

The Ohio



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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
Spring (Mar.-May) - June 25
Summer (June-July) - August 25
Autumn (Aug.-Nov.) - December 25

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On the Cover: **Mew Gull** - Headlands Beach State Park, Lake Co., 12 March 2001.
Photo by Lou Gardella.

Spring 2001 Overview

by Bill Whan

Migration is spring's big story. For birds a vital strategy in reproducing their kind, for human observers it is an inexhaustibly fascinating spectacle. Sadly, our interests and those of the birds do not always coincide. They want to reach the breeding grounds as quickly as possible, and we—aware of being rather selfish about it—wish their progress stalled long enough for us to see and study them. It is easy to forget that a fallout of migrants bedecking the trees is as unlucky an event for them as it is lucky for us.

So we congratulate the birds on this spring's very successful migration—a direct connection, with no layoffs, detours, or delays! There is no evidence that fewer of them reached the breeding grounds to the north—our *local* breeders arrived in force, and on time, after all—but it was hard not to feel a little deprived. By and large, field trips yielded a decent variety of migrants, but only determined efforts found more than a few individuals of the species present. Some veteran observers called it the “worst migration in decades”; others used saltier language. Suffice it to say that for many observers this spring, looking for birds seemed too much like work.

We could blame the weather. The latter half of April was dry with few storms, and warm (April was 5.8°F above average, in Columbus the third warmest on record), with mostly southern breezes, and the first half of May followed suit (in central Ohio, the first ten days of May averaged a hefty 9.4°F above normal). This tended to whisk migrants through quickly by night. We usually expect spring migration to proceed in orderly fashion, gradually from south to north, but the weather put first reports haphazardly all over the map. Our chilly and rainy latter half of May (in Columbus our fifth-wettest in recorded history) made it harder to find birds, as did the spring's precocious vegetation. Equally frustrating conditions must have prevailed continent-wide, as birders from Cape May to Cape Flattery reported a disappointing migration. Our most dramatic weather arrived 7-12 April, when very strong winds out of the south accompanied record high temperatures, concentrating peak raptor numbers at either end of the Lake Erie shore, and unprecedented numbers and varieties of other early April migrants such as shorebirds and sparrows, including some record overflights.

So, questions about where the thrushes were, or the cuckoos, or the warblers, were mostly rhetorical, for we knew where they were. Perhaps those of us hankering for exuberant song and impressive numbers of newly-arrived migrants should have gone to the southern counties instead of mooching wistfully around the Magee bird trail: fully half of Ohio's warbler species are residents, after all, and they arrived on or ahead of schedule to nest, and in profusion. As for the Canada-bound nesters, they showed up in good numbers, too—in Canada.

Unlike the last two springs, some water birds failed to show up: red-necked and eared grebes, Hudsonian godwits, red knots, and red-necked phalaropes went unreported. Reported numbers of the scarcer Ardeidae—little blue herons, snowy

and cattle egrets, yellow-crowned night-herons, bitterns—varied from so-so to discouraging. Ducks, most having decamped by mid-April, lingered in strange variety at Pipe Creek WA in Sandusky, with 10 species—including buffleheads and a common merganser—arrayed in pairs like a page in a field guide through mid-May. Their habitat scarce as usual, most shorebirds likely preferred to take advantage of favorable tailwinds to pass unnoticed over the state; official censuses of approximately three square miles of wetlands at Magee Marsh yielded small numbers of only seven migratory species in April and May combined. Again tiny Pipe Creek, uncharacteristically, was spring's best shorebird haven, with 22 species reported. When we asked ODOW staff about the unusually productive conditions at units C&D there, it turned out C was drained to allow the city of Sandusky to replace a water pipe, and D had undergone a routine draw-down to manage vegetation types for waterfowl.

In early spring, scarcer winter gulls joined the common ones in abandoning the western end of Lake Erie's central basin in the thousands to move east into Lake and Ashtabula counties, producing some interesting records—see the reports for 10-12 March. A chuck-will's-widow showed up on Kelleys Island for a first local record, but in general overflights were few in the north. Or maybe they were many, succeeding extravagantly, with early birds literally flying over Ohio: another chuck touched down in Point Pelee just two days before Erie County's bird. Other nice finds included a rash of ruffs, a Bell's vireo in Butler County, a Eurasian wigeon in Erie County, possible breeding shrikes and harriers and short-eared owls, and other interesting local occurrences.

The harvest of rarities was excellent. Documented spring 2001 sightings of a dozen review list species included both *Plegadis* ibises, tricolored heron, Ross's goose, the aforementioned ruffs, mew gull, Eurasian collared-dove, varied thrush, Kirtland's warbler, Harris's sparrow, chestnut-collared longspur, and shiny cowbird. If accepted, the latter two would be new to Ohio's official list. Reports of two other review list species were heard on the grapevine, but since unsupported by documentation they go unpublished here.

We apologize for the unacceptably dark reproductions of photos in our winter issue; they resulted from errors at the printer's, errors we have been assured will not recur. Rob Harlan's column will not appear in this issue, his labors having been devoted to the book review herein. We recently mailed an omnibus issue of the *Cardinal* covering winter 1997-98, spring 1998, and summer 1998 to all who renewed during the dark days of 1997; for those who want to fill this last gap in our coverage, a few additional copies are available from the Publisher. Finally, we salute the administration at Ottawa NWR—especially new Manager Dan Frisk—as well as Greg Links, Elliot Tramer, Eric Durbin, and Tom Kemp, for making it possible for reports from skilled birders to emerge from what has been for years *terra incognita*: the 2445-acre Little Cedar Point unit of Ottawa NWR. Maybe one day others will be permitted to visit these public lands.

The Reports follow the taxonomic order of the 42nd Supplement (July 2000) to the 7th edition of the *AOU Check-list of North American Birds* (1998). Underlined

names of species indicate those on the OBRC Review List: documentation is needed to add such reports to official state records, or to attributed records herein. When supplied, county names appear *italicized*. Unless numbers are specified, sightings refer to single birds. Abbreviations, conventions, and symbols used in the following should be readily understood, with the possible exceptions of the following:

BCSP=Buck Creek SP in *Clark*; BIWA=Big Island WA in *Marion*; BSBO=Black Swamp Bird Observatory; CVNP=Cuyahoga Valley National Park in *Cuyahoga* and *Summit*; CVNPC=CVNP Census of 5/12, reported by **D. Chasar**; EFSP=East Fork SP in *Clermont*; EHSP=East Harbor SP in *Ottawa*; *fide*=“in trust of,” said of data conveyed on behalf of another person; GPI=Gordon Park impoundment (Dike 14) in Cleveland; HBSP=Headlands Beach SP in *Lake*; Killbuck=Killbuck Marsh WA in *Wayne*; Killdeer=Killdeer Plains WA in *Wyandot*; LCPNWR=Little Cedar Point NWR in *Lucas*; Magee=Magee Marsh WA in *Ottawa/Lucas*; MBSP=Maumee Bay SP in *Lucas*; Metzger=Metzger Marsh WA in *Lucas*; MP=Metropark; m obs=many observers; MWF=Miami-Whitewater Forest in *Hamilton*; MWV=Miami-Whitewater Wetlands in *Hamilton*; NWR=National Wildlife Refuge; OBRC=Ohio Bird Records Committee; ONWRC=monthly Ottawa NWR census, reported by **E. Pierce**; Ottawa=Ottawa NWR in *Lucas/Ottawa*; Pipe Creek=Pipe Creek WA in *Erie*; Res=reservoir; Res'n=reservation; SF=State Forest; SNP=State Nature Preserve; SP=State Park; SVWA=Spring Valley WA in *Greene/Warren*; WA=Wildlife Area; ~≈approximately.

Corrigendum: In his interesting piece on Christmas Bird Counts in our last issue, Tom Kemp asked readers for corrections, and relayed to us one from Mike Galloway: the entry for maximum number of bald eagles [p. 96] should read “49 (Gypsum 1999).”

NEW BOOK: Carolyn V. Platt. *Birds of the Lake Erie Region*. Photography by Gary Meszaros. Foreword by Jon L. Dunn. 2001. The Kent State University Press. Paperbound, 9x11 in., 144 pp. \$28.00

Just published, this celebration of Lake Erie's bird life is arranged by habitat and season. Carolyn Platt's well-informed and pertinent text is illuminated by 118 superb color photographs from Gary Meszaros, a distillation of 25 years of work. Its visual impact is considerable—if a friend can't understand your fascination with birds, a few minutes spent leafing through this book will end that puzzlement—but do not expect the bland and shallow generalities of the coffee-table genre, as Platt's evocative presentation should satisfy the most experienced veterans of the Lake's birding scene, nor does it stop short of making sharp and needful points, often enough at the expense of some of our public land managers. —Ed.

The Reports

Red-throated Loon: Three were reported, the first on Cowan Lk in Clinton on 11 Mar (B. Powell *vide* L. Gara), another at Hoover Res in Delaware on 17 Mar (R. Thorn) and the following day (D. Sanders), then another single bird near Shreve in Holmes on 31 Mar by M. Weaver et al., through 4 Apr (S. Snyder).

Common Loon: Over 600 were reported in Mar and Apr, nearly all of them at inland reservoirs across the state, with highs of 60 at BCSP on 29 Mar by D. Overacker, 45 on Shreve Lk, Holmes, on 20 Apr by S. Snyder, and 35 on Berlin Res on 29 Mar (B&D Lane). The latest of very few May reports included a flyby over Sandusky Bay on the 29th (R. Harlan, S. Wagner).

Pied-billed Grebe: Migrants had returned before the spring period, and birds were in Wayne (S. Snyder), Clinton (L. Gara), and Hamilton (F. Renfrow) during the first week of Mar. High count was of 45 at Magee on 15 Apr (H&S Hiris).

Horned Grebe: Having arrived during the winter, nearly 400 were reported, mostly at inland reservoirs. The high count was 38 at Clear Fork Res, Morrow/Richland, on 24 Mar by S. Snyder. Apr reports were scanty, the latest one in alternate plumage at Sheldon Marsh on 21 Apr (V. Fazio) and another on the 24th at Kelleys Isl (T. Bartlett).

American White Pelican: Only one report, a brief sighting at Magee on 14 May (J. Rakestraw).

Double-crested Cormorant: One in Cleveland on 5 Mar (J. Hammond) was probably among a few winterers. Migrants appeared statewide in mid-Mar, with a high of 53 at Kelleys Island on the 18th (V. Fazio). Migration peaked 4-12 Apr, with ~3500 birds statewide, the lion's share 2400 in Cleveland on the 10th (P. Lozano). Odder May sightings included 130 on the 5th at Hoover Res (R. Thorn), a bird in Lawrence on the 6th (H. Slack), seven over CVNP on the 13th (D&A Chasar), five in Hamilton on the 19th (N. Cade), and one in Columbus on the 23rd (Hammond), the latter three or four sightings may pertain to non-breeders.

American Bittern: Reports, at 16 fewer than half the number of last year's, came from the following counties: Hamilton, Butler, Greene, Ashtabula, Lake, Cuyahoga, Paulding, Wayne, and Pickaway. Earliest was one at MWW on 31 Mar (P. Wharton), and the latest was one at Mentor, Lake, on 16 May (N. Barber). No breeding reported anywhere.

Least Bittern: Scantily but widely reported. The earliest was found at MWW on 13 Apr (N. Cade), and others at out-of-the-way places included the first in five years at Gilmore Ponds on 11 Apr (M. Bussam), one on 16 May in Athens (B. Placier), at a place where a pair's been found for the past two years, and one at Wright-Patterson AFB in Montgomery (L. Therault) on 19 May. Most reports came from the western Lk Erie marshes, where the high count was found, four at Mallard Club Marsh on 25 May, by G. Miller.

Great Blue Heron: Undiminished in numbers. 109 were at Magee on 2 May (H&S Hiris). B&A Toneff counted 170 nests on 4 Apr in the CVNP's Narrows rookery.

Great Egret: Mar arrivals included two at Clear Fork Res on the 24th (S. Snyder), one in Richland on the 27th (L. Rosche), two at O'Shaughnessy Res in Columbus on the 28th (L. Powlick), and another at Winton Wds, Hamilton, on the 30th (W. Wauligman); by 1 Apr 15 were seen on the ONWRC. Away from their customary haunts were seven birds at Killbuck on 5 Apr (S. Snyder), three in Lake (J. Pogacnik) and four at HBSP (L. Rosche) on 8 Apr, and a bird at Mosquito WA on 18 Apr (D&J Hochadel). Big counts were of ~100 at Turning Point Isl in Sandusky (S. Young) on 14 Apr and 89 the following day at Magee (H&S Hiris).

REPORTS

Snowy Egret: Earliest was one at Ottawa on 8 Apr (R. Harlan, S. Wagner). Numbers up to five (J. Yochum, Magee, 5 May), then eight (H&S Hiris, Magee, 20 May) were seen in the western Lk Erie marshes. Elsewhere, one was at BIWA on 26 Apr (D. Sanders), and another in Conneaut on 20 May (J. Pogacnik).

Little Blue Heron: Half our sightings were away from the Lake, not uncharacteristically. An adult was at Magee for m obs from 21-26 Apr, then an immature on 26 Apr (Z. Baker); D. Sanders et al. found one at Pipe Ck WA on 20 May, and J. Pogacnik had one at EHSP on 31 May. Downstate, one followed the big blow into Killdeer on 9 Apr (D. Linzell et al.), and May birds included one at Hueston Wds SP on the 2nd (D. Russell *vide* C. Tucker), Gilmore Ponds on the 6th (S. Pawlowski), and a reported third record for Hancock on 29 May (B. Von Stein *vide* B. Hardesty).

Tricolored Heron: Rare here, this slimy species,

Audubon's "Lady of the Waters," was discovered at Pickerel Ck WA, where another had been found at the end of May and beginning of June last year, on 16 May (S. Reeves), and subsequently relocated by m obs through the end of the period. Documentation accepted by the OBRC.

Cattle Egret: The first arrival was noted on 3 Apr at Independence Dam in Defiance (J. Yochum). Other early migrants were in the south, with a bird at Wright Marsh in Wayne (R. Rowe), one at MWW the same day (J. Lehman), and the latter or another at Hueston Wds SP on 16 Apr (D. Russell). A bird was found in a Holmes field on 25 Apr (A. Burkholder), and one was seen in Hamilton as late as 19 May (N. Cade). They settled along the Lake in Ottawa, Erie, and Sandusky, with the largest counts in fields south of Sandusky, with 12 on 23 May (B. Conlon) and 10 on 25 May (G. Miller).

Green Heron: The earliest reported was at BCSP on 8 Apr (D. Overacker), with birds in Washington (B. Placier) and HBSP (L. Rosche) on the 13th. High count reported was a mere six on 29 Apr at Killbuck (S. Snyder); only two were found in Apr and May censuses at Magee (H&S Hiris).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: Encouraging numbers reported. One was at Magee on 3 Mar (B. Zweibel), another at Merwin St. in Cleveland on the 5th (J. Hammond), and one at Hoover Res in Franklin on 27 Mar (G. Miller). P. Lozano's counts at the Merwin St. roost included 5 on 22 Mar, 7 on 23 Mar, 30 on 3 Apr, 70 on 8 Apr, 78 on 9 Apr, 83 on 10 Apr, 98 on 17 Apr, and a record 112 on 18 Apr; 20 remained on 30 Apr. Later in the period, 31 were found on the 19 May Magee census by H&S Hiris.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: Tenuous as always. Fresh guano was noted on 2 Apr at the Columbus site of five years' duration, and birds were seen constructing two nests there by the 11th (A. Paschall). A bird was found at Lk Logan, Hocking, on 9 Apr (D. Profant), and observed through the 14th by J. Fry. J. Pogacnik reported one from Lake on 27 Mar, and intriguing was the presence of one at the Turning Point Isl heron colony in Sandusky on 19 May (B. Morrison). Caneists in Holmes found one on 12 May (N. Miller et al.).



Repeating last year's performance, a tricolored heron appeared at Pickerel Creek WA, Sandusky Co. This one was photographed on 17 May 2001 by Bill Whan.

White-faced Ibis: An adult was found in the Turtle Creek area of Magee on 12 May (B. Morrison et al.), and later studied by m obs, though misidentifications of this bird as a glossy ibis caused many present nearby at the time to miss this rarer species. Expanding its range, the species was reported in New Jersey (3), Connecticut, Minnesota, and Maine this spring. Details accepted by the OBRC.

