



The Ohio

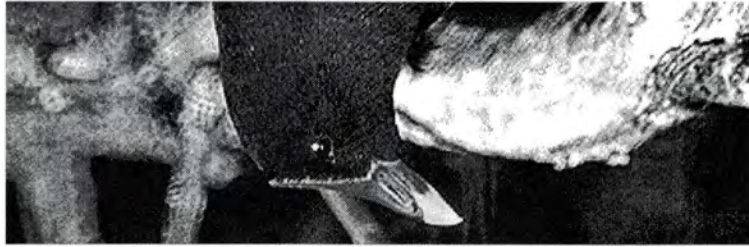
CARDINAL™

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Winter 1996-97



The Ohio Cardinal

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



The Ohio Cardinal exists to provide a permanent and timely record of the abundance and distribution of birds in Ohio; to help document the occurrence of rare species in the state; to provide information on the identification of birds; and to provide information on birding areas within Ohio. We invite readers to submit articles illuminating these topics.

Seasonal Reports are due
by the following dates:
Winter - 25 March
Spring - 25 June
Summer - 25 August
Autumn - 25 December

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Cover Photo, a Short-eared Owl, by Gary Meszaros

Letter from the Editor . . .

After 6 and a half years, Rob Harlan is stepping down as Editor of *The Ohio Cardinal*. Rob's unprecedented stint saw the magazine grow in size while maintaining the integrity of the information brought on by his predecessor Tom Kemp. Rob will stay on as copy editor, assuring the quality you have come to expect from *The Ohio Cardinal*. In that tradition, I hope to continue the magazine as an honest and accurate appraisal of Ohio's avifauna.

With this issue, we are in transition to the format I will ultimately establish in the next issue. In these pages, you will already see the new presentation of the seasonal summary. Expansion of the seasonal summary, both richer in text and graphical presentations, is possible largely because of computer hardware upgrades. This experimental issue lacks for articles, but you will be seeing these again with the next issue. The move to a new editor also brings with it changes in print facilities, etc. which we hope to have fully resolved in the near future. During this time we ask again for your patience regarding future issues. Presently the Spring 1997 and Summer 1997 issues are being written and typeset, while data extraction for the Fall 1997 and Winter 1997-98 is complete. By Spring 1999 we anticipate a regular schedule of publication. - V.W.F.III



Greater White-fronted Goose : Castalia Pond,
Erie Co., 18 Jan. 1997 [ph. V.W.F.III]

The Winter 1996-97 Season

by
Victor W. Fazio III

The winter of 1996-97 was one of the milder in a series of mild winters this decade. However, a normal December, after a cooler than normal November, did little for numbers of half-hardy species on Christmas Bird Counts. For example, the CBC tally of Belted Kingfisher for northern Ohio was only 60% of the average for the previous five years, and that of Yellow-bellied Sapsucker only 41%. This cool opening for the season was quickly forgotten in the face of two weather events in January and February which defined the season. The record warmth and associated strong southwesterly breezes of the first few days of January generated numerous out-of-season observations. The thaw of standing waters was so complete as to allow larger than normal numbers of waterfowl to linger well into January. Indeed, the masses of puddle duck and geese through the Western Basin and interior western stopover sites were never sure of the weather themselves, as thousands moved into and out of the region several times. Doubtless the mild weather allowed for rare over-winterings of several species. Only the latter three weeks of January could be characterized in any way as "winter", for by 1-2 February, the first southwesterly breezes in a spring time pattern of fronts began. Not surprisingly, this weather brought the first few migrants, but it was the strong, persistent warm breezes of the 18-20th February which produced widespread records of spring migrants. Notably, these records were not merely of several species (e.g. Killdeer, Sandhill Crane, Turkey Vulture) across the state, but involved numbers generally unheard of before March.

Conventional wisdom has it that very cold winters, and the attendant icing over of Lake Erie, are needed for sizeable concentrations of gulls. This season proved the exception as overall fairly good numbers and variety were had. Numbers of Great Black-backed Gulls continue their latest increase and some concentrations were among the largest ever seen. As much as gulls were a part of the season so were boreal irruptives noticeable in their absence. From Northern Saw-whet Owls to Red-breasted Nuthatches and "winter" finches, the dearth of records was striking. It was a good season for raptorial irruptives from the north as both Rough-legged Hawk and Snowy Owl made noticeable incursions. The coincident high levels of small mammal populations in the west may also have contributed to observations of good raptor numbers. Northern Harriers seemed especially widespread which may have owed something to the success of the Conservation Reserve Program.

Reading this report : With this season we begin an evolution toward a different layout for the seasonal summary of bird reports. We maintain the isolated species entry, having updated the taxonomic sequence, but in most instances a short synopsis gives some context to the observations. Specific notable sightings follow the synopsis. These are necessarily abbreviated. This layout is intended to both serve the birdwatcher in understanding the big picture with respect to a given species occurrence within the season, and at the same time highlight the individual efforts of Ohio field observers in a way convenient for querying the specifics of a record.

Abbreviations : | @ = to be read as either "at" or "at a location" | Ad. = adult(s) | CBC = Christmas Bird Count | C.B. = Central Basin of L. Erie | c.f. = compares favorably | CRP = Conservation Reserve Program | C.V.N.R.A. = Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area | f. = female | ID = identification | Imm. = immature(s) | I. = Island | L. = Lake | m.obs. = many observers | MMBT = Magee Marsh Bird Trail | MP. = Metropark | nr = near | N.W.R. = National Wildlife Refuge | NW, SW, C, SE, NE, = Northwest, Southwest, Central, etc. in reference to the state | O.B.R.C. = Ohio Bird Records Committee | O.D.N.R. = Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources | pl. = plumage | O.S.U. = Ohio State University | ph. = photographic record | P.P. = Power Plant | R. = River | Res. = Reservoir | S.B. = Sandusky Bay | S.N.P. = State Nature Preserve | S.P. = State Park | W.B. = Western Basin of L. Erie | W.A. = Wildlife Area | W.T.P. = Water Treatment Plant |

Interpretation : [P.L./T.Lc.] = separate observations by parties P.L. and T.Lc. [P.L. & T.Lc.] = observation by joint party.
Magee Marsh W.A., Ottawa Co. = the observation is understood to pertain specifically to the Ottawa Co. portion of Magee Marsh W.A.
Magee Marsh W.A., Ottawa/Lucas Co. = observation may pertain to any part of the wildlife area.

Underline = Ohio Bird Records Committee review species. Requires acceptable documentation for permanent record.



Coverage map : Counties mentioned within the seasonal summary.

Common Loon : Migrant flights were regular through 18 Dec. along L. Erie. [m.obs.] The peak movement, 9 Dec., was noted at Huron Pier (Erie Co.) with 17 seen in a 2 hr period [V.F.], and at Lakeshore MP, where 674 passed along shore. Several individuals were noted into Jan. at the latter location with a late push of migrants on the 7th [J.P.]. One early migrant was reported by late Feb.

Fall Migration Inland : 1 Dec., 10 @ C.J. Brown Res., Clark Co. [D.O.]; 7 Dec., 9 @ Pymatuning Res., Ashtabula Co. [N.B.]; 21 Dec., 5 @ Butler Co. [Oxford CBC] ; 4 Jan., 2 @ Columbiana/Mahoning Co. [Salem CBC]

Maximum : 9 Dec., 674 @ Lakeshore MP., Lake Co. [J.P.]
Spring Migration : 25 Feb., 1 @ Findlay Res., Hancock Co. [B.Ha.]

Red-throated Loon : *Fall Migration* : 1 Dec., 1 @ C.J. Brown Res., Clark Co. [D.O.]; 9 Dec., 1 @ Lakeshore MP., Lake Co. [J.P.]

Pied-billed Grebe : Above average; 7 reports of 31 individuals as late as 12 January. Two individuals overwintered. Twenty-eight birds were reported from CBCs in northern Ohio. The mid-winter flock of 11 birds at East Fork S.P. was coincident with a spring-like thaw and likely represents spring staging.

Fall Stragglers : 22 Dec., 46 @ Highland/Pike/Ross Co. [Paint Creek CBC]; 8 Dec. - 12 Jan., 12-1 @ C.J. Brown Res., Clark Co. [D.O.]; 1 Jan., 6 @ L. Logan, Hocking Co. [C.D.]; 14 Dec. - 3 Jan., 2-1 @ E. 55th Marina, Cleveland, Cuyahoga Co. [P.L./T.Le.]; 4 Jan., 3 @ Ashtabula Co. [Ashtabula CBC]
Over-wintering : 13 Dec. - 19 Feb., 2-1 @ Wilmington Res., Clinton Co. [L.G.]; 1 Jan. - 2 Feb., 1 @ Castalia Pond, Erie Co. [M.F./L.R.]
Spring Migrants : 2 Feb., 11 @ East Fork S.P., Clermont Co. [D.D.]; 22 Feb., 2 @ Paint Creek/Rocky Fork L., Highland Co. [S.Wa.]

Red-necked Grebe : *Spring Migration Inland* : 5-6 Feb., 2 basic pl. @ Grandview Quarries, Franklin Co. [B.Ma.]

Horned Grebe : Nine reports of 21 birds lingering from the fall migration. All but four birds from inland locations. There were 3 mid-winter reports totalling 3 birds. A bird was picked up in Holmes Co. 12 Jan. and released at Eastlake P.P. (Lake Co.). This bird was likely the source of reports from that location through 1 Feb. [m.obs.].

Stragglers : 10 Dec., 6 @ Findlay Res., Hancock Co. - [B.Ha.]; 1 Jan., 1 @ Buckeye L., Licking Co. [C.D.]; 1 Jan., 3 @ C.J. Brown Res., Clark Co. [D.O.]
Mid-winter : 12 Jan., 1 @ S. of Mt. Eaton, Wayne Co. [B.G.]; 18 Jan., 1 @ Great Miami R., Dayton, Montgomery Co. [fide C.M.]; 20-22 Jan., 1 @ Maumee R. rapids (Farnsworth MP.), Lucas Co. [E.T.]; 26 Jan., 1 @ South Bass I., Ottawa Co. [S.Wu.]
Spring Migration : 15 Feb. - 23 Feb., 1 @ Caesar Creek S.P., Warren Co. [L.G./J.R./H.A. & D.Br.]; 17 Feb., 1 @ Avon Lake P.P., Lorain Co. [T.Le.]

Double-crested Cormorant : Migrant flights continued through 19 Dec. along L. Erie. and likely contributed to the 62 birds on December CBCs in the north. Seven mid-winter reports of 13 individuals is less than expected based on recent seasons. Only one of these reports was away from L. Erie. The wintering flock of 5 at Avon Lake P.P. was augmented by spring arrivals, with 17 there by 4 Feb.

Fall Migration : 19 Dec., 30+ @ E. 55th Marina, Cleveland, Cuyahoga Co. [V.F.]
Mid-winter : 1 Jan., 1 @ Buckeye L., Licking Co. [C.D.]; 8 Jan. - 6 Feb., 1 @ Cleveland Harbor entrance, Cuyahoga Co. [P.L.]; 11-18 Jan., 1 @ Dayton, Montgomery Co. [fide C.M.]; 19-24 Jan., 1 - 3

@ Eastlake P.P., Lake Co. [C.H./V.F. et al.]; 21-29 Jan., 5 @ Avon Lake P.P., Lorain Co. [K.Me./T.Le.]

Spring Migrants? : 4 Feb., 17 @ Avon Lake P.P., Lorain Co. [R.Hr.]

Great Egret : *Straggler* : 10 Dec., 1 @ City of Delaware W.T.P., Delaware Co. [B.Sh.]

Great Blue Heron : At least 55 remained through Jan. in the vicinity of S.B. [V.F.]. Away from the L. Erie marshes, about 31+ birds were accounted for in 13 mid-winter reports. The late Jan. thaw saw a flock at Eastlake P.P. build to 16 birds. Most had departed by 9 Feb., when increases were noted elsewhere suggesting a shift to migrant staging areas. The first rookery bird returned 15 Feb., with additional rookeries occupied a week later.

Mid-winter max.: 4 Jan., 11 @ Southerly W.T.P., Cuyahoga Co. - [DAC]; 29 Dec. - 19 Jan., up to 4 @ C.J. Brown Res., Clark Co. [D.O.]

Early spring staging : 21 Jan. - 3 Feb., 9 - 16 @ Eastlake P.P., Lake Co. [K.Me.]; 9 Feb., 20 @ C.J. Brown Res., Clark Co. [D.O.]

Arrival at rookeries : 15 Feb., 1 @ Lordstown, Trumbull Co. [C.B.]; 23 Feb., 10 @ C.V.N.R.A., Cuyahoga/Summit Co. [DAC]; 25 Feb., 1 @ Hancock Co. [W.Mc., fide B.Ha.]

Green Heron : *Straggler* : 7-15 Dec., 1 @ Mitchell Forest, Hamilton Co. [N.C.]

Black-crowned Night-Heron : Although a regular wintering species along L. Erie, inland reports have been limited to individual dates in recent years. Over-wintering individuals have been unheard of since the 1960's, so two along the Olentangy R. adjacent to the O.S.U. campus in Columbus (Franklin Co.) from Dec. through Feb. [M.E., m.obs.] were an outstanding find.

Maxima : 1 - 25 Dec., 29-21 @ Cleveland, Cuyahoga Co. - [P.L./N.B.] with 1 remaining to 19 Feb. [P.L.]; 22 Dec., 25 @ Toledo, Lucas Co. [Toledo CBC]

Black Vulture : A good season for reports outside of traditional wintering sites.

Reports : e. Dec. - Jan., up to 19 @ e. Holmes Co. [L.Y.]; 18 Jan., 16 @ nr Bremen, Fairfield Co. [C.D.]; 27 Feb., 2 @ Dayton, Montgomery Co. [B.He.]



Turkey Vulture over Reno Beach, Lucas Co., 5 Jan. 1997 [ph. V.F.]

Turkey Vulture : Mid-winter records for the L. Erie shoreline are accidental-casual. Strong SW'y winds in e. Jan. likely produced the 2 records in opposite corners of the state. A winter roost north to Holmes Co. is also notable. The first spring migrants were noted 3 Feb. and were widespread 18-21 Feb. with 6 reports of 13 birds.

Stragglers : 10 Dec. 1 @ Cleveland, Cuyahoga Co. [K.Me.]; 20 Dec. 1 @ South Bass I., Ottawa Co. [S.Wu.]; 26 Dec. 1 @ E Cleveland lakeshore, Cuyahoga Co. [Cleveland RBA]

Mid-winter : 4 Jan., 1 @ Conneaut, Ashtabula Co. [J.P.]; 5 Jan., 1 @ Reno Beach, Lucas Co. [V.F. (ph.)]; 4-18 Jan., 8 to 5 @ L. Buckhorn, Millersburg, Holmes Co. [L.Y./B.G.]

