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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.

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Bill Whan, *Editor*
Edwin C. Pierce, *Publisher*
Troy Shively, *Design Manager*
The Ohio Bird Records Committee: **Tom Kemp**, *Secretary*
10346 Obee Rd.
Whitehouse, OH 43571
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On the Cover: This alternate-plumaged purple sandpiper, a very rare spring migrant in Ohio, was photographed 12 May on the Crane Creek SP beach by Jeff Moore.

Spring 2005 Overview and Reports

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

A cold spring followed a warm winter. Eager northbound waterfowl, as usual, punched through wherever there was open water in March, and this spring very few lingered; a look at the reports will show the heyday (of observations, at least—it was a warm Saturday) as the 26th. Most passerines showed up on time in southern Ohio—in fact three record early arrival dates were set by warblers—but up north many seemed late. Many flycatchers came a week later than average; a few showed up on time, but only as isolated single birds, as if overshooting. Even the familiar eastern wood-pewee seemed sparser than usual; first reported 7 May this spring; last year several of their *nests* were reported by 11 May, and several observers mentioned hearing them less often later this spring. Other birds devoted to flying insects, like swifts, lagged behind in the north. Warbler movements were sluggish in starting up near Lake Erie, with diminished numbers into the first week of May. These delays may have been more than local, as many species that nest to our north stayed late with us. Spring migrants make slower progress in the face of northern winds, with fewer overflights and early arrivals in the north, and prevailing wind directions provide one possible explanation: on 35 of the 45 days from 12 March through 24 April winds were from the north, as they were on 18 of 21 days following 11 May; in between, from 25 April through 10 May, they relented, only five of those 16 days having northerly winds. Chilly temperatures were the norm from 10 April through the end of the period, during which interval temperatures averaged a substantial 4.78 degrees F below normal in the middle of the state. There were relatively few overshoots or early arrivals among migrants in the north.

A substantial snowfall on 24 April marked winter's final blow, and images from that day of black terns and hundreds of chimney swifts gamely seeking insects in mid-storm, and squadrons of golden-plovers and dunlins in alternate plumage standing as if patiently belly-deep in snow, are likely to remain with observers. As one might expect, a fair amount of mortality was noted among scouting species such as purple martins. Shorebirds of upland habitats—pectorals, golden-plovers, killdeers —fared well enough on grasslands and other open country. The more numerous species preferring mudflats found precious little habitat in Ohio this spring, but among those few able to adapt to sharing chilly spring beaches with humans were found a couple of endangered piping plovers and a locally extremely rare breeding-plumaged purple sandpiper. More than a few observers felt that many thrushes, flycatchers, vireos (especially our common red-eyed), and some of the commoner warblers like magnolia and yellow-rumped were somewhat late and seemed noticeably down in numbers.

Perhaps straining to locate tardy migrants made us more alert, but for whatever reason it was a good season for rarities, with 14 review species reported. They included fulvous whistling-duck (9), cackling goose (2), tricolored heron, glossy and white-faced ibises (an unprecedented 40 *Plegadis* ibises in total), Mississippi kite, yellow rail (2), black rail, piping plover (2), Eurasian collared-dove, red-naped sapsucker, black-throated gray warbler, Kirtland's warbler (3), and Swainson's warbler. A couple of other reported review species went undocumented, hence

unreviewed, and are not included in the reports here. There were also birds detected on unusual and even unprecedented schedules, as well as some remarkable numbers, both high and low. As stressful as it may have been for birds and observers alike, the season sorted itself out at last as a memorably interesting one.

Readers will find in this issue of the *Cardinal*, besides the dependable features, abundant evidence that the Ohio Bird Records Committee has emerged victorious from beneath a drift of paperwork, a review of a new book on Cleveland-area birds, and word that the "parulean warbler" returned to Toledo (statistics on hybrid viability notwithstanding). Bob Powell offers results from a study that's a model of how to learn from one's own patch. Finally, we present another piece of Ohio history from Jared P. Kirtland, who proves himself only the earliest of our naturalists to regret the passing of wild things.

Corrigenda:

In our Fall 2004 issue, a sighting of four merlins 24 Oct 2004 at MWW was recorded; these birds were in fact northern harriers.

We apologize for poor reproduction of the old map that accompanied Lynds Jones's article on Buckeye Lake in our Winter 2004-05 issue. This map, on page 87, was also misattributed, and is a 1900 production of the Ohio Canal Survey Commission.

Finally, the photo of mergansers on page 47 of the winter issue should have been attributed to Brian Zwiebel.

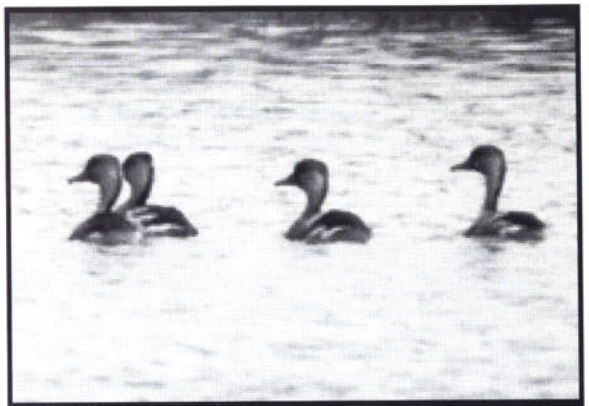
For the Record

A new late Ohio record for mourning warbler was established by Bob Foppe's discovery of a specimen at the Carnegie Museum of one collected 11 Dec 1988 in Beaver Twp of Mahoning County.

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 31 May 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; 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, 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.

Spring 2005 Reports

Fulvous whistling-duck: Unrecorded in Ohio for over ten years, a flock of nine spent 9 through at least 12 May at **Mercer WA** (ph). Few got to see them. Details are with the OBRC.



Four of the nine fulvous whistling-ducks at Mercer WA this spring. Photo by Jill Bowers.

Greater white-fronted goose: K. Overman found four at **Killdeer Plains WA** 5 Mar, the Dunakins two in ***Paulding*** 18 Mar, and E. Bacik one at **Fairport** 3 Apr.

Snow goose: Four (three blue) stopped at **KPWA** 2 Mar (J. Kuenzli), where six were found 5 Mar (K. Overman). One at **Hoover Res** 16 Mar (B. Master) may have been the same there 15 Apr (C. Bombaci). The ONWRC counted eight 6 Mar and 21 on 3 Apr. S. Young reported a juv at **Pipe CK WA** 30 Apr, and a wounded bird passed at least 27 Mar-14 May near **ONWR** (R&S Harlan). Two were at **KPWA** on 5 May (L. Gara).

Brian Zwiebel shows how to photograph a cackling goose—right next to another species—in this image of the bird that spent 30 April-7

Cackling goose: Accepted to the official Ohio list on 20 Mar, this is now a review species requiring documentation, mainly because of its uncertain past records and future taxonomy. Reports of one at **KPWA** 5 Mar and another at **Castalia Pond** 30 Apr-7 May are with the OBRC.

Tundra swan: About 2000 reported, all but ten within the customary migratory corridor between the **western Lake Erie marshes ESE through the northeastern counties**. Most passed through during the first three weeks of Mar, with the latest big flock of 147 at **Walborn Res** in ***Stark*** 16 Mar (B. Morrison). High count 512 on the 6 Mar ONWRC.

Wood duck: By 6 Mar, 18 were present for the **ONWRC**. A count of as many as 100+ at **KPWA** 21 Mar was remarkable (R. Lowry).

Gadwall: By 5 Mar, 85 were at **Funk WA** in ***Wayne*** (J. Brumfield), and ~200 were at **Metzger Marsh WA** by the 27th (R&S Harlan). Few lingered, with one at **Magee** 8 May (G. Miller).

Eurasian wigeon: More than usual. Seemingly a drake remained from winter 10 Mar at **Killbuck WA** (B. Jackson), joined by another 16 Mar (R. Hershberger et al.), dwindling to one by 29 Mar (S. Snyder). J. Pogacnik found another at **Mallard Club Marsh** 27 Mar, and C. Bochmann one at **Mosquito Ck WA** on 3 Apr. Another drake, latish near ***Ottawa*** 27 Apr (T. Shively) was probably the same tallied by the **ONWRC** on 1 May.

American wigeon: Moved through briskly, with 225 at **KPWA** 7 Mar (R&S Harlan) and ~300 there 26 Mar (D. Overacker); ~80 remained 10 Apr (R. Sempier). A straggler was at **Metzger Marsh** 22 May (P. Chaon).

American black duck: The high count was early, 207 for the 6 Mar **ONWRC**. Fifty were at **Funk WA** 8 Apr (S. Snyder), and the last reported at **Magee** 8 May (G. Miller).

Mallard: Accustomedly numerous. The **ONWRC** tallied 3661 on 6 Apr, with 111 remaining for the count of 1 May.

Blue-winged teal: Pretty much on schedule, with two drakes the first near **Wooster** 6 Mar (S. Snyder). At **Ottawa**, 72 remained on 1 May (ONWRC).

Northern shoveler: First one reported at **Funk WA** 5 Mar (J. Brumfield), where numbers reached 150 by 3 Apr (R&S Harlan). Numbers by the **ONWRC**, including a nice high count, came out at 92 on 6 Mar, 230 on 3 Apr, and 19 on 1 May.

Northern pintail: Moved early as always, with 300 at **Funk** 5 Mar (J. Brumfield) and 418 the following day for the **ONWRC**. Twelve remained at **Funk** 13 Apr (S. Snyder).

Green-winged teal: Three arrived at **Hoover Res** 3 Mar (C. Bombaci), and numbers peaked at ~800 at **Funk WA** 3 Apr (R&S Harlan); 56 remained at **Ottawa** 1 May (ONWRC). L. Rosche reported a bird of the Eurasian race *A. c. crecca* near **Aurora** on 5 Apr; its origin is unknown.

Canvasback: The best numbers came from **Ottawa**, with 407 for the 6 Mar count (ONWRC), and **Mosquito Ck WA**, with ~500 on 20 Mar (D. Hochadel). One lingered for the 1 May **ONWRC**.

Redhead: Moved mostly in Mar, with ~400 at **Funk** the 5th (J. Brumfield), 367 on the 6th for the **ONWRC**, ~600 at **Mosquito Ck WA** the 20th (D. Hochadel), and 300+ at **KPWA** the 21st (R. Lowry). A lone drake loitered in ***Ross*** 9 May (D. Hess).

Ring-necked duck: Poured through in Mar, with a high count of ~1750 at **Mosquito Ck WA** the 20th (D. Hochadel). J. Estep observed a hen sitting quietly for 20 minutes on a well-concealed mound in **Ottawa NWR** 15 May. B. Hardesty reported two in ***Hancock*** 17 May, and R. Schroeder a drake in **Dublin** 22 May.

Greater scaup: Ice may have kept them out of view along Lake Erie, where reported numbers were low. Equally low but more interesting were numerous reports of small numbers at inland sites, led by 14 at **Gilmore Ponds** 5 Mar (M. Busam). Both scaups are in decline; one speculation is that the large numbers now spending time in the lower Great Lakes are susceptible to pollutants highly concentrated in a favored filter-feeder species, the zebra mussel.

Lesser scaup: See above. Mar's high count was ~950 at **Mosquito Ck WA** the 21st (V. Fazio), and Apr's 526 by the **ONWRC** on the 3rd. A pair was at **ONWR** 14 May (D. Horn), and A. Boone spotted ~30 in **Maumee Bay** as late as 22 May.

Even a distant look shows the distinctive profile and facial markings of a white-winged scoter. Quite rare inland in spring, this young male was at KPWA 15 May. Photo by Connie Wolcott.

Surf scoter: Forty-six reported statewide, mostly in Mar, with a high count of 19 at **BCSP** the 26th (D. Overacker). Two reports came from Apr, and quite late were a pair at **Nimisila Res** in ***Summit*** 7 May (R&S Harlan).

White-winged scoter: Six reported: on 26 Mar, one in **Paulding** (D&M Dunakin) and an ad female and first-winter male at **Pleasant Hill Lk** (S. Snyder); on 29 Mar two males at **Caesar Ck SP** (L. Gara), and late on 15 May, an imm male at **KPWA** (C. Wolcott, ph).

Black scoter: Quite rare in spring, a female at **Nimisila Res**, ***Summit*** 7 May, was apparently a first county record (R&S Harlan).

Long-tailed duck: All sightings inland. C. Bombaci had one at **Hoover Res** 15 Mar, and B. Master that or another the following day. Four visited **Mosquito Lk** 20 Mar (D. Hochadel), four **Clear Fork Res** marina 24 Mar (J. Herman *fide* S. Snyder), and two at **Pleasant Hill Lk** 26 Mar (Snyder). **Killbuck WA** harbored one 2 Apr (Snyder) and **Wellington Res** another 9 Apr (K. Ostermiller).

Bufflehead: The **Kelleys Isl** concentration of winter dwindled to 156 by 19 Mar, then 61 by 17 Apr (T. Bartlett). **Charles Mill Lk** held the largest inland flock reported, ~45 on 26 Mar (S. Snyder). A female remained at **Slate Run MP** in ***Pickaway*** as late as 14 May (A. Haslage), and a drake remained in **Conneaut Harbor** through the eop (J. Pogacnik, m obs).

Common goldeneye: The **Kelleys Isl** census tallied 835 on 189 Mar (T. Bartlett), and the following day **Mosquito Cr WA** held ~550 (D. Hochadel).

Hooded merganser: Fifty-plus were on **Hoover Res** 3 Mar, then ~350 two days later (both C. Bombaci). Hens with young were noted in ***Greene*** 26 Apr (D. Shuler), ***Licking*** 27 Apr (C. Dusthimer), ***Licking*** 8 May (Dusthimer), ***Brown*** 14 May (J. Stenger), and ***Hamilton*** 21 May (A. Oliver).

Common merganser: Departed quickly with winter, as the **ONWRC** of 6 Mar counted 1615, but no double-figure reports emerged thereafter. One was at **Ottawa** 1 May (ONWRC).

Red-breasted merganser: **Lake Erie** counts persisted in four figures through 9 Apr (with 1145 at **LSR** by J. Pogacnik), augmented perhaps by others coming north from places like **Hoover Res**, with ~900 on 5 Mar, 435+ at **Mosquito Lk** 21 Mar (V. Fazio), and ~300 at **BCSP** 26 Mar (D. Overacker). On 21 May two were at **Pleasant Hill Lk** (S. Snyder). with six at **LSR** (Pogacnik) the following day.

Ruddy duck: No numbers larger than 9 Apr's 125 at **Wellington Res** (K. Ostermiller) were reported, and few lingered, except five who seemed determined to stay at **Metzger** through the eop (m obs).