Glossy Ibis: Audubon wrote "The Glossy Ibis is of exceedingly rare occurrence in the United States, where it appears only at long and irregular intervals like a wanderer who has lost his way." Wheaton (1882) knew of only one Ohio record, a specimen mentioned in 1848 by Kirtland. Now this species might be removed from the review list, at least in its alternate plumage. A bird found on 8 Mar (B&C Long) at Killdeer remained through at least the 11th (R. Rogers); J. Pogacnik had one at Grand River WA on 22 Apr; K. Noblet and S. Ross found one at Ottawa on 25 Apr; D. Troyer et al. one in Wayne on 30 Apr, and five were at Pipe Ck WA on 5 May (G. Bernhardt), then four on the 27th there (J. Hammond et al.).

Plegadis Ibis sp.: One was seen over LCPNWR on 22 Apr (G. Links et al.).

Black Vulture: Wheaton (1882) considered this "a rare or accidental visitor to southwest Ohio only," but its fortunes have improved. D. Morse counted 21 over Clermont on 3 Mar, and T. Bartlett 12 in Athens on the same day. A stray was over Huntington Res'n in Clayhoga on 31 Mar (L. Richardson), and on 1 Apr one was found in a flock of 100-150 turkey vultures over Columbus (T. Shively). J. Miller found two over Holmes on 30 May. Numbers at the customary spots were normal.

Turkey Vulture: Many wintered, and migrants had arrived in Feb. In Granville, Licking, R. Thorn noted ~70 birds a week before the local roost swelled to ~300 on 2 Mar; on the latter date J. Yochum noted seven in Defiance, where a roost on 3 Apr numbered ~200. On 8 Mar 118 passed northward over Lawrence (H. Slack), and two sycamore trees hosted the North Hill roost in Athens on 10 Mar, numbering 271 (B. Whan). V. Fazio counted 101 on 14 Mar, then 189 at Magee on 28 Mar (when P. Lozano had 247 over Cleveland), and on 4 Apr 101 at MBSP; overall, the BSBO tally for the season was 3824.

Greater White-fronted Goose: D. Sanders had one at Pickerington Ponds, Fairfield, on 2 Apr. A bird at Killdeer persisted from 10 Apr (Z. Baker) through 21 Apr (D. Schuster).

Snow Goose: March reports only. J. Pogacnik had one in *Ashitabula* on the 3rd, J. Kuenzli two at Killdeer and R. Rogers one in *Pickaway* on the 10th, and J. Habig two at Hueston Wds SP on the 17th.

Ross's Goose: Details accepted by the OBRC for a sighting on 10 Mar at Wellington Res in Lorain (V. Fazio). The Ross's from the previous period apparently appeared once again at BCSP (D. Overacker) on 18 Mar.

Mute Swan: Nineteen were seen on the Magee census of 4 Mar (H&S Hiris), and the high count was an ominous 29 at Medusa Marsh on 11 Mar (V. Fazio).

Tundra Swan: Over 780 reported, the high count of 232 on 13 Mar in *Geauga* (D. Best). Other good counts included 178 on the 4 Mar ONWRC, and 60 on 18 Mar and 84 on 31 Mar at LCPNWR (G. Links et al.)—at both of which spots the species apparently wintered again. Far smaller numbers were seen inland. The latest were six on the 1 Apr ONWRC.

Wood Duck: Having arrived in Feb, 75 at Winton Wds, Hamilton, on 8 Mar was nonetheless a good number (J. Hays), as was 100+ at SVWA on 24 Mar (D. Brinkman). The high count was of 152 at Magee on 15 Mar (H&S Hiris).

Gadwall: March arrivals were 22 at Killbuck on the 3rd (S. Snyder), 30 at Killdeer on the 7th (D. Overacker), and 95 at Magee on the 9th (V. Fazio). High count was 1241 at Magee on 18 Mar (H&S Hiris). On the 6 May ONWRC, 36 were found. A pair lingered among the Pipe Ck revue on 13 May (B. Conlon et al.).

Eurasian Wigeon: A drake joined the American wigeon throngs at Medusa Marsh, discovered by C. Andres on 14 Apr, and last reported by B. Conlon on 30 Apr.

American Wigeon: Numbers peaked at Medusa at the usual times, with 1250 on 11 Mar (V. Fazio), 400 on the 18th (J. Pogacnik), ~100 on 6 Apr (Fazio), and ~500 on 16 Apr (G. Leidy). Four were at Funk WA on 28 Apr (S. Snyder). Twelve were seen on the 6 May ONWRC.

American Black Duck: The largest numbers came from Mar; typical were the LCPNWR censuses with 296 on 18 Mar and 83 on 7 Apr. Three were found on the 6 May ONWRC. Two remained in the Pipe Ck WA mixed flock on 18 May (G. Miller).

Mallard: Large concentrations came early, with 2250 at Killdeer and 3300 at BIWA typical on 8 Mar (V. Fazio).

Blue-winged Teal: A few were seen in Feb, and by 18 Mar 286 were at Magee (H&S Hiris). The high count of ~500 came from Killdeer on 10 Apr (Z. Baker). Ten were seen on the 6 May ONWRC. Outside the usual breeding areas, D&J Hochadel noted probable nesting at three locations in *Trumbull* during May.

Northern Shoveler: Twenty-six were found on the 4 Mar ONWRC. At Magee, censuses found excellent numbers: 688 on 18 Mar and 438 on 15 Apr (H&S Hiris). S. Snyder found ~80 at Killbuck 3-7 Apr, an unusually healthy number. Three lingered with other odd ducks at Pipe Ck WA through 13 May (G. Leidy), and two males remained at BIWA on 27 May (R. Harlan, S. Wagner). Two birds on 22 May at MWV (F. Frick) reminded observers of the first nesting record there last year.

Northern Pintail: Seen across the state early, with birds in places like *Hocking* (B. Placier) and *Preble* (C. Tucker) on 2 Mar. A good find was 125 at Killdeer on 7 Mar (D. Overacker), as was 589 on 18 Mar at Magee (H&S Hiris). On 1 Apr 73 were on the ONWRC. A very late bird joined the procrustinators at Pipe Ck WA through 18 May (G. Miller).

Green-winged Teal: Widely reported in small numbers early, with 10 at Killbuck on 3 Mar (S. Snyder) and two on the following day's ONWRC. Larger counts came from Ottawa later on 1 Apr with 339, and at expected areas, with ~150 at Killbuck on 3-7 Apr (Snyder), 130 on 6 Apr and 100 on 13 Apr at Medusa Marsh (V. Fazio), and 120 at Magee on 15 Apr (H&S Hiris). Two tarried through 18 May at Pipe Ck WA (G. Miller). The cover story of May's *British Birds* adds more weight to the case for splitting *A. crecca*, so we should keep an eye out for the Eurasian common teal in Ohio; we have some records.

Canvasback: Decamped early, and en masse, after skimpy Feb numbers. A bird at Cowan Lk SP on 5 Mar (L. Gara) was joined by 14 others on 17 Mar (S. Reeves) through the 25th. Eleven were at BIWA on 8 Mar (V. Fazio) and 12 in *Wayne* on 19 Mar (S. Snyder). The latest reports came from 1 Apr, of 23 on the ONWRC and two at GRWA (L. Rosche).

Redhead: Passed through fairly quickly. ~400 were on the 4 Mar ONWRC, and V. Fazio counted 130 at BIWA, 95 nearby, then 230 at Killdeer on 8 Mar. B. Bolton found ~100 at Shreve Lk the following day, then D. Overacker ~100 at BCSP on the 11th and J. Hammond ~300 at Deer Ck SP on the 14th. After 120 at GRWA on 1 Apr (L. Rosche), reheads became scarce, with only six at Pickrel Ck WA on 22 Apr (V. Fazio). One hung out at Pipe Ck WA till 25 May, strangely (G. Miller).

Ring-necked Duck: Passed through in Mar, with 340+ at Killdeer on the 8th (V. Fazio), ~500 at Deer Ck SP on the 14th (J. Hammond, D. Sanders), 2893 at Magee on the 18th (H&S Hiris), 1100 at Mogadore on the 21st (L. Rosche), and ~500 in Wayne on the 26th (R. Harlan, S. Wagner). A drake dawdled at Pipe Ck WA to 17 May (Hammond).

Greater Scaup: After their winter disappearing act, a few were seen in Mar, with a high count of 20 on the 4th (ONWRC), and one at Killbuck on the 17th (S. Snyder). Strange indeed was one on 30 Apr on the LCPNWR census (G. Links et al.), then three at Bay View on 12 May (B. Conlon et al.), three at Pipe Ck WA on 15 May (M. England), and one in Paulding through the end of May (D&M Dunakin).

Lesser Scaup: See next entry. Migrated through Mar and early Apr, with larger numbers like ~400 at BCSP on 5 Mar (D. Overacker), 200+ at Cowan Lk SP on 7 Mar (L. Gara), and ~900 at Pleasant Hill and Clear Fk Res on 24 Mar (S. Snyder, L. Yoder). Lingering in May were one at Cowan Lk 4 May (L. Gara) to 11 May (E. Roush), one from 16 May through the end of the period in Wayne (Snyder), and two at Pipe Ck WA through 17 May (J. Hammond).

Scaup sp.: Large numbers appeared in Mar: ~1,000 at Deer Ck SP on the 14th (J. Hammond, D. Sanders), 450-500 on little Lk Logan on the 24th (J. Fry), and ~30,000 estimated in Maumee Bay on 31 Mar (G. Links, K. Overman).

Harlequin Duck: Winter's bird in the Maumee River, *Wood/Lucas*, was last reported on 7 Mar (B. Cullen).

Surf Scoter: Between 40 and 50 reported, the earliest seven on 18 Mar at Hoover Res, *Delaware* (J. Hammond), where one remained on the 31st (E. Clingman). One was at Lorain on 20 Mar (P. Lozano), one in *Richland* on 24 Mar (S. Snyder), five males and five females near Killbuck on the same day, where five remained on 4 Apr (Snyder), three at Rocky River from 25-30 Mar (Lozano), two in *Geauga* on 29 Mar (A. Fondrk *vide* D. Best), four in LCPNWR on 7 Apr (G. Links et al.), one at Killdeer on 8 Apr (T. Hissong) and two there on the 11th (B. Winger), three on 20 Apr at HBSP (L. Rosche), 11 on 5 May in LCPNWR (Links et al.), and two near Killbuck on 12 May (L. Yoder).

White-winged Scoter: One was at LCPNWR 28-30 Apr (G. Links et al.).

Black Scoter: One was off Mentor on 25 Mar (E. Bacik *vide* H. Petruschke).

Long-tailed Duck: A pair was on Beaver Ck Res, *Seneca*, on 21 Mar (Z. Baker), one on New London Res, *Huron*, on 25 Mar (V. Fazio), and one in *Holmes* on 13 Apr (J. Miller).

Bufflehead: The Kelleys Isl flock remained at 396 on 18 Mar (V. Fazio), then fell to 28 by 24 Apr (T. Bartlett); 200+ were off S. Bass Isl on 22 Mar (S. Wulkowicz). On La Due Res, a count of 155 on 29 Mar was remarkable (D. Ferris *vide* D. Best), and good numbers were 65 at Beaver Ck Res on 21 Apr (V. Fazio). A pair was at Pipe Ck WA on 13 May (B. Whan).

Common Goldeneye: Vacated early. Fifteen were at Killdeer on 7 Mar (D. Overacker), 770 off Kelleys Isl on 18 Mar (V. Fazio), and a late bird at LCPNWR on 22 Apr (G. Links et al.).

Hooded Merganser: Migrants numbering 125+ at Killdeer on 4 Mar made a good aggregation (G. Rettig). One with nine very early young at SVWA on 14 Apr was remarkable (C. Mathena). Seven in the CVNFC of 12 May suggested nesting there, and J&D Hochadel noted a hen with 14 young on 31 May at Mosquito Lk WA.

Common Merganser: A few large concentrations were noted, as ~2000 on the 4 Mar ONWRC and 538 on 18 Mar at Magee (H&S Hiris). On the 1 Apr ONWRC 326 were found. One at Kelleys Isl on 15 May was late (A&B Tonneff), but a drake stuck around till 17 May at—*you guessed it*—Pipe Ck WA (J. Hammond).

Red-breasted Merganser: In moderate numbers in the glaciated counties, with a Lake Erie high count of 565 on 21 Apr in *Lake* (J. Pogacnik), and inland counts of 250 at Deer Ck SP on 14 Mar (J. Hammond, D. Sanders) and 211 on 20 Apr in *Hancock* (B. Hardesty). One stayed at—*where else?*—Pipe Ck WA till 13 May (B. Conlon), and a still more dilatory bird was noted at BCSP on 27 May by D. Overacker.

Ruddy Duck: Few early on, with only one on the 4 Mar ONWRC, then seven at Stow on 8 Mar (L. Rosche). High count of 200 came from Lima on 26 Mar (J. Ruedisueli), while later on Sandusky Bay ~100 were reported by P. Lozano for 16 Apr, and 150 there on the 21st (G. Leidy). 106 were remarkable at Lk Logan, *Hocking*, on 11 Apr (J. Fry). In May, N. Barber reported 13 at Sandby Ridge MP on the 17th, and G. Leidy two there on the 28th. J&K Davis spotted a drake at Highbanks MP, *Delaware*, on the 19th, and one was found among the Pipe Ck WA dawdlers on 26 May (R. Harlan, S. Wagner).

Osprey: Close to 150 reported, allowing for duplications. Breeders returned early, such as those in *Butler* on 19 Mar (C. Holliday), but migrants were thickest in Apr, with a one-day high of 30+ at Magee on 23 Apr (D. Russell). The BSBO tallied 80 there and nearby during the period overall. Odd May sightings included two in *Eric* on the 12th (N. Barber), one in S. Bass Isl on the 13th (S. Wulkowicz), and one in *Fairfield* on the 25th (B. Hatfield). ODOW reported 14 active nests this spring, up from 10 last year.

Bald Eagle: As always, the lion's share appeared in the northwest, with 11 at Magee on 14 Mar (V. Fazio), 18 at LCPNWR on 7 Apr (G. Links et al.), and 22 at Magee on 13 May (Fazio). Nine, including two adults, were at Mosquito Lk WA on 18 Apr (D&J Hochadel). All in all, BSBO tallied 127 along the NW lakeshore during the period. ODOW reported 104 eaglets from 54 of 73 nesting pairs in the state.

Northern Harrier: Around 225 reported, not counting probable duplications. BSBO reported 184 at Magee and environs during the period. The high count was at Magee, with 23 there on 13 Apr (V. Fazio). May sightings suggested nesting, but none was confirmed: 12+ in *Seneca* (T. Bartlett), four in *Trumbull* on the 12th (C. Babyak), a pair in *Lake* on the 16th (J. Pogacnik), a possible nesting pair at GPI on the 17th (S. Zadar), one at Woodbury WA on the 20th (G. Miller), one the same day in *Geauga* (D. Best), and most intriguingly one in *Clermont* at Indian Ck on the 27th (C. Vaught).

Sharp-shinned Hawk: One on 4 Mar's ONWRC was an early bird, as the bulk of them passed through in Apr, when V. Fazio saw 161 over Magee on the 7th, and D. Russell "hundreds" there on the 23rd. The big raptor push in *Lake* witnessed by J. Pogacnik on 7 Mar included 69; the inland high was six on the same warm and windy day over *Tuscarawas* (E. Schlabach). The overall BSBO raptor watch total was 1192.

Cooper's Hawk: 196 migrants were seen on the western Lk Erie shore by the BSBO hawk-watchers.

Northern Goshawk: Remarkably, a dozen seen state-wide. BSBO tallied six through 20 May, including two on 12 Apr. The first report came from *Wood* on 10 Mar (C. Anderson), and one was over Kelleys Isl on 18 Mar (V. Fazio). During those raptorous days of 7-12 Apr, an adult was at Springville Marsh, *Seneca* (T. Bartlett) and an imm near Mallard Club Marsh (G. Links), both on the 9th. Two birds far to the south were remarkable: one well-documented at BCSP on 11 Mar (D. Overacker), and another seen well by m obs in *Adams* on 28 Apr (B. Conlon, D. Linzell, et al.).

Red-shouldered Hawk: During the big movement of 7 Apr in *Lake*, 35 were found (J. Pogacnik), but many passed through earlier as 90 over Magee on 14 Mar (V. Fazio), and 29 over MBSP on 29 Mar (E. Schlabach). Altogether the BSBO count was 268.

