

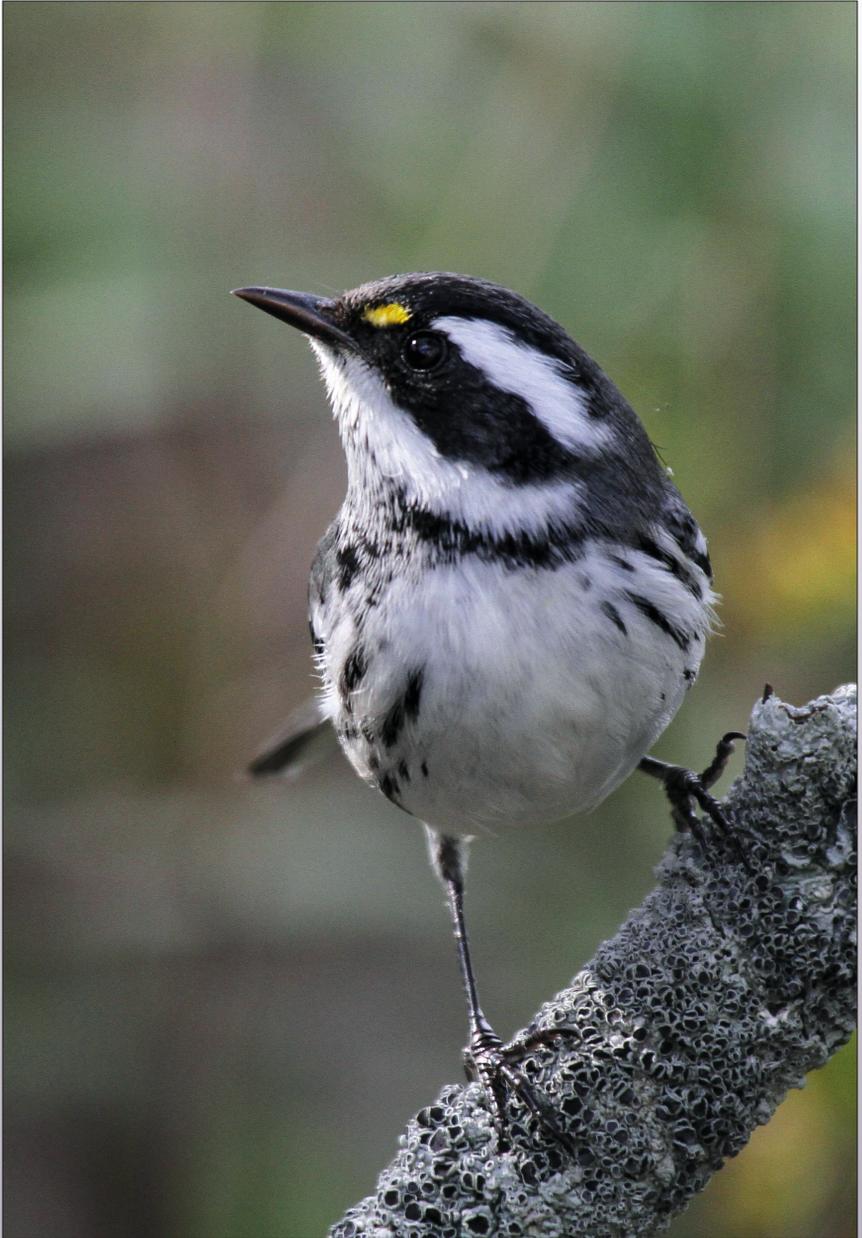
THE



OHIO CARDINAL

DEVOTED TO THE STUDY AND APPRECIATION OF OHIO'S BIRDLIFE • VOL. 35, NO. 1 FALL 2011





Laura Keene shot this image of the Magee Black-throated Gray Warbler on 24 Sep 2011.

On the cover:

The Ashtabula Black-tailed Gull was surprisingly uncooperative for photographers. Michele Rundquist-Franz did capture this image of the most important field marks on 26 Nov 2011.

THE  **OHIO CARDINAL**

Devoted to the Study and Appreciation of Ohio's Birdlife

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COMMENTS ON THE SEASON

By **Craig Caldwell**

Rain dominated this fall's weather and many individual and cumulative records were set. In Aug, some northeastern communities had up to eight inches more rain than average; in the northwest, averages were exceeded by up to five inches. Paradoxically, the southwest quarter's summer drought lingered into Aug and rainfall was three inches below average at some stations. Tropical Storm Lee brought statewide rain during the week of 05 Sep and several stations set new daily records which were two or more inches above the previous ones.

The pattern continued beyond the end of the season. Despite the mostly dry summer in some areas, by the end of the year rainfall in every part of the state exceeded averages, and in about half of the state the excess exceeded 20 inches. The Cleveland area was especially wet: A new annual rainfall record had been set before the end of Oct and by the new year the total was nearly a foot more than the previous mark, a 21% increase.

Snowfall by contrast was generally sparse and light. However, a brief 11 Nov storm left 2.5 inches at Mosquito Lake, greatly exceeding the previous daily record of 0.8 inches set in 1986. A more widespread storm on 30 Nov set new records in several *Darke*, *Defiance*, *Paulding*, and *Williams* communities which beat the old ones by two inches or more.

Temperatures were essentially normal during the season. Almost all of the new record highs and lows were only a degree different from the old ones. The largest differences were in Gallipolis, *Gallia*, on 04 Sep (103° versus the previous 98°), and at Akron-Canton Airport on 13 Sep (32° versus the previous 37°). These high and low records were separated by only 10 days and 150 miles. (Weather data are from the Cleveland Plain Dealer, <http://water.weather.gov> and <http://www.extremeweatherrecords.com>.)

This fall was definitely loony: Twelve Red-throated, three Pacific, and two groups of about 400 Common loons were reported. The Honda Wetlands rail families (King, Virginia, and Sora) continued to delight viewers. American Avocets were both numerous and widespread. They and other shorebirds (and shorebird watchers as well) benefited from conditions at the Lorain dredge spoil disposal site until it closed for construction activities in early Sep. A viewing platform overlooking the Conneaut flats

opened in Nov. Armleder Park in Cincinnati blossomed as a birding site with both heavy migrant traffic (including but not limited to shorebirds) and an interesting suite of nesters.

Larger than usual numbers of Little, Laughing, and Franklin's gulls were recorded and Ohio's first Black-tailed Gull began its long stay at Ashtabula just before season's end. Barn Owls showed up far from their *Holmes* stronghold. Rufous Hummingbird visits continue to increase. At least 10 Northern Shrikes, the most since fall 2007, arrived. Several warbler species overstayed their historical departure dates, though not their welcomes. And much-sought migrant sparrows found a congenial refueling stop on the Wake Robin Trail in Mentor Marsh SNP, *Lake*, where phragmites had been cleared.

This issue has accounts for 296 species and one sighting at the genus level. All but 10 of the "core" (non-review) species on the Ohio list were reported; the 10 are Eurasian Wigeon, Northern Goshawk, Thayer's Gull, Long-eared Owl, Chuck-Wills-Widow, Western Meadowlark, Brewer's Blackbird, Red Crossbill, White-winged Crossbill, and Common Redpoll. Every county except *Carroll*, *Gallia*, *Guernsey*, *Perry*, and *Shelby* produced at least one report.

The review species list is maintained by the Ohio Bird Records Committee (OBRC). Sightings of 11 review species were documented for the OBRC. Those species' names are underlined in the accounts and are attributed to those who documented their sightings. This season, 10 species were reported but not documented, or the documentation was insufficient to establish a record. In a departure from previous practice, undocumented sightings are not listed in the Species Accounts. Those species are Pacific Loon, Western Grebe, Glossy Ibis, Mississippi Kite, Black Rail, Whooping Crane, Parasitic Jaeger, Long-tailed Jaeger, Eurasian Collared-Dove, and Common Raven. (Some species had both documented and undocumented reports.) The 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>.

Trumpeter Swan is a review species though it is not included counts above. Despite the fact

that they breed in Ohio, there are as yet no documented occurrences of truly wild birds here since introduction efforts began in the midwestern states. Three other species which have bred in the state and produce many undocumented sightings, but which are still on the review list, are Mississippi Kite, Eurasian Collared-Dove, and Common Raven. The OBRC especially urges observers to document all sightings of these three recent arrivals (or returnee, in the case of the raven) so that their spread can be properly studied.

Data for these Species Accounts come from reports submitted directly to the *Cardinal*, reports to the OBRC, 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 Bobolink*. The last, courtesy of its publisher Robert Hershberger, provides me with many reports which I otherwise wouldn't have easy access to.

Taxonomic order and nomenclature follow the *Check-List of North American Birds*, 7th Edition (1998) as updated through the 52st Supplement (2011). 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>. In the species accounts, "normal" early and late dates are from Harlan *et al.*, *Ohio Bird Records Committee Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Ohio*, 2008. Breeding ranges and isolated locations are from Harlan *et al.* and from OBBA II submissions. **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. 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.

Armleder Park = a Cincinnati city park on the

Little Miami River, **Hamilton**

Blendon Woods = Blendon Woods Metro Park, **Franklin**

BRAS = Black River Audubon Society

BSBO = Black Swamp Bird Observatory

Buck Creek = Buck Creek State Park, **Clark**

Caesar Creek = Caesar Creek State Park, **Warren**

CPNWR = Cedar Point National Wildlife Refuge, **Ottawa**

Conneaut = the mudflats to the west of

Conneaut Harbor, **Ashtabula**

CP = County Park

CVNP = Cuyahoga Valley National Park, **Summit** and **Cuyahoga**

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

East Fork = East Fork State Park, **Clermont**

eTT = eBird Trail Tracker data entry kiosk, usually found at National Wildlife Refuges and Parks

Headlands = Headlands Dunes State Nature Preserve, Headlands Beach State Park, and adjoining waters, **Lake**

Honda Wetlands = a unit of Glacier Ridge MetroPark, **Union**

Kelleys Island = the island and adjoining waters, **Erie**

Killdeer Plains = Killdeer Plains State Wildlife Area, **Wyandot**

Lorain = the dredge spoil impoundment east of downtown, **Lorain**, unless otherwise noted m. obs. = Multiple Observers

Magee = Magee Marsh Wildlife Area, **Ottawa** and **Lucas**

Maumee Bay = Maumee Bay State Park, **Lucas**

Miami Whitewater = Miami Whitewater Forest County Park, **Hamilton**

MP = Metro Park or MetroPark depending on the system

Navarre = Navarre Marsh Unit of Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, **Ottawa**

NP = Nature Preserve, except as part of CVNP

OBBA II = Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II

OWNR = Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, **Lucas** and **Ottawa**

Pleasant Hill Lake = Pleasant Hill Lake, **Ashland** and **Richland**; the dam is in **Ashland**

Rocky River Park = a Lake Erie-side location in that city, **Cuyahoga**

Sandy Ridge = Sandy Ridge Reservation, **Lorain**

SNP = State Nature Preserve

SP = State Park

SWA = State Wildlife Area

Villa Angela = the Villa Angela unit of Cleveland Lakefront State Park, **Cuyahoga**

WA = Wildlife Area

Wendy Park = a lakeshore Cleveland park, **Cuyahoga**

Winous Point = Winous Point Shooting Club, **Ottawa**

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

By Craig Caldwell

Greater White-fronted Goose:

There were three reports: One bird was on the Lake Erie shore at Villa Angela on 23 Oct (Rich and Karen Kassouf), five overflow ONWR on 08 Nov (Elliot Tramer), and one was at Mill Creek Sanctuary, *Mahoning*, on 27 Nov (Jeff Harvey).

Snow Goose:

Rich and Karen Kassouf saw the first on 05 Oct at Maumee Bay. Seven other counties also provided reports by the end of the period. The high count by far was the 520 found during the 20 Nov Kelleys Island census (Tom Bartlett *et al.*).

Ross's Goose:

The five reports began with two birds on the east side of Columbus on 02 Oct (Richard Stelzer). One was reported by many observers on the OSU campus, *Franklin*, on 29 and 30 Nov. The Kelleys Island census of 20 Nov found five (Tom Bartlett *et al.*) and single individuals were also reported in *Butler* and *Richland*.

Brant:

Ashtabula, *Cuyahoga*, and *Lake* generated all 11 reports. Three shared the earliest date of 01 Oct: Four birds were at Rocky River Park (Jen Brumfield); seven were at Sunset Park, *Lake* (Jerry Talkington); and eight flew past John Pogacnik's *Lake* home. The high count must have been a spectacle, as Craig Holt tallied 120 in multiple flocks passing Conneaut on 27 Nov.

Cackling Goose:

Doug Overacker found the first bird at Buck Creek on 18 Sep. Gary Cowell counted four in the Home Road Marsh, *Richland*, on both 01 and 17 Nov. They were also seen in nine other counties: *Cuyahoga*, *Delaware*, *Hamilton*, *Holmes*, *Huron*, *Lucas*, *Mercer*, *Ottawa*, and *Wood*.

Canada Goose:

These were found almost statewide, in 64 counties. Several reports provided counts between 1000 and 1200 birds.

Mute Swan:

This attractive pest was widespread, though reported from only 18 counties. Joe Kappa and Paul Krusling counted the high number of 77 at the Miller Ferry Catawba Island pier, *Ottawa*, on 19 Nov.

Trumpeter Swan:

Most of the reports were from counties on or near Lake Erie where the "reintroduction" attempts are concentrated, but they were also seen in *Clermont* and *Muskingum*. Jeff Harvey counted 42 in ONWR on 13 Nov. Absent proof to the contrary, members of this species are assumed to be either released birds or their recent descendants.

Tundra Swan:

Brad Sparks saw the first two at Darby Creek on 02 Oct. Flocks totaling more than 1100 birds overflow ONWR on 27 Nov (Ashley Bradford and Mike O'Brien). All of the 20 counties with reports were from *Franklin* north.

Wood Duck:

These were present during the whole season and reports came from 46 counties. The high count was 94, from the 07 Aug ONWR census (Ed Pierce *et al.*, *vide* Douglas Vogus).

Gadwall:

Scattered individuals were present all summer and numbers grew as the fall migration flood arrived. Counts peaked at 1600, in ONWR on 21 Nov (Elliot Tramer). Reports came from 32 counties.

American Wigeon:

The first reports, both of single birds on 01 Sep, were from Conneaut (Craig Holt) and Bonham Road, *Sandusky* (Rich and Karen Kassouf). Multiple observers reported from 80 to 100 in ONWR during the 16 Nov auto tour. Twenty-four counties produced sightings.

American Black Duck:

Sylvia Townsend's 124 on 20 Nov at Blendon Woods was the only count exceeding 100. There were many double-digit counts there in Oct and Nov. Twenty-three other counties also provided sightings.

Mallard:

This species was reported from 60 counties. Elliot Tramer estimated 4500 were present at ONWR on 21 Nov. The 1000 at Port Clinton Lakefront Preserve, *Erie*, was the only other report in four digits (Paul Krusling and Joe Kappa).

Blue-winged Teal:

Leslie Houser reported the last, from Caesar Creek on 19 Nov. The two highest counts were both from ONWR, 200 on 15 Sep (Thomas Slemmer) and 300 on 02 Sep (Elliot Tramer). Reports came from 28 counties.

Northern Shoveler:

These were seen in 24 counties and throughout the period, though reports before the third week of Aug were scarce. Kim Savides had the high count of 100 at Sandy Ridge on 19 Nov.

Northern Pintail:

The first reported were two which Jen Brumfield found at ONWR on 26 Aug. She also found the high count of 40, at Rocky River Park on 01 Oct. They were present through the end of the period but only 18 counties had sightings.

Green-winged Teal:

Though these are usually present in Ohio all summer, the first sighting of the season was not until 06 Aug, on the Olentangy River; *Franklin* (Dave and Emily Slager). There were several three-digit counts with the high being 425, at Rocky River Park on 04 Nov (Jen Brumfield). Thirty counties produced reports.

Canvasback:

The first sighting was a bit later than usual, on 28 Oct at Maumee Bay (Mark Rozmarynowycz). Jen Brumfield provided the only double-digit count, 65, on 04 Nov at Rocky River Park. They were found in only nine counties.

