

*The Ohio*



# CARDINAL™

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

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

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

Seasonal Report Due Dates	Please send all reports to:
Winter (Dec.-Feb.) - March 25	Bill Whan
Spring (Mar.-May) - June 25	223 E. Tulane Rd.
Summer (June-July) - August 25	Columbus, OH 43202
Autumn (Aug.-Nov.) - December 25	danielel@twynet.net

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## The Ohio Cardinal

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*On the Cover:* A winter scene dominated by canvasbacks on Sandusky Bay. Photo by Gary Meszaros on 30 January 1998.

## A Note from the Editor

A whole flock of *Cardinals* ago, we published a promise to restore missing reports on Ohio's birds. In 1997 and 1998, a rocky period in our twenty-three years as the state birding magazine caused us to fail to publish five issues of *The Ohio Cardinal*. Since then we have determined to repair the resulting damage to our continuous series of data on Ohio birds. Now at last we make good on that promise, even if not on the optimistic schedule projected earlier.

Readers will recall the first restoration of missing data, in the form of last year's omnibus issue covering Autumn of 1998 and Winter of 1998-99, ably compiled by guest editor Bob Conlon. Here we present at last the reports for the three seasons preceding that period—Winter 1997-98, Spring 1998, and Summer 1998—in a similar format. The gap in Ohio's bird records is now filled. We include herein few photographs and no articles, having inherited none, but we have made the fullest possible use of the salvaged records of our contributors. As a result, this make-up issue completes the missing picture of Ohio's birdlife in a way fully comparable with our regular issues since that time.

As grateful as we are to Bob Conlon for having compiled the reports for the rest of the hiatus, and to Su Snyder for her invaluable help in compiling many records for this publication, we owe most to our contributors. These birders, who maintained careful records of their observations and sent them to us for publication, and who persisted in sending them even when the magazine was faltering, are the real motivators of this restoration. Their dedication to keeping records, and their faith in the magazine that publishes them, is what inspired the work that put this issue together. We hope you will find it informative, and also that you will derive from reading it an appreciation for the network of skilled and generous field observers who made it possible.

Bill Whan



This lark sparrow was found on the Ragersville, Holmes Co., CBC on 30 December 1997 and remained into the Spring 1998 season. Photo by Bruce Glick on 3 January 1998.



## Winter 1997-98 Overview

by Bill Whan

The angle at which the sun's light strikes our latitude governs our seasons, and it is the most oblique at the winter solstice. The coldest temperatures lag behind this date, despite the sun's steady recovery from its lowest dip toward the southern horizon, for a couple of months. These months, and the month or so leading up to the solstice, are what we call winter. It sometimes happens, and seems to be happening increasingly frequently and noticeably lately, that atmospheric conditions conspire to create a season we cannot easily recognize as winter, despite the ineluctable influences of the wan winter sunlight and short days. And so it happened this winter, in spades.

Any experienced birder can probably make a number of good predictions about how a notably mild winter will affect our birdlife. Some fall migrants will stay later than usual, and some spring migrants will arrive earlier than usual; some birds that do not routinely spend the winter with us will do so. We can even make reasonable predictions about which species will be involved: species that normally arrive later in the fall are likelier to overstay their customary departure dates and persevere into winter, and those species normally arriving earliest in the spring will be the most likely to arrive even earlier with invitingly warm early conditions. At least the assumptions governing these predictions proved true in this unusually warm winter—we didn't have wintering semipalmated sandpipers or Acadian flycatchers or cattle egrets—but the species at the margins, the half-hardy ones, and even some less than half hardy, took full advantage of our strange weather conditions this season.

Statewide, temperatures were around 2.5°F warmer in December, about 10.5°F warmer in January, and approximately 10°F warmer in February, extravagant deviations from the normal. In December, birders found Hudsonian godwit, common tern, blue-headed vireo, Cape May warbler, vesper sparrow, and rose-breasted grosbeak; in January king rail and sora were reported; in February, word arrived of American bittern, osprey, both yellowlegs, pomarine jaeger, white-eyed vireo, and tree swallow. Species that probably wintered included the following: pied-billed and horned grebes, double-crested cormorant, great egret, tundra swan, wood duck, gadwall, ruddy duck, Virginia rail, dunlin, house wren, gray catbird, pine warbler, northern waterthrush, common yellowthroat, and lark sparrow. Species which may not have overwintered but were nonetheless reported in all three winter months included common loon, turkey vulture, sandhill crane, ruby-crowned kinglet, American pipit, and chipping, field, and savannah sparrows. Compare this winter's numbers and dates of waterfowl with those of a normal winter, when frozen water inland is the rule. Although commoner birds staying longer or arriving earlier dominated the news, we nevertheless had some fine rarities: a third record of mew gull, a second of Say's phoebe, a lark bunting, and our first Ross's gull.

Results of the season's Christmas Bird Counts are not included here, as they appeared in Vol. 20, No. 4 of *The Ohio Cardinal*, the summer 1997 issue, courtesy

of Ned Keller, who compiled results from all 60 counts for us. As always, we try to allow the CBC results to speak for themselves separately from our Reports, but here we have cited CBC results somewhat more often because they cannot be found elsewhere in this issue. They are always identified as such herein. In this and the other Reports in this issue we follow the taxonomic order of the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the *AOU Check-list of North American Birds* (1998), as amended by the 42<sup>nd</sup> Supplement of July 2000. Underlined names of species indicate those on the OBRC's Review List; adequate documentation of such sightings is needed to add reports to the official Ohio records. County names are supplied for certain locations, and appear *italicized*. Abbreviations and conventions should be readily understood, with the possible exception of the following: BCSP=Buck Creek SP; BIWA=Big Island WA; CBC=Christmas Bird Count; CVNRA=Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area; EFSP=East Fork SP; EHSP=East Harbor SP; *fade*="in trust of," said of data conveyed on behalf of another observer; GAASBC=Greater Akron Audubon Society Summer Bird Count, reported herein by Carol Tveekrem; GRWA=Grand River WA; HBSP=Headlands Beach SP; Killbuck=Killbuck Marsh WA; Killdeer=Killdeer Plains WA; Magee=Magee Marsh WA; MBSP=Maumee Bay SP; Metzger=Metzger Marsh WA; MP=Metropark; m obs=many observers; MWA=Mosquito Lake WA; MWF=Miami-Whitewater Forest; MWV=Miami-Whitewater Wetlands; NWR=National Wildlife Refuge; OBRC=Ohio Bird Records Committee; ONWRC=census of birds at Ottawa NWR, reported by E. Pierce; Ottawa=Ottawa NWR in Lucas and Ottawa; PCWA=Pickrel Creek WA; ph=photographed; PP=Power Plant; Res=Reservoir; Res'n=Reservation; SF=State Forest; SNP=State Nature Preserve; SP=State Park; SVWA=Spring Valley WA; WA=Wildlife Area; ~≈approximately.



White-winged crossbills were widely viewed during the Winter 1997-98 season. This male was photographed in Toledo, Lucas Co., in January 1998 by Bruce Glick.



## The Winter 1997-98 Reports

**Red-throated Loon:** Seven reported: a juv at Lakeshore MP, *Lake*, on 1 Dec (J. Pogacnik), two at HBSP on 7 Dec (C. Holt), and four juv at Lakeshore MP 14 Dec (Pogacnik).

**Common Loon:** Close to 700 reported, with the lion's share a good flight of 489 on 14 Dec in *Lake* (J. Pogacnik). Most migrants passed through in the second half of Dec, but lingerers included one at Hoover Res, *Franklin*, on 5 Jan (K. Alexander), one at Kelleys Island on 18 Jan (T. Bartlett), one at Caesar Ck SP on 25 Jan (L. Gara), one on 1 Feb in Cleveland (T. LePage), and one at Ferguson Res, *Allen*, on 8 Feb (D. Dister).

**Pied-billed Grebe:** Two or three wintered at Lorain (J. Pogacnik). Other deep-winter birds were at Hoover Res on 5 Jan (K. Alexander), two at Lk Logan, *Hocking*, from 12 Jan (C. Dusthimer) to 24 Jan (T. Bartlett), 10 in *Hamilton* on 25 Jan (B. Stanley), and eight off Cleveland on 31 Jan (R. Harlan, S. Wagner). Four on Summit Lk on 22 Feb were likely returnees (C. Holt).

**Horned Grebe:** Apparently wintered in small numbers: J. Pogacnik, who had the high count of 69 on 21 Dec in *Lake*, remarked that one spent the period at Fairport Hbr. One was at Lorain on New Year's Day (V. Fazio), two on the ONWRC on 4 Jan, and two in *Hamilton* on 25 Jan (N. Keller). By late Feb, probable migrants included two at BCSP (D. Overacker) on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, two at Paulding Res on the 25<sup>th</sup> (D&M Dunakin), and near Wilmington on the 26<sup>th</sup> (L. Gara).

**Red-necked Grebe:** J. Pogacnik had both sightings at Lakeshore MP: one on 21 Dec and the other on 14 Feb.

**Double-crested Cormorant:** This species too wintered in small numbers, it seems. J. Pogacnik reported wintering birds at Fairport Hbr, and K. Alexander had 1-2 all of Jan at O'Shaughnessy Res in Columbus. Other mid-winter reports included 5 Jan birds at Eastlake (K. Metcalf) and Hoover Res in Columbus (K. Alexander), 10 in Sandusky Bay on 11 Jan (R. Harlan, S. Wagner), two at Cedar Pt (C. Holt) the same day, one at Meldahl Dam, *Clermont*, on the following day (F. Renfrow), and eight at Sandusky Bay on 15 Feb (C. Holt).

**American Bittern:** P. Haddad et al. had one in the CVNRA on 15 Feb near Beaver Pond for a very unusual mid-winter record, albeit in a mild season.

**Great Blue Heron:** Decent numbers stayed put in a mild season. K. Alexander reported up to 20 wintering in Columbus. C. Holt saw 12 at Mentor Marsh on 28 Dec, three at Cedar Pt on 18 Jan, then four at Ottawa on 15 Feb. V. Fazio counted a good 44 at Medusa Marsh, *Erie*, on 3 Jan.

**Great Egret:** Of local interest was one at Fairport Hbr on 8 Dec (J. Pogacnik). The same observer and others saw two or three apparently overwintering at Medusa Marsh, *Erie*, with sightings on 3 Jan, 31 Jan, 21 Feb, 23 Feb, and 24 Feb—a remarkable record.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** One on S. Bass Isl on 9 Dec was late (S. Wulkowicz), but 37 were not unexpected for the Toledo CBC on the 21<sup>st</sup>. Later, T. Bartlett counted 26 on the Maumee R on 4 Jan, and C. Dusthimer 21 there on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Less expected were one at the Mentor Lagoons on 27 Jan (A. Fjelstad) and two at Medusa Marsh on 23 Feb (J. Pogacnik).

**Black Vulture:** Birds from the Lk Buckhorn roost were seen from at least 19 Dec through mid-Jan in *Holmes*, with a maximum of 12 birds on 2 Jan (R. Schlabach). C. Dusthimer counted 25 from the Clear Ck roost in *Fairfield* on 1 Jan. B. Hensel counted 42 near the Meldahl Dam, *Clermont*, on 1 Feb. The high CBC count was 50 over *Adams* on 20 Dec.

## WINTER 1997-98 REPORTS

**Turkey Vulture:** Reported from many locations during the season. High Jan counts were 207 on the 20<sup>th</sup> in *Athens* (R. Cass) and 65 on the 4<sup>th</sup> at Lk Buckhorn in *Holmes* (B. Glick). J. Pogacnik had birds from 16 Dec through 27 Jan at the Painesville Dump in *Lake*, than another on 16 Feb there. Glick noted two in e. *Holmes* on 10 Feb, C. Dusthimer one in *Fairfield* on 1 Jan, and D. Best two in *Geauga* on 16 Feb. S. Wulkowicz saw the first arrivals at S. Bass Isl on 25 Feb, a more customary date.

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** Two adults passed by Lakeshore MP, *Lake*, on 27 Feb (J. Pogacnik).

**Snow Goose:** Over 160 reported, over half on Ottawa censuses, with 52 on 7 Dec and 38 on 1 Feb. Elsewhere the earliest was in *Tuscarawas* on 11 Dec (R. Schlabach), and the latest two at Killdeer on 27 Feb (B. Stehling). At other inland spots, three were at Hueston Wds SP on 3 Jan (D. Dister) and three the same day at Burr Oak SP (L. Barnhart), then five on 23 Jan at Pickerington Ponds, *Fairfield* (C. Dusthimer).

**Ross's Goose:** No reports for fall, either.

**Brant:** At Conneaut, one was present on 14 Dec, then two on 17 Jan (J. Pogacnik).

**Tundra Swan:** Over 2200 reported, with significant numbers wintering, especially in the western Lk Erie marshes, where the high counts were in the hundreds during Jan and Feb (ONWRC, CBCs). D. Best reported them in *Geauga* through the period, with 100+ on 1 Mar. Jan records came from Funk, *Wayne*, with 16 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 30 on the 29<sup>th</sup> (both B. Glick). Killdeer with four on the 17<sup>th</sup> (T. Bartlett), *Muskingum* with six at The Wilds on the 29<sup>th</sup> (C. Dusthimer), and in Feb on the 3<sup>rd</sup> near Findlay (B. Hardesty) and 11 at BIWA on the 27<sup>th</sup> (B. Stehling).

**Wood Duck:** Some apparently wintered. M. Zehnder and T&M Romito reported a bird on the CVNRA 29 Dec, 26 Jan, 16 Feb, and 23 Feb. Jan birds were in *Holmes* on the 13<sup>th</sup> and two on the 27<sup>th</sup> (both B. Glick). Eight were in *Hancock* on 13 Jan (B. Hardesty); T. Bartlett had one on 2 Jan on Catawba Isl and one at Killdeer on 17 Jan. A pair was at Griggs Res in Columbus on 13 Jan (K. Alexander).

**Gadwall:** Some seemed to hang around throughout the period. In Jan, 40 were at Lk Hodgson, *Portage* (L. Rosche), 14 in *Licking* (C. Dusthimer), 27 at BCSP (D. Overacker), and five at The Wilds in *Muskingum* (Dusthimer).

**American Wigeon:** Four were at Killbuck on 9 Jan (B. Glick). At Castalia, 115 luxuriated in the warm waters on 18 Jan (C. Holt), but most were migrants arriving in late Feb.

**American Black Duck:** Appeared in unremarkable numbers through the period, with a high reported count of 500 at Killdeer on 2 Jan (J. Stenger).

**Mallard:** Numerous as always, with ~11,000 on the 7 Dec ONWRC, and 4000+ at Funk on 27 Jan (B. Glick).

**Blue-winged Teal:** Seemingly none were tempted to spend the warm winter here. One was late at Magee on 21 Dec (H&S Hiris), and two early on 22 Feb in Licking (C. Dusthimer).

**Northern Shoveler:** Some wintered at Castalia's spa, where 106 were present on 19 Jan (V. Fazio). Early migrants were two at Medusa on 15 Feb (C. Holt), but in between C. Dusthimer had nine in *Licking* on 23 Jan, and D. Overacker saw the species through the winter at BCSP in *Clark*.

**Northern Pintail:** Reported on 10 CBCs. January reports included one at Hoover Res on the 5<sup>th</sup> (K. Alexander), 10 on the 11<sup>th</sup> at BCSP (D. Overacker), nine at Salt Fork Res on the 19<sup>th</sup> (J. Larson), a pair at Aurora on the 25<sup>th</sup> (C. Holt), and a bird at Funk on the 29<sup>th</sup> (B. Glick).



**Green-winged Teal:** Reported on 15 CBCs, with a high of 49 in Columbus on 21 Dec. One was at LaDue Res on 1 Jan (**K. Metcalf**), 15 on 23 Jan in *Licking* (**C. Dusthimer**), and six at Munroe Falls on 6 Feb (**S&M Saxe**).

**Canvasback:** 9037 were tallied on the 3 Jan Gypsum CBC. Later in the month, **V. Fazio** found 650 off Cedar Pt on the 19<sup>th</sup>, and on the 25<sup>th</sup> ~7000 on Sandusky Bay and ~2500 on the Maumee R. Inland high was 85 at Wellington Res, *Lorain*, on 10 Jan (**F. Greenland**).

**Redhead:** 71 were on the 4 Jan ONWRC. 1500+ gathered at Bayshore Pk on 11 Jan (**J. McCormac**), 58 northbound birds appeared at BCSP on 22 Feb (**D. Overacker**).

**Ring-necked Duck:** Unusually, many appeared in mid-winter. Thirty were at Lk Hodgson, *Portage*, on 2 Jan (**L. Rosche**), one at S. Bass Isl on 24 Jan then six on 4 Feb (**S. Wulkowicz**), eight in *Lucas* on 25 Jan (**V. Fazio**), one on 8 Feb at BCSP (**D. Overacker**), with eight migrants on 15 Feb at Metzger Marsh (**C. Holt**), then 300+ at Lk Mogadore on the 20<sup>th</sup> (**Rosche**).

**Greater Scaup:** Reported on only six CBCs, with 2000 estimated on that for Fremont on 28 Dec. **P. Lozano** had 301 off Cleveland on 28 Dec, and **J. Pogacnik** 145 on 1 Jan in *Lake*.

**Lesser Scaup:** Seen in small numbers for the most part. At Bayshore on 11 Jan 3800+ were present offshore (**J. McCormac**), but except for 929 counted in *Lake* on 1 Jan (**J. Pogacnik**) all other counts were of 200 or fewer.

**Harlequin Duck:** An immature male was off *Lake* on 1 Jan (**J. Pogacnik**).

**Surf Scoter:** Remarkable were eight reported in Jan: one at Wellington Res on the 10<sup>th</sup> (**F. Greenland**), three at Bayshore on the 11<sup>th</sup> (**C. Johnston**), and ad males on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> off *Lake* (**J. Pogacnik**). No Feb reports.

**White-winged Scoter:** No mid-winter reports, but one was at Vermilion on 24 Dec (**J. Pogacnik**), another at Lakewood on 28 Dec (**B. Finkelstein** et al.), and a third off *Lake* on 1 Jan (**Pogacnik**).

**Black Scoter:** Seventeen birds were reported, all in Dec: one Rocky R Pt 3 Dec (**T. LePage**), high count of six at HBSP on the same day (**D&J Hoffman**), where two were found on 27-28 Dec (**L. Rosche**). What was judged a first *Richland* record was found on 11 Dec at Clear Fk Res (**J. Herman**, m obs). On 21 Dec two were off *Lake* (**J. Pogacnik**).

**Long-tailed Duck:** After half a dozen reports during autumn, there were over 30 winter birds. In Jan, one persisted at Hoover Res from the 5<sup>th</sup> (**K. Alexander**) through the 13<sup>th</sup> (**C. Dusthimer**), and one passed by Lakeshore MP on the 11<sup>th</sup> (**J. Pogacnik**). **P. Jones** found a bird at Oberlin Res on 14 Feb that stayed for m obs over several days. Latest was a male at Killdeer on 22 Feb (**V. Fazio**).

**Bufflehead:** Fairly normal in numbers, with traditional big concentrations near the Erie islands: 957 were on the Lk Erie Isl CBC on 19 Dec, and **S. Wulkowicz** noted 300+ off S. Bass Isl during Jan and early Feb.

**Common Goldeneye:** Unaffected by the warm season, it seemed. Numbers peaked in Jan, with 105 off *Lake* on the 1<sup>st</sup> (**J. Pogacnik**), 3475 on the Gypsum CBC on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, and ~1000 off Cedar Pt on the 18<sup>th</sup> (**C. Holt**) and the 31<sup>st</sup> (**R. Harlan**, **S. Wagner**); on the latter date **V. Fazio** estimated 2800 in Sandusky Bay. Migrants appeared in mid-Feb, with 10 on the 14<sup>th</sup> at Berlin Res (**C. Holt**) and eight in *Paulding* the next day (**M&D Dumakin**).

**Hooded Merganser:** Over 500 reported on 30 CBCs. Fifty were at Lk Rockwell on 8 Dec (**C. Holt**), 20 at BCSP on the 28<sup>th</sup> (**D. Overacker**), two at Conneaut on 4 Jan (**Holt**), three at LaDue Res on the 18<sup>th</sup> (**E. Folts**, *fride D. Best*), one at Sims Pk on 22 Jan (**R. Rickard**), and two at Nimistila Res on 1 Feb (**Holt**).

**Common Merganser:** Well-represented along the Lake. On 19 Jan **V. Fazio** witnessed an extraordinary ~6000 in the Huron area, 2200 in Sandusky Bay, and 1800 at Oberlin Beach, nearly all adult males. Inland numbers were, customarily, much smaller, with a high of 18 at Hoover Res on 12 Jan (**K. Alexander**). Migrants appeared in strength at Lk Rockwell, with 75 on 18 Feb (**L. Rosche**).

**Red-breasted Merganser:** Warm weather encouraged large numbers to pass the season here. **C. Holt** tallied ~1500 at Huron on 18 Jan, and **R. Harlan** and **S. Wagner** ~2000 there on the 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Ruddy Duck:** Extraordinary numbers wintered. **P. Lozano** found 1-41 birds between 2 Dec and 26 Feb in Cleveland, and **L. Gara** observed them near Wilmington from 5 Dec (26 birds) through 26 Feb (60 birds). **C. Dusthimer** had 16 on Lk Logan, *Hocking*, on 1 Jan. **F. Greenland** counted 125 at Wellington Res on 1 Feb, while **C. Holt** had 23 at Akron Lks on the same day, where **N. Ibsen** had found 42 on 19 Jan.