Red-throated loon: Always scarce in spring, records came from **Caesar Ck SP** (C. Barnett, 26 Mar) and **LSR** (an imm late on 21 May, J. Pogacnik).

Common loon: Most seemed to have passed through during the last week of Mar and the first of April, mostly on reservoirs. High count 40+, at **Pleasant Hill Lk** (S. Snyder) and **BCSP** (D. Overacker), both on 26 Mar. Two on **N. Bass Isl** were almost to Canada by 18 May (P. Rodewald), but an ad and 3 imm at **Alum Ck SP** 21 May (K. Kasniyak *fide* J. Watts) reminded us of rumored but never-confirmed breeding there in 2003.

Pied-billed grebe: An unremarkable migration landed 15 at **ONWR** by 1 May (ONWRC) and 20+ at **Metzger Marsh** by 8 May (R&S Harlan).

Horned grebe: About 400 reported, nearly all of them during the last week of Mar, led by high counts of ~80 at **Long Lk** in ***Summit*** the 23rd (D. Kramer), and on the 26th at **Pleasant Hill Lk** (S. Snyder) and **BCSP** (D. Overacker). One tarried at a **Fostoria Res** 3 May (B. Hardesty).

Red-necked grebe: Five reported: at **HWSP** 13 Mar (B. Heck), at **Cowan Lk** 20 (J. Hickman) through 30 Mar (B. Powell), at **Caesar Ck SP** 24 Mar (J. Lehman), at **Paulding Res** 26 Mar (M&D Dunakin), and at **Mosquito Ck WA** 3 Apr (C. Bochmann).

Eared grebe: One was discovered at **Caesar Ck SP** 30 Mar (J. Lehman), one at **Prairie Oaks MP** near Columbus 2 Apr (D. Sanders), and another at **HBSP** 10 Apr (S. Wagner).

American white pelican: Three at **Delaware WA** were seen as late as 9 Apr (P. Gardner), then twelve at **BCSP** the following day with three remaining on the 16th (D. Overacker). One was offshore in ***Ottawa*** 14 Apr (E. Snively), one on the beach at **Indian Lk SP** 8 May (M. Misplon), and another as late as 28 May in **Lorain** (J. Pogacnik).

Double-crested cormorant: Arrived in Apr, with ~500 on the 3rd in **Cleveland** (P. Lozano) and 300+ at **Hoover Res** the 10th (C. Bombaci). Small non-breeding groups remained on inland lakes, such as 25 at **Meander Ck Res** 22 May (C. Holt), but breeding colonies are now established inland at **GLSM** (***Mercer***) and **Lk Rockwell** (***Portage***).

American bittern: Fifteen reported, the earliest 6 Apr in **Lorain** (P. Lozano).

Least bittern: With the exception of one reported from **Conneaut Harbor** 31 May (M. Vass), all reports came from the **NW marshes** in May.

Great egret: Arrived 24 Mar in ***Athens*** (L. Andrews), ***Wayne*** (S. Hannan), ***Franklin*** (R. Cressman, C. Bombaci), and ***Butler*** (F. Frick). Thirty could be seen at **Metzger** by 9 Apr (R&S Harlan). About fifty nests were detected on **Sandusky's Turning Pt Isl** 27 Apr (S. Young). Interestingly late for **Funk WA** were five on 31 May (S. Snyder), and for **Gilmore Ponds** eight on 26 May (K. Phillips).

Snowy egret: Not many, it seemed. First spotted 13 Apr at **Magee** (B. Fambrough), with a high count of four 22 Apr there (K. Kaufman).

Little blue heron: First reported was an ad 20 Apr at **Pipe Ck WA** (P. Sherwood). Another ad spent 24 (J. Lehman) through 30 Apr (D. Dister) at **SVWA**. **Magee** hosted one from 30 Apr (S. Walker) through 7 May (D. Sanders), later joined 11 May by an imm (R&S Harlan). D. Chasar found one in the **CVNP** 4 May, and J. Pogacnik an adult at **LSR** the following day. One was at **Pickerington Ponds** 8 May (R. Rogers), and another at **Sandy Ridge MP** 11-14 May (C. Caldwell).

Tricolored heron: One briefly seen at **Mallard Club Marsh WA** 21 May could not later be relocated. Details are with the OBRC.

Cattle Egret: First reported in ***Summit*** 9-10 May (H. Norton). Eight were near **Sandusky** 13 May (K. Mock). The next day 36 alternate-plumaged adults were near the same spot, among the five largest Ohio spring gatherings on record (B. Whan).

Green heron: First seen 7 Apr in **Granville** (S. Woolard). One was at **Conneaut Harbor** 31 May (M. Vass).

Black-crowned night-heron: P. Lozano's surveys of this species in **Cleveland's Flats** included 22 (16 ad) on 4 Mar, 31 on 20 Mar, 53 on 25 Mar, 71 on 27 Mar, 131 on 3 Apr, and 91 on 14 Apr. The **ONWRC** of 1 May found five. On 29 May C. Sandman reported eight birds and three active nests in **Spring Grove Cem** in **Cincinnati**.

Yellow-crowned night-heron: By 9 Apr nest construction was already underway at the **Columbus** site for the ninth consecutive spring (A. Paschall). Two had eggs by the eop.

Glossy ibis: Reports by m obs (ph) of flocks as large as ten between 14 and 24 May came from **ONWR**, **Metzger Marsh WA**, and **Mallard Club Marsh WA**, often in company with the following species. Ohio's second-largest flocks on record, and the first flocks mixing this and the following species. Details with the OBRC.

White-faced ibis: As many as five were seen by m. obs (ph) 14-24 May at **ONWR**, **Metzger**, and **Mallard Club**. This number is Ohio's second-largest aggregation, after 6-7 seen 9 May 2004. Details with the OBRC.

Plegadis* ibis species**: Unexpected ibises were found in a number of states across the Midwest to Massachusetts. Part of this overall picture was a flight of 23 dark ibises seen over **Van Wert** 31 May. Two were briefly spotted in ***Gallia 29 Apr (R&S Harlan). Details with the OBRC.

Black vulture: Unusual records: 29 occupied an ***Athens*** roost 16 Mar (B. Whan). Fifteen were in **NW Coshocton** 27 Mar (L.E. Yoder). R. Hannikman reported one over **HBSP** 20 Apr. L. Smith saw one in ***Richland*** 14 May.

Turkey vulture: The ***Clermont*** roost had ~500 on 27 Mar (B. Stanley). On 30 Mar, J. Pogacnik counted 1057 migrants passing **LSR**; on the same day but at the other end of the lake at **MBSP**, E. Schlabach counted 1915 birds.

Osprey: The highly successful reintroduction program has led to pairs returning regularly to nesting sites; this spring the earliest returned to the **Beach City WA** backwaters on 21 Mar (W. Sarno), with many more to follow. Among new sites explored by osprey pairs—who apparently will often carry nesting material merely as a signal they will nest the following year—were sites like **The Wilds** in ***Muskingum*** and **Pickerington Ponds** in ***Fairfield***.

Mississippi Kite: One was reported near **Shawnee SF** 1 May. Details with the OBRC.

Bald eagle: Now widespread. Again a record number of nests: 125 that produced an estimated 136 young (ODOW). Unusual concentrations included 10 at **BIWA** 30 Mar (C. Bombaci) and seven non-adults over **Lk Rockwell** 16 Apr (L. Rosche).

Northern harrier: May records included one on the **ONWRC** of the 1st, one at **Magee** on the 2nd (T. Martincic), five at **KPWA** and two at **BIWA** the 5th (L. Gara), a pair at **Funk** the 6th (S. Snyder), one in ***Brown*** the 14th, and one along **Stange Rd** the 21st (C. Dusthimer).

Northern goshawk: An immature bird in **NW *Coshocton*** 19 Mar was a local first (L.E. Yoder).

Red-shouldered hawk: B. Bosstic caught one coming to his suet feeder in ***Ross*** 3 Mar. At **MBSP** on 30 Mar, E. Schlabach had 85 migrants.

Broad-winged hawk: D. Riepenhoff had eight very early birds in ***Scioto*** 26 Mar. One was in ***Athens*** by 1 Apr (D. Weber). A pair was building a nest near **Brecksville** on 15 Apr (D. Chasar), and on 18 Mar in ***Holmes*** E. Schlabach counted 78 migrants, and E. Yoder 25. On 18 May, ~15 passed over **N. Bass Isl** (P. Rodewald, m obs).

Rough-legged hawk: May lingerers included one in ***Lorain*** the 1st (K. Mock) and two at **KPWA** the 5th (L. Gara).

Golden eagle: One passed over **MBSP** on 30 Mar (E. Schlabach), and another nearby **ONWR** on 8 Apr (M. Falconer). The last of the birds at **The Wilds**, an adult, was seen 18 Mar (K. Mock).

Merlin: The last day for the **Lakeview Cem** bird in **Cleveland** was 5 Mar (D&J Hoffman), but a bird was at **Spring Grove Cem** in **Cincinnati** 1 May (J. Stenger). In between migrants passed, with a high count of three at **HBSP** 17 Apr (S. Wagner).

Peregrine falcon: It is difficult to separate reports of wild birds from those of introduced birds and their progeny, but probably among the former were one at **Bay View** 3 Mar (S. Young) and another 12 Mar at **SVWA** (R. Asamoto).

Yellow rail: One was heard by m obs 5-22 May at **Irwin Prairie SNP**; details with the OBRC.

Black rail: One was heard and briefly seen in a remote area of **Sandy Ridge MP** in ***Lorain*** on 10 May. Details have been requested for the OBRC.

King rail: One was at last year's nest site in ***Pickaway*** 7 May (B. Morrison), and tracks thought to be of this species at that at **KPWA** on 11 May (R. Sempier). One called at **Irwin Prairie SNP** 9 May (M. Anderson) and another at **Mallard Club Marsh** 19 May (G. Links). M. Romito et al. had one at **Ira Rd** in the **CVNP** 23 May.

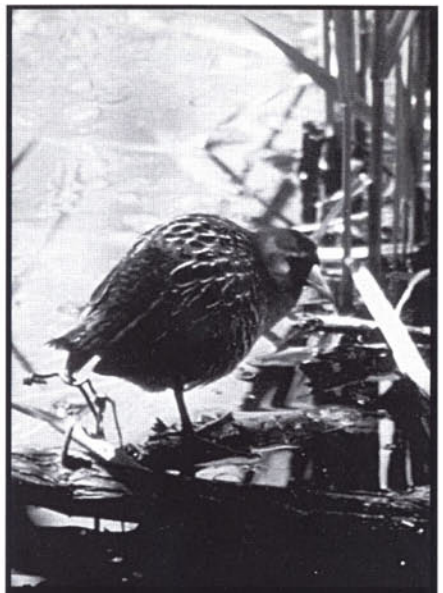
Virginia rail: One calling at **Mogadore Res** 26 Mar (G. Bennett) was early, as was one for the 3 Apr **ONWRC**.

Sora: Also on the early side were two at **Glacier Ridge MP**, ***Union***, 9 Apr (D. Overacker). High count 10 at **Metzger Marsh** 8 May (R&S Harlan).

Common moorhen: First reported at **Herrick Fen** in ***Portage*** 29 Apr (L. Rosche), numbers were skimpy overall.

American coot: Large migrant flocks of 600+ were at **Metzger** 27 Mar and ~400 at **Killbuck** 3 Apr (both R&S Harlan), and 543 for the **ONWRC** of 3 Apr.

Sandhill crane: A total of 96 reported, with a high count of 30 (in ***Paulding*** 9 Mar, M&E Dunakin), from 20 counties. Late birds in ***Lucas*** (nine on 12 May, P. Rodewald), ***Hancock*** (14 May, B. Hardesty) and ***Licking*** (21 May, C. Dusthimer) were interesting, but a pair calling at **SVWA** 18 Apr (S. Tackett) that retreated to an invisible part of the marsh through the eop were suspicious; nesting has not been confirmed, however.



Soras seemed scarcer this spring. This one ventured out into the open at Metzger Marsh 8 May for photographer Bob Finkelstein.

[Whooping crane**:** three birds from the released population touched down near Waite Hill in **Lake** 4 Apr (P. Morse). Identified via bands, #s 301, 309, and 318 were among those seen near **Celina** last year; they are renegades from the plane-led project, and had spent the winter in North Carolina and passed last summer in n. Michigan. They seem to be the wildest—because most disobedient—of the introduced population from Wisconsin.]

Black-bellied plover: Two were in ***Scioto*** 30 Apr (R&S Harlan), and one at **Conneaut** 29 May (M. Vass). In the interim were reports of an anemic 23 birds.

American golden-plover: About 1200 reported between 9 Apr (five at **BIWA**, B. Whan) and 14 May (30 near **ONWR**, Whan). All were in the western half of the state, save for 30 in ***Lorain*** on 18 Apr (L. Rosche) and 218 there 19 Apr (T. Fairweather).

Semipalmated plover: Eight touched down at **Cowan Lk** 5 May (L. Gara), and seven were found at **Conneaut** 24 May (C. Holt); in between the high count was 38 in ***Ottawa*** 8 May (R&S Harlan).

Piping plover: One was at Moore's Lane in **Scioto** for m obs 30 Apr. Another spent 29 Apr-4 May on the beach at **Caesar Ck SP** (ph, m obs); it had been banded in 2004 as a chick west of Michigan's Straits of Mackinac.

Killdeer: Spring's first at **Oberlin** must have found it inhospitably cold on 12 Mar (D. Sheldon). The high count for the spring was 40, on 2 Apr in ***Wyandot*** (R. Counts).

American avocet: More often a bird of autumn in Ohio, one was inland at **Caesar Ck SP** on 1 May (B. Foppe).

Greater yellowlegs: Three dropped into the **Shreve** fish pond 23 Mar (S. Snyder). Forty were at **BIWA** 9 Apr (B. Whan), and one lingered at **Conneaut** 24 May (C. Holt).

Lesser yellowlegs: At **Funk**, three were found 25 Mar (J. Brumfield). In ***Gallia*** on 29 Apr 25 showed up for R&S Harlan, and a ***Darke*** wetland produced 85 on 2 May (C. Ploch).

Solitary sandpiper: The first was detected in ***Wyandot*** 18 Apr (R. Counts), and the latest 29 May at the Coliseum site in the **CVNP** (C. Caldwell).

Willet: At the **VOA**, 20-30 passed over on 30 Apr (B. Wulker). L. Hershberger found a flock of 36 in ***Holmes*** on 3 May (*fide* S. Snyder). Three stalked the **Caesar Ck SP** beach 5 (L. Gara)-6 May (J. Lehman). One alit on a dock on **Kelleys Isl** 15 May (D. Cole, ph).