Broad-winged Hawk: Early broadwings sailed in on the big southernlies of 7 Apr: four in Cincinnati (J. Lehman), one in *Hightland* (R. Kolde), and one in *Tuscarawas* (E. Schlabach). Schlabach had 17 in *Holmes* on 11 Apr, three were seen in *Scioto* on the 13th (R. Royse), and one in *Clermont* on the 15th (B. Stanley). By the 23rd, G. Leidy reported ~400 in *Ottawa*. The final BSBO count was 2179 for the period.

Red-tailed Hawk: On 7 Apr, 194 joined other raptors in *Lake* (J. Pogacnik). The BSBO count along the western shore numbered 734 during the period.

Rough-legged Hawk: No major concentrations noted, as this species has fewer qualms about crossing the Lake; the BSBO hawk-watch found 40 over the period. The high count was eight at *The Wilds*, *Muskingum*, on 13 Apr (J. Larson). Three remained over reclaimed strip-mines in *Noble* on 27 Apr (G. Miller), and the latest noted were two at *The Wilds*'s old mines on 29 Apr (Larson).

Golden Eagle: Three reported: an adult among the raptor flight of 7 Apr in *Lake* (J. Pogacnik), and birds at Magee on 12 and 18 Apr (V. Fazio).

American Kestrel: In *Lake*'s 7 Apr flight, J. Pogacnik counted 147 of this species.

Merlin: Over 40 reported, 11 by the BSBO during the period. The wintering Spring Grove Cem duo were last seen in Mar, the female on the 7th and the male on the 11th (L. Brumbaugh). High count was five on the familiar date of 7 Apr in *Lake* (J. Pogacnik), and the latest migrant noted was on 7 May at Fairport Hbr (L. Rosche). Inland reports came from *Wyandot* (R. Royse on 23 Mar), *Wayne* (L. Yoder on 4 Apr), *Holmes* (Yoder on 8 Apr), and *Butler* (22 Apr, S. Reeves).

Peregrine Falcon: Introduced birds in Columbus produced eggs on 19 Mar, an early date. There is no evidence wild peregrine falcons ever nested in Ohio, of course, and the presence of introduced birds makes it difficult to assess the migration, particularly close to nest sites in the larger cities. High count of migrants was nine on 12 Apr (V. Fazio), a big chunk of BSBO's total of 21 for the season. Twelve nesting pairs of introduced birds in urban settings hatched 36 eggs by 22 Jun (ODOW).

Ruffed Grouse: Evermore scarce it seems—and not because we're not doing enough logging, despite what we hear—judging by reports, though one contrarian bird in *Adams* became notorious for being hard to avoid.

Wild Turkey: For the 24th consecutive spring a hunting record was set—26,217 birds, up 29% from last spring, were taken by hunters. Only two counties—*Mercer* and *Van Wert* (see Rob Harlan's column in the last issue)—produced no kills during the 23 Apr-13 May season. J. McCormac remarked that where this species is abundant—such as in the unglaciated SE—it is causing localized damage to forested understorey plant communities, and that it may become a problem for those managing for biodiversity.

King Rail: No early reports, and few overall: one 28-30 Apr at Springville Marsh (V. Fazio), one calling in *Lucas* 13 May (J. McCormac), one at Pipe Ck WA 17 May (J. Hammond), one at Mallard Club Marsh 25 May (G. Miller) and two there on 30 May (D. Sanders), and a bird heard calling in the Oak Openings, *Lucas*, on 27 May (R. Harlan, S. Wagner).

Virginia Rail: The six discovered during the winter went unreported. First arrivals were two at SVWA 24 Mar (D. Brinkman), and one at Calamus Swamp, *Pickaway*, the following day (B. Master). Five in the CVNP on 12 May likely included nesters, as did the high count of eight at GRWA on 30 May (C. Babyak).

Sora: One was calling early at Magee on 23 Mar (V. Fazio), but the first expected migrant showed up at MWV on 15 Apr (S. Reeves). By the 22nd, G. Links et al. called their count of 84 at LCPNWR "very conservative." Elsewhere the high count was 12+ at GRWA on 19 May (C. Babyak).

Common Moorhen: A timely arrival, with the first four at Magee on 5 Apr (H&S Hiris). Around 30 birds reported in all. One was 50 feet high in a tree in Rocky River on 23 Apr (P. Lozano). The same day one was found at Ottawa by C. Tucker, with six there by 12 May (J. Yochum). A report of eight at GRWA on 3 May (C. Babyak) probably included young.

American Coot: Camp Dennison, *Hamilton*, harbored 80 on 3 Mar (F. Renfrow), and the next day the ONWR tallied 513. Magee had 2144 on 18 Mar, swelling to 3649 on 15 Apr (H&S Hiris). At Cowan Lk, 150+ on 21 Mar was a good count (L. Gara), as was 176 at Lk Logan on 20 Apr (J. Fry). At BIWA, where breeding often takes place, the following numbers were reported: ~3500 on 4 Apr (J. Hammond), ~4200 on 9 Apr (D. Sanders), 1700 on 12 Apr (G. Miller), ~3000 on 18 Apr (L. Powlick), ~2200 on 25 Apr (Sanders), then three on 17 May (Hammond).

Sandhill Crane: Over a hundred reported, on about 30 occasions, and from 15 counties. Highlights included 20 persisting in *Hancock* from 26 Feb through 2 Mar, and three there as late as 2 May (B. Hardesty), one in *Washington* (3 Mar, C. Amos), one or two seen irregularly in Funk and Killbuck WAs from 3 Mar to 26 May (S. Snyder), birds in the NE in *Lake* (16 Apr, J. Pogacnik), and *Trumbull* (one 18 Mar by D&J Hochadel, two 22 Apr by Pogacnik). A pair seen intermittently at Sandy Ridge MP was last noted on 9 May (B&A Toneff). At Pipe Ck WA, one was seen on 12 May (D. Horn) and one on 25 May (B. Morrison). As for the *Geauga* birds, a pair was seen on 22 Mar (K. Metcalf *vide* D. Best), and Best relayed reports of small numbers into Apr in the Lk Aquilla area.

Black-bellied Plover: The first was noted on 22 Apr at LCPNWR, where the high count of 40 was later made on 5 May (both G. Links et al.). One was at Mosquito Lk WA on 9 May (D&J Hochadel), one at HBSP on 12 May (L. Rosche), and a single bird at MWV on 13 May (A. Muckerheide). K. Metcalf found 20 at the Cedar Pt Chausee on 14 May, and D. Sanders 17 there on the 20th. One appeared at Pipe Ck WA on the 20th for Sanders, and four remained there on 26 May (R. Harlan, S. Wagner).

American Golden-Plover: First reported on 4 Apr, with one at Killdeer and 22 at Big Island (J. Hammond). The dam burst with warm southernlies on 10 Apr, when observers at Killdeer estimated their numbers at ~5000 (Hammond), 5000+ (B. Whan), and "thousand and thousands" (J. Yochum). 1500+ remained there the following day (B. Master), and in nearby BIWA V. Fazio estimated 550 on 30 Apr, 95% in alternate plumage. The weather blew 95 to Fairport Hbr on 8 Apr (L. Rosche). The largest count in the NW was 350 in *Paulding* on 2 May (D&M Dunakin). The previous day 120 were in *Holmes* (L. Yoder), and the following day 94, mostly in alternate plumage, in *Wayne* (S. Snyder). On 1 May, V. Fazio found 70 along the *Cuyahoga/Lorain* line. The last 150+ appeared 5 May in *Hardin* (A. Thorn).

Semipalmated Plover: Three on 22 Apr at MWV came first (J. Lehman), and the high count of 70 came at Pipe Ck WA on 23 May (B. Whan). The last report came from Caesar Ck SP on 31 May (L. Gara).

American Avocet: The first to appear were a nice flock of 18 swimming offshore at HBSP on 20 Apr (L. Rosche). On 22 Apr four stopped briefly at EFSP, *Clermont* (W. Appgar et al.), and one at *Medusa* (A. Voight et al.). Three were found at Pickrel Ck WA on 31 May (J. Pogacnik).

Greater Yellowlegs: None reported earlier than two 15-22 Mar in *Portage* (L. Rosche). Good numbers appeared in early Apr, with the high count of 42 in *Paulding* on the 9th (M&D Dunakin) and 35 at MWV on the 12th (S. Reeves). At BIWA on 28 Apr, V. Fazio found 41. Last was one at Pipe Ck WA on 26 May (R. Harlan, S. Wagner).

Lesser Yellowlegs: Four touched down at Killbuck on 17 Mar (S. Snyder). BIWA hosted big numbers, with 200+ there on 18 Apr (L. Powlick), 352 on 26 Apr (D. Sanders), and 418 on 28 Apr (V. Fazio). The last bird was at Pipe Ck WA on 26 May (R. Harlan, S. Wagner).

Solitary Sandpiper: A fore-runner showed up at Salt Fork SP on 1 Apr (J. Larson). Eleven were on the 6 May ONWRC. The final report came from Parma Hts on 28 May (R. Harlan, S. Wagner).

Williet: Four appeared downstate, three at BCSP on 6 May (D. Overacker), and one in Butler on 20 May (C. Holliday). A pair was intermittently seen at Sheldon Marsh from 30 Apr (D. Sanders) through at least 13 May (J. McCormac). Of two birds discovered on 15 May at Pipe Ck WA by M. England, at least one persisted to 25 May (B. Morrison).

Spotted Sandpiper: The first birds appeared in Adams (C. Bedel *vide* P. Whan) and MWV (S. Reeves) on 12 Apr. High counts were of 29 on the 6 May ONWRC and 32 from Hancock on 12 May (*vide* B. Hardesty).

Upland Sandpiper: Apparent migrants appeared at MWV on 8 Apr (J. Lehman), Killdeer on 10 Apr (M. Baughman), and Fairport Hbr on 4 May (L. Rosche). Breeding birds returned to BIWA (m obs), Springfield airport (D. Overacker), and Krause Rd (m obs).

Whimbrel: Audubon said of the "Hudsonian curlew" that "their movements during their migrations are more rapid than those of most water birds." All 80-odd birds passed through in six days. Last year's five-day window was 19-23 May (~150 birds), and 1999's was 23-26 May (27 birds). This spring one was at Pipe Ck on 26 May (R. Harlan, S. Wagner), two at Walnut Beach in *Ashtabula* on the 27th (J. Pogacnik), 60 at Fairport Hbr on the 28th (L. Rosche), 20-25 over Medusa on 31 May (Pogacnik), and a final bird the same day at Lk Logan, Hocking (J. Fry).

Marbled Godwit: Few. One at Toussaint WA on 18 Mar (B. Zwiebel) was found the next day by B. Barchus. Six were at Sheldon Marsh on 22 Apr (V. Fazio). D. Sanders found one at Ottawa on 6 May, and A&B Toneff two there the following day.

Ruddy Turnstone: 160 birds spanned a short period, with three at Caesar Ck SP on 11 May (L. Gara), and a last one reported from Pipe Ck on 18 May (L. Rosche). High count was a flock of 88 at LCPNWR on 12 May (G. Links et al.); 50 were at Ottawa/Magee the same day (D. Overacker).

Sanderling: Never numerous in spring. One was on S. Bass Isl on 12 May (S. Wulkowicz), and two at Pipe Ck WA on 23 May (B. Conlon) diminished to one by 25 May (G. Miller). Four was the high count, at LCPNWR on 26 May (G. Links), and singletons were found on 27 May in Conneaut (J. Pogacnik) and at BCSP (R. Harlan, S. Wagner).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: Early was one at MWV on 30 Apr (S. Reeves), where five were seen on 26 May (P. Wharton). No noteworthy numbers reported.

Western Sandpiper: An individual in mostly adult plumage at Pipe Ck WA was reported by M. England for 15 May, and an alternate-plumaged bird was at Walnut Beach on 27 May for J. Pogacnik.

Least Sandpiper: Six reached MWV by 14 Apr (N. Cade), and the last reported were four on 17 May at Sandy Ridge MP, Lorain (N. Barber). In between, high counts reached only 21, on 2 May at Sheldon Marsh (V. Fazio) and 8 May at Cowan Lk SP (L. Gara).

White-rumped Sandpiper: Two arrived at Pipe Ck on 10 May (B. Whan), where later 10 were found on the 24th (E. Schlabach), and the high count of 15 on the 26th (R. Harlan, S. Wagner). The latter date also produced two at Lorain (Harlan, Wagner) and two at MWV (P. Wharton).

Baird's Sandpiper: Very rare in spring, with fewer than 10 acceptable sight records this century, and a specimen from 1956 (OSUM 9420), satisfactory details were submitted for a bird found on 12 May at Pipe Ck WA (B. Morrison, K. Miller, et al.).

Pectoral Sandpiper: Arguably 15,000 birds reported, and unusually early. Three at Killbuck on 17 Mar came first (S. Snyder), then 20 were at Killdeer on 23 Mar (R. Royse), then ~1000 there on 9 Apr (D. Linzell), then ~2000 on 10 Apr (B. Whan). BIWA had one bird on 25 Mar (V. Fazio), 250 on 5 Apr (J. Hammond), 850 on 9 Apr (D. Sanders), then 3700 on 26 Apr (Sanders). 3610 were in the Magee/Turtle Ck area on 13 Apr (V. Fazio), and ~700 at Funk the next day (Snyder). On 25 May a bird was found at Caesar Ck SP (L. Gara), and two, one apparently injured, at Pipe Ck WA (G. Miller).

Dunlin: Early were two at Conneaut and two in *Ashtabula* on 7 Apr (J. Pogacnik). By 1 May 1100 were at the Crane Ck estuary in Ottawa (B. Conlon), with ~2500 there on 17 May (S. Reeves). Five remained near Fostoria on 29 May (B. Hardesty).

Still Sandpiper: Always a treat in spring, three were found. One was at MWV on 12 Apr (S. Reeves), 13 Apr (N. Cade), and 15 Apr (Reeves). Another spent 28-30 April at BIWA (V. Fazio), and a third from 18 May (L. Rosche) through 26 May at Pipe Ck WA (R. Harlan, S. Wagner).

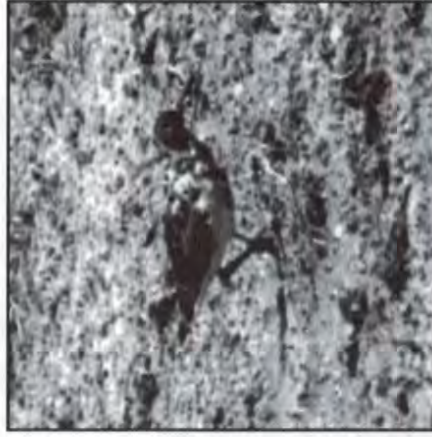
Ruff: A record four birds this spring. Unusual weather blew two birds into fields south of Killdeer in Marion, one a black ruff on 9 Apr (details are with the OBR), and a reeve the following morning (B. Whan et al., accepted OBR); coincidentally, the most recent reeve at OBR was found on the same date in 1996—B. Shiveley *vide* B. Conlon. More cooperative was another reeve seen along the Ottawa entrance road by m obs on 1 May (m. obs; details are with the OBR). A third reeve was reported at an impoundment inside Ottawa on 19 May (details with the OBR); G. Links remarked it looked a lot like the 1 May bird—if so, this would have been a record long stay.

Short-billed Dowitcher: On 30 Apr two were at BIWA (V. Fazio) and one at LCPNWR (G. Links). On 9 May 179 were at the Crane Ck estuary in Ottawa (D. Sanders), where 61 remained on 17 May (S. Reeves). Numbers at MWV topped out at 59 on 15 May (F. Frick).

Long-billed Dowitcher: One was at MWV on 7 Apr (N. Keller), and G. Miller offered good details for one found at BIWA as late as 3 May.

Dowitcher sp.: D. Brinkman was unsure of the species of one found at MWV on 21 Apr; the date seems likelier for long-billed.

Common Snipe: Numbers at MWV went from two on 3 Mar (F. Frick) to 40 on 31 Mar (P. Wharton) to 50 on 4 Apr (S. Reeves) to 25 on 22 Apr (J. Lehman). S. Snyder found eight on 7 Mar, then 46 on 21 Mar, in Wayne. B&D Lane had 20+ in *Columbiana* on 1 Apr, and D&J Hochadel reported the species was common in *Trumbull* in early Apr, appearing likely to nest before dry weather intervened. J. Pogacnik observed a pair courting there at GRWA on 22 Apr. No May reports received.



A record number of ruffs appeared in Ohio this spring. This female, or reeve, was photographed by Troy Shively at Ottawa NWR, Ottawa Co., on 9 May 2001.