Spring Migration : 3 Feb., 1 @ Holmes Co. [E.S.]; 18 Feb., 4 @ Findlay, Hancock Co. [B.Ha.]; 19 Feb., 2 @ Lucas Co. [T.K.]; 19 Feb., 2 @ Wadsworth, Medina Co. [S.Wg.]; 21 Feb., 1 @ Concord Twp., Lake Co. [J.P.]; 23 Feb., 23 @ E Cleveland lakeshore, Cuyahoga Co. [Cleveland R.B.A.]

Snow Goose : Unlike Tundra Swan, this species did not evacuate the area and was found wintering across the state. The NW hosted at least 200 birds, virtually all resident in the vicinity of Ottawa N.W.R. (Ottawa/Lucas Co.) throughout the winter [m.obs.]. The NE reported 83+ birds with concentrations at Funk Bottoms and Mosquito L. W.A. Spring migration made for scattered sightings at many local ponds. Southern Ohio partook of the invasion with 16-18 birds in the SW and a flock of 10 in the SE.

Fall Migration : 22 Dec., 3 @ Lakeshore MP., Lake Co., [J.P.]; 29 Dec. 1 (b.) @ Nesmith L., Summit Co. [C.H.]; 4 Jan., 1 @ Melvin Gravel Pit, Clinton Co. [L.G.]; 5 Jan., 25 @ along 170, Montgomery Co. [fide C.M.]; 5 Jan., 1 @ Englewood MP., Montgomery Co. [fide C.M.]

Mid-winter - Inland : 3-23 Jan., 36 (24 w & 12 b) @ Funk Bottoms, Wayne Co. [J.L./B.G.]; 8-12 Jan., up to 12 (10 b, 2 w) @ Lorain Co. [J.L./T.Le./C.H.]; 5 Jan. - 17 Feb., 2-3 w @ Killdeer Plains W.A., Wyandot Co. [R.R./N.B.]; 18 Jan. - 1 Feb., 15 @ N of Castalia, Erie Co. [N.B./V.F.]; 18 - 23 Jan., 3+ @ Hamilton Co. [N.K. & M.Bu./L.Z.]

Spring Migration : 9-18 Feb., 2-4 @ C.J. Brown Res., Clark Co. [D.O., m.obs.]; 15 Feb., 10 @ The Wilds, Muskingum Co. [B.T.]; 20 Feb., 21 (9 w, 12 b) @ Mosquito L. W.A., Trumbull Co. [DJHc]; 25 Feb., 8 @ Slate Run MP., Pickaway Co. [K.K. et al.]; 23-28 Feb., 8-7 @ Killdeer Plains W.A. [DJHo et al.]

Ross's Goose : Two reports for which documentation was accepted by the OBRC.

Reports : 8-12 Jan., 1 @ Oberlin City Reservoir, Lorain Co. [J.L. † / C.H. †]; 25 Feb., 1 @ Slate Run MP., Pickaway Co. [† B.C., M.Sk., K.K., B.W. et al.]



Brant : South Bass I., Ottawa Co., 20 Dec. 1996 [S.Wu.]

Brant : Over-wintering is extremely rare in Ohio. A bird, 1 Jan., - 19 Feb., along the Great Miami R. in West Carrollton, Montgomery Co. [m.obs] may have been a first for the southwest.

Fall Migration : mid-Dec., 1 @ Auglaize Co., - [O.D.N.R.]; 20 Dec. 1 @ South Bass I., Ottawa Co. [S.Wu. (ph)]

Spring Migration : 1 Feb., 1 @ Lakewood, Cuyahoga Co. [T.Le.]; 15 Feb., 2 @ Rocky R., Cuyahoga Co. [J.P.]



Greater White-fronted Goose: South Bass I., Ottawa Co., 20-21 Dec. 1996 [S.Wu.]

Greater White-fronted Goose : Unprecedented numbers for winter with at least 40 birds recorded. Over-wintering is unheard of, so 15 at Pickerington Ponds MP. from early Jan. through the period was extraordinary. The only other mid-winter report was that of a brightly orange-billed individual at Castalia Pond, 13 - 21 Jan. [V.F. (ph) / E.E.]

Fall Migration : 20-21 Dec., 1 @ South Bass I., Ottawa Co. [S.Wu. (ph)]; 21 Dec., 1 @ Butler Co. [M.B.]; 4 Jan., 4 @ The Wilds, Muskingum Co. [B.T., J.Z.]

Over-wintering : e. Jan. - Feb., 15 @ Pickerington Ponds MP., Franklin/Fairfield Co., [M.Sk., m.obs.]

Spring Migration : 4 Feb., 1 @ Howard Rd., Lucas Co. [T.K.]; 8 Feb., 8 @ Cedar Point N.W.R., Lucas Co. [J.P.]; 9 Feb., 5 @ C.J. Brown Res., Clark Co. [D.O.]; 13 Feb., 4 @ Knox L. W.A., Knox Co. [S.A.]; 22 Feb., 3 @ Hoover Res., Delaware/Franklin Co. [B.Ma.]; 28 Feb., 2 @ Killdeer Plains W.A., Wyandot Co. [DJHo]

Canada Goose : Widespread in above normal numbers throughout the winter. With the vagaries of the various warm-ups and cold spells came several north-south movements involving thousands of birds. Large numbers were heading north through the Scioto and Sandusky R. valleys in late Dec. yet in response to a thaw thousands were on a

reverse course two weeks later. The O.D.N.R. surveyed less than 3000 in Lucas Co. in Dec. where there were 14,000 three weeks later. A Jan. land-based count at Mosquito L. W.A. exceeded the aerial survey for all of Trumbull Co. in Dec. The first week of Feb. finally saw massive movements northwards to stay.

Dec. ODNR Survey : 12,756 @ Sandusky Co. ; 4504 @ Ottawa Co. ; 3,940 @ Trumbull Co.

Maximum : 5 Jan., 14,000 @ Decant-Seaman Rds, Lucas Co. [V.F.] ; 19 Jan., 2,600 @ Killdeer Plains W.A., Wyandot Co. [V.F.] ; 22 Jan., 4000 @ Mosquito L., Trumbull Co. [DJHC.] ; 9 Feb., 900 @ C.J. Brown Res., Clark Co. [D.O.J.] ; 18 Feb., 2042 @ Hancock Co. [B.Ha.]

Canada Goose (small races) : *Richardson's Goose* : mid-Dec., 4 @ Butler Co. [M.B. et al.] ; 24 Feb., 1 @ Mosquito L., Trumbull Co. [R.E.]
c.f. Branta c. parvipes : 12 Jan., 6 @ Castalia Pond, Erie Co. [V.F., S.C.]

Mute Swan : At least 93 birds were located across the state this season, up from the previous high of 91 in 1993-94. The species continues its spread, penetrating inland with 8 birds reported from the SE and 12 from the SW.

Southeast : 6 Dec. 2 @ Seneca Lake, Noble Co. [S.H.] ; 1 Jan., 4 @ Buckeye L., Licking Co. [C.D.] ; 1 Jan., 2 @ Honey Creek Rd., Perry Co. [C.D.]

Southwest : 8 Dec. - 23 Feb., up to 3 @ Clark Co. [D.O.] ; 29 Dec., 8 @ Hamilton Co., [Cincinnati CBC]

Maxima : 8 Dec., 12 @ Mogadore Res., Portage Co. [R.Hr. & S.Wg.] ; 18-19 Dec., 11 @ Maumee R. rapids, Lucas Co. [m.obs.] ; 22 Dec., 12 @ Stark Co. [Quail Hollow-Hartville CBC] ; 26 Jan. - 5 Feb., 8 to 12 @ Huron, Erie Co. [J.P./B.G.]

Tundra Swan : The species was ubiquitous this season and spent much of it either coming or going. Birds on the move south were noted through 5 Jan. when in excess of 400 were recorded heading SE over the western L. Erie marshes. Elsewhere that day birds were noted in the NE. Up to this time 57 occupied Funk Bottoms, with a smaller number over-wintering [J.L.J.]. A dozen at Magee Marsh W.A. in mid-Jan. also indicate likely over-wintering [HSH]. The late Jan. thaw produced 22 at Sheldon Marsh S.N.P. with numbers building to 154 sitting on the ice by 8 Feb. Migrant flocks on S. B. totaled 94 birds the 18th, while the eastern Lucas Co. flock built to 48 by 21 Feb. [V.F.] Inland Erie Co. flocks began with 5 birds 1 Feb. and grew to 157 by the last week of Feb. At least 450 birds were present in the W.B. before the usual Mar. flight. The flight in the northeast, by contrast, was represented by only 3 reports of 60 birds 21-26 Feb. Not surprisingly, Feb. saw an unusual number of inland records with 19 birds noted in 4 reports.

Fall Migration : 1-20 Dec, up to 8 @ South Bass I., Ottawa Co. [S.Wu.] ; 5 Dec., 17 @ Lakeshore MP., Lake Co. [J.P.] ; 29 Dec., 3 @ Ross/Pickaway Co. [Kingston CBC] ; 3 Jan., 57 @ Funk Bottoms, Wayne Co. [B.G.] ; 5 Jan., 7 @ Mosquito L., Trumbull Co. [C.H.] ; 5 Jan. 1 @ Conneaut Harbor, Ashtabula Co. [C.H.] ; 5 Jan., 400 @ Ottawa N.W.R., Ottawa/Lucas Co. [m.obs.]

Early spring staging : 29 Jan. - 9 Feb., 22-154 @ Sheldon Marsh S.N.P., Erie Co. [R.R./V.F.] ; 31 Jan. - 25 Feb., 8-14 @ Killdeer Plains W.A., Wyandot Co. [L.G./V.F. et al.] ; 4-11 Feb., 21-17 @ Findlay Res., Hancock Co. [B.Ha.] ; 9-10 Feb., 6 @ Berlin Res., Portage Co. [L.R./C.H.] ; 1-25 Feb., 5-157 @ Rt. 4 (Groton Twp), Erie Co. [H.T.B./V.F.] ; 25 Feb., 38 @ Mosquito L., Trumbull Co. [DJHC]

Green-winged Teal : 27 birds on CBCs were below average of recent years. Over-wintered at a Holmesville marsh. Spring migrants were noted 9 Feb., becoming widespread 20-21 Feb., and numerous by month's end.

Stragglers : 29 Dec. 1 @ Wrightman's Grove, Sandusky Co. [V.F.] ; 1 Jan., 1 @ Geauga Co.

[Burton CBC] : 5 Jan., 3 @ Ottawa Co. [Ottawa N.W.R. CBC]

Over-wintering : Dec. - Jan., 7 @ Holmesville Marsh, Holmes Co. [B.G.]

Spring Migration : 9 Feb., 1 @ Eastlake P.P., Lake Co. [L.R.] ; 18 Feb., 1 @ Castalia Pond, Erie Co. [V.F.] ; 21 Feb., 5 @ Cowan L. S.P., Clinton Co. [L.G.] ; 26 Feb., 19 @ Mosquito L. W.A., Trumbull Co. [DJHC.] ; 27 Feb., 60 @ Metzger Marsh W.A., Lucas Co. [V.F.]

Wood Duck : Fifty-five birds on CBCs were below average. Four mid-winter reports totalling 28 birds mostly originated from the SW. The Hancock Co. and Ira Rd. birds were locally noteworthy. Returning migrants arrived by 19 Feb., reaching the NE. The species was widespread in small numbers by the 23rd.

Over-wintering : Dec. - Feb., 1 m. @ Castalia Pond, Erie Co. [V.F.]

Mid-winter : 29 Dec., 12 @ Spring Grove Cemetery, Hamilton Co. [N.C.] ; 6-20 Jan., 1 @ Ira Rd., Summit Co. [TMR] ; 12 Jan., 12 @ Great Miami R., Dayton, Montgomery Co. [D.D.] ; 21 Jan., 3 @ City Dam, Findlay, Hancock Co. [B.Ha.]

Spring Migration : 18 Feb., 3 (flybys) @ Magee Marsh W.A., Ottawa Co. [V.F.] ; 19 Feb., 15 @ Spring Valley W.A., Warren/Greene Co. [H.A. & D.Br.] ; 19 Feb., 1 m. @ Chippewa L., Medina Co. [R.Hr. & S.Wg.] ; 24 Feb., 21 @ Hocking Co. [C.D.]

American Black Duck : *Maximum* : 31 Dec., 400 (in flight) @ Killdeer Plains W.A., Wyandot Co. [V.F.] ; 1 Jan., 2,900 @ SE S.B. shore, Sandusky Co. [V.F.] ; 13 Jan., 1,400 @ Castalia Pond, Erie Co. [V.F.] ; 3 Jan., 30+ @ Funk Bottoms, Wayne Co. [B.G.] ; 19 Jan., 35 @ Eastlake P.P., Lake Co. [L.R.]

American Black Duck X Mallard : *Maximum* : 13 Jan., 62 @ Castalia Pond, Erie Co., [V.F.] ; also reported from Montgomery and Hamilton Cos.

Mallard : Similar story to that of Canada Goose with large numbers moving about the state. A massive movement northwards took place in late Dec. while large numbers were downed in e. Jan. Aerial surveys of S.B. indicated one of the largest concentrations of the species ever in the state [ODNR] existed during the e. part of the winter.

Maxima : 21 Dec., 1000 @ Buck Creek S.P., Clark Co. [D.O.] ; 31 Dec., 11,000 (in 1 hr flight) @ Killdeer Plains W.A., Wyandot Co. [V.F.] ; 1 Jan., 11,000 (in field) @ Willow Pt. W.A., Erie Co. [V.F.] ; 1 Jan., 1600 @ Chippewa L., Medina Co. [R.Hr. & S.Wg.] ; 5 Jan., 16,000 @ Decant-Seaman Rds, Lucas Co. [V.F.] ; 13 Jan., 7,000 @ Castalia Pond, Erie Co. [V.F.] ; 27 Feb., 9,500 @ Rt. 6, Sandusky Co. [V.F.]



Mallard (m. or f.?) : Castalia Pond, Erie Co. 26 Jan. 1997 [ph. V.W.F.III]

Wayne Co. [B.G.]; 19 Jan., 135 @ Eastlake P.P., Lake Co. [L.R.]; 21 Jan., 350 @ Avon Lake P.P., Lorain [K.Me.]; 19 Dec. - 1 Feb., 900+ @ Huron, Erie Co. [V.F. et al.]
Spring Migration: 2 Feb., 11 @ Castalia Pond, Erie Co. [C.H.]; 4 Feb., 6 @ Fostoria Res. #1, Hancock Co. [S.R.]; 18 Feb., 9000 @ S.B., Erie/Ottawa Co. [V.F.]

Redhead: Wintered in fair numbers along the C.B. from Avon Lake to Ashtabula.

Fall Migration: 8 Dec., 750 @ Huron, Erie Co. [V.F.]

Over-wintering: 21 Jan., 150 @ Avon Lake P.P., Lorain Co. [K.Me.]; 26 Jan., 35 @ Ashtabula, Ashtabula Co. [C.H.]