Willets are scarce spring migrants; this one went so far as to stride a dock on Kelleys Island 13 May. Photo by Delores Cole.

Spotted sandpiper: First reported at the **Shreve** fish pond 8 Apr (S. Snyder).

Upland sandpiper: One took to the **VOA** grasslands 14 Apr (T. Jackson *fide* M. Busam) where two were observed flying together 26 Apr (J. Lehman). One was at a traditional ***Clark*** site 29 May (D. Overacker). Two or three were seen by m obs along **Stange Rd** in ***Ottawa*** 14-15 May, and one hopes they returned to other favored sites.

Whimbrel: As usual in spring, seen in long lines during a short period. A flock of 75 passed over **Conneaut** 24 May (C. Holt), one of 35-40 passed **LSR** on 25 May (J. Pogacnik), and a first ***Gallia*** record came from ~50 over **Cheshire** 28 May (H. Slack).

Marbled Godwit: Ten seen in ***Greene*** 2 May (R. Foppe et al.) had almost certainly been among the 16 seen earlier that day not far away at **Caesar Ck SP** (K. Braun).

Ruddy turnstone: Early in migration, seen mucking about in plowed fields, the first 9 May near **ONWR** (A. Boone), but with the midge hatch attracted to what little remains of the **Lake Erie shoreline**, where on 21 May up to 35 walked the sand and zebra-mussel debris at **Crane Ck SP** (J. Brumfield) and 38 the tiny "beach" outside the **Metzger Marsh WA** dike (P. Gardner). Last seen 30 May at HBSP (R. Hannikman).

Red knot: None to report. We never see many in spring, but the Nearctic-nesting race *rufa* is getting hard to find even along its main route north, as our species continues to degrade stopover sites along the migratory route.

Sanderling: In the customary small numbers (this time 11) of spring, with the first at **EFSP** beach on 4 May (D. Morse), the high count four in ***Hancock*** 24 May (*fide* B. Hardesty), and one at **Conneaut** 29 May (M. Vass).

Semipalmated sandpiper: Arrived 7 May in ***Hamilton*** (J. Stenger), but most were later, and in skimpy numbers, with a high count of 20 at **Conneaut** on 31 May (M. Vass).

Western sandpiper: J. Pogacnik was prevented from photographing one at **Conneaut** on 29 May by a heedless beach driver. In our humble opinion, a number of reports received of least sandpipers between 20 Mar and 10 April were more likely of this species.

Least sandpiper: Most numerous of the season was a flock of 50 in a flooded ***Ottawa*** field 8 May (R&S Harlan). One remained at **Conneaut** 24 May (C. Holt).

White-rumped sandpiper: First two reported 7 May in ***Hamilton*** (J. Stenger), but most came much later and in small numbers. Two were at **Conneaut** 29 May (M. Vass).

Pectoral sandpiper: Over 5600 reported, with arrivals of single birds on 19 Mar at **ONWR** (m obs) and **BCSP** (D. Overacker). ~1650 were at **BIWA** 9 Apr (B. Whan), and 1500+ in ***Wyandot*** 24 Apr, where 32 remained 9 May (both R. Counts). Last reported were eight at **Caesar Ck SP** on 18 May (L. Gara). Few of these birds were found on neatly plowed fields.

Purple sandpiper: L. Schlabach discovered one on the beach at **Crane Ck SP** on 12 May (ph, m obs) for an exceedingly rare record, Ohio's second documented spring occurrence; M. Trautman collected the other on **Starve Isl**, ***Ottawa***, 6 May 1944.

A side view of the cover bird taken on 12 May by Jeff Moore.

Dunlin: First reported from **ONWR** by the census team, with two early birds on 3 Apr; they had 851 on the 1 May count, and **Ottawa**, which actually had some open mudflat habitat (but limited observer access) had the high count of 1000+ on 14 May (R&S Harlan). Three remained at **Conneaut** 31 May (M. Vass).

Short-billed dowitcher: First, and the high count, were 130 at **Prairie Oaks MP** in ***Madison*** 12 May (J. Watts). On days when the back of **Ottawa** was open, 20 were found on 14 May (J. Duerr) and 25 on 15 May (R&S Harlan). One was at **Conneaut** 31 May (M. Vass).

Long-billed dowitcher: Rare in spring, one was near **Killbuck** on 27-30 Mar (S. Snyder). We are inclined to think that several reports received of short-billeds through mid-Apr were actually of this species, a very difficult ID.

Wilson's Snipe: Near **Shawnee SF** were two on 18 Mar (B. Royse), with 30 there on the 26th (B. Sparks). High count ~100 at **Pickerington Ponds MP** near **Columbus** 20 Apr (J. Watts). One was in **Cuyahoga Falls** 17 May (L. Rosche).

American woodcock: As usual, spring displays lasted into mid-May in the north, with five at **Irwin Prairie SNP** on the 15th (R&S Harlan).

Wilson's phalarope: One appeared at a ***Darke*** wetland 2-4 May (R. Schieltz, m obs), and one 6 May and two 11-12 May in flooded fields in ***Wyandot*** (R. Counts). An adult female frequented an impoundment at **ONWR** 10 (C. Tucker) through 14 May (J. Duerr). Another was found at **Sandy Ridge MP** in ***Lorain*** 24-30 May (T. Fairweather), and finally a male in **NE Putnam** on 29 May (R. Schroeder).

Red-necked phalarope: B. Deininger photographed an adult at **ONWR** 20 May.

Laughing gull: An adult appeared at a favored spot, **Caesar Ck SP beach**, on 14 Apr (L. Gara). Another adult visited **Lorain Harbor** 28 May (J. Pogacnik).

Franklin's gull: L. Gara found one on the **Caesar Ck SP beach** 26 Mar, where *fide* Gara D. Graham had seen two earlier that day. One was in ***Wyandot*** 15 Apr (R. Counts), and another at **ONWR** 16 and 17 Apr (J. Pogacnik). Another adult visited the **Mohawk Dam** (***Coshocton***) on 1 May (L.E. Yoder).

Little gull: J. Pogacnik observed adults at **LSR** 31 Mar, near **Painesville** 5 Apr, and at **Fairport Hbr** 13 Apr. R. Hannikman had three at **HBSP** 3 Apr. D. Overacker spotted another inland at **BCSP** on 10 Apr.

Bonaparte's gull: Seen as early as 8 Mar at **Caesar Ck SP**, where four remained 16 May (both L. Gara). At **LSR**, J. Pogacnik counted 733 on 31 Mar and 682 on 9 Apr. The **ONWRC** tallied 937 for the 1 May census. Some seemed loath to leave **Conneaut**, with two there on 24 May (C. Holt), 22 on 29 May (Pogacnik), and four on 31 May (M. Vass).

Ring-billed gull: Large flocks moved swiftly up river corridors in Mar, e.g. with ~500 in ***Tuscarawas*** on the 5th (S. Snyder) and ~2000 at **Cowan Lk** on the 25th (B. Powell).

Herring gull: At **LSR**, 588 passed by on 30 Mar (J. Pogacnik). Three adults lingered at **Caesar Ck SP** beach 21 May (L. Gara). As last year, several pairs again nested successfully along the Ohio River in ***Gallia*** (H. Slack, J. McCormac).

Thayer's gull: Lingering at **Cleveland's E 72nd St** was an adult spotted 3-5 Mar (J. Pogacnik).

Iceland gull: Reports of a first-winter bird at **E 72nd St** spanned 3 (V. Fazio) through 30 Mar (J. Pogacnik); the latter observer had two there on 5 Mar.

This handsome adult lesser black-backed gull, still in winter feathers around the crown, nape, and throat, stalked the ice off Cleveland's E. 72nd St. on 15 Mar. Photo by Gary Meszaros.

Lesser black-backed gull: With other wintering gulls, an ad and a first-winter bird stuck around through 6 Mar at **E. 72nd St** (V. Fazio, J. Pogacnik). Adults were reported on 13 Mar at **HWSP** (B. Heck et al.) and **BCSP** (D. Overacker) at different times of day, suggesting they might be one and the same; an adult persisted at **BCSP** through 25 Mar. Pogacnik found an ad at **Fairport Hbr** 13 Apr that looked dark enough to be of the European race *intermedius*. Third-year birds were found at **Conneaut** on 24 May (C. Holt) and at **Lorain** on 28 May (Pogacnik).

Glaucous gull: A third-winter bird was at **E 72nd St** 3 Mar (V. Fazio), with three (two adults, one third-winter) there 5 Mar and an adult on 6 Mar (both J. Pogacnik). Elsewhere, one was found at a **Findlay reservoir** 29 Mar-4 Apr (B. Hardesty) and an ad at **Fairport Hbr** 13 Apr (Pogacnik).

Great black-backed gull: The **Kelleys Isl** census of 19 Mar turned up 71 (T. Bartlett). In the east, 19 were at **LSR** on 30 Mar, and 26 there on 9 Apr (J. Pogacnik). Six young birds at **Conneaut** on 24 May were sitting out the breeding season at the beach (C. Holt).

Herring X great black-backed gull: An adult was at **E 72nd St.** 6 Mar; observer J. Pogacnik believed it to be different from another present there in January.

Caspian tern: The world's largest tern species can do as it pleases, and one showed up early at **Conneaut** on 31 Mar (J. Pogacnik). At **Cleveland**, 43 were to be seen on 10 Apr (P. Lozano) and 70+ at **Conneaut** on 9 May (Pogacnik), where the latest was reported on 29 May (M. Vass).

Common tern: Two reached **Hoover Res** 26 Apr (C. Bombaci), and 35 for the 1 May **ONWRC** suggested the size of the artificially supported breeding colony there this year.

Forster's tern: L. Gara had two at **Caesar Ck SP** 12 Apr. Nine were down in ***Scioto*** on 30 Apr (R&S Harlan). **Mosquito Lk** had good numbers again, with 57 on 17 May (C. Babyak). Gara still had four at **Caesar Ck** 20-21 May.

Black tern: One scout hunted in falling snow at **Alum Ck SP** 25 Apr (R. Thorn), and ~90 were reported during May north and west of there. On 15 May G. Miller counted 42 adults feeding over **Metzger Marsh**, and on 21 May A. Boone noted ~15 carrying small fishes from the lake into the marsh at **CPNWR**, suggesting a good-sized breeding population. Late birds were noted on 28 May at **Pickerington Ponds** (J. Konst) and **KPWA** (R. Sempier).

Eurasian collared-dove: Reported seen and heard in ***Hamilton*** 9 May, with details to the OBRC.

[Monk Parakeet: H. Nagy reported three in flight in SE **Columbus**. This species has nested there and elsewhere in the state before but has never approached status as established. However, it has recently been added to the Indiana list, and bears watching.]

Black-billed cuckoo: First seen 3 May at **SVWA** (D. Sanders), and reported in modest numbers through the eop.

Yellow-billed cuckoo: First reported from **Spring Grove Cem** 1 May, this species was unusually numerous this spring. High count five in ***Clark*** 30 May (D. Overacker).

Great horned owl: An injured owl picked up 24 Mar in **Hamilton** (J. Wiesman) proved to be a North American record 28 years old, via a band placed on it only six miles distant in March 1977 by Jack Holt, who was reunited with his owl for a photo.

Long-eared owl: As many as seven persisted between two frequently visited spots in **KPWA** through 27 Mar (K. Tanquist). The **ONWRC** had two on 6 Mar, and T. Bartlett one on **Kelleys Isl** 19 Mar. Latest was a migrant at **HBSP** 17 Apr (S. Wagner).

Short-eared owl: J. Benedetti reported 25 still at **The Wilds** 4 Mar, and D. Chasar one in **Northfield** the 7th. Three or four were at **Magee** 13 Mar (S. Young), and two at **Glacier Ridge MP** in ***Union*** 23 Mar (R. Lowry). No May reports.

Northern saw-whet owl: The **ONWRC** had one on 6 Mar. **KPWA** birds topped out at two on 13 Mar (G. Stauffer). K. Sieg netted one in ***Ross*** 17 Mar which she'd banded 3 Dec 2004 about 2 mi NW.

Common nighthawk: First reported from **Columbus** 5 May (S. Landes). Encouraging numbers were seen in May over wetlands: 40 at **Tinkers Ck SP** in ***Portage*** the 18th (F. Losi) and 30 at **Highbanks MP** in ***Delaware*** the 21st (R. Lowry).

Chuck-will's-widow: First heard on 21 Apr in its ***Adams*** haunts (P. Whan).

Whip-poor-will: Heard with the above the same night. Another was at **CPNWR** by 14 May (D. Small).

Chimney swift: An eager scout showed up in ***Holmes*** 5 Apr (E. Schlabach). Ten migrants appeared in *Clermont* 11 Apr (**D. Morse**), but none reached snowbound northern counties till the very end of the month, and R. Counts estimated 200+ hunting in a 24 April snowstorm at **Upper Sandusky Res**. P. Coy counted "well over a thousand" at a **Chillicothe** roost 2 May.

Hummingbird sp: Reported 11 Apr at **Pataskala** (H. Nagy).

Ruby-throated hummingbird: First two seen in **Columbus** 19 Apr (R. Lowry, B. Royse).

Yellow-bellied sapsucker: The first certain migrants were 10 at **Columbus's Green Lawn Cem** 7 Apr (R. Lowry). J. Pogacnik photographed one with a red nape at **Magee** on 16 Apr. Last reported 3 May in ***Hamilton*** (J. Lippert).

Red-naped sapsucker: A bird said to be of this species spent 3-8 Apr in a woodlot in **NE Holmes**. Extensively photographed and studied by m obs, this would be a first state record; in fact, there is no known precedent for this species this far east. Observers, as well as those who were able only to see photos on the internet, differed as to whether it was (1) this species, (2) the far rarer hybrid *varius* X *nuchalis*, or (3) within the range of variation for yellow-bellied sapsucker. Given the AOU taxonomy, no other options seem available. The problem has been passed on to the long-suffering OBRC.

Olive-sided flycatcher: First reported at **Clear Ck MP** (J. Laughbaum) and ***Hancock*** (B. Hardesty) 14 May. High count 2-3 near **Ravenna** 23 May (L. Rosche). The latest was near **Berlin Res** 26 May (B. Morrison).

Eastern wood-pewee: First seen as a duo at **MWW** 7 May (B. Foppe). Some said its numbers seemed down; at **Navarre**, BSBO banded 53 last spring but only 16 this time, less than half the average over the past six years; their first was handled 10 May.

Yellow-bellied flycatcher: First showed up latish 16 May in ***Tuscarawas*** (B. Jackson), staying into the next period. Peak 15 at **CPNWR** on 29 May (M. Falconer).