**Bald Eagle:** A nice high count of 31 birds came from Winous Pt, *Sandusky*, on 3 Jan (**J. Pogacnik**).

**Osprey:** Remarkably, two birds were seen on 20 Dec in *Butler* (**M. Busam** et al.), and then one in the dead of winter on 9 Feb in *Lake* (**J. Pogacnik**)—documentation accepted by the OBRC.

**Northern Harrier:** Numbers seemed low statewide, though a reassuring high count of 35 was reported in *Seneca* on 25 Jan (**T. Bartlett**). Only one was seen on three day-long censuses of ONWR during the season.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** The normal scattered reports. High count was 4 on 5 Jan on S. Bass Isl (**S. Wulkowicz**).

**Northern Goshawk:** **V. Fazio** had an immature bird at Medusa Marsh on 3 Jan.

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** Doing well, especially in the northeast, where its CBC numbers far outstripped those in other sections of the state.

**Red-tailed Hawk:** The Wilmet CBC tallied 128 on 20 Dec. **R. Schlabach** noted 10 northbound migrants on 26 Feb in *Tuscarawas*.

**Rough-legged Hawk:** No large numbers reported. Only one was seen on the monthly Ottawa censuses. High count only four, all dark-plumaged birds, on 29 Jan in *Ashland* (**B. Glick**).

**Golden Eagle:** **T. Kemp** described a young bird over *Lucas* on 19 Jan.

**Merlin:** An ad male was at N. Chagrin Res' n on 2 Dec (**K. Metcalf**), two birds at MWW on 11 Dec (*fride N. Keller*), one in Ashtabula on 15 Dec (**J. Pogacnik**), a female in *Cuyahoga* on 9 Jan (**R. Harlan**, **S. Wagner**), and a male in *Summit* the following day (**Harlan**, **Wagner**). At least one bird spent the season at the traditional locale in Bath, *Summit* (**D&A Chasar**).

**Peregrine Falcon:** Most reports emanated from urban areas where introduced birds have been nesting, but one was observed with a kill at Ottawa on 11 Jan (**J. McCormac**), and a bird seen in *Hocking* on 25 Feb (**M. England**) was likely a migrant.

**Wild Turkey:** High count was 150+ in the Pleasant Hill Lk area, *Richland*, on 25 Jan (**M. Gingerich**). About a hundred were at MWA on 4 Jan (**C. Holt**).

**King Rail:** Surprising but hardly unprecedented was a bird found on 3 Jan near Port Clinton (**J. Pogacnik**) on time for the Gypsum CBC, and relocated through the 16<sup>th</sup> (m obs).



**Virginia Rail:** The Millersburg CBC had one for the fifth consecutive count, on 20 Dec; it was refound through at least 15 Jan (**B. Glick**). **R. Harlan** and **S. Wagner** found another on the Funk Bottoms on 24 Jan. Three Feb reports—one at Ottawa on the 15<sup>th</sup> and two at Springville Marsh, *Seneca* (both **T. Bartlett**), and one at the SVWA on 28 Feb (**D. Disster**)—were extraordinary, but consistent with the season's findings overall.

**Sora:** **T. Bartlett** reported one from *Aithya* on 24 Jan, as this railid joined its cousins in strange sightings this winter.

**American Coot:** Some unusual winter sightings for this species as well. On 1 Jan, **D. Overacker** tallied 20 at BCSP and **C. Dusthimer** had 100+ at Lk Logan, *Hoeking*, where on the 24<sup>th</sup> **T. Bartlett** counted 133. Rafts at Wellington Res, *Lorain*, totaled 720 on 31 Jan for **F. Greenland**. 435 on 22 Feb on the Akron Lks were likely migrants (**C. Holt**).

**Sandhill Crane:** Over 200 birds reported. Midwinter reports included one in Ottawa on 4 Jan (**R. Harlan**, **S. Wagner**), 16 at Funk through at least 6 Jan (**J. Herman**), and one at Pleasant Hill Lk, *Ashland*, on 27 Jan (**B. Glick**). The earliest returnees were five at Hueston Wds SP on 21 Feb (**J. Reid**).

**Killdeer:** Many reports in midwinter, including a flyby in *Holmes* on 2 Jan (**E. Schlabach**), and two the same day at the eponymous Killdeer Plains WA (**J. Stenger**), one in *Franklin* on 5 Jan (**K. Alexander**), one in *Aithya* on 24 Jan (**T. Bartlett**), one at BCSP on 25 Jan (**D. Overacker**), two on 27 Jan in *Holmes* (**B. Glick**), 18 at *Seneca* Lk on 31 Jan (**J&E. Snively**), and "several" noted in *Tuscarawas* on 5 Feb (**R. Schlabach**).

**Greater Yellowlegs:** Early arrivals were one at Funk Bottoms on 23 Feb (**B. Burnett**) and another in *Lake* on 27 Feb (**J. Pogacnik**).

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** **V. Fazio** photographed one in *Lucas* on 28 Feb.

**Hudsonian Godwit:** Lingering late was one near Bayshore PP, *Lucas*, on 1 Dec (**J. McCormac**).

**Dunlin:** Five wintered at the Lorain impoundment (m obs). A bird seen at Pleasant Hill Lk from 24 Jan to 28 Feb (**J. Herman** et al.) probably wintered as well.

**Common Snipe:** Eight CBCs found snipe, with a high count of 17 for the Millersburg contingent on 20 Dec.

**American Woodcock:** The earliest birds arrived on 14 Feb: one at Burr Oak SP in *Aithya* (**L. Barnhart**), one at MWF (**L. Peyton**), and one at Gilmore Ponds (**D. Sadler**). By the 28<sup>th</sup>, 11 could be found at Springville Marsh, *Seneca* (**T. Bartlett**).

**Pomarine Jaeger:** Two, an ad and a 2<sup>nd</sup>-year bird, appeared at Fairport Hbr on 28 Feb (**L. Rosche** et al.).

**Little Gull:** Twelve reported over the period, all singles between Lorain and Conneaut.

**Bonaparte's Gull:** Bonies seemed content to spend the season with us. The high count was 3562 on 28 Dec in Cleveland (**P. Lozano**). At Hoover Res, *Franklin*, **K. Alexander** counted ~500 on 5 Jan. Later in Jan, 250 were at Lorain on the 18<sup>th</sup> (**C. Holt**), 50+ at S. Bass Isl on the 23<sup>rd</sup> (**S. Wulkowicz**) ~100 at Conneaut on the 25<sup>th</sup> (**Holt**), 921 in *Lake* on the 29<sup>th</sup> (**J. Pogacnik**), and ~500 in Cleveland on the 31<sup>st</sup> (**R. Harlan**, **S. Wagner**). **T. LePage** estimated 3000 at the latter location the next day, and **K. Metcalf** 700+ at HBSP on 18 Feb.

**Mew Gull:** **J. Pogacnik** discovered an adult at Eastlake PP on 9 Jan, and **J. Shrader** rediscovered it there on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Third Ohio record, accepted by the OBRC.

**Ring-billed Gull:** Three CBCs—Gypsum, Lorain, and Ashtabula—totaled over 25,000. Close to 4000 were at Berlin Res on 22 Jan (**B&D Lane**). ~300 were at Ira Rd in the CVNRA on 26 Jan for an unusual concentration (**M&T Romito**).

**Thayer's Gull:** As many as 10 birds reported, all singles, and between Huron and Conneaut along the Lake. Persistent were a first-winter bird at Fairport Hbr through Jan (**N. Barber**) and an adult at Lorain through the period (m obs).

**Iceland Gull:** Much as Thayer's—and why not, since many believe them to be conspecific?—with six reports from between Avon Lk and Ashtabula along the Lake, with an odd 23 Feb bird at Ottawa (**J. Pogacnik**). A first-year bird spent the period at HBSP (**E. Back** et al.).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** At least a dozen birds from a total of 32 reports. The high count was 4+ on 2 Dec at Eastlake PP (**K. Metcalf**), with inland birds at Summit Lk on 2 and 6 Jan (**R. Harlan**, **S. Wagner**), and Findlay Res on 16 and 20 Dec (**B. Hardesty**). The others were seen between Painesville and Catawba Isl (the latter on 2 Jan by **T. Bartlett**).

**Glaucous Gull:** Ten or more birds, in 17 reports. In less expected places were a "probable" bird in *Knox* on 10 Jan (**R. Schlabach**) and another in *Lucas* off Crane Ck SP on 16 Jan (**K. Alexander**). Besides the earliest on 20 Dec at Conneaut Harbor (**J. Hammond** et al.), and the latest, on 24 Feb in *Ottawa* (**J. Pogacnik**), all reports came from Jan.

**Great Black-backed Gull:** Very high numbers, beginning with 213 in *Lake* on 7 Dec (**J. Pogacnik**). The Elyria-Lorain CBC had 788 on 20 Dec. Numbers were strong in Jan, with the high count at extraordinary 2000+ at Cedar Pt on the 3<sup>rd</sup> (**R. Harlan**, **S. Wagner**); **L. Rosche** found one inland at Summit Lk on the 24<sup>th</sup>. In Feb, **C. Holt** had 125 on the 15<sup>th</sup> in Lorain—not too different from its fall peak numbers, actually—and **S. Wulkowicz** 50 on a single lawn in S. Bass Isl on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Black-legged Kittiwake:** **J. Pogacnik** reported a flyby in *Lake* on 7 Dec.

**Ross's Gull:** **C. Holt** meticulously described Ohio's first, a bird seen on 14 Dec in Conneaut Harbor. Accepted by the OBRC.

**Common Tern:** **J. Pogacnik** discovered, and others observed, a single bird from 20 Dec through 2 Jan at Lorain.

**Snowy Owl:** All reports: one was at Findlay Res from 25 Nov through 1 Dec (**K. Noblet**, **S. Ross**), two at Conneaut on 28 Dec and one on 1 Jan (both **J. Pogacnik**), one on 24 Jan at Ashtabula (**Pogacnik**), and another 24-28 Feb in *Paulding* (**M&D Dunakin**).

**Long-eared Owl:** Two to six were found at Killdeer from 13 Dec through the period. One was found on the Millersburg count for the only CBC record.

**Short-eared Owl:** The high count was 24 on the Chandlersville CBC of 3 Jan in *Muskingum*. Reported in the traditional places in modest numbers otherwise. Elsewhere, six were in *Paulding* from 7 Dec through the period (**D&M Dunakin**), one in *Ashtabula* on 15 Dec (**J. Pogacnik**), four in *Madison* on 17 Dec (**B. Royse**), five to eight in *Fairfield* on 1 Jan (**C. Dusthimer**), two at MBSP on 11 Jan (**G. Links**), and one on 23 Feb in *Lake* (**Pogacnik**).

**Northern Saw-whet Owl:** About 30 reported, with a high count of five at Killdeer on 3 Jan (**D. Kinsman**).



**Belted Kingfisher:** On 20 Dec, 29 were tallied by the Millersburg CBC.

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** J. Pogacnik had one on 13 Dec in Avon Lk, where there is a sporadic presence at least. In the Hancock survey of 13 Jan five were found (*vide* B. Hardesty). Fourteen were seen on the Adams County CBC and 15 on that for Millersburg, both 20 Dec.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** Nine were found on the Cincinnati CBC of 28 Dec. In the northern half of the state, one was at Dawes Arboretum, *Licking*, on 2 Jan (C. Dusthimer), two on the 4 Jan ONWR, one at Woodlawn Cem on 11 Jan (C. Holt), and one in Wooster on 14 Jan (L. Curtis). One wintered at Green Lawn Cem in Columbus (K. Alexander).

**Downy Woodpecker:** The Millersburg CBC of 20 Dec found 482.

**Hairy Woodpecker:** D. Chasar remarked they were on the increase in the CVNRA. The 20 Dec CBC for Millersburg found 113.

**Northern Flicker:** 168 were found by the Millersburg CBCers.

**Pileated Woodpecker:** A remarkable 88 came from the 20 Dec Millersburg count.

**Eastern Phoebe:** T. Bartlett had one in *Seneca* on 20 Dec, and another on Kelleys Isl the following day. R. Schlabach found one in *Coshocton* on 29 and 31 Dec. Mid-winter reports came from 4 Jan at Tar Hollow SP (C. Dusthimer), 19 Jan at Magee (E&J Snively), and 30 Jan in *Hocking* (V. Fazio).

**Say's Phoebe:** One was discovered in *Knox* on 11 Dec by S. Albaugh, and remained for many observers there and at a location a couple of miles distant by m obs through 7 Jan (C. Dusthimer). Accepted by the OBRC for Ohio's second record of the species.

**Northern Shrike:** Seventeen reported, the earliest on the Lk Erie Isl CBC of 19 Dec, the latest 22 Feb in *Lucas* (D. Dister). One spent all of Jan in the Oak Openings (T. Kemp). The furthest south was in *Tuscarawas* on 3 Jan (B. Glick et al.).

**White-eyed Vireo:** Quite remarkable, and a first mid-winter record for the state, was an adult in Kent, *Portage*, from 7-11 Feb (S&M Saxe, m obs, ph).

**Blue-headed Vireo:** Quite late was one at Kelleys Isl on 19 Dec (J. Pogacnik).

**American Crow:** F. Renfrow estimated the Cincinnati roost at 25,700 birds, and ~11,000 were estimated in Mansfield by the CBC.

**Horned Lark:** Big counts were 533 on the Ragersville CBC of 30 Dec, and 677 on a census of *Hancock* on 13 Feb (*vide* B. Hardesty). Ninety-two birds in Fairport Hbr on 22 Feb were probable migrants (L. Rosche).

**Tree Swallow:** B. Stehling noted an early arrival at BIWA on 27 Feb.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** 846 reported statewide on CBCs, with no fewer than 154 on the Grand Rapids-Waterville count of 3 Jan. B. Glick related that 10-15 could be found at Mohican SF "on any day." D. Overacker counted 20 in *Lucas* on 3 Jan, and B. Hardesty's census of *Hancock* of 10 Feb turned up 21 birds.

**Brown Creeper:** 62 were located on the Millersburg CBC of 20 Dec, and 61 on the Mohican SF count of 1 Jan. On 3 Jan, six were in *Lucas* (D. Overacker), and six more at EHSP (R. Harlan, S. Wagner).

**Carolina Wren:** S. Wulkowicz found eight pairs on S. Bass Isl on 9 Jan. D. Chasar called the species "fully recovered" in the CVNRA, where six were at Ira Rd on 26 Jan (T&M Romito).

**House Wren:** One apparently overwintered at S. Bass Isl—what more eloquent evidence of the mildness of the winter?—with sightings from 19 Dec through 26 Feb (S. Wulkowicz).

**Winter Wren:** V. Fazio had 16 at EHSP on 17 Dec. Five were on the 4 Jan ONWR.

**Marsh Wren:** Two birds found at MWV on 10 Jan (N. Cade) had dwindled to one on 31 Jan (D. Dister). Others wintered as usual in marshes in the northwest.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** The Millersburg CBC of 20 Dec found 141. Ten were discovered taking advantage of S Bass Isl's balmy climate on 26 Jan (S. Wulkowicz).

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** 40 reported on the CBCs, the high 10 in Lakewood on 28 Dec. One spent 8 (M. Zehnder) through 28 Dec (D. Chasar) in the CVNRA, and two were at Baldwin Lk on the latter date (M&T Romito). Midwinter birds were in *Summit* on 6 Jan (R. Harlan), at MBSP on 19 Jan (V. Fazio), and in Columbus on 16 Feb (A. Goloda). Two were found at SVWA on 24 Feb (M. England).

**Eastern Bluebird:** The Millersburg CBC of 20 Dec counted 564. Thirteen were in the Holden Arboretum, *Lake*, on 8 Feb (C. Klaus).

**Hermit Thrush:** Thirty were on the Lk Erie Isl CBC of 19 Dec. One was at Firestone MP in Summit on 31 Dec (E. Pierce). Jan birds included four in *Tuscarawas* on the 3<sup>rd</sup> (E. Schlabach), one in the CVNRA on the 15<sup>th</sup> (D&A Chasar), and one in *Richland* on the 25<sup>th</sup> (J. Herman).

**American Robin:** Many reports of wintering in the northern counties. High count on CBCs was 1739 in Cincinnati on 28 Dec; the Lk Erie isles sheltered 455 on 19 Dec for their CBC.

**Gray Catbird:** One apparently overwintered on the CVNRA (M. Zehnder, M&T Romito). One persisted in *Hancock* from 1 Dec through at least 27 Jan (*vide* B. Hardesty). One was found on a 21 Dec census of Kelleys Isl (T. Bartlett), and a bird was at Killbuck WA on 30 Jan (Bartlett); Bartlett located another in *Ottawa* on 2 Jan. A bird was seen in *Tuscarawas* from 30 Dec through 3 Jan (E. Schlabach). The Millersburg and Ragersville CBCs recorded single birds.

**Brown Thrasher:** One found on the 20 Dec CBC in *Holmes* persisted through at least 27 Jan (B. Glick). In the north, one was at EHSP on 3 Jan (R. Harlan, S. Wagner), and another on Kelleys Isl on 18 Jan (T. Bartlett).

**American Pipit:** One was in *Tuscarawas* on 18 Dec (R. Harlan, S. Wagner), two in Lorain on 3 Jan (Harlan, Wagner), and two in *Paulding* on 11 Jan (M&D Dunakin). Two on 24 Jan in Dayton were joined by a third on 7 Feb (D. Dister), and one spent 31 Jan-14 Feb at Pleasant Hill Lk, *Richland* (J. Herman et al.). On 15 Feb, C. Holt found three at Metzger and two at Ottawa.

**Cape May Warbler:** This durable species was on Kelleys Isl on 19 Dec (J. Pogacnik).

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** 174 were found on the Lk Erie Isl CBC on 19 Dec, and on the same day a bird of the "Audubon's" race was found on Kelleys Isl by J. Pogacnik et al. L. Rosche had 35+ near Lk Rockwell on 13 Feb.

**Pine Warbler:** One apparently overwintered in the Zaleski SF, *Vinton* (D. St. John), and an imm male was reported by J. Pogacnik from *Lake* on 29 Jan-1 Feb.



**Northern Waterthrush:** One was seen through much of the season—27 Dec through 15 Feb—at Barrs Mills Marsh in *Tuscarawas* (L. Erb, m obs, pb).

**Common Yellowthroat:** Birds probably overwintering included a female at SVWA on 1 Feb (D. Diester) and a male at Killdeer 25 Jan (K. Alexander) through 8 Feb (V. Fazio et al.).

**Eastern Towhee:** 267 were reported by 35 CBCs. Deep-winter birds in the north included one on 2 Jan in *Summit* (R. Harlan, S. Wagner), probable overwinterers persistently found in the CVNRA (M&T Romito, M. Zehnder), and two others in *Trumbull* (C. Babyak).

**American Tree Sparrow:** Average numbers. 1305 were counted for the Millersburg CBC of 20 Dec. B. Royse found ~300 on 8 Dec at Killdeer.

**Chipping Sparrow:** Sparingly reported on CBCs. Jan and Feb records included two in *Holmes* 31 Dec—31 Jan (E. Schlabach et al.), one in *Geauga* on 1 Jan (K. Metcalf), one in Akron 31 Dec—2 Jan (R. Harlan, S. Wagner), one in *Summit* 20 Jan (E. Pierce), two in *Holmes* on 1 Feb (T. Bartlett), and one in *Tuscarawas* on 19 Feb (R. Schlabach).

**Field Sparrow:** Reports from the northern half of the state included birds in *Lake* on 27 Dec (J. Pogacnik), in *Fairfield* on 5 Jan (C. Dusthimer), in the CVNRA near Ira Rd the same day (N. Ibsen), one in *Holmes* on 1 Feb (B. Glick), and two that wintered in *Delaware* (K. Alexander).

**Vesper Sparrow:** C. Keppler found one at MWA on 21 Dec.

**Lark Sparrow:** A bird found on the Ragersville CBC on 30 Dec remained through at least 4 Apr (E. Schlabach).

**Lark Bunting:** An immature bird was seen by m obs in Clark Twp, *Holmes*, between 27 Jan (E. Schlabach) and 16 Feb (B. Glick). Documentation accepted by the OBRG.

**Savannah Sparrow:** In the north, one was on 20 Dec's Millersburg CBC, then four in *Holmes* on 17 Jan (B. Glick). One was near Ottawa on 24 Feb (J. Pogacnik).

**Fox Sparrow:** One was at Lakeshore MP, *Lake*, 1-5 Dec (J. Pogacnik), one on the 20 Dec Millersburg CBC, and one near Peninsula, *Summit*, on 21 Dec (L. Rosche). Returnees appeared near Sugarcreek, *Holmes*, on 27 Feb (J. Miller) and at Firestone MP on 28 Feb (E. Pierce).

**Song Sparrow:** Over 14,000 counted on CBCs, and not missed by any. Single-spot high was 45 on 22 Feb in Funk Bottoms by C. Holt.

**Swamp Sparrow:** At least one apparently wintered in the CVNRA (M. Zehnder et al.). Sixty-plus were at MWVW on 2 Jan (L. Peyton).

**White-throated Sparrow:** L. Rosche called their numbers "phenomenal" this season. Over 5,000 were counted on the CBCs, and missed by only one team.