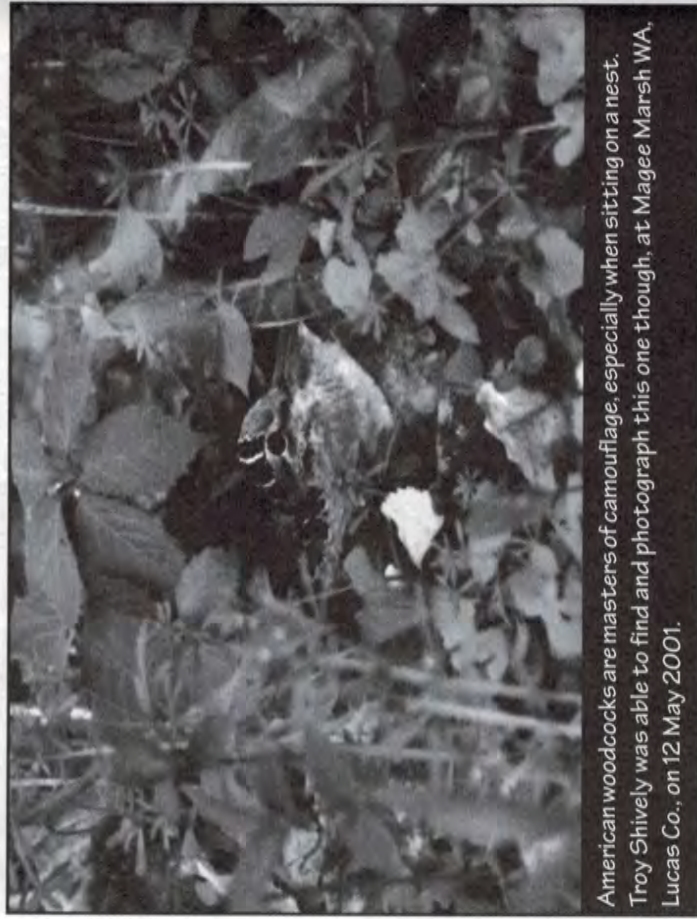
American Woodcock: Quite early to arrive this year, a few were nevertheless still displaying on 25 May at Irwin Prairie SNP (**B. McGuire**).

Wilson's Phalarope: Two reports of this distinctive spring bird: **L. Deining** had one at Sandy Ridge MP on 6 May, and **M. Busam** et al. another at Pipe Ck WA on 12 May.

Laughing Gull: An astonishing six birds were reported from inland reservoirs. An alternate adult at Caesar Ck SP on 10 Mar (**J. Rakestraw**, m obs) was last seen on the 17th (**B. Powell**). An adult at Hoover Res on 25 Mar (**J. Burt**) remained till the following day (**B. Conlon**). Another adult was observed at Wauseon Res, *Fulton*, on 5 Apr (**J. Yochum**), and still another spent 8-13 Apr at Acton Lk, *Preble* (**D. Russell**). On 6 May, an adult was found at BCSP (**D. Overacker**), and another bird at Greenlawn Dam in Columbus (**J. Fry**). Up north, an adult was in *Lake* on 8 Apr (**J. Pogacnik**), and a bird at Lorain on 22 May (**R. Rickard**).

Franklin's Gull: Some extraordinarily early dates, with four inland sightings. On 3 Mar, an adult was at BCSP (**D. Overacker**), and another at Caesar Ck SP (**S. Reeves**). One spent 14-15 Mar at Cowan Lk SP (**L. Gara**). Another adult visited Conneaut on 21 Apr (**J. Pogacnik**), a bird did likewise at Ottawa on 13 May (**T. Smart** *vide J. Pogacnik*), and a near-adult was seen at Findlay Res on 27 May by **R. Harlan** and **S. Wagner**.

Little Gull: Four reports, all in the central basin in Mar: one at HBSP on the 7th (**L. Rosche**), one at Fairport Hbr on the 17th and another at Conneaut on the 24th (**J. Pogacnik**), and a bird at GPI on the 24th (**S. Zadar**).



American woodcocks are masters of camouflage, especially when sitting on a nest. Troy Shively was able to find and photograph this one though, at Magee Marsh WA, Lucas Co., on 12 May 2001.

Bonaparte's Gull: Arrived early in small numbers. One was at BCSP on 3 Mar (**D. Overacker**), and one—oddly in alternate plumage—at Cowan Lk on 9 Mar (**L. Gara**). Two were in Columbus by 12 Mar (**R. Royse**), 40 at HBSP on 17 Mar (**S. Zadar**), and 153 at GPI on 24 Mar (**Zadar**). Five were still in *Lawrence* on 23 Apr (**H. Slack**). On 12 May, 15 remained at Mosquito Res (**C. Babyak**).

Mew Gull: Details of a basic-plumaged bird photographed at HBSP on 12 Mar are with the OBRC; if accepted, it would be the sixth record for the state.

Ring-billed Gull: Many large flocks assembled in Mar inland—2500 at BCSP on the 3rd (**D. Overacker**), 1800+ at Hoover Res on the 4th (**R. Thorn**), 1500 at Acton Lk on the 17th (**J. Habig**), and 2500+ at Berlin Res on the 29th (**B&D Lane**), but the high count was of 6000 on 10 Mar at HBSP (**L. Rosche**) among the extraordinary gathering of gulls there.

Herring Gull: ~2500 joined other gulls at HBSP's 10 Mar gathering (**L. Rosche**).

Thayer's Gull: Reported on 10 occasions, all in the central basin during Mar. High count was three at HBSP on the 10th (**L. Rosche**), and the last was found at Conneaut on the 24th (**J. Pogacnik**).

Iceland Gull: Twelve reports, all during Mar in the central basin. High count was three at HBSP on 10 Mar (**L. Rosche**), and the latest report of one at Huntington Beach on the 31st (**D. Kriska**).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 18 reports, the latest a third-year bird quite late on 20 May at Conneaut (**J. Pogacnik**). High counts of three in *Lake* on 10 and 11 Mar (**Pogacnik**). A young bird was out west at LCPNWR on 18 Mar (**G. Links** et al.). Two inland reports came in, one of a third-year bird in Columbus on 12 Mar (**D. Sanders**), and another of an adult at Oberlin Res on 25 Mar (**V. Fazio**).

Glaucous Gull: Fourteen reports, totaling over 50 birds, with the last on 1 Apr in Rocky River (**P. Lozano**). High counts of 12 at HBSP on 10 Mar (**L. Rosche**) and 12 in *Lake* on 18 Mar (**J. Pogacnik**). All came from the shoreline of the Lake's central basin.

Great Black-backed Gull: Nine were on the 4 Mar ONWRC. HBSP hosted 200 on 10 Mar (**L. Rosche**) for the high count. On 4 Apr, 122 were in Cleveland (**P. Lozano**), and by 21 Apr 13 appeared at Sheldon Marsh (**V. Fazio**).

Caspian Tern: During a seven-day span from 4 Apr (two at Deer Ck SP, **G. Miller**) to 10 Apr (18 in Findlay, **B. Hardesty**), 82 birds at nine locations were reported. The high count was of 92 in *Lake* on 21 Apr (**J. Pogacnik**). Late birds were inland: two at Caesar Ck SP on 13 May (**L. Gara**) and one the next day at BCSP (**D. Overacker**).

Common Tern: The first report came on 26 Apr from HBSP (**L. Rosche**), and by 30 Apr 40 were at Sheldon Marsh (**D. Sanders**). **S. Wulkowicz** had 50+ off S. Bass Isl on 12 May. Artificial nesting platforms at Pipe Ck WA and Ottawa seemed well-populated later in the period.

Forster's Tern: First appeared simultaneously on 7 Apr in *Lake* (**J. Pogacnik**), *Wayne* (**S. Snyder**), *Paulding* (**M&D Dunakin**), and *Lucas* (**G. Links**). The high count was 98 at Sheldon Marsh on 2 May (**V. Fazio**). A flock of 34 at Mosquito Res on 12 May had several imm birds (**C. Babyak**). One lingered at Caesar Ck SP on 25 May (**L. Gara**).

Black Tern: Birds at Magee on 18 (**B. Morrison**, **B. Zweifel**) and 22 Apr (**G. Links**) were early. May sightings included one at Pleasant Hill Lk on the 2nd (**L. Yoder**), one at Lk Logan on the 5th (**J. Fry**), three—the high count—at Pipe Ck WA on the 12th (**B. Morrison**) with one remaining through the 16th (**S. Reeves** *vide M. Busam*), and one at LCPNWR on 26 May—a possible nester?—by **G. Links** et al.

Mourning Dove: S. Harvey reported the first Portsmouth-area hatchlings during the week of 3 Mar.

Eurasian Collared-Dove: What would have been a first state record of this inevitable species, seen only briefly from a passing car near Ottawa on 14 Apr, was not accepted by the OBRC. Certain ID of this species will require a careful look at the underparts and/or hearing its call (see Hammond, *The Ohio Cardinal* 23(4):165-172).

Black-billed Cuckoo: Very early was one in *Adams* on 20 Apr (P. Rodewald). High count was four in *Coshocton* on 17 May (E. Schlabach). The species was not well-reported, and some regarded it as down in numbers.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Also scarcer than usual, at least to the north. Early arrivals were on 29 Apr at MWV (N. Keller) and the following day in *Perry* (J. Faulkner). High count was four in *Trumbull* on 31 May (J&D Hochadel), but who knows how many stayed south to feast on a record tent caterpillar infestation. BSBO captured none this spring at the Navarre Marsh nets.

Barn Owl: Apparently Holmes County's polygynous male again sired, and successfully fed, three broods simultaneously once again this spring (*vide* J. Switzer).

Snowy Owl: A leftover from winter was at Conneaut on 3 Mar (J. Pogacnik).

Barred Owl: Three were observed to fledge on 29 Apr in *Delaware* (J. Hammond).

Long-eared Owl: Two hung on at Killdeer as late as 4 Mar (G. Rettig), and on the same day one was found in *Lake* (J. Pogacnik). A wintering bird at GPI lasted till 10 Mar there (S. Zadar). E. Schlabach found one in *Holmes* on 13 Apr.

Short-eared Owl: As with barriers, we need confirmations of nesting of this species where suspected. Consider these Apr and May sightings: 16 were at Killdeer on 2 Apr (J. Brumfield), one at GPI on 4 and 7 Apr (S. Zadar). One was in *Medina* on 11 Apr (R. Harlan, S. Wagner), and one was flushed in the Little Miami floodplain on 25 Apr (D. Hedeen). On 29 Apr a nest with six eggs was found in The Wilds (J. Larson); four birds were seen there that day by J. McCormac. Two were seen at Crown City WA, *Lawrence/Gallia*, on 12 May (P&T Sica), and one on the 14th (R. Royse). B. Sparks found one on CRP lands in NE *Seneca* on 19 May, where an unreported number are said to nest yearly, and on 26 May a bird was found way down in *Adams* by P. Rodewald.

Northern Saw-whet Owl: A bird was found in *Washington* on 3 Mar (H. Nagy). A wintering bird at GPI persisted till 25 Mar, whereupon migrants passed through on 11 and 21 Apr (S. Zadar).

Common Nighthawk: A very early bird was seen well over lighted greenhouses in *Adams* on 11 Apr (R. McCarty *vide* P. Whan), riding days of strong southerly winds. Beyond this exceptional occurrence, bullbats were on schedule, with one in Columbus on 2 May (R. Royse) and another in Toledo on 8 May (G. Links).

Chuck-will's-widow: Continues to surprise. A bird was first heard 22 Apr in *Hocking* by J. Fry, who notes this is the species' earliest appearance there: in 2000 it was 28 Apr, in 1999 on 2 May, and in 1998 on 30 Apr. A bird was heard in *Tuscarawas* on 14 May (E. Schlabach). K. Mock discovered a first *Erie* record on 17 May on Kelleys Island; the bird was seen as late as 20 May there (S. Zadar); a chuck had been reported from Pt Pelee across the Lake two days earlier (*vide* L. Martell).

Whip-poor-will: Early arrivals were 6 Apr in *Adams* (B. Culbertson *vide* P. Whan), 9 Apr in *Pike* (D. Minney), 11 Apr in *Cincinnati* (J. Cade), and, by 12 Apr, Magee (T. Bartlett).

Chimney Swift: Arrivals in early Apr included on the 2nd in *Butler* (M. Busam), the 6th in *Holmes* by L. Yoder and in *Clermont* by D. Morse, the 7th in *Tuscarawas* (E. Schlabach), and the 8th at HBSP (L. Rosche). By 1 May, D. Sillick observed 500+ around a school's smokestack near Columbus.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: A bird's occurrence on 9 Apr at the Cincinnati Nature Center (W. Apgar) must have been an overflight, for the next hummers—six birds—were reported at Shawnee

SF on 23 Apr (R. Royse); by 28 Apr one was in *Summit* (K. Mock), and on 1 May a bird had reached HBSP (L. Rosche).

Red-headed Woodpecker: R. Thorn noted an exceptional migration in central Ohio, with sightings in *w. Licking* and *e. Franklin* at eight locations this season. The 12 May *Hancock* census tallied 19 (*vide* B. Hardesty). L. Deininger observed one at Shaker Lakes from 2-31 May, watching it evict a red-bellied woodpecker from its nest hole.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: The CVNPC of 12 May counted 55 there.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Mar reports included one in *Lake* on the 1st (J. Pogacnik), one in *Hocking* on the 3rd (D. Horn), one in *Wood* on the 18th (C. Anderson), and two in *Dayton* on the 26th (C. Hawley). High count was 17 on 13 Apr at HBSP (L. Rosche). T. Leiden et al. surveyed *Lake* and *Geauga* for breeders, locating 10 active territories and seven nests; at least seven of the territories included mature willows used for foraging. The BSBO netted one at Navarre Marsh on 9 May.

Northern Flicker: Their larger movements coincided with warm southerly winds 8-12 Apr: on the 8th, for example, 46 were at GPI (S. Zadar), 202 at MBSP (J. McCoy *vide* V. Fazio), and 342 in *Lake* (J. Pogacnik).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: A total of 19 records was not disappointing. The first came on 14 May in *Adams* (P. Rodewald), and the second up at Magee the next day (P. Gottschling). The high count was a surprising four at Green Lawn Cem in Columbus on 27 May (D. Sanders), and the last of the period came on 31 May at EHSP (J. Pogacnik).

Eastern Wood-Pewee: The first report came of an apparent overflight, at CVNP on 21 Apr (T&M Romito), with southern birds on the 25th at MWV (J. Byrd) and MWV on the 29th (N. Keller).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: First detected at Magee on 11 May (D. Overacker), the high counts were of three there on 25 May (G. Miller) and three at Clear Ck MP in *Hocking* on 31 May (M. England). The BSBO banded 121 during the period at Navarre Marsh, 22 of them on 27 May.

Acadian Flycatcher: Early arrivals were noted on 30 Apr: one at Shawnee Lookout, *Hamilton* (L. Peyton), and four at Shawnee SF, *Scioto* (R. Royse). E. Schlabach claimed the high count, with 10 in *Coshocton* on 17 May.

Alder Flycatcher: The earliest showed up on 17 May—one at Magee (S. Reeves) and three in *Coshocton* (E. Schlabach). Schlabach also found the high count of six at Magee on 24 May.

Willow Flycatcher: One arrived at SVWA on 6 May (D. Russell), and another at BCSP the same day, where the high count of 15 was reported on 28 May (both D. Overacker).

Least Flycatcher: First arrived at LCPNWR on 22 Apr (G. Links et al.). Good numbers were seen on 17 May, with 14 in *Coshocton* (E. Schlabach) and 33 at GPI (S. Zadar), where one was found as late as 22 May (P. Lozano). Two territorial males were heard in the usual spots in *Geauga* during May (D. Best), and birds were on territory in four sites at Mosquito WA at the end of the period (D&J Hochadel).

Eastern Phoebe: *Hocking* birds on 2 Mar (**B. Placier**) and 3 Mar (**D. Horn**), and a *Perry* bird on 3 Mar (**J. Faulkner**) likely had overwintered locally, but one at Sandy Ridge MP (**G. Leidy**) and eight at Scioto Trail SP (**L. Powlick**) on 12 Mar probably hadn't. Thirty-five were found on 7 Apr at LCPNWR (**G. Links** et al.), and 31 on the CVNPC of 12 May.

Great Crested Flycatcher: An overflight brought one to Magee on 12 Apr (**T. Bartlett**). Later normal progress brought one to Cincinnati on 21 Apr (**D. Brinkman**) and as far as Holden Arboretum in *Lake* the following day (**J. Gause** *vide* **L. Rosche**). Judged a good year for the species by many, with 36 on the CVNPC of 12 May.

