



An accidental visitor to inland lakes in Ohio, this Purple Sandpiper was one of three that graced the East Fork shoreline in late October. This image was captured by photographer Jeff Stone on 26 Oct.

On the cover:

Despite the late autumn date, the Mexican Sage at Inniscood Metro Gardens, **Franklin**, provided a stunning backdrop for this leucistic Ruby-throated Hummingbird smartly photographed by Dennis Hills on 23 Oct.



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COMMENTS ON THE SEASON

By Craig Caldwell

Statewide. average temperature and rainfall were below normal in August. One record high temperature and four record lows were set. However, a broad swath across the middle of the state had as little as 25% of its normal rainfall, and the Toledo area and the far southeast had up to triple their norms. September temperatures and precipitation were about average, though 33 new daily high temperatures were recorded. Most of them were northwest of I-71 and were increases of one or two degrees. Cleveland recorded its hottest day of the year on 09 Oct when the thermometer hit 96 degrees. Two previous lows were tied and no new record lows set. Scattered areas had up to 150% of average rainfall while others had as little as 25% of average. Fifty new daily records were set; the greatest increase was 1.26 inches.

October's temperature average was somewhat above normal, but only one new record high and one record low were recorded. Precipitation was above average. Stations in a band from Cincinnati to Cleveland had up to three times their normal monthly rain, and 67 daily rainfall records were established. All of them were in the western half of the state and the largest increase, three inches, hit Cincinnati on 08 Oct. Four daily record snowfalls were also recorded. November's average temperature was considerably below normal but only six record lows occurred and six more previous records were tied. Most of the East and lower Midwest shared this chill. Average precipitation was somewhat above normal. Though no areas exceeded 150% of their longterm averages, 64 daily precipitation records (54 of them snowfall) were set. Record snow depths up to seven inches more than previous daily values were set at 45 stations.

Weather data are from the National Weather Service (http://water.weather.gov/precip/) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/ temp-and-precip/maps.php and http://www. ncdc.noaa.gov/extremes/records/).

As usual we had a mix of early, late, and on-time arrivals and departures of migrants. There did seem to be more stragglers this year than most, though no pattern was apparent. Perhaps the mild October played a role. Rednecked Grebes staged an invasion of sorts, with larger than usual numbers and appearances in 14 counties. Several gulls appeared in larger than usual numbers, and a couple showed up far from their usual Lake Erie haunts. Most passerines were reported in typical numbers and locations. However, Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve hosted extraordinary numbers of sparrows of several species on 25 Oct. Winter finches by and large stayed north where cone and other seed sources provided much more food than a year ago.

This issue includes the results of the Fall Census conducted in Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Because it is an effort by many groups covering a large area, its counts are not included as the high numbers cited in the Species Accounts; those are limited to numbers by single individuals or parties. Most CVNP access was not affected by the "sequester shutdown" though the visitor centers, rest rooms, and other facilities were closed. Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge was closed, which meant that Ed Pierce and company couldn't do their usual monthly census there in October.

This Cardinal issue contains reports for 310 species, the second highest for the season since I became Editor. Three hybrids are also included as are 11 entries at the genus or "undetermined species" level. Twenty-three review species are listed (also my second highest fall count); their names are underlined. At least one sighting of each was well documented, either directly to the Ohio Bird Records Committee or indirectly to it through an Internet posting. Individuals whose documentation supports their reports will be named in a future issue of the Cardinal. However, many reports contained no supporting information and will not be published. An account for Trumpeter Swan (an introduced species with no truly wild birds ever documented here) is included as usual but it is not part of the above number of Review List species.

The Records Committee and this editor urge birders to report all sightings of Review List species, of Core List species found at unusual times, of nesting by birds previously not known to nest in the state, and of course sightings of birds never before found in Ohio. Information on how to document rarities is available at http://www.ohiobirds.org/ records/documentation.php. Detailed reports for Mississippi Kite, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Fish Crow, and Common Raven are especially important to thoroughly chronicle these species' apparent range expansions into Ohio.

Data for the following Species Accounts come from reports submitted directly to the *Cardinal*, eBird (http://ebird.org/content/ebird), the Ohio-birds listserv (http://birding. aba.org/maillist/OH), rarebird.org (http://rarebird.org/forum/default.asp), and the Cincinnati Bird Sightings Log (http://cincinnatibirds.com/goodbird/sighting.php).

Data from one usual source, *The Bobolink*, were not available at press time, so an addendum in the next *Cardinal* will include any necessary additions. All of our 88 counties are represented in the sources, though *Putnam* provided only a *Selasphorus* hummingbird sighting. *Henry* produced reports of two species, *Jackson* and *Pike* three each, and *Meigs* seven.

Taxonomic order and nomenclature follow the Check-List of North American Birds, 7th Edition (1998) as updated through the 54th Supplement (2013). This document is published by the North American Classification Committee of the American Ornithologists' Union and is available at http://www.aou.org/checklist/ north/print.php. County names are in bold italics. Locations whose counties are of the same name, for example Ashtabula (city) and Delaware Wildlife Area, usually do not have the counties repeated. County names for sites described in Cincinnati, Cleveland, and Columbus are also omitted. Shortened names and a few sets of initials are used for locations and organizations which occur repeatedly; these abbreviations are listed here. The term "fide" is used in some citations; it means "in trust of" and is used where the reporter was not the observer.

Abbreviations:

Alum Creek = Alum Creek State Park,

- Delaware, unless noted otherwise
- Armleder Park = a Cincinnati city park on the Little Miami River, *Hamilton*
- Big Island = Big Island Wildlife Area, *Marion*
- Blendon Woods = Blendon Woods Metro Park, *Franklin*
- The Bowl = a limited-access area near the *Harrison* airport.

- BRAS = Black River Audubon Society
- BSBO = Black Swamp Bird Observatory
- Buck Creek = Buck Creek State Park, Clark
- Burke = Cleveland Burke Lakefront Airport, *Cuyahoga*
- Caesar Creek = Caesar Creek State Park, *Warren*
- CCE = Crane Creek Estuary, *Lucas* and *Ottawa*, viewable from both ONWR and the CCE Trail which originates at Magee
- Clear Fork = Clear Fork Reservoir; most birding is done in the 2/3 of it which is in **Richland**. The rest is in **Morrow**.
- CLNP = Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve (the former Dike 14), *Cuyahoga*
- CNC = Cincinnati Nature Center, Clermont
- Conneaut = the mudflats to the west of
- Conneaut Harbor, Ashtabula
- CP = County Park
- CPNWR = Cedar Point National Wildlife Refuge, *Lucas*
- CVNP = Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Cuyahoga and (mostly) Summit

Darby Creek = Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park, *Franklin*

- Deer Creek = the State Park is in *Pickaway*, the Wildlife Area is in Fayette, and Deer Creek Lake is in both but mostly *Pickaway*
- East Fork = East Fork State Park, *Clermont*
- East Harbor = East Harbor State Park, Ottawa
- Edgewater = the Edgewater unit of Cleveland Lakefront Metroparks, *Cuyahoga*
- Englewood = Englewood Metropark, Montgomery
- eTT = eBird Trail Tracker data entry kiosk, found at National Wildlife Refuges, National Parks, and some other locations
- Fernald = Fernald Preserve, *Butler* and *Hamilton*
- Findlay Reservoirs = several contiguous water bodies east of town in *Hancock*
- Funk = Funk Bottoms Wildlife Area, Ashland
 and (mostly) Wayne
- Headlands = Headlands Dunes State Nature Preserve, Headlands Beach State Park, and adjoining waters, *Lake*
- Honda Wetlands = a unit of Glacier Ridge MetroPark, *Union*
- Hoover NP = Hoover Nature Preserve, *Delaware*
- Hoover Reservoir = the northern 80% is in **Delaware**, but the dam is in **Franklin**
- Kelleys Island = the island and adjoining waters, *Erie*

- Killdeer = Killdeer Plains State Wildlife Area; a bit is in *Marion* but it's mostly in *Wyandot*
- LaDue = LaDue Reservoir, *Geauga*
- Lorain = the dredge spoil impoundment east of downtown in the city and county of the same name, unless otherwise noted
- Lost Bridge = a Great Miami River crossing on Lawrenceburg Road near Elizabethtown, *Hamilton*, where a covered bridge was lost to fire in 1903
- m. obs. = Multiple Observers
- Magee = the boardwalk and immediate vicinity in Magee Marsh Wildlife Area, *Lucas*, unless otherwise noted. The northern 1/3 of the causeway is also in *Lucas*, the rest in *Ottawa*.
- Maumee Bay = Maumee Bay State Park, *Lucas*, unless otherwise noted
- Meadowbrook = Meadowbrook Marsh, a preserve in Danbury Township, **Ottawa**
- Medusa = Medusa Marsh, *Erie*, an informally named and privately owned area between Sandusky and Bay View
- Metzger = Metzger Marsh Wildlife Area, *Lucas*
- Miami Whitewater = Miami Whitewater Forest County Park, *Hamilton*
- Mill Creek = Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary, a limited-access area in *Mahoning*
- Mohican = Mohican State Forest and State Park. Many trails cross the boundaries so some reports include sightings from both.
- Mohican SF = Mohican State Forest, Ashland
- Mohican SP = Mohican State Park, (mostly) *Ashland* and (slightly) *Richland*
- Mosquito Lake = Mosquito Creek Lake, also called Mosquito Creek Reservoir, *Trumbull*. Mosquito (Creek) Wildlife Area adjoins it.
- MP = Metro Park, MetroPark, or Metropark depending on the system
- NC = Nature Center
- NP = Nature Preserve, except as part of CVNP
- NWR = National Wildlife Refuge
- OBBA II = Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II
- OBRC = Ohio Bird Records Committee
- OOPMP = Oak Openings Preserve Metro-Park, *Lucas*
- ONWR = Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, *Lucas* and *Ottawa*
- ONWR Blausey and Navarre = Units of Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge which are separate from the refuge's main body. Both are in **Ottawa**.
- Pickerington Ponds = Pickerington Ponds Metro Park, *Fairfield* and *Franklin*

Pipe Creek = Pipe Creek Wildlife Area, outside Sandusky in Erie Pleasant Hill Lake = Pleasant Hill Lake. Ashland and Richland; the dam is in Ashland Sandy Ridge = Sandy Ridge Reservation, Lorain Shawnee = Shawnee State Forest, Scioto, unless otherwise noted Shawnee Lookout = Shawnee Lookout County Park, Hamilton Sims Park = a lakefront park in Euclid, Cuyahoga SNP = State Nature Preserve SF = State Forest SP = State Park Springville Marsh = Springville Marsh State Nature Preserve. Seneca Sunset Park = Sunset Park, Lake. An Erie-side park in Mentor-on-the-Lake, not to be confused with the Sunset Park in North Kingsville, Ashtabula. SWA = State Wildlife Area WA = Wildlife Area Wake Robin = a trail and boardwalk in Mentor Marsh State Nature Preserve, Lake Wendy Park = a lakeshore Cleveland park, Cuyahoga Wilderness Road = a road which traverses Funk Bottoms Wildlife Area, Wayne, and adjoining farmland Winous Point = Winous Point Shooting Club, Ottazea Winous Horseshoe = a unit of Winous Point Shooting Club, Ottawa

Woodlawn = Woodlawn Cemetery in Toledo, *Lucas*

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Greater White-fronted Goose

The reports are:

- About 55 on 07 Nov in the Joint Watershed Management Property, *Williams*; four remained until 21 Nov (Scott Myers, Mark and Sherry Plessner)
- About 35 on 26 and 27 Nov on Irwin Shoots Road, *Marion* (Junior Nisley, Dixie Sommers)
- One on 27 Nov at Maumee Bay (fide Sherrie Duris)

Snow Goose

The first showed up on 25 Sep, at CPNWR (Tom Kemp). Robert Hershberger and Kent Miller counted 49 (five of them blue morph) in several flocks over CLNP on 09 Nov. The only other double-digit count was 14, by Jeff Loughman and Shane Myers in the Riverbend Recreation Area, *Hancock*, on 03 Nov. Fifteen counties contributed reports.

Ross's Goose

The five locations, with sightings listed chronologically, are:

- Dawes Arboretum, *Licking*, one from 15 to 17 Oct (Margaret Bowman *et al.*)
- CLNP, two with a flock of 29 Snow Geese on 09 Nov (Robert Hershberger and Kent Miller)
- Headlands, nine on 09 Nov (Jerry Talkington *et al.*)

Zanesville Memorial Park Cemetery, *Muskingum*, one on 16 Nov (Scott Albaugh, Anthony Fry)

Ottawa near the Davis-Besse plant, one flyby on 29 Nov (John Pogacnik)



Margaret Bowman recorded this Ross's Goose at Dawes Arboretum, Licking, which she found with a flock of migrating Canada Geese on 15 Oct.

Snow/Ross's Goose

Indeterminate or hybrid birds were reported by Kent Miller at Edgewater on 18 Nov; by Dixie Somers on Irwin Shoots Road, *Marion*, on 27 Nov; and by Sam Corbo and Tom Kemp on the Bowling Green State University golf course, *Wood*, on 29 Nov.

Brant

The five reports are:

Two birds in Huron Harbor, *Erie*, on 07 Nov (Kent Miller)

One off Perry Township Park, *Lake*, on 10 Nov (Cole DiFabio)

One, probably the same bird, passing Lakeshore Reservation, *Lake*, on 10 Nov (John Pogacnik)

Three off Sunset Park on 18 Nov (m. obs.)

Two passing the Sheffield Lake shore, *Lorain*, on 24 Nov (Gabe Leidy)

Cackling Goose

Rita Schneider reported the first, a pioneer with five Canada Geese along Route 2 in *Erie* on 29 Sep. The next were two which Jen Brumfield saw passing Edgewater on 14 Oct. Maumee Bay hosted five between 24 and 28 Nov (m. obs.). Reports of one to three also came from other *Lucas* sites and *Allen*, *Ashland*, *Lorain*, *Wood*, and *Wyandot*.

Canada Goose

The high count was about 1000, noted by Tim Johnson at Mosquito Lake on 30 Nov. Several other counts were in the 700 to 800 range. All but 10 counties produced sightings.

Mute Swan

The highest of many double-digit counts was 69, at East Harbor on 19 Oct (Allen Chartier). Reports came from 28 counties.

Trumpeter Swan

Most counts in ONWR were in the 25 to 40 range; the 75 reported to the ONWR eTT on 21 Nov probably included some Tundra Swans. The largest number elsewhere was 20, at Killdeer on 05 Nov (Dan and Lynn Gesualdo). Fifteen counties provided reports.

Tundra Swan

Matthew Valencic saw the earliest, two flying over LaDue on 19 Oct, and sightings were fairly steady from then into Dec. Elliot Tramer's census team counted 1086 in CPNWR on 16 Nov. Mary Anne Romito noted 530 along the ONWR auto tour route on 17 Nov. The highest inland count was 290 in four flocks passing Mosquito Lake, also on 17 Nov (Scott Huge). Sightings came from 28 counties.

Wood Duck

Justin Bosler found up to 2000 at Winous Point during several early Oct visits. Gary Cowell provided the highest inland count, 110 at the Home Road marsh, *Richland*, on 30 Sep and noted the "Normal high fall staging #'s at this location". Sixty-one counties produced reports.

Gadwall

One late Jul sighting and six birds at East Harbor on 02 Aug (Robert Reed) began a trickle of later Aug reports. Sightings were frequent by mid-Sep. Paul Sherwood's 640 at Medusa on 11 Nov was the high count. The largest number away from Lake Erie was the 180 which Helen and Ken Ostermiller found at Killdeer on 03 Nov. Half of our counties provided reports.

Eurasian Wigeon

One spent from 10 to 14 Nov along Wilderness Road (m. obs.).

American Wigeon

The first of the season showed up at the Ottawa Shooting Club, *Sandusky*, on 02 Aug (Justin Bosler). Jen Brumfield saw one at East 55th Street in Cleveland on 03 Aug and another from the CCE Trail on 27 Aug, producing the only other reports that month. The highest of three triple-digit counts was 125, by Lynne Albert and Nic Shayko at Sandy Ridge on 09 Nov. Reports came from 34 counties.

American Black Duck

The modest number of sightings in Aug increased significantly by mid-Sep. Justin Bosler made a careful count in Muddy Creek Bay, **Ottawa**, on 03 Oct and came up with 300. The most elsewhere was 80, noted on 25 Nov at the Findlay Reservoirs (Shane Myers). Thirty-nine counties had sightings.

[American Black Duck x Mallard]

Deb Tefft winkled out five at Maumee Bay on 24 Nov and reports also came from *Cuyahoga*, *Franklin*, and *Ottawa*.

Mallard

Killdeer hosted about 2000 on 24 Nov (the Ostermillers). Muddy Creek Bay, *Ottawa*, held about 1700 on 03 Oct (Justin Bosler). Seventy-one counties produced reports.

Blue-winged Teal

Muddy Creek Bay again provided the high count, 400 by Justin Bosler on 02 Oct. Gene Stauffer's 100 at Deer Creek SP on 03 Oct was the inland high. Sightings came from 39 counties.

Northern Shoveler

The five birds which Jeffrey Pontius found at Darby Creek on 04 Aug probably included the four seen there during the last week of Jul. Darby Creek also provided the largest inland count, 52 on 23 Nov (Carl Winstead). The highest count overall was not much higher; Justin Bosler noted 70 at Medusa on 11 Oct. Forty-two counties provided reports.

Northern Pintail

Justin Bosler saw the first, five at ONWR Blausey on 05 Sep. He also saw the most, 170 in the CCE on 30 Sep. Darby Creek hosted the inland high count, which was 35 on 10 Nov by Irina Shulgina. Twenty-three counties produced sightings.

Green-winged Teal

A few late Jul sightings preceded those at three locations on 02 Aug. Medusa hosted 700 on 01 Oct (Justin Bosler). Mill Creek held the inland high number of 250 on 01 Nov (John Petruzzi). Thirty-six counties contributed sightings.

Canvasback

The first of these handsome ducks showed up all the way south in Deer Creek WA on 13 Oct (m. obs.). Almost two weeks passed before the next sightings on 26 Oct. On that day a BRAS field trip noted two birds at the Wellington Upground Reservoir, *Lorain*, and Nicholas Rosner saw five at the Shreve Fish Pond, *Wayne*. The high count was 59 off North Perry, *Lake*, on 24 Nov (John Pogacnik), and the highest elsewhere was the 10 at Mosquito Lake on 25 Nov (Amber Hart). Reports came from 15 counties.

Redhead

One wayward individual spent from 27 Jul to 17 Aug at Fernald (m. obs.). The first elsewhere was also very early; Justin Bosler saw it at East Harbor on 04 Aug. Christopher Collins and Eric Elvert saw about 100 in the Enon Sand and Gravel pits, *Clark*, on 24 Nov. The next highest count was Mary Anne Romito's 50 during the ONWR auto tour on 17 Nov. Twenty-four counties provided reports.

Ring-necked Duck

Amy Weidner saw the first, nine very early birds at Magee on 13 Aug. The next were one in CVNP on 14 Sep (Michael Kardos) and two at Sandy Ridge on 17 Sep (Erik Bruder), completing the pre-Oct sightings. The highest of many triple-digit counts was 775, by Elliot Tramer et al. in CPNWR on 16 Nov. Thirtyseven counties produced reports.

Greater Scaup

Don Keffer saw the first, at Mosquito WA on 27 Oct. East Harbor produced the high count of 55, by Allen Chartier on 12 Nov. The second-highest count was only five, shared by Jeff Harvey at Headlands on 03 Nov and Jon Cefus at Sippo Lake, *Stark*, on 09 Nov. Other reports came from *Allen*, *Cuyahoga*, *Hancock*, *Lake*, *Lucas*, and *Trumbull*.

Lesser Scaup

Lorain hosted the first about three weeks earlier than usual, on 01 Sep (Elizabeth McQuaid). The next were a bit late, three birds at Cullen Park, *Lucas*, on 04 Oct (Mark and Sherry Plessner). The Findlay Reservoirs provided the high inland count of 310 on 13 Nov (Jeff Loughman), but see below for Lake Erie flock sizes. Thirty-two counties produced sightings.

Greater/Lesser Scaup

Elliot Tramer estimated that about 28,000 scaup, no doubt mostly Lessers, were in Maumee Bay itself and adjoining Lake Erie open waters on 16 Nov. Tom Kemp's 19,000 off CPNWR on 30 Oct were probably part of that concentration.

King Eider

The OBRC has one report from *Lake*.