Redhead:

In contrast to its near relative the Canvasback, the first Redhead was a bit early; Jen Brumfield and Ben Warner saw it on the 17 Sep ONWR auto tour. All of the triple digit counts were south of Columbus with the highest being 200 at Caesar Creek on 23 Nov (Rick Asamoto). Nineteen other counties produced sightings.

Ring-necked Duck:

A single bird was present from 24 Aug to well into Oct at Newport, *Washington* (Bob and Denise Lane). Brian Wulker reported the first three migrants at Camp Dennison, *Hamilton*, on 15 Oct. Gary Cowell counted the high of 340 at Lexington Community Park, *Richland*, on 24 Nov. They were seen in 27 counties all told.

Greater Scaup:

The first was very early, seen off Wendy Park on 22 Sep (Rich and Karen Kassouf). Usually they arrive later than Lesser Scaup. The most were a bit further west, 150 at Rocky River Park on 04 Nov (Jen Brumfield). Rick Asamoto filed the only report from south of Columbus, five birds at Caesar Creek on 30 Sep. *Allen*, *Ashtabula*, *Erie*, *Lucas*, *Richland*, and *Wood* also hosted the species.

Lesser Scaup:

Rick Asamoto found the first, far south at Caesar

Creek on 30 Sep. Elliot Tramer estimated a minimum of 12,000 filled CPNWR on 05 Nov. Twenty-four other counties also had sightings.

Harlequin Duck:

All five reports were from the Lake Erie shore. Larry Richardson found three at Rocky River Park on 30 Oct. Two were at Headlands on 04 Nov (Jerry Talkington and Ray Hannikman) and one was there on 10 Nov (Irene Krise). John Pogacnik's watch in *Lake* had two on 06 Nov and one on 11 Nov.

Surf Scoter:

Laura Keene sighted the first from Sunset Park, *Lake*, on 01 Oct. They were seen in 12 counties along most of the Lake Erie shore and as far south as *Logan* and *Warren*. Jen Brumfield counted the high of 44 at Rocky River Park on 11 Nov.

White-winged Scoter:

This species wasn't found until 04 Nov, but was seen then in two sites in *Cuyahoga* and one in *Wood*. One of these sightings, at Rocky River Park, also was the period's high count of 81 (Jen Brumfield). Every county adjoining Lake Erie except *Ottawa* provided reports; *Richland* provided the only inland sighting other than the one in *Wood*.

Black Scoter:

Nancy Anderson found three at Sims Park, *Cuyahoga*, on 03 Nov for the first record. Rocky River Park was again the site of the highest count, 44 on 04 Nov (Jen Brumfield). Every Lake Erie county from *Ottawa* east plus inland *Wyandot* had sightings.

Long-tailed Duck:

There were 10 reports. All were of single birds except for the five at Headlands on 05 Nov (Emil Bacik, Ray Hannikman, and Jerry Talkington). The earliest was from Rocky River Park on 04 Nov (Jen Brumfield). The Lake Erie shores of *Ashtabula*, *Cuyahoga*, *Lake*, and *Lucas* produced sightings, and inland reports came from *Hamilton*, *Harrison*, *Richland*, and *Warren*.

Bufflehead:

Curiously, the first were seen far south at East Fork on 26 Oct (Paul Krusling). The 20 Nov Kelleys Island census counted 800 (Tom Bartlett *et al.*). They were found in almost 30 counties.

Common Goldeneye:

Rocky River Park must have been magical on 04 Nov; in addition to the previously noted waterfowl first sightings and high counts, Jen

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Brumfield found the first of this species there on that date. Tom Bartlett's crew found 196 on the 20 Nov Kelleys Island census. They were found in 10 counties all the way to **Clermont** and **Hamilton**.

Hooded Merganser:

These were found in 30 widely separated counties, and during the whole season. Charles Bombaci provided the high count of 250 on 23 Nov in waters along Oxbow Road, **Delaware**.

Common Merganser:

Irene Krise's single bird flying by Lorain on 04 Sep was rather early and the next report was not until 21 Sep, at Conneaut (Craig Holt). The high count of 600 was off Rocky River Park on 17 Nov (Jen Brumfield). Ten northern-half counties plus **Hamilton** and **Pickaway** hosted the species.

Red-breasted Merganser:

Early reports came from Lorain on 20 Aug (Sameer Apte) and 04 Sep (Dan Gesualdo); the next were not until 01 Oct when flocks were noted at several locations. As is typical, there were many flocks numbering in the thousands during the second half of Nov. Twenty-one counties produced reports. Jen Brumfield experienced a sight on 17 Nov at Rocky River Park which was possibly unique in Ohio since the time of the Passenger Pigeon: She described a "mega flight today, all heading west" that she estimated at 200,000 birds.

Ruddy Duck:

These perky little ducks were present throughout the period and in 35 counties around the state. Many observers reported between 1000 and 1500 at the Wellington Reservoir, Lorain, on several dates between 13 and 28 Nov. Rick Asamoto found the only four-digit flock well inland; he estimated about 1000 on 30 Oct at the adjoining Ferguson and Metzger Reservoirs, Allen.

Northern Bobwhite:

Two of the three reports were of single birds, from the South Towpath Trail, Stark, on 10 Aug (Darrin Petko) and the Turkeyfoot Preserve, Darke, on 11 Aug (Robb Clifford). The third report was of a covey of 20 in Rogers Woods, Preble, on 06 Sep (John Bingham).

Ring-necked Pheasant:

Blake Mathys found three in Union on 14 Nov, and ones and twos were scattered over 11 unglaciated counties

Ruffed Grouse:

Like the bobwhite, this species also had three reports, though all were of single birds. Amada Conover heard hers drumming near Lisbon, Columbiana, on 03 Aug; Scott Pendleton found his in Harrison SE, Harrison, on 30 Aug; and Dick Lee reported the last from Shawnee SE, Scioto, on 05 Oct.

Wild Turkey:

Families were still being seen in some of the 27 counties with reports. Bill Shively found the largest group, of 38, at the Delaware City Water Plant, Delaware, on 27 Nov.

Red-throated Loon:

Rick Asamoto found the first on 29 Oct at Caesar Creek. Scott Loss documented a cluster of six in Lorain harbor on 21 Nov; this is an unusually high number. The rest were singles in Clinton, Cuyahoga, Lake, Richland, and Tuscarawas.

Pacific Loon:

This year had more records than most. Robert Hershberger and friends saw one on Lake Erie from Sunset Park, Lake, on 10 Nov. Gary Cowell found one on Clear Fork Reservoir, Richland, on the morning of 23 Nov and John Herman found a second with it that afternoon. Many observers reported at least one there almost daily through 02 Dec.

Common Loon:

The first, seen 02 Aug in Findlay, **Hancock** (Joanne Saul), is probably more accurately described as the last of the spring's northbound birds; it is possible that it never went much further north. The first of fall was seen 24 Sep from the former "Dike 14", now named Cleveland Lakefront NP (m. obs.). From then on they were widely reported though by far the majority of sightings were in **Cuyahoga** and **Lorain**. Estimates as high as 400 were made on 04 Nov off Rocky River Park (Jen Brumfield) and at Clear Fork Reservoir, **Richland**, on several late Nov dates (m. obs.).

Pied-billed Grebe:

These were reported from 56 counties. Richard Counts provided the high number of 62 on 05 Sep in the **Hardin** Wetlands.

Horned Grebe:

A single bird was a bit early on 01 Sep at Pleasant Hill Lake (Gary Cowell). The next was not seen until 16 Sep, at Magee (Robert Mortensen), and then reports came almost daily from 30 Sep. Jerry Talkington estimated 2000 were present at Headlands on 09 Nov. Thirty-two counties produced reports.

Red-necked Grebe:

Beth Mankins saw the first in Newport, **Washington**, on 16 Oct. The high count of three was during the 12 Nov BSBO Lake Erie pelagic trip off Cleveland (m. obs.). Singles were also found in **Ashtabula**, **Geauga**, **Pickaway**, **Richland**, and **Trumbull**.

Eared Grebe:

Five individuals were reported, most by multiple observers. Two were at East Fork on 14 Oct and singles were seen at Headlands on 09, 12, and 13 Nov.

Double-crested Cormorant:

There were many triple-digit reports. The high counts were 1000 by Carl Ball at Magee on 10 Aug and 2500 by Jen Brumfield off Rocky River Park on 01 Oct.

Anhinga:

Reuben Erb, Leon Miller, and Wilbur Miller documented one which flew over Walnut Creek, **Holmes**, on 28 Aug. This is the third state record of the species; the bird probably got an assist from Hurricane Irene.

American White Pelican:

One was on Meander Reservoir, **Mahoning/Trumbull**, from late Jun until at least 05 Oct (fide Bob and Denise Lane; m. obs.). Mark Rozmarynowycz saw one at ONWR on 09 Sep; the one soaring over BSBO on 14 Sep could have been the same bird (Kenn Kaufman). Up to three were seen at ONWR on several early Oct dates (m. obs.).

American Bittern:

There were six widely separated reports. Edward Otten found one at Fernald NP, **Hamilton/Butler** on 21 Aug. ONWR hosted one on each of 21 Aug (Greg Cornett), 30 Aug (ONWR eTT), and 12 Oct (Mary Anne and David Marjamaa). Singles were at Magee on 16 Sep (Bill Schmoker) and Sandy Ridge on 02 Nov (BRAS). Richard Counts found two in the **Hardin** Wetlands on 21 Oct.



Horned Grebe at Bresler Reservoir, Allen, on 12 Nov 2011, by Rick Asamoto

Least Bittern:

Strangely, there were more reports of these than of their usually more numerous cousin. Up to four adults and young graced the Honda Wetlands, **Union**, from summer to mid-Aug (m. obs.). Ron Sempier found an amazing 14 at Big Island SWA, **Marion**, on 25 Aug and photographed some of them. The 07 Aug ONWR census found two (Ed Pierce *et al.*, fide Douglas Vogus) and Kenn Kaufman saw the last, also in ONWR, on 09 Oct. Singles were reported in **Delaware**, **Fulton**, a second **Union** site, and **Washington**.



Least Bittern at Big Island WA, Marion, on 25 Aug 2011, by Ron Sempier.

Great Blue Heron:

These stately waders were reported from 65 counties. The 07 Aug ONWR census counted 63 (Ed Pierce *et al.*, fide Douglas Vogus) and Ben Morrison found 59 at Berlin Lake, **Mahoning/Portage/Stark**, on 14 Sep.

Great Egret:

These were found in 35 counties and there were several reports exceeding 100 birds. The 04 Sep ONWR census produced the highest count of 314 (Ed Pierce *et al.*, fide Douglas Vogus).

Snowy Egret:

These were found only in **Erie**, **Lorain**, **Lucas**, and **Ottawa**. The high count was 30, on the 07 Aug ONWR census (Ed Pierce *et al.*, fide Douglas Vogus), and the last were three in **Erie** on 22 Oct (Mick Gentry).

Little Blue Heron:

One was at Sandy Ridge on 11 Aug (BRAS); a surprising six were at Spring Valley WA, **Greenel/Warren**, on 15 Aug (Dave Wochr); and three were at ONWR on 26 Aug (m. obs.). On 18 Sep one was at the Magee Migratory Bird Center (John Velasquez) and two at ONWR (Susan Williams).

Cattle Egret:

Erica Szezyller-Cacolley found two at Glacier Ridge MP, **Union**, on 07 Aug. Karl Overman

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and James Fox counted three at Turtle Creek, **Ottawa**, on 10 Aug. One or two were seen at Magee and nearby on several Aug, Sep, and Oct dates. The bird in New Russia Township Preserve, **Lorain**, on 22 Nov (BRAS) had stayed north a bit longer than usual for the species.

Green Heron:

The 41 which Laura Dornan and Joycelyn Stevens found at Guilford Lake, **Columbiana**, on 11 Sep must have made quite a sight. The last was a straggler; it was seen by the BSBO pelagic trip participants on the lower Cuyahoga River in Cleveland on 19 Nov. Thirty-seven other counties also had sightings.

Black-crowned Night-Heron:

These were present for the whole season and were reported from 14 counties. Blake Mathys found 17 in a short stretch of the Olentangy River, **Franklin**, on 30 Nov.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:

James E. Yoder found one immature along Prairie Lane, **Wayne**, on 23 Aug.

White Ibis:

Two members of a shorebird banding crew noted an immature bird in ONWR on 05 Nov but did not identify it. Tom Bartlett documented it on 08 Nov and it remained until 13 Nov.

Glossy Ibis:

Tom Bartlett documented two adults at ONWR and adjacent areas between 04 Oct and 08 Nov. They had apparently been present since 25 Sep.

***Plegadis* sp. Ibis:**

Two immature birds were at ONWR with the two Glossy Ibis adults between 04 and 08 Oct; it is likely they were also Glossy but their species could not be conclusively determined (fide OBRC).

Black Vulture:

These were fairly widely reported from 18 counties in the southern half of the state; the only reports from north of **Franklin** were of one to three birds in **Richland** on four Sep and Oct dates (Gary Cowell and Greg Cornett) and a group of 13 at Beach City WA, **Tuscarawas**, on 08 October (William Jackson). Mark Gilsdorf saw about 80 in Addyston, **Hamilton**, on 20 Nov.

Turkey Vulture:

Stefan Mozu Gleissbird estimated that about 300 were together near the city of Athens, **Athens**, on 17 Nov. They were reported in 70 counties and as expected the Nov sightings were mostly in the southern half of the state.

However, Elliot Tramer wrote, “[A] small kettle of 10 was observed over Whitehouse [**Lucas**] on November 20. My records suggest that vultures are lingering much later in the Toledo area than they did 20+ years ago.”

Osprey:

On 29 Aug Gary Cowell noted a pair adding to a nest on an old light pole in **Ashland**; this editor’s hypothesis is that the activity was a pair-bonding ritual rather than an actual nesting attempt. The high count was four, on 22 Sep at Indian Lake SP, **Logan** (Aaron Boone), and the last was reported 24 Nov from Caesar Creek (Rick Asamoto). They were reported in 40 counties.

Mississippi Kite:

What was almost surely last year’s pair nested again at Hide-a-Way Hills, **Hocking**. Two adults and one immature were seen there on the 14 August “Kite Day” which Jim McCormac arranged.

Bald Eagle:

These were seen in almost half of our counties. Elliot Tramer produced the high count of 30 on 05 Nov in CPNWR, and there were several more double-digit counts at ONWR and Conneaut.

Northern Harrier:

Desiree Narango and Dave Slager noted two on 10 Aug at Darby Creek; they could have been early migrants or local nesters. Reports were fairly frequent from late Aug through the end of the period as transients and winter residents arrived. The only double-digit counts were of 12 at each of the **Hardin** Wetlands on 21 Oct (Richard Counts) and at Killdeer Plains on 01 Nov (Noah Comet). Reports came from 32 counties.

Sharp-shinned Hawk:

There were well over 100 sightings, in 33 counties. Most were of single birds but there were a few reports of twos.

Cooper’s Hawk:

The number of reports, over 500 in total, grew from Aug to Oct and declined in Nov. Most were of single birds but there were many twos and a few threes. They were seen in 46 counties.

Red-shouldered Hawk:

The three reports of three birds were in **Clermont** (1) and **Summit** (2). There were about 250 reports overall from 33 counties.

Broad-winged Hawk:

When conditions are right this species migrates in large loose streams, with the birds riding each thermal to its top and gliding to the base of the

next. Often several hundred can be seen at once. However, Barry McEwen's 40 over Side Cut MP, *Lucas*, on 17 Sep was the only double-digit count this fall. Sharon Hamersley saw the last two at Prairie Oaks MP, *Franklin/Madison*, on 15 Oct, which is a typical end-of-migration date. *Delaware*, *Greene*, *Hamilton*, *Lake*, *Lorain*, *Montgomery*, *Summit*, *Tuscarawas*, and *Vinton* also generated reports.

Red-tailed Hawk:

Though these are probably our most numerous raptor, they tend to be seen in ones and twos except during migration. Of course, you could say that those migrants aren't "ours". Elliot Tramer saw 12 "moving southwest over CPNWR on August 20; an odd date for this species to be migrating, but that seemed to be what was happening." On the more typical date of 20 Nov, Nancy Anderson had 14 overhead at the Bluestone Business Park, *Cuyahoga*. Sightings came from 64 counties.