**White-crowned Sparrow:** Nearly 2,000 reported by the CBCs.

**Dark-eyed Junco:** The 20 Dec Millersburg and 30 Dec Ragersville CBCs combined for over 4,000 birds.

**Lapland Longspur:** B. Royse found ~100 at Killdeer on 8 Dec, T. Bartlett 60 in *Seneca* on 20 Dec. Odd sightings were of birds at HBSP on 24 Dec (N. Barber) and on 15 Feb at Avon Lk (R. Harlan, S. Wagner). Returnees included 100+ in *Ottawa* on 24 Feb (J. Pogacnik), 1655 at Magee on 27 Feb (V. Fazio), and 50 in *Paulding* on 28 Feb (M&D Dunakin).

**Snow Bunting:** Often snowless buntings appeared in good numbers. On 1 Dec 51 were at Findlay Res (S. Ross et al.) and 362 on 16 Dec in the same county's survey (*vide* B. Hardesty). D&M Dunakin had ~250 in *Paulding* on 14 Dec, and J. Pogacnik 180 at Ashtabula the following day, then D. Best 100+ in *Geauga* the next.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** One coming to an *Ashland* feeder 10 and 14 Dec was a great find for J. Herman.

**Red-winged Blackbird:** Numbers reported from CBCs were topped by 16,949 from the Gypsum team on 3 Jan. Flocks of returnees were noted on 14 Feb to *Geauga* (K. Metcalf) and *Portage* (C. Holt). Eastern Meadowlark: Only 114 reported from the 60 CBCs. B. Glick found 30 at an e. *Holmes* site on 17 Jan.

**Yellow-headed Blackbird:** Early migrants were a male at Ottawa on 24 Feb (J. Pogacnik) and three at Springville Marsh, *Seneca*, on the 28<sup>th</sup> (T. Bartlett).

**Rusty Blackbird:** Over 700 reported from the CBCs. Midwinter flocks in the north numbered 60 at Firestone MP on 2 Jan (R. Harlan, S. Wagner) and ~100 at Ottawa on 4 Jan for the census there; ~250 spent late Dec through Jan in nw *Holmes* (D. Kline).

**Brewer's Blackbird:** Two were at Ottawa on 11 Jan (N. Barber), and one was at MWA on 18 Feb (D&J Hochadel).

**Common Grackle:** Over 5700 on the CBCs, with 3353 from the Kingston count. On 25 Dec, C. Holliday estimated ~20,000 on a three-acre field in *Butler*.

**Brown-headed Cowbird:** High count was 400 at a Columbus roost on 14 Jan (K. Alexander). Purple Finch: Surprisingly few reports came from the southern counties. High count was 20 in the Mohican SF on 17 Jan (J. Herman).

**Red Crossbill:** Twenty were in the Mohican SF on 7 Dec (R. Carmel, *vide* J. Herman), six on 2 Jan in *Lake* (J. Pogacnik), and four in Woodlawn Cem in Toledo on 20 Dec (S. Andres) and one there on 11 Jan (J. McCormac).

**White-winged Crossbill:** A good showing. First was a female and a young bird in Columbus on 8 Dec (K. Alexander), then a young male at Mitchell Memorial Forest, *Hamilton*, on 15 Dec (M. Busam et al.). A bird visited a feeder in *Hancock* 17-18 Dec (*vide* B. Hardesty), then 52 were in *Lake* on 2 Jan (J. Pogacnik). A flock variously consisting of 5 (C. Holt, 11 Jan) to 35 birds (on 4 Jan by R. Harlan, S. Wagner) was seen by many at Woodlawn Cem in Toledo through at least 15 Feb (D. Overacker). Another was seen from 3 Jan (~60 birds, G. Links) through the end of the period (28 Feb, 22 birds by B. Finkelstein et al.) near Monclova in *Lucas*.

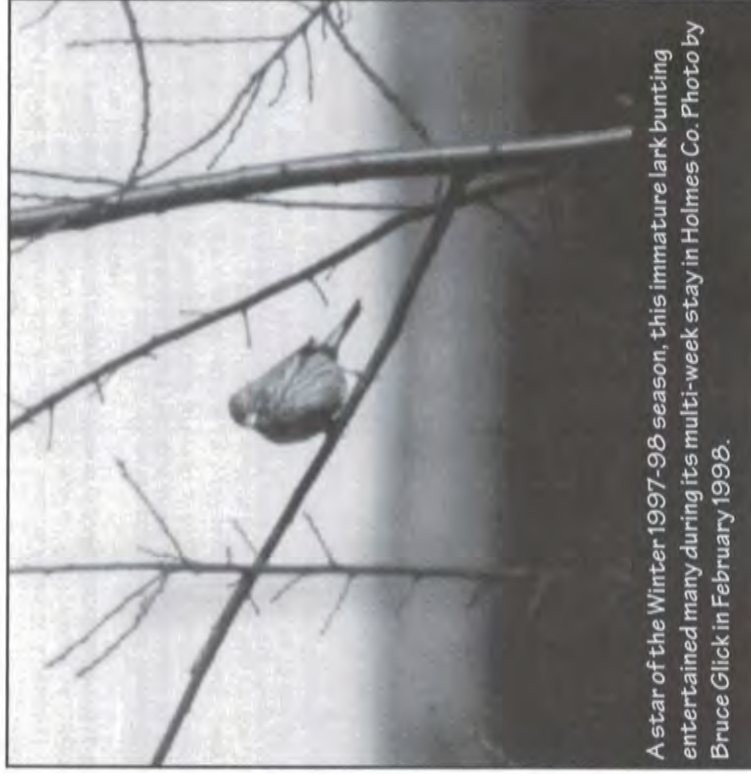
**Common Redpoll:** Many regarded the species as scarce this season, but it's been scarcer. At Lakeshore MP, J. Pogacnik had six on 28 Dec, and a singleton from 19 Jan-1 Feb. One was at Metzger on 11 Jan (P. Lozano), then 12 on 17 Jan (B&A Toneff). At Woodlawn Cem, R. Harlan and S. Wagner had 10 on 4 Jan, then T. Bartlett 18 on 25 Jan. One came to a *Hancock* feeder after Christmas (*vide* B. Hardesty). Twenty were at MBSP for G. Links on 11 Jan, where K. Alexander found 11 on the 16<sup>th</sup>. The high count was 75-100 in *Lorain* on 12 Feb (F. Greenland).

**Pine Siskin:** J. Pogacnik called them "very scarce," with one at Lakeshore MP from 1 Dec-1 Feb. One was in Wilmington on 6 Dec (L. Gara), 10+ in the Mitchell Mem. Forest on 14 Dec (N. Cade), 20 on the *Hancock* census of 20 Dec (*vide* B. Hardesty), four at Green Lawn Cem on 4 Jan (where two remained on 28 Feb, K. Alexander), 25 at Woodlawn Cem in Toledo on 11 Jan (C. Holt), 75 in the Mohican SF on 17 Jan (R. Harlan, S. Wagner), then 75 there on the 29<sup>th</sup> (B. Glick).



**Evening Grosbeak:** Seven were in *Ashtabula* on 15 Dec, then six in *Lake* on 2 Jan (both J. Pogacnik). In the Mohican SF M. Gingerich found 45 on 17 Jan, where B. Glick found 30 on 29 Jan. On 28 Feb B. Finkelstein et al. found a male and six females in N. Olmstead, *Cuyahoga*.

**CONTRIBUTORS:** We are grateful to the following persons who shared their observations and other data to make this report possible: Scott Albaugh, Kirk Alexander, Scott Andres, John Augustine, Carole Babyak, Emil Bacik, Nick Barber, Lynn Barnhart, Bob Barrett, Tom Bartlett, Sue Baxter, Dan Best, Marsha Blair, Nancy Brundage, Byron Burnett, Mike Busam, Neill Cade, Ron Cass, Ann Chasar, Dwight Chasar, Bob Conlon, Leroy Curtis, Mable Daily, Dave Dister, Doug Dunakin, Micki Dunakin, Curt Dusthimer, Marc England, Leroy Erb, Vic Fazio, Bob Finkelstein, Anders Fjelstad, Ed Folts, Bob Foppe, Larry Gara, Matthew Gingerich, Bruce Glick, Adam Goloda, Frank Greenland, Pat Haddad, Joe Hammond, Betty Hardesty, Rob Harlan, Bert Hensel, John Herman, Dave Hochadel, Judy Hochadel, Dick Hoffman, Jean Hoffman, Chuck Holliday, Craig Holt, Nancy Ibsen, Phyllis Jones, Ned Keller, Tom Kemp, Cal Keppler, Don Kinsman, Charles Klaus, Dennis Kline, Dorothy Kohl, Bob Lane, Denise Lane, Jason Larson, Tom LePage, Greg Links, Paula Lozano, Jim Lucas, Ed Masel, Charlotte Mathena, Winnie McClanahan, Jim McCormac, Kevin Metcalif, Bruce Miller, Jolan Miller, Kathy Noblet, Doug Overacker, Lester Peyton, Ed Pierce, Bob Placier, John Pogacnik, John Rakestraw, Jim Reid, Frank Renfrow, Rich Rickard, Craig Rieker, Mary Anne Romito, Tom Romito, Larry Rosche, Sue Ross, Bob Roysse, Darlene Sadler, Dave St. John, Marian Saxe, Sterling Saxe, Ed Schlabach, Robert Schlabach, Tim Schrock, Wilma Seiler, John Shrader, Elaine Snively, John Snively, Bill Stanley, Bruce Stehling, Jay Stenger, Judy Tisdale, Ann Toneff, Bill Toneff, Sandy Wagner, Bill Wham, Clyde Witt, Scott Wright, Stan Wulkowicz, Leroy Yoder, Marian Zehnder. We are indebted as well to the editors of *The Bobolink* and *The Cleveland Bird Calendar*, and to the online resources managed by Vic Fazio III.



A star of the Winter 1997-98 season, this immature lark bunting entertained many during its multi-week stay in Holmes Co. Photo by Bruce Glick in February 1998.

## Oh, What a Month it Was!

Every birder is familiar with the lists so many of us keep, lists of everything from our yard to the world. Listing games can add to our hobby's enjoyment or, at their most extreme, become a pathological extension of our already compulsive behavior.

Minnesotans admit to recording birthday lists, bird-bath lists, non-motorized big days, species big days (14 species of sparrows currently lead the state), nest lists and, of course, personally-found state lists, in which no staked-out birds can be counted, or birds pointed out to the observer by someone else.

Californians have NIBS lists (containing No Introduced Bird Species). ABAers follow a 95% rule for big days (95% of the birds seen by a group must have been seen by all members), requiring self-sustaining 10-year populations of exotics before listing them, and 24 hours after release for listing captured birds. Some of my friends claim to keep copulation lists (bird with bird, that is).

In January 1998, certain factors coalesced to stimulate the listing response in some Ohio birders. Seeing a hundred species by 1 March used to be an informal goal, but when El Niño brought warm, unwintry conditions, accompanied by a lot of vagrant birds, a hundred began to seem like a realistic goal for January to some of us. Birders in Licking County (Curt Dusthimer), Tiffin (Tom Bartlett), Cleveland (Rob Harlan and Sandy Wagner), Millersburg (Bruce Glick), and Akron (Jim Reyda and Ed Pierce), apparently independently seemed to sense this possibility in the number of species still lingering from the Christmas counts.

Available in northern Ohio in January, for example, were Say's phoebe, lark sparrow, lark bunting, northern waterthrush, Virginia rail, common snipe, wild turkey, black vulture, savannah sparrow, northern shrike, short-eared owl, killdeer, dunlin, American pipit, chipping sparrow, hermit thrush, eastern towhee, rusty blackbird, ruby-crowned kinglet, sandhill crane, king rail, marsh wren, great egret (three birds, the only previous overwintering having occurred in 1982-83), and Brewer's blackbird—a most unusual collection of species for the state at any given time of year.

Combining these 23 species with the usual winter residents, including the finches (both crossbills, common redpoll, evening grosbeak, pine siskin) and lingering half-hardy species (brown thrasher, gray catbird, yellow-bellied sapsucker, wood duck, double-crested cormorant), Rob Harlan and Sandy Wagner had 100 species by January 11<sup>th</sup>, and Bruce Glick by the 16<sup>th</sup>.

Bruce birded 18 of the available 31 days in January, generally his slowest month at work. Although he missed ruffed grouse—Rob and Sandy were on the other side of the bush and saw it flush—he and the Harlan/Wagner team would tie at 122 species for the month. Fortunately for them, a recount on the last day of the month “found” one species for Rob and Sandy that they’d forgotten to list—an accounting error—and an overlooked call of a brown thrasher—an auditory error—to make up their total. Bruce’s previous January high had been 99 in 1997; previous to that he’d been in the low 90s.



Curt Dusthimer tallied 100 species on the last day of the month with rough-legged hawk at The Wilds, and was able to claim a "two-phoebe winter," drifting south to Tar Hollow SP for the eastern.

Tom Bartlett reached his 100 species by the end of the month as well, and had such fun doing it that he continued seeing 100 species every month for the rest of 1998. Much like the bunny of the famous advertisement, he just kept on "ticking."

Jim Reyda and Ed Pierce dutifully networked the sightings of others and ended with 109 and 108 species respectively, when Jim saw the field sparrow that popped out of the brush, and then back in forever, before Ed could get an eye on it.

This friendly competition against the clock shows that the most compulsive Minnesotans and Californians have nothing on us. The fun of reaching an unusually lofty birding goal can occupy us nearly totally when the chance is there. Anyone for a game of Ohio monthly life lists?

*Ed Pierce*  
2338 Harrington Rd.  
Akron, OH 44319



A January century list seems a lot more obtainable when rarities like this Say's phoebe appear. This bird was found in Knox Co. on 11 December 1997 and remained for the listers until 7 January 1998. Photo by Bruce Glick.

## Spring 1998 Overview

by Bill Whan

After such an extraordinarily mild winter, it seemed natural to expect as extraordinary a spring migration. And so it might have been, had we been privileged to witness it. As it was, continued warm weather, diminished stopover habitat for shorebirds, and favorable winds zipped many northbound migrants through Ohio in a hurry, often by night or high above us, and in many ways the migration was a lackluster affair. No doubt we had any number of early arrivals, and very few late ones, but there were no notable fallouts, no remarkably high counts of birds, and few amazing "you should have been here yesterday!" migratory events. Indeed, we might have seen still earlier arrivals, but birds involved in such overflights may never have touched down here. Research is beginning to reveal a trend toward earlier migration among many species, and ornithologists are wondering if temperatures may be more decisive for some species than length of daylight as a spur to migration. Species dependent upon flying insects seem good candidates in this case, and extensive research by Peter Dunn at the University of Wisconsin has shown tree swallows are nesting on average nine days earlier than they did fifty years ago.

The season's most dramatic weather event was an enormous storm on 9 April that brought hail and heavy rain statewide (4 inches in six hours in places), but was especially violent along the western Lake Erie shore, where many trees were blown down and low areas flooded by an extra 43" of Lk Erie water blown in by its winds. The Magee Marsh bird trail, for example, was inaccessible without wading for several days, and not opened to the public in its entirety until 22 April. Though doubtless hampering observer coverage of the migration in this area, the storm's most important effect on migrating birds was probably the flooding of agricultural fields close to the managed marshes, resulting in some marginal but usable foraging areas for migrant shorebirds. Areas such as low-lying farmland southeast of the intersection of Routes 2 and 19 and some bean fields along Park Colony Road west of Reno Beach attracted a lot of birds, and a lot of observers.

Overall, the season was quite warm statewide, with no snow in April or May. Spring's unaccustomed warmth was no abrupt departure; even Cleveland had received only 0.2" of snow in February. Especially warm was May, with temperatures in Cleveland 6.4°F above normal; the figure was 6.1°F in Columbus and 3.7°F in Cincinnati. April averaged quite wet, in large part due to the aforementioned storm, with Cincinnati's precipitation a full 6.0" above normal. Waterfowl, especially the cold-tolerant species and many others breeding north of us, passed through very quickly. Some shorebirds found stopover sites in fields, and Lorain's harbor impoundment continued as the best spot for shorebirds in the state, albeit with a somewhat disappointing 19 species reported overall. Some exciting larids were seen—three jaegers, plus black-headed and mew gulls. At least as exciting were finds of common raven, Bewick's wren, and Swainson's warbler in the state. All in all, 10 Review Species were found, adequately documented, and accepted to the Ohio records. The flood of passerine migrants—orioles, tanagers, warblers, flycatchers, and the like—did not touch down all that often here, and counts tended to be low, with no memorable concentrations, though there was no reason to think their real numbers were down. Some observers expressed some grumpy reservations about the season, but for the connoisseur there were many things to savor.

For instructions about interpreting the reports, see the foot of the Winter 1997-98 Overview on page 39.



## The Spring 1998 Reports

- Red-throated Loon:** An ad in basic plumage was found at Fairport Hbr on 22 Mar (K. Metcalff); apparently entangled in fishing line, it remained on the following day (K. Messner, m obs.). A breeding-plumaged bird passed by Lakeshore MP on 17 May (J. Pogacnik).
- Common Loon:** Appeared in mid-Mar statewide this spring, in singles and small groups, the first at MWA on the 15<sup>th</sup> (C. Holt). Fewer than 20 were seen in Lk Erie, and none there after mid-May. About 120 were reported, with a high of 14 birds at Alum Ck Res, Delaware, on 12 May (B. Shively). An unusual number stayed over into the summer season.
- Pied-billed Grebe:** Some having wintered in the state, the first migrants appeared in late Feb. An unusual concentration of 45 showed up at Lake Alma in Vinton on 8 Apr for D. Sapienza.
- Horned Grebe:** Some wintered here, and migrants had appeared before the period. The bulk of the birds moved through in Mar, with a high of 29 at MWA on the 20<sup>th</sup> (J&D Hochadel). Few were noted in Apr, but eight birds lingered into May, with a high count of three on the 12<sup>th</sup> at Shalersville, Portage (L. Rosche). The last healthy bird was seen near Findlay on 19 May (B. Hardesty), and an apparently injured bird found at Lorain on 22 May (K. Metcalff) remained there on the 31<sup>st</sup> (C. Holt). A total of more than 130 were reported during the period.
- Red-necked Grebe:** Five birds reported, four of them inland. J. Nisley had the first, at Apple Valley Lk in Knox on 26 Mar. One was at Killdeer on 5 Apr (L. Powlick). A breeding-plumaged bird with a fish hook embedded in its neck was found at MWA on 20 Apr (D&J Hochadel, m obs) and was seen there as late as 15 May (N. Brundage). One was a flyby at Lakeshore MP on 26 Apr (J. Pogacnik), and one came late, staying 12 May (C. Holt) through 17 May (L. Rosche) at Shalersville, Portage.
- Eared Grebe:** A good showing of four birds. One spent 6-14 Mar at LaDue Res (N. Kotesovec, m obs). Another spent 12 Mar (D. Ferris) through 24 Mar (H. Petruschke) in Holden Arboretum, Lake. One was at Eastwood Lk near Dayton on 21 Apr (fide V. Fazio), and a breeding-plumaged bird was off Lake on 14 May (J. Pogacnik).
- American White Pelican:** Quite early was one at MWA 18-19 Mar (D&J Hochadel). Two were at Lake St Marys on 10 Apr (E. Pierce). Another duo was seen in and over Ottawa on 16 May (C. Rieker et al.) and on 17 May (R. Harlan, S. Wagner).
- Double-crested Cormorant:** Isolated birds were found through the winter, but the first big push of migrants began on 31 Mar, when P. Lozano counted 58 off Cleveland; on the following day she saw 71, and on 3 Apr 253. Lozano tallied the high count at the same spot, 555 on 15 Apr. Other counts in excess of 100 included 500+ at Lake St Marys on 19 Apr (D. Disster), ~400 on the 3 May ONWRC, and 150 at MWA on 5 May (J&D Hochadel).
- American Bittern:** Early was one at Springville Marsh, Seneca, on 1 Mar (V. Fazio). In Apr, single birds were in Holmes on the 11<sup>th</sup> (L. Schlabach et al.), Athens on the 19<sup>th</sup> (B. Placier), MWA on the 20<sup>th</sup> (D&J Hochadel), BIWA on the 20<sup>th</sup> (Fazio), and the Shaker Lks on the 21<sup>st</sup> (R. Rickard) and the 27<sup>th</sup> (P. Lozano); Mallard Club Marsh had three on the 30<sup>th</sup> (Fazio). The latter number diminished to two on 6 May (R. Harlan, S. Wagner) and to one on 9 May (C. Holt). Seen in the CVNRA on 11 and 17 May (D&A Chasnar).
- Least Bittern:** Few reports. Single birds were heard on 3 May at Ottawa (R. Harlan, S. Wagner), 17 May at Springville Marsh (V. Fazio), and GRWA on 31 May (C. Babyak).

**Great Blue Heron:** By 19 Apr 68 were at Magee (H&S Hiris), and by 3 May 96 were counted by the ONWRC; on 17 May Magee held 157 (Hirises). D. Chasnar reported over 100 nests in Pinery Narrows in the CVNRA, and D. Best at least three sizeable rookeries in Geauga.

**Great Egret:** After several birds successfully overwintered at Medusa Marsh, surprisingly no other was reported until 27 Mar, when V. Fazio saw one from the hawk tower at Magee. Fifty were on the Magee census by 19 Apr and 88 by 17 May (H&S Hiris). Oddly, among 24 reports the southernmost came from the Wooster area, with two on 11 May (S. Snyder).

