down to Florida, where it spent another week in rehabilitation before being released on 1 January 2005.

Ohio's first record of chuck-will's-widow was of birds heard on 14 May 1932 in Adams County; one was collected there four days later. Though this species is often reported from other southern counties, the Adams County population is Ohio's best-established breeding one, with birds most often found along Ohio Brush Creek. This small breeding population represents the northern limit for regularly breeding Chuck-will's-widows in this region of the country. They are casual to rare summer residents elsewhere in Ohio, with confirmed nesting recorded in Highland and Pike counties. Only a few reports of this species have emerged from Hamilton, Butler, and Montgomery counties. There are few data available on its fall migration, and recorded late dates for Ohio apparently extend only into September (Peterjohn 2001). There is a late record of chuck-will's-widow for Whitefish Point in Chippewa County, Michigan, on 18 October 2000, almost certainly a reverse migrant (Chartier 2001).



Chuck-will's-widow at rehabilitation center. Photo by Marc Alverson 15 Dec.

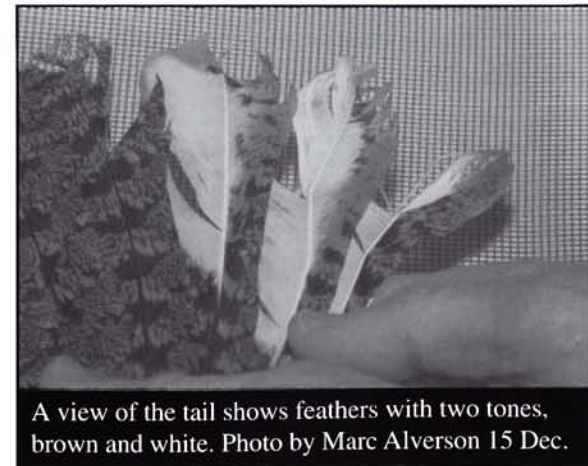
Some late fall dates for other states are:

Kentucky	13 September 1987	Hopkins County
Illinois	19 September 1968	Southern Illinois
Georgia	29 September 1949	Grady County
Tennessee	5 October 1984	Knox County

Given the late date, the Clermont County bird was quite possibly a reverse migrant that may not have been present in the area during the fall. [In the Cincinnati Museum of Natural History is a specimen, #35258, of a female chuck-will's-widow picked up as a corpse in a downtown Cincinnati street on the extraordinary date of 28 February 1994; surely not a reverse migrant, this occurrence has yet to be explained. –Ed.] In any event, the Clermont County record is noteworthy both because of the location and the date of the bird's discovery, not to mention its successful rehabilitation and eventual release.

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A view of the tail shows feathers with two tones, brown and white. Photo by Marc Alverson 15 Dec.

The 2004-2005 Christmas Bird Counts

Ned Keller

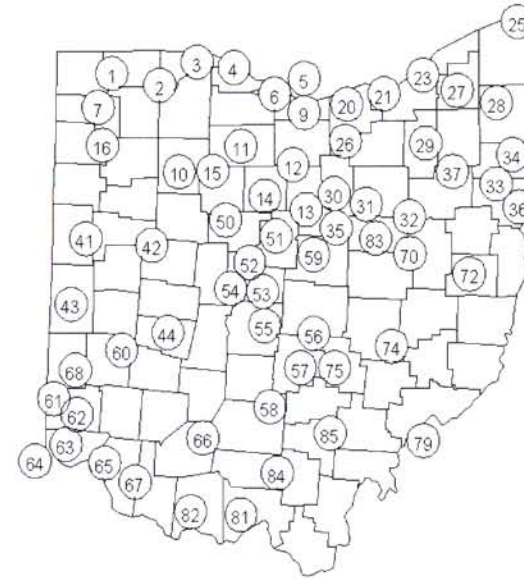
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The results from 64 Christmas counts are included in this year's report, well above last year's unusually low 54. In addition to the counts on the Audubon web site (see www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/), we present the results from six additional counts: Carey, Clark County, Fremont, Gypsum, Hancock County, and Lakewood. Despite the increased effort, we found only 150 species, one less than last year's 151. At any rate, we have followed our usual practice of including the results as they were reported to us, without attempting to verify reports of rarities.