Acadian flycatcher: Showed up at **Shawnee Lkout** in **Cincinnati** 30 Apr (L. Peyton). At **Black Hand Gorge** in ***Licking*** D. Overacker found 15 on 28 May.

Alder flycatcher: G. Bennett reported the first, at **Mogadore Res** 15 May, where four were singing by the 21st.

Willow flycatcher: Individuals showed up on time at **SVWA** (B. Foppe) and **Clear Ck MP** (B. Morrison) on 6 May, yet none were found at a favored spot like **Crown City WA** farther south on the 11th (B. Royse). By 27 May, 15 were at **BCSP** (D. Overacker).

Least flycatcher: When a first report comes from the lakeside, an overflight is often involved, but on 5 (Navarre, BSBO) and 6 May (Magee, K. Kaufman)? Plenty arrived eventually, with 10 at Magee on 11 May (R&S Harlan). Most unusual were five singing males in one field at **Clear Ck MP** (where one male lingered through 19 Jun last year) 26-May eop (J. Watts).

Eastern phoebe: By 18 Mar 18 could be found at **Shawnee SF** (B. Royse). Two at the **Shaker Lks** 5 Apr were greeted by more snow than flies (L. Gooch).

Great crested flycatcher: Earliest in **Cincinnati** 18 Apr (S. Pelikan).

Eastern kingbird: Arrived 16 Apr at **SVWA** (C. Barnett).

Northern shrike: One persisted at **KPWA** for m obs through 16 Mar (R. Lowry), and in the NE one was found as late as 27 Mar at the **CVNP** (D. Vogus); the **ONWRC** had an April bird, on the 3rd, and R. Hannikman one at **HBSP** the 5th, both late dates.

White-eyed vireo: Appeared 18 Apr in **Granville** (S. Woolard) and in ***Vinton*** (D. Weber). Five were in **Shawnee SF** the following day (B. Royse).

Bell's vireo: Not found at the traditional **BCSP** site. A male appeared at **Gilmore Ponds** 28 May (M. Busam) however, where a pair was present by the 31st (J. Habig).

Yellow-throated vireo: First discovered at **Shawnee SF** 10 Apr (B. Royse).

Blue-headed vireo: Four males detected at **Shawnee SF** 5 Apr by B. Royse, who remarked that "Shawnee's nesting blue-headed vireos are found along narrow slopes with trees that are mostly entirely deciduous." Twelve+ territorial males were found in the **Hocking SPs** 13-16 May by F. Renfrow, in coniferous trees. A late migrant showed up in ***Holmes*** 20 May (E. Schlabach).

Warbling vireo: Arrived at **Winton Wds** (J. Stenger) 17 Apr and ***Pike*** 18 Apr (B. Royse), and by 11 May a stronghold like **Magee** harbored ~30 (R&S Harlan).

Philadelphia vireo: First noted 6 May in **Columbus** (C. Caprette).

Red-eyed vireo: First appearances came on 15 Apr in **Shawnee SF** (B. Royse) and 17 Apr at **MWF** (L. Peyton). Several observers reported its overall numbers seemed down; at **Navarre**, BSBO banded 222 last spring, but only 140 this year.

Blue jay: At **LSR**, J. Pogacnik counted over 5000 lakeside migrants on 9 May and 8000+ on the late date of 21 May.

American crow: R&S Harlan found 500+ migrants roosting across from the nuclear plant in ***Ottawa*** 27 Mar. F. Renfrow estimated the **Cincinnati** roost at ~20,000 on 1 Mar.

Purple martin: Three scouts were in **Cincinnati** 27 Mar (J. Stenger), and several in **Hebron** in ***Licking*** two days later (C. Dusthimer).

Tree swallow: By 5 Mar two forerunners had reached **Gilmore Ponds** (M. Busam), and on the 18th 10 were near **Shawnee SF** (B. Royse) and two up at **Killbuck** (H. Ostermiller).

Northern rough-winged swallow: On 27 Mar five were observed in ***Clermont*** (D. Morse) and one at **Slate Run MP** in ***Pickaway*** (R. Rogers).

Bank swallow: Two reached **Columbus** 12 Apr (R. Thorn). The colony near **Metzger Marsh** reached 110 on13 May (A. Boone), and many nested at **Conneaut Hbr** (m obs).

Cliff swallow: First noted at **Jasper**, ***Pike*** on 11 Apr (B. Royse). Continues to spread, with a new colony in the culvert along the **Magee** causeway this year (m obs).

Barn swallow: Very early birds reached ***Medina*** 20 Mar (J. Wert *fide* L. Rosche) and **Wingfoot Lk** in ***Portage*** the next day (Rosche).

Red-breasted nuthatch: Widely reported at feeders through early Apr, then in migration, when P. Rodewald reported seven in late Apr-19 May in the **western Lk Erie marshes**. F. Renfrow had a pair incubating eggs in mid-May at **Old Man's Cave** in ***Hocking***.

Brown creeper: B. Royse reported a singing male, locally his first, at **Shawnee** Apr 5, refound 3 May, suggesting nesting. The ONWRC tallied 28 on 3 Apr. Nesting confirmed in ***Delaware*** 27 May, near the site of two nests last year (C. Bombaci).

Winter wren: Not reported till 6 Apr, with seven at **Magee** (S. Young), where one remained 20 May (B. Morrison). Fifteen were at **Green Lawn Cem** in **Columbus** 16 Apr (C. Bombaci). Interestingly, singing males were at **Firestone MP** in **Akron** 10 May (R&S Harlan) and in **Cuyahoga Hts** 31 May (J. Brumfield).

House wren: Early reports came from ***Hamilton*** 26 Mar (N. Keller) and 30 Mar (J. Hovekamp). Fifteen were found at **Magee** 11 May (R&S Harlan).

Sedge wren: On 4 May, **R&S Harlan** had three at ONWR and M. Busam one at the **VOA** site in ***Butler***. Two showed up in ***Ross*** on the 9th (D. Hess).

Marsh wren: One at **Magee** 13 Apr was early (B. Fambrough). One sang at **Black Hand Gorge** in ***Licking*** 8 May (C. Dusthimer). The **Killbuck** population was normal at five 26 May (S. Snyder), and a pair apparently continued at **Conneaut Hbr** 24 May (C. Holt).

Golden-crowned kinglet: **Magee** had 17 migrants 6 Apr (S. Young), and the latest report came from the **CVNP** on 7 May (D. Chasar).

Ruby-crowned kinglet: First migrant reported was at N Chagrin MP 3 Apr (K. Metcalf), with no remarkable numbers reported thereafter.

Blue-gray gnatcatcher: Rather late, with five at **SWVA** 4 Apr (J. Brown) and only one at **Shawnee SF** 5 Apr, where there were nonetheless 50 by 11 Apr (both B. Royse)
Veery: A. Boone counted 30 at **ONWR** 10 May, and L. Rosche et al. 30+ at **HBSP** the 19th. One was at **Magee** 30 May (K. Kaufman).

Gray-cheeked thrush: First banded at **Navarre** 5 May (BSBO), and seen sparingly through the eop.

Swainson's thrush: Netted at **Navarre** 8 May (BSBO). High count on the ground ~30 at **Green Lawn Cem** in **Columbus** 14 May (B. Master), but not numerous overall.

Hermit thrush: Seen 5 Mar in the **CVNP** (D. Chasar). An early migrant reached ***Ross*** 7 Apr (K. Sieg), and by 26 Apr 75 were counted at **CPNWR** (P. Rodewald). On surveys at ***Hocking*** SPs 13-16 May, eight were seen and 25 heard singing (F. Renfrow).

Wood thrush: One found in ***Holmes*** on 17 Apr was early (E. Schlabach).

Varied Thrush: The ***Carroll*** bird was last seen 31 Mar (C. Ickes).

Gray catbird: B. Powell reported one from **Cowan Lk SP** as early as 30 Mar.

Northern mockingbird: Two at **Crane Ck SP** 10 May were unusual (D. Friedman).

Brown thrasher: First reported from **Cincinnati** 13 Mar (S. Pelikan), with a high count of eight at **Killdeer Plains** 8 May (R. Sempier).

American pipit: Seen in small numbers past mid-May, but large counts came from 27 Mar (~60, N. Cade, **MWW**), 3 Apr (75, B. Morrison, **Walborn Res**), and 6 Apr (80+, R. Counts, ***Wyandot***).

Cedar waxwing: Many reports of 100+ came from the last three days of the period.

Blue-winged warbler: Four reached **Shawnee SF** by 18 Apr, and grew to 22 by the next day (B. Royse). The **CVNP** census of 7 May found 68 (D. Chasar).

Golden-winged warbler: First reported from **Columbus** 6 May (P. Rodewald), then banded at **Navarre** the following day (BSBO). Seven were reported on 9 May across the state. Fourteen reported in all, the latest at **Magee** 17 May (T. Martincic).

A hermit thrush at the Magee bird trail 15 May. Photo by Andy Webb.

Hybrids of the above: J. Duerr saw a Brewster's at **Magee** 14 May, R&S Harlan it or another there the following day, and B. Master a male F1 there on 16 May. No Lawrence's reported.

Tennessee warbler: R. Royse had the first at **Shawnee** 20 Apr, with 75 there 11 May; R&S Harlan counted 10 at **Magee** the same day.

Orange-crowned warbler: First seen at HBSP 29 Apr (R. Hannikman) rather late, with seemingly small numbers reported thereafter.

Nashville warbler: One at **Magee** 16 Apr was one of the season's rare overflights. Next seen in **Cincinnati** 17 Apr (J. Stenger). High count 30 at **Magee** 8 May (Harlans).

Northern parula: Early was one in ***Ross*** 4 Apr (K. Sieg). Remarkable were ~20 at the **Magee** bird trail 11 May (R&S Harlan).

Northern parula X cerulean warbler: see short note in this issue.

Yellow warbler: First report from ***Pik***e 11 Apr (B. Royse). Sixty found at **Magee** 8 May (R&S Harlan), and 45 banded at **ONWR** 17 May (P. Rodewald).

A female chestnut-sided warbler wades in Magee's waters at the bird trail 15 May. Photograph by Andy Webb.

Chestnut-sided warbler: First reported 27 Apr (***Stark*** by E. Snively, ***Mahoning*** by C. Babyak), large movements involved 25 at **Magee** 11 May (R&S Harlan) and 18 in ***Holmes*** 14 May (E. Schlabach). Three were singing at **Clear Ck MP** 28 May (J. Watts).

Magnolia warbler: High count 26 in ***Holmes*** & ***Coshocton*** 14 May (E. Schlabach), but said to be down in numbers; at **Navarre**, BSBO banded 719 last spring, but only 268 this year. Five territorial males were found 13-16 May in **Conkle's Hollow** and **Ash Cave** in ***Hocking*** (F. Renfrow).

Cape May warbler: Early was one in ***Stark*** 27 Apr (E. Snively). The high count was 10 at **Magee** 11 May (R&S Harlan).

Black-throated blue warbler: Reportedly scarcer than usual. K. Kaufman reported "several" at **Magee** 4 May. Six was the high count, reported 14 May in ***Coshocton*** and ***Holmes*** (E. Schlabach) and at **Spring Grove Cem** in **Cincinnati** (L. Brumbaugh).

Yellow-rumped warbler: Not as numerous as usual. J. Pogacnik had 300+ at **LSR** on 5 May, and R&S Harlan ~50 at **Magee** 14 May, with the latest 22 May in ***Holmes*** (E. Schlabach). Last spring BSBO banded a record 719 at **Navarre**, and this spring 268.

Black-throated gray warbler: A report with photos came from **Kelleys Island** 9 May; details are with the OBRC.

Black-throated green warbler: First sighted 5 Apr **in Shawnee SF** (B. Royse). In the **Hocking Hills** parks F. Renfrow heard more than 50 probable breeders 13-16 May.

Blackburnian warbler: A singing bird at **Shawnee SF** 11 Apr set a new state record early date by several days (B. Royse). Fifteen were at **ONWR** on 9 May (A. Boone), and on 13-16 May the ***Hocking*** parks yielded three territorial males at **Old Man's Cave**, three at **Conkle's Hollow**, and one at **Cedar Falls** (F. Renfrow).

At the Magee bird trail, a black-throated green warbler posed for photographer Andy Webb on 15 May.

Yellow-throated warbler: Quite early was one in ***Clermont*** 30 Mar (M. Wessel). At **Shawnee SF** B. Royse counted 23 on 5 Apr, then 60+ on 10 Apr. On 7 Apr, F. Renfrow found at least 11 at **Spring Grove Cem**, most singing from white pines. R&S Harlan found one in the **CVNP** on 15 Apr, and M. Falconer one at **ONWR** 29 Apr. **Navarre**'s first ever was banded 26 Apr (BSBO).

Pine warbler: A bird that had wintered in **Rocky River** departed 9 Mar (J. Andes). A migrant appeared at a ***Vinton*** feeder 4 Mar (B. Crow), and ten were singing at **HWSP** 1 Apr (J. Stenger). Seven were near **Nimisila Res** 7 May (R&S Harlan).

Kirtland's warbler: Three reports are with the OBRC: a male in **Adams** on the record-tying early date of 30 Apr, a male at **Magee** 5/16, and a female 25 May at **Magee**.

Prairie warbler: One was found 15 Apr in ***Scioto*** (B. Royse), with others in ***Montgomery*** (C. White) and ***Hamilton*** (S. Pelikan) on the 18th. P. Rodewald banded one way up in the **CPNWR** 16 May.

Palm warbler: One was early in ***Brown*** 3 Apr (J. Landon). The 7 May **CVNP** census found 31 (D. Chasar). A bird of the yellow race was at **LSR** on 9 Apr (J. Pogacnik), and another was netted at **Navarre** 16 May (BSBO).

Bay-breasted warbler: Two were at **Killdeer** 8 May (R. Sempier), and the following day their numbers were estimated at 75+ at **Magee** (K. Kaufman).

Blackpoll warbler: **Columbus** hosted one 6 May (C. Caprette), and by 11 May ~50 were at **Scioto Trail SF** (B. Royse). One remained in ***Hocking*** 30 May (D. Horn).

Cerulean warbler: The first reported came from **Shawnee Lookout** in **Cincinnati** 15 Apr (A. Bess). Birds were up at **CPNWR** 23 and 24 May (P. Rodewald).

Black-and-white warbler: One showed up as early as 1 Apr, at **Shawnee SF** (D. Riepenhoff), where 46 were tallied 18 Apr (B. Royse). In a survey of ***Coshocton*** and ***Holmes*** 14 May, ten were found (E. Schlabach).

American redstart: Two males singing at **Shawnee SF** 11 Apr set a new state early record; there were ~40 there by the 19th (both B. Royse, ph). **MBSP** held 25 on 15 May (R&S Harlan).