Eastern Kingbird: Early arrivals touched down on the now-familiar date of 7 Apr at MWV (**J. Lehman**), then on 16 Apr at Killbuck (**S. Snyder**); one reached LCPNWR by 22 Apr (**G. Links**). The high count was 30 on the 12 May CVNPC.

Loggerhead Shrike: On 28 May **L. Rosche** reported observations in *Lake* that suggested the presence of a nesting pair.

Northern Shrike: Seven remained into the period, the southernmost in Killdeer (till 10 Mar, **J. Kuenzli**) and at Killbuck (till 17 Mar, **L. Yoder**). One persisted on 18 Mar at LCPNWR (**G. Links** et al.) and at Magee (**A. Osborn**), and two were recorded on the 1 Apr ONWRC.

White-eyed Vireo: One was in *Hamilton* on 10 Apr (**F. Frick**), another in *Delaware* on the 13th (**J. Hammond**), and one in *Cuyahoga* by 14 Apr (**R. Rickard**). The high count was 11 at Scioto Trail SP on 15 Apr (**R. Royse**).

Bell's Vireo: Two territorial males, once discovered, were seen and heard by m obs through the period: one at BCSP on 18 May (**D. Overacker**), and another at Gilmore Ponds, *Butler*, on 20 May (**M. Busam**).

Yellow-throated Vireo: Arrivals included one at Shawnee SF on 8 Apr (**C. Johnston**), one in *Adams* on 10 Apr (**P. Whan**), and one on the same day in *Medina* (a personal record early local date for **R. Harlan** and **S. Wagner**). Four were at Mosquito Lk on 12 May (**C. Babyak**).

Blue-headed Vireo: In Apr, two at Shawnee SF on the 9th (**R. Royse**), one each on the 10th and 11th in *Medina* (**R. Harlan**, **S. Wagner**), and one at HBSP on the 15th (**L. Rosche**) were early. Reports in the second half of May, hence suggestive of local nesting, included one at Shawnee Lookout on the 19th (**N. Cade**), a pair at Clear Ck MP on the 23rd (**L. Smith**, **J. Hammond**), a nest confirmed at CVNP on the 24th (**D&A Chasar**), a male at Shawnee SF on the 26th (**P. Rodewald**), two at Conkle's Hollow in *Hocking* on the 30th (**F. Renfrow**), and another at Clear Ck MP on the 31st (**M. England**).

Warbling Vireo: Yet another weather-assisted early arrival was one in *Clermont* on 10 Apr (**T. Fitzpatrick**). **C. Babyak** counted 21 at Mosquito Lk for the high count on 2 May.

Philadelphia Vireo: Seemed to be in good numbers. The first report came from **S. Reeves** at the Cincinnati Nature Ctr on 3 May. **N. Barber** found no fewer than 12 in *Lake* and *Cuyahoga* 15-18 May. **R. Harlan** and **S. Wagner** saw one at HBSP on 30 May.

Red-eyed Vireo: Seemed late, with the first report on 20 Apr at SVWA (**C. Beckman**), but it must have been earlier elsewhere, as by the time **R. Royse** got to Shawnee SF on the 22nd he found 130, then 162 on the 24th, later 52 on 30 Apr as migrants moved on.

Blue Jay: We're used to seeing hundreds overhead up by Lk Erie, but this time the largest count reported was of only 462 seen all season long by BSBO hawk-watchers.

Common Raven: On 8 May, a raven was observed perching on the Ohio shore of Pymatuning Res. in *Ashtabula*. The two previous records of this rarity came from NE Ohio during the past three years. Details will be furnished to the OBRC.

Purple Martin: Scouts arrived in *Holmes* on 13 Mar (**E. Schlabach**), and the largest flock reported came from there as well, 60 on 30 Apr (**J. Miller**).

Tree Swallow: Two or three arrived in *Jackson* on 23 Feb (**D. Minney**), unreported in the winter issue. **L. Gara** had five at Rocky Fk SP on 3 Mar. The big blow of early Apr brought 1100+ to MBSP on 8 Apr (**J. McCoy** *vide* **V. Fazio**), and 1072 were at Magee on 20 May (**H&S Hirts**).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: Reports from nine counties confirmed arrivals of single birds between 5 Apr (**Adams**, **L. Miller**) and 9 Apr (*Cuyahoga*, **T&M Romito**).

Bank Swallow: Birds rode southern air in on 6 Apr (Cincinnati, **D. Brinkman**) and 11 Apr (Killdeer, **B. Master**).

Cliff Swallow: **P. Yoder**'s warm welcome in *Holmes* brought him the first birds again, this time on 4 Apr. His final count of 562 nests at his farm was down a bit from last year's 589, though he reported his neighbor **A. Troyer**'s count was up to 545 this spring. One seen at Hoover by **R. Thorn** on 8 Apr may have been headed to *Holmes*, as most other reports came from late Apr. Colonies seemed stable or growing statewide; newly noted were ~50 nests on the Rte 32 bridge over the Scioto R in *Pike* during the period (**J. McCormac**).

Barn Swallow: Arrived on time, with one on 31 Mar at Killbuck (**S. Snyder**), one the next day at MWV (**D. Brinkman**), and one the next in *Fairfield* (**D. Sanders**). **B&D Lane** found 1000+ over the Scioto R in *Ross* on 17 Apr.

Carolina Chickadee: **R. Harlan** and **S. Wagner** found their northernmost record in *Wayne* during the period, just 6 mi. south of the *Medina* line.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: The birds in *Hamilton* from the winter period continued through at least 29 Apr (**F. Renfrow**), who also noted a pair with nestlings at Old Man's Cave, *Hocking*, on 30 May. **L. Smith** and **J. Hammond** found one nearby in Clear Ck MP on 23 May. **C. Babyak** observed four calling and excavating a cavity in a favored spot near Meander Res on 14 May. On the same day **S. Wulkowicz** found two on S. Bass Isl. A number of other May reports may have pertained to migrants.

Brown Creeper: Detected in a known *Wayne* spot on 26 May (**P. Gottschling**). A bird was noted on 4 May (**B&A Toneff**) in the CVNP, where five were later counted on the 12 May census.

House Wren: An overflying bird appeared in Tiffin on 8 Apr (**T. Bartlett**), and on 10 Apr another was found at MWV (**L. Peyton**). Forty-nine were counted on the 6 May ONWRC and 141 in *Hancock* on 12 May (*vide* **B. Hardesty**).

Winter Wren: One was in Cincinnati on 3 Mar (**D. Brinkman**), and another the following day on the ONWRC. The BSBO captured one at Navarre as late as 3 May. No nesting reports were received.

Sedge Wren: All reports: one at MWV 3 May (**S. Pelikan**), growing to four on territory 8-11 May (**D. Brinkman**), one at Huffman Prairie on 17 May (**T. Nickerson**), one at Metzger on 24 May (**D. Friedman**). **P. Yoder** discovered one in May at his *Holmes* farm that was apparently joined by another in Jun when he left the area unmowed. As always, it's anyone's guess as to what will happen this summer with sedge wrens.

Marsh Wren: Two on territory at LCPNWR on 31 Mar (G. Links), eight on territory at Mallard Club Marsh on 5 Apr (V. Fazio), and one at SVWA on 9 Apr (S. Reeves) were present so far ahead of the known migration schedule that they must have been wintering birds. Later present at the expected locations, the high count was 22+ at Walborn Res on 19 May (B&D Lane).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: Sparse, with good counts of only 11 on 7 Apr in *Tuscarawas* (E. Schlabach) and 14 in *Lake* on 8 Apr (J. Pogacnik).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: After a lot of winter reports, spring birds appeared on schedule, with individuals on 8 Apr in spots as far apart as MWV (D. Brinkman) and HBSP (L. Rosche). Forty-four at Shaker Lks on 22 Mar was a nice tally for V. Fazio. Two were still around for the 6 May ONWRC.

Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher: Arrived in Cincinnati on 3 Apr (S. Pelikan), *Scioto* on 5 Apr (J. McCormac), and on 7 Apr in *Adams* (C. Bedel *fide* P. Whan). By the 9th, R. Royse counted 100+ in *Scioto*, then 200+ by the 24th. J. Pogacnik had two in *Lake* and R. Thorn one in *Franklin* on the 8th, and L. Rosche five at HBSP on the 13th. D. Graham reported an early nest in progress on 14 Apr in *Hamilton*, and A&D Chasar six nests in the CVNP 28 Apr-1 May.

Eastern Bluebird: T. Fitzpatrick reported a clutch of six hatched on 25 Apr in *Clermont* for an early local record.

Veery: With no reports of birds in a hurry, they arrived via overflight in the north first, seemingly, at Magee on 21 Apr (V. Fazio), in *Lucas* on 22 Apr (G. Links), and in *Portage* on 23 Apr (L. Rosche). Four were on S. Bass Isl on 13 May (S. Wulkowicz). One was in *Hamilton* as late as 19 May (N. Cade), and F. Renfrow found two in *Hocking* on 29 May, where breeding was confirmed by J. Cairo.

Gray-checked Thrush: Like the previous species, manifested itself first in the north, with one on 23 Apr at the CVNP (T&M Romito) and one at Magee on the 24th (V. Fazio). No extraordinary numbers noted—most considered them hard to find this spring—but one in full song at BCSP on 18 May (D. Overacker) was unexpected.

Swainson's Thrush: Early birds showed up in *Belmont* on 10 Apr (R. Campbell) and Columbus on the 11th (B. Whan), but appeared in numbers—skinny ones, everyone seemed to agree—late in the north; the high count was only 10, at MWV on 29 Apr (N. Keller). Nor did they linger, as our latest report came from 19 May in *Delaware* (J. Hammond).

Hermit Thrush: Two in *Washington* on 3 Mar were likely wintering birds (H. Nagy). The BSBO banders at Navarre netted a record 132 between 14 Apr and 21 May. A nest found by D&A Chasar on 19 May at the CVNP had two eggs on 20 May. R. Harlan and S. Wagner found one in *Hocking* on 28 May, and M. England four on the 31st at Conkle's Hollow; elsewhere in the county, F. Renfrow observed two at Clear Ck MP on 30 May, four at Conkle's Hollow on 30 May, and five on 30 May and eight on 31 May at Old Man's Cave; he suspects the number of hermit thrushes in *Hocking* is "much higher than the 30 estimated in 1998."



This is one of the last photos taken of the famous Findlay, Hancock Co., varied thrush. It departed during the night of 9-10 April 2001 after a four-month stay. Photo by Don C. Hardesty on 3 April 2001.

Wood Thrush: First noticed at Shawnee Lookout (L. Peyton) and *Adams* (P. Whan) on 10 Apr. By 12 Apr one was at Magee (T. Bartlett).

Varied Thrush: Setting a record for latest departure, the Findlay bird, present since 12 Dec, used the season's strongest winds to launch its long journey home during the night of 9-10 Apr (*fide* B. Hardesty). Bon voyage.

Gray Catbird: One appeared in Cincinnati on 10 Apr (J. Cade), and one in *Ross* on the 13th (S. Landes). Reassuringly common, with 86 in the CVNPC and 144 on the *Hancock* survey (*fide* B. Hardesty), both on 12 May.

Northern Mockingbird: Nearly a hundred years ago in *The Ohio Naturalist* Lynds Jones wrote: "*Mimus polyglottos*, Mockingbird, January 5, 1904, singing. [Mr. A. Hall] states that this is the sixth specimen he has reported near Cleveland. It seems probable that the theory of escaped cage birds for these records will have to be abandoned" [IV(5):112]. Fortunately the acquisitive Mr. Hall didn't silence them all, for P. Lozano reported 10 at seven Cleveland-area spots during the period. Four were at HBSP on 29 Apr (L. Rosche), and a pair appeared near a famous hot-dog restaurant in e. Toledo on 7 Apr and seemed likely to nest.

Brown Thrasher: T. Fitzpatrick confirmed wintering on his *Clermont* farm. One in *Ross* on 3 Mar (D. Horn) had probably spent the winter as well. S. Pelikan reported the first migrant in Cincinnati on 15 Mar, and others appeared in *Washington* on the 23rd (L. Gara) and in *Pickaway* on the 25th (B. Master). An impressive find was 23 thrashers at HBSP on 13 Apr (L. Rosche). G. Links and others called their numbers up in the northwest this spring.

American Pipit: Flocks numbering 25+ were at HBSP on 15 Mar (N. Barber), 20+ at Killdeer on 11 Apr (B&A Toneff), and 100+ at the *Pickaway* Airport on 25 Apr (L. Powlick), where 30 remained on 4 May (Powlick). The latest bird was in *Paulding* on 7 May (M&D Dunakin).

Blue-winged Warbler: Two reports came from 10 Apr: one at MWV (L. Peyton) and one in *Clermont* (T. Fitzpatrick). As a breeder seemed undiminished: 59 were counted on the CVNPC of 12 May.

Golden-winged Warbler: Over 20 reported, but not a whisper about nesting. Early on, one was seen in Cincinnati on 27 Apr (E. Lotz), and an overshoot was banded at Navarre Marsh on the same day (BSBO). High counts were two on the 12 May *Hancock* survey (*fide* B. Hardesty) and two banded at Navarre on the 14th (BSBO).

Hybrids of the above: Increasingly, a feast for those who relish the digital duplicities of phenotype/genotype variations. Lots of plumage variation, and songs as well. Consider the bird at La Su An WA that looked like a blue-winged, but sang like a golden-winged (20-28 May, J. Grabmeier), or the apparent golden-winged at Shawnee SF that sang like a blue-winged for R. Royse on 30 Apr. Thanks to all who reported plumages and vocalizations among these birds. Nine "Brewster's" were reported, the earliest one banded at Navarre Marsh on 30 Apr (BSBO). One at Irwin Prairie on 25 May was singing like a blue-winged (B. McGuire), but one in *Clermont* on 18 May like a golden-winged (T. Fitzpatrick). Three "Lawrence's" were reported, and L. Andrews did it again, relocating what were apparently the same birds as last year at spots in *Athens* and *Hocking* (the bird at the former location was singing like a blue-winged, by the way). Finally, D. Landefeld found one on 23 Apr at Shaker Lks, later seen by m obs.

Tennessee Warbler: The earliest ones appeared in *Delaware* on 29 Apr (J. Hammond et al.), and two in *Scioto* on 30 Apr (R. Royse). Thirteen was the high count, from Mosquito Lk on 12 May (C. Babyak).

Orange-crowned Warbler: M. Busam et al. had a bird at Gilmore Ponds on 11 Apr, and B. Stanley another at EFSP on the 15th. BSBO banded on at Navarre Marsh on the 14th. All reports were of single birds, the last on 16 May at Magee (J. Hammond, m obs).

Nashville Warbler: Early birds came from Cincinnati, with one on 14 Apr (S. Pelikan) and one on the 15th (L. Peyton). Maximum was 10 on S. Bass Isl on 11 May (S. Wulkowicz).

Northern Parula: C. Johnston found the first on 8 Apr in *Scioto*, and by the 10th they were in Cincinnati (J. Cade) and Adams (P. Whan), then way up in *Lake* on the 12th (J. Pogacnik). A couple in the CVNP on 6 May could well have been migrants (B&A Toneff), but a male in Hell Hollow MP in *Lake* on 30 May (R. Harlan, S. Wagner) was more provocative. J. McCormac noted it in riparian forests in at least 15 SE locales, and remarked it seemed on the increase.

Yellow Warbler: We take this beauty for granted because so ubiquitous, but it leaves us so early. The first arrived on 12 Apr at MWV (D. Hedeem), and 14 Apr at BCSP (D. Overacker) and SVWA (C. Mathena). C. Babyak counted 131 at Mosquito Lk on 12 May, S. Zadar 63 at GPI on 17 May, and M. Busam et al. estimated over 100 singing males on Kelleys Isl on 13 May between the North Pond Preserve and the beach. By the time this magazine reaches you, most will have left.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: The first report came from Shaker Lks on 26 Apr (B. Finkelstein). Unlike many other warblers this spring, this had a high count worth at least mention—20 at Magee on 12 May (R. Harlan, S. Wagner). D&A Chasar found five males on territory in the CVNP on the same day.

Magnolia Warbler: For this and other migrants, passage was so swift that first reports seemed random as to location. The first three came from *Tuscarawas* (E. Schlabach) and Columbus (R. Cressman) on 28 Apr, and from Magee on the 29th (B. Zwiebel). 102 of this very numerous species were at GPI on 17 May (S. Zadar).