Twenty-one species were recorded from only a single count: a long-tailed duck and a northern goshawk at Lake Erie Islands, a red-necked grebe, a Thayer's gull, an Iceland gull and two glaucous gulls at Grand Rapids-Waterville, an osprey in Clark County, a Virginia rail at Millersburg, a dunlin at Ashtabula (plus another count week at Brown Family Environmental Center), an American woodcock at East Fork S.P., three snowy owls and a Lincoln's sparrow in Toledo, two long-eared owls at Ottawa N.W.R., a loggerhead shrike at Indian Lake (plus another count week at Kingston), a house wren and a pine warbler at Cuyahoga Falls, six marsh wrens at Elyria-Lorain (this may have been a data entry error, as they reported no winter wrens.), a Cape May warbler and a palm warbler at Wilmot, a Wilson's warbler at Hamilton-Fairfield, and a Henslow's sparrow in Adams County. Unusually, no species were added to the season's state list during count week.

Birders on the Cincinnati count ignored a near-record December snowfall to find 92 species, followed by Cuyahoga Falls with 86, Fremont and Gypsum with 84, Millersburg with 83 and Adams County with 80. Cuyahoga Falls had the most birders in the field and at feeders with 96, followed by Wilmot with 76 and Millersburg with 75.



The numbered circles on the map correspond to the numbers in parentheses that follow the names of the counts in the tabular report.



Golden-crowned kinglet by Bill Shively

	Tiffin (11) Dec. 18, 2004	Toledo (9) Dec. 19, 2004	Trumbull County (28) Dec. 19, 2004	Wellington (26) Dec. 29, 2004	Western Hamilton County (63) Dec. 19, 2004	Willmot (32) Dec. 18, 2004	Wooster (31) Dec. 18, 2004	Youngstown (34) Dec. 18, 2004	Total		
Gray Catbird	--	2	--	1	--	--	--	--	11	10	10
Northern Mockingbird	1	2	--	2	68	98	6	2	1117	55	55
Brown Thrasher	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	10	7	6
European Starling	2155	2737	174	7470	36231	3831	1192	301	297764	64	64
American Pipit	--	--	--	1	--	12	--	--	41	5	5
Cedar Waxwing	--	8	--	--	17	1	3	1	991	41	40
Cape May Warbler	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	1	1	1
Yellow-rumped Warbler	--	--	14	4	7	26	2	9	345	44	43
Pine Warbler	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	1
Palm Warbler	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	1	1	1
Wilson's Warbler	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	1
Eastern Towhee	--	--	--	4	72	13	4	--	570	42	42
American Tree Sparrow	182	397	392	92	10	753	101	56	11417	62	62
Chipping Sparrow	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	35	9	9
Field Sparrow	10	--	--	2	18	13	15	--	435	32	32
Vesper Sparrow	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	3	2	2
Savannah Sparrow	--	1	--	--	--	2	--	--	62	10	10
Henslow's Sparrow	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	1
Fox Sparrow	--	6	--	--	10	3	--	--	65	23	23
Song Sparrow	26	28	16	38	573	801	64	21	8314	63	63
Lincoln's Sparrow	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	1
Swamp Sparrow	--	25	--	1	16	31	2	--	372	37	37
White-throated Sparrow	7	118	3	21	783	238	21	3	6055	60	60
White-crowned Sparrow	8	61	5	47	39	759	62	7	2965	53	53
sparrow sp.	--	--	--	--	--	3	--	--	50	5	5
Dark-eyed Junco	275	239	219	244	356	920	141	56	16165	64	64
Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	2	2	2
Lapland Longspur	--	--	--	2	--	--	--	--	522	8	7
Snow Bunting	--	51	40	245	--	--	--	--	2311	19	19
Northern Cardinal	190	290	249	204	1216	1183	122	92	19331	64	64
Red-winged Blackbird	13	2860	--	2	1	8059	78	--	41925	44	42
Eastern Meadowlark	--	--	--	--	--	33	--	--	234	19	18
Rusty Blackbird	--	--	--	--	--	297	2	--	619	18	16
Brewer's Blackbird	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5	2	2
blackbird sp.	--	--	--	--	--	5357	--	--	5663	7	7
Common Grackle	--	5326	--	--	--	21974	--	--	227576	38	37
Brown-headed Cowbird	2	171	7	--	--	1553	3	--	8803	44	41
Purple Finch	--	--	--	3	7	3	3	--	368	36	35
House Finch	153	547	99	55	186	292	14	57	7786	63	63
Common Redpoll	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	10	2	2
Pine Siskin	--	--	--	--	15	--	--	--	248	20	17
American Goldfinch	181	192	387	95	286	626	215	93	11560	64	64
House Sparrow	1132	843	282	562	749	1430	217	117	31852	63	63
total species	52	81	58	56	70	79	68	58	150		
total individuals	8638	32014	5204	12506	54680	58961	6933	6073	1151462		
observers	27	23	7	18	31	76	16	13	1349		
party hours	40.25	61	43.75	43	100.75	177	40.5	39.5	3454.5		