Prothonotary warbler: Arrived at the **SVWA** breeding site 16 Apr (C. Barnett); at **Hoover Res**, the first showed up 26 Apr, with nine on 4 May, 17 on 7 May, 21 on 8 May, and 34 on 13 May (C. Bombaci) and 50+ pairs by the eop. At least nine reported at **Magee**, with two males on 21 May (J. Brumfield) and three on 15 May (R&S Harlan).

Worm-eating warbler: First noted in ***Hocking*** 14 Apr (D. Horn), while at **Magee** 1-2 were present 16 Apr (J. Pogacnik). At **Shawnee** two were around on the 18th, then six on the 19th (B. Royse). One was banded at **ONWR** 9 May (P. Rodewald).

Swainson's warbler: One at **Mohican SP** was seen and heard by several observers 21 May, and written up for the OBRC.

Ovenbird: One arrived at **Shawnee SF** 10 Apr (B. Royse), where 72 had joined it by the 19th. Still moving on 19 May, when 15-18 were at **HBSP** (L. Rosche).

Northern waterthrush: Early was one banded at **Navarre** 28 Apr (BSBO). As many as seven were at **Magee** 14 May (R&S Harlan).

Louisiana waterthrush: Two had arrived at **Shawnee SF** 26 Mar (B. Sparks); on the same day one was at **Magee** (J. Pogacnik). Interesting was one banded at the **Turtle Ck** unit of **Magee** 10 May (P. Rodewald).

Kentucky warbler: Two-three early birds were found in **Oxford** 17 Apr (J. Stenger), with another at **Shawnee** the 19th (B. Royse).

Connecticut warbler: About two dozen reported, the first out of the way in **Paulding** 13 May (M&D Dunakin), then one the next day one in ***Champaign*** (D. Overacker) and two at **Indian CK WA** in ***Brown*** (J. Stenger). BSBO banded seven at **Navarre** during the period.

Mourning warbler: J. McCormac found an early singing male in **Columbus** 4 May, and four were at **Magee** on the 9th (K. Kaufman). At **CPNWR** on the 30th, 12 were present (A. Boone), on which date D. Horn had one in ***Hocking***.

Common yellowthroat: Arrived at **MWW** 20 Apr (J. Jaskula).

Hooded warbler: First reported at **Shawnee SF** 15 Apr; by the 19th 30 were present (both B. Royse), and one reached **N Chagrin MP** in ***Cuyahoga*** by the 17th (K. Metcalf).The **CVNP** census of 7 May counted 43 (D. Chasar).

Wilson's warbler: One of very few early ones was at **Blendon Wds** in **Columbus** 4 May (D. Linzell). K. Kaufman estimated "two dozen or more" at **Magee** on 30 May.

Canada warbler: Isolated was an early arrival in **Columbus** 8 May (J. Grabmeier). Nesters at **Clear Ck MP** were down (J. Watts). F. Renfrow found no breeders this spring along the "improved" pathway at **Conkle's Hollow**. A dozen migrants was the peak at **Magee** 30 May (K. Kaufman).

Yellow-breasted chat: Early birds were in ***Logan*** 17 Apr (T. Shively) and in ***Montgomery*** the following day (C. White).

The Canada warbler is among our most beautiful migrants. This male was caught on film on 20 May at the Magee Bird Trail by Linda Stoller.

Summer tanager: First reported 21 Apr at **Scioto Trail SF** (B. Royse). T. Kemp estimated as many as 10 pairs in **Toledo** this spring.

Scarlet tanager: First found 13 Apr by J. Van Coney in ***Hamilton***. B. Royse encountered four on 15 Apr at **Shawnee SF**, where there were eight on the 18th and 30 on the 19th. One near **Toledo** the 20th was locally quite early.

American tree sparrow: Last reported 30 Apr at HBSP (R. Hannikman).

Clay-colored sparrow: One sang at **LSR** 7 May (J. Pogacnik), another at **Magee** the same day (D. Sanders, B. Finkelstein) and the next (R&S Harlan), and a third at **Glacier Ridge MP** in ***Union*** 26 May (C. Bombaci).

Vesper sparrow: Seven migrants were at **EFSP** 27 Mar (L. Romine), and by 3 Apr four were at **ONWR** for the census team.

This lark sparrow looks satisfied with the breeding habitat in Toledo's Oak Openings MP. Photo by Linda Stoller 20 May.

Lark sparrow: Two different birds were in ***Hamilton***, one on the 1st (J. Stenger) and one on the 4th (D. Brinkman). On 12 May H&J Schlotman found a bird in ***Warren***, when the first was reported from the **Oak Openings** breeding site (K. Miller). J. McMahon et al. found one in ***Ross*** 31 May.

Savannah sparrow: Wintering birds at E. Schlabach's feeders in ***Holmes*** numbered as many as seven through 13 Mar. A migrant came to ***Scioto*** 26 Mar (B. Sparks). Ten were present at the **CVNP**'s Coliseum site 25 May (D. Chasar).

Grasshopper sparrow: Appeared on schedule 21 Apr W of **Columbus** (R. Thorn), with six at **ONWR** 8 May (R&S Harlan). In a ***Hocking*** reclaimed strip mine, 20+ were heard 25 May (B. Barchus).

Henslow's sparrow: Singing at **The Wilds** by 11 Apr (S. Albaugh), four were in ***Delaware*** the 18th (J. Watts), and 12-15 males in ***Hocking*** 25 May (B. Barchus).

Fox sparrow: A bird in ***Licking*** 1 Mar (H. Nagy) must have been a migrant, and the first was seen in **Sandusky** 8 Mar (S. Young). Numerous by 20 Mar, with 28 on the 3 Apr **ONWRC**, one lingered as late as 15 May in ***Holmes*** (E. Yoder).

Lincoln's sparrow: Always a lurker, first reported from the **Shaker Lks** 4 May (L. Gooch), with many arrived the following week. Late birds were singing in ***Holmes*** 21 May (E. Yoder) and one in ***Lorain*** 24 May (P. Lozano).

Swamp sparrow: Movement at the **Magee** migrant trap peaked with 10 there 6 Apr (S. Young) and 20 on 9 Apr (R&S Harlan).

White-throated sparrow: One 13 Mar at **BCSP** was wintering, but migrants were slow to appear, with the first big influx at **Magee** the first week of May; on 7 May at **LSR** J. Pogacnik had over 300 at his feeders.

White-crowned sparrow: The largest numbers followed those of its congener by only several days. Among throngs at his **LSR** feeders, J. Pogacnik photographed three of the locally scarce white-lored *gambelii* race of the west on 9 May.

Dark-eyed junco: One at **Shawnee SF** 16 Mar must have been a migrant (B. Sparks), and by 11 Apr 70-80 could be seen at J. Pogacnik's feeders at **LSR**. Late were one in ***Holmes*** 5 May (E. Yoder) and another at **LSR** 21 May (Pogacnik).

Lapland longspur: Spots stocked with cracked corn and regularly monitored in N. ***Wyandot*** (R. Counts) produced ~700 on 2 Mar, "hundreds" with many in alt plumage on 23 Mar, 250-300 on 17 Apr (C. Spagnoli), and 100+ on 24 Apr. In ***Ottawa***, 45 were discovered on 21 Apr (A. Boone).

Snow bunting: Large flocks persisted as late as 8 Mar in ***Wyandot***, with ~200 (R. Counts), and 185 for the 4 Mar **ONWRC**.

Rose-breasted grosbeak: Early arrivals were in ***Clermont*** 13 Apr (F. Kidd) and in ***Scioto*** 20 Apr (B. Royse). J. Pogacnik had 15 migrants at feeders in **LSR** 9 May, and ~25 near **Ravenna** 23 May (L. Rosche) was a good count.

Blue grosbeak: Five males were at **Crown City WA** 6 May (B. Morrison), and another at the **VOA site in Butler** the 13th (M. Busam). One appeared in ***Ross*** 12 May, where on 31 May two males and a female were present (D. Hess). T. Shively spotted one in ***Logan*** 20 May. A male was near **Cedar Falls** 25 May (B. Crow). P. Wharton had one in ***Hamilton*** 29 May.

Indigo bunting: Two arrived near ***Dayton*** on 19 Apr (C. Hawley).

Dickcissel: Appeared in good numbers, mostly in western fields, CRP lands, or in reclaimed strip mines in the east with grasslands. B. Royse had five at **Crown City WA** 11 May, where H. Slack counted eight in song 20 May, noting that only one had been present last year. Attesting to good stewardship for birds on agricultural lands in the area was a male that visited a feeder in ***Holmes*** 11-15 May (E. Schlabach). One was found in ***Ottawa*** 14 May (G. Miller). Always late, with more expected in June.

Bobolink: The vanguard arrived at the **VOA** 25 Apr (M. Busam), where as many as 70 males were present 15 May.

Eastern meadowlark: The **VOA site** continued as a haven for this beleaguered grassland bird, with 20+ on 25 Apr (M. Busam).

Western meadowlark: Oddly, none reported this spring.

Far from the standard haunts of the species, this female yellow-headed blackbird turned up in Georgetown in Brown County on 3 May. Photo by Peg Fragassi.

Yellow-headed blackbird: A stray female showed up in ***Brown*** 3 May (P. Fregassi). A small colony was seen by m obs in the **western Lake Erie marshes**, first noticed by B. Master at **Mallard Club Marsh** 7 May, with several of each sex seen through the eop there, at **Metzger Marsh**, at **ONWR**, and **CPNWR** (m obs).

Rusty blackbird: Seems to be getting harder to find, as befits its precipitous decline. Ten were at **Magee** 10 Apr (K. Kaufman), ~300 at Magee's **Turtle Ck** unit 20 Apr (P. Rodewald), with ~40 still around at **SVWA** 6 May (B. Foppe).

Orchard oriole: Showed up first at **Shawnee Lookout** in ***Hamilton*** 18 Apr (L. Peyton), then in ***Holmes*** 20 Apr (E. Schlabach). High count seven at **LSR** 21 May (J. Pogacnik).

Baltimore oriole: First reported 20 Apr in **Columbus** (R. Thorn). High counts 25 at **LSR** 9 May (J. Pogacnik) and at **Magee** 14 May (S&R Harlan).

Purple finch: Wintering birds in the southern counties were joined by others in Apr moving north. The high count of 22 at **Kelleys Isl** 17 Apr (T. Bartlett) may have included birds that often winter there. Ten were in ***Tuscarawas*** 19 Apr (E. Schlabach). By 21 May seven had settled into **Mohican SF** (S. Snyder).

Pine siskin: The wintering flocks at D. Morse's feeder in ***Clermont*** still numbered ~20 on 26 Apr, and 40 migrants were at J. Pogacnik's feeders at **LSR** on 5 May. Two were in **MBSP** 15 May (R&S Harlan) and three at **Magee** the next day (S. Landes). Strange was one in ***Morgan*** 28 May (J. McCormac et al.).

American goldfinch: While on 6 Mar the **ONWRC** had none for only the seventh time in 300 counts, J. Pogacnik estimated 1500+ on 5 May and ~5000 9 May at **LSR**.

Evening grosbeak: A lamentable trend continues, with none reported.

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This drake canvasback plied calm waters off Cleveland's E. 72nd St. on 15 Mar. Photo by Gary Meszaros.

Further Afield

Robert Harlan
3361 Columbia Woods Dr. Apt. F, Norton, Ohio 44203
Kiskadee96@hotmail.com

Envision one Homer J. Simpson—eyes rolled back, slack-jawed, and drooling—in a delirious stupor of wonderment, all over a box of delicious doughnuts. Probably jelly doughnuts. Now exchange one Robert N. Harlan for Homer J. Simpson, and exchange a yellow rail for the box of delicious doughnuts, and you have a disturbingly realistic recreation of the scene at Irwin Prairie State Nature Preserve this past May, when this aggravatingly elusive *rallidae* finally "tick-tick, tick-tick-ticked" its way onto my state list after many years of vain searches and wild rail chases. The sweet, sweet yellow rail was now mine, all mine. As of this writing, I remain insufferably pleased, and grateful also, if the truth must be known.

Finally tracking down a long-sought bird is a special moment; undoubtedly you've also experienced many of these sublime conquests over the years. Seldom are we able to make our own serendipitous discovery of a rare bird; it is much more commonplace to "refind" a rarity, that is, by following up on someone else's discovery. The former method might be the most exhilarating and the most rewarding, but the latter method is usually much easier, less time-consuming, and, ultimately, counts just the same. In this spirit, I applaud veteran Toledo birder Tom Kemp for his discovery, correct identification (by sound alone), and willingness to share the yellow rail at Irwin this spring. Sharing of knowledge is truly one of the cornerstones of birding; it is a communal gesture, without which the entire recreational study and appreciation of birds might collapse. Such a collapse, if it were to actually happen, would be really bad. I'd like to avoid it.

This is precisely why I developed a series of columns to assist Ohio birders in finding rare Ohio birds. The first of these columns appeared in "Further Afield" in the Summer 2002 issue of *The Ohio Cardinal* [25(4):181-85]. In that issue, we covered red-throated loon, red-necked grebe, eared grebe, American white pelican, little blue heron, and yellow-crowned night-heron. Next, we moved on to the Summer 2003 issue [26(4):162-67], and discussed greater white-fronted goose, brant, Eurasian wigeon, harlequin duck, white-winged scoter, and long-tailed duck. Presumably you have found all of these by now.

Keep in mind, though, that these two earlier columns were written back in birding's Dark Ages, when we all believed that Ohio's (and North America's) list of bird species should begin with loons and grebes. This belief was based on the fact that every birding-related encyclopedia, book, journal, magazine, computer program, web site, checklist, pamphlet, flyer, scribbled note, etc., that we had seen up to that point had all followed the same accepted

and elegant pattern, with loons and grebes coming first in line. But that was before birding's so-called Enlightened Age, initiated in June 2003, when research accepted by the American Ornithologists' Union informed us that we were chumps, and that we had it all wrong—actually, our lists should now begin with geese, swans, and ducks, and then grouse and the like, and *then* loons and grebes. How wrong we were. I feel dirty, and ashamed.

I should also acknowledge that apparently the AOU *never even once* considered that their reordering of the official list of North American birds might bollix up the ordering in my series on rare Ohio birds, which had, up to that point, been based on the pure and pristine old order, and which now must be reconsidered to conform to the demented and depraved new order. Although deeply offended by the AOU's inconsiderate actions, in the spirit of cooperation and sharing I will continue my series, fully reflecting the new order. But I won't like it. OK, I'll stop whining now.