Harlequin Duck

The reports are all from *Lake*. One bird stayed off Sunset Park from 12 to 18 Nov (Jerry Talkington, m. obs.); it was joined by a second on 16 Nov (Jen Brumfield *et al.*). John Pogacnik saw solo birds fly past his North Perry home on 16 and 24 Nov.

Surf Scoter

The first appeared on 20 Oct. Rick Asamoto saw one at Indian Lake SP, *Logan*, and John Pogacnik watched two pass his North Perry, *Lake*, lookout. The high count was 27, by Kent Miller in three flocks at Sunset Park on 23 Oct. The highest inland count was Jeff Loughman's nine at the Findlay Reservoirs on 29 Oct. Sixteen counties, of which only *Clark*, *Clermont*, and *Clinton* are south of midstate, produced reports.

White-winged Scoter

Kent Miller saw the first, at Sunset Park on 25 Oct. Kelly Kozlowski noted 45 off Sims Park on 16 Nov for the highest count. On 26 Oct John Games and Ron Sempier found three on the Killdeer reservoir; as they watched, 15 more arrived to give them the highest inland tally. *Montgomery* was the only southernhalf county of the twelve which had sightings.

Black Scoter

Three small groups totaling nine at Edgewater on 14 Oct were the first (Jen Brumfield). Sims Park again hosted the high count, 36 on 10 Nov (Nancy Anderson). The inland high was 10, at Williams Reservoir, *Allen*, on 03 Nov (Rick Asamoto). Seventeen counties from Lake Erie south to *Clermont*, *Hamilton*, and *Warren* produced reports.



Rick Asamoto scanned Lost Creek Reservoir, Allen, and photographed this quartet of Black Scoters among the 10 he recorded 03 Nov.

Scoter sp.

Wind, waves, and distance prevented Sally Isacco from determining the species of the 50 scoters off Sims Park on 02 Nov.

Long-tailed Duck

The first of the season's unusually high number of these visitors flew past Sunset Park with some scoters on 25 Oct (Kent Miller). One spent from 13 to 29 Nov along the Lake Erie shore from downtown Cleveland to Sims Park (m. obs.); occasionally a second was also seen and of course the sightings could actually have been of several individuals. Two flew past Huron, Erie, on 22 Nov (Robert Hershberger). The only bird south of mid-state hugged the Ohio bank of the Ohio River at Meldahl Dam, Clermont, on 20 Nov (fide Brian Wulker). More reports of single birds came from additional sites in Lake plus Ashtabula, Delaware, Geauga, Muskingum, Paulding, Trumbull, and Wyandot.



East 55th Street, **Cuyahoga**, featured a nearby female Longtailed Duck that posed for Bob Lane on 14 Nov.

Bufflehead

Steven Smith saw two at Nimisila Reservoir, *Summit*, on the somewhat early date of 09 Oct. The next was Wes Hatch's solo at LaDue on 23 Oct. LaDue hosted 600 to 700 on 12 Nov (m. obs.). This count was dwarfed by the "colossal flock" of 1200 which Rob and Sandy Harlan noted at Springfield Lake, *Summit*, that same day; Rob said it was "By far the largest number I've ever seen inland." Sightings came from 39 counties.

Common Goldeneye

Anna and Julie Wittmer found two at Clear Fork on 03 Nov. Lake Erie provided the high count of 46, for Nancy Anderson off Sims Park on 28 Nov. Don Keffer saw 10 at Mosquito Lake on 29 Nov for the top inland count. Seventeen counties as far south as *Clark* and *Montgomery* produced sightings.

Hooded Merganser

Judy Hochadel noted "500+" at Mosquito Lake on 25 Nov. The second-highest of many triple-digit counts was 320 at Lake Milton SP, *Mahoning*, on 28 Nov (Ethan Kistler). Fortyfive counties provided reports.

Common Merganser

Many birders reported a female with young at Conneaut from mid-Aug to 14 Sep. Twelve off Wildwood Park, *Cuyahoga*, on 30 Aug (Jen Brumfield *et al.*) might have been the first migrants from out of state; if so they were way ahead of schedule. Four off Bay Point, *Ottawa*, on 14 Sep surely came from further north (Justin Bosler); they too were earlier than expected. Paul Sherwood's 95 off Lorain on 18 Nov was the high Lake Erie count, but Bob and Denise Lane found about 170 at Pine Lake, *Mahoning*, on both 10 and 17 Nov. Reports came from 17 counties; *Hamilton* and *Perry* are the only ones of them south of mid-state.

Red-breasted Merganser

Tom Frankel reported a very early five passing Headlands on 10 Aug. Six at Conneaut on 06 Sep were also early (Don Keffer). By mid-Nov counts had reached five digits, and Robert Hershberger estimated that more than 100,000 passed Huron, *Erie*, westbound on 22 Nov. The highest inland number was about 500, at Mosquito Lake on 25 Nov (Judy Hochadel). Twenty-eight counties provided reports.

Ruddy Duck

Cody Kent found the first, at the Upper Sandusky Reservoir, *Wyandot*, on 28 Sep. The Ostermillers saw 1000 to 1800 at the Wellington Upground Reservoir, *Lorain*, on several dates between 30 Oct and 15 Nov. Sightings came from 40 counties.

Northern Bobwhite

The latest report of the season was of a single bird in *Highland* on 18 Oct (Junior Barnes), so these year-round residents were lying low after that. Sandra Griffiths saw five at an abandoned property in suburban Bedford Heights, *Cuyahoga*, on 20 Sep; they were probably releases or escapees. Reports also came from *Clermont*, *Delaware*, *Erie*, *Harrison*, *Lucas*, *Miami*, and *Stark*.

Ring-necked Pheasant

Two parties each found six in Deer Creek WA, namely Paul Hurtado on 20 Oct and Jason Sullivan and Chris Zacharias on 26 Oct. Seventeen other counties also produced sightings.

Ruffed Grouse

Scott Pendleton saw two at Clendening Lake on 04 Sep, one along McGhee Road on 14 Sep, and three at Chambers South on 19 Sep; these sites are in *Harrison*. About the last, he said they "Flushed from a strip mine spoil bank, all three at one spot. A little bit of a surprise considering there is a well pad 200 yards from here". *Stark* Parks naturalists, off their home turf in Walborn, *Portage*, made the only other report, of one on 26 Nov.

Wild Turkey

Exactly half of our counties provided sightings. The high count was 30, in the Hazel Willis Woods section of Charles Mill Lake SP, *Ashland*, on 01 Nov (Gary Cowell and Tim Leslie).

Red-throated Loon

The first few showed up on 01 Nov at widely separated locations. The Lanes saw two off Conneaut Township Park, *Ashtabula*, and Jeffrey Pontius found one in the Watermark Quarries, *Franklin*. Other doubles came from CLNP on 09 Nov (Lisa Phelps) and Clear Fork on 18 Nov (Jason Hull). Singles were also reported in *Clermont*, *Cuyahoga*, *Delaware*, *Erie*, *Highland*, *Hancock*, *Lake*, Portage, and Warren.

Pacific Loon

Reports from *Cuyahoga*, *Lake*, and *Warren* went to the OBRC.

Common Loon

Reports came throughout the season, growing both in number of sightings and number of birds as the months passed. A single bird spent from 27 Aug to 22 Oct at the Paulding Reservoirs (m. obs.). Robert Hershberger noted more than 100 off Huron, *Erie*, on 09 Nov. Gary Cowell and Jason Hull saw two on the lake and 29 more southbound overhead at Clear Fork on 03 Nov for the highest inland number. Thirty-six counties from Lake Erie to the Ohio River produced reports.

Pied-billed Grebe

Rick Asamoto and John Habig counted 116 scattered across Rocky Fork Lake, *Highland*, on 27 Nov and between 80 and 100 there on other dates. The most elsewhere was Virginia Fantetti's 60 at East Fork on 22 Oct. Sightings came from 62 counties.

Horned Grebe

The first were right on schedule, five birds on Wauseon Reservoir, *Fulton*, on 12 Sep (Brandon Brywczynski). The next were two at Beaver Creek Reservoir, *Seneca*, on 21 Sep (Loren Hintz). Tom Frankel's 500 off Sunset Park on 16 Nov was the high count. That's a big number, but other nearby areas produced counts up to 420 around that time. The tiny *Clinton* section of Caesar Creek Lake held 33 on 27 Nov (Rick Asamoto and John Habig). That group and about 35 at Alum Creek on 09 Nov (Rob Thorn) were the inland highs. Forty counties provided reports.

Red-necked Grebe

John Pogacnik saw one off North Perry, *Lake*, on 22 Sep, about a month before they usually arrive. The next was another early solo at West Branch Reservoir, *Portage*, on 19 and 20 Oct (m. obs.). The Findlay Reservoirs hosted four on 08 Nov (Jeff Loughman and Robert Sams). Singles and a few twos and threes were also seen in *Clark*, *Clermont*, *Cuyahoga*, *Delaware*, *Hamilton*, *Highland*, *Lorain*, *Mahoning*, *Morrow*, *Richland*, and *Seneca*.

Eared Grebe

One was off CLNP on 30 Oct (*fide* Jen Brumfield). It or another appeared in that general area on 25 Nov and wandered the Cleveland lakefront into Dec (m. obs.). Hoover NP, Huron (*Erie*) harbor, Williams Reservoir (*Allen*), and Killdeer each hosted one in Nov.

Northern Gannet

The OBRC has reports from several locations along the Cleveland waterfront.

Double-crested Cormorant

Justin Bosler estimated about 4000 were in Muddy Creek Bay, *Sandusky*, on 02 Oct. The highest inland number was 1260, the sum of counts of five groups which flew over the Great Miami Mitigation Bank, *Montgomery*, on 03 Nov (m. obs.). Reports came from 66 counties.

American White Pelican

One briefly visited Maumee Bay on 21 Oct (Tim Thompson). Another spent from 29 Oct to 03 Nov at Killdeer, mostly in the *Wyandot* section but occasionally venturing across the line into *Marion* (m. obs.).

Brown Pelican

"Brownie" arrived in Cleveland on 24 Jun and was seen there on and off until 23 Nov. Presumably the same bird was noted in *Erie* on 12 Sep, at the end of a week in which it was absent from Cleveland. The OBRC has many reports from throughout its stay.



Six months after it was first spotted on the Cleveland waterfront, this now-famous Brown Pelican was photographed by Tom Fishburn on the Cuyahoga River on 23 Nov.

American Bittern

David and Dorothy Bukovac saw one in the Chase Retention Ponds, **Delaware**, on 27 Oct. It would have been the season's last but for one which Carl Winstead accidently flushed at Darby Creek on 11 Nov. Justin Bosler found four during his search of 10 acres at Winous Horseshoe on 06 Oct. The rest of the reports, all of single birds, came from **Franklin**, **Hamilton**, **Lake**, **Lucas**, **Marion**, **Montgomery**, **Union**, **Wayne**, and **Wyandot**.

Least Bittern

Six were reported:

- On 02 Aug along the Magee causeway (Derek Dunaway)
- On 02 Aug in the Miami Whitewater wetlands (Paul Wharton)
- On 05 Aug, an immature bird at Nimisila Reservoir, *Summit* (the Harlans)
- On 27 Aug from the CCE Trail (Jen Brumfield, Craig Caldwell, *et al.*)
- On 31 Aug at Big Island (Ron Sempier)
- On 12 Sep in the Grand Valley Preserve,
 - Hamilton (Tracy Cambron)

Great Blue Heron

Robert Reed counted 97 in Englewood, on 15 Sep, and said there were surely more but trees were in his way. Sightings came from 76 counties.

Great Egret

Ed Pierce's ONWR census team counted 140 there on 01 Sep (*fide* Douglas Vogus). The highest inland count was 40, by Amanda Lawson in Englewood on 14 Sep. Fifty-three counties produced reports.

Snowy Egret

All of the reports came from *Erie*, *Lucas*, *Ottawa*, and *Sandusky*. The last sighting, and the only one in that month, was on 04 Oct at Pipe Creek WA, *Erie* (Justin Bosler). Justin also recorded the two highest counts, 11 at ONWR Blausey on 08 Aug and eight on 08 Sep at Medusa.

Little Blue Heron

Only two were reliably reported. Mark and Sherry Plessner saw theirs in a City of Toledo retention pond, *Lucas*, on 11 Aug. Jeff Harvey found another at Mill Creek on 08 Sep; William L. Jones saw it there the next day.

Cattle Egret

Two spent from 25 to 28 Aug in the small pool by the ONWR entrance (m. obs.). One was there on 22 Sep (ONWR eTT). The last wandered among several vantage points along the Great Miami River in *Montgomery* from 14 to 16 Nov (m. obs.). Other sightings came from *Ashtabula*, *Clermont*, *Erie*, and *Hamilton*.



This cooperative Cattle Egret paused for a nice image by photographer Ron Sempier at ONWR on 25 Aug

Green Heron

One was calling at 11:30 pm on 07 Oct in Columbia Woods Park, *Summit* (Rob Harlan). Many birders saw one at LaDue on 13 Oct. It would have been the last but for a straggling immature bird which Gus Lanese photographed in flight along Wake Robin on 01 Nov. William L. Jones counted 29 in Mill Creek on 16 Aug. Forty-nine counties provided sightings.

Black-crowned Night-Heron

The Sandusky coal docks, *Erie*, hosted 60 on 09 Nov; only 28 were there on 26 Nov (both Paul Sherwood). The most seen elsewhere was seven, at Mill Creek on 23 Aug (Jeff Harvey). Reports came from 15 counties.

Glossy Ibis

The OBRC has reports from **Ottawa** and **Sandusky**.

<u>Plegadis sp. Ibis</u>

The OBRC has a report from *Cuyahoga*.

Black Vulture

Ashland and **Richland** are the northernmost of the 25 counties with sightings. The high count was 65, by Joe Jennings on 21 Nov at The Ridges, an OSU property in **Athens**.

Turkey Vulture

Migration brought 386 birds over Tom Kemp's *Wood* home during a half hour of watching on 28 Oct. The highest count away from that west-of-Lake Erie migration corridor was 150 in *Coshocton* on 11 Nov (William Wood). All but eight counties produced reports.

Osprey

Jen Moore and Jason Parrish saw the last, at Buck Creek on 11 Nov. The second last were two at Lost Creek Reservoir, *Allen*, on 05 Nov (Jerome Sullivan and Chris Zacharias). These are not especially late dates; often birds are seen until the end of Nov. The high count of six was shared by three parties: Jen Moore and Jason Parrish at Alum Creek on 03 Aug; the Harlans at Nimisila Reservoir, *Summit*, on 15 Aug; and Shane Myers at the Findlay Reservoirs on 22 Sep. Reports came from 50 counties.

Swallow-tailed Kite

A report from *Hancock* went to the OBRC.

Golden Eagle

The season's first passed over Rachele Kappler at Meadowbrook on 13 Oct. Eight other single birds were sighted during the season, in *Hancock, Logan, Lucas* (2), *Paulding, Sandusky, Wayne*, and *Wood*.

Northern Harrier

Most of the sightings were after Aug as migrants and winter visitors arrived. Jeffrey Pontius counted 12 at Darby Creek on 11 Nov and observers saw five to 10 there on other dates. The most elsewhere were the five which Dan and Lynn Gesualdo found at Killdeer on 05 Nov. Thirty-nine counties produced reports.

Sharp-shinned Hawk

This species' fall migration tends to not have the concentrations that spring does. Rick Nirschl saw three over his *Lucas* home on 25 Oct and there were many reports of two birds. Forty-one counties had sightings.

Cooper's Hawk

Rob Clifford found six in the Shawnee Prairie Preserve, *Darke*, on 17 Sep. The next highest number was three from several locations on several dates. Reports came from 61 counties.

Northern Goshawk

The OBRC has reports from *Cuyahoga*, *Lucas*, and *Wayne*.

Bald Eagle

As is often the case, the Conneaut breakwall hosted the largest concentration. Jeff Harvey saw 46 there on 02 Aug and 20 to 43 were reported on other dates. The largest inland number was David Weaver's 22 at Funk on 22 Aug. Greg Miller had noted 13 there on 17 Aug and commented, "All sub adult. High count due to water draw down and concentrated fish". Fifty-eight counties provided reports.

Red-shouldered Hawk

Kathi Hutton and Bill Stanley shared the high count of four. Kathi's were at the Crooked Run NP, *Clermont*, on 14 Sep. Bill's were one county east at Indian Creek WA, *Brown*, on 22 Sep. Forty-eight counties yielded sightings.

Broad-winged Hawk

Matt Anderson wrote, "Spiraling kettles and groups of streaming birds extended as far as the eve could see from northeast to southwest. We only had ten minutes to watch, and the hawks were still coming from the northeast when we left. I estimated no fewer than 900 in that short period. There may have been far more birds than that involved in this flight. The migration of Broad-winged hawks is one of nature's really neat spectacles!" He was southwest of Toledo, Lucas, on 15 Sep. He had seen 135 over his nearby home the day before. The high count elsewhere was 75, as groups of three to six passed Michael Vanderhorst's Shelby home on 29 Sep. John Gribble reported the last, from the Emily Traphagen Preserve, Delaware, on 21 Oct. Sightings came from 31 counties.

Swainson's Hawk

The OBRC has reports from *Franklin* and *Hancock*.

Red-tailed Hawk

Tom Kemp saw 13 over Grand Rapids, *Wood*, on 29 Oct. Ed Pierce *et al.* matched that count in ONWR on 03 Nov (*fide* Douglas Vogus). The OBRC has a report of a dark western morph bird in *Cuyahoga*. Seventy-four counties produced sightings.

Rough-legged Hawk

The first of these winter visitors showed up on Sunbury Road, *Delaware*, on 03 Oct (Elaine Snively). Four had settled in along Industrial Park Drive, *Harrison*, by 24 Nov (Scott Pendleton). Eighteen counties had sightings; of them only *Perry* and *Warren* are south of mid-state.

Yellow Rail

The OBRC has reports from a *Lake* location.

King Rail

Jeffrey Pontius reported hearing one at Darby Creek on 04 Aug. Scott Pendleton saw one in the Tappan Drainage Area, *Harrison*, on 17 Aug.

Virginia Rail

The high count was four, at Darby Creek on 27 Aug (Irina Shulgina), and there were several reports of two there and elsewhere. The only Nov sighting was of a bird in Spring Valley WA, *Greene*, on 26 Nov (Christopher Collins and Amanda Lawson). At least one had spent the winter of 2012-13 there. Reports also came from *Clark*, *Delaware*, *Erie*, *Geauga*, *Harrison*, *Holmes*, *Lake*, *Ottawa*, *Pickaway*, and *Union*.

Sora

Tom Kemp counted 15 at ONWR on 28 Sep and noted, "Soras were calling from many different locations in the marsh NW of the old parking lot; this is peak migration period for this species". The second-highest number was Cory Chiappone's seven at Wake Robin on 12 Sep. Wake Robin also hosted the last sighting, on 28 Oct (Dick Hoopes). The second-last reports were a couple weeks earlier, on 17 Oct, when Chris Zacharias saw one in Deer Creek SP and Phil Swan another at Lake Saint Joseph, **Perry**. Twenty-two counties produced sightings.

Common Gallinule

Gene Stauffer made the highest of the several double-digit counts, 14 at Big Island on 11 Aug. Paul Hurtado saw the last two birds, at Deer Creek Lake on 06 Oct. *Erie, Geauga*, Harrison, Lorain, Lucas, Mahoning, Ottawa, Wayne, and Wyandot also provided sightings.

American Coot

Rocky Fork Lake, *Highland*, hosted at least 1000 throughout Nov (m. obs.) with a high count of 1500 on 16 Nov (Rick Asamoto). Reports came from 46 counties.

Sandhill Crane

Brian Wulker spent 28 Nov birding from Lost Bridge to Fernald and noted about 1400 cranes that day. Joe Kappa counted nine flocks passing Lost Bridge in 40 minutes on 27 Nov for a total of 688 birds. Thirty-two counties yielded sightings.

Whooping Crane

The OBRC has reports from two *Hamilton* locations.

American Avocet

A host of birders saw five at Alum Creek on 21 Aug; Don Keffer noted the same number at Conneaut the next day. However, eight at Conneaut on 19 Oct was the high count (m. obs.). The last sighting was at CLNP on 03 Nov (m. obs.). Seventeen counties provided reports.



This beautifully plumaged American Avocet was chronicled by Karen Kassouf at Edgewater on 01 Aug.