**Snowy Egret:** More than 10 birds reported, nearly all in the western Lk Erie marshes. M. Victoria saw the first at Ottawa on 20 Apr. H&S Hiris found eight on the 17 May census of Magee Marsh. Intriguing was a bird in Butler on 30 May (M. Busam).

**Little Blue Heron:** This species was reported widely except in the western Lk Erie marshes. All reports: one at Pickerington Ponds, Fairfield, on 18-19 Apr (D. Linzell et al.), an ad at Pleasant Hill Lk. Richland, on 18 Apr (J. Herman), one on 25 Apr at Adams Lk SP (B. Foppe), two ad at SVWA in Warren on 25 May (fide V. Fazio), and still another ad at N. Chagrin Res'n, Cuyahoga, on 26 May (K. Metcalff).

**Cattle Egret:** All reports: five on 13 Apr in Ottawa (J. Pogacnik), one on 30 Apr at MBSP (V. Fazio), three in the herony in Sandusky on 17 May (R. Harlan, S. Wagner), and one near Medusa Marsh on 31 May (Harlan, Wagner).

**Green Heron:** Early birds were in Hamilton on 13 Apr (T. Uhlman) and at Magee on the 14<sup>th</sup> (ODW staff fide V. Fazio). The bulk of the migrants hit the marsh by the last week of Apr and the first of May. The high count at a single venue was four at Killbuck on 19 May (B. Glick).

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** P. Lozano's counts of staging birds in downtown Cleveland began on 25 Mar with five, and the high count was 35 on 15 Apr, falling to three by 12 May. H&S Hiris had the statewide high count of 41 on the 17 May Magee census. R. Harlan and S. Wagner had two at Lorain on 25 May. At the Mill Creek colony in Hamilton, six nests were counted, then nine incubating birds on 7 May; by the end of the period, however, all these nests had been abandoned (J. Hays).

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** Birds first appeared at the Greenlawn Dam nesting area in Columbus on 5 Apr (A. Goloda).

**Glossy Ibis:** Three relatively easy-to-identify breeding-plumaged birds appeared, one at MWA on 5-6 May (D&J Hochadel), and two at Mallard Club Marsh 9 (R. Harlan, S. Wagner) to 17 May (C. Holt), with m obs for all. Accepted by the OBRC.

**White-faced Ibis:** A brief stay of less than a day for three birds, two adults and a subadult, on 26 Apr at Salt Fork SP, Guernsey (P&T Sica et al.). Accepted by the OBRC.

**Black Vulture:** Beyond the traditional strongholds in south-central Ohio, seven were seen through mid-May near the Lk Buckhorn roost in Holmes (M&O Troyer).

**Turkey Vulture:** Migrants arrived during the previous season, but the largest numbers, with over a thousand reported, appeared at the Lk Erie shore in the last week of Mar. A nesting-season roost of 52 was at Cowan Lk SP on 23 May (L. Gara).

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** Three singletons were found at widely-separated spots: one 1-3 Mar at Arcola Ck, Lake (J. Pogacnik), one on 28-29 Mar at BCSP (fide V. Fazio), and another at BIWA on 20 Apr (Fazio).



**Snow Goose:** A few passed through earlier, but spring's first report came from Killdeer, where B&A Toneff found six birds on 7 Mar. A total of 34 were seen, 25 of them all at once at HBSP on 28 Mar (R. Hannikman, *vide V. Fazio*), and the last were a duo over Killbuck on 9 May (M&O Troyer).

**Mute Swan:** Reported from eight counties, though they are to be found in many more. B&D Lane found three nests at Walborn Res, *Stark/Portage*.

**Tundra Swan:** Well underway by the beginning of the period, their migration continued apace, with reports of over 900 birds. The high count of 460 came on 1 Mar on the ONWRC. Ten seen at Funk on 24 Mar (C. Holt) were the last.

**Wood Duck:** Nesting was underway as early as 23 Mar in Mill Ck Pk, *Mahoning* (N. Brundage). The high count was of 196 birds on the ONWRC of 3 May. Later in the month most flocks, such as 26 at Meander Res, *Mahoning*, were exclusively inattentive males (C. Babyak).

**Gadwall:** Having started before the period, movements reached a peak during two weeks in Apr, bracketed by flocks of 260 on the ONWRC and 60 at PCWA (C. Holt) on 5 Apr and the season's high of 392 on the Magee census of 19 Apr (H&S Hiris). Only a few were detected late in the period in the usual nesting areas, culminating in three at Mallard Club Marsh on 31 May (R. Harlan, S. Wagner).

**Eurasian Wigeon:** Reported from a surprising six locations during the season, though possibly only three to four birds were involved. V&D Kline found the first in Killbuck on 23 Mar; another bird at Killbuck on 18 Apr (S. Snyder) may not have been the same one, as there were no intervening reports. An adult at PCWA on 5 Apr (*vide V. Fazio*), and another at Castalia (D. Sanders et al.) on the 9<sup>th</sup> might have been one and the same, as might have been one seen at Ottawa from 5-18 Apr (T. Bartlett, m obs) and one found nearby on Krause Rd on the 13<sup>th</sup> (J. Pogacnik).

**American Wigeon:** Peaked in numbers in the second half of Mar, with over 900 reported at seven locations. Birds were seen at Mallard Club Marsh at late dates, with five on 9 May and one on 31 May (R. Harlan, S. Wagner).

**American Black Duck:** Numbers fell off somewhat from late Feb migration, except for 160 found on the 15 Mar Magee census (S&H Hiris). High count away from the Lake was 35 at Funk, *Wayne*, on 29 Mar (C. Holt). Holt found one on 24 May near Sandusky Bay for the latest report of this scarce nester.

**Mallard:** Large numbers spilled over from winter with ~2000 at Funk on the first of Mar (B. Glick). Even in May they gathered in enormous aggregations, with 2698 at Magee (H&S Hiris) on the 17<sup>th</sup>. P. Lozano monitored a nest near Merwin St in Cleveland's Flats district downtown, where all but one of its 8 chicks fell prey to crows.

**Blue-winged Teal:** Most numerous by far in Apr, with over 1500 reported, about half of them away from the Lk Erie marshes. Small numbers seen in eight counties in late Apr and May were potential local nesters.

**Northern Shoveler:** Only a few migrants in Feb, and Mar's largest count was 38 on the Magee census of the 15<sup>th</sup> (S&H Hiris). Apr's high count was 120 at Ottawa on the 5<sup>th</sup> (ONWRC). Overall there were 24 reports totaling fewer than 400 birds from 12 counties, with late May birds showing up mainly in the NW marshes, with the exception of a straggler at Killdeer on the 15<sup>th</sup> (D. Linzell).

**Northern Pintail:** A few decent counts this spring, with 107 on the 1 Mar ONWRC, 49 at MWA on the 6<sup>th</sup> (J&D Hochadel), 60 the same day at Magee (V. Fazio), 213 on the 15 Mar census of same (H&S Hiris), and 150 at Funk on 22 Mar (J. Larson). Apr numbers were low as usual, and the only May report was of a single bird at MWA on the 6<sup>th</sup> (N. Brundage).

**Green-winged Teal:** A few showed up in late Feb, but big numbers waited till late Mar and early Apr. On 5 Apr, 80 were at PCWA (C. Holt), and 593 on the ONWRC. Another rare nester, its numbers in May were restricted to a few single-digit sightings, the latest of a bird on 31 May at Mallard Club Marsh (R. Harlan, S. Wagner).

**Canvasback:** Warm weather blew them through in a hurry. After a spring high count of 105 on the 1 Mar ONWRC, all subsequent reports were in single digits except for C. Holt's 21 at MWA on 15 Mar. A male, probably unhealthy, lingered at Bay View, *Erie*, to benefit many Big Day teams from 9-18 May (m obs), and even later another drake was in *Wayne* on 25 May (B. Glick).

**Redhead:** Another early mover, 200 were off the Lk Erie shore in the west (T&M Romito) on 1 Mar, and 373 on the ONWRC the same day. Numbers quickly fell off in Apr, though later a pair obliged birdathon teams by spending 9-16 May in the company of the Bay View canvasback drake (m obs).

**Ring-necked Duck:** Attained its largest numbers in Mar, with 3000+ at Killbuck (B. Glick et al.) on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 1200+ at Metzger on the 25<sup>th</sup> (V. Fazio). Of 26 reports, only two came from Apr, totaling nine birds. A lone individual remained on 20 May at Lk Rockwell, *Portage* (R. Harlan, S. Wagner).

**Tufted Duck:** A bird observed by many on 20-21 Mar in *Wayne* was said to be of this species. Only two written descriptions—and no photos—were sent to the OBR. Details furnished about bill coloration and length of the head-tuft at this time of year did not rule out the rather common scaup X tufted duck hybrid, which has occurred as often in Ohio as full-blooded tufted ducks.

**Greater Scaup:** Numbers were quite low. The high count of migrants was 20 in western Lk Erie on 11 Apr (T&M Romito); the five subsequent Apr reports were all of single birds, most at inland reservoirs, and in May the only birds seen were three joining the over-the-hill gang near Bay View (J. Brumfield et al.).

**Lesser Scaup:** B&A Toneff had a good count of ~1500 birds on 7 Mar in Sandusky Bay, but the high came two days earlier, with 4075 on the ONWRC. 950 remained on the Bay on 5 Apr (C. Holt), after which numbers rapidly fell off statewide. Ten remained at Magee on 3 May and one on the 16<sup>th</sup> (R. Harlan, S. Wagner), and bringing up the rear was a drake that lingered 14-18 May at—you guessed it—Bay View, with the greater scaups, redheads, and canvasback.

**King Eider:** Documentation for a bird found on 12 Mar in *Lake* by J. Pogacnik was accepted by the OBR.

**Surf Scoter:** Twenty-three birds reported, not many for recent times. Except for two at HBSP on 5 Apr (*vide L. Rosche*) all were inland, the last at Beaver Ck Res, *Seneca*, on 17 May (J. Hammond). High count was 7 at Findlay Res on 7 Apr (S. Ross *vide B. Hardesty*).

**White-winged Scoter:** Once our commonest scoter, now decidedly otherwise. One report, one bird, one day: 25 Apr at Hoover Res, *Franklin* (C. Bombaci).

**Black Scoter:** Two reported: one at Fairport Hbr on 23 Mar (H. Petruschke), and a male at Beaver Ck Res, *Seneca*, 9-13 May (T. Bartlett, Z. Baker, et al.).

**Long-tailed Duck:** Four reports, three away from Lk Erie. One on 20 Mar at Mosquito Lk (J&D Hochadel), one on 5 Apr at Clear Fork Res, *Richland* (B. Courson), 15 flybys the same day at HBSP (*vide L. Rosche*), and another at Lk Buckhorn, *Holmes*, on 10 Apr (M. Gingerich).

**Bufflehead:** Widely reported, from 19 counties. Predictably, the high count came from the Lk Erie islands, with 187 on 29 Mar, but 80+ pairs were at Walborn Res on 11 Apr (D&B Lane). Late were a drake at Kelleys Isl 13-16 May (K. Metcalf) and one at the Lorain impoundment on 31 May (D. Rickard, m obs).



**Common Goldeneye:** Like the other hardy divers, moved on quickly. **H&S Hiris** had 114 on the 15 Mar census of Magee for the high count, and 56 on the Kelleys Isl census of 29 Mar (**T. Bartlett**) stood out in a run of Mar sightings in the single digits. One oddball drake loafed through 15 May at the latter location (**Bartlett**).

**Hooded Merganser:** Mar migrants came in small numbers, with highs of 19 at Mosquito Lk and LaDuc on 15 Mar (**C. Holt**). Nesting must have begun earlier, as **S. Snyder** found nine newborns on 15 Apr at Killbuck, subsequently refound by **R. Bauer** on the 21<sup>st</sup>. Eggs had been noted in some boxes at Mosquito Lk the last week of Mar (**D&J Hochadel**). Broods were widespread later, with a high count of 27, including 12 hatchlings, at Mosquito Lk on 9 May (**C. Babysak**), and the first confirmed nesting at N. Chagrin Res'n on 28 May (**K. Metcalf**).

**Common Merganser:** Most had moved on by the period, and the highest counts came early—187 on the 1 Mar ONWRC and ~100 at Lk Rockwell on 3 Mar (**C. Holt**). A few straggled into Apr and even May, the latest six at Magee for the 17 May census (**H&S Hiris**).

**Red-breasted Merganser:** Largest numbers passed mid-Mar through mid-Apr, with a good high count of ~2000 at Lorain on 22 Mar (**C. Holt**), and five triple-digit counts during the span at northern inland reservoirs. Fourteen birds lingered through the last week of May, half in Lk Erie and half at inland reservoirs in the NW quadrant.

**Ruddy Duck:** In greatest numbers—with ~1800 reported—late Mar and early Apr. The high count was 500+ at Walborn Res on 11 Apr (**B&D Lane**). Thirty-three reports came in May, with counts of 100 at Metzger on the 3<sup>rd</sup> (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**) and at Magee on the 14<sup>th</sup> (**J. Hammond**); on the last day of the month, seven were at Lorain (**C. Holt**), four at Metzger Res in **Allen (D. Dister)**, and one at HBSP (**K. Metcalf**).

**Osprey:** Perhaps aided by ODW's reintroduction program, birds showed up early, with one in **Holmes** on 26 Mar (**A. Raber**) and a pair at the Berlin Res nest site on 28 Mar (**B&D Lane**). Another nesting pair was noted on 11 Apr at Salt Fork SP (**J. Larson**). Reported from 11 counties as far apart as **Jackson (6 Apr, D. Sapienza)** and **Lucas (20 migrants at Magee on 5 May, L. Garling et al.)**.

**Bald Eagle:** 70+ sightings reported, spanning the period.

**Northern Harrier:** 50+ reports, mostly in Mar and Apr, though the season's high was 14 migrants at Magee on 5 May (**L. Garling et al.**). The last was at Mentor Marsh on 31 May (**K. Metcalf**). A hint of breeding in the offspring came from **J. Larson**, who saw a male in active courtship display at The Wilds, **Muskingum**, on 25 Apr.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** A good flight, with highs of migrants at Magee of 66 on 27 Mar (**V. Fazio**) and 80 on 5 May (**L. Garling et al.**).

**Cooper's Hawk:** Only 60+ reported, many of resident birds. Migrants topped out at 13 on 5 May at Magee (**L. Garling et al.**).

**Northern Goshawk:** Three were detected at the Magee hawk watch: two on 1 Apr (**V. Fazio**), and a very late bird on 5 May (**L. Garling, F. Annarino, Fazio**).

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** Some sightings of winter residents and migrants mixed in Mar, the latter evidenced in 89 reported from Magee, including the high count of 32 on 25 Mar (**vide V. Fazio**).

**Broad-winged Hawk:** A decent flight, with a high count of 460 on the excellent day of 5 May at Magee (**L. Garling et al.**). Good inland counts were of 111 in **Holmes** during two hours on 16 Apr (**E. Schlabach**) and 62 there on 25 Apr (**L. Schlabach et al.**).

**Red-tailed Hawk:** Migrants along w. Lk Erie peaked in Mar, with over 200 birds and 89 on the best day of the 25<sup>th</sup> (**vide V. Fazio**). Thirty-seven passed over on the 5 May hawk watch there (**L. Garling et al.**). An all-dark bird was noted in **Coshocton** on 29 Mar (**M&O Troyer**).

**Rough-legged Hawk:** Less wary of crossing the Lake, these birds reached a high concentration of only nine for the season, inland at The Wilds, **Muskingum**, on 5 Apr; three remained on the 25<sup>th</sup> (both **J. Larson**). The latest report, of a single bird, came from the remarkable 5 May day at Magee hawk watch (**L. Garling et al.**).

**Golden Eagle:** One report, from the Magee hawk tower, an adult on 13 Mar (**V. Fazio**).

**Merlin:** A decent flight, with sixteen birds reported, half of them inland: one was in Marietta, **Washington**, on 26 Mar (**B. Thompson**), one in **Ross** on 2 Apr (**J. McMahon**), and three in **Holmes**: on 16 Apr (**R. Schlabach**), 21 Apr (**T. Hochstetler**), and 10 May (**T. Schrock**). The latest report came from **Hancock**, a female found by **S. Baxter** on 13 May.

**Peregrine Falcon:** Only four migrant birds were reported: at HBSP on 12 Apr (**vide L. Rosche**), at Magee on 24 Apr (**V. Fazio**), at Ottawa on 3 May (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**), and on 5 May in **Lake (J. Pogacnik)**.

**King Rail:** No attributed reports made this spring. Some seasoned observers made a point of reporting their failures to find the species.

**Virginia Rail:** Some overwintered. The first migrants detected were three at MWV on 8 Mar (**J. Stenger**). Other reports came from 11 counties, with high counts coming from May marsh surveys:

13 at Killbuck on 19 May (**B. Glick**) and 10 at GRWA, **Trumbull**, on 31 May (**C. Babysak**).

**Sora:** Quite early was one at MWV on 8 Mar (**J. Stenger**); another was in the same county on 14 Mar (**N. Cade et al.**). Reported from 12 counties in migration, with a high of 18 on the 3 May ONWRC.

**Common Moorhen:** No early arrivals reported for this species, with the first on 25 Apr at BIWA (**J. Games, R. Sempier**) and on the same day at SVWA (**vide V. Fazio**). By 14 May moorhens were reported at eight northern Ohio locations.

**American Coot:** A few wintered. Widely reported as migrants, peaking in the second half of Mar and early Apr, with 655 at Magee on 15 Mar (**H&S Hiris**), 550 at Wellington Res, **Lorain**, on 22 Mar (**C. Holt**), and 1150 on the 4 Apr ONWRC. Big numbers in May included 175 on the 12<sup>th</sup> at Magee (**V. Fazio**), and 65 there on the 30<sup>th</sup> (**T&M Romito**).

**Sandhill Crane:** The flight was reported in 13 counties. No double-digit numbers were seen. Extraordinary was the number of May sightings: 14 birds in seven counties, in which two were not unexpected at Killbuck on the 5<sup>th</sup> (**S. Snyder et al.**), but one was reported in the Magee/Ottawa area 7-16 May (m obs), with one near Kent on 2 May (**C. Sweigert**), one near Medina on the 28<sup>th</sup> (**G. Emmert**), and one in **Hancock** 8-14 May (**B. Hardesty**); four birds were reported at Mosquito Lk from the 24<sup>th</sup> through the 31<sup>st</sup> (**D&J Hochadel**).

**Black-bellied Plover:** All sightings came in May, a total of over 225 birds. All were along Lk Erie in agricultural fields in or near Ottawa, with the exception of two at Killdeer on the 22<sup>nd</sup> (**V. Fazio**), one at HBSP on 1 May (**K. Metcalf**) and one to two in the latter half of May at Lorain (**C. Holt**).

**American Golden-Plover:** Surprisingly few reports for a species often reported in the thousands, and unrestricted to scarce mudflat habitat. They seemed uncharacteristically late to arrive as well. The mere six reports came from late Apr to mid-May, on schedule, but 95%+ of the birds were seen on two occasions: 140+ from the Magee hawk-watch tower on 29 Apr (**V. Fazio**), and 650 in an agricultural field adjacent to Metzger on 3 May (**J. Larson**).



**Semipalmated Plover:** One arrived at SVWA on 24 Apr (D. Russell), but the next report came from 13 May, when Magee hawk-watchers saw 14 flybys (V. Fazio). Some remained through the period, but numbers were never large, with a high count of only 18, at Lorain on 24 May (C. Holt).

**Killdeer:** Common as always, with big counts of 82 in flight over MBSP on 26 Mar (V. Fazio) and 97 at Magee on 17 May (H&S Hiris).

**American Avocet:** L. Gara found five at Cowan Lk SP, Clinton, on 21 Apr, and one stayed on 16 (R. Harlan, S. Wagner) and 17 May (T. Kemp) near Reno Beach, Lucas.

**Greater Yellowlegs:** Funk WA often seems our yellowlegs capital, and claimed the high count of ~100 on 11 and 18 Apr (J. Herman). Funk also hosted the first birds on 22 Mar (J. Larson). As with nearly all shorebird species, if they were seen in the managed marshes of western Lk Erie, it was as they flew over, looking for places to feed.

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** The first report was of two at Gilmore Ponds on 19 Mar (F. Renfrow). The high count was of 105 at Funk on 2 May (S. Snyder).

**Solitary Sandpiper:** V. Fazio found one on Kelleys Isl on 29 Mar. More routine in their timing were birds in ten counties beginning on 27 Apr, with two bringing up the rear in Holmes on 23 May (R. Schlabach). A high count of 16 at Streetsboro Bog on 1 May (C. Holt) was not bad for a solitary species.

**Willet:** An excellent flight, with 41 reported from seven counties, four of them inland. Two were in Ashland on 25 Apr (B. Burnett), five in Warren on 28-29 Apr (L. Gara), six in Lorain on 29 Apr (T. LePage), seven at MBSP on 30 Apr (V. Fazio), five in Holmes the same day (T. Hochstetler), 11 at HBSP on 1 May (K. Metcalf), and singletons on 17 May at Metzger (C. Holt), and Killdeer on 25 May (Fazio).

**Spotted Sandpiper:** Hardly early, the first was reported in Hancock 7 Apr, where the high count of 24 was made on 9 May, and 16 at a single spot there on 26 May (all B. Hardesty). At Lorain's mudflats, 16 were seen on 27 May (C. Holt).