Herring Gulls *Larus argentatus* breed successfully in Southeastern Ohio

Wendell L. Argabrite*, Michael Griffith,
Dr. Gary O. Rankin, Harry E. Slack, III

In North America, herring gulls *Larus argentatus* breed from arctic Canada into eastern Alaska, northern Minnesota, northern Wisconsin, northern Ohio, northern New York, northeastern Illinois, northeastern Indiana, southeastern Wyoming and along the Atlantic Coast south to northeastern South Carolina (A.O.U. 1998, Pierotti and Good 1994). Isolated breeding in North America has occurred in southern Alabama, southern Louisiana, and southern Texas (A.O.U. 1998).

In Ohio, herring gulls nest primarily along western Lake Erie (Peterjohn and Rice 1991). About thirty pairs have been noted nesting inland in northeastern counties since 1991 (Peterjohn 2001). South of the aforementioned sites, nesting attempts have been documented in four counties: Gallia (Kyger Creek Power Plant) in 1971 (Kiff et al. 1986); Portage (Lake Rockwell) and Trumbull (Mosquito Creek Reservoir) from 1982 to 1987 (Peterjohn and Rice 1991); and Mercer (Lake St. Marys) in 1985 (Peterjohn and Rice 1991). Here, we report successful breeding by herring gulls in southeastern Ohio's Gallia County in 2004.

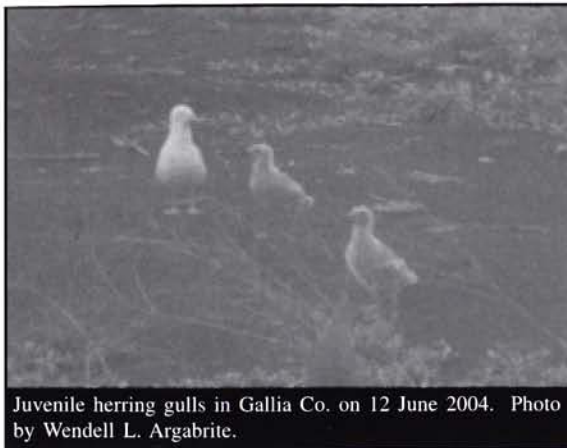
Herring gulls are casual summer visitants in the lower Ohio River valley bordered by Ohio and West Virginia (www.birdsofthelowerohiorivervalleyinwestvirginia.com). On 5 June 2004, during a survey of ponds at General James M. Gavin Power Plant, five adult and eight juvenile Herring Gulls were recorded. The gulls were on a spoil area of a bottom ash pond with sufficient vegetation to provide cover for juvenal birds. The juveniles were estimated to be about six to eight days old.

Four additional visits in June recorded eight or nine juveniles and three to eight adults. Eight juveniles found on 16 July appeared capable of sustained flight. On 22 July sustained flight was confirmed for nine juveniles. A tenth juvenile on the spoil area appeared sick or injured. Thereafter, only single juveniles were recorded on 1 and 8 August and 28 September. From one to six adults were present from July to September.

Based on breeding parameters (Pierotti and Good 1994) egg-laying would have begun about 29 April to 1 May. Fledging occurs 45 to 50 days after hatching, which corresponds to our observations of fledging between 16 and 22 July. Three or four pairs of adults likely nested based on the modal clutch of 3 eggs.

Acknowledgments

We thank officials of American Electric Power, especially Don Anderson and Doug Workman, for permission to conduct surveys at General James M. Gavin Power Plant. Roy S. Slack made helpful comments on a previous draft.



Juvenile herring gulls in Gallia Co. on 12 June 2004. Photo by Wendell L. Argabrite.