Rough-legged Hawk:

Gary Cowell and Su Snyder saw the first on 08 Oct near the dam at Pleasant Hill Lake, *Ashland*. Kyle Carlson found six on the Ohio Power lands near the Wilds in *Muskingum* on 26 Nov. Other reports came from *Clermont*, *Cuyahoga*, *Harrison*, *Lorain*, *Mahoning*, *Ottawa*, and *Richland*.

Golden Eagle:

Richard Wolinski reported one adult with Bald Eagles over North Pond SNP on Kelleys Island, *Erie*, on 02 Oct. Paul Krusling saw an adult at Lost Bridge, *Hamilton*, on 25 Nov.

American Kestrel:

These were reported from 43 counties. Noah Comet found five at Killdeer Plains on 01 Nov; fewer than 10 other reports had more than one bird.

Merlin:

Sameer Apte reported the earliest one on a communications tower in *Cuyahoga* on 14 Aug. The only report of two was from Highland Park Cemetery, *Cuyahoga*, on 22 Oct (Inga Schmidt). Most of the reports, from 17 counties total, were from the northern half of the state but *Clermont* and *Hamilton* were also represented.

Peregrine Falcon:

Seventeen counties had sightings. There were many reports of two birds (though they weren't necessarily pairs) and one report of three, on 03

Oct at Sunset Park, *Lake* (Ben Warner). On 11 Nov, Deb Quilligan watched one of the pair at Cincinnati's Union Terminal catch a crow and then lose it.

Yellow Rail:

One spent 16 and 17 Oct in Armleder Park, *Hamilton*. Mark Gilsdorf and Kathi Hutton documented their sightings for the OBRC.

King Rail:

At least one pair bred in the Honda Wetlands, Union, and sightings of the adults and young continued to 17 Aug. Up to three were seen at ONWR between 18 Aug and 14 Sep (Tom Bartlett *et al.*).

Virginia Rail:

Gregory Bennett saw the last of the season at Nimisila Reservoir, *Summit*, on 30 Oct. The Honda Wetlands, *Union*, apparently had several breeding pairs; the high count for the season, three adults and nine immatures, was there on 14 Aug (Shawn Collins). Birds were also found in *Lake*, *Lorain*, *Mahoning*, *Ottawa*, *Preble*, and *Wyandot*.

Sora:

Both Lorain and the Honda Wetlands, *Union* provided sightings of immature birds well into Aug. The only count exceeding five was the 30 which Tom Bartlett's team found in ONWR on 09 Sep. Rich and Karen Kassouf noted the last of the season at Margaret Peak NP, *Lorain*, on 25 Oct. Eighteen counties yielded reports.

Common Gallinule:

Bruce Webb counted 30 of the recently renamed Common Moorhen on 30 Sep at Metzger Marsh, *Lucas*. Jorg Freiberg found the last of the season at Tinker's Creek SNP, *Portage/Summit*, on 22 Oct. Reports came from nine other counties as well.

American Coot:

These were found in more than half of our counties and were present for the entire season. The high count was 2600, on 10 Nov at Rocky Fork SP, *Highland* (Noel Cutright).

Sandhill Crane:

At least one pair bred near Parkman, *Geauga*, with the family seen into Aug (*vide* Tom Kemp). The earliest migrants were found at ONWR on 06 Aug (Ken Ostermiller); they could have been the family which bred in *Wyandot*. The high count of 200 was at the Shawnee Prairie Preserve, *Darke*, on 16 Nov (Robb Clifford). Fifteen widely-distributed counties had sightings.

The Ohio Cardinal, Fall 2011

Black-bellied Plover:

Though the species was present in Jul, the first sighting of the fall season was not until 06 Aug during the ONWR auto tour (Ken Ostermiller). The 09 Oct ONWR tour produced the high count of 100 (Dave Slager and Ben Warner) and Tom Bartlett *et al.* saw the last of the season there on 08 Nov. Sightings came from 14 counties.

American Golden-Plover:

The first and last were found at Conneaut, by Laura Keene on 16 Aug and Craig Holt on 16 Nov respectively. About 500 were at ONWR on 11 Oct (Tom Bartlett *et al.*). Sixteen counties had sightings.



American Golden-Plover at Conneaut on 16 Aug 2011, by Laura Keene.

Semipalmated Plover:

Present since July, these were last seen 01 Nov at Berlin Lake, **Mahoning/Portage/Stark** (Robert Hershberger *et al.*). The high count of 75 was in the Horseshoe section of Winous Point on 13 Aug (Tom Bartlett *et al.*). Reports came from 26 counties.

Killdeer:

These were present all season and in 60 counties. The high number of about 325 came from Riddle Road, **Sandusky**, on 08 Aug (Kenn Kaufman) and Buck Creek on 23 Oct (Doug Overacker).

American Avocet:

These were frequently seen and also very numerous this year. They were regular at Lorain until 11 Sep and at Conneaut until 13 Oct. The two highest counts were on 09 Aug, when 14 were at Lorain (Irene Krise) and 11 at Conneaut (Craig Holt). The last was seen 25 Nov at Lake Shore Park, **Ashtabula** (Jeff Shenst). Additional sightings were in **Erie**, **Ottawa**, and **Tuscarawas**.

Spotted Sandpiper:

Participants on a 05 Nov Local Patch boat trip saw a slightly late straggler on the Lorain Harbor break wall. Surprisingly, it was three weeks after

the second latest report, from Charles Mill Lake, **Richland**, on 17 Oct (Gary Cowell). A BRAS field trip found 12 at Lorain on 27 Aug. Thirty-nine counties produced reports.

Solitary Sandpiper:

They were far from solitary along Mound Road at Caesar Creek on 30 Aug, when Bob Powell found 19. Sandy Ridge had the last on 13 Oct (BRAS). Sightings came from 39 counties.

Greater Yellowlegs:

Tom Bartlett's shorebird team tallied 75 at ONWR on 01 Aug. Reports and numbers dwindled to a single bird at Conneaut on 16 Nov (Craig Holt). Thirty counties had sightings.

Willet:

There were 11 reports during the season (in addition to many in July) with the last, from ONWR, on 02 Sep (Tom Bartlett *et al.*). They were also found in **Ashtabula**, **Lorain**, and **Wayne**.



Willetts at the Lorian Impoundment on 02 Jul 2011, by Gabe Leidy.

Lesser Yellowlegs:

These were slightly more widespread than Greater Yellowlegs (34 versus 30 counties) but were significantly more numerous. There were several counts over 100 with highs of about 225 at Winous Point on 01 Aug (Tom Bartlett *et al.*) and on Riddle Road, **Sandusky**, on 08 Aug (Kenn Kaufman).

Upland Sandpiper:

One was seen at each of four sites: Lorain on 08 Aug (Larry Richardson); at Mosquito Lake, **Trumbull**, on 18 Aug (Arthur Foreman); at a sod farm on Darby Creek Road, **Franklin** on 04 Sep (Dave Slager); and at ONWR on 12 Sep (Tom Bartlett *et al.*).

Whimbrel:

One or two were at Lorain on several dates between 01 and 11 Sep (m. obs.). Laura Keene reported the latest on 25 Sep from Maumee Bay

and singles were also seen in *Ashtabula*, *Lake*, and *Ottawa*.

Hudsonian Godwit:

The first fall migrant appeared at Lorain on 10 Aug (Larry Richardson) and the last at ONWR on 11 Nov (Jeremy Ross and Mark Rozmarynowycz). There were several double-digit counts at ONWR including the high of 80 on 07 Oct (Kenn Kaufman). They were also seen in *Cuyahoga*, *Franklin*, and *Lake*.

Marbled Godwit:

All the reports were of single birds. They were seen at ONWR on several dates between 05 Aug (Tom Bartlett *et al.*) and 09 Oct (Kenn Kaufman and Laura Keene) and between those dates at Conneaut and Lorain.

Ruddy Turnstone:

Craig Holt provided the first sighting, three birds at Conneaut on 05 Aug, and the high count of seven there on 26 Aug. Most of the reports were from sites adjoining Lake Erie, to wit Conneaut, Lorain, Magee, and Maumee Bay. However, Allan Claybon saw one at East Fork on 06 Sep and Charlotte Mathena another at the Grand Lake St. Marys fish hatchery, *Auglaize*, on 29 Sep. The St. Marys bird was the last.

Red Knot:

These were found only along the Lake Erie shore. The first two reports shared 29 Aug; they were at Conneaut (Laura Dorman and Joycelyn Stevens) and Maumee Bay (Kenn Kaufman). Three were at ONWR between 30 Aug and 01 Sep (m. obs.). The last was a significantly late straggler at Rocky River Park on 04 Nov (Jen Brumfield).

Sanderling:

These started arriving in July and last departed on 20 Nov, when several observers saw two at Conneaut. Mark Rozmarynowycz found 80 at Maumee Bay on 28 Oct (an unusually high number for the date) and there were several smaller double-digit flocks. Sightings were most numerous near Lake Erie but sites in *Clermont*, *Delaware*, and *Franklin* were also heavily used. Fifteen counties produced reports.

Semipalmated Sandpiper:

These were scattered wherever habitat was available in 25 counties from Lake Erie to the Ohio River. Lorain had many double-digit counts but the largest number was 450, found 12 Aug in the Horseshoe area of Winous Point. (Tom Bartlett *et al.*). The last sighting was on 08 Nov, six birds at ONWR (Tom Bartlett *et al.*).

Western Sandpiper:

The first and most of the season were four which Tom Bartlett *et al.* found on 12 Aug in the Horseshoe area of Winous Point. There were a few sightings of two or three but most were singles. They were regular at Lost Bridge, *Hamilton*, in late Aug and early Sep and *Ashtabula*, *Delaware*, *Franklin*, *Lorain*, *Lucas*, and *Ottawa* also produced sightings. Scott Pendleton found the last three at the Bowl near the airport in *Harrison* on 06 Nov.

Least Sandpiper:

The Winous Point Horseshoe banding station again had the high count, 250 on 12 Aug (Tom Bartlett *et al.*). One of their captures on 18 Aug had been banded on the island of Martinique in Sep 2003. The last in the season were three at the Bowl, *Harrison*, on 02 Nov (Scott Pendleton). Twenty-nine other counties also provided sightings.

White-rumped Sandpiper:

Seventeen counties as far south as *Preble* produced reports. ONWR had the high count of 45 on 12 Oct (Tom Bartlett *et al.*). The last were seen on 01 Nov, three at Berlin Lake, *Mahoning/Portage/Stark* (Robert Hershberger) and one at the Grand Lake St. Marys hatchery, *Auglaize* (Dave Slager).

Baird's Sandpiper:

These were distributed as widely as White-rumped but seen in only 12 counties within that large area. Philip Chaon found the first of the season on 03 Aug at Lorain and Bob Lane saw the last on 02 Nov at Conneaut. Craig Holt produced the high count, and the only count greater than two, with six at Conneaut on 26 Aug.

Pectoral Sandpiper:

There were several counts in high double digits along Riddle Road, *Sandusky*; Jen Brumfield noted the highest, 140, on 13 Aug. Gary Cowell found the last on 25 Nov at the Ashland University wetlands, *Richland*. Twenty-nine other counties also had sightings.

Purple Sandpiper:

Irene Krise forwarded a sighting at Ashtabula harbor on 18 Nov. Dan Gesualdo and Jen Brumfield found two at Cleveland's East 55th Street Marina on 25 Nov.

Dunlin:

There were many triple-digit counts at ONWR in Oct and early Nov but the high was 850 which flew past Rocky River Park on 04 Nov (Jen

Brumfield). The last was at Conneaut on 26 Nov (Michael David and Theo Rickert). Nineteen counties provided reports.

Stilt Sandpiper:

The 45 which he counted at ONWR on 07 Oct prompted Kenn Kaufman to write, "Seemed like a notable concentration for so late in the season." There were quite a few smaller double-digit counts preceding that date. Carl Winstead found the last individual at Darby Creek on 03 Nov. Sightings came from 17 counties.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper:

These squeezed through Ohio in less than a month between 29 Aug at Maumee Bay (Kenn Kaufman) and 25 Sep at Hoover NP, *Delaware* (Greg Cornett). The high count was five near Bellevue, *Sandusky*, on 04 Sep (m. obs.). Buffies also stopped in *Ashland*, *Ashtabula*, *Cuyahoga*, *Franklin*, *Ottawa*, and *Seneca*.

Short-billed Dowitcher:

These started arriving in July and continued until Irina Shulgina saw the last of the season on 15 Oct at Darby Creek. The high count of 400 was in the Winous Point Horseshoe Unit on 01 Aug (Tom Bartlett *et al.*) and there were several other triple-digit counts there later in the month. Fifteen other counties also produced sightings.

Long-billed Dowitcher:

This species followed its typical pattern of later arrival, peak, and departure than Short-billeds. All three events were noted at ONWR by Tom Bartlett *et al.*, on 07 Aug, 11 Oct (a count of 90), and 06 Nov respectively. They were seen in 10 other counties as well.

Wilson's Snipe:

Though these are year-round residents, Chris Pierce's unusually high count of 37, on 10 Sep at Killdeer Plains, was probably composed primarily of migrants. Reports also came from 20 other counties.

American Woodcock:

Karl Overman reported the last timberdoodle in Mentor's Garfield Park, *Lake*, on 25 Nov. The high count of three was at Hoover NP, *Delaware*, on 16 Aug (m. obs.). Eleven other counties also had sightings.

Wilson's Phalarope:

Kenn Kaufman saw the first on 08 Aug on Riddle Road, *Sandusky*, and Tom Bartlett *et al.* the last on 12 Oct at ONWR. Two were seen repeatedly in Sep at Darby Creek (m. obs.) and also on 07 Oct at ONWR (Kenn Kaufman). Other sightings came from *Lorain* and *Wyandot*.

Red-necked Phalarope:

Tom Bartlett's ONWR banding crew found the first on 08 Aug and the most, 9, on 13 Aug. The last was a Rocky River Park flyby on 30 Oct (Larry Richardson) and they were also seen in *Ashtabula*, *Franklin*, *Richland*, *Sandusky*, *Seneca*, and *Trumbull*.

Red Phalarope:

One was at Huron Harbor, *Erie*, on 05 Oct (*vide* Jen Brumfield) and another flew by John Pogacnik's home in *Lake* on 16 Oct. Singles were seen at Headlands on 31 Oct (m. obs.), 01 Nov (Robert Hershberger), 04 Nov (Jerry Talkington and Ray Hannikman), and 10 Nov (Irene Krise), and Emil Bacik saw two there on 04 Nov.

Black-legged Kittiwake:

Three were reported. James E. Yoder saw one on 12 Nov at Eastlake, *Lake*; John Pogacnik scored his as a 19 Nov flyby of his home in *Lake*; and Ryan Steiner saw one on 23 Nov at Ashtabula harbor.

Sabine's Gull:

Two were off Huntington Reservation, *Cuyahoga*, on 29 Sep (Jen Brumfield) and another appeared briefly at the Eastlake, *Lake*, power plant on 06 Nov for a crowd. The last individual was remarkable for both its location and duration of stay: The bird remained at East Fork for dozens of sightings between 17 and 24 Nov.

Bonaparte's Gull:

These were found throughout the period with many counts in the thousands; reports were widely spread in 37 counties. An estimated 10,000 were in Lorain harbor on 19 Nov (Andy Sewell).

Black-headed Gull:

This species visits almost annually. One which Paul Hurtado found on 18 Nov at Lake Shore Park, *Ashtabula*, could have relocated to Conneaut where there were almost daily reports from 19 to 27 Nov. Joe Hildreth and John Pogacnik documented sightings there during this period.

Little Gull:

Overlapping reports confuse the count but as many as 10 different birds might have visited. Gabe Leidy saw one off Lakeview Park, *Lorain*, on 11 Sep. Conneaut hosted one or two on each of 12, 13, and 20 to 23 Oct. John Pogacnik had a flyby in *Lake* on 30 Oct. Greg Miller and Bruce Glick found one on 06 and 13 Nov,

respectively, at the Eastlake, **Lake**, power plant. An immature bird stayed in Lorain harbor from 20 to 26 Nov (m. obs.) and an adult briefly visited there on 23 Nov (Craig Caldwell). Heather Raymond found the season's last on 27 Nov at Ashtabula harbor.