Spring Migration: 3 Feb., 1+ @ Killdeer Plains W.A., Wyandot Co. [D.L. et al.]; 18 Feb., 400 @ S.B., Erie Co. [V.F.]; 26 Feb., 41 @ Mosquito L., Trumbull Co. [DJHc]

Ring-necked Duck: Appx. 15 reports totalling 500+ fall migrants lingering through the early part of the season duplicates the scene from 1990-91 and 1992-3. Prior to these winters the species was unknown in Dec. in numbers of more than a few dozen. The bulk of these remained until freeze-up; 10 Jan. Two mid-winter reports were received, both from the L. Erie shore. Spring migrants were noted at Castalia and Eastlake P.P. 2 Feb. and were widespread by 15 Feb.

Fall Migration: 20 Dec. - 10 Jan., 125 - 156 @ Columbus, Franklin Co. [R.Ro.]; 29 Dec., 190 @ Hamilton Co. [Cincinnati CBC]; 4 Jan., 80 @ Muskingum Co. [Chandlersville CBC]

Mid-winter: 12 Jan., 1 @ Fairport Harbor, Lake Co. [K.Me.]; 21 Jan., 1 @ Avon Lake P.P., Lorain Co. [K.Me.]

Spring Migration: 2 Feb., 1 @ Eastlake P.P., Lake Co. [R.Hr. & S.Wg.]; 2 Feb., 2 @ Castalia, Erie Co. [C.H.]; 15 Feb., 2 @ Buck Creek S.P., Clark Co. [D.O.]; 21 Feb., 50 @ Cowan L., Clinton Co. [L.G.]; 26 Feb., 178 @ Mosquito L., Trumbull Co. [DJHc]

Scaup spp.: Several observers were understandably cautious in scaup ID this season. This was one of those winters where it appeared Lesser Scaup outnumbered Greater Scaup throughout the winter at most locations.

Winter Reports: 28 Dec. - 4 Jan., 3000 - 1500 @ Bay Village, Cuyahoga Co. [T.Le. et al.]

Lesser Scaup: Few winter reports. Only one mid-winter inland report. Migrants had returned to Killdeer Plains W.A. by 3 Feb. A census of Magee Marsh W.A. revealed a good number of spring migrants.

Winter Reports: 3 Jan., 1 @ Pleasant Hill Res., Richland Co. [B.G.]; 19 Jan., 100 @ Avon Lake P.P., Lorain Co. [C.H.]

Spring Migration: 16 Feb., 2876 @ Magee Marsh W.A., Ottawa/Lucas Co. [HSH]

Greater Scaup: Generally scarce this season with all reports restricted to L. Erie. Large flocks in the C.B. coincided with greatest ice cover.

Winter Reports: 19 Jan., 500 @ Avon Lake, Lorain Co. [C.H.]; 19 Jan., 300 @ Eastlake P.P., Lake Co. [C.H.]; 26 Jan., 200 @ Ashtabula, Ashtabula Co. [C.H.]

Oldsquaw: 11 reports totalling 16 birds throughout the winter with most found at inland locations.

Inland: 3 Dec., 1 @ Buckeye L., Licking Co. [G.B.]; 7 Dec., 1 @ Metzger Res., Allen Co. [D.D.]; 1 Jan., 1 @ Chippewa L., Medina Co. [R.Hr. & S.Wg.]; 1-4 Jan., 1 @ Buck Creek S.P., Clark Co. [D.D./D.O.]; 8-10 Jan., 3 @ Griggs Dam, Columbus, Franklin Co. [R.Ro.]; 9 Feb., 4 @ Berlin Res., Portage Co. [L.R.]

Northern Pintail: 150 birds on CBCs were above average for recent years, and far more widespread than is typical of the season. Independent of CBCs, ten reports totalling 86 birds through 7 Jan. were received away from the usual cluster at Castalia Pond. Most of these birds were on the wing moving south 31 Dec. - 7 Jan. No further reports until the advent of spring migration 9-15 Feb. The mid-winter count at Castalia was above average. The Feb. flight was one of the strongest recorded. The second wave, 23-25 Feb., also saw some of the largest inland flocks of recent decades.

Fall Migration: 31 Dec., 48 (in flight) @ Killdeer Plains W.A., Wyandot Co. [V.F.]; 5 Jan., 19 @ Lakeshore MP., Lake Co. [J.P.]; 5 Jan., 66 @ Ottawa Co., [Ottawa N.W.R. CBC]; 7 Jan., 1 @ Scioto R., Columbus, Franklin Co. [R.Ro.]

Over-wintering: 13 Jan., 26 @ Castalia Pond, Erie Co. [V.F.]

Spring Migration: 9-15 Feb., 40-50 @ Buck Creek S.P., Clark Co. [D.O.]; 9 Feb., 4 @ Berlin Res., Portage L. [L.R.]; 17-25 Feb., 20 - 225 @ Killdeer Plains W.A., Wyandot Co. [N.B./V.F.]; 22 Feb., 40 @ Paint Creek/Rocky Fork L., Highland Co. [S.Wa.]; 23 Feb., 500+ @ Mosquito L., Trumbull Co. [DJHc]; 27 Feb., 350 @ Metzger Marsh W.A. [V.F.]; 27 Feb., 200+ @ Pickerel Creek W.A., Sandusky Co. [V.F.]

Northern Shoveler: 31 birds on CBCs away from Castalia was well below the norm for recent years. No standing concentrations reported in Dec. Open water conditions of the W.B. gave little incentive for birds to gather at Castalia Pond as numbers there fell off from the upward trend of recent years. Other than a few wintering at Buck Creek S.P., the species was not reported again until spring migrants arrived 15-24 Feb.

Stragglers: 31 Dec., 28 (in flight) @ Killdeer Plains W.A., Wyandot Co. [V.F.]

Over-wintering: 13 Jan., 98 @ Castalia Pond, Erie Co. [V.F.]; Dec. - Feb., 4+ @ Buck Creek S.P., Clark Co. [D.O.]

Spring Migration: 22 Feb., 10 @ Paint Creek/Rocky Fork L., Highland Co. [S.Wa.]; 22 Feb., 2 @ Munson Twp., Geauga Co. [K.Me.]

Gadwall: 192 on CBCs represent normal numbers for recent years. Away from Castalia Pond, there were no mid-winter reports. Spring migrants were equally few and far between.

Maxima: 8 Dec., 25 @ La Due Res., Geauga Co. [L.R.]; 17 Dec., 26 @ Mosquito L., Trumbull Co. [DJHc]; 13 Jan., 30 @ Castalia Pond, Erie Co. [V.F.]

Fall Stragglers: 29 Dec. - 4 Jan., 10 @ Cleveland, Cuyahoga Co. [C.H./B.F.]; 1-4 Jan., 3 @ Buck Creek S.P., Clark Co. [D.O.]; 1 Jan., 8 @ Hocking Co. [C.D.]; 2 Jan., 7 @ Medusa Marsh, Erie Co. [V.F.]

Spring Migration: 9 Feb., 4 @ Berlin Res., Portage L. [L.R.]; 22 Feb., 12 @ Mogadore Res., Portage Co. [L.R.]

American Wigeon: *Over-wintering*: Dec. - Feb., 110 - 114 @ Castalia Pond, Erie Co. [V.F.]

Spring Migration: 3 Feb., 1 @ Killdeer Plains W.A., Wyandot Co. [D.L. et al.]; 21 Feb., 5 @ Cowan L., Clinton Co. [L.G.]; 26 Feb., 99 @ Mosquito L. W.A., Trumbull Co. [DJHc]

Canvasback: Expected numbers wintered along the Lake with appx. 1500 birds from Huron to Ashtabula (Ashtabula Co.). One mid-winter inland report was received. Migrants were returning 2-4 Feb. at NW inland locations. The annual spring staging in S.B. often coincides with ice breakup. This year that came in mid-Feb. The concentration of 9000 birds (90% male) had come and gone in the space of 3 days.

Winter Reports: 26 Dec., 155 @ Lakeshore MP., Lake Co. [J.P.]; 3 Jan., 1 @ Funk Bottoms,

Harlequin Duck : 4 reports totalling 3-4 birds.

All Reports : 8 Dec., 1-11 Jan., 1 @ Lakeshore MP., Lake Co. [J.P.]; 5 Jan., 2 f. @ Ottawa N.W.R., Ottawa Co. [R.Hr. & S.Wg.]; 2 Feb., 1 m. @ Eastlake P.P., Lake Co. [R.Hr. & S.Wg. / P.M.]

Black Scoter : 4 reports totalling 7 birds.

All Reports : 21 Dec., 1 @ Lorain, Lorain Co. [J.P.]; 28 Dec. - 4 Jan., 3-1 @ Bay Village, Cuyahoga Co. [P.L. / T.Le. et al.]; 5 Jan., 3 @ Navarre Marsh (Ottawa N.W.R.), Ottawa Co. [MJS]; 11 Jan., 1 @ Huron, Erie Co. [R.Ro., D.L.]

Surf Scoter : Following on the heels of a strong fall migration this was the more common scoter of the winter season. A dozen reports suggest 45-50 birds were present. While most were along the C.B., 6 were detected inland.

Selected Reports : 7 Dec., 2 imm. @ Metzger Res., Allen Co. [D.D.]; 28 Dec. - 4 Jan., 19-36 @ Bay Village., Cuyahoga Co. [P.L. / T.Le. et al.]; 1 Jan., 4 @ Buckeye L., Licking Co. [G.B.]; 1 Jan., 6 @ Lakeshore MP., Lake Co. [J.P.]; 23 Feb., 1 @ Lakeshore MP., Lake Co. [J.P.]

White-winged Scoter : Seven reports totalling 8 birds, only one away from L., Erie.

All Reports : 29 Dec., 2 @ Bay Village, Cuyahoga Co. [S.H.]; 19-21 Jan., 1 @ Eastlake P.P., Lake Co. [C.H. / N.B.]; 21 Jan., 1 @ Avon Lake, Lorain Co. [K.Me.]; 2 Feb., 1 f. @ Old Woman Creek S.N.P., Erie Co. [M.Sk., m.obs.]; 19 Feb., 1 ad. m. @ Caesar Creek S.P., Warren Co. [H.A. & D.Br.]

Common Goldeneye : Aerial surveys of the W.B. often reveal many more goldeneye than is appreciated from the ground. However, closer attention to weather related flights may produce significant numbers from shore. With a storm bearing down on NW Ohio 5 Jan., in a 3 hr census, 4,800 birds passed Metzger Marsh W.A. (Lucas Co.) east to west [V.F.], possibly making for shelter in Maumee Bay. Inland reservoirs of the NE were crowded with birds in mid-Dec. Only one mid-winter report of 100+ birds for the C.B. Peak reports for the south came during spring migration.

Winter Reports : 1-26 Dec., 300+ @ Soutin Bass I., Ottawa Co. [S.Wu.]; 7 Dec., "several hundred" @ Pymatuning Res., Ashtabula Co. [N.B.]; 17 Dec., 725 @ Mosquito L., Trumbull Co. [DJHc]; 1 Jan., 20 @ Buck Creek S.P., Clark Co. [D.O.]; 3 Jan., 100 @ Sims Park, Euclid, Cuyahoga Co. [T.Le.]

Spring Migration : 14 Feb., 26 @ Scioto R., Franklin Co. [R.Ro.]; 19 Feb., 35 @ Caesar Creek S.P., Warren Co. [H.A., D.Br.]

Bufflehead : Few reports throughout the winter. Few accumulations were noted on the Lake. Very scarce inland with only four reports totalling 15 birds.

Winter Reports : 1-26 Dec., 100+ @ South Bass I., Ottawa Co. [S.Wu.]; 19 Jan., 115 @ Avon Lake P.P., Lorain Co. [C.H.]; 19 Jan., 105 @ Eastlake P.P., Lake Co. [C.H.]

Spring Migration : 22 Feb., 1+ @ Pike Co. [D.O.]; 25 Feb., 8 @ Findlay Res. Hancock Co. [B.Ha.]

Hooded Merganser : Fall migration continued into Dec. with high counts for L. Rockwell and Mosquito L. mid-month. As many as 31 birds could be located mid-winter, mostly at inland sites. Although spring migration was not noticed until 22 Feb., birds were widespread just a few days later.

Fall Migration : 7 Dec., 110 @ L. Rockwell, Portage Co. [R.Hr.]; 8-17 Dec., 150 - 230 @

Mosquito L., Trumbull Co. [C.H. / DJHc]

Stragglers : 3 Jan., 17 @ Pleasant Hill Res., Richland Co. [B.G.]; 6 Jan., 6 @ South Bass I., Ottawa Co. [S.Wu.]

Over-wintering : up to 4 @ Buck Creek S.P., Clark Co. [D.O.]; 20 @ Scioto R., Columbus, Franklin

Co. [R.Ro.]; 19 Jan., 5 @ Eastlake P.P., Lake Co. [L.R.]; 26 Jan., 4 @ Ashtabula, Ashtabula Co. [C.H.]

Spring Migration : 22 Feb., 7 @ Lakeshore MP., Lake Co. [J.P.]; 24 Feb., 15 @ Lorain, Lorain Co. [T.Le.]; 26 Feb., 56 @ Mosquito L., Trumbull Co. [DJHc]

Common Merganser : Several thousand wintered off the Ottawa/Lucas Co. shores of L. Erie. The 5 Jan. flight allowed the peak count of the season. Another flight was recorded for the C.B. later in Jan., but few were otherwise noted in a single location. Apart from up to 25 wintering at Buck Creek S.P. only 4 reports from scattered inland sites were received.

Straggler : 6 Dec. - 10 Jan., 1 @ Scioto R., Columbus, Franklin Co. [R.Ro.]

Over-wintering : 5 Jan., 5700 (in flight) @ Metzger Marsh W.A., Lucas Co. [V.F.]; 18 Jan., 1063 @ Lakeshore MP., Lake Co. [J.P.]; up to 25 @ Buck Creek S.P., Clark Co. [D.O.]

Red-breasted Merganser : Early winter flocks did not diminish in Jan. as usual, only gathering into tighter concentrations. Surprisingly few inland reports.

Fall Migration : 9 Dec., 346 @ Lakeshore MP., Lake Co. [J.P.]; 22 Dec., 300+ @ South Bass I., Ottawa Co. [S.Wu.]

Mid-winter : 19 Jan., 500 @ Eastlake P.P., Lake Co. [C.H.];

Spring Migration : 23 Feb., 258 @ Lakeshore MP., Lake Co. [J.P.]

Ruddy Duck : Fall migrants lingered through 29 Dec. Two mid-winter reports, one inland, one along the Lake. Spring migrants first noted 2 Feb.

Fall Migration : 8 Dec., 11 @ Lakeshore MP., Lake Co. [J.P.]; 21 Dec., 9 @ Buck Creek S.P., Clark Co. [D.O.]; 29 Dec., 1 @ Newtown Bottoms, Hamilton Co. [N.K.]