Cape May Warbler: Any local population fluctuations of this species were masked by the overall poor numbers of warblers found this spring. The first report came from *Delaware* on 30 Apr (J. Hammond), and the higher counts included three in *Butler* on 6 May (M. Busam), three in Columbus on 10-11 May (R. Royse), and five at HBSP on 15 May (L. Rosche). The BSBO banded six on 22 May at Navarre.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: Arrived early, with one at Shawnee SF on 28 Apr (D. Linzell et al.) and one the next day at HBSP (L. Rosche). Not uncharacteristically this year, they were thought to be in good numbers by some and hard to find by others.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: Many double-digit reports, the largest of 85 on 30 Apr in *Paulding* (M&D Dunakin). The last report came from *Holmes* on 20 May (G. Miller).

Black-throated Green Warbler: Moved early, perhaps weather-assisted. One in Columbus on 7 Apr (R. Thorn) was early, but one the same day up in *Portage* (L. Rosche) was more noteworthy. Seven at Mosquito Lk on 12 May were interesting (C. Babyak). In its *Hocking* strongholds, F. Renfrow had nine during the last three days of May, and L. Smith and J. Hammond found 12 in Clear Ck MP on 23 May.

Blackburnian Warbler: Not surprisingly, early and all over the map. One was in Cincinnati on 21 Apr (D. Brinkman), another in *Scioto* the following day (R. Royse), and one up in Bowling Green on the 24th (C. Gajewicz). Six were at HBSP on 15 May (L. Rosche) for the high count. A male singing on 30 May at Old Man's Cave in *Hocking* led to a nest there on 5 June (F. Renfrow).

Yellow-throated Warbler: Many reached Ohio by the first week of Apr, led by one in *Scioto* on the 5th (J. McCormac) and one in *Adams* on the 6th (M. Zloba fide P. Whan). By the 9th, it was possible to count 40 in Shawnee SF (R. Royse). Two reached *Lake* by the 12th (J. Pogacnik). Widely but thinly found throughout the northern lakeside counties in May, through *Ashtabula* (15 May, L. Rosche).

Pine Warbler: D. Minney had one in *Pike* on 26 Feb. Six reports came from the first week of Mar, all in the south save for one in *Lake* on the 1st, which led J. Pogacnik to wonder if it had somehow wintered there. Elsewhere in the north, J. Haw reported a singing male in the Oak Openings on 21 May.

Kirtland's Warbler: An incredible second appearance in the Dunakin's yard, a Kirtland's was found and photographed 5-6 May; what do they put in their feeders? Details accepted by the OBR. A singing male was reported along Girdham Rd in the Oak Openings—right where the editor et al. found one in 1996—on 21 May; it was reportedly later that day independently seen by a group of Michigan birders. A record 1085 singing males at nest sites were found this year, all in Michigan, eight in the Upper Peninsula (Michigan DNR).

Prairie Warbler: Appeared first in *Adams* (where it is the unofficial county bird) on 10 Apr (P. Whan). Two made it north as far as Magee, with one on 24 Apr (V. Fazio) and one on 1 May (P. Lozano).

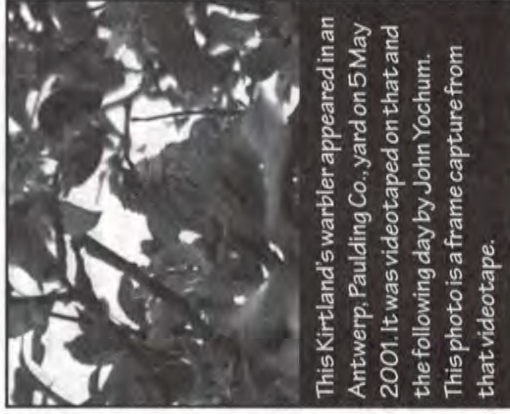
Palm Warbler: The earliest sightings were all in the north, such as one in *Holmes* on 7 Apr (L. Yoder), one at Magee on the 12th (T. Bartlett), and one in *Paulding* on the 13th (M&D Dunakin). Fifty-plus were seen at Magee on 24 Apr (V. Fazio), and the last report came from Lorain on 26 May (R. Harlan, S. Wagner).

Bay-breasted Warbler: The first was reported from Shawnee SF on 28 Apr (D. Linzell), and in a lean year 20+ at HBSP on 15 May was a good showing (L. Rosche).

Blackpoll Warbler: An overflight brought one to Columbus on 22 Apr (P. Gottschling), and two were found in *Scioto* on the 30th (R. Royse). Usually a pretty numerous migrant, but not this year, so ~30 in two hours in Cincinnati on 16 May was of extra interest (J. Kuenzli). Seven were at EHSP on 31 May to close out the season (J. Pogacnik).

Cerulean Warbler: A very early bird was at Shawnee SF on 9 Apr (R. Royse); another appeared the following day at the same latitude in Illinois (fide K. McMullen). It was followed by one in Milford on the 11th (W. Hull), and one in Columbus on the 13th (B. Master). Some disappointing reports involved none found on surveying riparian areas in Columbus in May (R. Thorn), and none returning to traditional haunts at Mosquito Lk by 8 May (C. Babyak). On the other hand, two territories were occupied at Secor MP in *Lucas* till the end of the period (E. Durbin fide G. Links), three were found in Hinckley MP in *Medina* on 5 May (L. Rosche), and birds in *Paulding* on 9 and 12 May made the Dunakins wonder about nesting there.

Black-and-white Warbler: One reached *Scioto* by 8 Apr (C. Johnston), and another *Holmes* by the 12th (P. Yoder). Fifteen were at HBSP on 29 Apr (L. Rosche).



This Kirtland's warbler appeared in an Antwerp, Paulding Co., yard on 5 May 2001. It was videotaped on that and the following day by John Yochum. This photo is a frame capture from that videotape.

American Redstart: We don't know when they first arrived, but 51 were waiting for **R. Royse** when he banded Shawnee SF on 22 Apr, then 64 two days later, when the first appeared in *Holmes* (**L. Yoder**). Fifteen were on the Bird Trail on 12 May (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**).

Prothonotary Warbler: Again, 8 Apr. Then the first prothonotary was found by **M. Busam** et al. at Gilmore Ponds, a very early date. The Hoover Res colony was occupied by 1 May (**R. Thorn**), and one was singing—in oaks in a schoolyard, go figure—in *Lucas* on 23 May (**M. Anderson**). Appeared three times at the Bird Trail: 1 May (**S. Wright**), 11 May (**D. Overacker**), and 12 May (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**). Five were on territory at Killbuck on 28 May (**S. Snyder**).

Worm-eating Warbler: A classic overflight put one in *Lake* on 12 Apr (**J. Pogacnik**); elsewhere, the next report was of one banded at Gilmore on the 21st (**M. Busam**). High count was 18 at Shawnee SF on 24 Apr (**R. Royse**). One was at Magee on 1 May (**P. Lozano**), one at Pipe Ck WA late on 18 May (**L. Rosche**), and one in *Knox* on 20 May (**B&A Toneff**). The species returned to La Su An in *Williams* 20–28 May (**J. Grabmeier**), a decidedly non-canonical location on published breeding maps.

Ovenbird: Many observers said their numbers were down. **C. Johnston** noted the first, at Shawnee SF on 8 Apr, where **R. Royse** had the high count—only 36—on 30 Apr. **C. Babyak** reported only four at Mosquito Lk WA on 12 May.

Northern Waterthrush: Strangely, no reports of multiple birds of this species. The first was noted in Columbus on 24 Apr (**R. Royse**), and the following day in *Ashtabula* (**L. Rosche**). The last was another lone bird in *Lorain*, on 26 May (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**).

Louisiana Waterthrush: Showed up early in many spots: 30 Mar at CVNP (**L. Deininger**), 1 Apr in *Hocking* (**D. Horn**), 2 Apr in Magee (**M. Shieldcastle** *vide V. Fazio*), 7 Apr in *Geauga* (**D. Best**), etc. **D&A Chasar** located a nest in the CVNP on 5 May, and **B&D Lane** reported two territories in *Columbiana* on 19 May.

Kentucky Warbler: **R. Royse** found the first on 23 Apr, then nine on 30 Apr, at Shawnee SF. **F. Dinkelbach** found one in the CVNP on 13 May (*vide D. Chasar*). **E. Schlabach** counted 10 in NE *Coshocton* on 17 May. Bred in several spots in the Oak Openings (*vide G. Links*). At Navarre Marsh, the BSBO banded seven, between 27 Apr and 10 May.

Connecticut Warbler: **P. Raver** saw one at Green Lawn Cem in Columbus on 13 May, and on the 17th **G. Links** one at Magee. **T. Tolford** banded one at Gilmore Ponds on 26 May (*vide M. Busam*), and the BSBO banders handled seven at Navarre Marsh between 21 and 27 May. High count two, at Magee on 28 May (**G. Miller**).

Mourning Warbler: Two appeared in Columbus on 8 May, seen separately by **R. Thorn** and **P. Rodewald**. On the 15th, single birds were seen in Paulding (**M&D Dunakin**) and at HBSP (**L. Rosche**). High counts were 6–7 at Magee on 28 May (**R. Nirschl**) and five at EHSP on 31 May (**J. Pogacnik**). The BSBO netted 11 on 28 May at Navarre.

Common Yellowthroat: Quite early were two birds in Cincinnati on 10 Apr (**D. Hedeen**) and one in *Adams* on the 11th (**M. Zloba** *vide P. Whan*). By the 22nd, they were widespread in the western Lk Erie marshes (**G. Links**).

Hooded Warbler: The first bird was one banded at Navarre on 14 Apr (BSBO). On 22 Mar 48 were at Shawnee SF (**R. Royse**), but when did they first arrive? Six were at Lorain on 9 May (**B&A Toneff**), and 40 on the 12 May CVNPC. **G. Links** reported the species was present most of May at Magee, and on 12 May at LCPNWR.

Wilson's Warbler: The first report came from *Paulding* on 6 May (**D&M Dunakin**), and one was at HBSP the following day (**L. Rosche**). Its observed numbers not so far down as those of other warblers, 23 were at GPI on 17 May (**S. Zadar**). Three were at EHSP on 31 May (**J. Pogacnik**).

Canada Warbler: The first report came from Magee on 29 Apr (**B. Zweibel**), and by 7 May birds were in *Paulding* (**M&D Dunakin**) and at HBSP (**L. Rosche**). High count six at EHSP on 31 May by **J. Pogacnik**.

Yellow-breasted Chat: One was at Shawnee SF on 22 Apr (**R. Royse**), and three in Hueston Wds SP the following day (**D. Russell**), as well as one banded at Navarre by the BSBO. By 1 May one was to be found at HBSP (**L. Rosche**).

Summer Tanager: The first was noted at Shawnee SF on 23 Apr (**R. Royse**), and by the following day one was spotted at Magee (**V. Fazio**). Two males sang at Highbanks MP in *Delaware* on 27 Apr (**J. Hammond**). A female was in LCPNWR on 12 May (**G. Links** et al.), and one in *Cuyahoga* on 15 May (**K. Metcalf**). A singing male in the Oak Openings (**T. Kemp**, m obs) was found 15 May and remained through the period. **R. Harlan** and **S. Wagner** reported three singing males there on 27 May.

Scarlet Tanager: **G. Miller** found one in Shawnee SF on 14 Apr, and **H. Armstrong** one at EFSP on the 19th. By the 24th, **R. Royse** reported 39 from the Shawnee. **E. Schlabach** counted 15 in *Coshocton* on 9 May, *Hancock* surveyors had 16 on 12 May (*vide B. Hardesty*), and 29 were tallied for the CVNPC the same day.

Eastern Towhee: Migrants included one at Magee on 31 Mar (**G. Links, K. Overman**), and 12 birds at HBSP on 8 Apr (**L. Rosche**).

American Tree Sparrow: A few remained, some singing, at Killdeer on 10 Apr (**B. Conlon**) and on the 11th (**B. Master**). One remained at N. Chagrin MP on 15 Apr (**K. Metcalf**), and one in *Hamilton* on the 22nd (**D. Hedeen**), but the longest-staying were two at GPI on 26 Apr (**S. Zadar**).

Chipping Sparrow: **D. Minney** reported one in *Pike* on 26 Feb. Not especially early during the spring, birds were first noted at Mitchell Mem Forest, *Hamilton*, on 24 Mar (**N. Cade**), in Kent on 25 Mar (**L. Rosche**), and in *Clermont* on 28 Mar (**T. Fitzpatrick**).

Clay-colored Sparrow: The first was one captured at Navarre on 22 Apr (BSBO). One was in Parma on 1 May (**C. Rieker**), and one in Cincinnati on 3 May (**S. Pelikan**). A bird found on 8 May (**M. Weaver**) in *Holmes* remained through at least 26 May (**P. Gottschling**), and one found in the Oak Openings on 13 May (**B. Cullen**) stayed through at least 31 May (**A. Haslage, C. Morrow**, et al.).

Field Sparrow: Five were seen at Caesar Ck SP on 14 Mar (**J. Hammond** et al.), and by 29 Mar one was in Cleveland (**B. Finkelstein**). Twenty were at MWV on 22 Apr for the high count (**J. Lehman**), and a late migrant was in Parma Hits on 23 May (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**).

Vesper Sparrow: Many reports from the first week of Apr. One in *Athens* on 5 Apr was likely headed elsewhere (**R. Royse**), as were eight in *Lorain* on the 8th (**B. Winger**) and 12 in *Hamilton* on the 10th (**D. Hedeen**). The high for a single spot was at Ohio's sparrow spa, GPI in Cleveland, with 11 on 8 Apr (**S. Zadar**).

Lark Sparrow: The first of the Oak Openings birds was noted 25 Apr (**E. Tramer** *vide G. Links*). **S. Wulkowicz** had one on S. Bass Isl on 2 May, and **J. Pogacnik** reported an errant bird at Walnut Beach on 20 May.

Savannah Sparrow: Arrived 24 Mar in *Holmes* (E. Schlabach). Spread in bunches: at MWV, there were 15 on 31 Mar (P. Wharton), then 20 on 5 Apr (N. Cade), and 30+ elsewhere in *Hamilton* on 10 Apr (D. Hedeem). Forty-four were at GPI on 7 Apr (S. Zadar) and 40 were in *Noble* on 22 Apr (G. Miller) at abandoned strip-mines. All these numbers were dwarfed by the 300 reported by L. Rosche from Cleveland on 6 Apr, an extraordinary event.

Grasshopper Sparrow: Apparently normal in every way this spring, the first one was heard singing at MWV on 14 Apr (N. Cade).

Henslow's Sparrow: The first were found in *Pike* on 8 Apr (D. Minney); first arrivals at The Wilds were on 12 Apr (J. Larson). Four or more were at Hueston Wds SP on 5 May (D. Russel). D. Sanders detected one at Ottawa on 6 May. Two to three found on 18 May in the Oak Openings (G. Links) remained on the 30th (M. Anderson).

Le Conte's Sparrow: One was at Killdeer on 10 Mar during the strange weather (P. Weber). Documentation accepted by the OBRC.

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow: At GPI, unusual sparrows sometimes become usual. S. Zadar and T. Gilliland found seven there on 26 May, three of which were refound by P. Lozano et al. the following day.

Fox Sparrow: First reported on 15 Mar in Cincinnati (S. Pelikan), two were in N Chagrin Res by the 28th (R. Rickard), and one at Magee by the 31st (G. Links). Paralleling L. Rosche's experience with savannah sparrows on the same date, B. Wolf encountered ~100 fox sparrows in Cleveland on 6 Mar.

Song Sparrow: The ONWRC recorded an unusual movement of ~100 on 1 Apr, the beginning of sparrow week along the Lake.

Lincoln's Sparrow: P. Lozano found one in her back yard in Lakewood, *Cuyahoga*, on 9 Apr for a very early record, which accompanied other unusual records on or around this date this spring. The next appearance of a Lincoln's was in *Paulding* on 19 Apr (J. Yochum). All downhill from there, as it was universally acknowledged a poor spring for the species; the high count of two occurred twice, in *Delaware* on 29 Apr (P. Weber) and at the Bird Trail on 16 May (J. Hammond).

Swamp Sparrow: Six on the 4 Mar ONWRC and three at BCSP on 17 Mar had likely wintered locally, and the first migrant reported was one on 4 Apr in Rocky River (P. Lozano). By 22 Apr, G. Links et al. reported "untold hundreds" at LCPNWR.

White-throated Sparrow: At HBSP, L. Rosche noted 200 on 1 May. The last reported was one in *Coshocton* on 17 May (E. Schlabach).