**Upland Sandpiper:** Reported from seven counties. One was rather early on 2 Apr in Holmes (A. Raber), and the high count was five near Krause Rd in Lucas on 30 Apr (V. Fazio), where 1-2 were seen through at least 16 May (m obs). At least two pairs were present at nesting areas on 26 May at BIWA (Fazio). Obvious migrants were at HBSP on 2 May (K. Metcalf) and at Burke Airport in Cleveland the next day (C. Holt).

**Whimbrel:** A bird was found dead in Lakewood in late May (N. Barber).

**Hudsonian Godwit:** A very nice find was a spring Hudsonian at Lorain on 17 May (C. Holt).

**Marbled Godwit:** An unusual array of inland records. Unexpected as to time and place was one near Charlie's Pond, Pickaway, on 17 Apr (L. Powlick). One was at Ottawa the next day for V. Fazio. Eight were at Caesar Ck SP on 26 Apr (L. Gara, pb), when one was discovered at BCSP by D. Dister.

**Ruddy Turnstone:** All reports came in the last 17 days of the period, totaling more than 120 birds. With the exception of a single bird at Lorain on 31 May (D. Rickard), all were found in Lucas and Ottawa, with a high of 43 at Crane Ck SP beach on 24 May (C. Holt), where 10 remained on the 30<sup>th</sup> (M&T Romito).

**Red Knot:** Always a good find, a bird assuming breeding plumage was on the beach at MBSP on 17 May (C. Dusthimer, m obs).

**Sanderling:** Not many. The first were two on the Crane Ck SP beach on 8 May (B. Shively). Later in May four were found at Lorain on the 25<sup>th</sup> and one at Magee on the 31<sup>st</sup> (both R. Harlan, S. Wagner).

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** Touched down in decidedly skimpy numbers. Sixteen were near the Pickaway Airport on 1 May (L. Powlick) as first arrivals, but the high count was only 35, at Lorain on 31 May (C. Holt).

**Western Sandpiper:** Seldom seen in spring, one was carefully observed on 31 May at Lorain (R. Harlan, S. Wagner).

**Least Sandpiper:** Three on 2 Apr at BIWA were very early (V. Fazio), but four showed up at MWA on the 9<sup>th</sup> (D&J Hochadel). One was at Caesar Ck SP on 29 Apr (L. Gara), but all other reports came from the Lk shore with the exception of the high count of ~100 at Killdeer on 25 May (B. Royse). One remained on 31 May at Lorain (R. Harlan, S. Wagner).

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** Not many, with so little stopover habitat, and all in a two-week span. Two were near Reno Beach, Lucas, on 14 May (R. Harlan, S. Wagner), two in Pickaway on the 17<sup>th</sup> (B. Placier), three near (but not in, where there was no shorebird habitat) Ottawa NWR on 20 May (B. Glick), one to two at Lorain between 17 May and 27 May (C. Holt), and one on 31 May at Mallard Club Marsh (Harlan, Wagner).

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** One of spring's two most numerous migrants, with over 8300 reported this time. Remarkable were numbers V. Fazio reported inland from BIWA: 1200+ on 2 Apr, ~900 on 18 Apr, and ~3200 on 20 Apr, surpassing the numbers from near Lk Erie.

**Dunlin:** The other very numerous migrant, with about 7700 reported. First seen were the hardy five who wintered at Lorain (m obs). Arrivals started on 29 Mar at BIWA, where D. Offenberger had a bird, but numbers began showing up near Ottawa on 22 Apr, with 200 (V. Fazio), then 1000 on 6 May (R. Harlan, S. Wagner), culminating in a flock of 3000+ on 13 May (Fazio), with 1000 remaining on the 16<sup>th</sup> (Fazio). A hundred were estimated at the Lorain impoundment on 27 May (C. Holt).

**Stilt Sandpiper:** Rare spring individuals were reported, one on 16 May (D. Overacker) and two on 17 May (R. Harlan, S. Wagner) near, but not in, Ottawa.

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** A very poor showing, with fewer than 40 birds reported. The high was 24 birds at Metzger Marsh on 14 May (D&J Hoffman).

**Common Snipe:** Reported from 12 counties, all in the northern half of the state. One was at Meander Res, Trumbull/Mahoning, on 1 Mar (C. Babyak), and the last was reported from Magee on 18 May (H&S Hiris). High count was an excellent 64 at a marsh in Holmes (L. Schlabach et al.).

**American Woodcock:** Early arriving, with the first report on 25 Feb in N. Royalton (N. Kotesovec). Migration peaked with 16 birds on 18 Mar at MWA (J&D Hochadel).

**Wilson's Phalarope:** Five birds, all in the north. The first were two near Perrysburg, Lucas, on 8 May (J. Szanto). One was at Ottawa on 16 May, then a male and female at Lorain on the 31<sup>st</sup> (both R. Harlan, S. Wagner).

**Pomarine Jaeger:** Spring jaegers? We had them, from 1 Mar (L. Rosche, N. Barber) through 14 Mar (J. Pogacnik), two birds from the previous period in the HBSP-Fairport Hbr area for m obs. The adult remained through the 23<sup>rd</sup> (H. Petruschke).

**Jaeger sp.:** P. Lozano saw one four times during the morning of 14 Apr off Cleveland.



**Laughing Gull:** An adult was at HBSP on 27 Mar (*vide* L. Rosche). J. Pogacnik had an adult on 23 May at Fairport Hbr, Lake; an adult at HBSP on 31 May (E. Bacik, *vide* Rosche) was probably the same bird.

**Franklin's Gull:** Three reports: 16 Apr at Fairport Hbr (J. Pogacnik), 18 Apr at Conneaut (Pogacnik), and an adult at Lorain on 31 May (R. Harlan, S. Wagner).

**Little Gull:** In a mild winter the species continued into spring, with two on the season's first day at HBSP (L. Rosche). Thirty-four birds were reported during the period, with a high count of six in Cleveland on 17 Mar (Rosche), and a final bird on 18 Apr at Conneaut (J. Pogacnik).

**Black-headed Gull:** One was found in Cleveland on 14 Mar (J. Dunn); another was seen at Conneaut on 22 Mar (J. Pogacnik). Both accepted by the OBRC.

**Bonaparte's Gull:** Seen winter-long, and migrants passed through early in titanic numbers: V. Fazio estimated 3700 on 7 Mar in Cleveland, and C. Holt 2500 there the next day; K. Metcalf had ~6000 there on 28 Mar. One remained on 31 May at Lorain (R. Harlan, S. Wagner). An all-time high for H&S Hiris, and for the period, came from two flocks in fields near Ottawa on 15 Apr, estimated at 10,000 and 5,000.

**Mew Gull:** J. Pogacnik discovered a first-year bird at Fairport Hbr on 6 Mar, and monitored it daily for m obs through 19 Mar. Accepted by the OBRC; the fourth confirmed Ohio record, and the second for 1998.

**Ring-billed Gull:** Perhaps overlooked amid more exciting species, relatively few were reported, with a high count of 1182 on the Magee census of 15 Mar (H&S Hiris).

**Thayer's Gull:** One was found at HBSP on 15 Mar (N. Barber et al.).

**Iceland Gull:** One was in Lake on 23 Mar, and another quite late there on 15 Apr (both J. Pogacnik).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** A score of birds were reported through the period, the last a second-year off Lake on 14 May (J. Pogacnik). Most were in the Central Basin, but one was found at Lake St Marys, Auglaize, on 21 Mar (J. McCormac), and two at PCWA in Sandusky Bay on 5 Apr (C. Holt). High count three at Eastlake PP 13 Mar (N. Barber).

**Glaucous Gull:** A young bird settled in at Fairport Hbr from 2-29 Mar (J. Pogacnik, m obs). One was late on 30 Apr off Lakeshore MP, Lake (Pogacnik).

**Great Black-backed Gull:** Fairly scarce through the period, except for a large flock that persisted at the Lorain impoundment, even while birds periodically keeled over and died: 200 were there on 22 Mar (C. Holt), and 62 remained on 31 May (R. Harlan, S. Wagner).

**Caspian Tern:** Four numbers returned on schedule. The high count was of 101 birds on 29 Apr at Lorain (T. LePage). Six remained there on 31 May (R. Harlan, S. Wagner).

**Common Tern:** Three returnees were at Lk Logan, Hocking, on 14 Apr (B. Placier). During May a number of flocks of 10-20 birds were noted inland. They nested at the two assisted sites in Ottawa and Pipe Ck WA, and R. Harlan and S. Wagner counted 25 at the latter spot on 25 May.

**Forster's Tern:** First appearing at Lorain on 12 Apr (C. Holt), they peaked at 97 there on 1 May (T. LePage); the last report was only on 12 May at Alum Ck Res (B. Shively).

**Black Tern:** All reports came from May, and numbers were puny, with fewer than twenty birds statewide, the high seven at Alum Ck Res on 12 May (B. Shively).

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** The first noted was on 9 May in Coshocton (E. Schlabach et al.), and they were reported frequently through the period, with a high of five migrants at Magee on 14 May (R. Harlan, S. Wagner).

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** As often reported as the previous species, but in greater numbers, with a high of 8 on 16 May's census of Kelleys Isl (V. Fazio). Arrived 6 May in Holmes (H. Troyer).

**Snowy Owl:** An imm was reported on 23 Mar at Ashtabula (J. Pogacnik).

**Long-eared Owl:** The long-suffering owls at Killdeer provided all reports, all in March.

**Short-eared Owl:** Some lingered into the season, as three at Killdeer on 7 Mar (M. Gingerich) and two at BIWA on 23 Mar (V. Fazio). Birds in late Apr—one on the 28<sup>th</sup> at The Wilds (J. Larson) and two in Seneca on the 20<sup>th</sup> (Fazio)—presaged nesting, confirmed at the former location on 26 Apr, when six eggs yielded five young (D. Ingold, *vide* J. Larson), and strongly suspected in Seneca.

**Northern Saw-whet Owl:** Seven reports do not reflect its true abundance but rather its inconspicuousness. The latest came from Killdeer on 21 Mar (G. Emmert et al.).

**Common Nighthawk:** Not lured by the weather into an early appearance, the first one was in Coshocton on 10 May (J. J. Miller), and continued in singles and small groups through the period.

**Chuck-will's-widow:** J. Fry reported one had arrived in Hocking by 30 Apr.

**Whip-poor-will:** The first report came from EFSF on 15 Apr (*vide* J. Stenger). First near the Lake was at Nathian Hale Pk, Cuyahoga, on 1 May (R. Harlan, S. Wagner).

**Chimney Swift:** The first report came from Wooster on 8 Apr (K. Knebusch), and another was in Holmes the next day (L. Raber), both pretty early dates.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** Arrived on 26 Apr in Cincinnati (S. Pelikan), and regular thereafter statewide.

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** B. Hardesty reported nine from a Hancock survey of 5 May; two days later J. Pogacnik had nine migrants passing through Lakeshore MP, Lake.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** Three migrants appeared at Green Lawn Cem in Columbus on 28 Mar (P. Raver). Fifteen were at HBSP on 5 Apr (L. Rosche).

**Northern Flicker:** Some showed up early, such as two at Camp Berry in Hancock on 3 Mar (B. Hardesty), and one on 7 Mar at Killdeer (B&A Toneff). High count 80 on 29 Mar at HBSP (L. Rosche).

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** Arrived 9 May in Cincinnati (F. Renfrow), with the first at the Magee bird trail on 13 May (H. Besser et al.). Eight birds reported in all.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** The first reported was from Hancock on 12 May (B. Hardesty), and two were on the Magee bird trail on 16 May (R. Harlan, S. Wagner) for the high count.

**Acadian Flycatcher:** Arrivals came to Holmes on 4 May (J. J. Miller) and the next day at MWF (L. Peyton).

**Willow Flycatcher:** One was found at Killbuck on 9 May (B. Glick et al.), and the high count was seven in Hancock on 26 May (*vide* B. Hardesty).



**Least Flycatcher:** Earlyish birds were seen near Clendenning Lk, *Harrison*, on 25 Apr (J. Miller), and in *Holmes* on 27 Apr (M. Weaver). The first sighting along Lk Erie came from HBSP on 1 May (K. Metcalf). High count was 10 at Magee on both 13 and 14 May (R. Harlan, S. Wagner). Interesting were two at Camp Berry in *Hancock* on 26 May (B. Hardesty).

**Eastern Phoebe:** After Jan and Feb records, the first migrant came to Salt Fork SP on 6 Mar (W. Sarno). Big numbers were at Green Lawn Cem in Columbus on 26 Mar (T. Thomson) with 12, and at HBSP on 29 Mar with 18 (L. Rosche).

**Great Crested Flycatcher:** The first report came from *Athens* on 26 Apr (B. Placier). Fifteen were at Magee on 13 May (R. Harlan, S. Wagner).

**Eastern Kingbird:** A couple showed up in *Holmes* on 18 Apr for W. Miller, but numbers were small till mid-May, when the high count of 25 at Magee was made (H&S Hiris).

**Loggerhead Shrike:** One was seen near Ottawa on Rte 2 on 21 May by D. Russell, *vide J. Hammond*.

**Northern Shrike:** A single report, one on 16 Mar on Ira Rd in the CVNRA (T&M Romito).

**White-eyed Vireo:** Unexpected was a bird at HBSP on the early date of 5 Apr (L. Rosche), undoubtedly an overflight, as the next report came from *Hocking* on the 19<sup>th</sup> (B. Placier). No reports from the northwest other than Lakeside migrants except singles at Camp Berry. *Hancock*, on 12 and 26 May (B. Hardesty).

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** B. Royse noted one at Scioto Trail SP on 15 Apr, and one was in *Holmes* the following day (M. Schlabach). Otherwise unremarkable numbers appeared in the usual locations.

**Blue-headed Vireo:** A very early bird was at HBSP on 28 and 29 Mar (L. Rosche et al.). R. Harlan and S. Wagner found five at Magee and another five at Ottawa on 3 May. No nesting was reported during the period.

**Warbling Vireo:** On a more normal schedule, the first arrived in *Hancock* on 21 Apr (B. Hardesty), then 15+ were seen in Cincinnati on 25 Apr (N. Cade). By 30 May, T&M Romito counted 25 at the Magee bird trail.

**Philadelphia Vireo:** Rather early was one on 28 Apr in *Hancock* (B. Hardesty) and another in *Hamilton* on 2 May (F. Renfrow). The latest noted were on the Magee bird trail on 18 May (M. Victoria).

**Red-eyed Vireo:** First reported at Scioto Trail SP on 25 Apr (L. Powlick), 20 were at HBSP by May 16 (L. Rosche), and the high count was of 85 in Mohican SF on 25 May (B. Glick).

**Blue Jay:** Good numbers were noted in migration along the Lake, with ~3000 at Lakeshore MP, *Lake*, on 7 May (J. Pogacnik) and 1500+ over Magee on 13 May (V. Fazio).

**Common Raven:** One was photographed at Lakeshore MP, *Lake*, on 27 Mar (J. Pogacnik), and the documentation was eventually accepted by the OBRC for the first Ohio record in 52 years.

**Horned Lark:** County-wide surveys of *Hancock* produced 205 birds on 3 Mar and 442 on 10 Mar (*vide B. Hardesty*).

**Purple Martin:** One bird was seen in *Holmes* (M. Weaver), and two more elsewhere in the county (A. Troyer), on 26 Mar. By the end of the period, 52 pairs were nesting in the same county at L. Miller's property.

**Tree Swallow:** Returned before the period, and by 27 Mar 600+ were seen from the Magee hawk watch site (V. Fazio).

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow:** *Holmes* claimed the first of this swallow, too, on 30 Mar (M. Troyer), a quite early date. This ungregarious species produced a single-site high count of 12 in the CVNRA on 23 May (M&T Romito).

**Bank Swallow:** The first arrived at MWVW on 12 Apr (J. Hovekamp).

**Cliff Swallow:** As has become traditional, they returned quite early to welcomes from P. Yoder (who later had over 600 nests at his *Holmes* farm) on 6 Apr, and to E&M Yoder's nearby farm on 8 Apr. No comparable numbers were reported anywhere else. One was odd in Lorain on 31 May (C. Holt), as was one at the ONWRC of 3 May, and another on 16 May at Metzger (R. Harlan, S. Wagner).

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** Many wintered, and migrants lingered. High count was 50+ at Findley SP on 2 Mar (C. Rieker). One tarried in *Hancock* through 26 May (B. Hardesty), and nesting was confirmed at Brecksville Res (D&A Chasar).

**Brown Creeper:** Quite a few wintered, and by the end of the period nesting was confirmed on the CVNRA (19 May, A&D Chasar) and on the N. Chagrin Res'n (28 May, K. Metcalf); a bird lingered into June in *Geauga*, and likely nested (D. Best).

**Bewick's Wren:** Two, an apparent pair, were found in *Pike*, near a site occupied by nesters in former years, on 2 Apr (D. Minney, B. Whan, B. Conlon). Accepted by the OBRC. The vanishing eastern form of this species was involved.

**House Wren:** Clearly an overfliter was one in *Hancock* on 31 Mar (W. McClanahan, *vide B. Hardesty*), where *Hardesty* later was to count 144 on a 9 May county census.

**Winter Wren:** Some overwintering birds persisted, and two at Magee on 15 Mar may have been among them (H&S Hiris). Remarkable were 23 on the Magee bird trail on 27 Mar (V. Fazio). A singing bird on 17 May in *Geauga* was suggestive of nesting (D. Best). Another on the same day at Magee (H&S Hiris) was on its way out of here.

**Sedge Wren:** All reports came in May. An inland bird was in *Delaware* on the 12<sup>th</sup> (B. Shively). The rest were near Lk Erie, one at Magee on 6-14 May (R. Harlan, S. Wagner), possibly the same as that on 17 May (H&S Hiris), and one at Cedar Pt NWR on the 16<sup>th</sup> (C. Rieker).

**Marsh Wren:** Earliest was one at BIWA on 5 Apr (L. Powlick), then two days later another at Mallard Club Marsh (*vide V. Fazio*). B. Glick's survey of Killbuck on 19 May yielded 14. Five were at Delaware WA on 12 May (B. Shively).

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** Some apparently wintered in spots like *Hancock*, where three persisted on 3 Mar (B. Hardesty). The first report from Lakeside migrant spots came from Magee where 10 were on the bird trail on 27 Mar (V. Fazio); five were at HBSP the following day (L. Rosche). A day later, T. Bartlett estimated 45 birds at Springville Marsh. Not all departed, as N. Kotesovec had a nest with fledglings at Hinckley MP, *Medina*, on 29 May.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** Some very early birds were likely overwinterers, such as one in *Hocking* on 1 Mar (B. Placier) and two in Columbus on 7 Mar (A. Goloda). At the peak of migration, ~50 were seen on the ONWRC of 3 May. Latest report was of three at Magee on 17 May (H&S Hiris).

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** Many quite early arrivals: one in *Holmes* on 30 Mar (J. Schlabach *vide T. Hochstetler*), one on 1 Apr at MWVW (L. Peyton), one on 2 Apr at N. Chagrin Res'n (K. Metcalf), and another in the CVNRA the following day (D&A Chasar). By 12 Apr two were building a nest in Cincinnati (F. Renfrow).



**Veery:** First reported 2 May, at HBSP (L. Rosche), and in Columbus (*vide* T. Thomson). High count was five on 19 May at Magee (R. Harlan, S. Wagner), and the same observers saw one there on 31 May.

**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** Oddly, no reports till 12 May, in Holmes (L. Yoder). Two were at Magee on 23 May (R. Harlan, S. Wagner). The last report came from Twin Lks on the 24<sup>th</sup> (L. Rosche).

**Swainson's Thrush:** J. Stenger had the first on 26 Apr in the MWF. The high count for this often ubiquitous migrant was only 10, at Magee on 16 May (T&M Romito). One was in Brecksville as late as 25 May (D&A Chassar).

**Hermit Thrush:** The first report of a migrant came from the CVNRA on 13 Mar (A&D Chassar). K. Metcalf's observation that only this species among the thrushes had decent numbers was borne out by a high count of 11 on 13 Apr at HBSP (L. Rosche), 11 in Holmes 26 Apr (L. Yoder), five at HBSP on 1 May (Metcalf), and 14 at Magee on 6 May (V. Fazio).

**Wood Thrush:** One was in Cincinnati by 11 Apr (J. Stenger et al.), and one reached the far NE in Lake by the 16<sup>th</sup> (J. Pogacnik). Reported numbers were not large, with a maximum of 9 in the Hancock survey of 9 May (*vide* B. Hardesty).

**Gray Catbird:** One seen on 9 Mar in the CVNRA was likely the wintering individual (T&M Romito). One on 7 Apr at Camp Berry in Hancock, however, probably arrived early on favorable winds; a county census there on 9 May discovered 85 (*vide* B. Hardesty).

**Northern Mockingbird:** Eleven reports of about thirty birds from the northernmost tier of counties, the highest from Wildwood Pk in Cuyahoga, where on 17 May a pair was feeding nestlings (K. Metcalf). P. Lozano sent six reports of 1-3 birds elsewhere in the county, where a hundred years ago sightings of the species were usually dismissed as those of escaped cage birds.

**Brown Thrasher:** Many early arrivals: one in Canton 20 Mar (B. Ball), one in Niles 26 Mar (*vide* V. Fazio), and three at HBSP on 28 Mar (L. Rosche). Rosche had no fewer than 20 at HBSP on 13 Apr.