Mid-winter : 18 Jan., 2 @ L.Buckhorn, Holmes Co. [B.G.]; 19 Jan. - 2 Feb., 1-2 @ Eastlake P.P., Lake Co. [L.R. / N.B.]

Spring Migration : 2 Feb., 1 @ Castalia Pond, Erie Co. [C.H.]; 11 Feb., 5 @ "River West", Hancock Co. [W.Mc., fide B.Ha.]; 25 Feb., 22 @ Findlay Res., Hancock Co. [B.Ha.]

Bald Eagle : Appx. 106-110 birds were accounted for from 20 counties, exclusive of the mid-winter census by O.D.N.R. Birds observed at Lakeshore MP. 19 and 22 Feb. were likely migrants. Away from the NW, im. outnumbered ad. 3 to 1.

Maxima : 22 Dec., 14 @ Mosquito L., Trumbull Co. [C.B.]; late Dec., 14 @ Old Woman Creek S.N.P., Erie Co. [m.obs.]

Northern Harrier : One of the better seasons for this species. It seemed as though any sizeable (40+ acres) CRP land along country roads in the C and NW region had a harrier hovering over it. At least 18 wintered at Killdeer Plains W.A. [m.obs.] for one of the better tallies there in recent years. Based on a trapping study, local small mammal populations were considered high during the previous fall [fide N.M. J.]. The species regularly flies over the Lake during migration but what to make of a bird over the water 6 Jan. at Lakeshore MP. (Lake Co.) [J.P.]?

Over-wintering : 6 Jan., 11 @ E. Madison Co. [R.Ro.]; up to 4 @ Mosquito L., Trumbull Co. [DJHc]

Sharp-shinned Hawk : 13 birds reported away from CBCs.

Spring Migration? : 2 Feb., 3 @ Lakeview Cemetery, Cleveland, Cuyahoga Co. [DJHo]; 25 Feb., 1 (in flight) @ Lucas Co. [E.T.]

Cooper's Hawk : 28 birds were reported away from CBCs.

Northern Goshawk *One Report* : 27 Feb., 1 imm. @ Catawba l., Ottawa Co. [V.F.]

Red-shouldered Hawk : Well reported from strongholds in the NE and SE.
Maximum : 1 Jan., 5 @ Grand River W.A., Trumbull Co. [DJHc]

Rough-legged Hawk : CBC numbers suggest a slight echo flight. Another 55 birds were noted at favored wintering sites. Relatively sparse in Dec., sightings picked up in Jan.- Feb. "The Wilds" (Muskingum Co.) really should be explored systematically in light of reports of 8-20+ through the season [m.obs]. The Hayes Rd area of Geauga Co. came through with 2-4 birds [m.obs.]. Ottawa/Lucas Co. marshes generally held 3-6 birds [m.obs.].

The South : 1 Jan., 3 @ Hide-Away Hills, Hocking Co. [C.D.]; 9 Feb., 1 @ Paint Creek/Rocky Fork L., Highland Co. [S.Wa.]; 16-18 Feb., 1 Miami Whitewater Wetlands, Hamilton Co. [P.W./D.Br.& H.A.]

Merlin : Several birds noted away from traditional wintering sites.

All Reports : 1-8 Dec., 2 @ Huron, Erie Co. [P.S.]; 8 Dec. - 21 Jan., 1 @ Bath, Summit Co. [DAC/B.G.]; 14 Dec. - 18 Feb., 1 @ Magee Marsh W.A., Ottawa Co. [HSH/V.F.]; 21 Dec. 1 @ Lorain, Lorain Co. [J.P.]; 22 Dec., 1 @ Trumbull Co. [Trumbull Co. CBC]; 22 Dec., 1 @ Franklin Co. [Columbus CBC]; e. Feb., 1 @ Caesar Creek S.P., Warren Co. [fide C.M.]; 1-17 Feb., 1 @ Lakeview Cemetery, Cleveland, Cuyahoga Co. [DJHc]

Peregrine Falcon : 5 lakefront reports from the C.B. (Avon Lake to Ashtabula) through the winter likely represent forays by Cleveland area residents [m.obs]. Three birds (2 ad. 1 imm.) wintered at Lakewood, Cuyahoga Co. [P.L.] and a pair were noted in the vicinity of the Cleveland Clinic Bldg., Cuyahoga Co. [S.Wg.]. In Feb., individuals were also noted at Akron, Summit Co. [E.P.] and Dayton, Montgomery Co. [fide C.M.]. A late Dec. bird at Ottawa N.W.R. (Ottawa/Lucas Co.) may have been a Toledo resident. [fide T.K.]. A pair was also reported from Cincinnati, Hamilton Co. [m.obs.].

Wild Turkey *Maxima* : 13 Jan., 126 @ Tappan L., Harrison Co. [J.L.]; 22 Jan., 110 @ Mosquito L., Trumbull Co. [DJHc]

Northern Bobwhite *Maximum* : 6 Dec., 6 @ Canfield, Mahoning Co. [DJHc]

Virginia Rail : *Mid-winter* : Dec. - Jan., 1 @ S. of Holmesville (as last 4 yrs), Holmes Co. [B.G.]; 1 Jan., 1 @ Geauga Co. [Burton CBC]

American Coot : Inland lakes hosted good numbers until freeze-up. Open L. Erie saw frequent groups of 4-8 birds in most counties. The Avon Lake flock was augmented by migrants in early Feb.

Stragglers : 15 Dec., 208 @ Akron Lakes, Summit Co. [C.H.]; 21 Dec., 90 @ Clark Co. [D.O.]; 22 Dec., 119 @ Stalk Co. [Quail Hollow-Hartville CBC]; 29 Dec. - 12 Jan., 21 - 8 @ Buck Creek S.P., Clark Co. [D.O.]; 4 Jan., 10 @ E. 55th Marina, Cleveland, Cuyahoga Co. [B.F.]; 5 Jan., 17 @ L. Buckhorn, Holmes Co. [B.G.]; 8 Jan., 100+ @ Wellington Res., Lorain Co. [J.L.]

Over-wintering : 4 @ Castalia Pond, Erie Co. [m.obs.]; 12 Jan. - 1 Feb., 6 - 19 @ Eastlake P.P.,

Lake Co. [L.R./N.B.]; 4 @ Avon Lake P.P., Lorain Co. [V.F./et al.]
Spring : 9 Feb., 24 @ Avon Lake, Lorain Co. [C.H.]; 22 Feb., 30 @ Pine L., Mahoning Co. [DJHc]

Sandhill Crane : Winter sightings have increased over the years such that it is now casual in the SW. However, a mid-winter record in the northeast is exceptional.

Fall migration : 28 Dec., 3 @ Wayne Co. [Wooster CBC]; 6 Jan., 20 @ Aullwood Audubon Center, Montgomery Co. [fide C.M.]

Mid-winter : 20-26 Jan., 1 @ North Perry, Lake Co. [J.P.]

Spring Migration : 18 Feb., 20 (in flight) @ Western Hills, Cincinnati, Hamilton Co. [J.Bn.]; 24 Feb., 23 (in flight) @ Paulding Co. [DMD]; 24 Feb., 3 @ Lawrence Woods S.N.P., Hardin Co. [N.M.]; late Feb., 15+ @ Wayne/Holmes Co. [B.G.]

Killdeer : 9 birds on northern CBCs including 4 at Beaver Creek. Six other reports totalling 11 stragglers in the north through 1 Jan. Widespread spring arrival 18-20 Feb., quickly followed by numbers; the spring concentration at Big Island W.A. is a record count before March.

Mid-winter : 12 Jan., 2 @ Tappan L., Harrison Co. [J.L.]; mid-Jan., 1 @ Tuscarawas Co. [B.G.]

Spring Migration : 1 Feb., 1 @ Tuscarawas Co. [E.S.]; 2 Feb., 1 @ Gilmore Ponds, Butler Co. [M.Bu.]; 18 Feb., 2 @ Hancock Co. [B.Ha.]; 18 Feb., 1 @ Nathan Hale Park, Parma Hts, Cuyahoga Co. [R.Hr.]; 18 Feb., 3 @ Caesar Creek S.P., Warren Co. [fide C.M.]; 19 Feb., 1 @ Pickerington Ponds MP., Franklin Co. [C.D.]; 21 Feb., 8 @ Lucas/Ottawa Co. [V.F.]; 21 Feb., 12 @ Killdeer Plains W.A., Wyandot Co., [V.F.]; 25 Feb., 45 @ Big Island W.A., Marion Co. [V.F.]

Least Sandpiper : 5 Jan., 1 @ Ottawa Co., [H.T.B.]

Purple Sandpiper *All Reports* : 21 Dec., 1 @ Erie Co. [Irelands CBC]; 4 Jan., 1 @ Conneaut, Ashtabula Co. [J.P.]

Dunlin *All Reports* : 13 Dec., 1 @ South Bass I., Ottawa Co. [S.Wu.]; 27 Dec. - 4 Jan., 1 @ Conneaut, Ashtabula Co. [M.V.D./J.P.]

Common Snipe *CBC Reports* : 12 birds, only 1 in the N, 21 Dec., @ Cuyahoga Co., [Cleveland CBC]

Noni-CBC Reports : 19 Jan., 1 @ S. Holmes Co. [B.G.]; 2 Feb., 2 @ Gilmore Ponds, Butler Co. [M.B.]

American Woodcock *Stragglers* : 10 Dec., 2 (Peregrine kill) @ Cincinnati, Hamilton Co. [J.Ha.]; 3 Jan., 1 @ Lakeshore MP., Lake Co. [J.P.]

Spring Migration : 19 Feb., 1 @ Columbus, Franklin Co. [R.Ro.]; 20 Feb., 1 @ Morrow Co. [ODNR]; 20 Feb., 2 @ Gilmore Ponds, Butler Co. [M.B.]; 21 Feb., 2-3 @ Jaite, Cuyahoga Co. [DAC]; 21 Feb., 1 @ Licking Co. [C.D.]

Jaeger spp. *All Reports (incl. undocumented reports)* : 9-15 Dec., up to 4 @ Huron, Erie Co. [m.obs.]; 11 Dec. - 12 Jan., 1 @ Lorain, Lorain Co. (may prove to be Pomarine) [m.obs.]; 20-22 Dec., 1 @ Eastlake P.P., Lake Co. [m.obs.]; 20-27 Dec., 1 @ Headlands Beach S.P., Lake Co. [m.obs.]; 5 Jan., 1 @ Crane Creek S.P., Lucas Co. [V.F.]

Pomarine Jaeger : There were 7 reports totalling at least 5 birds. Not unexpected in the wake of a record fall invasion. Two were documented (both Accepted O.B.R.C.).

21 Dec., 1 @ Sims Park, Cuyahoga Co. [† L.R. & R.Hn.]; 21 Dec., 1 @ Lakeshore MP., Lake

Franklin's Gull *Straggler*: 27 Dec., 1 @ Lakeshore MP., Lake Co. [J.P.]



Little Gull: Huron Pier, Erie Co., 9 Dec. 1996 [ph. V.W.F.III]

Little Gull: At least 6 birds (5 ad. / 1 imm.)

All Reports: 8-28 Dec, 2-1 (1 ad., 1 imm.) @ Headlands Beach S.P., Lake Co. [K.Me., L.R.]; 5 Dec. - 13 Jan., 1 ad. @ Eastlake P.P., Lake Co. [J.P. / K.Me. / et al.]; 8 Dec. - 3 Jan., 1 ad. @ Lorain, Lorain Co. [DAC / J.L. / et al.]; 8 Dec. - 11 Jan., 1-2 @ Lakeshore MP., Lake Co. [J.P.]; 1-9 Dec., 1 ad. @ Huron, Erie Co. [V.F.(ph)]; 11 Jan., 1 ad. @ Fairport Harbor, Lake Co. [V.U.]

Bonaparte's Gull: Peak numbers in e. Dec., dropped 50% by the 19th. Unusual was a bird in full breeding pl. at Lorain [V.F. (ph.)]. Although thousands lingered into Jan., increasing ice cover in mid-Jan. brought a sharp drop-off of numbers.

Fall concentration: 1 - 19 Dec., 25,000 - 12,000 @ Lorain., Lorain Co. [R.Hr. / V.F.]; 1 - 19 Dec., 20,000 - 9,000 @ Huron, Erie Co. [V.F.]; 20 Dec., 11,000 @ Eastlake P.P., Lake Co. [L.R.]; 22 Dec., 7,250 @ Lake Co. [C.H.]; 28 Dec., 5,125 @ W. Cuyahoga Co. [B.F., T.Le. et al.]; 4 Jan., 550 @ Marblehead, Ottawa Co. [V.F.]

Mid-winter: 12 Jan., 550 @ Avon Lake P.P., Lorain Co. [V.F.]; 12 - 19 Jan., 2000 - 85 @ Eastlake P.P., Lake Co. [L.R.]; 9 Feb., 5 @ Eastlake P.P., Lake Co. [C.H.]

Spring migration: 16 Feb., 23 @ Magee Marsh W.A., Ottawa/Lucas Co. [HSH]

Ring-billed Gull: *Leucistic*: 21 Jan., - 16 Feb., 1 @ Avon Lake P.P., Lorain Co. [K.Me. / C.H.]

Maxima: 2 Jan., 63,000+ @ S.B., Erie & Ottawa Cos. [V.F. & S.C.]; 19 Dec., ~45,000 @ Huron, Erie Co. [V.F. et al.]; 9 Dec., ~24,000 @ Lakeshore MP., Lake Co. [J.P.]

California Gull: 9 Feb., 1 ad. @ Eastlake P.P., Lake Co. [† K.Me., L.R.]; (Accepted O.B.R.C.)

Herring Gull *Leucistic*: 1 Dec., 1 @ Eastlake P.P., Lake Co. [K.Me.]

Maxima: 18 Jan., ~21,000 @ Lakeshore MP., Lake Co. [J.P.]; 2 Jan., ~7000+ @ S.B., Ottawa/ & Erie Cos. [V.F. & S.C.]

Thayer's Gull: At least 8 birds. In a flight of gulls past Lakeshore MP. (Lake Co.),

18 Jan., 7 birds were ID. [J.P.]. That such a number invaded the C.B. was corroborated by the coincident appearance of individuals at scattered birding hotspots.

All Reports: 1 Dec., 1 1st w. @ Eastlake P.P., Lake Co. [K.Me.]; 7 Dec., 1 @ Lorain, Lorain Co. [B.Ma. et al.]; 30 Dec. - 1 Jan., 1 1st w. @ Maumee R. rapids, Lucas Co. [A.O. et al.]; 12-24 Jan., 1 ad. @ Eastlake P.P., Lake Co. [L.R. / V.F. et al.]; 18 Jan. - 24 Feb., 1 1st w. @ Avon Lake P.P., Lorain Co. [L.R. / T.Le.]; 22 Jan. - 15 Feb., 1 1st w. @ Headlands Beach S.P., Lake Co. [K.Me. / N.B.]; 23 Feb., 1 1st w. @ Sims Park, Euclid, Cuyahoga Co. [C.H.]