White-crowned Sparrow: Seventy-five were with the white-throateds on 1 May at HBSP (L. Rosche). The last bird was seen in *Hancock* on 29 May (fide B. Hardesty). The BSBO banders at Navarre reported handling four of the Gambel's race this spring, reminding field birders that this fairly easily-recognized form should be looked for.



Unprecedented so early, this Lincoln's sparrow appeared in a Lakewood, Cuyahoga Co., yard on 9 April 2001. Photo by Paula Lozano.

Dark-eyed Junco: The only report we received from their considerable breeding area in the Northeast was of singing males in three *Geauga* locations throughout the period (D. Best). B. Wolf reported ~500 from Cleveland during the sparrow phenomenon there of 6 Apr. Birders are urged to study pp 500-01 of Sibley before reporting "Oregon" juncos; it's far from the easy ID other references make it seem.

Lapland Longspur: The most dramatic reports come from Washburn Rd, *Marion* (near, but not in, Killdeer Plains WA—if the Division of Wildlife owned this property, it would not sport longspurs for long). R. Royse reported 150+ here on 23 Mar, then 1000-2000 on 28 Mar—with "only" 350 at nearby BIWA—and on 4 Apr J. Hammond reported an estimated 3000 birds, many of them singing, and in almost full alternate plumage. Shoulda been there. The last report came from G. Miller, who had one in *Noble* on 22 Apr.

Chestnut-collared Longspur: A male of this species was reported along Washburn Rd (see above) during the odd weather of 10 Apr. This would, if documentation now with the OBRC is accepted, be a first Ohio record.

Snow Bunting: Eighteen Mar birds were reported: three were on the 4 Mar ONWRC, two at Magee on the 9th (V. Fazio), one on the LCPNWR on the 18th (G. Links et al.), and eight in NW *Hancock* on the 20th (W. McClanahan fide B. Hardesty).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: More early Apr prematurities: a male was in *Paulding* on 4 Apr (D&M Dunakin), one was seen in Columbus on 9 Apr (R. Cressman), and a female came to a feeder in *Clermont* on the 10th (D. Morse). Some thought their numbers down, but maybe just because migrants overflowed Ohio. Fifteen were seen in *Coshocton* on 9 May (E. Schlabach), and 33 were tallied on the CVNPC of 12 May.

Blue Grosbeak: Birds returned to their traditional haunts in *Adams*, and to recently-discovered spots like Crown City WA, *Gallia/Lawrence*, where they have been downright common, but here are other sightings. B. Powell reported an early one in *Clinton* on 24 Apr. A. Thorn found one near Rio Grande in *Gallia* on 5 May. A pair nested in *Holmes* for the fifth straight year (G. Miller). T. Nickerson found a male at Wright-Patterson AFB on 17 May. An imm male was singing in the Oak Openings from 21 May (J. Haw, m obs) through the end of the period. Another imm male at Hueston Wds SP (D. Russel) was joined by another bird during the week of 25 May (B. Pratt).

Indigo Bunting: On 2 Apr, the bird that overwintered at the Cincinnati Nat Ctr had progressed to 90% alternate plumage (B. Gilmore). Migrants followed quickly. J. Cade reported two at Shawnee on 7 Apr, and M. Zloba (fide P. Whan) one in *Adams* on the 9th, then S. Clingman one in *Clermont* on the 10th. These are early dates, and also the dates of extraordinary winds out of the south statewide. By 9 May, E. Schlabach found 40+ in NE *Coshocton*.

Dickcissel: Way down from last year's admittedly exceptional numbers. A male at MWV on 4 May led to four on 12 May (F. Frick), and 5-6 were singing on 26 May (P. Wharton). P. Rodewald found one in *Adams* on 16 May. A one-day wonder was at BIWA on 19 May (R. Royse). That's all, folks.

Bobolink: Seemed to be up slightly, according to estimates. At MWV, one appeared 5 Apr (N. Cade), and "several" were present on 7 Apr (J. Lehman); these are early dates. They reappeared at traditional sites, and in good numbers (e.g., 25 on 20 May, M. Busam) in grasslands recently ceded to the park system in *Butler* at the old Voice of America property. High report was of 35+ at a spot in *Columbiana* from 12-30 May (B&D Lane).

Western Meadowlark: Two very brief encounters this season, which couldn't be duplicated by others: one in *Holmes* on 18 Apr (L. Yoder), and one in *Hocking* on 27 May (R. Harlan, S. Wagner).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: One was seen by **L. Garling** (*vide V. Fazio*) along Veler Rd near Ottawa on 26 Mar. Five were on territory in LCPNWR on 5 May (**G. Links** et al.). **D. Sanders** saw one at nearby Ottawa on 6 May, and **L. Theriault** one there on the 12th. **G. Links** had one at Mallard Club Marsh, adjacent to LCPNWR, on 19 May.

Rusty Blackbird: Returned in Feb. Good numbers included 70 on the 4 Mar ONWRC, 50+ in *Columbiana* on 9 Mar (**B&D Lane**), 100+ at Calamus Swamp in *Pickaway* on 12 Mar (**L. Powlick**) and on 18 Mar (**D. Horn**), and 40 elsewhere in *Pickaway* on 25 Mar (**B. Master**). Twelve were at Shemango W.A., *Trumbull*, on 12 May (**C. Babyak**), and two remained in *Lucas* on 13 May (**J. McCormac**).

Brewer's Blackbird: Six were in *Lucas* from 12 Mar (**G. Links**) through 26 Mar (**A. Osborn**). Four were in *Ottawa* on 14 Apr (**J. Pogacnik**). A male was in *Ottawa* late on 12 May (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**).

Shiny Cowbird: Far from its normal range, this bird was reported and fully documented by three persons near Ottawa on 5 May. If accepted by the OBRG, it would be a first state record, and a first for the Great Lakes region.

Orchard Oriole: Appeared 10 Apr in *Clermont* (**S. Clingman**), and by all accounts was plentiful this season. Three were at GPI on 17 May for an interesting record (**S. Zadar**).

Baltimore Oriole: On 22 Apr, birds showed up in *Lucas* (**G. Links**), Cincinnati (**D. Marsh**), and Cleveland (**V. Fazio**). In *Lake* on 5 May, **J. Pogacnik** observed 88 migrants.

Purple Finch: Moved north in Mar. On 25 Mar, six were at Caesar Ck SP (**N. Cade**), then during the big winds 16 showed up in *Lake* (**J. Pogacnik**) and one in Massillon on the 9th (**J&E Snively**), and one in *Holmes* on 10 Apr (**E. Schlabbach**). At his *Hocking* feeders, **J. Fry** had birds from 11-22 Apr, with a high of 13 birds on the 15th. Later, odd appearances during the breeding season included a singing male at Secor MP in *Lucas* on 8 May (**G. Links**), and one on 22 May in *Hancock* (**W. McClanahan** *vide B. Hardesty*).

White-winged Crossbill: At least four were in *Lake* on 1 Mar (**J. Pogacnik**).

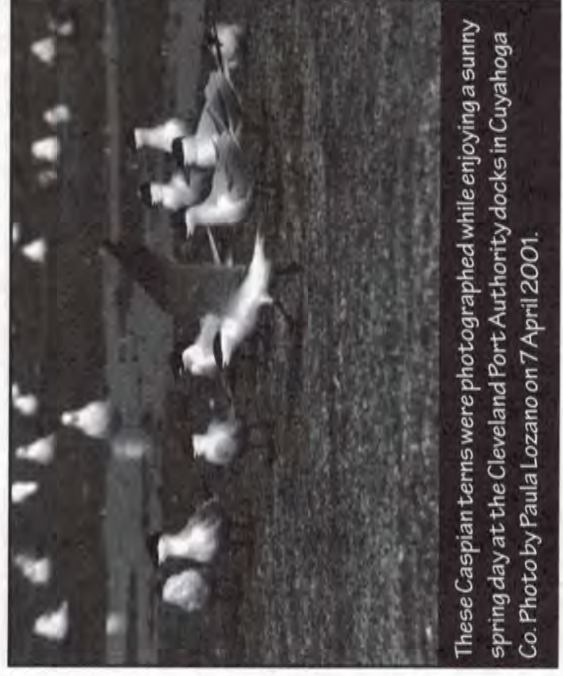
Red Crossbill: **J. Pogacnik** reported 55+ in a flock in *Lake* on 1 Mar, then six on 3 Mar.

Pine Siskin: **J. Pogacnik** had four in *Lake* on 3 Mar, and **G. Miller** two in *Hocking* on 4 Mar, where **D. Horn** had 3+ on 15 Mar. **Jim Fry's** *Hocking* feeders hosted one to four during fifteen days of Mar, 10 of Apr, and once on 14 May, with highs of eight on 7 Mar and 1 Apr. **K. Metcalf** had one in N. Chagrin MP on 15 May, and **R. Harlan** and **S. Wagner** another in Parma Hts on 18 May. **F. Renfrow**, in *Hocking* on 31 May, noted a pair feeding a fledgling brown-headed cowbird.

House Sparrow: Merwin St, scene of so many sightings of more exciting birds from **P. Lozano**, yielded **J. Hammond** et al. a roost of around 2000 of this species on 5 Mar.

CONTRIBUTORS: We are indebted to all Ohio birders who made their sightings records available; a list of their names follows. Pam Adams, Lynne Aldrich, Chad Amos, Chuck Anderson, Matt Anderson, Carol Andres, Lynda Andrews, Wanda Appgar, Hank Armstrong, Carole Babyak, Emil Bacik, Zac Baker, Nick Barber, Brian Barchus, Tom Bartlett, Robert Bates, Marje Baughman, Kathy Beal, Cindy Beckman, Chris Bedel, Glen Bernhardt, Andy Bess, Dan Best, Brad Bolton, David A. Brinkman, Lori Brumbaugh, Jen Brumfield, Gina Buckley, Ailee Burkholder, Don Burton, Jed Burr, Mike Busam, Jerry Byrd, Jason Cade, Neill Cade, Jerry Cairo, Rosemary Campbell, Ann Chasar, Dwight Chasar, Elizabeth Clingman, Suzanne Clingman, Bob Conlon, Rich Cressman, Bill Culbertson, Becky Cullen, Jeff Cullen, Julie Davis, Ken Davis, Leo Deininger, Harry Di Carlo, Fred

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These Caspian terns were photographed while enjoying a sunny spring day at the Cleveland Port Authority docks in Cuyahoga Co. Photo by Paula Lozano on 7 April 2001.

Book Review: Peterjohn's *The Birds of Ohio, Second Edition*

by Rob Harlan

Bruce G. Peterjohn. *The Birds of Ohio: with the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas*. Second edition, revised and updated. 2001. The Wooster Book Company. Paperbound, 637 pp, 8.5 x 5.5 in., one black & white photo. Price \$21.95.

Almost a hundred years ago in 1903, Lynds Jones and William Leon Dawson independently authored comprehensive books on the birds of Ohio. It took 86 years for another book on such a scale to appear on the subject, Bruce G. Peterjohn's 1989 effort *The Birds of Ohio*. Now, only twelve years since his first edition, Peterjohn has penned a second, presented as "revised and updated," and now including many maps from *The Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas* of 1991. One might ask, "why come out with a second edition so soon after the first?" and "is it worth another \$21.95 to acquire the second edition, when the first is still relatively current?" Only Mr. Peterjohn can answer the first question, but my answer to the second is an unequivocal "yes."

Twelve years isn't a very long time in the study of natural history, but much can happen in that span, as is well-evidenced by Peterjohn's second edition. A wealth of pertinent material has been published on the status of Ohio's birds in the period from 30 June 1988 (the cut-off date for his first edition) to 31 December 1999 (that for the second edition). This material has for the most part appeared in the state and local journals *The Ohio Cardinal*, *The Bobolink*, and *The Cleveland Bird Calendar*, as well as the national publication *American Birds* and its successors *National Audubon Society Field Notes* and *North American Birds*. Peterjohn has attempted to keep close tabs on these publications, and has seamlessly integrated the new material he has gathered into the text of the first edition, making adjustments as necessary. Most species accounts have been updated, many significantly; at the same time, some accounts remain untouched, essentially those for which little or no new information has become available, such as extinct species or those for which there is still only one state record. I admit surprise at the depth of the new material. Many significant adjustments to our understanding of bird movements and overall status have been incorporated into the second edition.

The integration of new material is all the more remarkable given the fact that Peterjohn left Ohio about 1991 for Maryland, and has lived away from Ohio since that time. He apparently lined up a long-distance network of a few Ohioans who provided him with much of the information and publications he felt he would need to adequately update the first edition. This system worked surprisingly well, although it was not foolproof, as we shall see later. Interestingly, during his absence from the state, Peterjohn apparently has not contacted any Ohio Bird Records Committee (OBRC) Secretary or any Editor of *The Ohio Cardinal* to seek or confirm information; why he chose this "disconnected" method is baffling to me. Even more perplexing is his choice to ignore the OBRC almost entirely, not even directly acknowledging its existence, although he was certainly aware of its deliberations. Formed in 1991, soon after Peterjohn left Ohio, the OBRC has functioned

continuously since then, providing a peer-review platform for hundreds of noteworthy records to date. The choice to bypass the OBRC was of course a personal one, but one that in essence formed a one-man committee consisting of Peterjohn alone, a committee that in some cases apparently made decisions without documentation from the OBRC archives that might have been helpful. Although its author is certainly an extremely capable judge of birding data, the absence of the peer-review process is definitely a weakness in this book.

The new second edition has a dramatically different look and feel when compared to the first. The latter, a hardbound tome measuring 12 x 9.25 inches and containing over four dozen full-color artworks by noted illustrators William Zimmerman and John Ruthven, certainly had a "coffee-table book" quality. The art was first-class, and I did enjoy it at first, but quickly became irritated by its presence, as the book would naturally fall open to the unnumbered pages containing the artwork, hindering my efforts to quickly locate the species account I was seeking. These artworks are gone from the new edition, leaving only the meaty text material, a nice full-color Zimmerman rendering of the thrush family on the plastic-coated paper cover, and a black-and-white photo of Peterjohn in the endpapers. No more hybrid coffee-table book x reference work here, this edition is all business, and I applaud this decision, not only for convenience's sake, but also because it cuts the price of the second edition to less than half the price of the first.

The new version of the work, now more user-friendly as a reference tool, is friendlier in another sense. Upon opening it I noted a sense of moderation in much of the wording. For example, in the first edition Peterjohn describes spring migrant Louisiana waterthrushes thus: "While there are innumerable May sight records of migrant Louisianas, these reports undoubtedly pertain to misidentified Northerns." In the new edition, this is modified to "While there are innumerable May sight records of migrant Louisianas, these reports primarily pertain to misidentified Northerns." A slight difference perhaps, but now a more accurate portrayal, and one that is certainly less polemic.

This is not to say that certain observers will not be put off by the absence of their sightings here. Peterjohn admittedly takes a conservative approach throughout the book, and has published records based on his assessment "of the available information supporting each report, the relative difficulty of positively identifying the species in the field, the precedence for similar reports at statewide, regional, or larger geometric scales, and the abilities and reputations of the observers" [p. xx]. It is thus important to keep in mind that at times when Peterjohn makes a statement such as "There are no adequately documented midsummer records" of Cape May warbler [p. 430], what he may actually be implying is that there are no adequately documented midsummer records *in his opinion*; there may be published midsummer records, but these may not live up to his standards of approval. This is a subtle difference, but a real one, and reinforces the importance for any researcher of not simply relying on a single source for information. A researcher working on summer records of Cape May warbler for the lower 48 states may consult the second edition and accept Peterjohn's statement at face value; more thorough researchers will

endeavor to look into the subject more deeply in this case, perhaps finding a published midsummer record acceptable to *their* standards. Always be prepared to dig.

One of the biggest assets in the new second edition is the presence of 170 maps from 1991's *Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas*, now out of print (this work is available on the internet courtesy of the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves at <<http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/odnr/dnap/OhioBirding/OhioBirding.htm>>—Ed.). These maps were created after the publication of the first edition of *The Birds of Ohio*, and appear here without updates. Readers should keep in mind that the *Atlas* data were collected from 1982 to 1987, and so are at least some fourteen years old. This does not detract from the overall usefulness of the maps, most of which very effectively illustrate a nesting species' range across the state. Unfortunately, the reduction in size of the maps as presented obscures the differentiation between "probable" (a box filled with three horizontal lines) and "confirmed" (a solidly-filled box) statuses; one would probably need a magnifying lens here to accurately assess these differences without referring back to the *Atlas* itself. All in all, though, the addition of the maps is very welcome.