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Licking Reservoir Trip

May 29, 8 A.M. to May 31, 8 P.M. 1902

by Lynds Jones

We found this text in a packet of papers of Lynds Jones (1865-1951) of Oberlin, Ohio, one of the state's eminent ornithologists. Probably an early draft of an article never published, it was typed on the reverse of five sheets of stationery of The Wilson Bulletin, the journal Jones founded and edited for many years. A long-time member of the faculty at Oberlin College, Jones founded the Wilson Ornithological Society, and was the first university professor of ornithology in the United States, as well as author of *The Birds of Ohio: A Revised Catalogue* (1903). Among Jones's companions on this birding trip were I. A. Field, author of *The Birds of Licking County* (1903), and William Leon Dawson, author of *The Birds of Ohio* (1903). Published here for the first time, this piece describes field trips taken at Licking Reservoir (its name officially changed to Buckeye Lake in 1894) at the end of spring 1902. By 1898, the last Ohio Canal boat had passed through the locks on the lake, and the area was a popular tourist destination, called the "Playground of Ohio." In the year of Jones's expedition, for example, among other events it hosted a YMCA event attended by a thousand persons, and a picnic for 500 children. Amenities of the day included two dancing pavilions, numerous resorts and hotels (the Glass Hotel charged \$10 a week by 1911), marinas, liveries, ball fields, arcades, and two newspapers. Nevertheless, it seems some wild areas remained in 1902.

Here there is much to interest the student of Ohio's ornithological history. Readers will notice a ratio of 50 least bitterns to one great blue heron and other striking differences from today's avifauna, an early record of brant which Irving [1903:134] himself called a "doubtful record" and of long-billed curlew which he [ibid, p.136] duly reports without qualification. Dawson, for his part (1903) merely reports the curlew as "now [a] rare migrant," without mentioning this sighting, and includes the brant in his hypothetical list, saying it was uncertain as to whether the nominate or the "white-bellied brant" was involved on this occasion. It is also interesting to compare Jones's account here with Trautman's work (1940) on the bird life of Buckeye Lake, based on his studies there not too many years later, between 1922 and 1934. —Ed.

PARTICIPANTS; Irving A. Field, Granville, E. J. Arrick, McConnelsville (29-30), W. L. Dawson, Columbus (30). Lynds Jones, Oberlin, Ohio. Board and room at the hotel managed by Mr. Glass. Dinner out 30. [the numbers refer to May dates in 1902]

Work began recording the birds as soon as we could get our clothes changed, which was about 8:30 A.M. We took boats at once, one for Arrick and I, another for Field, with his gun. I rowed across to the swamps bordering the south side of the New Reservoir. It is about half a mile from the hotel and due south. A little further west there is an extensive island with a large peach orchard and a dwelling

house. The part facing the reservoir is now planted to corn. There is probably ten acres of corn land on this island. Strawberries of a fine quality and large size have been allowed to run wild in the peach orchard, and were just ripening on our first day out. We gorged ourselves the second day!

We first went into the marshy ground at the west end of the island, left our boats in about a foot of water among the cattails, and waded out keeping a sharp lookout for swamp birds. We had no more than entered the rim of submerged vegetation rods out from the first cattails when the Least Bitterns began to start up. We had counted above a dozen before searching the dry ground of the island. I had scarcely stepped out of the boat before running upon a nest with four eggs of the Least Bittern. In this swamp a number of unfinished nests, and one with three and one with two eggs were found. Here the Red-winged Blackbirds were nesting in large numbers, but most of the nests contained young or were empty, the young having left. A very small proportion contained eggs.

At the beginning of an arm of the swamp which extended into the island toward its south side, on the east end, I ran upon a nest containing eight eggs of Florida Gallinule [*common moorhen*]. Like the Least Bittern, this nest was elevated above the water fully a foot, but with a runway of roads extending down to the water. The nest was made of the same materials. The Least Bittern's nests were more elevated, some of them fully three feet, and with no runway of reeds. The nests were fairly well made, and slightly hollowed in the middle.

After some further search here, which revealed two Long-billed Marsh Wrens in the drier parts of the reeds, and innumerable Traill's Flycatchers in the bordering marshes, we went to another island of small extent, but with rather large trees which grew upon an elevated place. This bunch of trees was surrounded by water, on the south by the canal proper, on the east and north by an extensive border of cattails, gradually fading into the regulation marshy land with narrow leaved cattails and further by submerged plants and lily [*sic*] pads; on the west there was a considerable growth of crooked water willows. In one of these willows, in a natural cavity there was to be a Prothonotary Warbler's nest. We first heard the warblers, then saw them making somewhat regular trips to and fro across a small clear space, and finally discovered one of the birds carrying material for a nest. There seemed to be three males and one female, but the males were fighting. In the cattails the Long-billed Marsh Wrens were numerous, and we found several unfinished nests. Here, also, the Least Bitterns were very numerous, and we heard the Virginia Rail and started up one Sora. It was here that the American Bittern got up and flew over to the larger island.