Iceland Gull: 4-5 birds present for the season.

All Reports: 12 Jan. - 10 Feb., 2 (1 1st w, 1 2nd w.) @ Eastlake P.P., Lake Co. [L.R. / C.H. et al.]; 18 Jan. - 15 Feb., 1 1st w. @ Avon Lake P.P., Lorain Co. [T.Le. / m.obs.]; 26 Jan. - 9 Feb., 1 @ Headlands Beach S.P., Lake Co. [m.obs.]; 8 Feb., 1 @ Lorain, Lorain Co. [J.P.]; 7 Dec. - 19 Feb., 1 - 3 @ Lakeshore MP., Lake Co. [J.P.]

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 11+ birds present this season.

All Reports: 7 Dec. - 14 Jan., 1 ad. @ Avon Lake P.P., Lorain Co. [B.Ma. / V.F.]; 8 Dec., 5 @ Eastlake P.P., Lake Co. [K.Me. et al.]; 18 Dec. - 23 Feb., up to 4 @ Lakeshore MP., Lake Co. [J.P.]; 20 Dec. - 12 Feb., up to 3 @ Eastlake P.P., Lake Co. [T.Le. / et al.]; 20 Dec. - 1 Jan., 1 @ ACME P.P., Lucas Co. [A.O. et al.]; 27 Dec., 1 @ Bayshore P.P., Lucas Co. [fide T.K.]; 14 Jan., 1 ad. @ Sherod Park, Erie Co. [V.F.]; 10 Feb., 1 2nd w. @ Avon Lake P.P., Lorain Co. [K.Me.]; 15-24 Feb., 2-1 @ Headlands Beach S.P., Lake Co. [N.B. / K.Me.]; 23 Feb., 1 ad. @ Lakeside Yacht Club, Cleveland, Cuyahoga Co. [T.Le.]

Glaucous Gull: Surprisingly numerous for so mild a season. In a flight of gulls past Lakeshore MP. (Lake Co.), 18 Jan., 22 birds were ID. [J.P.]. This number was corroborated by the 40+ sightings, of up to 6 birds, across the shoreline of L. Erie throughout the period.

Selected Reports: 7 Dec. - 17 Feb., up to 4 @ Eastlake P.P., Lake Co. [L.R., m.obs.]; 1-2 Jan., 2 ad. @ Bayview, Erie Co. [V.F. & S.C.]; 14 Jan. - 10 Feb., up to 6 @ Avon Lake P.P., Lorain Co. [V.F. / T.Le. / m.obs.]; 18 Jan. - 15 Feb., 1-2 @ Lorain, Lorain Co. [B.F., m.obs.]; 19 Jan. - 23 Feb., 2 ad. @ Headlands Beach S.P., Lake Co. [L.R. / N.B. / et al.]; 6 Feb., 2 @ Cleveland Harbor, Cuyahoga Co. [P.L.]; 8 Feb., 1 @ Huron, Erie Co. [C.H.]; 13 Feb., 2 (1 ad., 1 2nd yr) @ Edgewater Park/Perkins Beach, Cuyahoga Co. [DJHo]

Inland: 9 Jan., 1 @ Oberlin City Res., Lorain, Co. [J.L.]



Bonaparte's Gull: Lorain harbor, Lorain Co., 19 Dec. 1996 [ph. V.W.F.III]

Great Black-backed Gull : In great numbers at the edge of the shore ice on L. Erie. When shore ice is in close proximity to birder vantage points some remarkable numbers can be tallied. The 18 Jan. passage of gulls past Lakeshore MP. (Lake Co.) included 1772 of this species [J.P.]. Convention has it that the largest numbers are expected after L. Erie freezes over yet huge numbers were possible during this, one of the most mild of winters on record. The ever increasing population wintering on the Great Lakes is not enough to explain the huge flocks now witnessed. Freeze-over would only diminish the "habitat" occupied by the gull, that of the ice's edge. Close attention to the build-up and break-up of this ice pack has also played a role in enumerating the species' presence.

Maximum: 22 Dec, 150 @ Eastlake P.P., Lake Co. [C.H.]; 2 Jan., 200 @ southern S.B., Erie Co. [V.F. & S.C.]; 2 Jan., 600 @ Catawba I., Ottawa Co. [V.F. & S.C.]; 14 Jan., 200 @ Avon Lake P.P., Lorain Co. [V.F.]; 23 Feb., 87 @ South Bass Island, Ottawa Co. [S.Wu.]

Black-legged Kittiwake : 3 - 4 birds.

Mid-winter: 7 Dec, 1 imm. @ Avon Lake P.P., Lorain Co. [B.Ma. et al.]; 9 Dec. - 7 Jan., 1 imm. @ Lakeshore MP., Lake Co. [J.P.]; 27 Dec, 1 imm. @ Headlands Beach S.P., Lake Co. [B.Mo.]; 27 Dec. - 18 Jan., 1 imm. @ Eastlake P.P., Lake Co. [L.R. / J.R. / m.obs.]

Common Tern : Different birds? *Stragglers*: 5, 11 Dec, 1 @ Lakeshore MP., Lake Co. [J.P.]

Snowy Owl : 13 birds from 9 counties add to 2 additional birds from the fall ; a modest flight.

All Reports: Nov - 8 Feb, 1 @ Lorain, Lorain Co. [N.Kr. / T.Le, m.obs.]; 1-19 Dec, 1 @ Huron, Erie Co. [R.Hr. & S.Wg. / V.F. (ph)]; 3 Dec, 1 @ Painesville, Lake Co. [J.P.]; 1 Dec - 5 Jan, 1 @ Headlands Beach S.P., Lake Co. [K.Me. et al.]; 22 Dec, 2 @ Franklin Co. [Columbus CBC]; late Dec, 1 @ Bayshore P.P., Lucas Co. [fide T.K.]; 20 Dec. - late Jan., 1 @ Maumee Bay S.P., Lucas Co. [A.O. / G.K. / m.obs.]; late Dec. - 3 Feb., 1 @ Port Clinton, Ottawa Co., [fide MJS / m.obs.]; 3 Jan., 1 @ E of Ney, Defiance Co. [DMD]; 3 Jan., 1 @ Fairport Harbor, Lake Co. [J.P.]; 9 Dec. - 14 Jan., 1 @ Burke Lakefront Airport, Cleveland, Cuyahoga Co. [V.L. / DAC / m.obs.]; 15-18 Jan., 1 @ Rt. 523 & Little Muddy Creek, Sandusky Co. [P.Sc. / V.F.]; 2-18 Feb., 1 @ NW of Wooster, Wayne Co. [M.Sm. / J.S.]



Walnut Creek, Holmes Co. [B.G.]; 11 Jan., 16 @ Killdeer Plains W.A., Wyandot Co. [D.L. et al.]

Northern Saw-whet Owl *All Reports*: 21 Dec, 1 @ Seneca Co. [Tiffin CBC]; 29 Dec., 1 @ Hamilton Co. [Cincinnati CBC]; 3 - 22 Feb., 1 @ MMBT, Lucas Co. [T.K. / V.F. / B.C.]

Rufous Hummingbird : The Loudonville (Holmes Co.) bird remained into January, discovered dead on the 11th (possible cat kill). Identifiable remains were deposited at O.S.U. [R.T.].

Belted Kingfisher: 3 mid-winter reports totalling 4 birds from the lakefront counties.

Red-headed Woodpecker : A dozen mid-winter reports from the NE, where in recent years generally scarce.

Maximum : 11 Jan., 6 @ Lakewood/Rocky River MP., Cuyahoga Co. [T.L. / P.L.]

Red-bellied Woodpecker *Xanthochroistic*: 4-6 Feb., 1 @ Shreve, Wayne Co. [J.L. et al. (ph)]

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker : Scarce on northern CBCs. Only 1 mid-winter report, and that from the S.

Eastern Phoebe *CBCs*: Only 5 ; all from the south.

Spring Migration: 18 Feb, 1 @ Green Lawn Cemetery, Columbus, Franklin Co. [B.Ma.]; 18 Feb., 1 @ near Canfield, Mahoning Co. [B.Jo.]

Northern Shrike : 13+ birds in ten counties; a good echo flight of last year's irruption.

All Reports: 10 Dec, 1 @ West Rd., Lorain Co. [Reed]; Dec. - 22 Feb., 1 @ Jatie, Summit Co. [G.M. et al.]; 19 Dec, 1 @ Hunting Valley, Cuyahoga Co. [K.Me.]; 19 Dec, 1 @ Perry Twp., Lake Co. [J.P.]; 22 Dec, 1 @ Summit Co. [Cuyahoga Falls CBC]; 22 Dec, 1 @ Lucas Co. [Toledo CBC]; 22 Dec, 1 @ Trumbull Co. [DJHc et al.]; 22 Dec, 1 @ Delaware Co. [Delaware Reservoir CBC]; 15 Jan. - 11 Feb., 1 @ Madison Twp., Lake Co. [J.P.]; 19 Jan. - 15 Feb., 1 imm. @ Holmes Co. [L.Y.]; 17 Feb., 1 @ Fairport Harbor, Lake Co. [L.R.]; 23 Feb., Middlefield Twp., Geauga Co. [MJK]; 26 Feb., 1 @ Troy Twp., Geauga Co. [fide D.F.]



Horned Lark : No concentrations reported before the wintry weather of mid-Jan. Under-whelming numbers.

Maxima : 12-18 Jan., 115 @ Wellington Twp., Lorain Co. [C.H.]; 12-18 Jan., 140 @ Hayes Rd, Geauga Co. [D.F.]; 21 Jan., 181 @ Newton Twp., Miami Co. [B.He.]

Spring Migrants: 17 Feb., "hundreds" @ N of Killdeer Plains W.A., Wyandot Co. [N.B.]; 18 Feb., 743 @ Hancock Co. [B.Ha.]

Barn Swallow : *Straggler*: 2 Dec, 1 @ Rittman Sewage Pond, Wayne Co. [J.W.]

Long-eared Owl : One observed through Dec. and Jan. [m.obs.] at Killdeer Plains W.A. was joined late in Feb. with 3 there on the 27-28th. [D.P.]. Two were in Holmes Co. 26 Dec. with one remaining 31 Dec. [E.S.]

Maximum : mid-Jan. - Feb., 7 @ Lake La Su An W.A., Williams Co. [DMD]

Short-eared Owl : 30-35 birds accounted for in 8 widespread reports.

Maximum : winter, up to 4 @ NE Paulling Co. [DMD]; 13-24 Jan., 4 @ Fairfield Co. [C.D.]; 26 Jan., 4

American Crow *Albino* : late Jan., 1 @ North Chagrin Reservation, Cuyahoga Co. [Cleveland RBA].
Maximum : 21 Dec., 15,000 @ Springfield, Clark Co. [D.O.]
Spring Migration : 1-28 Feb., daily migrants @ South Bass I., Ottawa Co. [S.Wu.]; 18 Feb., 50+ @ Magee Marsh W.A., Lucas Co. [V.F.]; 20 Feb., 1200+ @ Lakeshore MP., Lake Co. [J.P.]

Black-capped Chickadee *South* : 25 Feb., 2 @ Espyville, Marion Co. [V.F]

Tufted Titmouse : Normal CBC numbers; off 7.5% from average of previous 5 years.

White-breasted Nuthatch : Normal CBC numbers; off 8.9% from average of previous 5 years.

Red-breasted Nuthatch : Scarce; the northern CBC total of 25 birds compares with an average 65 in the past 3 non-invasion years back to 1991.

Carolina Wren : northern CBC numbers remain in a 3 year slump having dropped 50% since 1991.
Maxima : wintered, 6+ pairs @ South Bass I., Ottawa Co. [S.Wu.]; 29 Dec., 10 @ Wrightman's Grove, Sandusky Co. [V.F.]

Winter Wren : Normal CBC numbers; wintering birds in the N included individuals in Seneca, Sandusky, and Ottawa counties [V.F.].

Marsh Wren *One Report* : 2 Feb., 1 @ Miami Whitewater Wetlands, Hamilton Co. [P.W.]

House Wren *Straggler* : 29 Dec., 1 @ Batavia Twp., Clermont Co. [D.D. & M.Bu. †]

Golden-crowned Kinglet *Maximum away from CBCs* : 26 Jan., 12 @ Glen Helen S.N.P., Greene Co. [D.O.]

Ruby-crowned Kinglet : 25 birds on CBCs including 13 in the north.
Post-CBC Report : 14 Dec. - 10 Feb., 4 - 2 @ Hancock Co. [B.Ha.]

Varied Thrush : 21 Jan. - 15 Feb., 1 @ a feeder in Avon Lake, Lorain Co. [† J.P.] Accepted O.B.R.C.

American Robin : widespread reports in the north away from winter roosts beginning 1-2 Feb. [m.obs.]. Spring migrants defined in the west 21 Feb., [B.He. / DMD] and 23-25 Feb. in the NE.

Gray Catbird : 9 CBC birds including 2 in the north. An individual wintered at Gilmore Ponds (Butler County) [M.B.].

Brown Thrasher : Only 4 CBC birds with 2 in the north. The only post-CBC record was an individual at Headlands Beach S.P., Lake Co. [L.R.]

Northern Mockingbird : A 37% reduction from the previous 5 year span on N CBCs.

American Pipit : A single CBC report from Highland/Ross Co. An unusual fly-over 2 Jan. at Nathan Hale Park (Cuyahoga Co.) [R.Hr.] corresponded to the extraordinary southerly airflow of the first few days of January.
Spring Migrants : 25 Feb., 6+ @ Holmes Co. [J.K.]

Cedar Waxwing : widespread reports in the north beginning late January. [m.obs.]

Yellow-rumped Warbler : northernmost post-CBC reports limited to one each from Tuscarawas (12 Jan.) and Holmes (3 Feb.) Counties. [E.S.]

Ovenbird : 21 Dec., 1 @ Lakeview Cemetery, Cuyahoga Co. [DJHo]

Common Yellowthroat : CBC reports : 21 Dec., 1 @ Richland Co. [Mansfield CBC]; 27 Dec., 1 @ Tuscarawas/Holmes Co. [Ragersville CBC]; 29 Dec., 1 @ Wrightman's Grove, Sandusky Co. [Fremont CBC]

Non-CBC reports : 21 Dec., 1 @ Mitchell Forest, Hamilton Co. [N.C.]

Eastern Towhee : Only 3 on northern CBCs. The average the previous 5 years is 29.6

American Tree Sparrow : Post-CBC tallies included 281 in Hancock Co. [B.Ha.] 14 Jan., and 60 at Crane Creek S.P. (Lucas Co.) 9 Feb. [E.T.].