Hoping to keep some sense of continuity, you will recall that the species addressed in this series are those graphed only as "rare" in the *Ohio Bird Records Committee Checklist of the Birds of Ohio.* We will now use the May 2004 edition. As defined therein, a rare species "normally occurs annually, but with only a few records on average" in the state. A rare species has a reasonably well-established pattern of occurrence, but it is much less numerous than an "uncommon" species, which is likely to be stumbled upon sooner or later without too much effort, even by an AOU list reorganizer. They are likewise more numerous than a "casual" species, which isn't expected to occur annually, but which at least has a semblance of a pattern of occurrence. Rare species are much more numerous than an "accidental" species, which have no business being here at all, if you ask me. In a nutshell, rare birds aren't rare enough to appear on the Ohio Bird Records Committee's official Review List, which requires some acceptable form of documentation to make it into the historical record, but they are rare enough to make your day a happy one. That being established, let's begin with....

Northern Goshawk

They nest across Lake Erie in Ontario, in northern Michigan, and even on occasion in Pennsylvania and West Virginia, but northern goshawks are decidedly rare here in Ohio. Known here only as migrants, they might conceivably attempt to nest someday in a remote wooded section of eastern Ohio; we can dream, anyway. Goshawk populations are a complicated subject, so rather than attempt to delve into a study of this species' cyclical southward irruptions, or into the tantalizingly large numbers tallied at eastern hawk watches (outside of Ohio, of course), let's focus instead on recent Ohio reports, as depicted in the seasonal reports of the 10 most recent years of *The Ohio Cardinal*.

The first problem we encounter is the inherent difficulty in identifying this species. Although adults are fairly straightforward if seen

well, immatures are easily mistaken for other species, such as large Cooper's hawks and immature red-shouldered hawks. Size can be difficult to judge in the field, and lighting often plays tricks as well, leading the unwary into an understandable bout of wishful thinking from time to time. Variation within species only adds to the confusion. Without question, a solid plan of attack is to familiarize oneself with this species at northern and eastern hawk watches where goshawks occur regularly and at least fairly often; such sites include Hawk Mountain in Pennsylvania, Whitefish Point and Lake Erie Metropark in Michigan, and Holiday Beach in Ontario. Once familiarity is gained elsewhere, and good field identification guides are consulted and absorbed, only then do potential goshawks become more confidently identified in Ohio.

In the past 10 years, covering roughly 100 goshawk sightings, slightly over half have been published without being specifically aged as adult or immature. Of those specifically aged, about 1.4 adults have been seen for every immature.

The northern goshawk is a hardy species, and occasionally one will spend the winter here in an accessible location, and be seen by many if enough effort is expended. But this is the exception, as winter reports are rather widely spaced in timing and location. It is true that a larger proportion of sightings have taken place along Lake Erie than might be expected by chance alone, but overall more are seen inland. On average, Ohio north of Columbus has a strong edge in winter reports, accounting for some 80% of recent sightings.

Your odds improve in spring as migrants appear, especially at lakefront hawk watches. Nearly 70% of recent spring sightings have come from along the Lake Erie shore; impressively, almost 70% of these come from the Lucas, Ottawa, and Erie Co. shorelines. Maumee Bay State Park, the Magee Marsh Wildlife Area hawk tower, and Kelleys Island are all good options. Almost half of recent inland reports have come from northeastern Ohio. The timing of spring migration ranges from mid-March through the first week of May, with sightings roughly evenly spaced within this period—with the exception, that is, of a strong spike (almost double the likelihood of other weeks) during the first week of April.

Fall migrants are decidedly harder to find than spring migrants, with recent spring reports more than doubling the number of fall reports. Again, the lakeshore produces more than its fair share of reports (about 30%), but inland Lucas Co., especially the Oak Openings and areas west of Toledo, have hoarded almost 50% of all recent fall reports, presumably southbound birds spilling around the western end of Lake Erie. Fall migrants begin to trickle through in late October, but seem to peak mainly in the second and third weeks of November, with just over 60% of fall sightings coming from this two-week period.

So, for an overall plan, first study this species where it is more numerous. Then, ideally a cooperative goshawk will decide to winter here at a single location, giving you more than one chance to pin it down. If no

wintering birds are present, spring migration is your best bet, especially during the first week of April along Lake Erie in Ottawa and Lucas counties; I'd try the Magee hawk tower or the big hill at Maumee Bay State Park. Fall hopes should be less fervent, but a few mid-November days spent scanning the skies over an expansive Oak Openings field (perhaps near the corner of Reed and Girdham Roads in Oak Openings Metropark) might just do the trick. In truth, the northern goshawk can be a very frustrating species in Ohio, especially for those not entirely confident of their identification skills. Confident birders, as well as birders blissfully unaware of the many identification pitfalls involved, tend to see more goshawks, for whatever reason.

Golden Eagle

Now here is a rare bird that has certainly established more of an Ohio presence in the past 10 years. Things are looking good for golden eagle searchers, as this species has now wintered every year in varying numbers (one to three birds per year) in the vast grasslands at and around The Wilds (Muskingum Co.), apparently since the winter of 1996/97. A good winter plan of attack at The Wilds is to drive all the roads slowly, looking skyward; intersperse this with frequent stops along the way to get out and scan. The area of the preserve's headquarters on International Road offers a suitable and often productive vantage to scan large chunks of sky. Both adults and immatures have been present in recent years. You may even see more than one eagle, but many birders have spent the entire day without seeing any. Some have found eagles on their first visit, while others haven't seen any over multiple visits—so plan for a long day, and preferably visit in good weather suitable for airborne raptors. Wintering goldens typically appear there by late November, and leave by mid-March. Even if no eagles are to be found, rough-legged hawks and short-eared owls should put on a good show here, and in the past two winters, a prairie falcon has outshone the goldens, which isn't easy.

Winter sightings from locations other than The Wilds are still quite rare, and are widely spread across the state. Late migrants probably account for most December reports at odd locations, although this species certainly could winter at other reclaimed grasslands in southern and eastern Ohio, such as Egypt Valley or Crown City Wildlife Areas; these sites receive little birder attention, but deserve much more.

As migrants, golden eagles are seen in roughly equal numbers in the spring and fall, but different eagle-finding strategies are required for the two seasons. In spring, migrants usually appear during the second week of March and continue through April to the first week of May. Keep in mind that sightings are always the exception rather than the rule. The peak of the spring movement seems to come during the middle two weeks of April, a period which accounts for over a third of all spring reports in the past 10 years. The shore of Lake Erie is the place to be in spring, knowing that almost three

quarters of all recent Ohio sightings have come from along the Lake as the birds move to the west or to the east along the shore, avoiding a long open water crossing. Lakefront observations seem to fall into two primary areas—the Ottawa/Lucas Co. area, which accounts for two thirds of all lakefront sightings, and the Lake/Ashtabula Co. area, which accounts for most of the other third. As is the case for northern goshawk, preferred sites in spring include the Magee Marsh hawk tower and the sledding hill at Maumee Bay State Park. Elsewhere in spring, at locations other than The Wilds, more recent goldens have been seen in Holmes County than anywhere else; the abundance of active and intrepid birders there probably has as much to do with this fact as do any other factors.

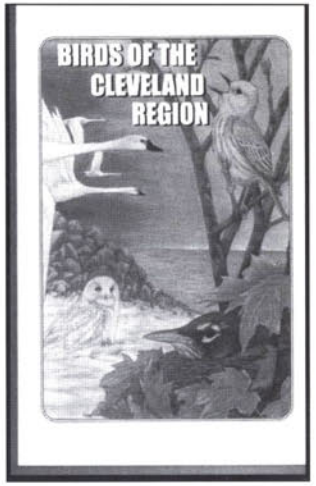
In the fall, you will also want to head to northern Ohio, as in the spring. But this season, head to the Toledo area, beyond the western end of Lake Erie. Fully two thirds of recent Ohio fall sightings (away from The Wilds, that is) emanate from the relatively small area including Toledo and points immediately west and south, with the Oak Openings area again being a local favorite. With such a large percentage of Ohio fall sightings coming from this sector, this clearly pinpoints the best area to search at this season, and since fully 90% of recent Ohio fall sightings have come between 16 October and 15 November, this is clearly the best time to make a search. The period between 24 October and 7 November is the best time of all, especially with cooperative weather conditions. Fall sightings elsewhere are very scattershot, other than in late November at The Wilds.

Given a decent look, the golden eagle should offer few identification worries, which is more than we can say for northern goshawk. Of those reports in which ages were provided, over 75% of goldens in Ohio are immatures (juveniles and subadults), which is to be expected given the preponderance of young over adults recorded at other northern and eastern hawk watches.

Overall plan—head to The Wilds of Muskingum County, and hope that wintering birds continue to appear there; or, head to the Lake Erie shore, preferably Magee Marsh or Maumee Bay State Park, between 8-23 April; or, head to the Oak Openings area west of Toledo between 24 October and 7 November. Sit down, look up, and wait. Bring binoculars.

That will have to do it for this issue. To treat them adequately, northern goshawk and golden eagle have required more page space than expected, especially compared to the other species we've examined previously. But that seems only fitting for these two, which require more space in life as well. Considering the treatment they've received from humankind over the years, I think they've earned a little more space.

Book Review: *Birds of the Cleveland Region*



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

Rosche, Larry, ed. 2004. *Birds of the Cleveland Region*. Kirtland Bird Club. Cleveland, OH. 187 + ix pp, illustrated. $24.99.

Editor Larry Rosche's *Birds of the Cleveland Region* is described as the second edition of a work of the same name by Arthur B. Williams published in 1950 by the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. Williams's was the first authoritative and inclusive treatment of this avifauna. This new edition continues the tradition, taking account of records of birds recorded in the region since that time, as well as new species (both newly-observed and derived from taxonomic refinements) and new locales involved.

A respected authority among Ohio bird observers, Rosche edited the venerable *Cleveland Bird Calendar* for 16 years. He has studied this periodical's reports from the past 100+ years, and the result is a comprehensive and well-written portrait, much distilled and refined, of the region's bird life, updated to cover the period since Williams's work of more than half a century earlier. Williams used words alone to describe each species' status, habitats, and distribution, as well as local nesting information when appropriate. The species accounts in this edition add informative graphs depicting each species' seasonal status (nearly identical to those in Rosche's "A Field Book of Birds of the Cleveland Region" of 2004), and small outline maps showing accepted occurrences for each of the seven counties (Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, Portage, and Summit) in the region herein defined. The area covered by Williams was smaller, comprising roughly everything within 30 miles of Cleveland's Public Square, with an extension to include Akron; from Public Square to the eastern border of the area as currently defined is, by contrast, about 45 miles. Documentary photographs, many themselves rare, of 60+ rarities, a guide to productive birding sites in the region, as well as charming bird portraits by Jennifer Brumfield and Kevin Metcalf, are among the many welcome features of this work.

Williams's accounts total 330 taxa (including 314 full species, 14 extra subspecies and two hybrid forms). Rosche's, covering a larger area and with 54 extra years of accumulated data, total 376, including three species

added as split since 1950, and three hybrid forms. His list is authoritative and complete. He does not treat subspecies.

Rosche's accounts are less detailed than Williams's. Most consist of a few concise sentences, augmented by the graphic presentations of expected abundances, schedules, and distributions as to county. They mention nesting status for each, but eschew the detail Williams offers on timing, numbers of eggs, etc. Though they cover 55 additional years of records, their 128 pages fall short of Williams's 165. By and large, they accomplish much in a narrow space. Pithy as they are, however, the accounts risk being perfunctory. The longest of them, that for Sabine's gull, extends just over half a page, whereas Williams devotes a page and a half of equally well-chosen words to the hooded warbler. They mention only the most remarkable records if any. Citations to the literature are few. Presumably a reader seeking references or additional detail must consult Williams, or search back issues of *The Cleveland Bird Calendar**. The List of References (p. 7) contains only nine rather disparate items, and represents only a fraction of the works the editor must have consulted.

For whom is this work most helpful, and in what ways? Among birders, newcomers and visitors to the region will value the descriptions of prime spots in the section entitled "Birding the Cleveland Region." Finding some of these, however, requires resources this work does not offer (for just one example, a reader new to the area will have trouble getting to the enticing Mentor Lagoons using only the information in the text and the recommended atlas). For the same readers, the "Birding Calendar" is an excellent distillation of decades of experience with the ebb and flow of bird life in the region. All observers will have much use for the species accounts, headed by bar-graph representations, mapped over thirds of each month, of the known local occurrence of each species. Researchers will find the data offered reliable, if terse.

Because they do not indicate numbers of records, the maps of occurrences by county are mostly of interest to listers, who may find there information about which of the scarcer species has been found where. Otherwise they are of little importance for a relatively small region in illustrating local ranges, though the text under "Distribution" sometimes provides additional information. The laconic descriptions under the "Habitat" heading are not detailed enough to present more than rudimentary bird-finding hints.

No doubt this edition will serve well as a reference for another fifty-five years, but readers may regret that the editor's wit, capacious store of knowledge, and skill with words have been given so little compass. However we may assess the relative value of pictures versus words, in a work of only 187 pages graphic presentations, including something like 30 pages of illustrations, plus maps and histograms, constitute a large proportion of the total. This is in addition to an inordinate amount of empty white space that invades the species accounts here, in part caused by an apparent decision not

to let any account appear on more than one page. Graphic elements have also no doubt added substantially to this book's price, which has been an obstacle to some.

The information in *Birds of the Cleveland Region* is reliable, thoroughly researched, and well presented. It is also not a bit more detailed than it had to be. By no means superficial, it still will not satisfy the curious reader, as it is obvious that concision required much to go unsaid. One is likely to say "well done," then hope that Mr. Rosche has another book in store in which we may learn more of what he has to share, and in a less telegraphic style.

All quibbles aside, this work represents a much-needed continuation of the ongoing story of the Cleveland area's numerous and very interesting bird records. It confirms the avifauna of the Cleveland area as consistently the best–documented in the state. No doubt many readers familiar with the region's birds may yearn for more than merely occasional glints of the editor's insights into his decades of intimate and extensive experience with the region's avifauna and their observers, but anyone interested in these birds will want to have this scrupulously edited and attractive book.

* *The Cleveland Bird Calendar*, important as it is for bird records, has never circulated widely, and back issues are not easy to find. Commendably, the Kirtland Bird Club, with considerable assistance from the editor of *Birds of the Cleveland Region*, has set out to make the entire 100+-year history of this periodical available on the internet. Once completed, this project will make important material in the *Bird Calendar* available to all.

One of three "Gambel's" white-crowned sparrows (Z. l. gambelii, a western subspecies), at feeders at LSR in Lake County on 5 May. The bill is pinkish-orange, and the underparts uniformly gray; note that the black eye-line does not extend across the lores to meet the base of the bill (photo courtesy of John Pogacnik).