As we looked over to the old reservoir, from the tow path, we saw a single Black Tern flying over the water. The old part was clearer water.

I was prepared to see a body of water besprinkled with standing dead trees, and filled with rotting stumps and fallen timber, making progress with a boat difficult and hazardous. On the contrary, the water was an unbroken expanse, except for the island which dotted the surface, some of them mere points of land with a few trees or brush, some larger and used for summer residences, some wholly submerged and known only by the thick growth of cattails, usually surrounded by a coarse

submerged water plant and lily pads. The snags and stumps and logs were mostly conspicuous by their absence. There were no standing dead trees, and the stumps were scattered and few, and mostly mere points of wood, or like stakes sticking up out of the water. A few logs lay just underneath the water.

The water vegetation, that which lay just beneath the surface of the water, and that which lay just at the top of the water—floating lily pads and the like—was interesting from the standpoint of the boatman. In some places there was a Spyrogira-like thing with that water plant which grows in long strings, having clusters of needle-like leaves sticking out all around the stem, something like a hemlock. When the oars went down into this mixture they came up loaded. The lily pads and the coarse submerged waterplant [*sic*] retarded progress seriously. In some places these plants were so thick that it was almost impossible to push through. In a few places we had to pole the boat along. Of course these islands of vegetation occurred only in the places where the water was less than two feet deep. In deeper water only scattered lily pads were found, and in still deeper places, which was the larger proportion of the reservoir, there was no vegetation. We saw both the yellow and the white lilies.

On the way home to dinner I picked up the Least Bittern's set of four and the Florida Gallinule [*sic*] of eight eggs. Arrick rowed to the west end of the large island, on the way home, where we stopped to eat strawberries, and I rowed the rest of the way.

After dinner we rowed down toward the east to some small islands, where more Coots and Florida Gallinules were recorded, and everywhere in the swampy vegetation, Least Bitterns. After reconnoitering several likely places for water birds, we rowed to the north side where the dyke forms the boundary to the reservoir, and visited an extensive swamp below the level of the reservoir. Here the Prothonotary Warblers were more numerous. The Yellow-throated Vireo, Yellow-breasted Chat and Field Sparrow were added to the list. I ought to have said that before coming to this swamp we visited the east side where there were some high woods and more swamps. Here we found some good water to drink, and in the woods the Oven bird, Screech Owl, Woodcock, Green-crested Flycatcher, and several other less uncommon birds.

Against a strong head wind we made our way home, and arrived just in time for supper. After supper Field skinned a Least Bittern and I blew the eggs I had taken. Before I had finished the job I walked Dawson, from Columbus. We soon went to bed, prepared to get an early start on the morrow.

May 30. Dawson, Field and I started out at 4 o'clock. Arrick did not waken until the call to breakfast. We took a boat apiece and crossed to the large island, putting up the bitterns and Green Herons, and noting the Barn, Bank, Tree and Rough-winged Swallows overhead. As we stepped out upon the dyke a flock of Blue-winged Teals appeared overhead. While crossing a single Solitary Sandpiper flew across the water, and Cliff Swallow joined the troops of other swallows and Purple Martins. From the dyke separating the new from the old reservoir I sighted some ducks on the south bank of the old reservoir. They proved to be Lesser Scaup. We dragged one boat over the dyke and rowed out to make sure. On the way back to

breakfast there was nothing unusual. We did not see the Osprey which was feeding yesterday morning.

After breakfast we took two boats, Field and Arrick in one, Dawson and I in the other, and made for the east end of the reservoir, twelve miles away. Stopping at the Prothonotary Warbler swamp on the way down we added the Scarlet Tanager to our list. It was here that Dawson and I made search for nests of Prothonotary, finding several not occupied. In climbing one rotten stub that looked well for a nest, it broke short off letting me down about eight feet into the mud and slime of the swamp. My left hand got badly skinned in the fall. All along this dyke the Prothonotary Warblers were numerous.