Chipping Sparrow : Four birds listed on CBCs, two documented acceptably. The only post-CBC report involved 2 birds wintering at a Holmes Co. feeder [J.K.].

Field Sparrow : 45 on northern CBCs. The average the previous 5 years is 81.2. Despite the drop-off on CBCs the species was reported in "good numbers" throughout the winter in Holmes Co. [B.G.].

Vesper Sparrow : one CBC report, a bird documented from Millersburg (Holmes Co.).

Savannah Sparrow : 4 CBC reports, all of singles. Two birds were at Miami Whitewater Wetlands 31 Dec. [P.W.].

Fox Sparrow : 9 birds on CBCs with 3 normal for the N. A bird 26 Feb. at Greenlawn Dam (Franklin Co.) likely overwintered. [A.G.]

Song Sparrow : There was a 29% drop-off in northern CBC numbers over the average for the previous 5 years. Curiously, the winter high count for Magee Marsh W.A. (Ottawa/Lucas Co.) came mid-winter with 162 censused 19 Jan. [HSH]

Swamp Sparrow : CBC numbers for the N. were 37% below the 5 year average.

White-throated Sparrow : CBC numbers for the N. were 59% below the 5 year average. In light of this drop-off, "a few" at Headlands Beach S.P. (Lake Co.) 12 Jan. were notable. [DAC]

White-crowned Sparrow : CBC numbers for the N. were 24% below the 5 year average. Post-CBC maximum of 20 in Madison C [R.Ro.]

Dark-eyed Junco : Normal ; CBC numbers for the N. were just 2% off the 5 year average.

Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon Junco) : 4 birds on 3 CBCs.

Lapland Longspur : No great concentrations but small flocks or individuals reached well into the southwest as far as Oxford (Butler Co.) [B.P.]. A flock of 25 in Preble Co. 18 Jan. was noteworthy for the Southwest. [GDS]

Snow Bunting : Apart from a thousand near Waterville (Lucas Co.) in mid Feb. [E.T.], generally only scattered flocks of 3-10 birds inland reported as far south as Dayton Airport (Montgomery Co.) [m.obs.].

Maxima : 13 Feb., 1000+ @ Waterville Twp., Lucas Co. [E.T.]; 26 Jan., 75 @ Headlands Beach S.P., Lake Co. [M.B.]; 20 Jan., 50 @ Burke Lakefront Airport, Cuyahoga Co. [T.Km., DLG]

Red-winged Blackbird : More than 600 birds were present late Dec. - e. Jan. in the W.B.

Spring Arrival : 6 Feb., 5000 @ Metzger Marsh W.A., Lucas Co. [D.D.]; 21 Feb., 5000 @ Mallard Club Marsh W.A., Lucas Co. [V.F.]; 23 Feb., 600 @ Madison Co. [R.Ro.]

Eastern Meadowlark - A flock of 50 lingered 26 Dec. in Holmes Co. [J.K.] A dozen wintered near the Sandusky R. in Seneca County [V.F., H.T.B.]. Migrants noted at Killdeer Plains W.A. (Lucas Co.) 2 Feb. [m.obs.]

Yellow-headed Blackbird : One was noted amongst the blackbird concentration in Stark County 1 Jan. [J.L.]

Rusty Blackbird : Wintered in Ottawa, Hancock, Sandusky, Stark, Holmes counties [m.obs.]. Also recorded mid-winter in Paulding Co. [DMD]. Migrant Rusties were noted at Killdeer Plains W.A. (Wyandot Co.) by 8 Feb. with 100 noted [R.Hr. & S.Wg.].

Brewer's Blackbird : The very mild weather at the end of Dec. saw a mass of 40-50,000 blackbirds congregate just N. of Stark Wilderness Center (Stark Co.). The flock included 4 Brewer's Blackbird [J.L.].

Common Grackle : *Winter maximum* : 1 Jan., 5000 @ S. Medina Co. [R.Hr. & S.Wg.]

Brown-headed Cowbird : 29 Dec., 80 @ nr Oak Harbor, Ottawa Co. [V.F.]

Rose-breasted Grosbeak : 20-22 Dec., 1 m. + 1 f. [at feeder] @ Trumbull Co. [C.B.]

Purple Finch : *Post-CBC maxima* : 21 Jan., 13 @ Newton Twp., Miami Co. [B.He.]

Red Crossbill *One Report* : 5 Feb., 5 @ Hidden Valley MP., Lake Co. [J.P.]

Common Redpoll *Two Reports* : 7 Jan., 2-1 @ Camp Berry, Hancock Co. [S.Bx. / D.Ba.]; 21 Jan., 5 @ Hinckley Reservation, Cuyahoga Co. [fide Cleveland RBA]

Pine Siskin : 9 CBCs reporting. *Post-CBC reports* : 14 Feb., 8 @ Mentor, Lake Co. [J.P.]

American Goldfinch : *Post-CBC maximum* : 21 Jan., 71 @ Hancock Co. [B.Ha.]

Evening Grosbeak : Only 1 CBC report. No Post-CBC reports.

Exotic Species

Trumpeter Swan : An unprecedented number of this newly introduced species was recorded this season. Many were unbanded, representing either birds from well-established release programs in the upper Great Lakes States or from the Hancock Co. propagator who continues to release captive raised birds. Two such birds were reported 31 Dec. - 5 Jan. [B.Ha.]

Unbanded birds : 1 Jan., 1 ad. @ Willow Pt. W.A., Sandusky Co. [V.F.]; 1 Jan., 6 ad. @ Ottawa N.W.R., Ottawa Co. [V.F.]; 1 Jan., 1 @ Portage R., Ottawa Co. [V.F.]; 5 Jan., 4 imm. @ Howard Rd., Lucas Co. [V.F.]; 2 Feb., "several" @ Sheldon Marsh S.N.P., Erie Co. [G.P.]; 9-15 Feb., 3 @ C.J. Brown Res., Clark Co. [D.O., et al.]; these last 3 were likely the same birds to appear in KY along the Ohio R. in the spring.

Black Swan : Dec., 2 @ Hoover Reservoir, Franklin/Delaware Co. [J.C.]

Bar-headed Goose : Jan., 1 @ nr Chillicothe, Ross Co. [J.Mc.]

Lady Amherst's Pheasant - Fall - late Jan., 1 @ Findley S.P., Lorain Co. [O.D.N.R. et al.]

Azure-winged Magpie - 9 Feb., - spring period, 1 @ Lake Isaac, Cuyahoga Co. [m.obs.]

This summary of the season was made possible by the observations of 123 contributors. Individuals cited are listed in bold.

Scott Albaugh	S.A.	Susan Carty	S.C.
Henry Armstrong	H.A.	Dwight & Ann Chasar	DAC
Carole E. Babyak	C.B.	Brad Courson	B.C.
Nick Barber	N.B.	David Dister	D.D.
Dorothea Barker	D.Ba.	Mary V. Doran	MVD
H.Thomas Bartlett	H.T.B.	Doug & Micki Dunakin	DMD
Sue Baxter	S.Bx.	Curtis Dushimer	C.D.
Joe Bens	J.Be.	Elinor Elder	E.E.
David Brinkman	D.Br.	Ted Ellis	T.E.
Jeff Brown	J.Bn.	Robert Elway	R.E.
Gina Buekey	G. B.	Marc England	M.E.
Jeff Buecking	J. Bu.	Victor Fazio III	V.F.
Don Burton	D.Bu.	Duane Ferris	D.F.
Mike Busam	M.Bu	Bob Finkelstein	B.F.
Neill Cade	N.C.	Larry Gara	L.G.

by
Ned Keller

Bruce Glick	.....	B.G.	John R. O'Meara	.....	J.R.O.
Adam Goloda	.....	A.G.	Arthur Osborne	.....	A.O.
Sharon Hanse	.....	S.H.	Doug Overacker	.....	D.O.
Betty Hardesty	.....	B.Ha.	Greg Patterson	.....	G.P.
Rob Harlan	.....	R.Hr.	Ed Pierce	.....	E.P.
Jeff Hays	.....	J.Ha.	Dimas Pioli	.....	D.P.
Bert Hensel	.....	B.He.	John Pogacnik	.....	J.P.
Hank & Sally Hiris	.....	HSH	Brad Purcell	.....	B.P.
David & Judy Hochadel	.....	DJHc	John Rakestraw	.....	J.R.
Dick & Jean Hoffman	.....	DJHo	Richard Rickard	.....	R.Ri.
Craig Holt	.....	C.H.	Tom & Mary Anne Romito	.....	TM
Bill Jones	.....	B.Jo.	Larry Rosche	.....	L.R.
Ned Keller	.....	N.K.	Sue Ross	.....	S.R.
Tom Kellerman	.....	T.Km.	Robert Roysse	.....	R.Ro.
Tom Kemp	.....	T.K.	George & Darlene Sadler	.....	GDS
Kim Kerr	.....	K.K.	Ed Schliabach	.....	E.S.
Jonathan Kline	.....	J.K.	Paul Schwalbe	.....	P.Sc.
Gerry Klug	.....	G.K.	Paul Shubert	.....	P.Sh.
Norma Kraps	.....	N.Kr.	Mark & Julie Shieldcastle	.....	MJS
Jeff & Marian Kraus	.....	JMK	Bill Shively	.....	B.Sh.
Jason Larson	.....	J.L.	Mark Skinner	.....	M.Sk.
Dave LeGallee	.....	DLG	Marvin Smith	.....	M.Sm.
Tom Leiden	.....	T.Li.	John Naively	.....	J.S.
Tom Le Page	.....	TLe.	Bill Thompson III	.....	B.T.
Doreene Linzell	.....	D.L.	Elliot Tramer	.....	E.T.
Paula Lozano	.....	P.L.	Roger Troutman	.....	R.T.
Vince Lucas	.....	V.L.	Vince Urbanski	.....	V.U.
Joe McMahon	.....	J.Mc.	Sandy Wagner	.....	S.Wg.
Bernard Master	.....	B.Ma.	Steve Wagner	.....	S.Wa.
Charlotte Mathena	.....	C.M.	Ignaz Wanders	.....	I.W.
Winnie McClanahan	.....	W.Mc.	Bill Whan	.....	B.Wh.
Gary Meszaros	.....	G.M.	Paul Wharton	.....	P.W.
Kevin Metcalf	.....	K.Me.	Jeff Wert	.....	J.W.
Nelson Moore	.....	N.M.	Stan Wulkowicz	.....	S.Wu.
Ben Morrison	.....	B.Mo.	Leroy Yoder	.....	L.Y.
Pete Munson	.....	P.M.	Linda Zempel	.....	L.Z.
			Julie Zickefoose	.....	J.Z.

In addition to the cited individuals within, the following birders had observations facilitating the analysis of the season.

John Augustine, Bob Bell, Charlie Bombaci, Judy Bradt-Barnhart, Jenny Brumfield, Sandy Burris, Don Chalfant, Bob Conlon, Jim Fry, Robert Foppe, Jim Fowler, Joe Hammond, Helen Hendrickson, Jason Hovekamp, Mrs Gansey R. Johnson III, Cece Johnston, Lester Peyton, Len Powlick, Frank Renfrow, Wilma Seiler, Joe Strong, Walt Sturgeon, Bill & Ann Toneff, Gildo Tori.

This year, we present the results from 58 count circles located at least partially in Ohio for the 1996 - 1997 Audubon Christmas Bird Count. Some of the circles reported in the Christmas Count issue of Audubon Field Notes were not submitted to us, and are not included here. However, other circles are reported only here.

We found a total of 1,098,735 individuals of 137 species, as compared to 924,456 individuals of 139 species last year. Firelands counters found the most birds, 232,642, of which 168,710 were Ring-billed Gulls and 56,136 were Bonaparte's Gulls. Cincinnati found the most species, 86, followed by Mentor with 82, Cuyahoga Falls with 81, and Millersburg and Ottawa N.W.R. with 80 each.

The number of species seen is strongly affected by the number of rarities seen. This year, the unusually high number of 16 species, Great Egret (not seen in Ohio), Brant, Blue-winged Teal, Oldsquaw, Broad-winged Hawk, Least Sandpiper, Purple Sandpiper, Dunlin, Thayer's Gull, Glaucous Gull, Rufous Hummingbird, Marsh Wren (not seen in Ohio), American Pipit, Ovenbird, Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Vesper Sparrow) were represented by only a single individual.

Much of the fun of Christmas Counts comes from finding rarities, but their real value lies hidden in the data collected on the more usual species. Learning about population trends over many years and extended areas requires compiling data from many years and many count circles. That sort of interpretation is well beyond the scope of this article; but if you are interested, and have access to the Internet, you might want to take a look at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center's Christmas Bird Count web page, located at <http://www.mbr.nbs.gov/bbs/cbc.html>.

In the charts, the number assigned to each count corresponds to the numbered circle on the accompanying map of the state. A single asterisk (*) next to an entry denotes that we received a written description of the bird; reports of rare or extremely out-of-season birds without descriptions may well be accurate, but must be viewed with suspicion. A double asterisk (**) denotes that this species is extremely rare, and that therefore documentation of the sighting has been referred to the Ohio Bird Records Committee for review. Finally, a plus sign (+) indicates that the bird was seen outside Ohio.