Black-bellied Plover

A single mid-Jul sighting preceded this season's first, three birds which Kenn Kaufman found along Route 590 south of Route 2, *Ottawa*, on 01 Aug. William L. Jones counted 30 at the Berlin Reservoir, *Portage*, mudflats on 17 Sep. A single bird at CPNWR on 01 Nov closed the season (Mark Rozmarynowycz). Reports came from 16 counties.

American Golden-Plover

Scott Myers saw the first, five at the Thomas Wetlands, *Paulding*, on 12 Aug. Jeff Harvey noted that 108 along Wilderness Road on 19 Sep were "easily counted and close in". The last few were in CPNWR; Mark Rozmarynowycz saw five there on 18 Oct and Tom Kemp the last, a solo on 30 Oct. Nineteen counties had sightings.

Semipalmated Plover

Their migration began in Jul and continued until 29 Oct, when Bob Powell saw the last at Cowan Lake, *Clinton*. East Harbor and nearby sites hosted at least 100 in late Aug; John Habig and Jen Brumfield estimated 125 there on 24 and 27 Aug respectively. The highest count away from the northwest coast was 25 along Wilderness Road on 23 Aug (Kent Miller). Thirty-seven counties produced reports.

Piping Plover

Reports went to the OBRC from *Lake* and *Ottawa*.



Chuck Slusarczyk, Jr. discovered and beautifully documented this unbanded juvenile Piping Plover on 13 Aug at Headlands.

Killdeer

Justin Bosler estimated 450 were working a grassy field along Route 850, *Ottazva*, from 01 to 03 Aug. The most elsewhere were 260 in the *Fayette* section of Deer Creek WA on 03 Nov (Paul Hurtado). Seventy-two counties provided reports.

Spotted Sandpiper

Sightings were fairly steady until the last, which came from Wendy Park on 30 Oct (Jen Brumfield). Wendy Park also hosted the high count of 43, on 05 Aug (Elizabeth McQuaid and Chuck Slusarczyk, Jr.). Sightings came from 53 counties.

Solitary Sandpiper

Scott Huge noted one at LaDue on 20 Oct, a couple of weeks past this species' usual latest date. Gary Cowell's three at Lexington Community Park, *Richland*, on 17 Oct, and a fair number at other locations to that date more than hint at a pattern. Three sites shared the high count of 14: Fernald on 05 Aug (Brian Wulker), Funk on 07 Aug (the Ostermillers), and the Cincinnati Zoo's Eco-Wetland, *Hamilton*, on 09 Aug (Brian Wulker). Forty-three counties produced reports.

Greater Yellowlegs

Mill Creek hosted the latest; John Petruzzi found one there on 14 Nov. In contrast to the Solitary Sandpiper's migration, this is about a month earlier than the historical "last" date. Jeff Loughman and Jeff Harvey shared high count honors with 21; Loughman's were in Liberty, *Hancock*, on 13 Aug, and Harvey's at East Harbor on 28 Aug. Forty-one counties had sightings.

Willet

The only counts exceeding one were of 10 which flew past Wendy Park on 09 Aug (Chuck Slusarczyk, Jr.), six Conneaut flybys on 03 Aug (Dave Inman), and two on the Cleveland waterfront on 24 Aug (Elizabeth McQuaid). The second to last sighting (06 Sep by Craig Holt and Don Keffer) and last (25 Sep by Chris Swan) were at Conneaut. *Hancock, Ottawa*, and *Trumbull* also produced sightings.

Lesser Yellowlegs

Jeff Harvey found about 450 along Riddle Road, *Sandusky*, on 18 Aug. The transient wetlands along Township Road 178 in *Seneca* held about 250 to 275 on several Aug dates (m. obs.). The rest of the triple-digit counts also came from those two locations. The last sighting was right on time, a single bird at Englewood on 14 Nov (Bev and Ed Neubauer). Forty-six counties provided reports.

Upland Sandpiper

All of the reports were of single birds. The first of the season showed up well south, at Lost Bridge on 04 Aug (m. obs.), though a few migrants had arrived on the north coast in Jul. Rob Harlan noted the last when a calling bird flew over Columbia Woods Park, *Summit*, on 13 Sep. Between those dates others appeared in *Clermont*, *Cuyahoga*, *Darke*, *Harrison*, *Montgomery*, *Ottawa*, and *Wayne*.

Whimbrel

Four Jul reports preceded fall's first, which came from Conneaut on 02 Aug (Chris Zacharias). The second to last sighting, and highest count, was of three along the Magee causeway on 29 Sep by a group of birders from San Diego. The last was at least a month later than normal; it was a solo at Headlands on 03 Nov (m. obs.). Two *Lorain* sites and one in each of *Ottawa* and *Wayne* also hosted birds.

Hudsonian Godwit

Jeff Loughman and Shane Myers noted the first, along Township Road 180, *Hancock*, on 15 Aug. Kenn Kaufman found three in the CCE on 10 Sep and up to eight were along Wilderness Road between 13 and 22 Sep. Justin Bosler saw the last, at Willow Point WA, *Erie*, on 04 Oct. Singles in *Ashtabula*, *Lucas*, *Ottawa*, and *Stark* complete the list of sightings.



Conneaut boasted an array of migrating shorebirds on 29 Sept, where Tom Fishburn snapped this handsome Hudsonian Godwit with a Long-billed Dowitcher.

Marbled Godwit

Robert Sams saw the first of the season, in Younger's Wetlands, *Hancock*, on 04 Aug, though there were two Jul sightings. The other reports are:

- One at Carlisle Reservation, *Lorain*, on 05 Aug (BRAS)
- Two or three seen from the CCE Trail between 22 and 29 Aug (m. obs.)
- Two at Metzger on 23 Aug (Tim Thompson)
- One at the Bellevue "skyponds", *Seneca*, on 31 Aug (the Harlans)
- Two which flew over Big Island on 31 Aug (Ron Sempier)

Ruddy Turnstone

One was seen along Wilderness Road between 16 and 22 Sep, the latest date (m. obs.). Was it the same bird for that whole week? And curiously, there are often sightings well into Oct. The high count was four, at Wendy Park on 05 Aug (Elizabeth McQuaid and Chuck Slusarczyk, Jr.). The remaining sightings, all of one or two birds, came from *Ashtabula*, *Ottawa*, and *Sandusky*.

Red Knot

A single early Jul sighting preceded this season's first, at East Harbor on 04 Aug (Jeff Harvey). Jeff Loughman and Shane Myers saw the next on 15 Aug, along Township Road 180 in *Hancock*. East Harbor hosted two for several days in mid-Sep (m. obs.) and the last, a single on 24 Sep (Kenn Kaufman). Other reports of single birds came from *Erie*, *Lorain*, and *Sandusky*.

Stilt Sandpiper

This species' migration was well underway in Jul. It ended earlier than usual, with the last sighting on 15 Oct when multiple observers saw one in Detwiler Marsh, *Lucas*. The Harlans counted 88 at East Harbor on 31 Aug, the highest of many double-digit counts there. The high elsewhere was 20 by Margaret Bowman and Ben Warner along Wilderness Road on 10 Sep. Twenty-six counties all the way to the Ohio River produced reports.

Sanderling

Quite a few Jul sightings preceded this season's. Headlands provided the last two sightings. Tom Frankel saw one there on 27 Oct and Sean Laboda found it or another on 03 Nov. East Harbor provided the high count of 22, for Justin Bosler on 13 Sep. Eighteen counties as far south as *Clermont* had sightings.

Dunlin

The first sightings were on 12 Aug. Cody Kent found one in Bucyrus, *Crawford*, and Justin Bosler another on West Schiller Road, *Ottawa*. More than three weeks passed before the next sighting, Justin Bosler's two birds at Winous Point on 05 Sep. Chris Swan saw the last two of the season, at Conneaut on 28 Nov, though there were more sightings there in early Dec. Mark Rozmarynowycz provided the highest count, 100 at CPNWR on 01 Nov; the inland high count was Paul Hurtado's 81 at Deer Creek SP on 03 Nov. Thirty counties yielded sightings.

Purple Sandpiper

The first not only arrived earlier than usual, but were also far from their normal Lake Erie shore haunts: Up to three spent from 23 to 26 Oct at East Fork (m. obs.). More nearly typical, though still a higher than usual number, were the eight which Jerry Talkington found in *Lake* between Headlands and Fairport Harbor (*fide* Jen Brumfield). Reports of one or two also came from *Erie*, *Cuyahoga*, and other *Lake* sites.

Baird's Sandpiper

The season began on 01 Aug with one bird at Conneaut (Jamie Dosher) and one on Township Road 81, *Hancock* (Jeff Loughman and Shane Myers). (There was one late Jul sighting as well.) The high count was eight, which Jen Brumfield called an "incredible number" when she saw them at Burke on 11 Aug. The last spent 02 Oct at Deer Creek SP (Alex Champagne). Reports came from 18 counties as far south as *Hamilton*.

Least Sandpiper

Sightings began in Jul and continued until 03 Nov. That day, Mark Moore saw three at Conneaut and Paul Hurtado another two at Deer Creek WA. Victor Fazio III counted 285 at East Harbor on 13 Aug. The Ostermillers found 90 along Wilderness Road on 13 Aug for the highest count away from Lake Erie. Fortythree counties contributed reports.

White-rumped Sandpiper

Justin Bosler saw the first, at East Harbor on 04 Aug. Su Snyder saw the last, by Wilderness Road on 27 Oct. More than a month had passed since the second-last sightings, which were on 24 Sep at three locations. The high count of five was also shared by three locations on four dates between 16 Aug and 17 Sep. Fourteen counties had sightings; the southernmost of them is *Warren*.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper

One showed up at Lost Bridge on 03 Aug (fide Jack Stenger) and stayed until 06 Aug for multiple observers. Jeffrey Pontius noted one flying over Darby Creek on 04 Aug. The next sighting was not until 22 Aug when Shane Myers saw one along Township Road 180 in *Hancock*. The last spent from 21 to 29 Sep at the Findlay Reservoirs (Jeff Loughman, m. obs.). Sherrie Duris saw three by Cedar Point Road, *Lucas*, on 03 Sep and there were several reports of two birds. Thirteen counties contributed sightings.

Pectoral Sandpiper

Two which showed up at Pickerington Ponds on 15 Nov (Joe Baldwin) stayed another day for Rob Thorn to comment on the "late flourish of shorebirds". Wet areas along Riddle Road, *Sandusky*, hosted 350 on 10 Aug (Ben Warner). The high count elsewhere was 125, at Wilderness Road on 16 Sep (Dan and Lynn Gesualdo). Reports came from 45 counties.

Semipalmated Sandpiper

Pickerington Ponds also hosted the last of these; Michael Lamont saw one there on 15 Oct. Up to 200 swarmed East Harbor for several days in mid-Aug (m. obs.). The next highest count was 100, from Riddle Road, *Sandusky*, on 10 and 12 Aug (Ben Warner, Justin Bosler). Forty-two counties produced sightings.

Western Sandpiper

Four locations provided first-day sightings on 05 Aug. Irina Shulgina saw the last, in Deer Creek WA on 30 Oct. The high count was four; Jeff Harvey noted them at East Harbor on 18 Aug. Twenty counties provided reports.

Short-billed Dowitcher

These began arriving in early Jul and they passed through until 01 Oct. On that day Justin Bosler saw one in the CCE. The biggest concentration was of 48 at Willow Point WA, Erie, on 26 Aug (Justin Bosler). The highest inland count was 20, along Wilderness Road on 23 Aug (Kent Miller) and 01 Sep (Steve Landes). Reports came from 17 counties all the way to *Hamilton* and *Warren*.

Long-billed Dowitcher

Jeff Loughman and Shane Myers saw the first, two along Township Road 180, *Hancock*, on 15 Aug. The last were two which John Shrader found at Caesar Creek on 16 Nov. The 03 Oct ONWR census counted 294 (Ed Pierce *et al.*, *fide* Douglas Vogus). This number dwarfed the highest elsewhere, 19 at Pickerel Creek WA, *Sandusky*, on 26 Aug (Justin Bosler). Thirteen counties produced reports.

Wilson's Snipe

Winous Point on 23 Aug and ONWR on 23 Sep each hosted 50 (Justin Bosler). The highest number away from the northwest marshes was 28 at the Shreve Fish Pond, *Wayne*, on 23 Sep (Su Snyder). Thirty-four counties yielded sightings.

American Woodcock

Paul Sherwood saw the last of the season (and the year) as it flew over him in *Marion* on 30 Nov. Kent Miller saw three along Howell's Egypt Road, *Columbiana*, on 22 Oct and two on several dates between then and 16 Nov. He wrote, "These 2 birds continue to do mini versions of their courtship displays near dusk every warm evening I am in this area." The other reports were all of single birds; overall, reports came from 16 counties.

Wilson's Phalarope

A single Jul sighting preceded this season's first, a bird by Washburn Road, *Marion*, on 03 Aug (Irina Shulgina). The second showed up at Riddle Road, *Sandusky*, on 12 Aug (Justin Bosler) and the high count was also there, six birds on 15 Aug (Kent Miller). Pickerington Ponds hosted the last on 22 Sep (Andy Sewell). Reports came from the above three counties and *Cuyahoga*, *Erie*, *Hancock*, *Harrison*, *Ottawa*, *Seneca*, and *Wayne*.

Red-necked Phalarope

Steve Landes saw the first, along Riddle Road on 11 Aug. One spent 17 to 21 Aug on the Great Miami River in *Montgomery* (m. obs.). East Harbor hosted the most, 10 on 21 Sep (m. obs.). Justin Bosler saw the last, on 30 Sep in the CCE. *Cuyahoga, Erie, Hancock, Huron, Seneca, Stark*, and *Wayne* also contributed sightings.

Red Phalarope

Jeff Loughman found the first rather early, at the Findlay Reservoirs on 14 Sep. One spent from 23 Nov into Dec along the eastern Cleveland lakefront (m. obs.). The rest of the sightings, also of single birds, came from *Erie*, *Lorain*, *Lucas*, and *Ottawa*.



Tom Fishburn skillfully captured this Red Phalarope feasting on an Emerald Shiner at Edgewater Marina on 29 Nov.

Pomarine Jaeger

The sightings were:

- At Sunset Park, one on 25 Oct (Kent Miller and Ben Morrison), three on 26 Oct (Jerry Talkington), and one on 17 Nov (*fide* Bob Lane).
- At Headlands, one on 28 Oct (Cory Chiappone)
- At Edgewater, one on 02 Nov (Jen Brumfield) and one on 12 Nov (Kent Miller)
- At North Perry, *Lake*, one on each of 10 Nov and 23 Nov (John Pogacnik)

Parasitic Jaeger

The OBRC has reports from *Cuyahoga*, *Erie*, *Lake*, *Lorain*, and *Ottawa*.

Jaeger sp.

Jen Brumfield noted distant birds on 31 Aug at Edgewater and on 01 Sep during an offshore trip; she suspects they were Long-tailed Jaegers but could not confirm them.

Black-legged Kittiwake

One passed John Pogacnik's *Lake* home on 10 Nov and Jen Brumfield saw one from her Cleveland west side lakewatch perch on 12 Nov. Another spent from 23 to 27 Nov at Cleveland's East 5 5th Street and other nearby vantage points.



This first-winter Black-legged Kittiwake, photographed on 24 Nov by Chuck Slusarczyk, Jr., was an entertaining addition to the gull circus at the 55th Street Marina, **Cuyahoga**.

Sabine's Gull

Gabe Leidy saw one 11 miles off the *Lorain* shore on 25 Aug. Two months passed before Tom Bartlett saw another off Kelleys Island on 01 Nov. A third spent 03 to 12 Nov in Cleveland, mostly near CLNP (m. obs.).



This stunning adult Sabine's Gull was photographed by Jerry Talkington at CLNP on 05 Nov.

Bonaparte's Gull

Elizabeth McQuaid estimated 20,000 were at and near Cleveland's East 55th Street marina on 27 Nov. Lake Erie also produced many fourdigit counts. The inland high was about 3000 at Mosquito Lake on 23 Nov (Ethan Kistler). Reports came from 46 counties.

Black-headed Gull

Reports went to the OBRC from *Ashtabula*, *Cuyahoga*, and *Lake*.

Little Gull

Jen Brumfield saw the first, off Lakewood Park, *Cuyahoga*, on 03 Aug. Robert Foppe and Jennifer Smolenski saw the next at Headlands on 13 Sep. Lake Erie sightings were fairly regular from 01 Nov on. Two first-winter birds spent 22 to 27 Nov on Cleveland's west side (m. obs.). Birds were also seen well off *Erie* and *Lorain*.



Photographer Chuck Slusarczyk, Jr. found this second-winter Little Gull well positioned for comparison with a Bonaparte's Gull at Edgewater on 18 Nov.

Laughing Gull

Four locations provided sightings, which are listed chronologically:

Off Lakewood Park, *Cuyahoga*, on 27 Aug (Jen Brumfield and Craig Caldwell *et al.*)

- The *Erie* shore and further offshore on 15 Sep (m. obs.)
- The CCE Trail on 27 Sep (Greg Miller)

Edgewater on 18 Oct and 11 Nov (Jen

Brumfield *et al.*)

Conneaut on 23 Oct (Craig Holt)

Franklin's Gull

Nine locations provided sightings, again listed chronologically:

Camp Perry, **Ottawa**, one on 03 Sep (Justin Bosler)

Deer Creek SP, one on 02 and 03 Oct (m. obs.)

- Alum Creek, one between 08 and 19 Oct (m. obs.)
- Younger's Wetlands, *Hancock*, one on 11 Oct (Robert Sams)
- Caesar Creek, six on 20 and 21 Oct (Donald Morse, Jr.)
- East Fork, up to six between 20 and 31 Oct (m. obs.)
- Findlay Reservoirs, up to three between 22 Oct and 06 Nov (Jeff Loughman)

Clear Fork, one on 07 Nov and two on 10 Nov (Gary Cowell)

North Perry, *Lake*, one on 17 Nov (John Pogacnik)

Ring-billed Gull

Several observers estimated 10,000 were in Cleveland Harbor on 23 Nov. The inland high count was Jeff Loughman's 4500 at the Findlay Reservoirs on 19 Nov. Reports came from 61 counties.

Herring Gull

Jeff Loughman spent 90 minutes at the Findlay Reservoirs on 13 Nov and tallied 3174 Herrings. He added, "I did a count using a tally clicker. I've never seen this many nonadult Herring Gulls at the reservoir before." One *Erie* and two *Cuyahoga* locations each hosted "only" 2500 on other dates. Forty-eight counties produced reports.

Thayer's Gull

The four reports are:

One at Buck Creek on 03 Nov (Doug

Overacker)

Two at the Findlay Reservoirs on 13 Nov (Jeff Loughman)

One at Edgewater on 23 Nov (Jen Brumfield)

One at Cleveland's East 55th Street marina on 26 and 27 Nov (Jen Brumfield)

Iceland Gull

Kenn Kaufinan found a "classic adult Kumlein's" at Huron harbor, *Erie*, on 16 Nov and added that it was "not record-early [but] definitely on the early side".

Lesser Black-backed Gull

A few late Jul sightings preceded this season's first, which wandered Wendy Park and nearby on 05 and 06 Aug (m. obs.). There were four more Aug sightings in *Ashtabula*, *Cuyahoga*, *Erie*, and *Ottawa*. Jeff Loughman found 28 at the Findlay Reservoirs on 19 Nov, an impressive high count for the season and especially so for an inland site. The second-highest count was also inland, 12 at the *Richland* end of Clear Fork on 11 Nov (John Herman). The most at any Lake Erie site was seven, at Cleveland's East 55th Street marina on 26 Nov (Jen Brumfield). Thirteen counties as far south as *Fayette* had sightings.

Glaucous Gull

One had spent the end of Jun and all of Jul near Wendy Park; it was last reported on 11 Aug by Mary Gustafson. The next sighting was on the typical "first" date of 23 Nov, at Cleveland harbor (m. obs.) and that bird roved the local shore into Dec. One was seen at the Findlay Reservoirs on 25 and 29 Nov (m. obs.). The only other report was of a bird at Metzger on 29 Nov (John Pogacnik).

[Herring x Glaucous Gull]

The three reports are:

- A third-year "Nelson's" at Edgewater on 16 Nov (Jen Brumfield)
- An adult at the Findlay Reservoirs on 24 Nov (Robert Sams)
- A second-year bird at East 55th Street, Cleveland, on 26 Nov (Jen Brumfield)

Great Black-backed Gull

Philip Chaon counted 35 at the Edgewater marina on 26 Nov, and the second-highest number was Sandra Griffiths' 11 at nearby Wendy Park the next day. Every county fronting on Lake Erie produced reports. The inland sightings were of single birds at three locations, though as many as five individuals might be represented. These reports came from Alum Creek between 09 and 22 Aug and on 07 Sep (m. obs.), at the Findlay Reservoirs on 07 Oct and 02 and 03 Nov (Jeff Loughman, Shane Myers), and along Township Road 107, *Hancock*, on 22 Nov (Mark Rozmarynowycz).