**American Pipit:** Some showed up before the period. Nearly a thousand were reported, with the high count 166 at MBSP on 20 Mar (V. Fazio). At MWA, 91 were seen on 9 Apr (J&D Hochadel). One was late at Mallard Club Marsh on 25 May (R. Royse).

**Cedar Waxwing:** No huge movements were noted, with a high count of 75-100 gorging themselves on P. Yoder's cherries 27-29 May in Holmes.

**Blue-winged Warbler:** B. Royse found the first at Scioto Trail SP, on 21 Apr and by 9 May C. Babyak counted 25 around Mosquito Lk. On 14 May B. Glick had 20 singing males at Woodbury WA, Coshocton. Fifteen on 5 May in Hancock had diminished to one by 26 May (S. Baxter *vide* B. Hardesty).

**Golden-winged Warbler:** Not bad numbers at all by recent standards, with over a dozen birds reported from 11 counties, the first on 4 May in Summit (C. Tveekrem *vide* P. Haddad), the last on 17 May at Magee (H&S Hiris).

**Hybrids of the above:** "Brewster's" was reported on 13 May from Magee (R. Harlan, S. Wagner), and the following weekend from Lake La Su An WA in Williams (J. Grabmeier). Two reports of "Lawrence's" warbler: one was in the Oak Openings on 21 May (T. Colborn) and one on the Ravenna Arsenal, Portage, on 15 May and later on 27 May, when it may have nested with a blue-winged (C. Willis, *vide* J. Hochadel).

**Tennessee Warbler:** One early bird was in Columbus on 24 Apr (M. England). Usually numerous, but with a high count of only 15 at Magee on 13 May (R. Harlan, S. Wagner), and quick to depart, with the last report from Cuyahoga on 19 May (T&M Romito).

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** One arrived at the Shaker Lks on 25 Apr (*vide* V. Fazio), and the last report came from 12 May in Holmes (L. Yoder), with precious few in between.

**Nashville Warbler:** Arriving first in Columbus on 24 Apr (M. England), numbers peaked at 28 birds on Kelley's Isl on 16 May (*vide* V. Fazio), and the last at Magee on 30 May (M&T Romito).

**Northern Parula:** V. Fazio had one at Shaker Lks on 12 Apr, and birds appeared steadily and in small numbers through the period, with the last migrant reported on 30 May near Wooster (S. Snyder).

**Yellow Warbler:** On schedule, with the first seen at SVWA on 18 Apr (N. Keller). The Kelley's Isl count found 269 there on 16 May (T. Bartlett).

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** On 26 Apr, J. Stenger noted one at MWF, and N. Keller and K. McDonald another nearby in Hamilton. The high count was 20 at Magee on 13 May (R. Harlan, S. Wagner). Two males in the CVNRA on 31 May (D&A Chassar) were probably on territory.

**Magnolia Warbler:** Two Wayne reports were on the early side—1 May (M. Gingerich) and 4 May (Levi Yoder). At Magee there were 25 by 13 May (R. Harlan, S. Wagner), and at HBSP 22 on 24 May (L. Rosche). Possible nesters in the north were birds at Hinckley Res'n in Medina 1 May-31 July (N. Kotesovec).

**Cape May Warbler:** Often the most nonconforming warbler, just as it can be the most quarrelsome. One was videotaped at a feeder in Logan in late Mar (*vide* D. Daniel)—mission inscrutable. Three in Cincinnati on 27 Apr were on a more expected schedule (N. Cade). The high count was the last one: four at Magee on 17 May (H&S Hiris).

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** Earlyish on 27 Apr at Scioto Trail (B. Royse), their migration was otherwise normal, with a high count of 9 at Magee on 17 May (R. Harlan, S. Wagner), and a departure on 24 May, when three were at HBSP (L. Rosche).

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** On 3 May, 122 were seen on the ONWRC, but numbers seemed low overall, with few reported after 10 May.

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** A bird was in Lake on 3 Apr (*vide* V. Fazio) and another in Columbus on the 8<sup>th</sup> (M. England). Seven were among the throngs at Magee on 13 May (R. Harlan, S. Wagner). A straggler passed through Holmes on 31 May, noted by L. Yoder.

**Blackburnian Warbler:** B. Royse reported the first, at Scioto Trail SP on 27 Apr. Not common this spring, seven were at Magee on 13 May (R. Harlan, S. Wagner), and two reports brought up the rear on the early date of 21 May at Shaker Lks (T&M Romito).

**Yellow-throated Warbler:** Quite early was one on 1 Apr at MWF (L. Peyton), reinforced by another riding the next patch of weather at Cowan Lk SP on the 7<sup>th</sup> (L. Gara). One was at the CVNRA on the 10<sup>th</sup>, and three by the 12<sup>th</sup> (D&A Chassar). The latter observers counted 12 singing males along the Cuyahoga R and Chippewa Ck during the period.

**Pine Warbler:** Birds returned to Cincinnati (D. Hochadel) and Lake Hope SP (D. Sapienza) by 1 Mar. By the 7<sup>th</sup>, one was a Findley SP (C. Rieker). C. Babyak had two singing males at Mosquito Lk on 28 May, and one at Meander Res on the 31<sup>st</sup>.



**Prairie Warbler:** Arrived Lk. Alma, *Vinton*, on 15 Apr (D. Sapientza). Numerous in its strongholds, with 25 in *Adams* on 25 Apr (B. Foppe) and 21 at Woodbury WA in *Coshocton* on 14 May (B. Glick). Interesting was one decidedly elsewhere, at Kelleys Isl on 13 May (K. Metcalf).

**Palm Warbler:** The first two reports were of the yellow *hypochrysea* race, one in *Lake* on 10 Apr (J. Pogacnik), and the other in the Cincinnati area on 12 Apr (D. Styer). Twenty were at HBSP on 1 May (K. Metcalf), and 64 on the 3 May ONWRC. A last bird was noted at EHP on 16 May (V. Fazio).

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** First arriving on 4 May in *Ross* (B. Royse), they peaked on 16-17 May at Magee, with counts of 20 on the former (T&M Romito) and 25 on the latter date (R. Harlan, S. Wagner). One dallied at HBSP on 31 May (K. Metcalf).

**Blackpoll Warbler:** Like the preceding species, arrived 4 May in *Ross* (B. Royse), and recorded high counts of 25 at Magee (M&T Romito) and 24 on Kelleys Isl (V. Fazio) on 16 May. Two remained at Magee on 31 May (R. Harlan, S. Wagner).

**Cerulean Warbler:** Arrived at Shawnee SF strongholds on 24 Apr (C. Johnston); a pioneer reached the Magee bird trail by 13 May (V. Fazio). Good numbers were at the CVNRA by 18 May (A&D Chassar).

**Black-and-white Warbler:** In *Hocking* by 15 Apr (P. Raver et al.), but not to HBSP until 2 May (L. Rosche). Seven were at Magee on both 13 and 14 May (R. Harlan, S. Wagner).

**American Redstart:** A remarkable five Apr dates: in *Hancock* on the 21<sup>st</sup> (C. Eckert *vide* B. Hardesty), in *Scioto* on the 24<sup>th</sup> (C. Johnston), at Salt Fork SP on the 25<sup>th</sup> (J. Larson), at Springville Marsh on the 26<sup>th</sup> (T. Bartlett), and on the 30<sup>th</sup> at Mohican SF (E. Rebmann). By 16 May, 20 could be found at Magee (R. Harlan, S. Wagner).

**Prothonotary Warbler:** Three established territories at SVWA by 26 Apr (L. Gara), and birds appeared at traditional spots through mid-May.

**Worm-eating Warbler:** Extraordinary was a bird on 31 Mar at Lakeshore MP (J. Pogacnik), though not a record, as one was in *Ottawa* on 29 Mar 1994 (M&J Shieldcastle). In odd places elsewhere were overshooting birds at Magee on 6 May (R. Harlan, S. Wagner) and in *Seneca* on 17 May (V. Fazio).

**Swainson's Warbler:** Netted by banders, one was photographed in *Ottawa* on 28 Apr (*vide* J. Shieldcastle). Accepted by the OBR.

**Ovenbird:** Reports began on 21 Apr with several in *Ross* (B. Royse), and smallish numbers crested at only five at Magee on 17 May (H&S Hiris). One remained there on 31 May (R. Harlan, S. Wagner).

**Northern Waterthrush:** One was quite early on 15 Apr at Magee (*vide* V. Fazio). High count was six, on the 3 May ONWRC.

**Louisiana Waterthrush:** Five reports for Mar, the first in *Delaware* on the 26<sup>th</sup> (B. Shively) but the rest from the far north, ending with a bird at Magee on the 28<sup>th</sup> (S. Zadar). Twelve were in the Mohican SF by 22 Apr (B. Glick), and one on territory in the Oak Openings by 17 May (R. Harlan, S. Wagner), with three in Hincley MP, *Medina*, on 31 May (L. Rosche).

**Kentucky Warbler:** Appeared in *Hamilton* on 2 May (F. Renfrow), with high counts of four on 6 May at Cowan Lk (L. Gara) and in *Coshocton* (E. Schlabach). The species was seen at least three times in mid-May at the Magee bird trail (m obs).

**Connecticut Warbler:** Eight or nine birds were reported. First was an early one on the Magee bird trail on 14 May (*vide* V. Fazio), where others were reported through 25 May (*vide* Fazio). One sang on the latter date in *Holmes* for K. Miller, and the same day E. Pierce had one at Firestone MP, *Summit*.

**Mourning Warbler:** A decent but unremarkable migration, with arrival at Magee on 14 May (R. Rickard) and fourteen other reports late in the month from the same locale.

**Common Yellowthroat:** J&E Snively found one near Wooster on 19 Mar, and some naturally speculated it may have overwintered. Next was a more expected report from 25 Apr in *Holmes* (T. Hochstetler). B. Glick counted no fewer than 125 singing males in Woodbury WA, *Coshocton*, on 14 May, while 51 were counted for the Magee census of 17 May (H&S Hiris).

**Hooded Warbler:** One arrived in *Ross* on 23 Apr (B. Royse), and birds reached HBSP by 5 May (K. Metcalf). Seven to eight were in *Geauga* 6-16 May (*vide* D. Best).

**Wilson's Warbler:** In Columbus by 8 May (T. Thomson) and Magee by 13 May (*vide* V. Fazio), where seven were found on 23 May and two on the 31<sup>st</sup> (R. Harlan, S. Wagner).

**Canada Warbler:** Seven reached Magee on 13 May (R. Harlan, S. Wagner), and on the following day five were noted on traditional breeding grounds in the Mohican SF (J. Kline).

**Yellow-breasted Chat:** Arrived 27 Apr in *Ross* (B. Royse), with a high count of 30 birds in B. Glick's 14 May survey of Woodbury WA in *Coshocton*.

**Summer Tanager:** J. Hammond found the first, on 26 Apr in Green Lawn Cem in Columbus. Among out-of-the-way reports, one was at HBSP on 17 May (L. Rosche).

**Scarlet Tanager:** Early was a pair at Mill Ck Pk, *Mahoning*, on 13 Apr (N. Brundage). By 9 May 15-20+ could be counted in *Coshocton* (E. Schlabach). On a 14 May survey, B. Glick found 17 at Woodbury WA.

**Eastern Towhee:** Some wintered. Migrants numbered up to 12 in Columbus on 26 Mar (*vide* T. Thomson), 14 at Magee on the next day (V. Fazio), and 12 at HBSP the day after that (L. Rosche).

The high was 15 on the 3 May ONWRC.

**American Tree Sparrow:** On 1 Mar, 400 were counted on the ONWRC, and on 15 Mar 151 on the Magee census (H&S Hiris). Two lingered long in *Hancock*, and were last seen on 12 May (B. Von Stein, *vide* B. Hardesty).

**Chipping Sparrow:** After a good number of winter records, one was singing in *Medina* on 9 Mar (R. Harlan, S. Wagner). B. Hardesty's *Hancock* survey found 96 on 25 Apr and 62 on 26 May.

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** A singing bird was found in *Knox* on 3 May (J&E Snively), another the same day in *Holmes* (J. Miller), and one in *Hamilton* on 21 May (D. Styer). Reported on 9 and 16 May at HBSP (E. Bacik, *vide* L. Rosche).

**Field Sparrow:** A few wintered. Birds in the CVNRA on 9 Mar (T&M Romito) and one in *Hancock* on 17 Mar (*vide* B. Hardesty) might have, as well. Twelve migrants were at HBSP on 28 Mar (L. Rosche).

**Vesper Sparrow:** The first report came from *Holmes* on 21 Mar (M. Schlabach). One was at HBSP on 13 Apr (L. Rosche). B. Hardesty had counts on her *Hancock* surveys of 36 on 9 May and 28 on 26 May.



**Lark Sparrow:** Away from the established Oak Openings population, one was on the bird trail at Magee on 1 May (T. Colborn), and the individual that wintered in *Holmes* showed up at J. Beasley's feeder there as late as 4 Apr (E. Schlabach).

**Savannah Sparrow:** Arrived at Killdeer on 16 Mar (V. Fazio). Eighteen were at HBSP on 13 Apr (L. Rosche), and a flock of 30+ in the *Bobolink* area on 16 Apr (B. Morrison).

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** At The Wilds, *Muskingum*, on 18 Apr a flock of 15+ had grown to 50+ by the 25<sup>th</sup> (J. Larson). One was at HBSP on 3 May (L. Rosche). B. Glick's 14 May survey at Woodbury WA turned up 21. At BIWA on 26 May V. Fazio counted 15.

**Henslow's Sparrow:** Two showed up at Killbuck on 10 Apr (B. Glick), and numbers arrived at The Wilds on 18 Apr (J. Larson), with 30-40+ found. Present at Lake La Su An WA in *Williams* from 16 May to the end of period (J. Grabmeier).

**Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow:** Scarce in spring, one was photographed on 17 May at Mallard Club Marsh by B. Finkelstein.

**Fox Sparrow:** Migration began in Feb, and on 27 Mar a good total of 38 were found on the Magee bird trail (V. Fazio); on the next day, L. Rosche had 12 at HBSP. B. Morrison found 14 at Quail Hollow SP, *Stark*, on 3 Apr. One hung around in *Ashland* through 9 May for B. Burnett.

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** A bird was found at Gilmore Ponds, *Butler*, on 26 Apr (E. Baumgardner et al.).

The first at the Lake was at HBSP on 1 May (K. Metcalf), where the high count of 10 birds came on 16 May (R. Hannikman, *fide* L. Rosche). Last seen at the latter location on 31 May (Metcalf).

**Swamp Sparrow:** Some wintered as usual. High counts were 10 in the CVNRA on 18 May (T&M Romito) and 17 at Streetsboro Bog on 5 May (R. Rickard).

**White-throated Sparrow:** Migrants peaked with ~250 on the 3 May ONWRC. A few remained as late as 31 May, when one was still at Magee (R. Harlan, S. Wagner).

**Dark-eyed Junco:** Migrants seemed scanty, with a single-location high count of 40 at Shaker Lks on 5 Apr (M&T Romito). Breeding seemed indicated in *Geauga*, with birds through the period (*fide* D. Best), and one in Mohican SF sang through at least 29 May (B. Morrison et al.).

**Lapland Longspur:** Migrants were noted in good numbers in fields in and near BIWA by V. Fazio: 1600 on 23 Mar, 166 on 24 Mar, and 460 on 30 Mar, with smaller numbers through 27 Apr. Last were 10 in *Lucas* on 8 May (*fide* C. Rieker).

**Snow Bunting:** Scanty migrants included 17 on 3 Mar in Findley (B. Hardesty), up to 15 at Killdeer on 16 Mar (V. Fazio), and a late bird on 28 Mar at HBSP (*fide* L. Rosche).

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** D. Styer reported one in *Hamilton* on 27 Apr, and by 2 May J. Pogacnik was to see one in *Lake*. Seven were at Magee on 13 May for the high count (R. Harlan, S. Wagner).

**Blue Grosbeak:** Away from its traditional haunts, J. Nisley found two at Mohican SF on 9 May. One had returned to the Toledo airport site on 16 May (E. Durbin), and another to a nearby Oak Openings locale the following day (R. Harlan, S. Wagner).

**Indigo Bunting:** Two birds—one in *Hocking* (D. Slomer) and one in *Holmes* (D. Kline)—were early on 18 Apr. B. Hardesty's surveyors found 54 in *Hancock* on 26 May.

**Dickcissel:** Three reports, all in a matter of days. One was in *Holmes* on 26 Apr (A. Byler), one returned the same day to *Paulding* (D&M Dunakin), and on the 29<sup>th</sup> another was found in *Holmes*, later to be seen with a female (V. Beachy).

**Bobolink:** Arrived in *Guernsey* and *Muskingum* on 30 Apr (J. Larson). On 9 May 34 were around Mosquito Lk (C. Babyak). Near BIWA 22 males were found in a small wheat field on 20 May by V. Fazio, and one was interesting at Hinckley MP, *Medina*, on 29 May (N. Kotesovec).

**Red-winged Blackbird:** Large numbers wintered. The high spring count was not so large, with 2528 at Magee on 15 Mar (H&S Hirts).

**Eastern Meadowlark:** Four in *Lorain* on 1 Mar were probably early migrants (P. Lozano). The high count of 28 came from the *Hancock* survey of 9 May (*fide* B. Hardesty).

**Western Meadowlark:** A. Troyer had one on his *Holmes* farm from 25 May into June.

**Yellow-headed Blackbird:** Numerous reports. T. Bartlett had three at Springville Marsh on 1 Mar, first seen on 28 Feb. One was with a large blackbird roost in MWW on 29 Mar (N. Keller). R. Arnold found one at his Pt Clinton feeder for the third year in a row on 6 May. From 9-25 May a male was near Mallard Club Marsh at a feeder (m obs). R. Harlan and S. Wagner found one at Magee on the 13<sup>th</sup>. At Metzger, 1-2 birds were seen 16-20 May (D. Rickard et al.). On 16 May two were at Cedar Pt NWR (C. Rieker, M. Galloway).

**Rusty Blackbird:** Most numerous in late Mar, with ~1200 at MBSP on the 26<sup>th</sup> (V. Fazio) and ~150 at Funk on the 29<sup>th</sup> (C. Holt). Late were single birds in Cuyahoga on 11 May (R. Harlan, S. Wagner) and one in *Geauga* on the 19<sup>th</sup> (D. Best).

**Common Grackle:** Usually remarkable only for their numbers, and so they were, at least in *Wayne*. B. Glick estimated 20,000 at Kidron on 13 Mar, and M. Weaver 25,000 to 30,000 there on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Orchard Oriole:** More than usually reported from the north. Arrived 26 Apr at Shawnee Lookout (J. Stenger) and Spring Grove Cem in Cincinnati (N. Cade). E. Schlabach and J. Kline found the high count on a bicycle tour of *Tuscarawas/Holmes/Coschocton* on 9 May: 14 birds. Two were at HBSP on 16 May (L. Rosche).

**Baltimore Oriole:** Four Apr reports, the earliest the 18<sup>th</sup> in Kirtland Hills, *Lake* (*fide* J. Larson). J.

Pogacnik saw 44 over Lk Erie in *Lake* on 7 May, and T&M Romito 30 at Ira Rd in the CVNRA on 18 and 23 May.

**Purple Finch:** The flock at Mohican still numbered seven on 14 Mar (M. Gingerich). Many were reported in groups of 1-6 across eleven northern counties through the period.

**Red Crossbill:** Four were at Spring Grove Cem in Cincinnati on 14 Mar (N. Cade). Mohican SF seems always to have a few, and L. Yoder et al. found 13 there on 9 May.

**White-winged Crossbill:** Thirteen were with red crossbills at Spr Grove Cem on 14 Mar (N. Cade), and another showed up at Green Lawn Cem in Columbus on the next day (P. Raver). In less lugubrious surroundings were 8-15 at Holden Arboretum, *Lake*, on 4 Apr (H. Petruschke), three the next day at Shaker Lks (V. Fazio), and one in Garfield Pk near Cleveland on 17 Apr (B. Hinkle). Two lingered on 4 May at J. Pogacnik's feeder in *Lake*.

**Common Redpoll:** Not a redpoll year overall. Ten were in Findley SP, *Lorain*, on 2 Mar (C. Rieker). Fifteen were seen as flybys at Magee on 23 Mar (T. Bartlett et al.).



**Pine Siskin:** Some were around all winter, and present in spring in 10+ counties. Mohican SF held 140 on 12 Mar (B. Glick), and 35 on 22 Mar (J. Larsson). One lingered as late as 31 May at HBSP (K. Metcalf).

**Evening Grosbeak:** Appeared in 10 or more northern counties during the period, after fewer appearances in winter. High count was ~50 at Lakeshore MP, Lake, on 7 May (J. Pogacnik), and the latest was seen in Holmes on 13 May (L. Yoder et al.).

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## Summer 1998 Overview

by Bill Whan

In fall, winter, and spring, freakish aberrations in normal weather—strong winds, sharp fluctuations in temperature, violent storms, fog, etc.—often make birding more interesting. Migrations can be sped up or retarded, and vagrants blown in; the unusual can become, briefly, routine. Because birds are then free to adjust to new conditions by foraging in different places or in new ways, or to leave an area entirely if things get tough, we can enjoy a new mix of birds without feeling they are suffering unduly as a result. Thus it is that strong and steady winds from north or south, giant cold fronts sweeping across the landscape, or unseasonably hot nights with fog and drizzle, can bring hopeful observers out in numbers to see the resulting changes in the local birdlife at times when birds are wintering or migrating.