From the swamp we rowed to the 'Floating Island', some six miles down the reservoir. This may have grown up since the reservoir was made, but if so I doubt if it is really the result of a raft of wood in deep water. It has all the appearance of an extensive sphagnum moss and cranberry bog with a fringe of crooked willows, dogwood and poison sumac or oak. A purple orchid was in bloom. This island looked to be some twenty acres in extent, separated from an elevation of land on which large trees were growing, by a narrow strip of water. This is on the north side of the reservoir. This region is one of numerous small islands and narrowing clear water. It has the appearance of nearness to the end of the reservoir; but I was told that there is considerable clear water further east.

We stopped in the large woods north of the 'floating Island' and recorded White-breasted Nuthatch, Hummingbird, Bobolink on the outskirts, and Orchard Oriole.

From here we pushed on and turned north into an arm of the reservoir that extends perhaps a mile north between low hills. On the east side of the end of this arm there is a considerable woods which contains large trees and considerable underbrush. On the water we saw more Lesser Scaup Ducks, two males and six females, Green Herons and Least Bitterns. In the woods an Olive-backed Thrush was singing, a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher made himself known, and a great Blue Heron passed overhead. Here, also, we heard a Red-bellied Woodpecker.

Some extensive swampy looking tracts to the south in another blunt projection of the reservoir, gave us a good deal of trouble. There was too much vegetation to make work here practicable. After beating about with little success we went to one of the low log houses on a low island where we got some good water, and ate dinner. On the way over two Black Ducks flew across the water, and a single Greater Yellow-legs howled at us. All around we could hear swamp birds complaining in the thick vegetation, but none but Coots could be seen. It was very annoying.

After dinner we made back for the hotel along the south shore where islands and retreats for ducks abound. Here we were very fortunate in putting up a Brant, the first one I ever saw to recognize. He allowed us to approach within a stone's throw before taking wing.

There was nothing more of special interest before reaching the swamps lying east of the large island opposite the hotel. Here we put up a Florida Gallinule for Dawson's benefit, and he or Field found a nest containing six eggs. We visited the strawberry patch again and gorged ourselves. I got uncomfortable! We did not

try to do more work, but went to the hotel, about 4:30 P.M. and waited for Dawson's train, which was late. When he had gone the three of us took supper, and then waited for Arrick's train, which was late also. When he had gone we turned in. While waiting for Dawson's train a Vesper Sparrow was heard singing and a Nighthawk squeed overhead. The day's work netted 77 species, not counting some small sandpipers which were seen flying across the water low down, in compact flocks. On the whole it was a very successful day's work.

Saturday morning at 4:30 we left the hotel and walked down the north dyke about a mile. There appeared flying rather high over the reservoir a flock of seven Long-billed Curlews! They swept over to the west and appeared to light near the strawberry island. Just as we were starting back to go over to them they appeared again flying east over the water, and this time came within easy range. There was no mistaking them. We saw nothing of interest during the rest of the morning. After breakfast we started up the railroad track to study the fauna away from the water and in the larger woods. We walked several miles north and west, but added only Bluebird and Bartramian Sandpiper to the list. Vesper Sparrows proved to be fairly common. Bobolinks and Meadowlarks were not very numerous. Only two Sparrow Hawks were seen. We came back to reservoir at 11 o'clock and took boats for the purpose of taking a picture of the gallinule's nest. On the way over four terns appeared, two of which were clearly Common and two were so much larger that we decided they must be either Caspian or Royal. At first we pronounced them Am. Herring Gulls, but a closer view decided the point that they were terns beyond doubt. A flock of smaller terns came in which Field thought were smaller than the Common, but I was not sure enough to give them any other name. A Black Tern joined the company. There was not time to get the gun before dinner so we waited and went out for them after dinner. They were not to be found anywhere! We also spotted a Red-breasted Merganser on our row over both before and after dinner. After our unsuccessful search for the tern we beached our boats and walked down the dike for the Prothonotary Warbler's nest and four eggs. I took them and got them safely home. I also gathered the six Florida Gallinule's eggs, which proved to be well addled. Supper and packing closed the day.