Caspian Tern

Kent Miller made the last report, a single bird at Huron harbor, *Erie*, on 07 Nov. Justin Bosler counted 185 at East Harbor on 04 Aug as migration got underway. Maria Losey noted the inland high number of 25 at Alum Creek SP beach on 20 Aug. Reports came from 35 counties.

Black Tern

One spent from 05 to 09 Nov in the Edgewater-Wendy Park area (m. obs.); it was the last. Usually they've left the state by mid-Sep, and Jen Brumfield commented, "incredible late bird, foraging just off the breakwall mouth directly north of the river, with Bonaparte's and Commons!!" The second-latest sighting was more nearly normal; Steve Jones saw five birds at Indian Lake SP, *Logan*, on 21 Sep. Jen Brumfield *et al.* counted 41 about 10 miles off Port Clinton, *Ottawa*, on 25 Aug. Reports also came from *Erie*, *Delaware*, *Franklin*, *Sandusky*, *Seneca*, and *Warren*. Curiously, none were seen in *Lucas* though they have nested there off and on.

Common Tern

Sandra Griffiths saw one at CLNP on 18 Nov, the latest date. Often some remain into Dec but none did this year. Michael O'Brien noted a "steady southbound flight" at the Marblehead Lighthouse, **Ottawa**, on 20 Sep and counted 4830. Other lakeshore sites recorded up to 4000 about that same time. Steve Jones tallied the inland high number of 40 at Indian Lake SP, **Logan**, on 21 Sep. Twenty-one counties provided reports; the southernmost were **Clark** and **Montgomery**.

Forster's Tern

Allen Chartier saw two at East Harbor on 12 Nov, a typical last date. The CCE hosted 750 on 12 Sep (Justin Bosler); the inland top count was 21, at the Findlay Reservoirs on 07 Oct (Jeff Loughman and Shane Myers). Reports came from 24 counties south to the Ohio River.

Royal Tern

The OBRC has reports from *Lake* and *Pickaway*.

Rock Pigeon

Tracy Hammer counted 290 at the Fishinger Road bridge over the Scioto River, *Franklin*, on 03 Nov. Sixty-four counties had sightings.

Eurasian Collared-Dove

Reports from *Clark*, *Franklin*, and *Mercer* went to the OBRC.

Mourning Dove

Alex Champagne and Anthony Fries estimated 500 were feeding in a winter wheat field near Darby Creek on 14 Aug. All but eight counties produced sightings.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo

Rachele Kappler provided the last sighting, at Meadowbrook on 13 Oct. The high count of three was shared by Charles Bombaci along Dustin Road, *Delaware*, on 01 Aug, Bill Stanley at East Fork on 17 Aug, and T.S. Imfeld at Side Cut MP, *Lucas*, on 06 Sep. There were many reports of two birds from the 37 counties with sightings.

Black-billed Cuckoo

The last report came from Bur Oak Reservation, *Lorain*, on 10 Oct (BRAS). The second to last date was 28 Sep; James Fletcher reported one at each of five locations in *Jefferson* that day. (Three of them were in Fernwood SF, which had many breeding records during OBBA II.) Tom Bartlett's census crew tallied three on Kelleys Island on 20 Aug. Twenty-one counties produced reports.

Barn Owl

One called as it flew over Robert Hershberger's home in *Holmes* before dawn on 22 Nov.

Eastern Screech-Owl

One was calling in Cory Chiappone's *Lake* yard after midnight on 09 Aug. Cody Kent saw five, probably a family group, near Bucyrus, *Crawford*, on 20 Aug. Reports came from 27 counties.

Great Horned Owl

The high count was four. Chris Zacharias found them in Germantown MP, *Montgomery*, on 13 Oct. Junior Barnes matched that number in his "Field and Forest" birding site in *Highland* on 28 Oct. Thirty-one counties produced sightings.

Snowy Owl

The first of a phenomenal invasion showed up in Mosquito WA on 22 Nov and stayed at least two more days (m. obs.). Several were scattered along the *Cuyahoga* shore beginning on 26 Nov (m. obs.) and up to four were occupying Burke by month's end (Jen Brumfield). One on Middle Bass Island, *Ottawa*, on 29 Nov (Lisa Brohl) completes the season's sightings, which only hinted at the flood to come.

Barred Owl

Alexander Clark found a female with three owlets in *Greene* on 10 Aug. Virginia Fantetti heard at least four calling at East Fork on 25 Sep. Thirty-two counties provided reports.

Long-eared Owl

David Tan reported that one flew in to investigate his squeaking at Darby Creek on 21 Oct.

Short-eared Owl

David Tan reported three at Darby Creek on 21 Oct. Craig Holt saw one at Conneaut on 23 Oct. Darby Creek also hosted the high count, 11 on 10 Nov (Joe Baldwin and Jeffrey Pontius). The Rehoboth Reclaim Area, *Perry*, held five to seven on several Nov dates (Joe Faulkner). *Cuyahoga, Erie, Guernsey, Hamilton, Hardin, Harrison, Lake, Lucas, Marion,* and *Wood* also had sightings.

Northern Saw-whet Owl

Lester Peyton discovered one at the CNC Long Branch Farm on 01 Nov. Amber Hart found another that same day at Salt Fork SP, *Guernsey*. Observers saw one or two in CLNP from 20 Nov into Dec. Singles in other *Cuyahoga* locations and *Montgomery* complete the sightings other than those by banders described below.

Alexander Clark banded three near the Caesar Creek office on 07 Nov.



This resting Northern Saw-whet Owl caught the eye of photographer Chuck Slusarczyk, Jr. at CLNP on 20 Nov.

Tom Bartlett operated for 22 nights on Kelleys Island. He captured four new Saw-whets and one Eastern Screech-owl in Oct and nine Saw-whets in Nov. He also recaptured a Sawwhet which David Russell had banded on 12 Oct 2012 in Hueston Woods SP, **Preble**. He commented that his numbers were only 10% of those in 2012.

Kelly Williams wrote me that she and Bob Scott Placier "only ran the NSWO station in Chillicothe [**Ross**] on 5 nights during the fall of 2013 and most of the nights, the weather just did not cooperate (windy or spotty rain). On 8 November 2013, the weather conditions were right and we captured 6 NSWOs in less than 4

hours. Of those, 4 were hatch years (3 Female, 1 unknown gender), one was an After Second Year male, and we had one adult (AHY) female.

Bob Scott Placier added that he banded three on the Hocking College campus, where he teaches. He caught one of them on 04 Nov and the other two on 07 Nov.

Common Nighthawk

Stephen Vessey saw the last, on 10 Oct at Maumee Bay. John Gribble had seen the second-last on 02 Oct in Kiwanis Riverway Park, *Franklin*. Mark Skinner noted a migration concentration of about 440 at the north end of Paint Creek Lake, *Highland*, on 01 Sep. Reports came from 42 counties.



Photographer Allan Claybon managed to successfully track the erratic flight of this Common Nighthawk on 8 Sept at Englewood.

Chimney Swift

Elliot Tramer wrote, "A dense cloud of swifts rotated above a chimney in west Toledo [*Lucas*] at dusk on August 30. It was difficult to estimate the number of birds involved; surely there must have been close to 1,000. The swirl of birds was about 150 ft. wide; as the mass rotated they dropped a few at a time into the chimney. This went on for at least 20 minutes, and some swifts were still circling when it became too dark to see." A similar number had been over Burke early on 11 Aug (Jen Brumfield). Jen also provided the latest sighting, a single bird over Lake Road, *Cuyahoga*, on 26 Oct. Sixty-six counties had sightings.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird

A leucistic hatch-year female spent from 22 Oct to 19 Nov at Inniswood Metro Gardens, *Franklin*. Allen Chartier confirmed the identity when he banded it. It stayed the latest; the second-last was one which spent from 13 to 27 Oct at Linda Househower's residence in *Allen*. The high count was 27, by Sean Ricker at Sandy Ridge on 17 Aug. There were several counts in the 10 to 15 range. Fifty-five counties produced reports.

Rufous Hummingbird

The data in the following table are provided by Allen Chartier, who diligently bands and monitors our visiting hummers. The entries are sorted by their "First Observed" dates.

			First		Last
Location and County	Age	Sex	Observed	Banded	Observed
South of Charm, Holmes	ΗY	F	10 Sep	05 Nov	18 Nov
North Royalton, <i>Cuyahoga</i>	AHY	F	~01 Oct	08 Dec	11 Dec
Oxford, Butler	Ad	Μ	06 Oct	(not banded)	~21 Oct
Westerville, Delaware	AHY	Μ	~12 Oct	(not banded)	14 Dec
Williamsburg, <i>Clermont</i>	AHY	F	17 Oct	09 Nov	15 Nov
Toledo, <i>Lucas</i>	AHY	F	17 Oct	10 Nov	26 Nov
Oxford, Butler	AHY	F	~26 Oct	(see notes)	15 Nov
Near Sugarcreek, <i>Holmes</i>	AHY	F	27 Oct	(see notes)	24 Nov
Delaware, Delaware	Ad	Μ	$\sim 01 \text{ Nov}$	(not banded)	11 Nov
Mansfield, Richland	HY	Μ	08 Nov	16 Nov	23 Nov

Ad = Adult, HY = Hatch Year, AHY = After Hatch Year

A tilde (\sim) preceding the date means the exact date is unknown.

The Toledo bird was not seen on 14 through 20 Nov but returned on 21 Nov.

The female Butler bird was captured on 09 November 2013 by Allen Chartier. It had been

banded on 19 December 2012 near McDonough, Henry Co., Georgia.

Allen captured the Sugarcreek bird on 05 Nov; he had banded it at this same location on 07 Nov 2012.

<u>Selasphorus sp.</u> (Rufous/Allen's) Hummingbird

Several hummingbirds were seen but could not be identified to species. (In some cases capture attempts failed and photographs were inconclusive.) They too are listed in the order of the first observation.

At Metzger on 18 Sep (Kenn Kaufman)

- In Westerville, **Delaware** (the same location as a confirmed Rufous), from ~20 Oct to 12 Nov (Mike Reed *fide* Allen Chartier)
- In Columbus Grove, *Putnam*, 24 Oct to 23 Nov (Becky Fuerst *fide* Allen Chartier)
- On Tampa Avenue, Cleveland, on 01 to 23 Nov (fide Allen Chartier plus reports by Karen and Rich Kassouf and Chuck Slusarczyk, Jr.)

At Ben Franklin Community Gardens,

Cuyahoga, on 04 Nov (Jen Brumfield) In Grove City, *Franklin*, from 10 to 20 Nov

- (Linda Jones *fide* Allen Chartier)
- In Litchfield, *Medina*, 12 Nov to unknown date (Jayne Gensert *fide* Allen Chartier)

Belted Kingfisher

Rachele Kappler found 16 at Killbuck on 02 Aug. That count was the only credible one exceeding six, a number achieved by several observers. Reports came from 72 counties.

Red-headed Woodpecker

Two counts of 30 came from OOPMP. Brandon Brywczynski saw them there on 26 Aug. Scott Myers found his on 16 Sep and commented, "This species was EVERYWHERE. This number is probably quite conservative." The highest count elsewhere was "20+" by Ben Morrison at Berlin Reservoir, Portage, on 23 Sep. Fifty-seven counties produced sightings.

Red-bellied Woodpecker

The CVNP Fall Census teams counted 33 on 21 Sep (Dwight Chasar *et al.*). John Games and Ron Sempier found 25 at Killdeer on 26 Oct. Seventy-seven counties provided reports.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

Scott Huge saw the first migrant, at his **Portage** home on 19 Aug. Chances are it had left its **Ashtabula**, **Geauga**, or **Lake** nesting area not long before! The next must have come from further north; Jeff Loughman saw it at Camp Berry, **Hancock**, on 14 Sep. Woodlawn Cemetery, **Lucas**, hosted nine on 13 Oct (Tim Haney). Forty-three counties had sightings.

Downy Woodpecker

A party of five birders counted 15 Downys in Secor MP, *Lucas*, on 19 Nov. Reports came from 80 counties.

Hairy Woodpecker

The high count was six, in Blendon Woods on 30 Sep (John Gribble). Fifty-seven counties produced sightings.

Northern Flicker

Jen Brumfield noted 55 in CLNP on 25 Oct; they're resident there but this number clearly includes many migrants. The most elsewhere was 44, in Woodlawn on 21 Sep (Tim Haney). All of the counts exceeding 25 came from those two locations. Seventy-four counties provided reports.

Pileated Woodpecker

Sara Burch found eight in Riddle SNP, *Athens*, on 22 Sep. Amanda Lawson counted six in Lake Hope SP, *Vinton*, on 09 Oct. Sixty counties had sightings.

American Kestrel

Tom Kemp found 12 while wandering 25 miles of *Wood* roads on 20 Nov. Reports came from 64 counties.

Merlin

Mark Shieldcastle saw a "single bird chasing tree swallows and martins" while on banding duty at ONWR Navarre on 01 Aug. Nancy Anderson saw another at Conneaut on 05 Aug. These dates are a little earlier than they usually arrive. Kenn Kaufman saw three at Meadowbrook on 13 Oct and commented, "Scemed to be a passage of birds of prey today; all of the falcons appeared to be moving through, headed south". Peter Hellman also saw three; they were harassing a crow along Chagrin River Road, *Cuyahoga*, on 26 Oct. Thirty-two counties yielded sightings.

Peregrine Falcon

Thomas Olson saw three during a 13 Oct sojourn at Wendy Park; probably some were on the tall structures across the Cuyahoga River. Wes Hatch also found three while boating along the *Cuyahoga* lakefront on 23 Nov. Thirty counties produced reports.

Prairie Falcon

The OBRC has a report from *Wayne*.

Olive-sided Flycatcher

Corey Husic saw the first, at Indigo Hill, *Washington*, on 07 Aug. Derek Dunaway saw the latest as it passed through Headlands on 01 Oct. The high count was four; Matt Anderson found them scattered through several areas in OOPMP on 02 Sep. There were at least four reports of two birds. Nineteen counties provided sightings.

Eastern Wood-Pewee

Nancy Anderson frequents the eastern *Cuyahoga* lakeshore; she was rewarded with the latest sighting, a straggler in Euclid Creek Reservation on 27 Oct. The second–latest was all the way south in *Clermont*, where the CNC Long Branch Farm eTT recorded one on 16 Oct. Wes Hatch kayaked nine miles of the upper Cuyahoga River, *Geauga*, on 31 Aug and counted 25 pewees. The next highest number was 13, during the 04 Aug ONWR census (Ed Pierce *et al., fide* Douglas Vogus). Reports came from 62 counties.

Contopus sp. Flycatcher

Cameron Cox wrote from Wendy Park on 23 Sep, "Interesting wood-pewee. Very dark overall, strong 'vest', sooty head with no white around the eye, bill black with an extremely tiny orange patch at the base of the lower mandible visible only in the scope. Mostly facing [me and Jen Brumfield] making it hard to view the wing bars but upper wingbar did appear to be weaker than the lower. Overall size seemed a bit smaller than normal for EAWP [Eastern Wood-Pewee]. Jen and I believe it was probably a WEWP [Western Wood-Pewee] but were not able to obtain the photos or recording necessary to prove such a record. Bird did not respond to recordings of either species of [wood-] pewee. Intriguing but not definitive."

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher

The first, a group of three, showed up in Jackson Bog SNP, **Stark**, on 11 Aug (Debby Kerr). Other triples were in Woodlawn on 19 Aug (Juliette Heinz and Tim Thompson) and at the Emily Traphagen Preserve, **Delaware**, on 07 Sep (John Gribble). The last sighting was at East Fork on 05 Oct (Bill Stanley). Twenty-one counties produced sightings.

Acadian Flycatcher

The high count of six was shared by Tracy Hammer at Highlands MP, **Delaware**, on 02 Aug and Ann and Dwight Chasar in the CVNP Ledges area on 04 Aug. Bama Clark saw both the second last and last, respectively south of Darby Creek on 04 Oct and at Darby itself on 09 Oct. Thirty-seven counties provided reports.

Alder Flycatcher

The five reports, all of single birds, are:

- At Killdeer on 03 Aug (Irina Shulgina)
- In CLNP on 06 Aug (Daniel Hazard)
- In Younger's Wetlands, *Hancock*, on 11 Aug (Robert Sams)
- At Killdeer on 12 Aug (Joe Baldwin)
- In Side Cut MP, *Lucas*, on 16 Aug (Barry McEwen and Elliot Tramer)

Willow Flycatcher

Claire Kluskens found a straggler at Deep Lock Quarry MP, *Summit*, on 05 Oct; she said it "called attention to itself with distinctive fitzbew song, which it gave three times before moving on". Irina Shulgina found seven at Killdeer on 03 Aug. Reports came from 32 counties.

"Traill's" (Alder/Willow) Flycatcher

Up to three of these cryptic, and no doubt silent, birds were reported from 10 counties.

Least Flycatcher

Cory Chiappone saw one at Headlands on 01 Oct, but Richard Kidwell found the last exactly a week later in *Hancock*. Amanda Lawson saw five in Grant Park, *Montgomery*, on 10 Sep, as did a group of San Diego birders at OOPMP on 28 Sep. Twenty-eight counties produced sightings.

Empidonax sp. Flycatcher

One which Lynne Albert and Nic Shayko found in the South Chagrin Reservation, *Cuyahoga*, on 28 Oct, was well past the typical latest date for any of the genus. Other indeterminate birds were seen until 15 Oct. Groups of eight, which probably included more than one species, were seen on 14 Sep at Sims Park (Nancy Anderson) and Huston Brumbaugh NC, *Stark* (Adam Zorn).

Eastern Phoebe

There is no "latest" sighting of this, our hardiest flycatcher, because some can be found during any month. Elliot Tramer noted 13 in CPNWR on 22 Aug and CLNP hosted up to 20 on 26 Oct (m. obs.). Sightings came from 66 counties.

Great Crested Flycatcher

The last paused at Maumee Bay on 10 Oct (Stephen Vessey). This is a typical latest date, but the second-last sightings were almost two weeks earlier, on 29 Sep. That day, Jeff Loughman saw one at the Findlay Reservoirs and Sandra Griffiths another in Chagrin River Park, *Lake*. The high count was five, which appeared to be a "family group 'wheeping' at each other" on 01 Aug at Sandy Ridge (BRAS).

Western Kingbird

The OBRC has a report from *Cuyahoga*.

Eastern Kingbird

Amber Hart found eight in scattered locations while wandering Salt Fork SP, *Guernsey*, on 27 Sep. They edged the two which Scott Pendleton found in *Harrison* the previous day for "last sighted" honors. Usually they're gone by the second week of the month. The 04 Aug ONWR census counted 52 (Ed Pierce *et al., fide* Douglas Vogus). Fifty-two counties produced reports.

Loggerhead Shrike

Some of the several reports from *Wayne* had enough detail for the OBRC to evaluate.



Jen Brumfield spotted and obtained documentation photos of this wary Loggerhead Shrike as it hunted grasshoppers on 09 Sept along Wilderness Road.

Northern Shrike

The first of these visitors showed up at Wake Robin on 27 Oct (Mary Gustafson, Jeff Harvey). Other singles arrived in the 16 counties shown on the accompanying map.

White-eyed Vireo

Peggy Wang heard one in Clear Creek on 29 Oct. That's a bit late but singles were also seen elsewhere on the two previous days. Jeffrey Spaulding found nine in four hours at Salt Fork SP, *Guernsey*, on 26 Sep. Thirty-four counties had sightings.

Bell's Vireo

Irina Shulgina found one at the Honda Wetlands, *Union*, on 04 and 06 Sep.

Yellow-throated Vireo

Wes Hatch saw the last, at Sunnybrook Preserve, *Geauga*, on 09 Oct. The high count of four was shared. Amanda Lawson found them along the Little Miami River in *Greene* on 28 Aug. Bill Stanley's were in the CNC Rowe Woods on 14 Sep. Reports came from 30 counties.

Blue-headed Vireo

The first probable migrant showed up in *Lucas* near the Michigan line on 04 Aug (Ferd Crotte). The last stopped at John Hull's *Butler* home on 31 Oct. Aullwood Audubon Farm and Center, *Montgomery*, hosted six on 10 Oct (Tom Hissong). Thirty counties produced sightings.