"A Perfect Revolution": Jared P. Kirtland on the Western Reserve

Only eight years younger than John James Audubon, Kirtland was Ohio's first naturalist, and his diverse but hard-to-find writings provide the clearest portrait we have of Ohio's natural realms in the early days of statehood. Some years ago (Vol 24, No 4:189-212) we published in these pages the full text of his catalog of Ohio birds and related works. Here we reproduce the preface to a series of papers, appearing beginning on 3 January 1850 in The Family Visitor, *a vanished periodical no longer widely available. It provides an overview of wild life in northeastern Ohio in the early nineteenth century.* –Ed.

Fifty three years have nearly elapsed since the first surveys and settlements were made on the Connecticut Western Reserve. Within that period of time a perfect revolution has been effected in its condition. Its forests have been displaced by farms, villages, and cities; canals, railroads, and other important thoroughfares are extending in every direction; telegraphs are furnishing increased facilities for communication; commerce has spread over the Lake, and the whole face of nature has been changed.

The progress of improvement is familiar to our intelligent population, and awakens in them a laudable pride and satisfaction. A series of changes have, however, been attendant on settlement and civilization, that are looked upon by the *true Naturalist* with about the same complacency that Leatherstocking and his red associates viewed the depredations on the face of Nature by the white man at Templeton. Of the extent of these changes few have any conception.

The surface of the Reserve, though somewhat level, is sufficiently undulating to admit of a great variety of soils and exposures—from the high and dry ridge to the rich alluvion and the mucky swamp; and to afford suitable localities for a numerous Flora, embracing on the one hand the *half* hardy plants of more Southern regions, and on the other the Alpine productions of the North. Lake Erie at the same time serves to mitigate and adapt the climate to the former class of vegetation, while its waters often prove a medium to waft to its shores the seeds of the latter.

The country was originally covered with a heavy growth of timber, the species varying with the soil and exposure. Beneath its shade had accumulated, during series of centuries, a surface mould, rich in the elements of vegetable nutrition. This formed a pabulum, congenial to more tender growths of shrubby and herbaceous plants, which, protected also from the sun and droughts by the over-spreading forests, invested the earth universally with

a verdant and beautiful carpet. From the earliest days of spring, till the close of autumn, a splendid show of flowers was exhibited that varied from time to time as one species after another developed its inflorescence.

The best arranged, artificial Botanic garden cannot afford the botanist and amateur cultivator a more inviting field than nature furnished here half a century since.

As the season advanced, various fruits and nuts ripened in succession, and though some of them were not, perhaps, as delicate as the varieties now produced by cultivation, yet they were palatable, and often a source of comfort ant convenience to our pioneer fathers.—Among the native fruits were the Strawberry, Serviceberry, Gooseberry, Raspberry, Cranberry, Cherry, Grape, Crab-apple, and Pawpaw. Equally rich was the Fauna of that day.

It is somewhat uncertain whether the Bison and the Moose-deer ever visited this section of Ohio; the former were one not uncommon in the Southern part of this State, where the cane brakes then extensively occurred. The last Bison there known were two that were shot in the Sandy Forks of Symmes Creek, near the South East part of Jackson county, in the year 1800.

Among the larger quadrupeds, the Elk, Deer, Bear, and Wolves were common. A few Panthers existed here; several were killed in the township of Poland, about the commencement of the present century.

The Beaver, whose "ancient works" may still be seen in many places, had been nearly exterminated by the Indians and white hunters before the permanent settlements commenced. A few were occasionally taken within the present century.

The unique Porcupine might then be found in every forest, and frequently aroused the farmer's ire by destroying the usefulness and often the life of his watch-dog. This was accomplished by the insertion of its quills into the dog's lips and mouth, and not by shooting them from a distance, as was fabulously supposed by many.

The Otter was equally abundant; his *sliding ways* might then be seen at short intervals, beaten upon the mud or snow along the sloping banks of every little creek. The Fisher, Muskrat, and Mink existed in great numbers.

The Black and Gray Squirrels were far more common than at the present day, and often blasted the farmer's prospects by destroying his crops of wheat and Indian corn. The Red Squirrel had then barely made his debut.

The Grey Fox was a common tenant of the forests. The Red species did not make its appearance for many years, and *is not a native*. It was not known on the Reserve as late as 1810; but I think I heard of it in 1818.

Many other minor species of quadrupeds that it is not necessary to refer to, existed here very abundantly in those early days.

The rapacious family of Birds was very strongly represented. The Bald Eagle visited the premises of almost every farmer during cold weather. The Golden Eagle was not uncommon, particularly along the shores of the Lake. Of the former, a few remain at the present day; the latter has nearly or quite forsaken his former locations.

It is problematical whether AUDUBON'S *Washington Eagle* ever had an actual existence. On several occasions I supposed I was on the track of it, but in the end I always found it to be one of the other species. The young female of the Bald species, in her gray or black plumage, is frequently mistaken for it, from the circumstance that she may not be larger than even an old white headed male. She does not assume the mature plumage till after the third moulting.

The Red-tailed, Red-shouldered, Broad-winged and Cooper's Hawks might, in early days, be found nesting on almost every acre of the Western Reserve, and during the summer, the beautiful Swallow tailed Hawk visited here in considerable numbers, in pursuit of its favorite food. It might be seen moving in graceful circles, at no great height, watching for the garter snake, that then infested our meadows.

Wild Geese, Swans, Ducks and wading birds, literally swarmed about every lake, pond, and creek, during Spring and Autumn. Many species, also, bred on the Reserve.

Forty years since, while traveling from Buffalo to Ohio, along the immediate shore of the Lake, the scene was constantly enlivened by the presence of ducks, leading their young on the margin of the water—or hastily retreating to it at our approach. It often happened, that on doubling some point of land, or fallen tree, we placed ourselves in a position to cut off their communication with their favorite element. The instinctive expedients to which the anxious mother would resort to extricate her charge from impending danger, were to us a matter of amusement and interest. The Goosander, Mallard, and Summer Duck, were among the most common species we observed.

The flocks of Wild Turkies were more common and numerous, than are those of the tame variety of the present day. The Partridge and Quail were not very abundant. The Pileated Wood-cock was found on every dry tree. The sound of his heavy blows and loud note, were heard on all sides; and many a decaying trunk, was literally demolished by his labors.

Turkey Buzzards and Ravens collected in numerous flocks about every dead carcase—while the crow was less abundant than it is in more recent times.

The Crow Black Bird might be found nesting in almost every hollow and cavity in decaying trees. His habits in constructing his nest, were different from his kin in the New England States, where it builds its next exclusively o some fork of a limb of a live tree, near its extremity.

The Robin, Blue Bird, Thrush, Cat-bird and many small species, have, perhaps, increased as our fields and orchards have extended, and afforded them favorite resorts; except in neighborhoods where idle and vicious boys abound, and especially, newly imported foreigners, who for the first time in their lives are endowed with the privilege of destroying every harmless or useful bird.

While the tributaries of Lake Erie and the Ohio river were unobstructed by dams and were not swept by seines, they abounded with large and valuable species of fish, which, in their vernal migrations, crowded in immense shoals on the ripples. Sturgeon and Muskallonge often run up the Cuyahoga several miles, and large numbers of Pike, Pickerel, and white Perch visited the upper waters of the Mahoning during Spring and Summer.

Reptiles were sufficiently common, at least, to gratify the most ardent curiosity of the Naturalist. The Yellow Rattle Snake was abundant. Difference of color and form, arising from sex, were taken as evidence of specific distinction, and it was the popular opinion, that there were to distinct species *of the large kind*, the *Yellow* and the *Black*.

The small black Rattle Snake, the Massasaugua, was still more abundant in certain marshes, and the Copper-head might be occasionally found near some moist and stony ledge during long continued hot and dry weather in summer.

These *three* constitute all the species of a venomous character that have been found in Northern Ohio.

Several annoying species of insects, nearly as noxious by their impressions, were very common, and were a source of great suffering to man and beast.

The forests and waters abounded also, with many Mollusca and animals provided with shells as a protection and covering. The number of species of land and water shells found in Ohio, is, probably, greater than in any State or country besides—as most of the species were then abundant, furnishing beautiful additions to the cabinet of the Conchologist.

The gun, the axe, and the plough, together with the depredations of domestic animals, have effected extensive damage in the condition of the animal and vegetable kingdom.

That universal forest has been so far destroyed, that only broken patches remain, mere shadows of its former stateliness. These are not so much exposed to the sun, winds and frosts, that they have lost much of their verdant and luxuriant appearance.—The same exposure to the elements has, in great measure, dissipated the rich native soil; and the beautiful investments of shrubs and herbaceous plants have been destroyed by repeated browsing and cropping of domestic animals. Many interesting and beautiful species have entirely disappeared from our flora.

Most of the native fruits, like the Indian, have been blasted by the approach of the white man, and have entirely disappeared or become barren.

The trees of the Wild Plum, Service Berry, and Pawpaw which have survived the progress of improvement, have, long since, ceased to produce their fruits; and the Vine and Cranberry are not much more favorably affected.

Most of the native species of Quadrupeds have entirely disappeared, or are very scarce.

Geese, Ducks, and other aquatic birds, have nearly forsaken their favorite resorts.—Even Sandusky Bay is now visited semi-annually by very

diminished numbers, compared with former days; and many species, formerly very common, are no longer seen.

Still greater changes, if possible, have occurred with the finny tribes. The Sturgeon has nearly forsaken this shore of the Lake; the Muskallonge has become scarce, and no longer seeks the mouth of the rivers to deposit its spawn. All the migratory species have been excluded from the Mahoning river by the construction of dams on the Big Beaver. Many smaller species have increased in all our waters since the larger and more voracious have been reduced in numbers. The slaughter houses about the rivers, afford them large supplies of food, and contribute to their increase. Artificial slack waters, canals and basins have also in many localities effected similar results.

No one will probably regret that the venomous reptiles have been so nearly exterminated. A sufficient number remains. Only two years since *seven* Copper Heads were taken near the mouth of Rocky river, in Rockport, and no less than forty were killed in one day, a few years since, by some Irishmen engaged in excavating the Mahoning canal, north of Lowell, in Mahoning county.

With equal pleasure we should greet the disappearance of many of the annoying insects.

All the species of Land Snails in this country are harmless, as are also the Mollusca inhabiting the fresh water shells. Most of them are rapidly disappearing. Swine, Turkies, Ducks and Hens destroy the Land Snails, and during low stages of water in our streams, swine prey on the muscles.

Our canals and reservoirs form favorable localities for the increase of these muscles, and may perhaps preserve some species from total extermination.

Other changes are also occurring in our vegetable and animal kingdoms. New species are constantly finding their way among us—some proving to be useful and valuable, others noxious and nuisances.

Perhaps our most beautiful migrant sparrow, Lincoln's is common for only a few days every spring. This one was at the Magee bird trail 14 May. Photo by Jason Estep.

Recent Actions of the Ohio Bird Records Committee

Tom Kemp, Secretary
10346 Obee Rd, Whitehouse OH 43571
trkemp@sbcglobal.net

After a hiatus of several months, the Ohio Bird Records Committee returned to action this spring, sporting four new members: Dwight Chasar (Northfield); Tom Hissong (Dayton); Tom Kemp (Whitehouse); and Ben Morrison (Alliance). They join current members Rob Harlan (Norton), Ned Keller (Cleves), and Sue Tackett (Dayton).

Since no rare bird documentations from late 2003 or 2004 had been reviewed, the OBRC had the task of reviewing 55 new documentations from 2003/2004 and four records still in circulation. Of these 59 records, 45 were accepted by the committee, four were not accepted, and 10 remain in circulation.

Accepted Records

Ross's goose - Stark Co., 24-26 Nov. 2003; observers
C. Greenfield, J. Estep, P. Gardner, C. Caldwell, K. Metcalf.
Ross's goose - Summit Co., 10 Jan 2003; observer F. Losi.
Ross's goose - Medina Co., 29 Mar 2004; observer J. Perchalski.
Ross's goose - Portage Co., 10-18 Dec 2004; observer L. Rosche.
Cackling goose - Clark Co., 13 Nov 2004; observer B. Whan.
Cackling goose - Preble Co., 5 Dec 2004; observer J. Stenger.
Western grebe - Warren Co., 8 Nov 2004; observer F. Frick.
American white pelican - Mahoning Co., 6 Jun 2004; observer L. Hartman.
Tricolored heron - Erie Co., 30 May 2004; observer C. Caldwell.
Glossy ibis - Erie Co., 30 Aug 2004; observer J. Lehman
White-faced ibis - Marion Co., 1 May 2004; observers B. Sparks, P. Gardner
White-faced ibis - Wood Co., 9 May 2004; observer P. Chad
Mississippi kite - Lucas Co., 12 May 2004; observer G. Klug
Prairie falcon - Muskingum Co., 15 & 25 Feb 2004; observers R. Rogers,
K. Davis, D. Linzell, A. Ryff
Piping plover - Highland Co., 25 Apr 2004; observer T. Shively
Piping plover - Gallia Co., 10 Oct 2004; observer H. Slack
Black-necked stilt - Preble Co., 8 May 2004; observer J. Jaskula
Black-necked stilt - Sandusky Co., 12 Jul 2004; observer S. Zadar
Black-necked stilt - Ottawa Co., 6 Jun 2004; observer E. Pierce
Black-necked stilt - Ottawa Co., 17 Oct 2004; observer S. Snyder
Black-necked Stilt - Marion Co., 7 Jun 2004; observer B. Whan
Baird's sandpiper - Scioto Co., 17 Apr 2004; observers B. Sparks, P. Gardner
Ruff - Marion Co., 16 May 2004; observer D. Overacker
Long-tailed jaeger - Franklin Co., 8 Oct 2003; observer J. Sauter
California gull - Lorain Co., 3 Jan 2004; observer K. Miller

Least tern - Hamilton Co., 25 Aug 2004; observer F. Frick
Rufous hummingbird - Butler Co., 21 Dec 2003; observer A. Chartier
Rufous hummingbird - Darke Co., 15 Dec 2003; observer A. Chartier
Rufous hummingbird - Lucas Co., 16 Dec 2003; observer A. Chartier
Rufous hummingbird - Summit Co., late Sep to 4 Dec 2003; observer L. Rosche
Rufous hummingbird - Muskingum Co., 20 Nov 2003; observer A. Chartier
Rufous hummingbird - Franklin Co., 14 Nov 2003; observer A. Chartier
Rufous hummingbird - Hamilton Co., 17 Oct 2003 to 20 Mar 2004; observer A. Chartier
Rufous hummingbird - Ross Co., 3 Nov 2004; observer A. Chartier
Rufous hummingbird - Muskingum Co., 3 Nov 2004; observer A. Chartier
Rufous hummingbird - Knox Co., 8 Oct 2004; observer A. Chartier
Say's phoebe - Holmes Co., 20-27 Oct 2004; observer S. Snyder
Say's phoebe - Cuyahoga Co., 23 Oct 2004; observer S. Zadar
Loggerhead shrike - Adams Co., 9 May 2004; observer L. Brumbaugh
Varied thrush - Medina Co., 26 & 28 Nov 2004; observer D. Riffle
"Audubon's" warbler - Cuyahoga Co., 19 & 24 Jan 2004; observer S. Zadar
Kirtland's warbler - Cuyahoga Co., 16 May 2004; observer R. Nicholls
Kirtland's warbler - Knox Co., 8 May 2004; observers E. & R. Hochstetler
Kirtland's warbler - Lake Co., 25 Sep 2004; observer H. Petruschke
Painted bunting - Medina Co., 9 May 2004; observer B. Toneff

Records Not Accepted

Western gull - Cuyahoga Co., 11 Mar 2003. This was a tough call, but after recirculations and consulting observers familiar with *Larus occidentalis*, the consensus was that this gull was most likely a herring X great black-backed gull. Specifically, the head and bill shape were different from what a pure Western gull should have and were more suggestive of a gull with at least some great black-backed lineage. The committee felt it prudent to be cautious in this case. Gulls are notorious for hybridization and the likelihood of this bird being a hybrid is far greater than being a pure western gull.