In the breeding season, such great fluctuations from the norm tend to be unwelcome to birds and birders alike. Violent atmospheric conditions are then less likely to blow in fabulous rarities, and much more likely to disrupt in fatal ways birds' attempts to propagate their own kind, drowning or blowing down nests, chilling hatchlings, wiping out food sources, etc. In summer, birds are the most conservative in their behaviors, and just as they become far more choosy and restricted about where and how they spend their days, birders perforce follow suit, forgoing chases after rarities and hopeful visits to fabled local hotspots in favor of patient deliberate observations, taking pleasure rather in incremental learning about the local residents.

This summer had a somewhat rocky start, with cooler than normal temperatures early in June in all regions, and in many places some violent storms with heavy rains in mid-month, neither helpful to nesting birds. Nighttime temperatures fell into the low 40's F too often in the former case, and in the latter, Cincinnati recorded 5.77" more rain than normal. Later, conditions moderated, and temperatures rose into the 90's F in from two to five days in late June across the state. July was calm and not so hot, with near-normal precipitation, ensuring success for birds whose nests had survived earlier threats from the weather.

Two Review Species were found this summer, both of them at Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area—a white ibis and an unusual mid-summer western kingbird. Many remarkable nestings took place: see the reports for short-eared owls, great egrets, golden-crowned kinglets, red-breasted nuthatches, northern harriers, sandhill cranes, several flycatcher species, and others. We noted the continuing decline of marsh species: black terns, bitterns, and rails, and the growing numbers of grassland species in areas once covered with dense forest, in wildlife areas reclaimed from strip mining. Habitat for shorebirds continued to be scarce, and only the last hurrah of the Lorain impoundment as a haven for shorebirds and larids provided even a less-than-perfect resource—toxic spoil and dead things rotting in the sun—for long-distance migrants. Turnover at Lorain was rapid for migrants, who found the food less than relishing, as fatalities were frequent among gulls poisoned by sludge from Ohio's most polluted river. One hopes we'll take such lessons as we can find from the data in the reports that follow.

For instructions about interpreting the reports, see the foot of the Winter 1997-98 Overview on page 39.



## The Summer 1998 Reports

**Common Loon:** Quite a few reports. One summered at Lk Rockwell, *Portage* (L. Rosche). One spent most of the season in Mayfield Hts, *Coyahoga* (N. Barber). A basic-plumaged bird spent at least 1 Jun-18 Jul in *Paulding* (M&D Dunakin). A single bird was reported at a Findlay Res 2 Jun-28 Jul (B. Hardesty); J. Perchalski noted two there on 18 Jul. A breeding-plumaged bird was off HBSP on 6 Jun (*vide* L. Rosche), and another at MWA on 18 Jun (D&J Hochadel). One was seen at least from 21 Jun through 29 Jun at Indigo Lk on the CVNRA (D&A Chasar). An imm was at Alum Ck Res, *Delaware*, on 8 Jul (M. Williams). D. Distler saw a basic-plumaged bird at Metzger Res, and three in the same plumage at Bresler Res (both *Allen*) on 12 Jul.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** C. Holt had one at Pipe Ck WA on 7 Jun, when the ONWRC tallied 28. The ONWRC count of 5 Jul was 49, probably augmented by young. T. Bartlett noted a young bird at Killbuck on 24 Jul, then another at Springville Marsh in *Seneca* on 26 Jul. M&D Dunakin reported a pair nesting successfully at the Black Swamp Nature Ctr in *Paulding*.

**Double-crested Cormorant:** The ONWRC tallied 121 on 7 Jun and 73 on 5 Jul. At Gilmore Ponds, Butler, F. Frick found one or two, and N. Cade one on 25 Jul. C. Holt found 10 on Lk Rockwell, *Portage*, on 11 Jun, four on Berlin Res on 14 Jul, and 27 at Lorain on 26 Jul.

**American Bittern:** Hard to find. D&A Chasar had two near Jaitie in the CVNRA on 13 Jun. T. Bartlett reported an adult at Springville Marsh, *Seneca*, on 26 Jul.

**Least Bittern:** Three were counted on the 7 Jun ONWRC, and T. Bartlett had the species through the period at Springville Marsh.

**Great Blue Heron:** For the ONWRC, 73 on 7 Jun grew to 89 on 5 Jul. C. Babyak's count of the colony at Lordstown, *Trumbull*, came to 314 nests on 13 Jun, occupying 72 trees. The GAASBC found 228 in *Summit*.

**Great Egret:** Fifty-four were found on the 7 Jun ONWRC, then 104 on that of 5 Jul. A bird was at MWA on 18 Jun (D&J Hochadel), and another on 15 Jul at Lorain (C. Holt). At Gilmore Ponds, Butler, 11 were found on 25 Jun, and remarkably two nests on the following day (J. Hays) in the black-crowned night-heron colony; eight birds remained there on 25 Jul (Hays), but the nests had shared in the failure of the night-herons'.

**Snowy Egret:** Relatively few found. Pipe Ck WA had two on 7 Jun (C. Holt). Five were counted on the 5 Jul ONWRC. Two were at Lorain on 24 Jul (J. Pogacnik).

**Little Blue Heron:** No nests detected, and most birds seemed to be part of post-breeding dispersal. An immature bird was at Killdeer on 14 Jul (V. Fazio), another at Gilmore Ponds on the 23<sup>rd</sup> (D. Brinkman) and the 24<sup>th</sup> (F. Frick), and a third at Turtle Ck, *Ottawa*, on 28 Jul (T. Bartlett). An adult was found at Magee on 24 Jul (*vide* V. Fazio).

**Cattle Egret:** Scarce. One joined the Days of the Ardeidae at Gilmore Ponds on 2 Jul (J. Hays), and J. Larson found two near the Davis-Besse plant, *Ottawa*, on 25 Jul.

**Green Heron:** The high count came from—where else?—Gilmore Ponds on 2 Jul (P. Wharton et al.), with 15; 11 were there on 25 Jul (N. Cade).

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** On 7 Jun, C. Holt found 12 at Pipe Ck WA and the ONWRC found 15, where on 5 Jul they found 14. N. Cade found 12 at Winton Wds in *Hamilton* on 18 Jul, and Holt a couple at Lorain on 26 Jul. At Gilmore Ponds, 18 active nests were seen, along with 30 adults, on 26 Jun (P. Wharton, J. Hays), thought to constitute a relocation of the failed Mill Creek colony in Cincinnati; on 15 July 10 nests sheltered chicks, and four others held incubating adults (Hays). By 29 July the entire nesting had failed, probably due to predation and a violent windstorm (Hays). See Hays & Dykstra in the Summer 2000 *Ohio Cardinal*.

## SUMMER 1998 REPORTS

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** Nests in Columbus went uncompleted (A. Goloda), and none were reported from elsewhere.

**White Ibis:** A bird was found at Killdeer by T. Bartlett on 7 Jul, and last seen by E. Pierce on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Accepted by the OBRC.

**Wood Duck:** On 7 Jun, C. Holt had five at Pipe Ck WA and not far away at Ottawa the monthly census found 60, a count which diminished to 41 by the census of 5 July. Twenty were at Gilmore Ponds on 2 Jul (P. Wharton), and 60 in the CVNRA on 13 Jul (T&M Romito).

**Gadwall:** One was observed at Lorain on 26 Jul (C. Holt).

**American Wigeon:** Two were on the 7 Jun ONWRC, and another duo at Lk Medina on 16 Jul (C. Witt).

**American Black Duck:** The 5 Jul ONWRC found two, and K. Metcalf one at N. Chagrin Res'n on 22 Jul.

**Northern Pintail:** L. Schlabach caught sight of one in *Holmes* on 16 Jun, and C. Holt reported one at Lorain from 26 Jul through the end of the period.

**Green-winged Teal:** C. Holt found birds at Lorain and Pipe Ck WA on 7 Jun and 4 Jul, and the ONWRC four on 5 Jul.

**Redhead:** A male was at Pipe Ck WA on 7 Jun (C. Holt).

**Lesser Scaup:** A pair frequented Pintail Pond at MWA during early Jul (J&D Hochadel). Two were found on the 5 Jul ONWRC, and a male was at the fish hatchery at Lk St Marys on 12 Jul (D. Distler).

**Black Scoter:** Quite unusual was an imm drake off HBSP on 1 Jun (K. Metcalf).

**Hooded Merganser:** Many bred in spring, but were sparsely reported this summer. D&A Chasar reported five on 8 Jun and 17 Jun at the CVNRA, and E. Pierce five at Killdeer on 11 Jul.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** A few spent most of the summer at HBSP (L. Rosche). One spent the first week of Jun in *Paulding* (M&D Dunakin). C. Holt saw one at Conneaut on 14 Jun, and another at Lorain on 30 Jun.

**Ruddy Duck:** Up to three were at MWA through early Jul (D&J Hochadel), and two males summered in *Portage* (C. Holt). An alternate-plumaged male was at Lk St Marys on 28 Jun, and a female on 12 Jul (D. Distler). Thirteen were tallied on the 5 Jul ONWRC.

**Osprey:** One was in *Erie* on 13 Jun (D. Overacker), one at Hinckley MF, *Medina*, on 29 Jun (N. Kotesovec), and another in *Hancock* on 30 Jun (J. Gilliam, *vide* B. Hardesty), where another was seen on 14 Jul by B. Von Stein (*vide* Hardesty) and on 28 Jul by Hardesty. One was at Cowan Lk SP on 12 Jul (L. Gara). The Berlin Lk pair had one nestling by 14 Jul (C. Holt). One was over Dayton on 26 Jul (T. Uhlman).

**Northern Harrier:** At least one pair nested in Thompson Twp, *Seneca*, with young observed on 27 Jun (T. Bartlett), and an imm was observed at BIWA on 23 Jun (V. Fazio). One was in remnant grasslands in Lorain on 14 Jun (R. Harlan, S. Wagner).

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** D. Chasar monitored a nest in the CVNRA, which held five nestlings on 4 Jul; all had fledged by the 18<sup>th</sup>.



**Red-shouldered Hawk:** D. Chasar deemed its numbers good in n. *Summit*, and they have indeed done well in the northeast in recent years. C. Babyak found two fledglings near her home in *Trumbull*. Elsewhere in less expected areas, T. Bartlett had a bird at Springville Marsh, *Seneca*, on 7 Jun, and another at Killbuck on 24 Jul. Nineteen were counted on the GAASBC.

**Broad-winged Hawk:** Well north in its Ohio range, D. Chasar had a bird on 18 and 19 Jul in *Summit*.

**King Rail:** No reports.

**Virginia Rail:** T&M Romito had two birds twice in the first week of Jun at the CVNRA. T. Bartlett reported at least three successful nests at Springville Marsh, *Seneca*, and a count of 21 birds, including one young one, at Killbuck on 24 Jul.

**Sora:** One successful nest was located at Springville Marsh (T. Bartlett). Only one each was found on the 7 Jun and 5 July ONWRCS.

**Common Moorhen:** Nested at Springville Marsh (T. Bartlett) and on the Ravenna Arsenal (L. Rosche). Bartlett found nine at Killbuck on 24 Jul, including six immatures.

**American Coot:** The ONWRC found 27 on 7 Jun and 105 on 5 July. On the former date four were at Pipe Ck WA near Sandusky (C. Holt). One spent the month of Jul at Fostoria Res, *Hancock* (B. Hardesty). Holt noted the continued stay of 1-2 at Lorain through 29 Jul.

**Sandhill Crane:** 2-3 pairs at Killbuck WA successfully raised young (ODW staff, *vide* V. Fazio). On 14 Jun, one of late May's four birds remained at MWA (J&D Hochadel). Four were overhead in *Hamilton* on 6 Jul (J. Cade), and on 20 Aug one was circling and calling in Ottawa (J. Hammond, B. Whan).

**Black-bellied Plover:** One was at Lorain on 7 Jun (C. Holt), and returnees were restricted to the next season.

**Killdeer:** Killdeer Plains WA harbored 134 on 11 Jul (E. Pierce). A survey of *Hancock* on 14 Jul produced ~150 (*vide* B. Hardesty).

**American Avocet:** Two appeared at Lorain on 30 Jun (C. Holt); one was present there on 9 Jul (R. Rickard), then two on the 22<sup>nd</sup> (Holt), and one on the 25<sup>th</sup> (J. Larson).

**Semipalmated Plover:** On 7 Jun, C. Holt noted 14 at Lorain and 3 at Pipe Creek WA. Thirty returnees were at Lorain on 29 Jul (Holt).

**Greater Yellowlegs:** One was at Lorain on 25 Jun (R. Rickard), and one there on 4 Jul (C. Holt). Four were tallied on the 5 July ONWRC. At Lorain, M&T Romito saw 10 on 17 Jul, and Holt 13 on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** V. Fazio found four at Killdeer on 23 Jun. Five were on the ONWRC of 5 July. At Lorain, C. Holt had four on 4 Jul and 17 on 26 Jul.

**Solitary Sandpiper:** Southbound was one at MWA on 2 July (D. Hochadel).

**Willet:** All reports from the Lorain impoundment: a bird on 25 Jun (R. Rickard), three on 4 Jul (C. Holt), and two on 21 Jul (N. Barber).

**Spotted Sandpiper:** Satisfied with impoundment and canal margins, 28 were found on the 5 July census of Ottawa. Fifteen made do on the mudflats at Lorain on 22 Jul (C. Holt).

**Upland Sandpiper:** At BIWA, V. Fazio witnessed courtship on 3 June, and three pairs were nesting by 23 Jun. On 14 June C. Holt observed four in Denmark Twp in *Ashtabula*.

**Whimbrel:** One touched down in the Lorain impoundment on 4 Jul (C. Holt).

**Hudsonian Godwit:** Three spent 21 Jul in the Lorain impoundment (N. Barber), and another was there on 25 Jul (J. Pogacnik).

**Marbled Godwit:** T. LePage found two at Lorain on 21 Jul.

**Ruddy Turnstone:** Two remained at Ottawa for the census of 7 Jun, and single birds were seen at Lorain on 22 and 26 Jul (C. Holt).

**Red Knot:** In the Lorain impoundment, D&J Hoffman found two on 21 Jul, T. LePage 10 on 23 Jul, and J. Pogacnik one on 25 Jul.

**Sanderling:** A late bird was at Winton Woods, *Hamilton*, on 7 Jun (J. Stenger). Another touched down at BCSP on 26 Jul (D. Overacker). At Lorain, C. Holt found one on 4 Jul, 15 on 22 Jul, and 12 on 29 Jul.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** At Lorain, 52 were to be found on 7 Jun and ~200 on 29 Jul (C. Holt). T&M Romito had a bird in Strongsville on 29 Jun.

**Least Sandpiper:** C. Holt had counts at Lorain of 11 on 30 Jun, 37 on 4 Jul, and 40 on 29 Jul. M&T Romito had 28 there on 17 Jul to establish a fairly continuous presence.

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** A bird on 7 Jun at Lorain (C. Holt) probably was the one there the following day for K. Metcalf. Three were at MWA on the latter date (J&D Hochadel).

**Baird's Sandpiper:** J. Pogacnik found a juv at Lorain on 24 Jul.

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** All reports from Jul, the first of four on the 12<sup>th</sup> at Lorain, with seven there on the 22<sup>nd</sup> (both C. Holt), and a final bird on the 26<sup>th</sup> (K. Metcalf). One at Fostoria Res, *Hancock*, on the 14<sup>th</sup> was followed by two there on the 21<sup>st</sup> (B. Hardesty). N. Cade found five at Winton Wds, *Hamilton*, on the 18<sup>th</sup>. High count 15 at Killdeer on the 19<sup>th</sup> (D. Overacker).

**Dunlin:** At Lorain, late spring migrants made up the high count, 26 on 7 Jun (C. Holt). Even later, or perhaps summering non-breeders, were one in alternate plumage at Killdeer on 23 Jun (V. Fazio), one at 4 Jul at Lorain (Holt), one on the ONWRC of 5 Jul, and on Findlay Res #1 on 14 Jul (B. Hardesty).

**Stilt Sandpiper:** B. Glick had one to two at Killdeer on 14 Jul, and N. Cade one at Winton Wds, *Hamilton*, on 18 Jul, but most touched down at Lorain, where C. Holt reported two on 12 Jul, one on 18 Jul, and one on 29 Jul.

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** Beyond six detected at Winton Wds, *Hamilton*, on 7 Jun (J. Stenger), all reports came from Lorain, where over 120 birds were counted between 4 Jul (49 birds, C. Holt) and 29 Jun (20 birds, Holt).

**Common Snipe:** Two were at Charlie's Pond, *Pickaway*, on 21 Jul (L. Powlick), and one at Killbuck on 24 Jul (T. Bartlett).

**Wilson's Phalarope:** C. Holt spotted a juvenile at Lorain on 15 Jul, and J&D Hoffman found two there on 23 Jul.



**Laughing Gull:** The Lorain impoundment was a magnet for larids, too, with this species seen there on 22 Jul (C. Holt); T. LePage had reported an adult there on 27 Jun. The GAASBC reported their first-ever record of this species in mid-June.

**Franklin's Gull:** Also found at Lorain, one bird on 18 Jun (T. LePage).

**Bonaparte's Gull:** Reported on 7 Jun, with two on the ONWRC, and from that date through 25 July on the beach at BCSP, Clark (D. Overacker). Small numbers persisted at Lorain through mid-Jul (C. Holt), and 33 were off Kelleys' Isl on 19 Jul (T. Bartlett).

**Ring-billed Gull:** C. Holt noticed the first juvenile bird at Lorain on 12 Jul.

**Herring Gull:** The earliest juvenile was reported from Lorain on 15 Jul (C. Holt).

**Great Black-backed Gull:** Forty were at Lorain on 7 Jun, and 12 at Conneaut on 14 Jun (C. Holt). The Lorain flock came to over 100 on several days in Jul, where Black River pollutants may have contributed to visible mortality out on the baking mudflats for this top-of-the-food-chain species.

**Common Tern:** At the two supported nest locations, Ottawa had 30 pairs, 40 nests, and 23 young; Pipe Ck WA had 68 pairs, 122 nests, and 62 young (ODW). Skippy numbers elsewhere.

**Caspian Tern:** On 7 Jun, four were at BCSP, Clark (D. Overacker) and three on the ONWRC. One was at Walnut Beach on 14 Jun (C. Holt), two at Marblehead on 21 Jun (T. Bartlett), and 11 at Lorain on 30 Jun (Holt). In Jul, one was at Metzger Res, Allen, on the 12<sup>th</sup> (D. Dister), 24 at Lorain on the 19<sup>th</sup> (P. Lozano), with 20 remaining there on the 29<sup>th</sup> (Holt).

**Forster's Tern:** Small numbers around, even smaller than black tern's. C. Holt's Lorain watch found two on 4 Jul and eight on 15 Jul. Four were on the 5 Jul ONWRC, and P. Lozano noticed two more at Lorain on 19 Jul.

**Black Tern:** Only three reports, over as many days. J. Stenger had 10 at Winton Wds on 7 Jun. Two were in Hancock on 9 Jun (S. Ross, *vide B. Hardesty*), and five at Gilmore Ponds on the same day for F. Frick.

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** Judged scarce by some observers. D&A Chasar had one at Jaitte in the CVNRA on 9 Jun, and the mid-June GAASBC found a total of eight. On Kelleys Isl, three were around on 21 Jun and two on 19 Jul (T. Bartlett), and on the latter date F. Renfrow had one at Old Man's Cave SP, Hocking.

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** Contrastingly, several observers commented on this cuckoo's good showing. Three were at Jaitte on 4 Jun (D&A Chasar), then five at the Shaker Lks on 6 Jun (N. Keller). The GAASBC found 42.

**Short-eared Owl:** On 6 Jun a pair was noted at Thompson Twp in Seneca; they were accompanied by an imm bird on 27 Jun (T. Bartlett). R. Rinehart (*vide V. Fazio*) saw a bird near the Killdeer HQ on the suggestive date of 21 Jun. J. Larson reported two nests early in the period at The Wilds, Muskingum, one with five young and the other with two.

**Chuck-will's-widow:** The bird heard during the spring in Hocking, first on 10 Apr, was heard through 8 Jul (J. Fry). Reported from the usual Adams spots on 13 Jun (E. Pierce).

**Chimney Swift:** J&D Hochadel found at least 40 dead birds along the causeway over MWA on 8 Jun, and speculated they may have been struck by cars in the fog. The GAASBC counted 545 in Summit in mid-June.

**Belted Kingfisher:** The GAASBC tallied an impressive 58 birds.

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** Eighteen were found on the Hancock survey of 14 Jul (*vide B. Hardesty*). Six or more spent the period near Pinery Narrows in the CVNRA (D&A Chasar), and three did the same in Geauga Pk District (D. Best). Four were at their usual Killdeer haunts on 11 Jul (E. Pierce).

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** D. Best reported two in the Geauga Pk District throughout the period.

**Northern Flicker:** 105 on the GAASBC, and 22 in the Hancock survey of 21 Jul (*vide B. Hardesty*).

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** C. Holt and L. Rosche observed one 14-15 Jun in Hiram Twp, Portage.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** One was at N. Chagrin Res'n on 4 Jun (R. Rickard), and another as late as 13 Jun at HBSP (R. Harlan).

**Acadian Flycatcher:** C. Holt found one in *Ashtabula* on 14 Jun and one in Portage on the following day. F. Renfrow counted 10 at EFSP on 19 Jun. The GAASBC tallied 124 in Summit.