Laughing Gull:

The first stayed at Maumee Bay from 27 to 31 Aug and the last of the season was at East Fork from 17 to 28 Oct. Alum Creek Reservoir, **Delaware**, had four on 12 Oct (Rick Asamoto). They were also found in **Ashtabula**, **Clark**, **Cuyahoga**, **Franklin**, **Logan**, **Lorain**, **Pickaway**, and **Warren**.



Laughing Gull at Alum Creek Reservoir, Delaware, on 12 Oct 2011, by Rick Asamoto

Franklin's Gull:

Gary Cowell and John Herman noted the first, at Pleasant Hill Lake on 30 Sep. One stayed at East Fork from 20 Oct to 02 Nov and was joined by a second on 26 Oct. Though they often remain into Dec, the last of the year was at Lorain harbor on 26 Nov (Irene Krise). They were also seen in **Ashtabula**, **Ottawa**, **Pickaway**, and **Warren**.

Black-tailed Gull:

Craig Holt found this champion bird of the year in Ashtabula on 16 Nov; it was seen almost daily until mid-Jan, 2012, and less frequently beyond that date. Hundreds of Ohio birders as well as chasers from at least four other states enjoyed viewing the bird from several locations as it moved around during the day. Not surprisingly, the bird was a lifer for almost everyone to whom this editor spoke, himself included. Several observers documented their sightings for the OBRC.

This bird, of course, is the first of its species recorded in Ohio. There are about 30 previous records in North America. Fifteen of them are in the 48 contiguous states and adjoining Canadian provinces; five of these records are inland and include a bird seen on the north shore of Lake Erie in 2003. "Ours" appears to have made the

longest visit. (These data are from eBird).

Ring-billed Gull:

These were found statewide (in 51 counties) but as usual were concentrated along the Lake Erie shore. There were many flocks numbering in the 1000 to 10,000 range and Jen Brumfield estimated that a mind-boggling 50,000 were off Lakewood Park, **Cuyahoga**, on 22 Sep.

Herring Gull:

These too were present in much of the state but, but most of the 34 counties represented are near Lake Erie. The high count was 4000, at Cleveland's East 55th Street Marina on 25 Nov (Jen Brumfield).

Iceland Gull:

Gabe Leidy saw the season's only bird on Lake Erie off Sheffield Lake, **Lorain**, on 26 Nov.

Lesser Black-backed Gull:

Craig Holt's 01 and 22 Aug sightings at Conneaut were very early; the species is typically not here until Sep. Almost as unusual were the 19 Sep bird at Indian Lake SP, **Logan** (Dave Slager), and one at East Fork on 02 Oct (Allan Claybon), as they are rare that far inland at any time. Most of the sightings were in Nov and in the counties adjoining Lake Erie, though **Mahoning** and **Richland** also contributed.

Glaucous Gull:

Participants on the BSBO "pelagic" trip on 12 Nov, which was unable to go outside the Cleveland break wall, found one. What was probably the same bird was seen close to that location on another boat trip a week later. One in Ashtabula on 18 Nov was most likely a different bird (Paul Hurtado).

Great Black-backed Gull:

Now that this species breeds along the north shore of Lake Erie, the 08 Aug sighting in Lorain harbor was unusual though not unexpected (BRAS). Most reports were in Nov but the high count was on 04 Sep when Jen Brumfield found 35 at Lakeview Park, **Lorain**. Every Lake Erie county except **Sandusky** provided reports. Sightings south of Lake Erie were at LaDuc Reservoir, **Geauga**, on 21 and 22 Aug (Inga Schmidt) and at East Fork on 22 Oct (Ned Keller).

Caspian Tern:

Almost all of the large concentrations were at ONWR, where Tom Bartlett and his crew noted over 100 on several dates in Aug. John Pogacnik made the last sighting, at Ashtabula harbor on 30 Oct. Twenty-five counties provided reports.

Black Tern:

There were about 15 reports. More were from East Fork than any other site and the high count of 18 was there on 25 Aug (Donald Morse, Jr.). Su Snyder found another memorable concentration, 11 along Wilderness Road, **Wayne**, on 24 Aug. There were a few Oct and Nov reports until the last by Robert Hershberger on 10 Nov at Conneaut. His comment was an accurate "Very late!" **Cuyahoga** and **Franklin** also provided one report each.

Common Tern:

There were several triple-digit concentrations in Aug, Sep, and Nov but curiously none in Oct. The highest was 469, counted during the 04 Sep ONWR census (Ed Pierce *et al.*, *vide* Douglas Vogus). Most of the 18 counties which hosted the species were well north but **Clermont** and **Warren** were also represented.

Forster's Tern:

Ken Ostermiller noted about 200 at Metzger Marsh, **Lucas**, on 06 Aug. They were found in 15 counties, mostly along Lake Erie, but also to the Ohio River. Bob Lane saw the last, at Conneaut on 06 Nov.

Pomarine Jaeger:

The first, and in a tie for most, were three seen during a 29 Oct boat trip off **Erie** and **Lorain** (m. obs.). The other triple was on 06 Nov at Edgewater Park, **Cuyahoga** (Jen Brumfield). Other sightings came from those counties and **Ashtabula**.

Parasitic Jaeger:

Gabe Leidy documented one bird at Lorain Harbor on 10 Oct. Jerry Talkington documented another off Vermilion, **Lorain**, on 29 Oct.

Jaeger sp.:

Additional sightings on the 05 and 19 Nov boat trips could not be defined at the species level.

Rock Pigeon:

This species was reported from only 49 counties though it surely occurs in all 88. Several flocks of about 200 were noted in Nov in Huron (**Erie**) and Cleveland.

Eurasian Collared-Dove:

Greg Miller and Su Snyder documented sightings in Kidron, **Wayne**, on 04 Aug.

Mourning Dove:

The largest flocks noted were of about 100 birds found on several dates at each of ONWR and Darby Creek. Sixty-six counties provided reports.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo:

They were most numerous in Aug when several parties found two, two parties found three, and on 06 Aug Bill Stanley found four at East Fork. Gary Cowell saw the last on 14 Oct at Pleasant Hill Lake. Sightings came from 33 counties.

Black-billed Cuckoo:

Two parties each found two, Gary Cowell on 27 Aug in Byers Woods, **Ashland**, and Rich and Karen Kassouf on 01 Sep at the Canalway Center, **Cuyahoga**. Ben Warner found the latest on 28 Sep at his **Delaware** home. Nine other counties also provided sightings.

Barn Owl:

Larry Richardson found one in the small woodlot adjoining Lorain on 02 Aug. A second was reported near Williamsport, **Columbiana**, on 03 Aug (*vide* Amanda Conover) and Greg Cornett found the season's only other on 30 Nov at Pickerington Ponds, **Fairfield/Franklin**.

Eastern Screech-Owl:

Singles were reported from more than 20 counties. Kirk Westendorf found a few in French Park, **Hamilton**, on 18 Aug and commented, "AWESOME! Surrounded by a chorus of maybe 4 after whistling in the usual spot. Got a good look at one that was a young and/or molting...rufous morph." Meadowbrook Marsh, a new natural area on the Marblehead Peninsula, **Ottawa**, also hosted three on 17 Sep (Robert Mortensen).

Great Horned Owl:

These also were found throughout the season and were reported from 24 counties. Many of the reports were of two birds and some of the doubles appeared to be mated pairs.

Snowy Owl:

Many who traveled to Ashtabula to see the Black-tailed Gull were also able to see one or both of the Snowy Owls which arrived 27 Nov and remained into the new year.

Barred Owl:

There were many reports of single birds and a few of two from 19 counties in all. Rob and Sandy Harlan noted three young birds screeching in Columbia Woods, **Summit**, on 14 Sep; one was still vocal as late as 30 Oct. Gary Cowell found three near the Pleasant Hill Lake dam on 09 Oct.

Short-eared Owl:

Jen Brumfield found the first, which had probably just arrived from Canada, at Wendy Park on 07 Oct. From late Oct through the

end of the period they were regularly found at Fernald NP, **Butler/Hamilton**; at Darby Creek; in the Coliseum grasslands, **Summit**; at Killdeer Plains; and at several other sites. The most reported at any site was two.

Northern Saw-whet Owl:

Single birds were reported in **Clermont**, **Crawford**, **Erie**, **Geauga**, and **Montgomery** starting 28 Oct. The banding station at Fernald NP, **Butler/Hamilton**, caught three on 04 Nov (*vide* René and Bill McGill). Lester Peyton also found three at the Cincinnati Nature Center, **Clermont**, on 29 Oct. Rebecca Elephante banded only four all season, three on 29 Oct and one on 01 Nov, at her Caesar Creek station. John Kuenzli and his high school class banded four the evening of 12 Nov at Camp Wyandot, **Hocking**.

The Buzzard's Roost Preserve banding station in Ross (Bob Scott Placier and Kelly Williams-Sieg) captured 13 (as well as two screech-owls) between 22 Oct and 12 Nov. Their biggest night, 29 Oct, brought them five. One "foreign" recapture had been banded in Michigan about three weeks earlier, and two birds which they had banded in 2009 were recaptured in Michigan this fall.

Tom Bartlett's Kelleys Island station also had a lower-than-usual season, in part due to bad weather. They caught 31, all on just eight of the 17 days they were in the field. They caught five of their Oct birds a second time, usually within a week, and one which they banded 29 Oct was netted on Pelee Island, Ontario, on 05 Nov.

Common Nighthawk:

Kirk Westendorf noted that small numbers were regular at the United American Cemetery, **Hamilton**, until early Oct. The highest number reported was 250, found at the South Chagrin Reservation's polo field, **Summit**, on 31 Aug (Jen Brumfield). Jonathan Frodge saw the last on 29 Oct in Cincinnati's east end. Thirty counties provided reports.

Eastern Whip-Poor-Will:

Matt Anderson *et al.* heard three at dawn on 03 Sep in Oak Openings Preserver MP, **Lucas**.

Chimney Swift:

The Shaker Lakes Big Sit on 09 Oct estimated 3750 birds (Andy Jones and Laura Gooch), but that number had been topped six days earlier by 5000 at the Hamilton Avenue Art Building (Jen Brumfield). The last were seen 23 Oct, a single at Wildwood SP (Nancy Anderson) and six at Elmwood Park (George Coleman and Louise Quigley). All of these sites are in **Cuyahoga**. Almost 50 other counties also produced sightings.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird:

Elliot Tramer counted 24 westbound birds in a half hour at CPNWR on 24 Aug. The next highest number was eight, in two locations. Craig Moore saw the last two in a **Franklin** yard on 26 Oct. Forty-five counties had sightings.

Rufous Hummingbird:

At least 10 of this former Ohio rarity were found from 15 Sep into winter; most were banded by Allen Chartier and two by Tim Tolford. They were observed in **Columbiana**, **Greene**, **Holmes**, **Huron**, **Mahoning** (2), **Medina**, **Montgomery**, **Richland**, and **Union**.

Belted Kingfisher:

These were widespread, being found in 56 counties, and were present throughout the period. Mike Bracken found nine at Sandy Ridge on 17 Sep.

Red-headed Woodpecker:

Killbuck Marsh, **Holmes/Wayne**, is a reliable site for these flashy birds. Ken Ostermiller found 12 there on 02 Oct and Robert Hershberger found 17 on 03 Nov. These numbers were topped in a loose colony at Berlin Lake, **Portage**, on 24 Sep; Bob and Denise Lane counted 10 adults and 22 immatures. Thirty other counties also produced sightings.

Red-bellied Woodpecker:

Bill Stanley counted 15 at the Cincinnati Nature Center, **Clermont**, on 12 Nov. Reports came from more than 60 counties.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:

The only Aug sighting was at Days Dam, **Lorain**, on the 11th (BRAS); this is quite a distance from the small **Ashtabula** breeding population. They were then seen from 08 Sep through the end of the period in over 30 counties. Jen Brumfield found 10 at both Headlands on 02 Oct and Gordon Park, **Cuyahoga**, on 09 Oct.

Downy Woodpecker:

The 04 Sep ONWR census counted 26 (Ed Pierce *et al.*, *vide* Douglas Vogus). They were reported in 70 counties.

Hairy Woodpecker:

As always, Hairys were neither as widespread nor as numerous as their smaller cousins – 50 counties yielded reports. The high count of 12 came during the 01 Oct CVNP census (Douglas Vogus *et al.*).

Northern Flicker:

These were present all period, though sightings tapered off in Nov. The high count of 14 was during the 02 Oct ONWR census (Ed Pierce *et*

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al., *fide* Douglas Vogus). Reports came from 59 counties.

Pileated Woodpecker:

It's a treat to encounter just one of these impressive birds, so seeing five must be quite an experience. Both the 06 Aug CVNP census (Douglas Vogus *et al.*) and an outing along Brushy Fork Creek, **Harrison**, on 14 Sep (Scott Pendleton) found that many. Forty-seven counties had sightings.

Olive-sided Flycatcher:

Rob Thorn found both the first and the last in **Franklin**, on 15 Aug along Big Walnut Creek in Gahanna and on 08 Oct in Heritage Park, Westerville, respectively. Other single birds were found in **Clark, Cuyahoga, Delaware, Lake, Lorain, Lucas, Paulding**, and **Union**.

Eastern Wood-Pewee:

Five different observers each found ten on dates ranging from 20 Aug to 11 Sep. The last of the season was one banded at Navarre on 17 Oct (BSBO). Forty counties produced reports.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:

The first of the season were found 20 Aug. They were three at CPNWR (Elliot Tramer) and one at Navarre (BSBO). During the season the Navarre station banded 31 birds, almost double their long-term average catch. Doug Overacker found the last migrant on 08 Oct at Buck Creek. **Butler, Clermont, Cuyahoga, Erie, Hamilton, Lake, Lorain, Medina**, and **Union** also yielded sightings.

Acadian Flycatcher:

Doug Overacker found five in John Bryan SP, **Greene**, on 25 Aug, and one banded at Navarre on 30 Sep was the last (BSBO). Seventeen other counties also provided reports.

Alder Flycatcher:

Two were reported: Tom Kemp found one singing near Chardon, **Geauga**, on 05 Aug and Leslie Houser noted the second at Siebenthaler Fen, **Greene**, on 06 Aug.

Willow Flycatcher:

The 07 Aug ONWR census found 10 (Ed Pierce *et al.*, *fide* Douglas Vogus); probably some of them had nested there. Irene Krise found the last of the season at Headlands on 30 Sep, which is a little past their typical departure date. Sightings came from 18 counties overall.

Least Flycatcher:

Although these nest in the northeast part of the state, the first report was not until 17 Aug when Laura Dornan found one at Molly Stark Park,

Stark. Headlands had both the high count of 16, on 11 Sep (Kim Savides), and the last reported, on 15 Oct (James E. Yoder). Fifteen other counties also had sightings.

Eastern Phoebe:

Headlands once again held the high count, 10 on 02 Oct (Jen Brumfield). The latest sighting was 19 Nov in Blendon Woods (Matthew Collins). Reports came from half of our counties.

Great Crested Flycatcher:

Though these are a large and rather showy flycatcher, their preference for deep woods limited the reports to 24 counties. However, four were found at each of ONWR on 04 Sep (Ed Pierce *et al.*, *fide* Douglas Vogus) and Kiwanis Riverway Park, **Franklin**, on 10 Sep (Irina Shulgina). The last was reported from Magee on 25 Sep (Dana Bollin).

Eastern Kingbird:

Migration was well underway by 07 Aug when the ONWR census found 52 (Ed Pierce *et al.*, *fide* Douglas Vogus), and Charles Bombaci found 24 at Killdeer Plains on 24 Aug. Hope Orr saw the last in the Boston area of CVNP on 29 Sep. Thirty-one counties produced reports.

Northern Shrike:

Inga Schmidt found the first of at least 10 seen during the season, at Walter Best Wildlife Preserve, **Geauga**, on 25 Oct. **Cuyahoga, Lorain, Lucas, Mahoning, Ottawa, Pickaway, Highland**, and **Summit** hosted the others.