Warbling Vireo

One was still singing for Dave Lewis in Bay Village, *Cuyahoga*, on 13 Oct. John Moore saw another that day in Englewood. David Gesicki and Mark Rozmarynowycz counted 12 in CPNWR on 06 Sep. Forty-three counties provided reports.

Philadelphia Vireo

Ken Davis saw the first, at Blendon Woods on 27 Aug. The high count was four, by Lisa Hug near her home in *Huron* on 07 Sep. The last were two singles on 09 Oct, at Darby Creek (Bama Clark) and Camp Dennison, *Hamilton* (J.W. Rettig). Sightings came from 29 counties.



Red-eyed Vireo

These seem to have cleared out a bit early. Robert Foppe and Jennifer Smolenski saw the last in the latter's *Clermont* yard on 15 Oct; often a few linger another week. Jen Brumfield counted 16 in CLNP on 13 Sep; the secondhighest number was 12, by Doug Overacker in Buck Creek on 07 Sep. Fifty-one counties provided sightings.

Blue Jay

The 21 Sep CVNP census tallied 246, no doubt a mixture of residents and migrants (Douglas Vogus *et al.*). Doug Overacker noted 50 at Buck Creek on 22 Sep as did Kenn Kaufman at Meadowbrook on 13 Oct. All but eight counties produced reports.

American Crow

A trio of observers estimated 3000 were at the eastern, *Richland*, section of Clear Fork on 14 Nov. William Wood found half that many along Ohio Route 36 in *Coshocton* on 08 Nov. The 80 reporting counties tied Blue Jay's number.

Fish Crow

Several *Cuyahoga* sightings were well documented for the OBRC.

Common Raven

The OBRC has thorough reports from *Delaware* and *Harrison* and sketchy ones from *Jefferson*, *Medina*, and *Union*.

Horned Lark

Three observers each found about 100: Gary Cowell along Baseline Road, *Crawford*, on 17 Aug; Patience Hoskins in Observatory Park, *Geauga*, on 09 Nov; and Paul Sherwood along a mile of Township Road 232, *Hancock*, on 12 Nov. Forty-four counties provided sightings.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow

Charlie Saunders saw and heard a straggler at Riverside, **Butler**, on 10 Nov, a good three weeks later than their historical departure date. Cory Chiappone had seen one at Headlands on 28 Oct as well. Doug Overacker noted about 350 massed at Old Reid Park, **Clark**, on 15 Sep. Thirty-seven counties yielded sightings.

Purple Martin

Eric Elvert saw three in Carriage Hill MP, *Montgomery*, on 10 Oct, more than a week later than their usual departure. Margaret Bowman also saw a straggler, at the Hebron hatchery, *Licking*, on 04 Oct, and before that the last sightings were several on 15 Sep. Jen Moore and Jason Parrish found about 800 at the Hebron hatchery on 18 Aug. The only other triple-digit count was 236 at CPNWR on 22 Aug (Elliot Tramer). Reports came from 44 counties.

Tree Swallow

These are hardy and include berries in their winter diet. Nevertheless, they are usually gone from Ohio by mid-Nov, so Paul Sherwood's sighting at MBSP on 21 Nov was abnormally late. On 18 Nov Kenn Kaufman had seen 22 there and three at Metzger. The three four-digit reports were of 1000 along the Cedar Point Chausee, *Erie*, on 08 Aug (Kent Miller), a "conservative estimate" of 1100 at Winous Point on 23 Sep (Justin Bosler), and "1000+" at Big Island on 24 Sep (Ron Sempier). Fifty-one counties produced sightings.

Bank Swallow

Bama Clark saw four in the Lake Darby development, *Franklin*, on 29 Sep, a bit later than usual. Justin Bosler's 1050 at Winous Point on 08 Aug was the highest count and Chris Zacharias' 500 at Conneaut on 02 Aug the next highest. Thirty-two counties provided reports.

Barn Swallow

In contrast to most of the other swallows, the last Barns left early. Inga Schmidt saw one at LaDue on 16 Oct and the Ostermillers another at Funk on 20 Oct. Jen Brumfield noted about 400 were working the grass at Burke on 11 Aug. Sixty-one counties yielded sightings.

Cliff Swallow

Cliffs also left a bit early; the last sightings were on 21 Sep. Thomas Slemmer saw one in Calhoun, **Delaware**, and Nicholas Rosner six at Funk that day. Twenty at the Hoover dam on 08 Sep were otherwise the latest (Amy and Kevin O'Neil). Wendy Park hosted an unusual count for the site of 70 on 03 Aug (Sameer Apte), and Lost Bridge had 50 on 04 Aug (Harris Abramson). Reports came from 22 counties.

Cave Swallow

This is only the second year with no reports since this species' first Ohio appearance in 2005; the other was 2011.

Carolina Chickadee

Charles Bombaci provided the two highest counts, both in **Delaware**. He found 35 in Hoover NP on 01 Oct and 45 at Char-Mar on 03 Nov. The most elsewhere was the nine which Robert Hershberger saw at home in **Holmes** on 15 Sep, which he said "seemed to be a larger number than normal for the area". Fifty-six counties had sightings.

Black-capped Chickadee

Kelleys Island surveys yielded the two highest counts, 69 on 19 Aug and 32 on 16 Sep (Tom Bartlett *et al.*). The highest count elsewhere, 21, was shared. Robert Jackson found them at the Wolf Creek Environmental Center, *Medina*, on 15 Oct, and a party of four birders noted them along Ohio Route 43 at Mogadore Reservoir, *Portage*. One which Scott Pendleton saw well in *Harrison* on 13 Nov prompted this note: "Solo bird not with any other chickadees...in this area we go from no BCCH to 20% in winter. First definitive one in two years". Thirty-two counties produced reports.

Chickadee sp.

The overlap zone between our two chickadee species is a band which roughly follows U.S. Route 30 and probably shifts, expands, and contracts under weather and longer-term influences. Quite a few conservative birders declined to assign their sightings in that area to the species level; their counts ranged up to 10 birds.

Tufted Titmouse

Tracy Cambron found 30 in CNC's Rowe Woods on 10 Nov. Three locations each hosted the second-highest number of 22. Reports came from 73 counties.

Red-breasted Nuthatch

August produced a few scattered reports which, judging by their locations, included both migrants and some which had nested. Doug Overacker discovered six at Buck Creek on 29 Nov; most of the remaining counts were of one or two. Thirty-eight counties hosted them.

White-breasted Nuthatch

The 01 Nov Towpath Trail census in CVNP produced 17 (Douglas Vogus *et al.*). There were several counts elsewhere in the 10 to 14 range. Seventy-six counties provided sightings.

Brown Creeper

Despite their being a nesting species, Aug yielded only four creeper sightings. They were of one at the Carlisle Reservation, *Lorain*, on 02 Aug (BRAS), one in *Knox* on 24 Aug (Danielle McCament), four in the Tappan Drainage Area, *Harrison*, on 31 Aug (Scott Pendleton), and one at Meadowbrook on 31 Aug (Greg Cornett). The high count was eight, in the Race Track Wetlands, *Franklin*, on 23 Nov (Bama Clark). Forty-eight counties produced reports.

House Wren

The last visited Jill Lipert's home in *Butler* on 10 Nov. The second-last had been at another home, that of Mary Ann Wagner in *Lake*, on 31 Oct. The ONWR census on 04 Aug found 20 (Ed Pierce *et al., fide* Douglas Vogus). Several observers tallied between 10 and 15. Reports came from 62 counties.

Winter Wren

There were no Aug sightings, even in their several nesting locations. Adam Zorn reported the season's first at the Huston Brumbaugh NC, *Stark*, on 03 Sep, which is early for a migrant. Eric Elvert saw the next, in Carriage Hill MP, *Montgomery*, on 11 Sep. Magee was full of migrants on 29 Sep – Greg Links found 14 that day. Kent Miller noted 10 at Headlands on 11 Oct. Forty counties provided sightings.



This Winter Wren offered Tom Fishburn a quick pose on 10 Oct at Wendy Park.

Sedge Wren

Robert Royse found at least one all through Sep and Oct at Deer Creek WA; the two he saw there on 28 Oct were the latest. Brian and Gale Wulker saw the second-last in the Miami Whitewater wetlands on 19 Oct. The high count was four, at Darby Creek on 14 Aug (Alex Champagne and Anthony Fries). *Cuyahoga*, *Greene*, *Montgomery*, *Ottawa*, *Richland*, and *Wyandot* also contributed sightings.

Marsh Wren

Irina Shulgina found several groups which totaled 20 birds at Darby Creek on 28 Sep. Justin Bosler saw 12 at Winous Horseshoe on 06 Oct. Sightings continued into winter, but after 05 Nov came only from Darby Creek, Killbuck, and Spring Valley WA, *Greene*. Twenty-eight counties provided reports.

Carolina Wren

Kathi Hutton found at least 25 in Crooked Run NP, *Clermont*, on 18 Oct; she said her "estimate is probably too low. I saw 6, heard 4-5 times as many". That number was the highest by a single observer. Tom Bartlett's census teams on Kelleys Island found 30 on 19 Aug. Reports came from 66 counties.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

The only reports after 30 Sep came from Woodlawn on 01 Oct (Tim Haney), Riverbend Recreation Area, *Hancock*, on 12 Oct (Jeff Loughman), and Headlands on 15 Oct (Sally Isacco). The Station Road area of CVNP hosted eight on 15 Aug (Lynne Albert and Nic Shayko). Forty-one counties produced sightings.

Golden-crowned Kinglet

Another nester (albeit scarce) was missed throughout Aug. Mary Lou Dickson saw the first, at Blendon Woods on 15 Sep. They flooded in by mid-Oct; Jen Brumfield saw 50 at Wendy Park on 10 Oct. Counts of 80 to 90 came from Big Island on 24 Oct (Ron Sempier), the CCE Trail on 29 Oct (Dana Howard), and CPNWR on 30 Oct (Elliot Tramer *et al.*). Fiftyfive counties provided reports.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet

Carrie and Mark Ruane found one at the Grant Park NC, *Montgomery*, on 07 Sep. Several *Cuyahoga* and *Lake* sites each hosted one on 13 Sep (m. obs.). The high count was 65, by the Ostermillers at Headlands on 10 Oct. Fifty-two counties yielded sightings.

Eastern Bluebird

Scott Myers counted 70 in OOPMP on 16 Sep, and wrote, "This species was EVERYWHERE. This number is probably quite conservative. Twice we watched small flocks (at least 15 birds each) move overhead." His number doubled the next highest, the 35 which Hope Orr tallied along 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles of towpath in CVNP on 17 Oct. Reports came from 66 counties.

Veery

They're here in Aug, but mostly secretive and silent, so the few reports that month are not a surprise. Elizabeth McQuaid saw the last, in CLNP on 08 Oct. Amanda Lawson found the second-last, two in Grant Park, *Montgomery*, on 25 Sep. Columbia Woods Park, *Summit*, hosted five on the evening of 12 Sep (the Harlans). Seventeen counties provided reports.

Gray-cheeked Thrush

David Gesicki and Mark Rozmarynowycz found the first, in CPNWR on 30 Aug. Tom Frankel saw the next one in Mentor Lagoons NP, *Lake*, on 07 Sep. James Berry counted nine at Magee on 21 Sep and others found up to eight there that month. The most elsewhere was five, at East Harbor on 21 Sep (Evan Mann). The last were solos at Headlands on 15 Oct (Sally Isacco) and in the Emily Traphagen Preserve, *Delaware*, on 21 Oct (John Gribble). Twenty-six counties had sightings.

Swainson's Thrush

Blendon Woods, OOPMP, and Woodlawn each hosted one on 31 Aug (Irina Shulgina, Elliot Tramer, and Tim Haney, respectively). Woodlawn also provided the last sighting, a straggler on 15 Nov (m. obs.). The secondlast was at Headlands on 24 Oct (Sally Isacco). Tom Bain found 60 at Magee on 21 Sep and three sites each held 30 on dates between 10 and 23 Sep. Thirty-nine counties produced reports.

Hermit Thrush

Kyle Brooks saw the first, at Old Man's Cave in Hocking Hills SP, on 11 Aug; it had probably nested there. One at Blendon Woods on 01 Sep could have come from one of the nesting areas in our northeast corner (Jeffrey Pontius). The first which certainly came from further north were at Headlands (Daniel Parsons) and Sandy Ridge (Beki Poitras) on 14 Sep. Observers found 50 to 60 in CLNP on 25 and 26 Oct; the most elsewhere was 23, at Villa Angela, *Cuyahoga*, on 27 Oct (Nancy Anderson). Thirty-three counties provided sightings.

Wood Thrush

John Hull bade the last goodbye at a disc golf course in Goshen, *Clermont*, on 20 Oct; that's a week or so later than usual. Ethan Kistler saw the second-last, in *Hocking* on 12 Oct. Jack Stenger counted 14 during a "mini-fallout" at Shawnee Lookout on 21 Sep. Thirty-one counties produced reports.

American Robin

On 14 Nov, Inga Schmidt estimated 3000 were along Chagrin River Road, *Geauga*, "coming in to roost, the flock has grown from hundreds to thousands over the last month. Hard to count, coming from the north and landing in the trees over a 1500 foot tree line. After perching in the trees for fifteen minutes or so, they dive into the low shrubs and crab apples in the fields and settle in for the night." The only other count exceeding 500 (itself an impressive number) was 1240 by Gary Cowell at the intersection of Pulver and Pleasant Valley Roads, *Richland*, on 17 Oct. Reports came from 74 counties.

Gray Catbird

Several observers noted about 50 in CLNP on 15 Sep. Susan Jones and Clyde Witt counted 41 at the headquarters area of CVNP on 21 Sep. Seventy-three counties yielded sightings.

Brown Thrasher

Bama Clark saw the last of the season in the Race Track Wetlands, *Franklin*, on 23 Nov, though sightings continued throughout winter. Cameron Cox found six and Jen Brumfield nine in CLNP, on 23 Sep and 07 Oct, respectively. The most elsewhere were five in Gary Cowell's *Richland* yard on 09 Sep. Forty-six counties produced reports.

Northern Mockingbird

Nicholas Rosner counted 10 in the Secrest Arboretum, *Wayne*, on 12 Oct. Two locations each had nine. Reports came from 54 counties.

European Starling

Justin Bosler recorded several large flocks. He found about 7000 at Medusa on 08 Sep, 10,000 where Lemon Road crosses Turtle Creek (*Ottawa*) on 30 Sep, and 10,000 along the shore of Muddy Creek Bay (also *Ottawa*) on 02 Oct. The highest number away from the northwest was the 5000 which Karen Beaty reported at Englewood on 15 Sep. Eighty-one counties provided sightings.

American Pipit

Jeff Loughman saw the first, at the Findlay Reservoirs on 14 Sep. Gary Cowell noted about 100 at Killdeer on 02 Nov and 70 at Pleasant Hill Lake Park, *Richland*, on 12 Nov. Thirty-four counties contributed reports.

Cedar Waxwing

Mary Anne Romito counted 321 along a mile of CVNP Towpath Trail north from Ira Road on 11 Nov and 200 to 250 there on other dates. Gary Cowell and Anna Wittmer saw the most elsewhere, 175 in Charles Mill Lake SP, *Ashland*, on 14 Sep. Seventy-two counties produced reports.

Lapland Longspur

Only four birds were reported before Oct. Steven Bouyak saw one at Headlands on 22 Sep, Kent Miller and Ben Morrison found two at Conneaut on 24 Sep, and Tyler Ficker saw one all the way down at East Fork on 27 Sep. Kent Miller spent more than five hours at Edgewater on 18 Nov and saw about 100 arriving from over Lake Erie in flocks of 20 or fewer. Doug and Micki Dunakin noted flocks of about 50 on several dates in **Paulding**. The accompanying map shows the counties which hosted them.



A flock of seven arrived at Headlands on 22 Oct (Hans Clebsch). Another 10 showed up at Conneaut on 26 Oct (Chris Swan). Headlands provided the high count, of 100 on 03 Nov (Andy Avram). The accompanying map shows the differences and similarities between bunting



Ovenbird

For a couple of years now, at least one has hung around into winter and 2013 is no exception: One seen near the OSU Browning Amphitheater, *Franklin*, on 07 Nov was seen again there on 04 Dec (both Irina Shulgina). Singles were also seen at three other *Franklin* locations between 23 Oct and 05 Nov. Charles Klaus saw the latest elsewhere than in *Franklin* at his home in *Lake* on 14 Oct. Anne Rowe counted six on Wyddfa Court, *Licking*, on 24 Sep. Reports came from 33 counties.

Worm-eating Warbler

The three reports are:

One at Buck Creek on 02 Sep (Doug Overacker)

One at Blendon Woods on 02 Sep (Amy and Kevin O'Neil)

One at the CNC Long Branch Farm on 14 Sep (Lester Peyton)

Louisiana Waterthrush

The four reports are:

- In the Williamsburg Wetlands, *Clermont*, on 01 Aug (Bill Stanley)
- At the CVNP Ledges on 04 Aug (Ann and Dwight Chasar)
- In Blackhand Gorge SNP, *Licking*, on 09 Aug (Dominik Mosur)
- On the Clear Fork River, *Richland*, on 25 Aug (Gary Cowell and Jason Hull)

Northern Waterthrush

Mark Shieldcastle banded one at ONWR Navarre on 01 Aug. That bird was far from their isolated northeastern Ohio nesting sites but early for a migrant. The next sightings were shared on 20 Aug, in downtown Cleveland (Joe Woyma) and East Harbor (Brett Moyer). Bill Stanley saw the last, at his home in *Clermont* on 13 Oct. Kent Miller's two at Magee on 12 Sep was the only multiple sighting. Fifteen counties produced reports.

Blue-winged Warbler

One straggler appeared at Leslie Houser's *Mahoning* home on 21 Oct, two weeks later than their usual last date in Ohio. Jeanne Hrenko saw the second to last in Euclid Creek Reservation, *Cuyahoga*, on 23 Sep. Don Keffer found three at Mosquito Lake SP on 18 Aug and there were a few reports of two. Nineteen counties provided sightings.

[Blue-winged x Golden-winged ("Brewster's") Warbler] One was reported at Magee on 12 Sep (fide Mary Warren) and Jack Stenger *et al.* found one at Shawnee Lookout on 21 Sep.

Golden-winged Warbler

Blendon Woods hosted both the first and the last, with only a month between them. Jeffrey Pontius saw one there on 01 Sep and Gene Stauffer another on 02 Oct. Three locations shared doubles: Metzger on 12 Sep (Kent Miller and Ben Morrison), Hills and Dales MP, *Montgomery*, on 12 Sep (Amanda Lawson), and Huston Brumbaugh NC, Stark, on 14 Sep (Adam Zorn). *Clark, Clermont, Delaware, Hamilton, Ottawa*, and *Union* also contributed sightings.

Black-and-white Warbler

Brad Goodner noted the last, at Headlands on 11 Oct (more than a week later than expected for the latitude). Kent Miller counted 12 at Magee on 12 Sep and others saw five to seven there on several dates. The most elsewhere was Amanda Lawson's five at Hills and Dales MP, *Montgomery*, also on 12 Sep. Reports came from 40 counties.

Prothonotary Warbler

Usually these are gone by the end of Aug, but one lingered at East Fork until 07 Sep (Bill Stanley) and another was at Armleder Park on 13 Sep (Helen Wright-North). Mark Shieldcastle banded some of the 12 he encountered at ONWR Navarre on 01 Aug. Five adult males and five juveniles came in to mob Charles Bombaci when he played a recording at Hoover NP on 21 Aug; Charles monitors nesting boxes there. No other count exceeded four. Fourteen counties produced sightings.

Tennessee Warbler

One *Licking* and three *Franklin* sites shared the first-sighting date of 24 Aug. Tom Kemp and Elliot Tramer had the last sighting all to themselves, at CPNWR on the late date of 30 Oct. Ben Morrison estimated 150 at Magee on 12 Sep and almost all of the counts exceeding 25 came from there or nearby. Fifty-three counties provided reports.

Orange-crowned Warbler

One showed up at Ben Morrison's *Stark* home on 10 Sep. Bev Walborn saw the next at Elmwood Park, *Cuyahoga*, on 13 Sep. The high count of three was shared by Mikey Lutmerding on the OSU campus on 09 Oct and Jen Brumfield at Wendy Park on 10 Oct. Paul Sherwood saw the last, in the Dempsey Boat Basin, *Ottawa*, on 11 Nov, one day after Tim Drewyer and Tim Haney found another straggler in Woodlawn. Twenty counties produced reports.