**Alder Flycatcher:** D. Chassar noted one on the CVNRA on 6 Jun, and the Romitos one there on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. A migrant was at BCSP on 7 Jun (D. Overacker), and on the same day T. Bartlett first noted a bird at Springville Marsh, Seneca, where one was seen on 25 and 26 Jul as well. Two were in the Streetsboro Bog in Portage on 18 Jun (R. Rickard), and V. Fazio had a territorial bird way down in BIWA, Marion, on 23 Jun.

**Willow Flycatcher:** Twenty-two were counted in excellent habitat by the ONWRC on 7 Jun. R. Schlabach counted nine on a mile-square tract in Holmes during the period.

**Least Flycatcher:** In traditional areas were single birds at Holden Arboretum, Lake, on 3 Jun (R. Rickard), near Jaitte on 6 Jun (D&A Chasar), on 21 Jun on Kelleys Isl and 5 Jul at Springville Marsh (both T. Bartlett). Far less routine were a singing bird in *Aithya* on 2 Jun (V. Fazio) and a territorial bird the same observer located way down in Shawnee SF, Scioto, on 29 Jun. W. McClanahan had one in Hancock on 7 Jul (*vide B. Hardesty*).

**Western Kingbird:** A bird was found just outside Killdeer on 30 Jun (G. Stauffer) and was seen during subsequent days by m obs. Accepted by the OBRC. Beyond Ohio's only confirmed nesting pair in Lucas during 1933, this was only the second summer record of this species in Ohio.

**Great Crested Flycatcher:** High count was 11 at EFSP on 15 Jun (T. Fitzpatrick).

**Bell's Vireo:** D. Overacker located two birds, and what was possibly a juvenile, near the species' traditional haunts at BCSP, Clark, on 12 Jul.

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** At an unaccustomed location were three on 20 Jun in Strongsville (T&M Romito). The GAASBC had 48 in Summit.

**Blue-headed Vireo:** One was at Holden Arboretum, Lake, on 3 Jun (R. Rickard). A pair nested at The Ledges in the CVNRA (D&A Chasar), where three were seen on 12 Jun (Rickard). Four pairs spent the period at Hincley MP, Medina (N. Kotesovec). F. Renfrow noted as many as four at Conkle's Hollow SP (3 Jul), three near Cedar Falls (2 Jul), and two at Old Man's Cave (18 Jul), all in Hocking.

**Red-eyed Vireo:** J. Beechy counted 46 in a mile-square survey area in Holmes during the summer, and only half the area was wooded.



**Purple Martin:** C. Holt noted 350 over the Lorain impoundment on 29 Jul.

**Tree Swallow:** 355 were counted by the 5 Jul ONWRC, and K. Metcalf had 70+ at HBSP on 26 Jul.

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow:** Nesting was noted in Ash Cave, Hocking, on 12 Jun (F. Renfrow).

**Cliff Swallow:** L. Gara noticed a bridge in Adams with numerous nests and 20 birds nearby on 10 Jul. H. Armstrong counted 20 near Lost Bridge in Hamilton 28 Jul. A singleton passed over Lorain on 8 Jun (K. Metcalf). In Holmes, the very center of its distribution, what was doubtless an Ohio-record 614 nests were built on P. Yoder's farm buildings, and A. Troyer had 320 pairs at his farm.

**Barn Swallow:** About 100 were at Lorain on 15 Jul (C. Holt).

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** J. Hammond watched a male at Atwood Lk, Tuscarawas, on 4 Jul, for the second consecutive year. Intimations of nesting included an imm seen at a feeder in Tiffin, Seneca, on 4 Jul (T. Bartlett), and two pairs regularly seen during the period at Hinckley MP in Medina (N. Kotesovec). The first confirmed *Trumbull* nesting, in Cortland, yielded three young on 11 Jun (D&J Hochadel). C. Babyak's observations between 24 Jun and 7 Jul confirmed nesting, with two adults and at least two young, just to the south at Meander Res in 80-year-old pines and spruces. In Hocking, F. Renfrow verified nesting of a pair, and had other territorial males nearby.

**Brown Creeper:** N. Kotesovec had a pair through the period in Hinckley MP, Medina. J. Grabmeier confirmed nesting by a pair at Lake La Su An WA in Williams, for an unusual new locale. D&A Chasar reported nesting in the CVNRA. On 10 Jun, F. Renfrow had a singing bird at Conkle's Hollow, and another singing at Old Man's Cave on 28 Jun and 3 Jul, both in Hocking.

**House Wren:** Thirty-three were on the 5 Jul ONWRC, 148 on the Hancock survey of 14 Jul (fide B. Hardesty), and 311 on the GAASBC.

**Winter Wren:** A singing bird in P. Yoder's yard in Holmes from 19 Jun to 6 Jul apparently went unmated. L. Yoder found three in Mohican SF on 19 Jun.

**Sedge Wren:** One sang from 6 Jun to 14 Jun in Holmes (E. Schlabach), as did another from 8 Jun to 11 Jun in Wayne (M. Gingerich). One was in BIWA, Marion, on 23 Jun (V. Fazio), and another was singing in Swine Ck, Geauga, on 29 Jun (K. Metcalf).

**Marsh Wren:** C. Holt noted two at the Lorain impoundment on 30 Jun, and T&M Romito three there on the 17 Jul. Four were at SVWA on 5 Jul (L. Gara), and two at BCSP on 20 Jun (D. Overacker). On 24 Jul, T. Bartlett counted 26 singing at Killbuck Marsh, Wayne.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** On 29 May fledglings were being fed in Hinckley MP, Medina (N. Kotesovec); the pair was seen through 13 Jul, but no re-nesting was noted.

**Veery:** Six were found in the Mohican SF on 19 Jun (L. Yoder), and two in Strongsville on 29 Jun and one in the CVNRA on 6 Jul (both M&T Romito). Two were in the Streetsboro Bog, Portage, on 5 Jul (R. Rickard). The GAASBC counted 59 in Summit, and D. Best estimated seven likely nestings in the Geauga Pk District this season.

**Swainson's Thrush:** Pretty much on schedule, with no notably late reports. T. Bartlett banded one at Springville Marsh, Seneca, on 7 Jun.

**Hermit Thrush:** A few breed each year. D&A Chasar noted up to two from 28 Jun through mid-Jul at The Ledges in the CVNRA. In Hocking, F. Renfrow had two at Clear Ck MP on 11 Jun, as many as six at Conkle's Hollow on 1 Jul, five at Cedar Falls on 4 Jul, six at Hocking Hills on 18 Jul, and three at Old Man's Cave on 18 Jul.

**Wood Thrush:** J. Beechy found 25 in a square-mile area in Holmes during the period; only half the survey area is wooded.

**Gray Catbird:** The GAASBC had no trouble finding the species in Summit, with 522 reported there in the mid-Jun survey.

**Northern Mockingbird:** Solidifying its northern range. T&M Romito saw a pair feeding young in Brecksville on 14 Jul.

**Brown Thrasher:** Twenty-one were reported from the GAASBC for Summit.

**Blue-winged Warbler:** Not so hard to find in the northeast as it once was. One was on territory at Hinckley MP, Medina, on 2 Jun (R. Harlan, S. Wagner). Seventy were found by the GAASBC surveyors in mid-June. One was discovered on Kelleys Isl on 19 Jul (T. Bartlett).

**Golden-winged Warbler:** One singing male in *Trumbull* on 14 Jun could not be relocated later (Klies and Crawford, fide J&D Hochadel).

**Hybrids of the above:** Whether through scrambled genes or having learned the wrong score, a bird seen by J. Beechy in Holmes on 17 Jun looked like a blue-winged and sang like a golden-winged. It is of course no longer possible to identify these two species, or their hybrids, by song alone...or perhaps by appearance alone either.

**Northern Parula:** Doing well in its traditional range, with three on territory in Scioto on 29 Jun (V. Fazio) and six at Cedar Falls SP, Hocking, on 4 Jul (F. Renfrow).

**Yellow Warbler:** At Ottawa on 7 Jun, 58 were counted by the ONWRC, and the GAASBC had 351 in Summit later in the month. By 18 Jul, C. Holt noticed 10 southbound migrants at Lorain.

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** Hints and confirmations of breeding came from the northeastern counties. On 6 Jun, several were seen in the CVNRA, and later young were observed (D&A Chasar). R. Harlan and S. Wagner found one at Hampton Hills on 13 Jun, and N. Kotesovec another at Hinckley MP on 24 Jun. Interesting were nine found on Kelleys Isl on 21 Jun, with one on 19 Jul (T. Bartlett).

**Magnolia Warbler:** One was on Kelleys Isl on 21 Jun (T. Bartlett). F. Renfrow found singles on 10 and 12 Jun, then two males on 1 Jul at Conkle's Hollow in Hocking, and one on 2 Jul at Cedar Falls. Six territorial males were in Hinckley MP, Medina, through much of Jul (N. Kotesovec). Birds were seen through early Jul at The Ledges in the CVNRA, including immatures (D&A Chasar).

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** In no hurry was one seen in Hancock on 2 Jun (D. Barker, fide B. Hardesty).

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** In its Hocking range, F. Renfrow found eight at Rock House and six at Old Man's Cave on 30 Jun. In the Mohican SF, L. Yoder had 10 on 19 Jun. D. Chasar reported its numbers up in the CVNRA, and N. Kotesovec encountered 22 males over a minimum of 31 summer days, along with six females, at Hinckley MP, Medina. The GAASBC reported 30 for Summit.

**Yellow-throated Warbler:** Two seen in pines—not the habitat for our local "sycamore warbler" subspecies—on 20 Jun and 6 Jul (F. Renfrow) were of interest. T&M Romito report the species doing well in the CVNRA, with five or six detected in early Jul.

**Pine Warbler:** In Hocking, F. Renfrow found a bird feeding young at Old Man's Cave on 28 Jun, and four there the following day. In the Mohican SF, L. Yoder located one on 19 Jun. Further north, a territorial bird was seen near Meander Res on 3 Jun (C. Babyak), and a bird on 5 Jun in Brecksville (A&D Chasar).



- Prairie Warbler:** No out-of-range reports, but common elsewhere. **F. Renfrow** counted 10 at EFSP on 1 Jun, and **E. Pierce** 14 in *Adams* on 13 Jun.
- Palm Warbler:** Late were eight passing through *Hancock* on 2 Jun (*vide B. Hardesty*).
- Blackpoll Warbler:** The only straggler was one on the first day of the period near Sugarcreek (L. Schliabach).
- Cerulean Warbler:** In the CVNRA, **D&A Chasar** noted young being fed on 16 and 22 Jun. **V. Fazio** counted 64 over four days in *Athens* and *Vinton* in early Jun, observing their "greatest density occurs on ridge tops dominated by white oak with not less than a 50-ft canopy."
- Black-and-white Warbler:** In the north, **L. Yoder** found four at Mohican SF on 19 Jun, and **N. Kotesovec** had a male at Hinckley MP refindable from 19 May-3 Jul.
- American Redstart:** **T. Bartlett** counted an impressive 49 birds in song on Kelleys Isl on 21 Jun, then 11 on 19 Jul.
- Prothonotary Warbler:** In the north, **D&A Chasar** noted two successful nests in the CVNRA, C. Babyak two territorial males through the period near Meander Res, and **D. Best** seven nesting pairs in the Upper Cuyahoga nesting project.
- Worm-eating Warbler:** **L. Yoder** turned up four in the Mohican SF, a familiar northern outpost for the species.
- Ovenbird:** The GAASBC found 52 in *Summit* in mid-Jun, and **L. Yoder's** 19 Jun survey of the Mohican SF yielded seven birds.
- Louisiana Waterthrush:** In *Hocking* strongholds, **Renfrow** counted eight at Cedar Falls on 11 Jun. Further north, **T&M Romito** had one at Strongsville on 29 Jun, **L. Yoder** 10 in the Mohican SF on 19 Jun, and the GAASBC reported eight in *Summit*.
- Kentucky Warbler:** High count six males at EFSP on 1 Jun (**F. Renfrow**). One was at Hinckley MP, *Medina*, on the following day (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**). **J. Beechy** had four on a square-mile survey plot in *Holmes* during the period. Interesting was one singing in early Jun at Lake La Su An WA in *Williams (J. Grabmeier)*.
- Mourning Warbler:** Late birds included one at BCSP on 7 Jun (**D. Overacker**), one near Antwerp, *Paulding*, on 12 Jun (**M&D Dunakin**), and one the next day at HBSP (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**).
- Common Yellowthroat:** The GAASBC tallied 325 in *Summit*; the 5 Jul ONWRC had 36.
- Hooded Warbler:** Did well in *Summit*, where the GAASBC counted 131 in mid-Jun.
- Wilson's Warbler:** One singing on Kelleys Island on 21 Jun was extremely late (**T. Bartlett**). There are only three later records; one of a bird banded on 18 Jul 1988 at SVWA (*The Ohio Cardinal* 11(4):9) might just as easily have been an early southbound bird.
- Canada Warbler:** A late migrant was one singing in *Vinton* on 2 Jun (**V. Fazio**). Two were seen at Conkle's Hollow, *Hocking*, on 10 and 12 Jun, then a nest by 29 Jun (**F. Renfrow**). **D&A Chasar** reported a pair with young at The Ledges in the CVNRA through Jul.
- Yellow-breasted Chat:** The high count was seven at EFSP on 19 Jun (**F. Renfrow**).

- Summer Tanager:** High count three in *Adams* on 13 Jun (**E. Pierce**). A nest in *Delaware* was confirmed at Highbanks MP (**J. Grabmeier et al.**). Two possible nests were in *Holmes (B. Glick, M. Barkman)*.
- Scarlet Tanager:** The GAASBC counted 122 in *Summit* in mid-Jun.
- Field Sparrow:** 205 birds on the GAASBC. Nineteen were seen on the 5 Jul ONWRC, and 21 on the *Hancock* survey of 7 Jul (*vide B. Hardesty*).
- Vesper Sparrow:** High counts came from *Holmes*, where local farming practices allow it to nest successfully more often, with seven on 25 Jul (**M. Troyer**) and nine during the period in a square-mile plot (**J. Beechy**).
- Lark Sparrow:** The Oak Openings colony numbered seven-plus on a 14 Jun visit by **K. Metcalf**.
- Savannah Sparrow:** The species used to be much more numerous there, but at Ottawa the census of 7 Jun found two, and that of 5 Jul but one. **C. Holt** counted 18 in *Ashabula* on 14 Jun, and 16 were found in a *Hancock* survey on 7 Jul (*vide B. Hardesty*). The GAASBC found 28. **A. Troyer** had 18 on a square-mile survey plot in *Holmes* during the period.
- Grasshopper Sparrow:** Outside of grasslands in reclaimed stripmines, the high count was at BIWA, where **V. Fazio** found 29 territories on 23 Jun, then 56 by the end of the month. Scarcer in the northeast, so notable were three in *Ashabula* on 14 Jun (**C. Holt**) and one at Fairport Harbor on 28 Jun (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**). One was found at Ottawa, on the 5 Jul census.
- Henslow's Sparrow:** No remarkable counts outside the artificial grasslands. Of interest was one in Thompson Twp, *Seneca*, on 6 Jun, and at Killdeer on 30 Jun (both **T. Bartlett**).
- Swamp Sparrow:** Six on the 5 July ONWRC was not encouraging, but 110 were reported in *Summit* during the GAASBC.
- White-throated Sparrow:** Stragglers were in *Holmes* on 1 Jun (**E. Yoder**) and 10 Jun (**N. Yoder**). One was singing on 15 Jun at Springville Marsh (**T. Bartlett**), and another sang near HBSP into Jul (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**).
- White-crowned Sparrow:** One stayed as late as 9 Jun in *Hancock (B. Von Stein, vide B. Hardesty)*.
- Dark-eyed Junco:** A migrant was late at HBSP on 14 Jun (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**), and **M. Gingerich** noticed one singing at Mohican SF through at least 26 Jun. Bred at the usual northeastern spots, including N. Chagrin Res'n, where four or more territorial males were noted by **K. Metcalf**.
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** **D. Chasar** said numbers seemed down in the CVNRA this summer. The GAASBC ended up with 115. They may breed in the southeastern woods, but confirmation of nesting is lacking; this summer males were noted in *Hocking* and along the *Athens-Vinton* county line on 2 Jun (**V. Fazio**), and one to two were singing 2-5 Jun in *Meigs (G. Gerrone)*.
- Blue Grosbeak:** Reported during the period on a number of occasions in *Adams* and *Clermont*.
- Dickcissel:** On 3 Jun four were seen at BIWA, where 20 were singing by 23 Jun, then 47 by the end of the month (**V. Fazio**). Two were seen in *Preble* on 7 Jun (**D. Styer**), and two on the 5 Jul ONWRC. **T. Bartlett** reported two or more through the period at Thompson Twp, *Seneca*, and four pairs nested in *Holmes (L. Raber, vide M. Troyer)*.



**Bobolink:** D. Chasar reported numbers were down at the Scobie Rd site in the CVNRA. C. Holt counted 26 in *Ashtabula* on 14 Jun. Twelve were at BIWA on 23 Jun (V. Fazio).

**Eastern Meadowlark:** Seemed down in general. At Ottawa, two on 7 Jun and one on 5 Jul were not good numbers.

**Western Meadowlark:** A male was present in *Holmes* from late May through 7 Jul (A. Troyer, m obs). One was in *Greene* on 14 Jun (D. Overacker), and a male sang in *Hancock* on 7 and 10 Jul (B. Hardesty).

**Common Grackle:** High count 446 on the 5 Jul ONWRC. P. Lozano noticed a group anting with mothballs in Lakewood on 21 Jun.

**Orchard Oriole:** In good shape in the CVNRA, where five fledged in a nest near Jaitte on 13 Jun (D&A Chasar) and four were noted at Ira Rd on 29 Jun (T&M Romito). By 6 Jul the first migrant was noticed, in *Holmes* (M. Gingerich).

**Purple Finch:** In good numbers. One was in *Ashtabula* on 14 Jun (C. Holt), 17 on the GAASBC in mid-month, and a male haunted Mohican on 26 Jun (M. Gingerich). K. Metcalf noted one on the N. Chagrin Res'n on 2 Jul, and one was in Streetsboro Bog, *Portage*, for R. Rickard on the 5<sup>th</sup>. J. Fry had a female visit his feeders in *Hocking* on 23, 24, 26, and 28 Jul and a male follow up on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Pine Siskin:** Appeared at a feeder in *Holmes* 5 and 7 Jun (R. Hershberger, J. Miller).

**American Goldfinch:** High count 85 in a thistle patch in *Holmes* on 22 Jun (M. Troyer).

**Evening Grosbeak:** An adult appeared at Lakeshore MP, *Lake*, on 16 Jun (J. Pogacnik).

**CONTRIBUTORS:** We are grateful to the following persons who shared bird sightings during the season: Hank Armstrong, Carole Babyak, Zac Baker, Nick Barber, Dorothea Barker, Mosse Barkman, Tom Bartlett, Jacob Beechy, Dan Best, Charlie Bombaci, David Brinkman, Jenny Brumfield, Nancy Brundage, Don Burton, Mike Busam, Jason Cade, Neill Cade, Ann Chasar, Dwight Chasar, Bob Conlon, Mable Dailey, Donna Daniel, Dave Dister, Doug Dunakin, Micki Dunakin, Vic Fazio, Bob Finkelstein, Tim Fitzpatrick, Frank Frick, Jim Fry, Larry Gara, Gary Gerrone, Matthew Gingerich, Bruce Glick, Adam Goloda, Jeff Grabmeier, Joe Hammond, Rob Harlan, Jeff Hayes, Jim Heflich, Robert Hershberger, Hank Hiris, Sally Hiris, Dave Hochadel, Judy Hochadel, Tim Hochstetler, Dick Hoffman, Jean Hoffman, Craig Holt, Dan Ingold, Phyllis Jones, Dave Kaplan, Ned Keller, Mark Kershner, Dennis Kline, Norm Kotesovec, Jason Larson, Tom Leiden, Tom LePage, Paula Lozano, Winnie McClanahan, Jim McCormac, Kevin Metcalf, Jeffrey Miller, Ben Morrison, Eric Mulholland, Doug Overacker, Steve Pelikan, John Perchaliski, Haans Petruschke, Lester Peyton, Ed Pierce, John Pogacnik, Len Powlick, Leon Raber, Jan Rananah, Frank Renfrow, Richard Rickard, Roxanne Rinehart, Mary Anne Romito, Tom Romito, Larry Rosche, Sue Ross, Dan Sanders, Anna Scarborough, Ed Schlabach, Leroy Schlabach, Robert Schlabach, Su Snyder, Gene Stauffer, Jay Stenger, Dave Styer, Andy Troyer, Mervin Troyer, Carol Tveekrem, Tom Uhlman, Barb Von Stein, Sandy Wagner, Bill Whan, Paul Wharton, Mike Williams, Courtney Willis, Clyde Witt, Stan Wulkowicz, Emery Yoder, Leroy Yoder, Perry Yoder, Sean Zadar. We are also grateful to the editors of *The Bobolink* and *The Cleveland Bird Calendar*, online services managed by Vic Fazio III, the Greater Akron Audubon Society, and the Ohio Bird Records Committee for information pertinent to this report.


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This Swainson's warbler managed to find itself in one of the Black Swamp Bird Observatory's nets at Navarre Marsh, Ottawa Co. It was banded on 28 April 1998 and was relocated two days later. Photo by Bruce Simpson on 28 April 1998.





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