Eurasian collared-dove - Clinton Co. 7 Jul 2004. The committee felt that a more complete description of the bird was in order. Although the observer writes that the bird was heard, no description of the vocalization was included in the documentation.

Loggerhead shrike - Wyandot Co., 9 Nov 2003. Although this bird was apparently seen quite well, the description of the plumage and of the song fell short of distinguishing this species from northern shrike. Specifically, details concerning the extent of black in the mask and bill shape and color were lacking.

Hybrid warbler - Marion Co., 2 May 2004. Although most committee members thought this bird was probably a hybrid of some type, the parentage could not be determined. It was also suggested that perhaps the bird was an adult male orchard oriole, given the amount of chestnut (red-orange) described on this bird.

Records in Recirculation

Brown pelican - Lorain Co., 19 Sep 2003
Plegadis ibis - Erie Co., 25 Oct 2004
Swainson's hawk - Lake Co., 20 Nov 2003
Yellow rail - Hamilton Co., 15 Sep 2004
Curlew sandpiper - Wayne Co., 16 Sep 2003
Ruff - Wyandot Co., 18 Jul 2003
Arctic tern - Sandusky Co., 18 Aug. 2004
White-winged dove - Portage Co., 16, 17, & 19 Aug 2004
Rufous Hummingbird - Lorain Co., 31 Oct & 21 Nov 2003
Bohemian Waxwing - Cuyahoga Valley NP, 6 Mar 2004

New Circulations

Fulvous whistling-duck - Mercer Co., 9-12 May 2005
Tricolored heron - Lucas Co., 21 May 2005
Glossy ibis - Ottawa NWR, 14-24 May 2005
White-faced ibis - Ottawa NWR, 14-24 May 2005
Mississippi kite - Scioto Co., 1 May 2005
Gyrfalcon – Guernsey/Noble Cos., 25 Jan 2005.
Yellow rail - Lucas Co., 5-19 May 2005
Piping plover - Scioto Co., 30 Apr 2005; Caesar Creek SP, 29 April-4 May 2005
Red-naped sapsucker - Holmes Co., 4 Apr 2005
Black-throated gray warbler – Kelley's Island, 9 May 2005
Kirtland's Warbler - Adams Co., 30 Apr 2005; Magee Marsh 16 & 25 May 2005
Swainson's warbler - Mohican SP, 21 May 2005

The Status of Cackling Goose in Ohio - We Need Your Help!

I cannot claim to be an expert on the identification of the newly-split cackling goose *Branta hutchinsii*. I have seen just one such bird in almost 40 years of birding in Ohio. In fact, an informal poll of OBRC members at their March 2005 meeting suggested that, collectively, we had seen fewer than 10 individual cackling geese in Ohio. This was one reason we voted to place the cackling goose on Ohio's review list of bird species. In addition, by carefully documenting its occurrence in the state, we hope to gain a better understanding of its status and perhaps some better ways to distinguish it from other small forms of Canada geese. The taxonomy of this group is far from clear, but with careful observation we may be able to shed additional light on its status in Ohio.

The Cowan Lake waterfowl study

Bob Powell
Congress Farm Research Institute
1217 N. State Rte 134 Wilmington, OH
bob.powell1@verizon.net

Cowan Lake is a 700-acre lake about seven miles southwest of Wilmington in Clinton County. The lake was formed in 1950 by damming Cowan Creek. It is the centerpiece of Cowan Lake State Park. The web site at *http://www.ohiodnr.com/parks/parks/cowanlk.htm* fully describes the location and facilities available. The DeLorme map reference is p.77 D5.

In the spring of 2005 I tried with some success to count the waterfowl on Cowan Lake every day that weather permitted. Cowan Lake is small enough that all the birds on the lake can be counted in six stops along the south shore, accessible from OH 350. Counting usually took about an hour and I tried to time my visits for the last hour before sunset. The waterfowl numbers given below are a summary of those counts.

Cowan's contribution to waterfowl migration was limited by the constraints of open water conditions during the early weeks and by human use when the weather warmed up. Before 15 Feb there was too much ice for the counts to be representative. On the other hand, waterfowl concentrations are very sensitive to human use of the lake. Waterfowl numbers nose-dived with even three or four boats on the lake. After 5 Apr, human traffic on the lake precluded use by more than a handful of waterfowl, and most of those were the Canada geese and mallards that breed there. Aggregating the numbers of waterfowl gives a partial picture of the main thrust of waterfowl migration. In Figure 1, aggregated numbers are plotted against a linear scale.

Plotting the data against a semilog scale, asin Figure 2, gives a better picture of usage. From this chart it is easy to see that during the period there were usually several hundred waterfowl on the lake on days that were conducive to taking data. Note that a zero on this chart indicates that no count was made on that date. From these charts, it is evident that two big pushes occurred, one between 8 Mar and 16 Mar and another between 23 Mar and 31 Mar.

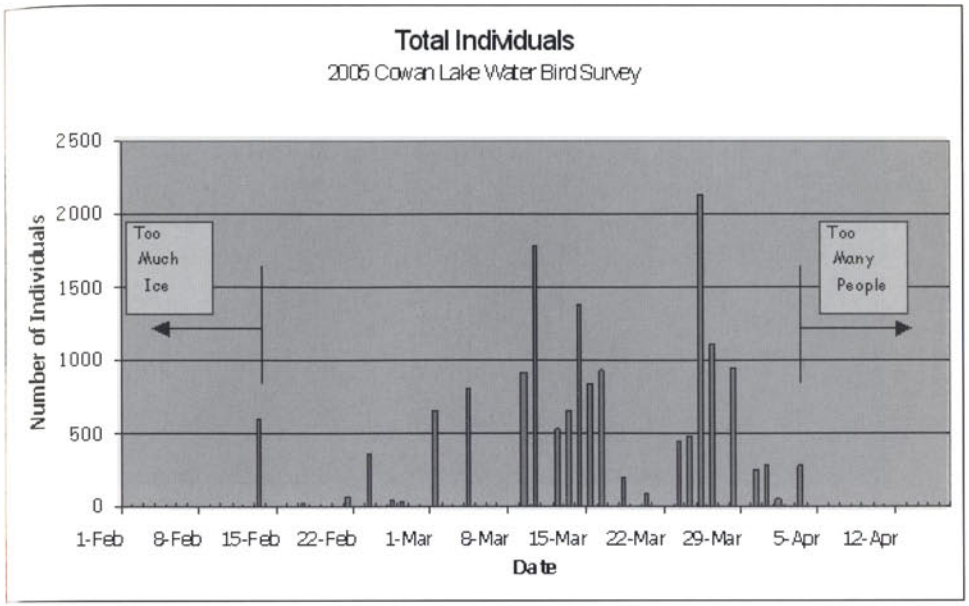


Figure 1

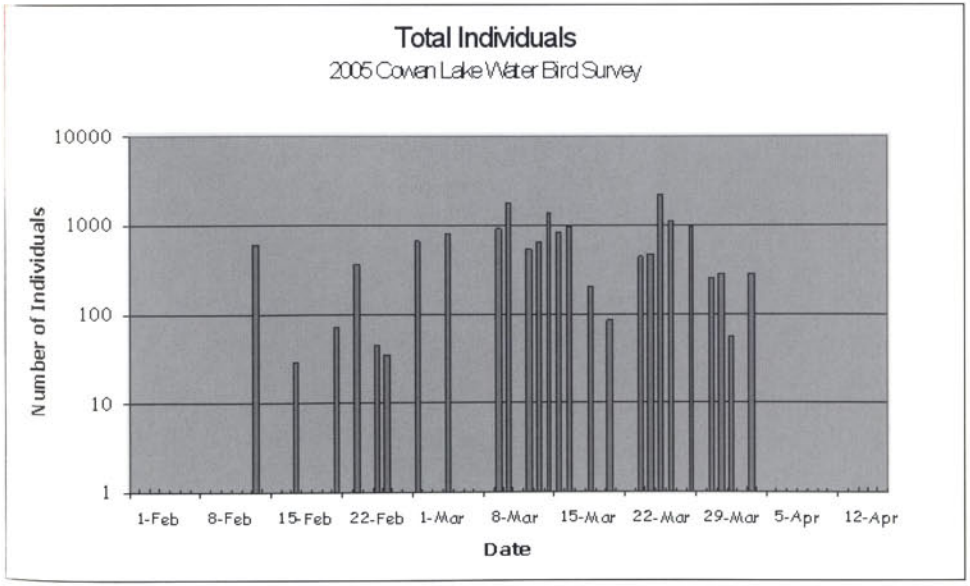


Figure 2

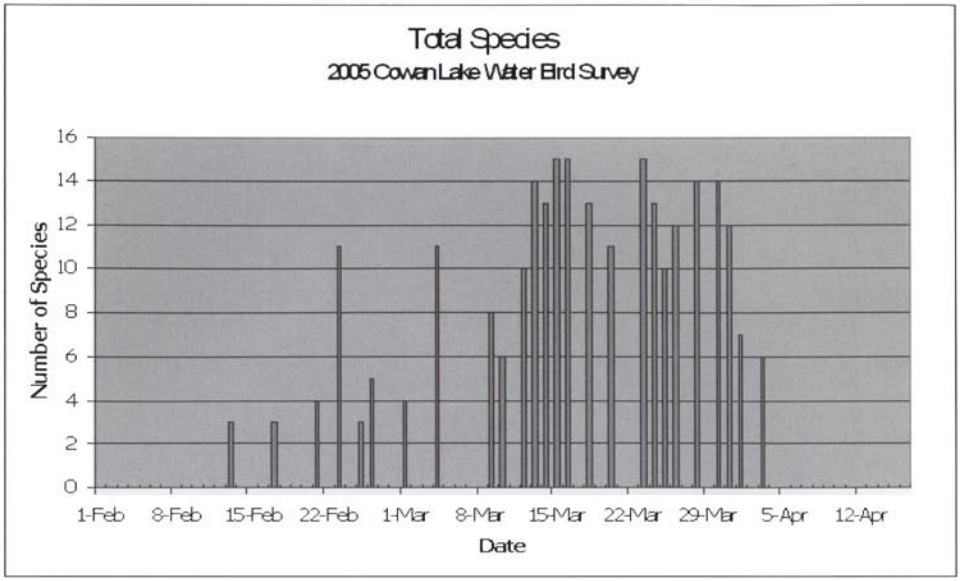


Figure 3

It is interesting to compare species diversity by date, as in the chart in Figure 3. Here it is apparent the big pushes in numbers coincide with big numbers of species. This indicates that the migration conclusions are not being driven simply by one or a few very numerous species. The correlation is evidence that good migration conditions are generally good for all the species of waterfowl.

I intend to repeat this study in the fall and probably for the next couple of years to see if there is consistency in this behavior. Perhaps there will eventually be room in this for some fancy statistics.

Short Note: Possible Hybrid Warbler Back in Toledo

Rick Nirschl
5912 Recamper Dr ,Toledo, Ohio 43613
ricknir@hotmail.com

Imagine a small bird in Toledo, Ohio, just 4 ½ inches long and weighing about 9 grams, flying hundreds or thousands of miles to its wintering grounds in Central or South America and returning to the very same location one year later. How in the world does it do it?

While many birds accomplish similar feats, the bird I am referring to is perhaps unique, one I reported on last year, and thought by many observers to be a northern parula x cerulean warbler hybrid. This bird returned to Wildwood Metropark in Toledo, Ohio on 8 May 2005 and is still present as of this writing (20 June).

While I am confident that this is the same bird as last year, it does look a little different this spring. It is singing slightly different songs, and I have observed a feeding behavior that I didn't notice last year.

My observations this year have, for the most part, been via views of the treetops, with one exception when the bird briefly flew within about 30 feet

Since there are no photos of this year's bird, here is one of last year's, taken 6 July by Brian Zwiebel.

in response to a taped song of a northern parula. So I have not gotten really good looks at the bird. It still appears to have the eye-arcs typical of a northern parula, but is now sporting a very light, indistinct necklace and some very light streaking near the shoulders. The necklace is so light and indistinct that I usually cannot detect it. I could not see any streaking on the sides or back. Other than the thin, slight necklace, the bird looks much the same as it did last year.

The bird is singing two songs this year, both slightly different from last year's songs. When I first heard the bird this year, it was singing a song similar to last year's alternate northern parula song but the song was about three times as long and more elaborate. It sang this song only for about the first week. Since then, the song has sounded very similar to a primary parula song, the only difference being the cadence of the notes. The notes, rather than being very closely spaced, are sung with a slight pause between each note. Kevin Puppos recorded vocalizations of this bird, which can be heard by following instructions posted at
<http://rarebird.org/forum/forum_posts.asp?TID=774&PN=1>

I have also observed a feeding behavior this year that I did not see last year. Last year, each time I saw the bird it fed like a cerulean warbler. This year, however, I have on several occasions seen the bird hanging upside down, probing leaf clusters, behavior typical of a northern parula.

Despite these differences, I still see characteristics of both species in this bird: the eye arcs, and song and feeding behavior of a northern parula with an indistinct necklace suggestive of a cerulean warbler.

A male parula allowed a photo by Bob Finkelstein on 11 May at Magee Marsh.

This upland sandpiper found the grasslands at the Voice of America Park in Butler County to its liking, as did another, and one hopes romance ensued. Portrait by William Hull on 28 April.