Nashville Warbler

Michael Horr saw one in Blacklick Woods MP and Ken Davis another at Blendon Woods, both in *Franklin* and both on 24 Aug. Jen Brumfield's 25 at Wendy Park on 10 Oct was by far the largest count; each of three other sites on Lake Erie had hosted nine during the last half of Sep. Jen and the Kassoufs saw the last, in CLNP on 26 Oct. Reports came from 43 counties.

Connecticut Warbler

The first reports were long past the typical late Aug date. Bruce Simpson passed on word of a sighting in Blendon Woods on 10 Sep. On 11 Sep the Kassoufs saw one in Big Creek Reservation, *Cuyahoga*, and Kent Miller another along the Berlin Lake bike trail, *Portage*. Three sites adjoining western Lake Erie each held two on 21 Sep. The last two sightings, at LaDue on 02 Oct (Wes Hatch) and at Blendon Woods on 06 Oct (Wendy Becker) were the only ones that month. *Delaware*, *Lake*, and *Lorain* also contributed sightings.

Mourning Warbler

The first was about 10 days early; Dick Hoopes provided details of two in the South Chagrin Reservation, *Cuyahoga*, on 05 Aug. Elliot Tramer saw the next, at CPNWR on 22 Aug. Hoopes' above two and two others he saw at LaDue on 28 Aug were only multiple sightings. The only Oct reports came from Shawnee Prairie Preserve, *Darke*, on 03 Oct (Robb Clifford) and Headlands on 09 Oct (Marcia Rubin). Fifteen counties provided sightings.

Kentucky Warbler

Nine were reported:

- Two at Armleder Park on 07 Aug (Christopher Collins)
- One at Paint Creek SP, *Highland*, on 10 Aug (Bill and René McGill)
- Two at East Fork on 17 Aug (Bill Stanley)
- One at Clendening Lake, *Harrison*, on 07 Sep (Gary Bush and Scott Pendleton)
- One at LaDue on 08 Sep (Wes Hatch and Dick Hoopes)
- Two at Cross Creek, *Jefferson*, on 18 Sep (Gary Bush)

Common Yellowthroat

Elliot Tramer saw the last of the season, at CPNWR on 16 Nov, though there were two more reports in early Dec elsewhere. Scott Pendleton saw the second-last, at The Bowl on 02 Nov. Justin Bosler found 26 in a private grassland in *Ottawa* on 01 Aug; counts elsewhere ranged up to 22. Fifty-six counties produced reports.

Hooded Warbler

Sameer Apte saw the second to last, at Headlands on 06 Oct, and Christina Harrington found the last the next day at Blendon Woods. Matthew Valencic noted four in a two-acre woodlot near his home in *Geauga* on 24 Aug and said that some had been there all summer. Reports came from 23 counties.

American Redstart

The last were five at Headlands on 20 Oct, a large number to be lagging a bit (Elizabeth McQuaid). Three parties each found 15, in *Franklin, Lake*, and *Lucas* and on different Sep dates. Forty-eight counties contributed reports.

Kirtland's Warbler

The OBRC has one report from *Lucas*.

Cape May Warbler

The first of these showed up rather late on 01 Sep, when Jeffrey Pontius found one at Blendon Woods and Inga Schmidt another on Chagrin River Road, *Geauga*. Several observers noted 50 to 75 at Magee on 12 Sep. Tom Frankel saw three at Headlands on 20 Oct, the last, and somewhat late, date. Forty-three counties had sightings.

Cerulean Warbler

Bob Evans said that "Nature never ceases to amaze" when he saw one singing about noon on 26 Aug in Hopewell Township, *Muskingum*. Tyler Ficker's two at the CNC on 05 Oct were the most and the last. The other sightings, all of single birds, were:

At Armleder Park on 02 Aug (Charlotte Fairlie) In Delaware SP on 20 Aug (Logan Kahle)

Along the Kokosing Gap Trail, *Knox*, on 31

Along the Kokosing Gap Trail, **Knox**, on a Aug (Gary Cowell and Jason Hull)

At Miami Whitewater on 24 Sep (David A. Brinkman)

Northern Parula

Though these nest quite widely in Ohio, there were only two sightings in the first half of Aug and a few more in the second half. The high count of four was shared by Lester Peyton at the CNC Long Branch Farm on 14 Sep and Ben Warner at Magee on 21 Sep. Jeff Harvey *et al.* saw the last, at Mill Creek on 13 Oct. Thirty counties produced reports.

Magnolia Warbler

Joe Woyma saw the first, in downtown Cleveland on 20 Aug. The next were at four sites on 24 Aug. Kent Miller found 25 at Magee and 12 at Metzger on 12 Sep; Wes Hatch also found 12 at The Rookery, *Geauga*, that same day. Sheryl McNair's two at the CVNP Canal Visitor Center on 17 Oct were the last. Fortynine counties provided sightings.

Bay-breasted Warbler

The first was one at the CNC Rowe Woods on 18 Aug (CNC eTT). The next was further north, at Blendon Woods on 24 Aug (Irina Shulgina). Tom Bain found 20 at Magee on 21 Sep for the high count. The last was in Secrest Arboretum, *Wayne*, on 13 Oct (Nicholas Rosner). Reports came from 40 counties.

Blackburnian Warbler

One showed up at Tom Kemp's home in *Wood* on 17 Aug. Blendon Woods hosted eight on 14 Sep for Ben Warner. Tom Frankel saw the last, at Headlands on 20 Oct. Forty counties produced reports.



Ron Sempier was closely studied by this migrating Blackburnian Warbler during its stop in his **Marion** yard on 02 Aug.

Yellow Warbler

Tom Kemp and Elliot Tramer noted a straggler at CPNWR on 30 Oct, a good three weeks after they usually leave the state. Marcia Rubin saw the second-last, at Headlands on 02 Oct, even then a bit late for the north coast. Mark Shieldcastle banded 70 and saw another 75 at ONWR Navarre on 01 Aug. The next highest count was 30, by Tony Battiste at Magee on 08 Aug. Thirty-eight counties provided sightings.

Chestnut-sided Warbler

These nesters were seen on 01 and 18 Aug but not between those dates. Gary Bush saw the second-last in Jefferson Lake SP, *Jefferson*, on 09 Oct. After that date, Mary Anne Romito had a good look at a straggler in Winton Woods CP, *Hamilton*, on 27 Oct. Charles Bombaci counted 11 along Wiese Road, *Delaware*, on 14 Sep. Thirty-six counties produced reports.

Blackpoll Warbler

Joe Hammond saw the first, two in Blendon Woods on 30 Aug. Sightings came almost daily from then to 16 Oct. That date, the secondlast, was shared by Elizabeth McQuaid at Wendy Park and members of a BRAS field trip to Sandy Ridge. The last sighting, however, was at Headlands on 20 Oct (Tom Frankel). Kent Miller and Ben Morrison estimated 300 to 500 at Magee on 12 Sep; other Sep dates produced smaller double-digit counts. The largest number not at Magee was 30, found 14 Sep at French Creek Reservation, *Lorain* (BRAS). Reports came from 48 counties.

Black-throated Blue Warbler

Ken Davis noted the first arrival, at Blendon Woods on 24 Aug. The next showed up in Woodlawn on 29 Aug (Tim Haney). Paul Sherwood found the second to last at Sheldon's Marsh SNP, *Erie*, on 13 Oct. This is a typical date for a last sighting, but a straggler held on at the OSU Browning Amphitheater, *Franklin*, where Paul Hurtado and Irina Shulgina saw it on 05 and 07 Nov. Magee hosted nine on 14 Sep (Lisa Phelps) and six on 21 Sep (James Berry, Ben Warner), while four north coast locations each held five. Twenty-five counties produced sightings.

Palm Warbler

The first, a group of five, got all the way to Armleder Park before being sighted on 03 Sep (J.W. Rettig). Andrea Anderson reported that what turned out to be the season's second on 08 Sep was a first for her **Jefferson** yard. The last two were late departures – they were one at The Bowl on 02 Nov (Scott Pendleton) and one at Sippo Lake, Stark, on 10 Nov (Jon Cefus). Jen Brumfield counted 105 at Wendy Park on 10 Oct. The next highest count of 25 was at Wendy Park on 03 Oct (Jen Brumfield) and CLNP on 08 Oct (Marcia Rubin). Forty-seven counties yielded sightings.

Pine Warbler

Brian Wulker saw the first of the season, at Fernald on 12 Aug; Hope Orr noted the second near the CVNP Boston Store on 29 Aug. Both could have nested at their locations. The first two which definitely started their journey further north showed up at Magee on 03 Sep (Chuck Stirrat). The last, and the only sightings in that month, were of one at the Great Miami Mitigation Bank, *Montgomery*, on 03 Nov (Eric Elvert) and a moderately late bird at Eric Schlabach's *Stark* home on 24 Nov. The high count of three was shared by four sites on dates between 18 Sep and 12 Oct. Twenty-eight counties contributed reports.

Yellow-rumped Warbler

Elliot Tramer saw an early arrival in Whitehouse, *Lucas*, on 14 Aug and noted that there'd been a cold snap the night before. Cory Chiappone saw the next, at Headlands on 18 Aug. Jen Brumfield estimated 350 at Wendy Park on 10 Oct and Justin Bosler about 200 at Winous Point on 08 Oct. Sixty-nine counties provided reports.

"Audubon's" Yellow-rumped Warbler

Mark Shieldcastle banded one of this western form at ONWR Navarre on 30 Sep.

Yellow-throated Warbler

Usually these are gone by the end of Sep or shortly thereafter. This year, however, there were several Oct sightings. Among them was an injured bird which lasted until 03 Nov in *Clermont* (Susan Kailholz). An apparently healthy bird brought up the rear at Headlands on 08 Nov, an extraordinarily late date (Cory Chiappone). Chris Zacharias found six in Eastwood MP, *Montgomery*, on 14 Sep. The second-highest count of two was shared by three locations. Twenty counties produced sightings.

Prairie Warbler

The five reports, all of single birds, are:

At The Bowl on 07 Aug (Scott Pendleton)

- At The Wilds, *Muskingum*, also on 07 Aug (Mike Sandy)
- At Indigo Hill, *Washington*, again on 07 Aug (Corey Husic)
- At Crooked Run NP, *Clermont*, on 24 Aug (Kathi Hutton)
- At Prairie Oaks MP, *Franklin*, on 14 Sep (Bama Clark)

Townsend's Warbler

The OBRC has a report from *Paulding*.

Black-throated Green Warbler

The first sighting wasn't near a known nesting location, so the bird probably was an early migrant. It showed up in the Black River Reservation, *Lorain*, on 07 Aug (BRAS). The second one, at Chagrin River Park, *Lake*, on 23 Aug, could have dispersed from one of the several nesting sites which are not far to the south or traveled from Canada (Cory Chiappone). Alex Champagne and John Finn saw the last, in Glen Echo Park, *Franklin*, on 27 Oct. Charles Bombaci found 15 in Char-Mar, *Delaware*, on 28 Sep. Reports came from 46 counties.

Canada Warbler

James Fletcher saw one in the Swine Creek Reservation, *Geauga*, on 10 Aug; it could have nested in the area. The second, at Headlands on 17 Aug, was almost surely a migrant (Don Keffer). The last date, 28 Sep, was shared by James Fletcher's one bird in Fernwood SF, *Jefferson*, and two at CVNP Station Road (Lynne Albert and Nic Shayko). Don Keffer found three at Headlands on 06 Sep. Sixteen counties had sightings.

Wilson's Warbler

Greg Links saw the first, in Woodlawn on 17 Aug; Eric Elvert the second, in Englewood on 27 Aug. Headlands hosted the most, five on 01 Oct (Cory Chiappone), and also the last, one on 09 Oct (Marcia Rubin). Twenty-seven counties provided sightings.

Yellow-breasted Chat

The last of these not-quite-warblers were two in Shawnee Lookout on 17 Sep (Linda Osterhage). Greg Links saw one in Woodlawn on 17 Aug and commented that it "came in to screech-owl; I almost never encounter this species as a fall migrant." Bill Stanley found three in the Williamsburg Wetlands of East Fork on 01 Aug. Reports also came from *Clark, Franklin, Miami, Montgomery, Ottawa, Pickaway*, and *Richland*.

Eastern Towhee

Amanda Lawson counted 26 in Lake Hope SP, *Vinton*, on 09 Oct. Both Buck Creek on 05 Oct (Doug Overacker) and the Miami Whitewater wetlands on 19 Oct (Brian and Gale Wulker) hosted 20. Sixty-four counties produced reports.

American Tree Sparrow

Two were reported in Hocking Hills SP on 30 Sep, a bit early for that far south (Tim Thompson). The next, singles at CLNP (the Kassoufs) and Side Cut MP, *Lucas* (Barry McEwen) on 07 Oct were paradoxically a bit late. Carl Winstead found about 100 at Darby Creek on 28 Nov. Reports came from 53 counties.

Chipping Sparrow

Jen Brumfield found about 160 at CLNP on 25 Oct and Samir Apte noted 100 the next day. The most elsewhere were 80 at Woodland Cemetery, *Montgomery*, on 15 Sep (Amanda Lawson). Sixty-eight counties provided reports.



Chuck Slusarczyk, Jr. astutely identified and documented this Clay-colored Sparrow in a flock of Chipping Sparrows in the parking lot near CLNP on 05 Sept.

Clay-colored Sparrow

Joe Hammond *et al.* saw the first in Blendon Woods on 11 Sep. The last sightings were on 12 Oct; Scott Pendleton found one in the New Reclaim Area, *Harrison*, and Steven Hochstetler another at an *Ashland* feeder. Other singles were found between those dates at one *Lorain*, one *Ottawa*, and four *Cuyahoga* locations.

Field Sparrow

CLNP again hosted the high count for Jen Brumfield, 110 on 25 Oct (a record sized flock, perhaps?). Darby Creek held 50 on 02 Oct (Jeffrey Pontius). Fifty-nine counties had sightings.

Vesper Sparrow

Rick Asamoto saw the last, at Williams Reservoir, *Allen*, on 10 Nov. Richard Kidwell's five along Township Road 207 in *Hancock* on 05 Nov were the second-last. Scott Pendleton counted 16 at The Bowl on 08 Sep, quite a change from the 80 or so there in late Jul. Twenty-seven counties produced sightings.

Lark Sparrow

One which Tony Battiste saw at Magee on 08 Aug could have drifted east from the species' OOPMP nesting area. The next sighting was in OOPMP on 24 Aug (Annie Crary). The Kassoufs found the second to last in the Brookside Reservation, *Cuyahoga*, on 23 Sep, for the only sighting that month. The latest was extraordinary; it spent from 20 Oct to 23 Nov at a *Tuscarawas* property (Kent Miller). Another *Cuyahoga* location and one in *Delaware* each hosted a bird on different Aug dates.

Savannah Sparrow

Scott Pendleton noted 85 at The Bowl on 22 Sep and wrote, "The SAVS are now gathering to migrate. There were 17 in one multiflora rose bush and I had 27 sparrows in one field of view, 24 of which were SAVS. I counted in fives as they flew away from my walking path so as not to recount reflushes. It was a great day to be a fan of sparrows." The most elsewhere was Justin Bosler's 50 at Pickerel Creek WA, *Sandusky*, on 04 Oct. Thirty-seven counties provided reports.

Grasshopper Sparrow

The second-last sighting date, 15 Oct, is typical for the end of migration. That day Keith Lott found one at Darby Creek, while Jeff Loughman and Scott Myers found another in Younger's Wetlands, *Hancock*. However, Scott Pendleton saw a seriously lagging one at The Bowl on 23 Nov. Scott and Gary Bush counted 45 at The Bowl on 07 Aug. Eighteen counties provided sightings.



Rick Asamoto focused his lens on this late migrant Vesper Sparrow on 10 Nov at Williams Reservoir, Allen.

Henslow's Sparrow

Paul Hurtado saw the last, in Deer Creek SP on 20 Oct, about a week later than expected. Wendy Baker found the secondlast, at Pickerington Ponds on 12 Oct. Gary Bush, Scott Pendleton, and The Bowl again combined for the high count, 16 on 17 Aug. The most elsewhere was five, on a private *Ottawa* property on 01 Aug (Justin Bosler). *Auglaize, Fayette, Hamilton, Hancock, Licking, Muskingum*, and *Union* also contributed reports.

Le Conte's Sparrow

Wake Robin is THE place for these fall visitors. Up to three were seen there almost every day between 09 and 28 Oct. The first, however, was at Winous Point on 03 Oct (Justin Bosler). The only other sighting was Ron Sempier's lifer Le Conte's at Killdeer on 25 Oct.



Ron Sempier successfully photographed a skulking Le Conte's Sparrow at Killdeer on 26 Oct.

Nelson's Sparrow

These often keep company with Le Conte's and did so this fall. Wake Robin hosted the first on 22 Sep (Jerry Talkington) and last on 28 Oct (m. obs.) and up to six most days in between. That high count was on 17 Oct by Jerry Talkington and had been matched at Winous Horseshoe on 06 Oct by Justin Bosler. Reports also came from *Clark, Cuyahoga, Erie, Fayette, Franklin, Licking, Lorain, Lucas, Pickaway, Union*, and *Wayne*.

Le Conte's/Nelson's Sparrow

David A. Brinkman flushed an orange-faced sparrow from the Miami Whitewater wetlands on 02 Oct but got only a fleeting look at it.

Fox Sparrow

Nicholas Rosner saw the first, at Wright Marsh, *Wayne*, on 05 Oct, and sightings continued all through winter. Irina Shulgina found six at Killdeer on 03 Nov as did Christina Harrington at Blendon Woods on 16 Nov. Thirty counties produced reports.

Song Sparrow

Jen Brumfield estimated 550 at CLNP on 25 Oct and there were smaller three-digit counts there as well. The most elsewhere was in the Ohio Power lands near The Wilds, *Muskingum*, where Scott Pendleton found 80 on 25 Aug. All but 10 counties had sightings.

Lincoln's Sparrow

The first sightings came on 09 Sep, when Patty McKelvey saw one in Cleveland's Erie Street Cemetery, Mary Anne Romito another in CVNP, and Inga Schmidt a third on Chagrin River Road, *Geauga*. Scott Pendleton recorded the last, a straggler in the Tappan Drainage Area, *Harrison*, on 24 Nov. The second last was seen at about the normal "last" date; George Norosel found it in *Cuyahoga* on 09 Nov. Kent Miller made the high count of 12 at CLNP on 09 Oct. Thirty-two counties produced reports.

Swamp Sparrow

Jen Brumfield and CLNP again combined for a high count; she found 220 there on 25 Oct. Justin Bosler and Sherrie Duris provided the second-highest, 150 at Mallard Club Marsh WA, *Lucas*, on 10 Oct. Forty-six counties yielded sightings.

White-throated Sparrow

One arrived a little early, 07 Sep, in Chagrin River Park, *Lake* (Cole DiFabio). The second showed up on 13 Sep at Headlands (Jen Brumfield) and the next two on 21 Sep at Magee (Ben Warner) and the CCE Trail (James Berry). CLNP hosted the two highest counts, 1250 on 25 Oct and 750 the next day (both Jen Brumfield). The most elsewhere were 150 at the Lebanon Sports Complex, *Warren*, on 03 Nov (William Hull). Reports came from 63 counties.

White-crowned Sparrow

A group of five birders saw the first, at CLNP on 15 Sep. Cory Chiappone noted the second, at his home feeder in *Lake* on 22 Sep. Sameer Apte made the highest of many triple-digit counts at CLNP, 400 on 26 Oct. Jen Brumfield saw the most elsewhere, 80 at Wendy Park on 06 Oct. The sole report of a "Gambel's" White-crowned (a wanderer from the west) was by Keith Lott at Pickerington Ponds on 27 Oct. Fifty counties produced sightings.

Dark-eyed Junco

A few early Aug sightings in Geauga, Lake, and Richland were probably of nesting birds and their young. Two in Gates Mills, Cuyahoga, on 11 Aug (Rita Schneider) could have been from Canada, but they do nest in the area. The first that I'm (almost) sure was a migrant showed up at Euclid Creek Reservation, Cuyahoga, on 29 Sep (Nancy Anderson). Many triple-digit reports at CLNP were topped by Jen Brumfield's 1100 there on 25 Oct. The largest flock elsewhere was of 75, which Ron Sempier noted at Big Island on 24 Oct. Paul Sherwood carefully documented one of the "Oregon" group of seven subspecies at Sheldon's Marsh SNP, Erie, on 15 Nov. Another "Oregon" and two "Cassiar" juncos (subspecies cismontanus) were also reported but not conclusively described. Sixty-seven counties provided reports.