White-eyed Vireo:

Paul Wharton found at least 10 in Shawnee Lookout CP, **Hamilton**, on 11 Sep and several observers found five in late Aug and early Sep at other sites. Rob Thorn reported the last in Scioto Park, **Franklin**, on 25 Sep. Nineteen counties had sightings.

Bell's Vireo:

Rob Thorn made the only report; one was calling and occasionally singing along the Fifth Avenue rail corridor in Columbus on 14 Aug.

Yellow-throated Vireo:

Two sites each had three: near Pleasant Hill Lake on 08 Sep (Gary Cowell) and the Station Road area of CVNP on 12 Sep (Dwight and Ann Chasar). Matthew Collins saw the latest in Blendon Woods on 23 Oct, about a week later than usual and two weeks after the second-latest sightings at three sites on 08 Oct. Twenty-three counties provided sightings.

Blue-headed Vireo:

A few of these scarce breeders were seen in Aug and there were several sightings of two during the season. Micki and Doug Dunakin found a straggler on 14 Nov at their *Paulding* home; it was the only sighting of the month. Twenty-six other counties produced reports.

Warbling Vireo:

The 03 Sep CVNP census found 21, a number which probably included both local breeders and migrants (Douglas Vogus *et al.*). One seen on 09 Oct at Headlands was the last (Kim Savides). Sightings came from 27 counties.

Philadelphia Vireo:

Robert and Elaine McNulty found the first at Blendon Woods on 30 Aug, and Jen Brumfield the last in Wendy Park on 22 Oct. Ben Morrison had the treat of finding 10 in a dogwood thicket on 16 Sep at his home in *Stark*. Nineteen counties provided sightings.

Red-eyed Vireo:

Kenn Kaufman provided the high count of 12 on 10 Sep at East Harbor SP, *Ottawa*. A BRAS field trip found the last of the season at Sandy Ridge on 26 Oct. Almost 40 counties produced reports.

Blue Jay:

These were reported in 69 counties but they were surely present in all 88. Jen Brumfield estimated 200 at Wendy Park on 10 Oct.

American Crow:

These were reported from slightly fewer counties (67) than Blue Jays but were much more numerous. Craig Holt estimated a roost held 1000 at Evans Lake, *Mahoning*, on 26 Nov.

Common Raven:

Elaine Snively documented one near Bolivar, *Tuscarawas*, on 03 Oct.

Horned Lark:

These were present in more than 30 counties and during the whole season. An early hint at winter's large flocks was the 100 which Dave Slager found 04 Sep on a *Franklin* sod farm.

Purple Martin:

Only two flocks exceeding 25 were reported. Elliot Tramer counted 780 in CPNWR on 20 Aug and Gregory Bennett found about 600 at Nimisila Reservoir, *Summit*, on 22 Aug. The last reported were three on the Wake Robin Trail at Mentor Marsh, *Lake*, on 06 Oct (Irene Krise). Twenty-one counties provided sightings.

Tree Swallow:

Estimates of about 1000 came from Maumee Bay on both 05 Sep (John Shrader) and 02 Oct (Elliot Tramer). The last were seen 13 Nov, again at two locations. They were three birds at Cowan Lake, *Clinton* (Rick Asamoto), and one at ONWR (m. obs.). More than half of Ohio's counties had sightings.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow:

Rick Asamoto noted a flock of 300 at Old Reid Park, *Clark*, on 15 Oct. The 10 at Sandy Ridge on 26 Oct (BRAS) would have been a typical last sighting but for the very late straggler at Ashtabula Harbor which Jen Brumfield and Irene Krise found on 27 Nov. Reports came from 29 counties.

Bank Swallow:

About 250 were staging at Winous Point on 20 Aug (Andy Sewell and Brad Sparks) and the last was seen at Sandy Ridge on 05 Oct (Sue Jachnick). Twenty counties yielded sightings.

Cliff Swallow:

Several observers noted a concentration of about 40 at the Hoover NP boardwalk, *Delaware*, on 16 Aug. Paul Krusling filed the latest report from Lost Bridge, *Hamilton*, on 16 Sep. *Adams, Clark, Franklin, Lorain, Madison, Portage, Richland*, and *Stark* also contributed reports.

Barn Swallow:

The 04 Sep ONWR auto tour route yielded about 600 (Jen Brumfield) and the last was reported 27 Oct from Conneaut (Craig Holt). Sightings came from more than half of our counties.

Carolina Chickadee:

There were many reports with double-digit numbers, with the highest being 30 at both the Cincinnati Nature Center, *Clermont*, on 10 Sep (Wyatt Westerkamp) and along Old Sunbury Road, *Delaware*, on 25 Sep (Charles Bombaci). Forty-nine counties produced sightings.

Black-capped Chickadee:

These too were numerous; the high count of 51 was found along the trails of the Rocky River Reservation, *Cuyahoga*, on 22 Oct (Bill Deininger). Twenty-seven counties provided reports.

Tufted Titmouse:

Bill Stanley found 24 at two sites, Cincinnati Nature Center, *Clermont*, on 12 Nov and East Fork on 19 Nov. Reports came from 58 counties.

Red-breasted Nuthatch:

These were found sparsely throughout the state

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(in 19 counties) with a high count of four on 17 Sep along the Tree Farm Trail in CVNP, where they breed (Dwight and Ann Chasar).

White-breasted Nuthatch:

These were reported from 61 of our counties with a few counts of 10 or more. The high was 13, found during the 05 Nov CVNP census (Douglas Vogus *et al.*).

Brown Creeper:

A few of this rare nester were found in Aug and Sep with numbers climbing steeply as migrants arrived in Oct. Rich and Karen Kassouf found the most, 16, at Villa Angela on 22 Oct. Sightings came from 38 counties.

Carolina Wren:

Given that this species is vocal at any time of year makes it no surprise that it was reported from over 50 counties. Kelly NP, *Clermont*, had 15 on 04 Oct (J.W. Rettig).

House Wren:

These were reported until 08 Nov, when one was found in Columbia Reservation, *Lorain* (BRAS). Six were at West Branch SP, *Portage*, on 03 Sep (Gregory Bennett) and at Headlands on 02 Oct (Jen Brumfield). Forty-one counties had sightings.

Winter Wren:

Though these breed in a few northeastern sites, the first reported was a migrant at Villa Angela on 13 Sep (Nancy Anderson). Wendy Park, another *Cuyahoga* lakefront site, was hopping on 22 Oct – Jen Brumfield found 20 there. Twenty-one other counties also provided sightings.

Sedge Wren:

These were reported from seven locales in *Cuyahoga*, *Hamilton*, *Lake*, *Madison*, and *Ottawa*. Four birds were in the Miami Whitewater wetlands between 20 Aug and 01 Sep (Jay Lehman and Paul Horton) and at least one was seen there on several dates between 16 Oct and 05 Nov (m. obs.). The 05 Nov sighting, by Leslie Houser, was the last of the season and almost two weeks later than usual. Both Armleder Park and ONWR had two on several Sep dates (m. obs.).

Marsh Wren:

These were reported from 16 counties, mostly in sites where they bred. The ONWR auto tour route yielded 10 on each of 06 Aug (Ken Ostermiller) and 04 Sep (Jen Brumfield). The few Nov sightings ended 19 Nov at Darby Creek (Irina Shulgina).

Golden-crowned Kinglet:

Robert and Elaine McNulty saw the first in Blendon Woods on 06 Sep; it was presumably a migrant given the distance from their few northern breeding sites. There were many counts in double digits and one even higher, the 120 which Jen Brumfield found at Headlands on 02 Oct. They were present in half of our counties and through the end of the period.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet:

The first sightings, on 05 Sep, were shared by BRAS at French Creek Reservation, *Lorain*, and the *Darke* County Birders on the Alisha Bish Walkway (*vide* Regina Schieltz). Headlands had 85 on “Kinglet Day”, 02 Oct (Jen Brumfield). Thirty-five other counties also had sightings.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:

Buck Creek SP hosted the high count of eight on 27 Aug for Doug Overacker. Leslie Warren saw the last, at her *Mahoning* home on 04 Oct. Thirty counties provided reports.

Thrushes, non-specific:

Rob Harlan provided this note: “I estimated 1 calling per second as they flew overhead in Norton [*Summit*] from 11:30 pm-12:20 am 9/23-24”. That means as many as 3000 birds passed by!

Eastern Bluebird:

Regina Schieltz and Rob Thorn separately reported youngsters into Sep. The Boston area of CVNP had the high number of about 60 birds, ages unspecified, on 07 Nov (Hope Orr). Over 50 counties provided sightings.

Veery:

These were found in about a dozen counties. Though they were surely present earlier in the month, the first report was on 29 Aug from Blendon Woods (Robert and Elaine McNulty). CPNWR had the most, four on 25 Sep, and the latest, one on 07 Oct (both Elliot Tramer).

Gray-cheeked Thrush:

The first was caught at the BSBO Navarre banding station on 29 Aug. The banders also had the highest count when they captured 59 on 02 Oct, part of a record 342 banded during the season. Terri Martincic and Aaron Milenski reported the latest bird from the Erie Street Cemetery, *Cuyahoga*, on 24 Oct. Fifteen counties generated sightings.

Swainson’s Thrush:

Migrants were fairly widespread, being found in 30 counties. Navarre (BSBO) and Blacklick Woods MP, *Franklin* (Gene Stauffer) shared the

first date of 24 Aug. William Jackson counted 61 during an 08 Oct pre-dawn flight at Beach City SWA, *Tuscarawas*. William Jones saw the last on 30 Oct at Mill Creek Sanctuary, *Mahoning*.

Hermit Thrush:

The first was reported on 05 Sep from Oak Openings, *Lucas* (Johanna Lentz) and they were found through the end of the season. Rich and Karen Kassouf found 28 at Villa Angela on 22 Oct, and BSBO banded 36 at Navarre on the next day. Twenty counties provided reports.

Wood Thrush:

The only report in double digits was of 10 along the Little Miami Bike Trail, *Warren*, on 06 Sep (Robert Foppe and Jennifer Smolenski). Linda Houshower saw the last two at her *Allen* home on 23 Oct. Reports came from 25 counties.

American Robin:

As some of "our" robins departed, migrants from Canada moved in and gave a show of "several hundred" at Ault Park, *Hamilton*, on 24 Sep (Jonathan Frodge). Flocking was still strong on 28 Oct when Mark Arvin found 400 at Great Wolf Lodge, *Warren*. Three quarters of our counties, 66, had sightings, though surely they were everywhere.

Gray Catbird:

These were found throughout the period though they were sparse in Nov. The 07 Aug ONWR census counted the high of 40 (Ed Pierce *et al.*, *vide* Douglas Vogus). Forty-eight counties hosted them.

Northern Mockingbird:

Twenty years ago these were a southern Ohio bird; now they are found year-round (albeit in small numbers) in the northernmost counties. Wendy Park hosted eight on 07 Oct; the site has at least one resident pair and others could have been young of the year (Jen Brumfield). More than 40 counties had sightings.

Brown Thrasher:

Though these are generally harder than catbirds, the last report was of one at Buck Creek on 05 Nov (Doug Overacker). Robert Foppe and Jennifer Smolenski noted four at Camp Dennison, *Hamilton*, on 11 Sep. Twenty-nine counties provided reports.

European Starling:

More observers are including these in their reports, so 68 counties were represented. Nancy Anderson found a flock of about 5000 in the Bluestone Business Park, *Cuyahoga*, on 26 Nov.

American Pipit:

The first was a bird at Lost Bridge, *Hamilton*, on 10 Sep (Don Martin *et al.*). They were found through the end of the period, with the high count of 22 on 04 Oct at Frohring Meadows, *Geauga* (Inga Schmidt). Sightings were well distributed but in only 18 counties.

Cedar Waxwing:

There were several reports with numbers in the 100s with the highest being one of 600 at CPNWR on 20 Aug (Elliot Tramer). Reports came from 52 counties.

Lapland Longspur:

There were only five reports, starting on 06 Nov in *Paulding* (Doug and Micki Dunakin). Participants on a 19 Nov boat trip watched a flock of 15 arrive from Canada at Cleveland Lakefront NP (the former Dike 14). They were also seen in Rocky River Park on 12 Nov (Chris Pierce) and 17 Nov (Jen Brumfield) and at Darby Creek on 12 Nov (Rob Thorn).

Snow Bunting:

The first showed up at Headlands on 23 Oct (Rich and Karen Kassouf). Several flocks of more than 100 were topped by the 200 or more which Bob and Denise Lane saw at Conneaut on 06 Nov. Thirteen counties between Lake Erie and the Ohio River hosted them.

Ovenbird:

The first apparent migrant was a bird banded at Navarre on 23 Aug (BSBO) and the last was a rather late (for the location) find during the 17 Oct Kelleys Island census (Tom Bartlett *et al.*). Most of the reports were of one bird but several had three. Twenty-three counties provided reports.

Worm-eating Warbler:

Doug Overacker found one at Buck Creek on 13 Aug. John Waugaman filed the season's only other report from Forked Run SP, *Meigs*, on 14 Sep.

Louisiana Waterthrush:

The sole report was of a bird at East Fork on 06 Aug (Bill Stanley).

Northern Waterthrush:

All the reports, which came from 11 counties, were of single birds. The earliest was on 12 Aug at Lorain (Jeff Harvey) and the latest on 21 Oct in CVNP (Dwight and Ann Chasar).

Golden-winged Warbler:

The six reports contained seven birds. The earliest was the double at Headlands on 08 Sep (Jen Brumfield) and the latest was at the

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same location on 30 Sep (Jerry Talkington and Ray Hannikman). The other sightings were at Shawnee Lookout CP, **Hamilton**, on 11 Sep (Susan and Linda Osterhage), ONWR on 17 Sep (Kim Savides), and Navarre on both 22 and 29 Sep (BSBO).

Blue-winged Warbler:

This widespread breeder was not seen in the season until Leslie Warren found one on 27 Aug in **Mahoning**. Three were at each of the Ira Road area of CVNP on 22 Aug (Tom and Mary Anne Romito) and East Fork on 10 Sep (Bill Stanley). Curiously, Nancy Anderson found the last on the Lake Erie shore at Villa Angela on 09 Oct, not an especially late date but three weeks after the second to last sighting. Reports came from 14 counties.

Black-and-white Warbler:

These were seen from summer until 25 Oct (quite late) when Charles Bombaci saw one near the Hoover Reservoir, **Delaware**. Several Sep reports had six individuals. Twenty-seven counties generated reports.

Prothonotary Warbler:

There were almost 20 reports of this crowd-pleaser. BSBO banded five on 05 Aug at Navarre. Their season's total was 15, a new record and 2.5 times their average. Wes Hatch found three at Eldon Russell Park, **Geauga** (a breeding location), on 20 Aug. Jeffrey A. Miller saw the last near Dundee, **Tuscarawas**, on 05 Sep, a little later than normal. The other counties with reports were **Clermont**, **Greene**, **Lucas**, **Ottawa**, **Summit**, and **Wayne**.

Tennessee Warbler:

This species had its typical two month migration window, from 20 Aug at the Home Road Marsh, **Richland** (Gary Cowell) to 25 Oct at the Hoover Area N, **Delaware** (Charles Bombaci). BSBO banded 19 on 30 Sep at Navarre; their 126 for the season was double the average. Reports came from 28 counties.

Orange-crowned Warbler:

Jen Brumfield and Craig Caldwell saw the first, at Headlands on 08 Sep. The last were beside Lake Erie on 23 Oct, two at Wendy Park (Jen Brumfield), and one at Navarre (BSBO). This date is unusual only in that their migration often extends into Nov. Jen Brumfield's three at Wendy Park on 12 Oct was the high count. Fifteen counties had sightings.

Nashville Warbler:

Bill Tacon found the first in Blendon Woods on

19 Aug. The last two shared 02 Nov: BSBO banded one at Shaker Lakes, **Cuyahoga**, and Bill Tacon saw one in his **Franklin** yard. Jen Brumfield found the high count of 20 in the Huntington Reservation, **Cuyahoga**, on 18 Sep. Thirty-one counties generated reports.