	W. Central			Central Region					South-			west Region							Unglaciaded Region															
	Clark Co. 12/21/96 (44)	Greenville 12/29/96 (43)	Indian Lake 12/21/96 (42)	Columbus 12/22/96 (55)	Delaware Reservoir 12/22/96 (52)	Hoover Reservoir 12/28/96 (53)	Killdeer Plains 12/29/96 (50)	Kingson 12/29/96 (58)	Lancaster 12/28/96 (57)	Mt. Gilead 12/21/96 (51)	O'Shaughnessy Reservoir 1/4/97 (54)	Cincinnati 12/29/96(65)	Dayton 12/29/96 (60)	East Fork Lake S.P. 12/28/96 (67)	Hamilton-Fairfield 12/21/96 (62)	Ohio River (IN-OH-KY) 12/21/96 (64)	Oxford 12/21/96 (61)	Paint Creek Area 12/22/96 (66)	Western Hamilton Co. 12/22/96 (63)	Adams Co. 12/21/96 (82)	Athens 1/4/97 (78)	Beaver Valley 12/21/96 (84)	Cadiz (72)	Chandlerville 1/4/97 (74)	Millersburg 12/21/95 (83)	New Lexington 12/29/96 (75)	Parkersburg (WV-OH) 12/28/96 (79)	Portsmouth 12/28/96 (81)	Ragersville 12/27/96 (70)	Steubenville 12/21/96 (71)				
Common Loon	7	---	---	7	---	---	---	---	---	---	22	8	---	11	15	5	46	4	---	2	---	1	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---			
Pied-billed Grebe	1	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---			
Horned Grebe	1	---	---	7	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---			
Double-crested Cormorant	3	2	5	21	17	4	3	4	---	---	12	30	53	11	45	112	31	27	---	1	1	4	1	3	25	---	74	32	13	---				
Great Blue Heron	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---			
Great Egret	1	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---			
Tundra Swan	3	---	---	1	---	3	---	---	---	---	---	8	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---			
Mute Swan	---	1	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---			
Swan, sp.	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---			
Greater White-fronted Goose	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---		
Snow Goose (blue form)	---	---	---	1	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---		
Snow Goose	450	346	1147	1357	948	1223	2525	963	301	---	404	941	1288	142	1544	353	391	1273	---	394	72	20	207	752	980	221	868	CW	593	93				
Canada Goose	---	1	---	4	6	---	---	---	---	---	---	3	3	---	---	---	---	---	---	1	---	---	---	---	1	---	---	---	---	---	---			
Wood Duck	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---		
Green-winged Teal	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---		
American Black Duck	7	---	---	507	3	17	300	9	1	---	25	28	19	107	37	99	25	69	27	120	---	2	---	69	28	17	17	1	---	---	---			
Mallard	1700	320	205	2573	175	613	3200	110	102	---	167	999	1185	2646	1664	2978	976	250	1909	263	32	34	10	112	1095	7	527	317	49	48				
Am. Black x Mallard hybrid	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---		
Northern Pintail	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
Northern Shoveler	5	---	---	13	---	1	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---		
Gadwall	6	---	---	9	---	10	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---		
American Wigeon	---	---	---	7	---	9	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
Canvasback	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
Redhead	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
Ring-necked Duck	8	---	---	3	---	1	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
Greater Scaup	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
Lesser Scaup	2	---	---	4	---	18	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
Common Goldeneye	18	---	---	12	1	27	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
Bufflehead	3	---	---	1	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
Hooded Merganser	1	---	---	70	2	10	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
Common Merganser	4	---	---	2	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
Red-breasted Merganser	2	---	---	7	---	4	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
Ruddy Duck	9	---	---	---	---	13	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
Duck, sp.	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
Black Vulture	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
Turkey Vulture	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
Osprey	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
Bald Eagle	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Northern Harrier	1	3	---	2	9	1	15	12	4	1	---	---	---	1	1	---	5	4	---	9	---	3	1	25	4	---	2	9	3	---	---			
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	---	---	3	---	1	2	---	2	1	---	3	1	1	2	1	2	---	2	1	2	1	---	10	---	---	2	2	2	---	---			

W. Central Central Region South-west Region Unglaciated Region

	Clark Co. 12/1/96 (44)	Greenville 12/29/96 (43)	Indian Lake 12/21/96 (42)	Columbus 12/22/96 (55)	Delaware Reservoir 12/22/96 (52)	Hoover Reservoir 12/28/96 (53)	Killdeer Plains 12/29/96 (50)	Kingston 12/29/96 (58)	Lancaster 12/28/96 (57)	Mt. Gilead 12/21/96 (51)	O'Shaughnessy Reservoir 1/4/97 (54)	Cincinnati 12/29/96 (65)	Dayton 12/29/96 (60)	East Fork Lake S.P. 12/28/96 (67)	Hamilton-Fairfield 12/21/96 (62)	Ohio River (IN-OH-KY) 12/21/96 (64)	Oxford 12/21/96 (61)	Paint Creek Area 12/22/96 (66)	Western Hamilton Co. 12/22/96 (63)	Adams Co. 12/21/96 (62)	Athens 1/4/97 (78)	Beaver Valley 12/21/96 (84)	Cadiz (72)	Chandlersville 1/4/97 (74)	Millersburg 12/21/95 (83)	New Lexington 12/29/96 (75)	Parkeburg (WV-OH) 12/28/96 (79)	Portsmouth 12/28/96 (81)	Ragersville 12/27/96 (70)	Steubenville 12/21/96 (71)								
Cooper's Hawk	1	1	3	13	3	9	4	2	2	2	2	5	5	2	7	1	2	2	2	7	1	6	1	19	1	2	2	2	2	2								
Accipiter, sp.					1							2			1							1			1													
Red-shouldered Hawk				1								7			4							6							1									
Broad-winged Hawk																																						
Red-tailed Hawk	8	13	6	43	27	31	32	46	20	8	21	66	41	22	53	29	8	14	32	42	18	30	14	23	215	13	48	27	128	14								
Rough-legged Hawk		1	1					1				1					1					3	3	24	32	1			5	23								
Buteo, sp.		2	2					4				4							1																			
American Kestrel	13	28	14	17	20	12	32	53	5	9	44	26	25	24	44	23	12	30	28	47	10	26	10	17	33	15	23	25	56	4								
Merlin				1									2			1																						
Peregrine Falcon																			1																			
Ring-necked Pheasant					2		6	1		2	1														5													
Ruffed Grouse								1																		3			2	9	3							
Wild Turkey									1						11	18		4								22			2	24	50	CW						
Northern Bobwhite		2										11	30		9	14			7	25		1																
Virginia Rail																																						
American Coot	97	2		17		39	1		12			147	80	4	28	41	4	51							12	1	CW	CW										
Sandhill Crane										4																												
Killdeer				2		2						2	7	5	13	31	7		7	16		2			11													
Common Snipe												2	1																									
Bonaparte's Gull						215					1			54			144								3													
Ring-billed Gull	350		4	5157	77	769	9				248	103	614	1451	437	120	34	461	603	63			143															
Herring Gull	3			10	1	2							4	1		2	1																					
Gull, sp.																																						
Rock Dove	33	215	32	3388	706	156	220	374	59	16	205	695	362	53	290	350	46	72	491	124	96	290	134	17	720	162	450	257	853	100								
Mourning Dove	95	253	54	805	249	302	221	1697	170	62	289	1303	467	413	524	455	94	256	523	536	209	167	62	24	814	119	1057	572	1556	79								
Eastern Screech-Owl	3			1			19	2	4			1	1												18													
Great Horned Owl	3	9	2	4		5	11	3	2			3	6	1	1		1		1						14													
Snowy Owl				2																																		
Barred Owl					3	2	2	3				6	4	1	1					2	1	1																
Long-eared Owl							CW																															
Short-eared Owl							CW													2		1	CW*	15														
Northern Saw-whet Owl												1																										
Belted Kingfisher	3	5		10	8	7		4	3	1	3	25	22	4	9	7	4	2	12	1	5	5	1	4	12	1	22	10	5	1								
Red-headed Woodpecker		1		1			17	2	1					8						6	6	1			5													
Red-bellied Woodpecker	14	10	2	52	28	32	27	38	23	5	23	247	47	30	25	52	40	16	82	38	33	24	3	9	243	14	50	40	182	10								
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker				2				1				9	2		5		3																					
Downy Woodpecker	36	78	20	170	99	71	73	73	31	19	76	299	192	52	53	44	33	21	116	35	49	36	14	19	412	29	107	58	323	11								
Hairy Woodpecker	4	5		15	9	7	5	8	8	2	2	44	15	11	15	4	10	1	17	21	28	2	1	3	80	11	18	19	86	3								
Northern Flicker	4	10	4	13	25	10	22	25	5	1	16	99	43	14	28	13	11	11	27	25	11	14		16	79	19	43	21	41	5								
Pileated Woodpecker		4		2	3	3	1	10	20	1		35	10	8	5	7	5		10	16	9	8	4	2	40	7	21	26	35	2								

W. Central

Central Region

South-

west Region

Unglaciated Region

	Clark Co. 12/21/96 (44)	Greenville 12/29/96 (43)	Indian Lake 12/21/96 (42)	Columbus 12/22/96 (55)	Delaware Reservoir 12/22/96 (52)	Hoover Reservoir 12/28/96 (53)	Killdeer Plains 12/29/96 (50)	Kingston 12/29/96 (58)	Lancaster 12/28/96 (57)	Mt. Gilead 12/21/96 (51)	O'Shaughnessy Reservoir 1/4/97 (54)	Cincinnati 12/29/96 (65)	Dayton 12/29/96 (60)	East Fork Lake S.P. 12/28/96 (67)	Hamilton-Fairfield 12/21/96 (62)	Ohio River (IN-OH-KY) 12/21/96 (64)	Oxford 12/21/96 (61)	Paint Creek Area 12/22/96 (66)	Western Hamilton Co. 12/22/96 (63)	Adams Co. 12/21/96 (82)	Athens 1/4/97 (78)	Beaver Valley 12/21/96 (84)	Cadiz (72)	Chandlersville 1/4/97 (74)	Millersburg 12/21/96 (83)	New Lexington 12/29/96 (75)	Parkersburg (WV-OH) 12/28/96 (79)	Portsmouth 12/28/96 (81)	Ragsville 12/27/96 (70)	Staubenville 12/21/96 (71)				
Eastern Phoebe	58	131	6	529	1	312	152	104	3	225	1540	502	273	217	167	143	18	746	95	231	118	26	47	651	9	85	192	420	31					
Carolina Chickadee	11	43	13	153	59	188	43	79	45	27	84	530	140	101	66	81	15	264	105	107	61	17	8	653	34	131	150	457	33					
Chickadee, sp.	18	72	2	112	54	63	60	43	50	14	33	113	99	27	22	19	43	8	47	30	53	22	4	14	405	42	71	67	262	16				
Chickadee, sp.	6	14	---	49	17	11	10	12	4	1	9	63	66	7	20	6	6	2	21	6	12	10	---	3	44	2	12	9	42	---				
Red-breasted Nuthatch	7	2	---	27	11	9	3	62	9	---	19	478	56	62	26	37	10	6	72	15	101	14	---	3	80	10	113	74	55	---				
White-breasted Nuthatch	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	CW	---	2	---	---	1	---	---	---	---	4	---	---	---	2	2	---			
Brown Creeper	7	---	---	24	13	14	6	47	28	7	3	112	30	45	15	11	13	5	21	80	8	33	---	15	100	10	7	74	60	---				
Carolina Wren	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---		
House Wren	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---		
Winter Wren	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---		
Golden-crowned Kinglet	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---		
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---		
Eastern Bluebird	10	4	---	21	33	37	7	103	25	15	12	190	50	172	2	37	15	50	14	198	100	78	11	59	452	61	93	116	232	1	---			
Hermit Thrush	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
American Robin	42	7	---	195	2	1	1	6	6	---	1	1426	584	163	439	114	224	---	2143	33	9	---	---	---	19	5	27	11	12	---	---			
Gray Catbird	1	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	CW	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	2	---	---	2	---	---			
Northern Mockingbird	3	20	---	37	1	11	5	23	5	---	10	98	21	16	11	7	7	---	59	20	24	20	---	5	35	10	38	57	59	---	---			
Brown Thrasher	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
American Pipit	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
Cedar Waxwing	43	15	---	102	32	---	2	9	---	---	---	10	5	87	---	---	33	12	13	142	36	---	---	---	14	---	---	---	---	---	---	---		
Northern Shrike	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
European Starling	308	2060	1008	3962	2448	1058	955	15879	199	364	5167	4562	1596	3849	4860	1677	685	867	22802	1499	581	414	275	176	1932	169	1899	3477	30565	27	---			
Yellow-rumped Warbler	2	9	---	1	12	---	---	49	7	---	1	41	2	87	---	14	---	---	2	116	1	6	---	1	33	4	38	1	8	6	---			
Common Yellowthroat	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
Northern Cardinal	78	167	65	805	252	243	90	124	90	84	238	1659	421	365	220	307	174	57	855	365	322	315	29	---	1897	170	389	392	1281	58	---			
Eastern Towhee	3	2	---	2	---	---	---	3	---	---	1	57	5	3	1	21	2	---	13	9	9	14	---	---	38	1	17	29	20	---	---			
American Tree Sparrow	33	31	11	31	228	35	221	124	1	30	52	46	80	25	32	2	16	7	106	12	14	39	25	14	921	15	28	---	646	31	---			
Chipping Sparrow	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
Field Sparrow	1	1	2	6	---	1	---	4	1	---	---	45	29	19	2	6	11	8	12	16	21	18	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---		
Vesper Sparrow	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
Savannah Sparrow	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
Fox Sparrow	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
Song Sparrow	22	110	18	195	90	16	65	193	48	9	59	715	130	142	183	278	36	42	502	94	120	160	7	17	1001	28	202	131	961	17	---			
Swamp Sparrow	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
White-throated Sparrow	26	---	---	331	5	7	2	58	8	---	4	680	177	69	78	185	24	16	408	20	52	38	6	---	94	14	63	110	115	3	---			
White-crowned Sparrow	6	28	---	24	5	---	8	28	---	6	9	27	---	3	15	47	5	---	101	134	6	34	---	---	352	CW	5	25	314	---	---			

	W. Central				Central Region				South				west Region				Unglaciated Region																
	Clark Co. 12/21/96 (44)	Greenville 12/29/96 (43)	Indian Lake 12/21/96 (42)	Columbus 12/22/96 (55)	Delaware Reservoir 12/22/96 (52)	Hoover Reservoir 12/28/96 (53)	Killdeer Plains 12/29/96 (50)	Kingston 12/29/96 (58)	Lancaster 12/28/96 (57)	Mt. Gilead 12/21/96 (51)	O'Shaughnessy Reservoir 1/4/97 (54)	Cincinnati 12/29/96 (65)	Dayton 12/29/96 (60)	East Fork Lake S.P. 12/28/96 (67)	Hamilton-Fairfield 12/21/96 (62)	Ohio River (IN-OH-KY) 12/21/96 (64)	Oxford 12/21/96 (61)	Paint Creek Area 12/22/96 (66)	Western Hamilton Co. 12/22/96 (63)	Adams Co. 12/21/96 (82)	Athens 1/4/97 (78)	Beaver Valley 12/21/96 (84)	Cadiz (72)	Chandlersville 1/4/97 (74)	Millersburg 12/21/95 (83)	New Lexington 12/29/96 (75)	Parkersburg (WV-OH) 12/28/96 (79)	Portsmouth 12/28/96 (81)	Ragersville 12/27/96 (70)	Steubenville 12/21/96 (71)			
Sparrow, sp.	49	205	76	390	247	237	142	84	84	167	413	370	424	194	293	198	51	421	871	164	350	46	11	1279	204	161	229	1185	87				
Dark-eyed Junco																																	
Snow Bunting																																	
Red-winged Blackbird																																	
Eastern Meadowlark																																	
Rusty Blackbird																																	
Blackbird, sp.																																	
Common Grackle																																	
Brown-headed Cowbird																																	
Purple Finch																																	
House Finch	44	113	51	821	169	154	50	181	60	186	673	295	212	232	32	58	4	305	246	109	46		55	453	52	282	248	378	20				
Pine Siskin																																	
American Goldfinch	31	33	17	605	168	227	98	102	43	38	582	221	92	128	94	165	29	257	234	93	71	7	27	551	31	132	148	318	2				
House Sparrow	245	842	921	3577	1185	584	421	893	85	145	739	423	100	151	122	212	126	663	334	113	227	33	41	2164		232	386	1128	55				
total species	62	51	34	77	52	58	57	57	47	33	45	86	66	65	65	68	49	64	68	48	63	34	50	80	41	56	74	70	34				
total individuals	19005	5470	3954	28874	8076	7222	9388	2312	2290	1133	8622	25547	10271	12519	15489	10387	4155	3044	44640	7519	3472	3597	1237	1848	20516	1925	8248	8306	48495	864			
observers	12	21	9	63	26	29	15	29	17	4	13	83	63	10	15	10	37	3	29	29	14	14	6	17	55	10	53	27	45	6			
party hours	28.00	??	25.25	152.00	72.00	36.00	46.00	75.00	36.75	13.00	41.00	214.00	99.00	35.50	42.00	29.50	59.00	16.00	74.50	77.50	48.00	46.00	22.50	24.00	255.00	31.00	117.50	73.00	174.25	438.00			