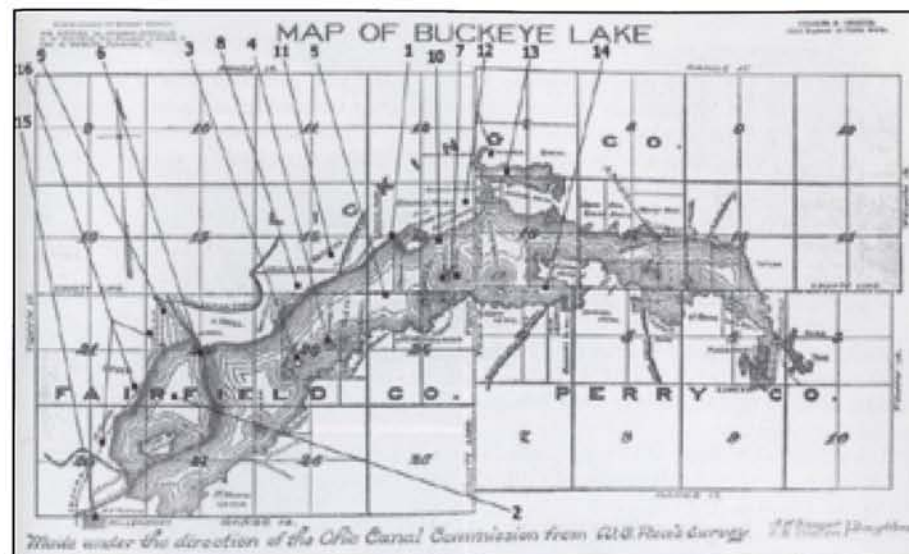
The weather was about all that could be desired, everything considered, everything considered. Thursday opened decidedly frosty at Edison, but seemed somewhat less cold at the reservoir. The day warmed up and was pleasant for work on the water and in the swamps. Friday was all that could be desired. The morning was just a little chilly. Saturday began in a shower, was mostly cloudy all day but clearing toward evening. Saturday began in a shower, was mostly cloudy all day but clearing toward evening, with a shower at about 2 P.M. Every day a rather stiff breeze sprang up from the south west rather late in the afternoon.

At Granville no special effort was made to record birds, but a list was kept for comparison. The list of species follows, with the relative abundance of each given. Superficially the fauna of the Licking reservoir region and of Lorain County seem to be very similar in most respects but with two notable exceptions. There we recorded no House Wrens, but the Prothonotary Warblers were numerous.

BIRDS SEEN AT LICKING RESERVOIR, MAY 29, 30, 31, 1902

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Bonaparte's Gull, 1. | 47. Traill's Flycatcher, C. G. |
| 2. Caspian Tern, 2. | 48. Blue Jay, T.C. G. |
| 3. Common Tern, 9. | 49. American Crow, T.C. G. |
| 4. Black Tern, 2. | 50. Bobolink, 5. G. |
| 5. Red-breasted Merganser, 1. | 51. Cowbird, 1. |
| 6. Black Duck, 3. | 52. Red-winged Blackbird, C. G. |
| 7. Blue-winged Teal, 10. | 53. Meadowlark, C. G. |
| 8. Lesser Scaup Duck, 20. | 54. Orchard Oriole, 5. G. |
| 9. Brant, 1. | 55. Baltimore Oriole, C. G. |
| 10. American Bittern, 2. | 56. Bronzed Grackle, T. C. G. |
| 11. Least Bittern, 50. | 57. American Goldfinch, C. G. |
| 12. Great Blue Heron, 1. | 58. Vesper Sparrow, 10. G. |
| 13. Green Heron, 10. | 59. Field Sparrow, 5. G. |
| 14. Virginia Rail, 10. G. | 60. Song Sparrow, C. G. |
| 15. Sora, 4. | 61. Towhee, 2. |
| 16. Florida Gallinule, 4. | 62. Cardinal, C. G. |
| 17. American Coot, 10. | 63. Indigo Bunting, C. G. |
| 18. American Woodcock, 1. | 64. Scarlet Tanager, 3. G. |
| 19. Greater Yellow-legs, 2. | 65. Purple Martin, T. C. G. |
| 20. Bartramian Sandpiper, 2. | 66. Cliff Swallow, 4. |
| 21. Spotted Sandpiper, 10. G. | 67. Barn Swallow, T.C. G. |
| 22. Long-billed Curlew, 7. | 68. Tree Swallow, 20. |
| 23. Solitary Sandpiper, 5. | 69. Bark [sic] Swallow, C. |
| 24. Killdeer, 4. G. | 70. Rough-winged Swallow, 20. |
| 25. Bob-white, 10. G. | 71. Cedar Waxwing, 15. G. |
| 26. Mourning Dove, C. G. | 72. Red-eyed Vireo, C. G. |
| 27. Turkey Vulture, 2. G. | 73. Warbling Vireo, C. G. |
| 28. American Sparrow Hawk, 2. | 74. Yellow-throated Vireo, 5. G. |
| 29. American Osprey, 1. | 75. Prothonotary Warbler, C. |
| 30. Screech Owl, 1. | 76. Yellow Warbler, C. G. |
| 31. Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 10. G. | 77. Oven-bird, 3. |
| 32. Black-billed Cuckoo, 3. G. | 78. Maryland Yellow-throat, C. G. |
| 33. Belted Kingfisher, 5. | 79. Yellow-breasted Chat, T.C. G. |
| 34. Hairy Woodpecker, 2. | 80. American Redstart, 15. |
| 35. Downy Woodpecker, 4. G. | 81. Catbird, C. G. |
| 36. Red-headed Woodpecker, 10. G. | 82. Brown Thrasher, 5. G. |
| 37. Red-bellied Woodpecker, 2. | 83. Carolina Wren, C. G. |
| 38. Flicker, 10. G. | 84. Long-billed Marsh Wren, C. |
| 39. Nighthawk, 3. G. | 85. White-breasted Nuthatch, 5. |
| 40. Chimney Swift, T.C. G. | 86. Tufted Titmouse, 5. |
| 41. Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 3. | 87. Chickadee, 2. |
| 42. Kingbird, C. G. | 88. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 1. |
| 43. Crested Flycatcher, T.C. G. | 89. Wood Thrush, T.C. G. |
| 44. Phoebe, 10. G. | 90. Olive-backed Thrush, 1. |
| 45. Wood Pewee, C. G. | 91. American Robin, C. G. |
| 46. Green-crested Flycatcher, 10. G. | 92. Bluebird, 5. G. |
- A small sandpiper.