Connecticut Warbler:

BSBO banded the first and last of the season at Navarre, on 31 Aug and 09 Oct respectively. Navarre on 11 Sep (BSBO) and Gildersleeve Mountain, **Lake**, on 25 Sep (Haans Petruschke), each had two. Singles also visited **Clermont**, **Franklin**, **Geauga**, **Hamilton**, **Montgomery**, and **Union**.

Mourning Warbler:

The first was at Navarre on 26 Aug (BSBO) and they banded three there on 29 Aug for the season's high count. The last was along the Lake to Lake Trail, **Cuyahoga**, on 09 Oct (Terri Martincic). **Darke**, **Delaware**, **Erie**, **Franklin**, **Lake**, **Lorain**, **Lucas**, **Summit**, and **Union** each hosted one or two.

Kentucky Warbler:

Robert Riggs found one singing near the Ohio River in **Athens** on 06 Aug. Bill Stanley tallied three on the south side of at East Fork Lake on 03 Sep and Dan Striley saw the last near Armleder Park on 29 Sep. They were also found in **Franklin**, **Knox**, and **Union**.

Common Yellowthroat:

These certainly like marshes: Russell Taylor found 25 in the Miami Whitewater wetlands on 09 Sep and there were several other double-digit counts in similar habitat later in the month. William Jones saw the last on 30 Oct at Mill Creek Sanctuary, **Mahoning**. Reports came from 36 counties.

Hooded Warbler:

This vocal but otherwise secretive breeder was seen until 05 Oct, in Tar Hollow SP, **Ross** (Richard Wolinski). Terri Martincic counted seven along the Oak Hill Trail in CVNP on 17 Sep. Eighteen counties provided reports.

American Redstart:

This species is also vocal, and usually quite visible as well. Jen Brumfield found about 100 at Headlands on 08 Sep. Nancy Anderson made the latest sighting on 30 Oct in Villa Angela, quite late for the state, let alone the north shore. Thirty-two counties had sightings.

Cape May Warbler:

Rich and Karen Kassouf found the first migrant, at Headlands on 28 Aug. An amazing 50 were in

CPNWR on 25 Sep (Elliot Tramer), and BSBO banded the last about a month later not far to the east, on 23 Oct at Navarre. This too is a late date for a northern county.

Cerulean Warbler:

The only Aug report was on the 10th, from a breeding site in CVNP (Dwight and Ann Chasar). Sep reports came from *Clermont*, *Franklin*, *Lucas*, *Meigs*, and *Summit*. The last definite sighting was on 24 Sep in the Englewood Reserve, *Montgomery* (Brian Wulker), and there were no Oct reports. Matthew Collins reported one at Blendon Woods on 05 Nov. Victor Fazio III, Ohio's eBird reviewer, got details from Matthew and concluded that the sighting was "suggestive of an adult male Cerulean Warbler". He noted that it would probably be Ohio's first November record of the species.

Northern Parula:

The first bird reported, at Rush Run, *Franklin*, on 26 Aug, could have been a breeder (Desiree Narango). The high count was five found at the Turtle Creek bay, *Ottawa*, on 15 Sep (Thomas Slemmer). The last sighting was also in *Franklin*, on 23 Oct (Charles Bombaci). Eighteen counties provided reports.

Magnolia Warbler:

The first, most, and last were all found near the Lake Erie shore. BSBO banded one at Navarre on 23 Aug; Jen Brumfield found about 100 at Headlands on 08 Sep, and many observers saw a slightly-straggling bird at Headlands on 23 Oct. They were found in 37 counties overall.

Bay-breasted Warbler:

These were seen in 25 counties, a typical number for this year's migration. The first was in Blacklick Woods MP, *Fairfield*, on 24 Aug (Gene Stauffer), and the last along Wiese Road, *Franklin*, on 23 Oct (Charles Bombaci). The high count was 12. This number was shared by East Harbor SP, *Ottawa*, on 10 Sep (Kenn Kaufman) and the BSBO Navarre banding station on 13 Sep. BSBO banded 57 during the season, a new record and more than double their average count.

Blackburnian Warbler:

Rob Thorn found the first migrant along the Blacklick Creek Greenway, *Franklin*, on 16 Aug. The last were seen on 09 Oct; one or two were at one *Delaware* and three *Hamilton* locations on that date. Paul Wharton made the high count of eight at Shawnee Lookout CP, *Hamilton*, on 11 Sep, and BSBO banded a record 11 at Navarre during the season. Twenty-five counties yielded sightings.

Yellow Warbler:

Several observers reported 10 at various locations along the Lake Erie shore in Aug; the high count of 11, however, was at Killdeer Plains on 11 Aug (Charles Bombaci). The last was recorded at CPNWR on 05 Nov, about a month later than usual (Elliot Tramer). This widespread breeder was found in only 27 counties during the season.

Chestnut-sided Warbler:

Though these breed in the northeastern counties, the first seen was a migrant found during the 22 Aug Kelleys Island census (Tom Brettlet et al.). William Hull found the high of seven at Clifton House, *Hamilton*, on 08 Sep. Oddly, one on the latest date, 15 Oct, was far north at Navarre (BSBO); the other seen the same day was on Bass Island, *Hamilton* (Kirk Westendorf). Sightings came from 22 counties.

Blackpoll Warbler:

The first were seen in southern Ohio on 27 Aug, at Buck Creek (Doug Overacker) and Cincinnati Nature Center, *Clermont* (Debra Hausrath). Both the most and the last were captured at the BSBO Navarre banding station. The 181 caught on 21 Sep were a significant fraction of the season's 1154, a new record which is three times their average. The latest was banded on 23 Oct. Thirty-three counties provided reports.

Black-throated Blue Warbler:

The first of the season was one captured at Navarre on 24 Aug (BSBO). Kenn Kaufman made the only double-digit report, 10 at East Harbor SP, *Ottawa*, on 10 Sep. Two sites shared the last sightings on 22 Oct, Sims Park, *Cuyahoga* (Rich and Karen Kassouf), and Westfield Center Park, *Medina* (Ken Ostermiller). Twenty-five counties had sightings.

Palm Warbler:

Though this species often arrives in Aug, the first was not seen until 03 Sep, in *Medina* (Chris Decker). Cleveland's Erie Street Cemetery had 15 on 14 Sep (Terri Martincic) and the last was seen in Deer Creek SWA, *Pickaway*, on 25 Oct (Ben Warner and Peter Aldag). Reports came from 27 counties.

Pine Warbler:

This species nests in Ohio, though mostly in the less-birded southeast, so the lack of Aug sightings is not too surprising. The ONWR eTT received the first report of a migrant, at ONWR on 05 Sep. They were seen sporadically until 11 Nov, when one was found at Blendon Woods (Matthew Collins). The high count of four was shared by Magee on 17 Sep (Jack Swelstad)

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and Mentor Marsh, **Lake**, on 08 Oct (Patience Hoskins). Seventeen counties provided reports.

Yellow-rumped Warbler:

Gabe Leidy and Emil Bacik found one in the woodlot adjoining Lorain on 28 Aug. The number of individuals grew to a peak of 732, counted during the 16 Oct Kelleys Island census (Tom Bartlett *et al.*), and then declined through the end of the period. The species was found in 53 counties.

Yellow-throated Warbler:

These breed in the forested part of the state and were seen in typical nesting areas in Aug. One in **Paulding** on 16 Sep was a very rare sighting for the northwest (Doug and Micki Dunakin). The last of the season was on Bass Island, **Hamilton**, on 09 Oct (Kirk Westendorf). They were seen in only seven other counties: **Clark**, **Clermont**, **Delaware**, **Franklin**, **Richland**, **Stark**, and **Summit**.

Prairie Warbler:

Five were reported: on 29 Aug at East Fork (Bill Stanley), 10 Sep at Caesar Creek (John Shrader), 25 Sep at Villa Angela (*vide* Nancy Anderson), 30 Sep at Headlands (Irene Krise), and 01 Oct at a banding station in **Butler** (Joe Kappa).

Black-throated Gray Warbler:

Brian Zweibel discovered and documented one at the Magee "Bird Beach" on 24 Sep; it remained one more day. According to Peterjohn (*The Birds of Ohio*) and Harlan *et al.* (*Annotated Checklist*), there was one previous late Oct record, several in spring, and several between mid-Nov and late Feb.

Black-throated Green Warbler:

The first were seen on 28 Aug at two sites in **Lake** and one each in **Franklin**, **Lorain**, and **Ottawa** (m. obs.). Terri Martincic saw the last in the Rocky River Reservation, **Cuyahoga**, on 28 Oct. Elliot Tramer found 23 in CPNWR on 25 Sep. Thirty-four counties had sightings.

Canada Warbler:

One was reported at Magee on 08 Aug (*vide* Mary Warren) and they were seen in 14 other counties until the last on 04 Oct at Kiwanis Riverway Park, **Franklin** (Irina Shulgina). BSBO banded five at Navarre on 26 Aug.

Wilson's Warbler:

Sameer Apte saw the first on 13 Aug at Lorain and Gary Cowell the last on 13 Oct in the Home Road Marsh, **Richland**. Rich and Karen Kassouf provided the high count of five from Headlands on 10 Sep. Sightings came from 22 counties.

Yellow-breasted Chat:

Though a widespread nester, these were seen in only 10 counties during the fall. The only double was in Withrow NP, **Hamilton**, on 13 Aug (Kirk Westendorf), and the last was seen 01 Oct in Kiwanis Riverway Park, **Franklin** (Irina Shulgina).

Eastern Towhee:

These were reported from about half of our counties and throughout the season. Dave Slager provided the high count of 20 from Strouds Run SP, **Athens**, on 02 Oct.

American Tree Sparrow:

The first report came on 01 Oct from the far southwest, in a West Chester, **Warren**, yard (Eric Baumgardner). The 06 Nov ONWR census had the highest count, 48 (Ed Pierce *et al.*, *vide* Douglas Vogus). Thirty-five counties yielded sightings.

Chipping Sparrow:

This species was in half of our counties sometimes in large numbers. The only triple-digit count, however, was the 155 which Inga Schmidt found in Highland Park Cemetery, **Cuyahoga**, on 16 Oct.

Clay-colored Sparrow:

Robb Clifford saw one in Shawnee Prairie Preserve, **Darke**, on 03 Oct and James E. Yoder another in **Coshocton** on 22 Oct. Jen Brumfield found the third at Gordon Park, **Cuyahoga**, on 26 Oct, and it remained for two more days.

Field Sparrow:

Although the season's last report came on 25 Nov from Cool Springs Wildlife Conservation Park, **Ashland** (Thomas Slemmer), they were found in the state through the winter. Gordon Park, **Cuyahoga**, had a flock of about 120 on 26 Oct (Jen Brumfield). Forty counties provided reports.

Vesper Sparrow:

The last seen of these were three at Deer Creek SP, **Pickaway**, on 05 Nov (Craig Moore). Scott Pendleton made the high count of 13 along Hite Road, **Harrison**, on 19 Sep. Sightings came from 13 counties.

Lark Sparrow:

Two were reported. Paul Rodewald found one in Salt Creek Township, **Pickaway**, on 06 Aug, a little past their typical departure date. The other was extraordinarily late and in less-than-ideal habitat; Sandra Gaunt reported it on 06 Nov in Kiwanis Riverway Park, **Franklin**.

Savannah Sparrow:

This normally widespread species was reported

from only 20 counties. About 100 were noted at Darby Creek on 08 Oct, where they were regularly found during the whole season (Peter Aldag and Ben Warner).

Grasshopper Sparrow:

These were reported from *Darke, Franklin, Hamilton, Harrison, Lorain, Muskingum, Ottawa*, and an OBBA II block at the intersection of *Fairfield, Hocking*, and *Pickaway*. The high number of 10, on 21 Sep, and the last report, on 16 Oct, were from Hite Road, *Harrison* (both Scott Pendleton).

Henslow's Sparrow:

These were reported from two sites in *Harrison* and one site in each of *Fayette, Franklin, Hamilton, Hocking, Pickaway*, and *Union*. Brad Sparks found four at Darby Creek on 06 Aug. Robert Roysse also noted four, at Deer Creek SWA, *Fayette*, on 04 Oct, and one of them apparently remained until 06 Oct to be the last reported.

Le Conte's Sparrow:

Robert Roysse saw the first on 06 Oct at Deer Creek SWA, *Fayette*. Robert asked, "How often do you get 3 *Ammodramus* species in Ohio within an hour and one of them isn't Grasshopper?" (His third was a Nelson's.) The Wake Robin Trail, *Lake*, hosted one or two throughout Oct (m. obs.). One or two were also in and near the Miami Whitewater wetlands during the last week of Oct (m. obs.), and the last was there 04 Nov (Ron Kolbe).

Nelson's Sparrow:

Scott Pendleton saw the first on 19 Sep along Hite Road, *Harrison*, and William Hull the last on 01 Nov near the Little Miami River in *Hamilton*. Andy Sewell and Leslie Houser each noted five in the Miami Whitewater wetlands, on 08 and 09 Oct respectively. One or two also visited *Delaware, Fayette, Franklin, Lake, Ottawa*, and *Pickaway*.

Fox Sparrow:

The first report was from Navarre on 03 Oct (BSBO) and they were seen through the end of the season. Dwight and Ann Chasar found 10 in the Jaite area of CVNP on 07 Nov. Twenty-one counties provided reports.

Song Sparrow:

These were widely seen (in 62 counties) throughout the period. Very young birds and an adult carrying a fecal sac on 27 Sep in *Ottawa* revealed a quite late-started family there (Lois Harder). About 120 were in Wendy Park on both 12 and 22 Oct (Jen Brumfield).

Lincoln's Sparrow:

The season's first on 15 Sep and the last on 23 Oct were at the Navarre banding station (BSBO). The high count was 10, on the Wake Robin Trail, *Lake*, on 01 Oct (Wes Hatch). Twenty other counties also had sightings.

Swamp Sparrow:

Richard Counts found a bonanza of 160 in the *Hardin* wetlands on 21 Oct. They were seen in 36 counties.

White-throated Sparrow:

Right on time, the first showed up at Navarre on 11 Sep (BSBO). About 200 were at Wendy Park on 12 Oct (Jen Brumfield), and the 16 Oct Kelleys Island census counted 301 (Tom Bartlett *et al.*). Forty-nine counties provided reports.

White-crowned Sparrow:

Laura Keene saw the first on 27 Sep, at Blendon Woods, and Jen Brumfield found 150 in Wendy Park on 22 Oct. Sightings came from 35 counties. The common subspecies which we see here is the nominate *leucophrys*. However, on 10 Oct the BSBO Navarre station banded one of the *gambelii* subspecies. Though they breed in Alaska and western Canada and migrate through the mountainous west to Mexico, a few show up here each fall.

Dark-eyed Junco:

Haans Petruschke saw one on 25 Sep on Gildersleeve Mountain, *Lake*; it likely was part of the small breeding population in the northeast. Migrants made it to Indian Hill, *Hamilton*, by 10 Oct (Frank Renfrow). Jen Brumfield noted a flock of about 180 in Gordon Park, *Cuyahoga*, on 26 Oct. More than 50 counties had sightings.

Summer Tanager:

There were several reports of two in Sep but the highest count was three, in Oak Openings, *Lucas* (where there is a small breeding population) on 21 Sep (Elliot Tramer). The latest sighting was on 02 Oct in Ault Park, *Hamilton* (Kirk Westendorf). Other reports came from *Clermont, Franklin, Greene, Lucas, Montgomery*, and *Washington*.

Scarlet Tanager:

Three were seen on outings in each of *Clermont, Lorain*, and *Richland* between 17 Sep and 07 Oct. Elliot Tramer found the latest at his *Lucas* feeder on 12 and 13 Oct. Twenty-two other counties also had sightings.

Northern Cardinal:

The high count was 65, found during the 16 Oct Kelleys Island census (Tom Bartlett *et al.*). Reports came from 68 counties.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak:

Doug Overacker found eight on 11 Sep, 16 Sep, and 02 Oct in Buck Creek. The end of their migration was quite drawn out, but not past the usual end date. The last three sightings were of five on 21 Oct in Kiwanis Riverway Park, **Franklin** (Irina Shulgina); one on 02 Nov in a **Franklin** yard (Craig Moore); and one on 14 Nov at a **Harrison** feeder (David Smith).