Summer Tanager

Virginia Fantetti saw the latest, in her *Clermont* yard on 05 Oct. Jack Stenger *et al.* found four in Shawnee Lookout on 21 Sep and there were many reports of two. *Delaware*, *Franklin, Greene, Highland, Lucas, Mahoning, Montgomery*, and *Pickaway* also provided sightings.

Scarlet Tanager

Craig Flockerzie photographed one at Char-Mar, **Delaware**, on 11 Nov, at least three weeks later than their historical departure date. The second last, at Headlands on 20 Oct, was also rather late for the latitude (Tom Frankel). Gary Cowell and Jason Hull saw five along the Kokosing Gap Trail, **Knox**, on 31 Aug. Reports came from 38 counties.

Northern Cardinal

Doug Overacker wandered four miles of trails in Buck Creek on 29 Nov and counted 60 cardinals. Sightings came from all but seven counties.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Scott Pendleton saw the last, in *Harrison* on 13 Nov. A few reports typically trickle out to that date, but the second last was a month earlier on 18 Oct at Blendon Woods (Jennifer Kuehn). Tom Bain counted 14 at Magee on 21 Sep and Jen Brumfield seven at Gordon Park, *Cuyahoga*, on 13 Sep. Forty-one counties produced reports.

Blue Grosbeak

A trio of birders watched a female carrying food near the Darby Creek NC on 12 Sep. That's a little late for one to be in Ohio, let alone still to be caring for a youngster. Brian Wulker's high count of seven, at Fernald on 07 Aug, included three immatures. The most scen elsewhere was three, in *Franklin* and *Montgomery* on three dates. Reports also came from *Allen*, *Butler*, *Clark*, *Harrison*, and *Union*; curiously absent is *Lucas*, whose OOPMP has a significant nesting population.

Indigo Bunting

Paul Hurtado saw and heard one at the OSU Browning Amphitheater, *Franklin*, on the late date of 05 Nov. The Wulkers saw the secondlast, at the Miami Whitewater wetlands on 19 Oct. Jack Stenger noted about 75 at Armleder Park on 05 Oct and 50 at Shawnee Lookout on 21 Sep. He commented, "It's amazing what totals you get when you actually count common migrants." Fifty-eight counties provided sightings.

Dickcissel

They nested at Darby Creek, and Gene Stauffer saw the season's last there on 30 Sep. Justin Bosler counted 20 at a property in **Ottawa** on 01 Aug. The second-highest count was 12, by Bill and René McGill near Grand Lake St. Marys, **Mercer**, on 03 Aug. Another dozen counties also had sightings.

Bobolink

Two at Darby Creek on 15 Oct (Keith Lott) and one in Delaware WA on 21 Oct (John Gribble) were the last. David Weaver noted a series of flocks passing over Funk on 12 Sep; he estimated at least 950 birds were in them. Darby Creek hosted several flocks totaling about 200 birds on 14 Sep (m. obs.). Twentysix counties produced reports.

Red-winged Blackbird

Justin Bosler estimated 50,000 were at Winous Point on 02 and 03 Oct. Kent Miller found about 10,000 at Huron's west pier, *Erie*. Allen Chartier noted almost 4000 while doing point counts at East Harbor on 18 Oct. Sixty-seven counties had sightings.

Eastern Meadowlark

Scott Pendleton counted 55 in The Bowl on 29 Sep. The next highest number was 25, which Irina Shulgina achieved on 24 Aug in a *Franklin* unit of Prairie Oaks MP. Forty-eight counties provided sightings.

Yellow-headed Blackbird

The three reports are:

A male and female, not keeping company, at *Lorain* on 28 Aug (the Kassoufs) One at Winous Point on 03 Oct (Justin Bosler)

One at Killdeer on 29 Oct (Charles Bombaci)

Rusty Blackbird

Four at Station Road in CVNP (the Chasars) and one at Wilderness Road (Tom Bain) on 19 Sep were the first. On 02 Nov Kent Miller watched "large flocks flying steadily overhead into impoundment area [at Huron, *Erie*] and beyond" which totaled about 500 birds. CPNWR hosted a flock of about 140 on 16 Nov (Elliot Tramer). Thirty-six counties produced reports.



Birding Cleveland Harbor on 15 Oct rewarded Chuck Slusarczyk, Jr. with a lovely photo-op of this migrant Rusty Blackbird.

Brewer's Blackbird

Jason Cade and Brian Jorg well described one they found in the Eco-Ohio Wetland, *Warren*, on 11 Oct. That's on the presumed migration path of the small Michigan nesting population.

Common Grackle

Elliot Tramer wrote, "6,000+ in OOPM October 17. Every fall large flocks of grackles occur in the oak openings, sweeping through the woods at all levels from forest floor to treetops, feeding as they go on everything from acorns to arthropods. They've probably done this for thousands of years; yet the sight of thousands of them passing through makes me wonder if they've assumed the passenger pigeon's empty niche..." Douglas Vogus watched six flocks pass his *Summit* home on 30 Oct; they totaled more than 14,000 birds in less than an hour. Gary Cowell counted 17,000 in half an hour as they left a roost in *Richland* on 17 Oct. Reports came from 61 counties.

Brown-headed Cowbird

Scott Myers found about 1200 in fields along Township Road 71 in *Paulding* on 15 Oct. Justin Bosler noted about 500 along West Schiller Road, *Ottawa*, on 05 Aug. Fifty-two counties provided sightings.

Orchard Oriole

Bill Stanley saw four at East Fork on 31 Aug; they were the last. Three locations each hosted five on two early Aug dates. Twenty-one counties produced reports.

Baltimore Oriole

Armleder Park provided the last sighting, on 28 Sep (T.S. Imfeld). CPNWR hosted 15 on 22 Aug (Elliot Tramer) and Tom Bartlett's Kelley's Island census teams counted 37 on 19 Aug. Reports came from 47 counties.

House Finch

Carl Hanson noted 40 at his *Franklin* home on 27 Nov. Fifty-nine counties produced sightings.

Purple Finch

Graham Sorenson reported six at his Denison, *Licking*, feeders on 29 Oct. A few other reports were of two to five birds though most were of singles. Twenty-two counties provided reports.

Common Redpoll

Kent Miller and Ben Morrison saw one at Headlands on 25 Oct and Nicholas Rosner another in *Wayne* on 25 Nov.

Pine Siskin

The one which Wes Hatch saw at LaDue on 19 Sep was early for a migrant but could have been one of our rare nesters. The next, at Wendy Park on 03 Oct, had surely just arrived (Jen Brumfield). Junior Barnes found six in his *Highland* garden on 13 Nov. *Coshocton*, *Franklin*, *Hancock*, *Lorain*, and *Wayne* also contributed sightings.

American Goldfinch

Eric Elvert estimated 400 at Carriage Hill MP, *Montgomery*, on 20 Oct; he had seen up to 200 there during the previous week. Wes Hatch noted about 300 in Orchard Hill Park, *Geauga*, on 08 Oct. Eighty counties produced reports.

House Sparrow

The highest reported counts were of 300, by Sally Isacco at Lorain on 06 Aug and Thomas Olson and Marcia Rubin at Wake Robin on 05 Oct. Reports came from 72 counties.

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The Species Accounts could not be written without the data and photographs provided by these contributors either directly to the Editors or by posting to an on-line venue. I thank you.

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CUYAHOGA VALLEY NATIONAL PARK FALL CENSUS

By Dwight Chasar

Thirty-six observers in 15 teams braved the chilly (67 degree) and rainy morning of 21 Sep to conduct the 31st Fall Census in the CVNP. We tallied 78 species, the lowest count (vs. 82) since I started coordinating the census in 1992. Since 1998, the count date has varied from 12 to 23 Sep.

The fall census started in 1983 but we counted only species then. In 1998 we started counting individuals too. This fall's count of 3395 individual birds is the lowest since counting started; the previous low of 3970 was in 1999.

The table includes 15 species whose counts were the lowest on record and three others which weren't seen for the first time in 10 or more years. Though we did get some sun in the afternoon, I blame the morning's steady rain for those lows and misses.

Species	Number	Notes	Spec
Canada Goose	129	1	Least Fly
Wood Duck	20	1	Eastern
Mallard	45	-	White-eye
Wild Turkey	13		Yellow-thro
Great Blue Heron	26		Blue-head
Green Heron	6		Warbling
Turkey Vulture		2	Philadelpl
Cooper's Hawk	3		Red-eye
Bald Eagle	5	3	Blue
Red-shouldered Hawk	2		America
Red-tailed Hawk	2		Black-capped
Sora	1		Tufted Ti
American Coot	1		White-breast
Killdeer	1		House
Solitary Sandpiper	4		Carolina
Rock Pigeon	22		Blue-gray G
Mourning Dove	86		Eastern H
Chimney Swift	162		Swainson'
Belted Kingfisher	21		Hermit
Red-headed Woodpecker	10		Wood T
Red-bellied Woodpecker	33	1	America
Downy Woodpecker	28	1	Gray Ca
Hairy Woodpecker	6	1	Northern M
Northern Flicker	41		Brown T
Pileated Woodpecker	10	1	European
Peregrine Falcon	1		Cedar W
Eastern Wood Pewee	2		Blue-winge
			0

TABLE 1

TABLE 1 (continued)

TABLE I (conti	nuea)	
Species	Number	Notes
Least Flycatcher	1	
Eastern Phoebe	26	
White-eyed Vireo	1	
Yellow-throated Vireo	4	
Blue-headed Vireo	1	
Warbling Vireo	1	4
Philadelphia Vireo	2	
Red-eyed Vireo	1	5
Blue Jay	246	1
American Crow	101	6
Black-capped Chickadee	141	1
Tufted Titmouse	43	1
White-breasted Nuthatch	22	
House Wren	8	
Carolina Wren	22	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	2	
Eastern Bluebird	50	
Swainson's Thrush	3	
Hermit Thrush	1	
Wood Thrush	4	
American Robin	707	7
Gray Catbird	137	
Northern Mockingbird	1	
Brown Thrasher	2	
European Starling	251	
Cedar Waxwing	203	
Blue-winged Warbler	1	

CUYAHOGA VALLEY NATIONAL PARK FALL CENSUS

TABLE 1 (continued)

Species	Number	Notes	Species	Number	Notes
Black-and-white-Warbler	2		Eastern Towhee	15	
Tennessee Warbler	2		Field Sparrow	6	
Nashville Warbler	1	1	Song Sparrow	62	
Common Yellowthroat	38		Swamp Sparrow	2	
Hooded Warbler	3		Northern Cardinal	175	
American Redstart	2		Rose-breasted Grosbeak		8
Northern Parula	1		Indigo Bunting	2	
Magnolia Warbler	4		Red-winged Blackbird	168	
Yellow Warbler	1		Eastern Meadowlark	8	
Chestnut-sided Warbler	1		Common Grackle	1	9
Blackpoll Warbler	3		House Finch		10
Black-throated Green Warbler	2		American Goldfinch	152	
Wilson's Warbler	2		House Sparrow	77	1
Scarlet Tanager	3		Totals	3395	1

Notes:

(1) Lowest since 1998, when counting began

(2) First time missed since 1983

(3) Highest count ever

(4) Lowest count since 2001

(5) Lowest count since 2006

(6) Lowest count since 2009

(7) Second highest number (vs. 717) since 2008

(8) First miss since 1994

(9) Lowest count since 1999

(10) First miss since 1988

By Bill Whan

Editors note: This article is a condensation of the introduction to Bill's publication of the same name, for which he is currently evaluating publishers. The full publication will contain all of the referenced sources (over 300 of them), as well as the checklist itself. Bill will supply the source list or items from it for readers who want to delve further into any of them. (billwhan@columbus.rr.com or 223 E. Tulane, Columbus 43202)

Franklin County's bird records rank very high in Ohio for the numbers of species involved, the quality of their verification, and their historical depth. Fifteen unusual Ohio species were first recorded here: King Eider, White-winged Scoter, Cattle Egret, Mississippi Kite, Golden Eagle, Prairie Falcon, Rufous Hummingbird, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Bell's Vireo, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Green-tailed Towhee, Bachman's Sparrow, Harris's Sparrow, Yellow-headed Blackbird, and Bullock's Oriole. It was Franklin County observers for the most part who added fifteen additional first state records in adjacent counties: Eurasian Wigeon, Cinnamon Teal, Common Eider, Black Scoter, Surf Scoter, Magnificent Frigatebird, Harris's Hawk, Purple Gallinule, Long-billed Curlew, Ruff, Long-tailed Jaeger, Blacklegged Kittiwake, Franklin's Gull, Spotted Towhee, and Henslow's Sparrow.

Among the first checklists of the avifauna of an area dominated by a large American city was "List of the Birds of the District of Columbia," published as a 22-page pamphlet in 1862, then in 1883 as a 166page annotated version Avifauna Columbiana, by the eminent Elliott Coues and his friend and collaborator D. W. Prentiss. They, like Franklin County's J. M. Wheaton, were among the founding members of the American Ornithologists' Union in the latter year. At that time they offered their view of the changes in the birdlife at our latitude in and near Washington, D. C. in a way a Columbus observer of the day would have found familiar:

They have also noted, as far as their knowledge enabled them to do so, the changes in the Avifauna resulting from the growth of a great city. Twenty or twenty-five years ago, with a population of about 60,000, the National Capital was a mud-puddle in winter, a dust-heap in summer, a cow-pen and pig-sty all the year round; there was good snipes hooting within the city limits, and the country all about was as primitive as the most enthusiastic naturalist could desire. But...we have changed all that; Washington has grown up to 180,000, and become "citified" into quite a respectable establishment; the suburban wilderness has been reclaimed from Nature and largely given over to Art; while Ornithology has long been more assiduously and successfully pursued within than without the

Study of the birds of such a well-defined area, especially when conducted over many generations, must yield knowledge about how habitats and other conditions have been altered, and how the local abundances and behaviors of birds may have changed as a result. Certainly in an area like Franklin County, as in the District of Columbia, environmental changes wrought on the landscape by exploitation of the forests, then agriculture, and later by urbanization can be tracked by close study of its birds. Additionally, historical shifts in human attitudes and behaviors toward birds can be recognized by repeated observations, over time, of local species. Finally, as we cannot too often hear, much larger changes in the health of our natural environment may in important ways be assessed by attention to that of our birdlife.

Columbus ornithologist John Maynard Wheaton's rudimentary first Ohio checklist was published in 1861, and his acclaimed Report on the Birds of Ohio appeared in 1882, in both cases just a year before Coues and Prentiss's corresponding works. Little noted has been Wheaton's 15-page appendix to his Report titled "Check list of Ohio birds, with dates of their occurrence." Wheaton said of these entries that "these dates apply to birds observed in the vicinity of Columbus, so that, excluding the birds unnoted, we have a list of the birds of Franklin county," in effect our first list - of 241 species - for the county. For their part, Coues and Prentiss were to record 226 for the District of Columbia, where today's list numbers 331 (Maryland Ornithological Society 2012). The new Franklin County list, of 337 species, may be regarded as an update of Wheaton's, including brief annotations made possible by more than a century and a quarter of additional observations.

The sources of this checklist

Our county does not possess a remarkable variety or extent of productive bird habitats, but rather owes its extensive list to a history beginning with diligent local work begun in the nineteenth century, led by Wheaton (1840-1887), Theodore Jasper (1814-1897), Oliver Davie (1856-1911), and William L. Dawson (1873-1928). Later, numerous skilled local observers, collectors, curators, and researchers added to our knowledge. Milton B. Trautman (1899-1991) published in 1940 his monumental work of meticulously conducted field observations, *The Birds* of *Buckeye Lake* (1940. University of Michigan Museum of Zoology Miscellaneous Publications No. 44. Ann Arbor), valuable far beyond its narrow compass – the western end of the Lake is only 13

miles from the Franklin County line - providing observations and other data available nowhere else. This and other fruits of his sixty years of work with birds have guided all his successors. Margaret Morse Nice (1883-1974) conducted her studies of Song Sparrows in Columbus between 1927 and 1936 in publications exemplifying new approaches to the natural histories of birds. Extensive bird studies spanning the state were conducted by Lawrence E. Hicks (1905-1957), supplying many publications on Ohio records and important specimens to the collections of the Ohio State University Museum of Biological Diversity (OSUM). Edward S. Thomas (1891-1982) curated that collection 1931-1962, published many ornithological papers, and for 591/2 years wrote a weekly natural history column in the Columbus Dispatch that often treated bird observations. Donald Borror (1907-1988) accumulated many local specimen records of bird vocalizations, and wrote widely on this and other ornithological topics; the Borror Laboratory of Bioacoustics at the OSU Museum is but one result of his work. In 1989 and 2001 then-county resident Bruce Peterjohn published editions of his authoritative The Birds of Ohio (2001. The Wooster Book Co., Wooster, OH) that set new standards for accuracy and comprehensiveness in an Ohio monograph. The names of many other important contributors are to be found in the list and the literature cited below.

The checklist recognizes records of 337 wild bird species for Franklin County, Ohio, nearly half of them - 161 - confirmed as local nesters. Records verified by existing or recorded museum specimens are included, along with nearly all those documented by published peer-reviewed sighting reports, favoring in the case of rarity those accompanied by other physical evidence such as photographs, or the testimony of trusted witnesses. In a few cases such testimony, obtained via written communication, has alone served to verify records. In the annotations, efforts have been made to include the earliest historical records and specimens, significantly large numbers of individuals recorded, extreme migratory dates, and other details of local interest beyond those to be found in the standard references.

Also inserted in the annotated list are 24 other taxa reported or inferred but not accepted for inclusion in the list of accepted species, including the following:

Six species of hypothetical status for the county (Swallow-tailed Kite, Whooping Crane, Blackbacked Woodpecker, Band-tailed Pigeon, Common Raven, and Spotted Towhee). None of these is far-fetched as a potential member of the Franklin County list. While common sense might argue to admit at least several of them based on historical accounts (for example, the kite, the crane, the ivory-bill, and the raven), satisfactory evidence remains missing for each;

Eight recorded hybrid forms (Ross's Goose x Snow Goose, Mallard x American Black Duck, Cinnamon Teal x Blue-winged Teal, Green-winged Teal x American Wigeon, Hooded Merganser x Common Goldeneye, "Brewster's" and "Lawrence's" warblers, and Eastern Meadowlark x Western Meadowlark). None of these of course qualifies as a species eligible for the list, but they are included as significant recognizable forms, some with multiple county records;

One group of records identified only to the generic level (*Selasphorus*), deemed important because in certain plumages Allen's Hummingbird S. sasin may be virtually indistinguishable from the locally far more numerous Rufous Hummingbird *S. rufus* without careful in-hand examination. Both species have verified Ohio records;

Five unestablished species, observed here but known or presumed to have been artificially introduced, or of captive origin, despite records of establishment or instances of accepted wild origin elsewhere in North America (Barnacle Goose, Mute Swan, Trumpeter Swan, Monk Parakeet, and Sky Lark). Some of these have a foreseeable potential to join this list eventually should their local populations prosper and become established, or the wild origin of individuals be recognized;

Two taxa recognized as full species by authorities outside North America but not currently by the American Ornithologists' Union: "Common Teal" Anas crecca crecca, and "Audubon's Warbler" Setophaga coronata auduboni. Future taxonomic changes adopted by the AOU may add these and/or other taxa to the North American list as well as to that for the county;

One distinctive and oft-reported variant form ("Oregon Junco") which lost full species status recently enough (1983) to cause confusion;

Three records of mistaken status (Black-billed Magpie, Painted Bunting, and Groove-billed Ani). Though recorded in adjacent counties, each has erroneously been attributed to Franklin County in published records.