The Granville horizon includes those marked G, and the following additions:
Dickcissel. Lark Sparrow. Chipping Sparrow.



Map courtesy Donna Fisher Braig, from her book *My Buckeye Lake Story*.

Legend for map

1. Glass Hotel – The front steps remain today in the village of Buckeye Lake.
2. New Reservoir – The lake west of the Ohio Canal towpath, extending south from Sellars Point. On today's maps called the New Lake.
3. Orchard Island — Today the location of many summer homes.
4. Round Island – Until 2005 known as Rownd Island and owned by Dave Thomas, founder of Wendy's restaurants, who had a summer residence there.
5. Old Reservoir – The area of the Lake east of the towpath extending south from Sellars Point.
6. Sellars Point – The towpath extended from this peninsula to Millersport.
7. Beech and Elm Islands — Presently occupied by residential homes, but the early names remain.
8. North Bank – The earthen dam that extends from just east of the Glass Hotel (1) to Sellars Point (6).
9. Lakeside Woods — Remains today west of Sellars Point, south of Fairfield Co. Twp. Rd. 404.
10. Cranberry Bog – Shrinking in size but extant today, it does not appear on this 1900 map.
11. Big Woods – Today it can be seen north of the North Bank, extending from west of the Glass Hotel site to just East of Sellars Point. It is north of St. Rt. 360.
12. Bounds Woods – This woods remains near the former Blue Goose Restaurant.
13. Maple Bay – Known previously as Maple Swamp.
14. Little Buckeye — Known previously as Little Buckeye Swamp.
15. Millersport — The village at the western end of the lake.
16. Steam Railroad — Today an abandoned Penn Central Railroad line, extending from the village of Millersport to the north.

Acknowledgments

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A young glaucous gull from 4 Feb in Cleveland, photographed by Gary Meszaros. This second-winter bird retains the bicolored bill of the first-winter, but looks overall chalky-white, lacking extensive brownish vermiculations.



Adult glaucous gull, photographed in Cleveland 1 Feb by Gary Meszaros. Compare the head and bill structure to the Iceland gull.



An adult Iceland gull in perfect plumage, photographed in Cleveland 1 Feb by Gary Meszaros. This is our local "Kumlien's" form, which does not always show such dark and prominent black in the primaries

Gulls of Lake Erie



This view of the apparent herring X great black-backed gull shows underwing details. Photo by John Pogacnik from Cleveland 29 Jan.