Blue Grosbeak:

Franklin is the farthest north of the eight counties with sightings. Mike Busam saw three in VOA Park, **Butler**, on 06 Sep, as did Brad Sparks at Darby Creek on 10 Sep. There were multiple reports from Armleder Park until Dan Striley found the last of the season, a straggler on 27 Sep.

Indigo Bunting:

Wayne Wauligman found begging young in Caldwell Park, **Hamilton**, on 11 Sep. Kirk Westendorf noted 30 in Armleder Park on 01 Oct. The last reports came on 22 Oct from Darby Creek (Craig Moore) and **Coshocton** (James E. Yoder). Reports came from 42 counties overall.

Dickcissel:

As is typical these were fairly widespread geographically though not abundant; they were reported from ten scattered counties in the unglaciated part of the state. A flurry of sightings in Armleder Park started with eight of that location's summer birds on 02 Aug (Brian Wulker) and declined from that high. The last was seen in the **Hardin** wetlands on 05 Sep (Richard Counts).

Bobolink:

Jeffrey A. Miller found 100 to 120 near Walnut Creek, **Holmes**, on 29 Aug. The last report was of four birds in Armleder Park on 16 Oct (m. obs.). Fifteen counties produced reports.

Red-winged Blackbird:

These were present for the whole season and reported in 50 counties. There were several flocks in the thousands with the largest being of about 3500 birds around the Wake Robin Trail in Mentor Marsh, **Lake**, on 06 Oct (Jen Brumfield).

Eastern Meadowlark:

These were also present all season. The high count was 73, at The Bowl, **Harrison**, on 01 Oct (Scott Pendleton). Other double-digit reports came from **Ashland**, **Tuscarawas**, **Union**, and **Wyandot**. Twenty-three counties had single-digit counts.

Yellow-headed Blackbird:

Irina Shulgina reported one in a flock of Brown-headed Cowbirds at Darby Creek on 20 Sep.

Rusty Blackbird:

Mary Pfaffko saw the first on 17 Sep at Magee. Kirk Westendorf estimated that a remarkable 350 were "mixed in with everything else" at the Miami Whitewater wetlands on 26 Nov. They were seen in 24 counties and through the end of the season.

Common Grackle:

These gather in huge flocks during migration; there were several reports exceeding 1000. The largest was of an estimated 12,000 birds along Stout Road in Lucas, **Richland**, on 13 Aug (Gary Cowell). More than half of our counties had sightings.

Brown-headed Cowbird:

Craig Moore provided the high count of about 250 in the Darby Marsh, **Ottawa**, on 10 Oct.

Blackbird sp.:

Jen Brumfield reported a mixed flock of about 5000 along the Wake Robin Trail in Mentor Marsh, **Lake**, on 06 Oct.

Orchard Oriole:

Eleven counties hosted these during the season. The high count was four; they were in the Margaret Peak NP, **Lorain**, on 23 Aug (BRAS). The last report was on 12 Sep from **Harrison** State Forest (Scott Pendleton).

Baltimore Oriole:

These crowd-pleasers were last seen 26 Sep at Side Cut MP, **Lucas** (Barry McEwen). The high count was a marvelous 46 found during the 22 Aug Kelleys Island census (Tom Bartlett *et al.*). There were several reports of six or seven among the 29 counties with sightings.

Purple Finch:

These were quite widespread in the northern half of the state, being reported in 15 counties south to **Franklin**, but only in **Fairfield** and **Montgomery** below it. Elliot Tramer commented that they "seemed more numerous than usual." The first were seen 08 Sep both in the Carlisle Reservation, **Lorain** (BRAS), and the Boston area of CVNP (Hope Orr). Barry Rice found the high count of four in Brookville, **Montgomery**, on 18 Sep.

House Finch:

Flocks of about 50 were seen 01 Aug at Lorain (Rich and Karen Kassouf) and on 05 Nov at Scioto Audubon MP, **Franklin** (Claire Britton). About 50 counties provided reports.

Pine Siskin:

Doug and Micki Dunakin saw the first on 24 Sep in *Paulding*, and seven were at their feeder on 22 Oct. Elliot Tramer saw the highest number, 27, on 05 Nov in CPNWR. Sightings came from 18 counties.

American Goldfinch:

Wayne Wauligman noted begging young in Caldwell Park, *Hamilton*, on 11 Sep. There were three reports in triple digits. About 150 were at the Miami Whitewater wetlands on 08 Oct (Mark Gilsdorf), and 300 were there three days later (Robert Foppe and Jennifer Smolenski). Elliot Tramer contributed this comment: “(150+) est. feeding on cutleaf coneflower and wild sunflower seeds in the Swan Creek floodplain [Oak Openings Preserve MP, *Lucas*] from late-Sept. to mid-October along the path

of the June 5, 2010 tornado. The removal of the tree canopy by this powerful storm apparently caused a massive growth response by the herbaceous layer, providing excellent food and cover for birds.”

Evening Grosbeak:

The Toledo area Rare Bird Alert passed on a report of 10 in flight over the eastern outskirts of the city on 20 Nov (*vide* Dennis Johns).

House Sparrow:

There were several reports in triple digits, with about 150 being noted at the Cleveland Zoo on 10 Sep (Andy Jones and Michelle Leighty) and at Cleveland-Hopkins Airport on 20 Sep (Jen Brumfield). Fifty-nine counties provided reports.

BIRD QUIZ

We regret that no photo quiz is available for this issue. We hope to restore the feature at a later time and will resume the Bird Trivia questions then as well.

Answers to Spring/Summer 2011 Photo Quiz

- Photo 1: Black-throated Green Warbler
- Photo 2: American Redstart
- Photo 3: Connecticut Warbler
- Photo 4: Pine Warbler

Answer to Spring/Summer 2011 Trivia Question

The world's largest songbird is the Common Raven.

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REPORT ON 16 TURKEY VULTURE (*Cathartes aura*) NESTS IN EASTERN OHIO

By Scott Pendleton

The Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) is ubiquitous in Ohio. It was reported from 3740 breeding blocks (84.2%) on the recently completed Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II (OBBA2). However, breeding was confirmed in only 90 blocks (2%). The low confirmed percentages are, in part, due to the nest sites and adult behavior. The incubating adult's habit of remaining motionless in the presence of danger allows the casual observer to pass by. Also playing a part are the nests' cryptic nature, remote locations, lack of access to or awareness of nest sites in buildings, and, for such a large bird, the remarkably small cavity size of natural nest sites. .

There has been only one paper discussing multiple turkey vulture (TUVU) nesting sites in Ohio (Coles, 1944). This paper adds to the knowledge of Ohio nests by presenting characteristics of fourteen TUVU nest sites and nests located during the OBBA2 period in eastern Ohio: Harrison Co. (12 sites), Jefferson Co. (one site), and Carroll Co. (one site). Data from two Harrison County nests that were photographed in 1982 and 1986 are also included. Not included were three nests reported to me after the 2011 breeding season was over.

METHODS

As a by-product of breeding bird surveys, the data have several limitations. Though the species does not make nests in the conventional sense, for convenience I define the nest as the area of incubation. Egg location within the nest, number of eggs or young, and fledging rates were not always recorded. Data about the nest sites and the nests were recorded. I define the nest site as the topographic area surrounding the site of incubation.

Nests were located by several methods: serendipity (2), reports from farmers and friends (7) and searches of likely nest sites (7). Serendipity applies to those nests found while not actively birding. Both of those nests were found by hearing the characteristic hiss of a vulture chick. All second party reports contained precise locations that were confirmed by a visit, except for Nest 6. That nest was confirmed and measured by registered atlasers George and Kelly Benish. For buildings, likely nest sites were located by observing a TUVU perched in or entering an

opening. Natural sites required more foot work. If a TUVU was noticed perched in or flying into a heavily wooded area, the area was searched until either carrion or a nest was found. In one case a fellow atlaser and I were surveying a rocky hillside associated with a small hemlock ravine in late July 2010 when I commented, "There are two things we should be able to find here—a copperhead and a vulture nest." The area was visited the following year in May and a nest was found under a large rock, but we had no luck on the copperhead.

Nests were confirmed by one of three methods: observing eggs, chicks or fledglings; sound; or multiple observations of an adult entering a cavity. TUVU leave the nest unattended for fairly long periods of time (Jackson, 1984). To keep disturbance to a minimum, nest sites were visited when the adults were not present. Sound was used in many of the building sites. The buildings tended to be dilapidated and unsafe with the nest located on the second floor. These nests were confirmed by tapping the floor or wall with a stick and listening for the hiss of the chicks. The latitude and longitude were recorded. Precise locations for one unused nest of each type are given so the interested reader can pursue satellite images of the surrounding topography. Once confirmed, nests were rarely revisited.

Nest site data recorded includes the following: surrounding vegetation, topography, and distance to the nearest regular human activity. Nest data recorded include the substrate, cavity dimensions, and entrance number and dimensions. Other data such as number of eggs, number of chicks, and number of years used were recorded when available and are discussed in the description of each nest.

NEST DESCRIPTIONS

Nest 1: The nest site is a sandstone ravine in mature woods. The nest is located on a cliff ledge 4 meters from the bottom of the ravine. A rock had fallen from the roof of a shallow shelf cave, landed against the wall and cracked. This left a cavity with one entrance of dimensions 25cm x 80cm. One end of the incubating cavity is a triangular 80cmx36cmx73cm that over 1.8m tapers to a point. There is a much smaller cavity on the opposite side of the cave. When incubating, part of the bird's back and tail can be seen. To exit the nest, the bird backs into the opposite side and climbs out. The rock which fell in the

autumn of 2005 trapped some detritus that was used as nest substrate the first year. Since the detritus has decomposed the substrate has been bare rock. The site was first used in 2006 and has fledged ten birds in six nesting seasons.

Nest 2: This nest dates from 1982 and was photographed by Blair Heavilin, who also reported Nests 3 and 4. The nest site was a sandstone ravine in mature woods. The nest was on an open ledge 70cm deep and 3.2m long under a sandstone shelf. The shelf is 2.6 above the base of the cliff which is 5m high.

Nest 3: The nest site is in mature woods with moderate slope. The nest was in a heart rot cavity of a fallen oak. The entrance was an irregular 65cm circle. The cavity extended 2.5 m and the eggs were 1.7 m inside. The substrate is decomposed heart wood.

Nest 4: The nest site is in mature woods on a moderately sloping hillside. The nest was located near the center of a 2.6m grapevine thicket that was formed when an overloaded tree top was pulled over. The trunk broke 4m up and the top formed a grapevine tent. There was one obvious entrance approximately 40 cm in diameter and the eggs were 1.2m from the edge. The substrate was leaf litter. According to Mr. Heavilin the nest was used for three years. The tree and vine collapsed in 2010 and no longer has a suitable nesting cavity.

Nest 5: The nest site is in mature woods on a steeply sloping hillside. The nest was in a ground



This typical eastern Ohio sandstone ravine is the location for Nest 1. The ravine is 15 meters wide at its narrowest, 150 meters long and 18 meters from creek to cliff top.

level cavity formed by heart rot in a standing beech. The external diameter of the tree is 95cm and the cavity diameter is 70cm. The entry is a 32 cm irregular circle at ground level. The substrate is humus and the nest had two chicks in 2010. The tree top was broken from the trunk in the fall of 2010 and the nest was not used in 2011.

Nest 6: The nest site borders second growth woods and open field. It is 33 meters from a busy state highway. The cavity is in a standing dead oak with a 1.5m diameter. The entrance is 1.8m from the ground and is an irregular 70cm circle. The inside cavity is an irregular 1m circle 1.5 m deep. The substrate is decomposed tree. The nest was confirmed by seeing an adult enter repeatedly.

Nest 7: This nest dates from 1986 and was photographed by Tom Ford. The nest site was in mature woods on a moderately sloping hillside. The nest was located in a cavity of a wild cherry tree. The cavity was approximately 2m from the ground but the tree grew against a large rock that was nearly as high. The adult would land on the rock and step up into the cavity. The outside diameter of the tree was approximately 60 cm.



Two chicks at two weeks old in Nest 1. At around two weeks they begin to show threat response of hissing and raising wings. Note that the substrate is bare rock.



A 40-45 day old chick in the right side of Nest 1 showing typical defensive posture. At this age they not only hiss vigorously, but also stamp their feet, lunge and regurgitate.

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Nest 8: The nest site is in mature woods on a steep sandstone talus slope. Amongst the sandstone boulders were several that were larger than 2m. The nest was located under a 3x3.4x1.5m sandstone rock. The cavity was 30 cm high and a triangular 1.7m deep and 2.2m wide. At the back of the triangle there was a notch in the rock where the two eggs were laid. The substrate was sand with little organic detritus.

Nest 9: The nest site is a cabin in a small woodlot surrounded by 5,000 acres of reclaimed grasslands. It is the most appropriate nest for birds associated with death. Some years ago, five cows forced open the door of this hunting cabin and once in, managed to get it shut. They died of dehydration and then mummified. In this macabre atmosphere, six TUVU over the past three seasons have fledged. The nest is in the northeast corner of the 5.4 x 5.4m cabin. The door is stuck open 35cm and is the only entrance to the nest. The substrate is dirt.

Nest 10: This nest is one of eight in buildings or structures; it is in a treeless area and is the closest to regular sustained human activity. The nest site is an overgrown farmstead. To the east 46 meters is a hay field, to the west 39 meters is a 90 acre wooded hillside, to the south is a large pasture and to the north, only 45 meters away, is US250 and across it is a very busy farm implement business. The nest is in the loft of a machine shed and was confirmed by listening for the hiss of the chicks. Entry is via the open loft door. The substrate is bare wood.

Nest 11: This is the second nest in an open field. The nest site is an overgrown sloping farmstead. To the north and south is fallow field. The woods are 42 meters to the east and 86 meters to the west. The nest is in an old corn crib (1.8 x 3.6m) with four windows for entry and exit. The substrate is bare wood amongst corn cobs where one egg was laid.

Nest 12: The nesting site is at the edge of a large wooded area with a large active truck garden only 22 meters away. The nest is located in an attic of a dilapidated brick house. A third of the roof has collapsed allowing access to the attic. The substrate is assumed to be bare wood. The nest has been used for the past four nesting seasons. It was confirmed by listening for hiss of chicks.

Nest 13: This is the only nest in the survey that started out as a TUVU nest and ended up a Black Vulture (BLVU) nest. The nest site is shrubby immature woods with mild slope. The nest is a triangular eave attic in a nearly collapsed frame house. It has two entrances, a window and

a closet door open to a collapsed roof. The eggs were placed in the corner furthest from the window entrance. The substrate is bare wood. It is 370 meters from Nest 1 and was used by TUVU from 2006 thru 2009. On 3 March, 2010 two BLVU were noticed perched in a nearby tree. It is common for BLVU to roost near their nest site before the breeding season (Jackson, 1983) and I confirmed their nesting with a visual inspection of the nest in May of 2010. BLVU used the nest in 2010 and 2011.

Nest 14: The nest site is shrubby immature woodlot edge on an active beef cattle farm that is visited daily. (The owners live elsewhere.) The abandoned brick home in which the nest is located is 40m from the cattle barn. The nest was in a closet on the second floor. The closet dimensions are 40cm x 90cm and the room dimensions are 3.6m x 5.4m; it had two open windows for access. There were two chicks in 2009. Interestingly, when disturbed they each went to different closets every time the site was visited, even if it meant crossing each other's path.

Nest 15: The nest site is a wooded flat cattle pasture. The nest is in an open closet on the second floor of an abandoned brick house. The room was 3.6m x 5.4m and the closet 40cm x 90cm with its door stuck open. The substrate was bare wood. According to the owner, TUVU have nested there since 2006. There were two chicks in 2010 when the nest was confirmed.