12/21/96 (71)	12/27/96 (70)	12/28/96 (81)	12/28/96 (79)	12/29/96 (75)	12/21/95 (83)	1/4/97 (74)	12/21/96 (84)	1/4/97 (78)	12/21/96 (82)	12/22/96 (63)	12/22/96 (66)	12/21/96 (61)	12/21/96 (64)	12/21/96 (62)	12/28/96 (67)	12/29/96 (60)	12/29/96 (65)	1/4/97 (54)	12/21/96 (51)	12/28/96 (57)	12/29/96 (58)	12/29/96 (50)	12/28/96 (53)	12/22/96 (52)	12/22/96 (55)	12/21/96 (42)	12/29/96 (43)	12/21/96 (44)
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Northwest Region

Northeast Region

	Firelands 12/21/96 (9)	Fremont 12/29/96 (8)	Gall Woods 12/21/96 (1)	Grand Rapids-Waterville 1/4/97 (2)	Gypsum 1/2/97 (6)	Hancock Co. 12/14/96 (10)	Lake Erie Islands (OH-ON) 12/20/96 (5)	Mansfield 12/21/96 (13)	Ottawa N.W.R. 1/5/97 (4)	Oxbow Lake 12/28/96 (7)	Plymouth 1/4/97 (12)	Tiffin 12/21/96 (11)	Toledo 12/22/96 (3)	Ashland 12/28/96 (30)	Ashtabula 1/4/97 (25)	Beaver Creek 12/29/96 (36)	Burton 1/1/97 (27)	Cleveland 12/21/96 (23)	Cuyahoga Falls 12/22/96 (29)	Elyria-Lorain 12/21/96 (20)	Mentor 12/28/96 (24)	Mohican State Forest 1/1/97 (35)	Quail Hollow-Hartville 12/22/96 (37)	Salem 1/4/97 (33)	Trumbull Co. 12/22/96 (28)	Wellington 12/28/96 (26)	Wooster 12/28/96 (31)	Youngstown 12/21/96 (34)			
Barred Owl	---	---	---	1	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	3	---	2	---	3	4	3	4	---	1*	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
Long-eared Owl	---	---	---	1	---	---	---	---	2	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
Short-eared Owl	---	---	2	---	---	---	---	---	---	1	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
Northern Saw-whet Owl	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	1	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
Rufous Hummingbird	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	1**	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
Belted Kingfisher	---	1	1	9	3	4	1	3	1	1	1	---	3	6	---	8	3	7	3	3	3	6	1	3	1	1	2	1	---		
Red-headed Woodpecker	---	---	---	1	---	---	---	---	2	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	3	---	---	2	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	23	4	3	32	4	18	5	48	5	14	7	29	10	14	12	26	51	47	101	11	19	50	6	19	45	14	25	24	---		
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	1	1	---	---	---	2	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
Downy Woodpecker	64	36	15	120	17	104	106	132	38	39	21	111	49	73	33	70	136	120	309	55	57	129	35	28	114	50	75	35	---		
Hairy Woodpecker	4	---	---	25	3	10	1	14	4	4	2	2	9	12	9	9	43	25	58	3	16	14	9	6	11	3	5	5	---		
Northern Flicker	23	5	6	29	6	13	26	12	1	4	1	18	1	5	3	7	12	3	23	---	2	12	2	3	4	1	12	3	---		
Pileated Woodpecker	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	5	---	---	2	1	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
Horned Lark	39	45	457	45	1	74	66	---	338	1	27	508	---	---	CW	CW	63	---	---	---	3	50	---	28	---	31	19	12	---		
Blue Jay	84	74	13	277	30	103	24	244	49	71	18	125	128	80	115	98	254	272	825	195	161	150	184	129	462	51	121	142	---		
American Crow	67	34	61	4857	CW	98	23	17000	2	71	48	439	155	438	609	175	352	1083	1253	125	613	743	70	208	119	150	317	715	---		
Black-capped Chickadee	56	8	33	358	13	67	241	2	10	30	40	98	94	65	97	36	409	352	1131	133	219	12	96	130	566	84	5	255	---		
Carolina Chickadee	---	---	---	---	---	---	10	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	166	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
Chickadee, sp.	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	267	---	---	---	---	---	9	---	51	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
Tufted Titmouse	46	22	9	178	8	98	---	248	17	21	23	69	77	62	15	93	178	200	468	50	88	161	35	49	137	25	65	131	---		
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	---	---	---	---	1	---	4	---	---	---	3	---	1	---	---	---	5	2	2	1	---	3	---	2	---	---	---	---		
White-breasted Nuthatch	32	15	16	121	6	69	2	143	15	50	11	57	61	34	9	54	135	95	295	30	30	130	22	37	93	42	51	66	---		
Brown Creeper	5	3	2	55	4	20	29	3	8	7	---	6	10	1	3	6	4	10	21	2	7	11	---	3	4	---	9	2	---		
Carolina Wren	CW-1	10	---	20	4	6	7	11	3	---	---	---	15	8	---	24	---	2	42	1	---	---	---	---	16	---	18	2	---		
House Wren	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	1	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
Winter Wren	---	1	---	1	---	---	---	---	5	---	---	---	1	---	---	---	---	1	1	---	2	---	---	---	2	---	---	---	---	1	
Marsh Wren	---	---	---	---	---	---	1+	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
Wren, sp.	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Golden-crowned Kinglet	3	---	2	131	1	13	2	16	---	---	2	7	---	3	2	33	3	17	11	---	20	35	3	5	9	---	7	1	---		
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	---	---	---	---	---	4	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	6	---	---	---	2	---	1	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
Eastern Bluebird	24	CW	---	2	---	4	---	103	---	7	2	6	---	7	15	13	40	13	30	17	8	76	1	51	85	23	74	3	---		
Hermit Thrush	---	---	---	---	---	3	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	1	1	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
American Robin	3	---	---	---	---	1	120	3	1	---	---	---	6	---	9	2	11	62	13	5	101	17	---	---	1	---	---	2	4	---	
Gray Catbird	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	1	---	---	1*	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Northern Mockingbird	---	---	---	1	---	2	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	1	---	2	1	---	---	1	---	---	2	---	---	---	---	---	
Brown Thrasher	---	---	---	---	---	1	1	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Cedar Waxwing	---	---	---	13	---	2	59	---	1	---	---	26	25	---	---	9	35	---	56	---	78	---	---	---	30	---	24	---	---		
Northern Shrike	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	1	---	---	---	---	---	1	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
European Starling	1035	1856	689	547	1310	1309	757	1062	1488	356	223	1444	2535	445	960	955	395	1547	3776	1523	1123	1468	1056	1000	586	5397	1125	459	---		
Yellow-rumped Warbler	18	---	2	8	CW	2	16	---	1	17	2	---	2	4	---	4	---	---	---	---	---	2	---	1	4	---	7	---	---		

Freshwater drum (sheephead) and bait fish make up the primary diet of Double-crested Cormorants on western Lake Erie, while walleye and yellow perch are seldom consumed, according to a recent study (Mike Bur, Great Lakes Science Center, Sandusky, OH). The study was initiated in 1997 "to determine which fish species were consumed by the region's exploding population of cormorants" - Mike Bur. The research was a joint project of the US Geological Survey's Biological Resources Division (Lake Erie Biological Station), Ohio Division of Wildlife, and US Department of Agriculture (National Wildlife Research Center).

Some area residents and anglers are concerned the rapid increase in nesting cormorants could have possible adverse affects on local fish or other wildlife populations. Cormorant numbers in western Lake Erie have increased steadily since the birds first began nesting on West Sister Island in 1992. Cormorant colonies now exist on West Sister Island (1,500 nests), East Sister Island (4,300 nests), and Middle Island (3,000 nests). Some fear these fish-eating diving birds may be consuming important game fish that are valuable to local sport and commercial fisheries. Stomach contents were examined of more than 300 cormorants collected from April through October near Middle Island, West Sister Island, and Sandusky Bay. Results indicated that 50 % of the stomachs contained young gizzard shad, 34 % contained freshwater drum, and 33 % contained emerald shiners. In all, 15 species of fish and two invertebrate species (crayfish and snail) were identified. Very few yellow perch and walleye were found eaten by cormorants.

Freshwater drum was found in many of the stomachs from April through June. After July, gizzard shad were consumed by more than 80% of the cormorants from August through October, while emerald shiners occurred in half the stomachs during September and October. The average weight of food in each stomach was about 1/4 pound, which was typical throughout the study period. Freshwater drum comprised the greatest portion of total stomach weight from April through July. This coincided with the time in which adults were incubating eggs and when young were in the nests. From August to September, young gizzard shad made up the largest % of weight consumed, which occurred shortly after young cormorants left the nest. Emerald shiners comprised almost 1/4 of the diet in weight during June when adults were feeding young, and reappeared in the diet during September and October.

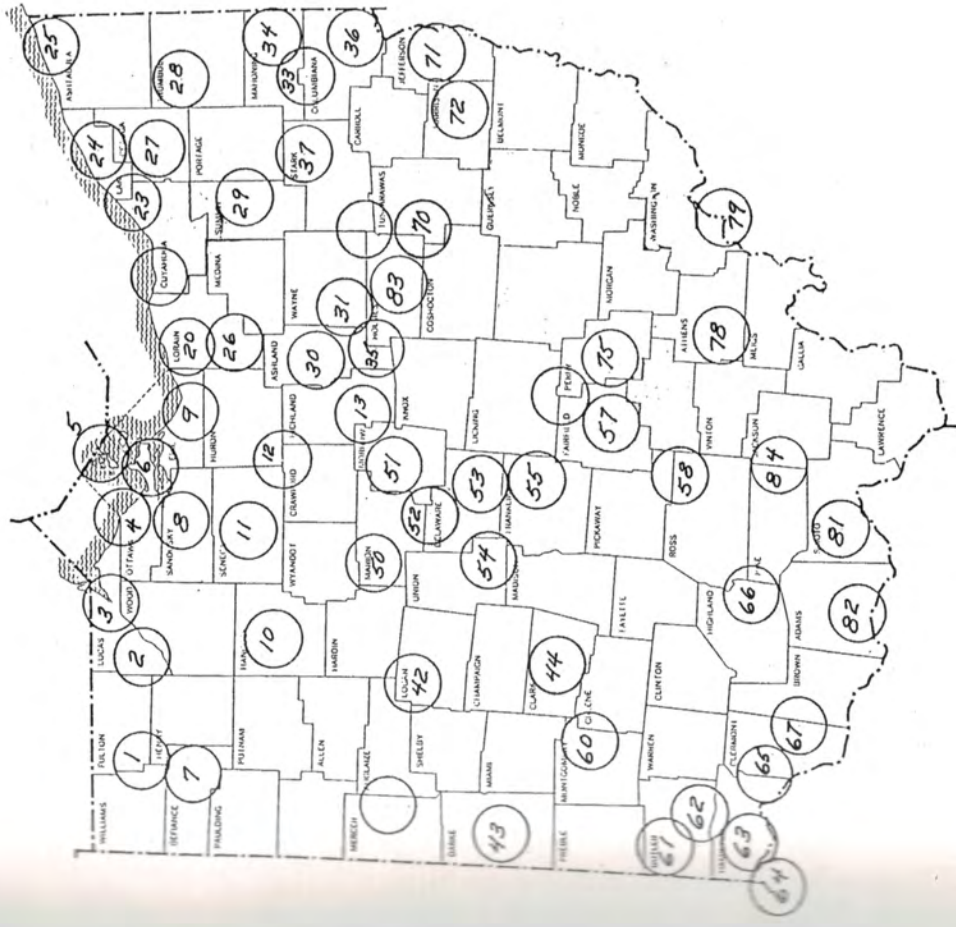
The study also compared fish consumption of cormorants to that of walleyes. The diet of both walleyes and cormorants were similar from July through October and indicated that both predators took advantage of the abundant young-of-the-year gizzard shad. As much as 87 % of the walleye diet consisted of gizzard shad, emerald shiners, and freshwater drum, while 99 % of the cormorant diet was made up of the same three species.

O.D.N.R., Div. of Wildlife, Waterfowl Migration Survey, late Fall 1996 - early Spring 1997

Region : Lake Erie marshes	1-Nov	15-Nov	26-Nov	18&19 Dec.	13&14 Jan.	3-Feb	18&20 Feb.	6-Mar
Canada Goose	6628	7,815	6,422	20,072	43,093	38,769	49,430	2,872
Snow Goose	3	3	2	0	80	30	215	1
Tundra Swan	225	397	323	635	72	287	298	121
Mute Swan	2	2	6	0	0	6	0	6
Mallard	100,192	97,572	68,394	113,544	5,590	59,089	35,868	5,147
American Black Duck	13,702	26,647	24,253	31,844	593	16,097	24,084	2,810
Gadwall	19,650	7,935	1,686	30	0	0	0	1,360
American Wigeon	4,100	25	32	0	0	0	0	1,530
Green-winged Teal	26,125	3,710	116	0	0	0	12	330
Blue-winged Teal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northern Shoveler	440	20	25	0	0	0	0	115
Northern Pintail	1,820	4,030	2,776	20	0	4	36	1,907
Wood Duck	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Redhead	115	215	80	0	0	0	4,325	6,975
Canvasback	41	0	1,155	505	3,740	13,451	24,744	15,420
Scaup spp.	15,686	14,315	9,880	5,100	4,200	18,710	5,905	9,025
Ring-necked Duck	35	0	45	0	0	0	0	532
Ruddy Duck	1,065	195	5	0	0	0	0	0
Bufflehead	51	47	235	0	0	0	4	15
Common Goldeneye	0	0	25	170	1,450	3,933	1,140	0
Merganser spp.	104	5,355	286	105	4,975	7,944	13,982	2,469

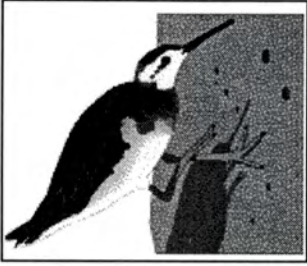


Snow Bunting, Photo by Gary Meszaros



Ohio Christmas Count Areas
1996/7

Ohio Christmas Bird Count Map



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