Franklin County bird habitats

As to the physical setting for these accomplishments, the 540 square miles of Franklin County straddle the 40th degree of north latitude and the 83rd degree of west longitude. Columbus is now reckoned the sixteenth-largest city in the United States, and Franklin County, with a human population of over 1,100,000, ranks thirty-third among U.S. counties. Our glaciated topography is fairly flat, varying gradually from 670 feet above sea level along the Scioto River where it leaves the county in the southwest to 1130 feet in the extreme northeast near New Albany. Habitats over the historical period here began with a landscape mostly of primeval forest of several hardwood mixes intersected by two substantial rivers running north to south, laced with ravines and fed by creeks, as well as associated wetlands such as beaver ponds, sloughs, seasonally flooded areas, and scattered marshlands. Incursions of prairies from the west containing variably wet areas with drier grassy uplands broke up the forest cover. Early accounts described certain areas near the rivers as "marshy and malarious [sic]" (Harris, p. 9). Wheaton (1882:418) mentioned the "swamp prairies south of the city," and Hubbard (p. 153) the "natural scarcity of timber" south of town. These and other discontinuous local extensions of the Darby and Pickaway Plains were called "barrens" (Lee 1892), and first well described by Caleb Atwater (1819; see also Sears 1926, Trautman 1981). In the old days, to these open areas must be added forested tracts of indeterminable size periodically cleared, mostly by burning, for hunting, agriculture, and ceremonial purposes by aboriginal peoples during their presence here.

In 1790, new settlers in what is now the state of Ohio numbered about three thousand. The first named settlement of people of foreign origin in what later became Franklin County was Franklinton, founded in 1797 on the west bank at the Forks, where the Whetstone (now Olentangy) River joined the Scioto. This low-lying area had been fertile land tilled by the Wyandot tribe, but frequent flooding eventually prevented it from flourishing as a town site for the new settlers, and it was eventually annexed by Columbus, soon built on higher ground on the east bank. At this time much of the county's ancient forest cover had been broken only by burns and small rude clearings, accompanied by floodplains and marshes adjacent to the rivers, with original prairie tracts mostly found in disconnected fashion in the southwest quadrant.

Though there are a few variably credible anecdotes, our knowledge about the county's birdlife in these early days is mostly inferential, except for archaeological data from remains found in middens, etc. at human sites nearby; very few such sites have been preserved and then carefully excavated in the county itself, however. Early ornithologists such as Wilson, Audubon, and Nuttall visited Ohio, but spent little time away from the Ohio River and Lake Erie during travels headed elsewhere, leaving only a few tantalizing details about their local experiences along the way. Publications more fully treating the birdlife of the state first appeared in 1838, with works from Jared P. Kirtland (listing 223 Ohio species) and Caleb Atwater (more informally treating about 75); they include only a few data for Franklin County, with a human population of about 5,000 by that time.

The first systematic investigations of the county's birds began with J. M. Wheaton, who in 1861 published a simple state list of 285 species, then in 1882 his comprehensive Report on the Birds of Ohio. In both works nearly all his first-hand knowledge seems to have come from field work in his native Franklin County. In the Report he offers on pages 585-7, for example, a list of birds observed in his mid-city garden on Fourth Street - only a block from Statehouse Square - numbering 113 species. By this time modern scientific ornithology had begun its work, but more than 90% of the county's original forest cover had been logged, accompanied by grievous losses among conspicuous forest species such as the Wild Turkey, the Pileated Woodpecker, the Common Raven, the Carolina Parakeet, the Ruffed Grouse, the Wood Duck, and the Passenger Pigeon, along with prominent prairie species such as the Greater Prairie-Chicken and the Swallow-tailed Kite, all of whose declines in numbers he or his informants had personally witnessed, and then regarded as rare or extirpated. To such observations may be added his remarks on commoner species in an earlier paper (1874:577-8):

In the vicinity of Columbus the Marsh and other hawks, and in fact nearly all the larger birds, have greatly diminished in number. Even the Pewee is much less numerous than formerly, probably for the reason that modern improvements have taken the place of his favorite breeding places. Very few water-fowl remain during the summer, compared with the number which formerly bred with us. As intimated, this is, no doubt, due more to the changes in the face of the country than to the fear of man or direct destruction by him. On the other hand, many birds have increased in numbers, and some have made their first appearance in the State within the last thirty years. Prominent among these are the Rough-winged Swallow, Loggerhead Shrike, Lincohr's and the Lark Finch [Lark Sparrow}, Bobolink, Cow-bird, Black-throated Bunting [Dickcissel], King-bird, Quail, and Woodcock. It will be noticed that all

the birds of these two groups are resident or summer resident, none of the birds which do not, or have not, bred with us being especially affected. I may further call attention to the fact that nearly if not all of the birds of the first group nest on trees or in secluded forests, while those which are increasing in number nest upon the ground or on low trees and bushes in open land.

Coues and Prentiss (1883:30), in their contemporaneous work on birds of the District of Columbia (comparable in many ways then and now to Franklin County), wrote that "[t]he Wild Turkey has been practically exterminated, though still lingering near us; and so has doubtless the Sand-hill Crane. The Pileated Woodpecker is nearly in the same predicament, though still seen once in a while." Ohio observers also joined them in reporting that rivers and creeks no longer flowed as constantly and clear as they had earlier, correctly attributing this to the removal of tree cover (James 1888, Trautman 1977:8-9). The ensuing altered hydrology also had a great effect on birdlife. In 1882 there still persisted in the county some altered remnants of primeval prairie grasslands. Portions of these grasslands and savannas had earlier in the century been dedicated to cattle-grazing, a practice which at least retained habitats attractive to certain prairie species, habitats that were to be drained, plowed, and dedicated to row crops in times to follow.

A study of the birds of what has become a largely urban county inhabited by more than a million humans must take full account of other interactions with Homo sapiens. The impact of the deliberate killing of birds, through hunting for food or plumage or sport and later as pests to be controlled, is now often overlooked but well worth mention in a historical context. During the twentieth century, Franklin County exceeded all others in the state in the number of hunting licenses issued. In the early days, certain eradications of wildlife were a civic duty: 1807 Ohio law mandated that along with cash payment a landowner was to furnish squirrel scalps in numbers determined by the township clerk (Dambach p. 210, Lee p. 294). Bounties were paid for remains of hawks, even those that often preyed on squirrels. As recently as a century ago, many species of interest at the time as food or items for sale, or merely as targets, were still widely hunted or trapped, but the excesses of commercial harvesting had made it clear that regulation was necessary. In Columbus, the Ohio legislature in 1874 had protected yearlong the "crossbill or corncrake, dummock, Eur. blackbird, great tit or blue tit, grossbeak, hedge sparrow, Hungarian robin, nightingale, redstart" (Dambach 224), for what that was worth. Such was the extent of knowledge about birds among the governmental officials for whom Wheaton was only a few years later to produce his most important work.

It is sobering to look at old lists of wild birds sold as food (see De Voe 1867). In 1883 Coues and Prentiss wrote of birds commonly for sale in markets of Washington, D.C. that Cedar Waxwings were "when they grow fat...frequently offered for sale," that harriers were "one of the species [of hawks] more frequently exposed for sale in the markets," that Pileated Woodpeckers were just as often vendors' goods, and even that Great Horned Owls were "sometimes found in markets." Bent (237:1671) related a 1903 report from game wardens of 80,000 frozen Snow Buntings, destined for the gourmet trade, discovered by game protectors in cold storage in a city on the east coast. The repugnant excesses of the feather trade have been well documented. A few species once regarded as extirpated or much reduced in numbers - the aforementioned Wild Turkey and Pileated Woodpecker for example, and the Wood Duck - have recovered, mostly with restoration efforts aimed at wiser harvests of game species. Those still legal to hunt require, and now receive, ongoing watchful protections and active enforcement by wildlife agencies that are required to maintain viable populations. Certain surprisingly generous legal bag limits of the modern era - e.g. 25 rails per day - seem now, in view of much-diminished rail numbers, unlikely to threaten such species any more than realistic ones, and perpetuated only to placate hunters. Eliminations of wild birds regarded as pests have probably been attempted often in the county, but except in cases where government wildlife managers have encouraged it - among raptors, for example - have not been documented. Overall, modern statutory protections (beginning with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918) for certain birds were considerable and effective, but for others came too late.

The unintentional poisoning of birds was widely recognized here when bird mortality was witnessed on the urban OSU campus in 1964 following spray treatments for Dutch elm disease (WCB 10:28). Soon thereafter populations of piscivorous birds like cormorants, pelicans, and certain raptors were widely noticed to be receding continent-wide, then rebounding after uses of DDT and certain other organochlorine compounds were banned in 1972. Less dramatic contaminations have seldom been so decisively dealt with, however. Other environmental threats – towers and windows, pet cats and urban raccoons, viral diseases, etc. – have justly been blamed for mortality or reductions in reproductive success among native birds. And large among the

threats are populations of deliberately introduced bird species that out-compete native ones under existing conditions. Trautman (1977:19) observed that the 1975 Buckeye Lake Christmas Bird Count tallied 4814 birds of 83 native species and 9251 of three exotic ones (Rock Pigeon, European Starling, and House Sparrow), commenting on how severe must be the effect of such a disparity on our native avifauna.

Troubling as these threats have been, the ongoing eradication of habitats by human activities has taken by far the greatest toll on our birdlife. The eventual extinction of the Passenger Pigeon, for example, however staggering the extent of slaughter by human hunters, was decided as much by the fatal erosion, mostly through logging, of its colonial life-style that depended on unbroken mature forest habitats. Trautman (1940:49) wrote of the Buckeye Lake area in the 1920s that "[i]t was in this period that the average farmer's enthusiasm for a weedless, brushless, intensively cultivated farm reached its height. It was so great as to leave the impression that the farmer had developed an almost innate hostility to all nature other than the plants he cultivated and the animals he owned." This attitude is commonly held today, abetted by new technologies, especially chemical aids to agriculture, that make it a prime antagonist of biodiversity in our rural areas. The history of changes imposed on local bird habitats can be briefly illustrated by the increasingly powerful tools used to advance human land use over the years:

1. THE AXE Clearing away trees was the first radical change Europeans wrought in the landscape. In the 1820s, stumps still hampered wheeled traffic along Wolf Ridge, later to be called High Street, in Columbus (Hooper, p. 33). Consequent transformations of large tracts of primeval forest to open country with scattered much smaller and younger wooded tracts altered conditions for all wildlife. Woodland birds retreated, and species of open habitats, from kestrels to larks, moved in. The change was rapid: Kirtland wondered in 1838 (p. 180) if the cowbird deserved a place on the Ohio list, but by 1864 (Christy 1936) he regarded this open-country species as abundant. Among forest birds, certain breeding species were able to adjust to new circumstances, but others moved close, or actually succumbed, to extirpation, and many relationships among fauna were radically changed. Dynamite was not widely available until the 1880s, so it was a common practice to girdle huge primeval trees on homesteads, then later to plant crops around their leafless remains; this practice at least provided habitats for martins, bluebirds, swallows, swifts, woodpeckers, etc. as these trees decayed. Since then the routine and easier removal of snags and dead or hollow trees everywhere has discouraged cavity-nesters in ways mostly unheeded through the present day. Related alterations led to the widespread practice of allowing livestock, especially hogs, to forage in remaining woodlots, eating eggs and erasing forest understory habitats for many bird species.

2. THE SHOVEL Atwater wrote that "the country lying between the Scioto and Miami rivers, had the twentieth part of its surface covered, during the months of March, April, and May, with water" (1838:98). Both farmers and city-dwellers wanted to control water, and here this usually involved draining wetlands, channelizing runoff, damming or redirecting streams, and, later, tiling to dry out croplands. Many water-loving species were greatly affected, with much-reduced numbers adapting to habitats that had become less than ideal. River dams, many built in the early twentieth century, erased gravel bars and encouraged siltation, while eliminating many edge habitats. By 1882, the year of Wheaton's Report, there were 230 drain tile manufacturers in the state, and the Drainage Journal estimated that as much tiling had been done in Ohio during that year alone as in all previous years combined (Howe 1900: I, 627). By 1960 it was estimated drain tile installed in Ohio laid end to end would reach to the moon (Nolte 2000). The county park system, in preparing an 800-acre tract for restoration as prairie in 2010, had to remove over 130 miles of tile to do so.

3. THE PLOW Next to be altered were many grasslands. The eradication of prairie vegetation and associated wetlands in the larger tracts, enabled by advanced plow designs of the 1830s, greatly changed bird populations. A significant number of grassland species managed to cope for varying periods, but others were more rapidly extirpated or nearly so (prairie-chickens, kites, cranes, then bitterns and rails, etc.). For a while, agricultural practices often included pastureland for livestock, where some of the more adaptable prairie species were able to survive in reduced populations. With time, however, land-use trends have increasingly favored monocultures of a few field crops rather than livestock, with further losses of diversity. Dense shelterbelts, usually of exotic species that benefited few native birds, were themselves removed to increase acreage for crops protected more by chemicals. Disappearances of meadows and even rotation crops such as clover and alfalfa have further reduced variety among habitats, and in recent decades declines in grassland species have surpassed those of other local settings.

4. THE TRACTOR Industrial-scale mechanized farming led to further losses of habitat by reductions in varied field crops, pastures, and orchards, in favor of fall plowing, fence-to-fence planting, early having, and the present dominance of corn, soybeans, and winter wheat as crops. Herbicides reduced cover, and insecticides food, for many bird species. A few artificial habitats in agricultural settings, in the form of wooden outbuildings, certain cover and rotation crops, farm ponds, bird-houses, etc., continued for a while to invite the more adaptable open-country birds. Later, farmland welcomed an increasingly narrow spectrum of bird life, and by the current day highly developed rural lands provide acre for acre less diverse habitats and fewer native birds than do far more densely settled urban and suburban neighborhoods.

5. THE BULLDOZER Farmland itself is now disappearing here with urbanization, as ever-growing industrial sites, housing tracts, highways and parking lots, etc., prevail. Over a quarter of the county's surface is now covered with buildings, pavement, mowed chemically-treated lawns, while areas dominated by native plants are increasingly difficult to find. Some birds have adjusted to urban settings, such as infrastructure and buildings (swallows, swifts, nighthawks), bird-feeders (species capable of wintering with their help, some breeders, and their avian predators), woodlots and plantings (native birds capable of flourishing in shrinking patches of habitats in an increasingly urban matrix), landfills (gulls, crows, etc.), and reservoirs and disused quarries (migrant waterfowl, gulls and terns, shorebirds, and some passerines). At the same time, urban settings have disproportionately benefited certain very prolific non-native species (Rock Pigeons, House Sparrows, European Starlings, Mute Swans, along with introduced non-migratory Canada Geese), all of which pose vigorous competition for native birds. In the suburbs, unnatural proliferations of raccoons, opossums, coyotes, and free-ranging cats have done incalculable damage to birds, especially those nesting on the ground.

Most of the birds whose names appear on the county list that follows are migrants here - wintering here or south of us, with many nesting mostly only to our north. A few are seldom-seen wanderers whose normal ranges lie far away. Some are extinct, and others have abandoned – or recently adopted - our part of their ranges. Habitat losses here are always troubling for regular transients, but elsewhere – in breeding ranges to our north and at wintering sites in central and South America – they are increasingly critical. The latter areas especially are in various stages of experiencing the same logging of virgin forests, draining of wetlands, new crop monocultures, and urbanization that have threatened birds here. Among local nesters, a host of species whose local breeding numbers have been reduced by over two hundred years of unchecked development – cuckoos, flycatchers, vireos, thrushes, warblers, tanagers, origles – are further declining because of habitat eradication on their wintering grounds farther south in the Americas. It may be unrealistic to expect our southern neighbors to deprive themselves there of what we have so stubbornly claimed as our rightful domain here, but perhaps they may yet learn from our example.

The local news is not all grim, however. Some results, at times unintended, of human-influenced habitats such as canals and flooded guarries, and in more recent years especially the construction of reservoirs and artificial or restored wetlands, grasslands, and native tree plantations in parks, have restored some diversity in our avifauna. On 11 Jan 1984, for example, about 7000 diving ducks of various species were found resorting to quarry ponds south of Columbus (WCB 1(28):11), an unprecedented gathering for the time, and certainly not in an area designed for the purpose. This took place where little more than a century earlier ancestral swampy areas between the river and the Ohio and Erie Canal feeder had hosted uncounted waterfowl. Today many species are more likely to persist in wooded areas and prairies protected in public lands, as well as near areas allowed to flood, dam pools, etc.

Wheaton's major work on birds was composed when the county's population was around 50,000, less than a fifth that of Cincinnati at the time. In times to come, the urbanization of an area with a population now twenty times as large, and now more than twice as populous as Cincinnati, will surely continue. Even in urban settings, more and more areas that have provided marginal habitats to adaptable species will be lost as modern buildings, alterations to watercourses, and pavements dominate. On the other hand, increasing efforts on behalf of the environment may offset some losses in numbers and diversity of bird species that might otherwise have occurred. As one important example, commendable efforts on the part of city and county park systems to acquire properties to restore, foster, and protect native environments will likely allow at least small numbers of important native species to persist and even to re-establish themselves here. The message is mixed, but includes hope.

YEARS AGO IN OHIO

10 Years Ago, the Fall 2003 *Ohio Cardinal*, Vol. 27 No. 1 (Bill Whan, Editor), contained these items:

- At least 11, and possibly up to 20, Whimbrels (with a one-view maximum of three) passed through Conneaut.
- Two adult Sabine's Gulls were at Salt Fork SP, *Guernsey*, on 01 Sep, for a very unusual record far from Lake Erie.

Twelve Rufous or Rufous/Allen's Hummingbirds were documented.

- John Pogacnik had a too-quick glimpse of a possible Cave Swallow. Bill Whan noted that the species "is long overdue in Ohio" see the next item.
- Bill Whan and Jim McCormac coauthored "Wishful Thinking?", an article discussing rarities which had records in an adjoining state or Ontario but not in Ohio. Of their "Top 10" most likely to arrive, five have indeed done so since: Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Fish Crow, Cave Swallow, Cassin's Sparrow, and Golden-crowned Sparrow. So have three others from further down their probability list, Reddish Egret, Little Stint, and White-throated Swift. Another, Whooping Crane, was added to the Ohio list due to historical records but hasn't been confirmed since the article.

25 Years Ago, the Fall 1998 *Ohio Cardinal*, Vol. 12 No. 1 (Ed Pierce & Tom Kemp, Co-Editors), contained these items:

Reports came from 38 counties.

A single Red-throated Loon was sighted.

One Great Black-backed Gull made an appearance.

A single Golden Eagle was sighted, at OOPMP.

Bald Eagles were reported from three locations away from Lake Erie.

One Northern Saw-whet Owl was reported.

35 Years Ago, the Fall 1978 *Ohio Cardinal*, Vol. 1 No. 3 (John Herman, Editor), contained these items:

Both a King and a Common Eider visited us.

The total count of Double-crested Cormorants was 23.

ONWR hosted a flock of almost 50 Cattle Egrets between 19 Sep and 06 Oct.

The three reports of Orange-crowned Warblers totaled four birds.

50 Years Ago, the Summer 1963 *Cleveland Bird Calendar*, Vol. 59 No. 3 (for Aug) and Fall 1963 Vol. 59 No. 4 (for Sep-Nov), (Donald L. Newman, Co-Editors), contained these items:

Sixteen Upland Sandpipers (then called Upland Plover) were at Cleveland Hopkins Airport on 17 Aug.

Three hundred Black Terns were off Lakewood Park, Cuyahoga, on 03 Aug.

What were then mudflats inside the west breakwall of Lorain Harbor hosted 15 Piping Plovers on 24 Aug.

An observer counted almost 1500 Common Nighthawks in 45 minutes at Lakewood Park on the evening of 02 Sep.

Two Snowy Owls visited.

Exceptionally reliable observers Bill and Nancy Klamm studied two Boreal Chickadees in the Rocky River Reservation, *Cuyahoga*, on 16 Nov.

One hundred years ago, the *Bird Calendar* did not publish a Fall 1913 issue. Stay tuned – the Calendar did cover Winter 1913-14!

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The Counties of Ohio



A BSBO-sponsored pelagic on 23 Nov gave Chuck Slusarczyk, Jr. the opportunity for a fantastic close-up of this juvenile Northern Gannet which had been visiting the Cleveland Harbor area since 10 Nov.

Instructions for Contributors

The Ohio Cardinal would not exist without contributions from Ohio birders. We solicit sightings, notes on unusual observations, in-depth scientific articles, historical accounts, book reviews, essays, artwork, and photographs related to Ohio and its birdlife. Please refer to our website (www.ohiobirds.org/publications/cardinal/aboutcardinal.php) for general guidelines on style and formatting.

Reports of bird sightings for each season are requested and should be submitted directly, by email or postal mail to:

Craig Caldwell, 1270 W. Melrose Dr., Westlake, OH 44145 craig_caldwell@sbcglobal.net

Send digital photo files or links to Laura Keene: laurakeene@cinci.rr.com

Deadlines are as follows:

Winter (Dec, Jan, Feb) - 21 March Spring (Mar, Apr, May) - 21 June Summer (Jun, Jul) - 21 August Fall (Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov) - 21 December

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