Nest 16: The nest site is shrubby second growth woodland edge within 25 meters of a regularly used dirt road. There are two buildings in close proximity, a house and a detached summer kitchen. It was first located while surveying for Ruffed Grouse drumming on April 28, 2011. Two vultures were observed, one on the summer kitchen roof and one in a dead elm to the front of the buildings. A third bird exited a window in the summer kitchen. The buildings were revisited on 16 May in the early morning and two birds were noted: one on the house roof and one in the dead elm. After some time a bird exited the window in the house. The site was visited again in early July and there was a fledged young in the window of the summer kitchen. Unfortunately, all observations had to be made from the road and the presence of two nests could not be confirmed.

Nest descriptions are summarized in the accompanying table.

DISCUSSION

In areas with suitable cliff habitat, nearly all nesting TUVU pairs will choose such sites (Coleman, 1989 and Coles, 1944). Eastern Ohio

has many sandstone ravines but very few have the cavities or fissures that TUVU prefer. Nest 1 meets this standard and as such, it was used the first year it formed and every year since. Nest 2 was on a sandstone ledge without a cavity. It was used by a pair of TUVU for several years in a row but has not been used in the past 25 years. If its roof were to collapse and form a cavity, one would expect it to be regularly used again.

If appropriate cliffs are not available, TUVU will nest in a large variety of cavities (Jackson, 1984 and Mossman, 1992). The selection of nest sites in this report supports this. There is not only variation in nesting sites, but also in the size of the cavities used within nest types (e.g. corn crib verses closet). The nests are also divided equally between natural cavities and buildings.

The sandstone talus slope of Nest 8 was a common type of nesting site in Wisconsin (Coleman, 1989). That particular slope type is unusual away from the steep large valleys near the Ohio River in Jefferson County. Many lack roads and are inaccessible without a canoe and are therefore under-surveyed. There are several abandoned sandstone quarries in the area that have this habitat formed by artificial means. One would expect to find a nest there but they have yet to be surveyed.

Tree (Nests 3 and 5) or thicket nests (Nest 4) at ground level are less likely to be successful than other types (Jackson, 1984). Upright trees with appropriate cavity size are becoming rare in this area. It takes many decades or even centuries to produce the large trees required to support a TUVU nest. Modern forestry practices make the formation of further large cavities unlikely. A decline of tree cavities with above-ground entrances is of concern in some areas (Jackson, 1984). In areas with many abandoned structures in appropriate habitat, such as eastern Ohio, this loss is less of a problem.

The nests described demonstrate the TUVU's willingness to use structures. In some areas, 70% of abandoned buildings in wooded habitats had TUVU nests (Buhnerkempe, 1984). However, no systematic survey of abandoned buildings was attempted. Within the structures, the TUVU chose a smaller cavity (closet) within a larger cavity (room) or a dark recess when available. This behavior is expected (Jackson, 1984 and Buhnerkempe, 1984).

There are two differences in this report from previous reports: nests in non-wooded areas and the possibility of a communal nest site. Authors from previous reports stress remoteness (Coleman, 1989 and Mossman, 1992). For a natural

cavity nest, Nest 6 is exceptional. It is the only one not in a large tract of forest and it is less than 225m from several houses. However, it also had a large cavity and a large entrance that was above ground level. Apparently the quality of the nest cavity trumped the neighborhood in which it was located. Nests 10 and 11 are unusual in that they are clearly in open field. In a small sample size, 25% may be an anomaly and not significant but it is certainly interesting to entertain the thought that TUVU may change its behavior as preferred nest sited decline in remote areas.

Jackson (1984) states that TUVU appear to be territorial when nesting. Coleman (1989) did not find this in Pennsylvania where four pairs of nests, out of 21 nests surveyed, were less than 120m apart. There is one report of a TUVU and BLVU nesting on different floors of the same structure (Richardson, 1989). This sample had one nest site that potentially had two nests.

The observations made at Nest 16 are not proof that TUVU nested less than 15m from each other in different buildings. To see three birds at two different times with adults exiting two different buildings is intriguing and worth pursuing. Unfortunately, permission to take a ladder to the site could not be obtained. Observation of fledglings is hindered by the significant time commitment it takes to get to the site. It is reported here as a potential close nesting of TUVU that requires further observation to confirm.

CONCLUSIONS

The 14 OBBA2 nests reported represent 11 breeding blocks. It is clear, when 12% of all confirmed TUVU nests originate from one atlasing area, there is an underlying reason. I think the two most important factors are interest in the species and how atlasing activities are conducted.

My success in finding TUVU nests originates in my personal interest in this fascinating species. My interest began when I picked up an injured TUVU and brought it back to my clinic for rehab. He perched on the back seat and attempted, with his bald head, to look regal. A magnificent stench filled the vehicle and the sensation of Hippoboscid flies exploring my beard as habitat was memorable. The two weeks I cared for him hooked me on this remarkable species. Consequently, I actively looked for nests, questioning every farmer and exploring areas where TUVU entered mature woods.

TUVU nesting confirmations are not amenable to normal atlasing techniques. For efficiency, atlasing is most productive using the "park and listen" technique. TUVU do not sing, many ob-

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served birds are not breeding birds, pairs may or may not be mated, and finally, they nest in relatively remote places. Locating natural cavity nests requires a significant physical and time commitment. All of these factors decrease confirmation percentages.

Why should it matter if confirmed TUVU are underrepresented? As a percentage, both reported and confirmed blocks have decreased compared to OBBA1. There is concern that as natural cavities decline in number, nesting success will drop. How long will there be abandoned farm buildings in which they can nest? As common as the species appears, it may not always be so. Any nests found can be registered at the Turkey Vulture Society web site (vulturesociety.homestead.com). The more baseline data are collected, the better we can understand this fascinating scavenger.

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Scott is a veterinarian in Harrison County who treats both farm animals and pets. Due to a hectic schedule, he rarely birds outside of eastern Ohio and is quite happy with his 258-species life list. As this article attests, he likes to collect observations and data while hiking nearly 400 miles a year and working on cattle in Harrison and neighboring counties.

Nest	Location	Nest Type	Area Type	Human Activity	Nest Dimensions	Entrances	Entrance Dimensions
1	Washington Twp., Harrison Co.	Cliff Face	Mature Woods	Paved Road-172m	80cm x 36cm x 73cm tapering to a point over 1.8m	1	80cm x 25cm
2	Nottingham Twp., Harrison Co.	Cliff face	Mature Woods	Dairy Operation 650 m	70cm shelf 3.2 m long	Open cliff face	Historic nest
3	Nottingham Twp., Harrison Co.	Down Tree	Pastured Mature Woods	Dirt road, cattle feeding- 270m	65cm x 2m	1	Irregular 65cm circle
4	Nottingham Twp., Harrison Co.	Grapevine Thicket	Mature Woods	Dairy Operation 550m	2.6 m Exterior 80cm cavity	1	Irregular 40cm tunnel 1.2 m long
5	40.322444 -81.158175	Tree Cavity	Mature Woods	Home site- 360m	70cm irregular circle	1	32cm irregular circle
6	Carroll Co.	Tree cavity	Mature Woods	Highway	irregular 1m circle 1.5 m deep	1	Irregular 70cm circle
7	40.227243 -81.084384 Approximate	Tree cavity	Mature Woods	Highway- 510m		1	Historic Nest- no dimensions available
8	Salem Twp., Jefferson Co.	Sandstone boulder	Mature Woods	Hay Field- 580m	1.7x2.2m with a notch in the rear	1	30 cm high 2.2m at opening
9	Cadiz Twp., Harrison Co.	Cabin Floor	Sparsely wooded within 5K acres of grass	Active surface mine at +1,000m	5.4 x 5.4m	1	Door 35cm ajar
10	Cadiz Twp., Harrison Co.	Barn Loft	Overgrown field	Business and Highway- 45m	3m x 5m	2	0.75m x1.2m
11	Archer Twp., Harrison Co.	Corn Crib	Field bordering mature woods	Seldom used dirt road-22m	1.8m x3.6m	4	46cm x46cm
12	North Twp., Harrison Co.	House attic	Field bordering mature woods	Large Active Garden-22m	No access	Open roof	
13	Washington Twp., Harrison Co.	House 2 nd floor	Second growth woods	Home Site-370m	1.8m x2.2m eave closet	2	60cm x 60cm window 86cm x 1.6m door
14	Cadiz Twp., Harrison Co.	House, 2 nd floor	Pasture and shrubby area	Cattle feeding area- 40m	3.6m x 5.4m room 40cmx90cm closet	2	76cm x 1.2m windows
15	Green Twp., Harrison Co.	House, 2 nd floor	sparsely wooded pasture	Active rail line 43m	3.6m x 5.4m room 40cmx90cm closet	2	76cm x 1.2m windows
16	Nottingham Twp., Harrison Co.	House, 2 nd floor	Shrubby area near second growth forest	Regularly used dirt road- 20m	No access Est. 4x5m	2	No access Est 0.7x1.5m

THE CHASE: OUR QUEST TO FIND THE ASHTABULA BLACK-TAILED GULL

By Kyle Carlsen

I am the kind of guy who lives and breathes birds. In fact, I would venture to say that birds take priority over almost everything else in my life. I sneak over to the local wildlife refuge in between my college classes and frequently skip meals during migration season. I have travelled hundreds of miles to chase an unusual vagrant and have, in fact, rearranged a few dates to coincide with a good birding opportunity. (Weekend retreat to Mio, Michigan, honey?)

I am also a stickler when it comes to academics. Class attendance, writing assignments, and grades almost always come first.

So when my friend Jon Benedetti sent me an email asking if I would like to join him on a chase for a Black-tailed Gull in Ashtabula, Ohio, I was faced with a stressful dilemma: skip classes, or skip the chance for an ABA area code four.

It took me nearly five seconds to decide.

I took off from Vincent, Ohio in Washington County around 6am on November 27, 2011, joining Jon Benedetti and Pat Collins of Wood County, West Virginia. The three of us loaded Jon's Subaru with scopes, maps, field guides, and luggage for at least one overnight stay and headed north. We encountered some rain along the interstate, which was a foreshadowing of the overall wet and cold conditions we would endure over the course of the trip, but this did not shake our resolve: We were chasing birds.

Obviously, Black-tailed Gull was our number-one target species. With only a mere handful of documented North American sightings, this was the first Ohio record of Black-tailed Gull, a species that is normally at home in Asia. The bird would be a life bird for all three of us, and for the more experienced birders among us, like Jon, life birds are hard to come by.

However, Black-tailed Gull was not the only rarity awaiting us in northeast Ohio. A Black-headed Gull was hanging out just a few miles east of Ashtabula, at the Conneaut Harbor—another life bird for all three of us.

And as if these two gulls were not enough incentive to forge ahead, shortly after leaving home, we received some phone calls reporting a Snowy Owl that had plopped down in the very same spot that we were headed. Snowy Owl is a great bird for anyone to see, and was another

possible lifer for me.

This was getting good.

Around 10 am we arrived at the now-famous cement bridge over the Ashtabula River, grabbed our binoculars and joined a few folks who were focused north. There, at least three football fields out, in a railroad yard situated along an inlet of Lake Erie, sat a nearly pure-white Snowy Owl. I was thrilled to catch this amazing life bird right off the bat—even if we missed out on the gulls, I had already had a successful trip.

But there were still two rare gulls out there, and the day was still young. After talking over some strategies with some folks at the bridge and amongst ourselves, we decided our best bet was to head over to Conneaut to first try for the Black-headed Gull.

The Conneaut beach proved to be a surprisingly popular spot for a Sunday morning in late November. We ran across a few sightseers and, of course, five or six hundred Bonaparte's, Ring-billed, Herring, and Great Black-backed Gulls. Our task: to pick out the one dude amongst them with the bright red legs and bill. Piece of cake.

After an hour of scanning in wind and rain, a randomly unkind gentleman who purposefully flushed the entire flock of gulls by roaring through in his red pickup, and a false alarm (Common Tern), our chances of success were beginning to look rather dim. However, our luck changed when Jen Brumfield showed up, took a quick look, and candidly pointed out the prized bird, more or less right in front of our eyes. Score! A beautiful nonbreeding Black-headed Gull was sporting his noticeably reddish bill and legs, which contrasted with the black-billed Bonaparte's Gulls all around.

Once our life-bird excitement momentarily wore off, we grabbed lunch and then headed back to Ashtabula. The single Black-tailed Gull sighting that day had been at 8 am, and at 2 pm we were hoping the bird would show before nightfall hit in just a few hours. Rather than bore my readers with every painful detail, I will just say that we did not locate the bird that day. We scoured every spot along the Lake Erie shoreline where the gull had been previously reported, and picked out several great birds along the way (Peregrine Falcon, Snow Bunting, Surf Scoter), but we failed to turn any of those dark-tailed juvenile Ring-billeds or even the occasional dark-looking Herring into a Black-tailed Gull.

But we did not give up. We were not about to head home without the bird. We booked a room in a local hotel and laid out all of our maps and notes, most of which were the product of the generous knowledge and assistance of helpful Ohio birders, both from the field that day and via the Ohio Birds listserv. We looked over our options, mapped out a game plan, and then hit the sack.

The next morning, we were sitting at that cement bridge thirty minutes before daylight. Most morning sightings of the gull had been within the first hour of sunrise, and we were not taking any chances.

The sun came up and our scopes were trained on every gull that appeared within our range of view. We relocated the Snowy Owl and noticed a lone Red-necked Grebe floating in the channel north of the bridge. But, alas, no Black-tailed Gull.

We had decided the night before that if we did not succeed at the bridge within the first hour, we would head on over to Lake Shore Park, just a mile northeast of where we now stood near the cement bridge.

After arriving at the park, we carried our scopes and tripods up to the picnic pavilion which proved to be a great vantage point overlooking the blue industrial buildings where numerous gulls seemed to enjoy standing on the rooftops. From this position, we resumed the task in which we had been engaged ever since we first arrived in Ashtabula: checking every individual gull—in this case, looking for a dark-backed gull with a black tail.

After a few minutes, I sensed a change in Jon's tone of voice. "Take a look at this gull." He proceeded to describe the precise location of the gull in question—which was standing on one of the rooftops between a Ring-billed Gull and a Herring Gull—and soon all three of us were studying the bird. Jon, being the veteran birder of our group, made the identification first. "That's it! That's it—very dark back, black tail, dark tip on the bill!"

Black-tailed Gull. Holy cow.

I am fairly certain at least one or two of us did the happy dance. There were shouts, and, possibly, a few tears. Hundreds of travelled miles, a dozen cups of coffee, and many hours spent scouring thousands and thousands of distant gulls had paid off with very satisfying looks at this bird from about one hundred yards, who then decided to take flight for a few moments, showing off that diagnostic white band and black tail, before dropping back down and staying put for over ten minutes. I could even make out the red spot in front of the black band on the tip of the bill. A nearby Lesser Black-backed Gull offered an excellent comparison; the Black-tailed Gull appeared slightly smaller than the Lesser Black-backed, slightly larger than the nearby Ring-billeds, and noticeably smaller than the Herrings.

All three of us enjoyed a birder's high for the rest of that day, a feeling that has yet to fully diminish as I write this article three weeks later. As of this writing in mid-December 2011, the Ashtabula Black-tailed Gull continues to delight birders from all over the country. All of us who found the bird are greatly indebted to the many, many Ohio birders who shared information, updated websites, and posted sightings. I am proud to be part of such a dynamic community made up of people who love birds and love helping other birders.

I said I am the kind of guy who lives and breathes birds. Come to think about it, that is nothing unusual. All of us live and breathe birds.

We are birders, and that is how we roll.

A recent graduate of Ohio Valley University, Kyle is a freelance musician and the assistant editor of Bird Watcher's Digest. He also leads tours and workshops for Back Road Birding Tours based in southeast Ohio.

OOS MEMBERSHIP

Welcoming backyard birdwatchers and researchers in the field alike, the Ohio Ornithological Society is the largest statewide organization specifically devoted to fostering a deeper appreciation of wild birds, fellowship and collaboration in advancing our collective knowledge about them, and our ability to speak with one voice to preserve Ohio's bird habitats.

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The Counties of Ohio



Jim Dolan photographed this female Rufous Hummingbird in Damascus, Mahoning, on 22 Nov 2011.

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

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

Back cover:

Laura Keene photographed this American Avocet at Conneaut, Ashtabula, on 16 Aug 2011.

THE OHIO CARDINAL

The Ohio Ornithological Society
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