And now on to the text, and at 637 pages, there's plenty of text to examine. The book begins with Prefaces to both editions, covering three pages. The Introduction consumes 13 pages, covering a variety of topics such as Ohio's physiography, vegetative communities, and climate; a brief review of Ohio's ornithological history; a discussion of references used; definitions of status and abundance designations; and a county map of the state. Three pages of Acknowledgments follow. A 15-page list of Species Accounts (actually a table of contents) is new to the second edition.

In this edition Peterjohn covers 409 species he considers acceptable for inclusion. This is up from 390 species in the first edition, adding brown pelican, northern lapwing, snowy plover, slaty-backed gull, Ross's gull, royal tern, black guillemot, long-billed murrelet, common ground-dove, smooth-billed ani, boreal owl, gray flycatcher, Say's phoebe, violet-green swallow, mountain bluebird, Bicknell's thrush, spotted towhee, painted bunting, and Bullock's oriole. By contrast, the OBRC accepts 408 species, which form the official state list [*Ohio Cardinal* 24(2):115]. One species on the official list, the white-winged dove, appeared and was accepted by the OBRC after Peterjohn's 31 December 1999 cut-off date. Peterjohn includes two species, the slaty-backed gull and Bicknell's thrush, that are currently not accepted by the OBRC. More on these two later.

One thing is absolutely certain—Peterjohn cares deeply about his subject. The amount of effort and the range of research invested make this crystal clear. A 41-page Bibliography covering more than 750 citations gleaned from over 150 years of birding literature attests to his dedication. Data from all these sources have been acquired, examined, and distilled in the species accounts, constituting an enormous undertaking, and any shortcomings must be kept in perspective with the sheer immensity of the project.

Each of Peterjohn's 409 species receives a thorough treatment in the species accounts, ranging from an appropriately short seven lines for anhinga and Wilson's plover to more than three pages for, of all things, herring gull. According to my

reckoning, 31.7% of species receive one page or less of treatment, 53.8% between one and two pages, and 14.4% more than two pages. The most important test for any reference work is its ability to answer questions effectively. For the vast majority of questions for which it may be consulted, *The Birds of Ohio* will provide a precise and correct answer. In a typical account, Peterjohn deals with the species' abundance from the early days to today, with its range within the state over the period, migrational peaks and windows, and a thorough examination of nesting behavior, all as applicable. The accounts are loaded with information, all at one's fingertips.

Before we begin to examine the accounts more thoroughly, a word or two—or ten—about errors. Of course this book has errors—most birding literature does, whether we recognize it or not. In a work of this magnitude, transcriptional errors are virtually unavoidable in regards to species, numbers, locations, dates, and observers reported. Any bird record should contain at least these five bits of information. So, in the preparation of a state monograph, for instance, compiling records from published journals requires that the author not only transcribe all these bits of data accurately, but also assume that the editors of these journals themselves transcribed them without error. And who is to say that the original observers reported everything correctly? Of course this sort of error is regrettable and should be avoided whenever possible, but in truth errors of this sort (at least when dealing with the commoner species or occurrences) are fairly insignificant in the big picture. I have no doubt Peterjohn would have corrected any such nagging errors had he known about them; somehow, though, he missed several corrections offered by Tom Kemp in his review of the first edition [*Ohio Cardinal* 13(1):27-29], namely factual errors which could have been cross-referenced, in regard to eastern screech-owl, northern hawk owl, and rusty blackbird, for instance. One final thought on errors: Peterjohn's omission of any potentially noteworthy records does not automatically signify an error or indicate that he missed the report; he may simply have decided to omit the record based on his standards as outlined above. Errors seem to be an unavoidable fact of life, but keep in mind that not everything that *seems* to be an error is an error.

One mildly irksome point is the treatment of recent first state records. I feel all recent first state records (say, those since 1975) should include the name(s) of the observer(s) making the discovery. After all, finding a first state record is no easy task, and doing so gets more difficult all the time as species are added to the list. After a quick tally, I noted 40 species new to Ohio from 1975 to date by Peterjohn's reckoning; for 13 of these (or 32.5%) the accounts do not directly identify the discoverer(s). I thought it might be appropriate to honor these folks here: Pacific loon (J. Kirk Alexander and John Pogacnik), brown pelican (Susan Sprengnether), Ross's goose (John Pogacnik and Bill Windnagel), Swainson's hawk (Don Tumbelin, Jim McCormac, and Bruce Peterjohn), curlew sandpiper (Tom Bartlett), mew gull (Bruce Peterjohn, Larry Rosche, Ray Hannikman, et al.), California gull (Bruce Peterjohn et al.), lesser black-backed gull (Jim Hoffman), slaty-backed gull (Bruce Peterjohn, Mary Gustafson), smooth-billed ani (David J. White), varied thrush (F.W. and Marilyn Fais), western tanager (John Pogacnik), and painted bunting (Victor

Fazio). Strangely, the names of observers for Pacific loon, Ross's goose, Swainson's hawk, curlew sandpiper, mew gull, and western tanager were all included in the first edition, but omitted from the second.

And now for some thoughts regarding the particulars of various species accounts. I will attempt to point out only those aspects that I feel are most pertinent to a more accurate portrayal of a species' status in Ohio.

Glossy ibis [p. 40]—The first state record is noted to be of two birds taken in Cleveland in 1848, and the statement is made that one of these specimens still resides in the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. However, as early as 1950, if not earlier, this specimen was examined by H.C. Oberholser and J.P. Visser and found to be in fact a white-faced ibis, complete with white feathering surrounding the facial skin. Several years ago, I visited the CMNH and examined this mounted specimen with curator Tim Matson. To our eyes, the specimen best fits white-faced ibis. A job for the Records Committee, apparently.

Redhead [p. 82]—A mention is made of a western Lake Erie nesting population which "probably does not exceed 6-18 pairs during most years." I am not aware of any regular nesting population in Ohio since the publication of the *Breeding Bird Atlas*, and feel that this estimate is significantly inflated. It is my opinion that the second edition tends to overestimate the numbers of nesting pairs of Ohio's rarest breeders with some regularity, and that the publication of numerical ranges such as that given above might serve to imply that much of what appears is based on factual material, while it is more likely based on conjecture.

Tufted duck [p. 84]—Although I have mentioned that I find transcriptional errors to be of generally minor consequence, one in the account for such a rare species should be noted. The correct date for the Cleveland bird deemed to be a tufted duck x scaup hybrid should be 2-5 April 1989, not 1996.

Yellow rail [p. 147]—The comment that this species' spring migration usually occurs in two peaks piqued my interest, and I tested this theory. The two peaks mentioned extend from 15 April to 5 May and again from 15 May to 30 May. After a literature search, I accounted for 34 published spring records from 1880 to 2000, which ranged from 31 March to 31 May. Of these, 21 birds (61.8%) occurred in the 15 April-5 May period. However, only two records fall during the period of the latter "peak," and actually one of those was from 31 May, just outside the listed threshold. But even if we include both records, that still provides only 2.9% of records during this second 15-30 May period, which does not seem a very significant peak to me. Although Peterjohn certainly had access to unpublished records during his tenure as Middlewestern Prairie Region Editor for *American Birds*, primarily during the 1980s, I would think this putative peak should be reflected somewhere in the published literature with some regularity, but I can find no evidence of this. Actually, the true peak seems to fall between 16-25 April, during which ten-day period fully 50% of these published records occur.

Baird's sandpiper [p. 196]—Contrary to the statement that there are no Ohio spring specimen records, the Ohio State Museum of Biodiversity possesses OSUM #9420, a male collected by Milton B. Trautman on S. Bass Island on 15 April 1956.

Long-billed dowitcher [p. 205]—The assessment of the fall migration of adults through Ohio illustrates one of the more dramatic changes in status from the first edition to the second. The first edition states that "Recent records give a preliminary indication" of this species' status, and that "adults are rare migrants, normally reported in groups of 3 or fewer" in the western Lake Erie marshes. By the second edition, however, now supplied with a better understanding of the situation, Peterjohn states "The first adults may return by July 20-30 but most appear in August. As many as 100 have been noted at Metzger Marsh Wildlife Area by the first week of August, and these numbers may increase to 250-400+ by the end of the month. These adults undergo their postbreeding molt along western Lake Erie, and usually remain through late September or early October." Unfortunately, given the present state of the Metzger Marsh mudflats (under water or ridden by *Phragmites*), it seems doubtful this species will be able to make use of it in the near future. This is a great loss, and it occurred just when we may have finally figured out the true status of dowitchers in the area.

Laughing gull [p. 218]—It would have been useful to mention that all 28 laughing gulls at Cleveland and Lorain on 12 August 1985 were juveniles.

Franklin's gull [p. 219]—The second edition sometimes uses the status of "accidental" too liberally in my opinion. In the Introduction [p. xxi], Accidental is defined thus: "Has single records or a very small number of records without an established pattern of occurrence." However, the species account for spring Franklin's gull states that they are "accidental visitors to the interior counties" while noting that there are "approximately twenty inland records." A "casual" status, as defined, would seem to be the better fit here and elsewhere. Indeed, three Franklin's gulls were recorded at inland locations in the spring of 2001, and three in spring of 2000.

Slaty-backed gull [pp. 235-36]—This is by far the most controversial inclusion in the second edition. This hotly-debated individual stirred conflicting opinion at the time of the sightings and continues to do so to this day. This record has twice been rejected by the OBRC (based in part on invited commentary by world gull experts), and has also been overwhelmingly, though not universally, questioned by other gull authorities and those familiar with the species. These commentaries have been offered in print and more informally over the internet. A hybrid origin has been suggested as a possible source for this troubling individual. I feel the inclusion of this species is unfortunate at the very least, and underscores the benefits of the peer-review process, as well as the controversial atmosphere that may prevail in the absence of such a process.

Golden-crowned kinglet [pp. 384-85]—Peterjohn does a very good job of sorting out the various conflicting reports concerning this species' first known nestings in Ohio.

Bicknell's thrush [p. 395]—This species is not presently accepted by the OBRC. Peterjohn bases his acceptance on a 1939 examination of the 1933 specimen, one made without more recent identification refinements. The OBRC has studied this specimen (although it has not formally voted on it), and found the measurements to

be not as definitive as one could desire. This would be an extremely rare bird in Ohio, and a very significant record for the interior US, and is deserving of a thorough examination based on current identification standards.

Varied thrush [p. 403]—The statement that the latest spring record was of a bird that “remained at a Parma Heights feeder through April 6, 1996” is misleading; actually this record is noteworthy more for the fact that the bird was never seen to visit a feeder, unlike almost all other Ohio records.

Swainson’s warbler [p. 458]—Certainly a very rare bird and one that can be difficult to document well. The statement is made that “There are also four undocumented spring records from the Cleveland-Akron area”; however, I am aware of documentations for two of these records, from May 1963 and May 1971. Hopefully the OBRC will provide long-overdue reviews for these records in the future.

Western tanager [p.480]—Similar to the above, a statement is made that “there are three undocumented sight records” for northeastern Ohio. I am aware of documentations for all three of these records; they also need to be assessed by the OBRC.

Spotted towhee [p. 480]—The OBRC accepts the first state record of this recently-split species as 4 May 1996 in Seneca County. Peterjohn’s acceptance of a 29 March 1946 record made by “three experienced birders” is somewhat puzzling, especially since he goes on to mention that “No other details are available for this sighting.”

Clay-colored sparrow [p. 487]—Here is a case where I suspect Peterjohn’s long-distance data-collection methods let him down. He cites two summer records, from Summit County in 1994 and Erie County in 1999, and states “While Clay-colored Sparrows remain accidental summer visitors, the establishment of a breeding population is a possibility.” I believe the omission of an absolutely indisputable nesting attempt at Battelle-Darby Creek Metro Park in Franklin County in June and July of 1996 was due to a lack of information rather than a deliberate decision. I assume he simply did not see the appropriate issue of *The Ohio Cardinal* [Vol 19(4)], a theory further supported by the absence of that issue’s seasonal summary from the literature cited.

I hope all of the above does not leave a negative impression of this monumental work. Obviously, differences of opinion will arise, and negligible errors always seem to creep into any project. The fact that so few major concerns are present should indeed be a testament to the painstaking effort and craftsmanship evident in the second edition of *The Birds of Ohio*. Even if you already have the first edition, you will want the second. Just keep in mind that you don’t always have to “go by the book.” Now go buy the book.

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A Review of B. G. Peterjohn’s *The Birds of Ohio* (Second Edition, 2001), with Emphasis on the Southwestern Counties

by David C. Dister

Like many birders, I was surprised that *The Birds of Ohio* (1989) had been revised by the author, Bruce Peterjohn, after only a decade. Once I heard that this edition was to appear without the beautiful artwork but would instead include reduced versions of the breeding bird atlas maps, it became clear that this would be a wholly new reference. And as *The Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas* (Peterjohn and Rice 1991) is out of print, this was perhaps a timely decision.

At first glance, this compact 637-page book immediately appears “bird-friendly.” As a paperback, it is a book I would not hesitate to take on birding trips, or even leave in the car permanently. Who knows when a sighting will make one wonder, “could this bird be a new record?” Peterjohn’s latest effort is most welcomed.

The area covered in this review involves all or part of 12 southwestern Ohio counties designated as such by Peterjohn (1989): Hamilton, Butler, Preble, Clermont, Warren, Montgomery, Brown, Clinton, Greene, Adams (glaciated), Highland (glaciated), and Fayette. The principal source documents I consulted include *Birds of Dayton* (Mathena et al. 1984); *Birds of Southwestern Ohio* (Kemsies and Randle 1953); *Birds of the Hamilton County Park District* (Austing and Imbrogno 1976); and the aforementioned works by Peterjohn. *Birds of the Oxbow* (Styer 1993) was rarely consulted for this purpose as the vast majority of sightings do not specify whether they pertain to Ohio or Indiana locations, though most are likely in Indiana. Finally, quarterly issues of *The Ohio Cardinal* (TOC) from 1988 to 2000 were consulted.

The enormous amount of data presented in the 409 species accounts in *The Birds of Ohio* is impressive. However, it is unfortunate that the author chose not to update the atlas maps based on updated information that appears in the species accounts (for example, especially under-represented are pileated woodpecker and eastern phoebe on atlas maps for Montgomery County). On the other hand, there are many occasions in which published extralimital records are not included for lack of documentation (written, photograph, or specimen), which I believe to be a prudent strategy. On the whole, I found relatively few errors in comparing the source documents mentioned above and Peterjohn’s accounts, though about a dozen species accounts appear to have discrepancies, most with records in *The Ohio Cardinal*. In the Introduction, a geographical error from p. xxii of the first edition was not corrected: “6. Southwestern Counties: ...Greene, and Clinton, and west...” should instead read, “...Greene, and Fayette, and east.” A citation error for Pacific loon at Caesar Creek Reservoir should read “Conlon & Harlan, 1997;” not “Conlon & Harlan, 1996b” (the latter does not appear in the bibliography). Peterjohn displays his conservative approach in regard to a winter record for yellow-crowned night-heron for 26-29 December 1966 (Mathena et al. 1984) that apparently was not documented; thus he states “There are no verified winter records for Ohio.”

Several editing/proofing errors are evident, such as a counting error found in the number of white ibis records for the state, which is five, not four. For turkey vulture, the author states that "flocks of 45 or fewer have sporadically wintered in southwestern Ohio," but in checking his citation of Kemsies and Randle (1953), they give no specific number. The same authors note that a bald eagle nest was located along Indian Creek (Butler County) in 1952, though Peterjohn misquotes the year as 1953. Another error is found for the ruddy turnstone reference to "...82 at Lake St. Marys on May 17, 1997," which should read May 18, and is given correctly in *TOC* (20(3):94). There is a misleading statement regarding black-crowned night-herons breeding at Gilmore Ponds in Butler County. Peterjohn states that five pairs nested in 1989 and 12 to 18 pairs since. According to Hays and Dykstra (*TOC* 23(4):182), the 1989 report is correct but between then and 1999, only in 1998 was there another colony—of 18 active nests. A major windstorm and predation destroyed that entire 1998 colony by 29 July. This information has been widely known among local birders, none of whom was apparently consulted.

A somewhat understandably overlooked record is that of an immature long-tailed jaeger specimen in spring 1950 from Greene County. The record is provided as part of an addendum to Kemsies and Randle (1953, p. 60), and apparently was missed. Elsewhere, under the account for upland sandpiper, Peterjohn states that "...the earliest...returned to Oxford (Butler County) on March 18, 1982," though the earliest date appears to be 16 March 1980 (Mathena et al. 1984).

For some unexplained reason, seasonal reports in some issues of *The Ohio Cardinal* are not listed in the bibliography, such as the Summer 1996 issue edited by John Herman and Robert Harlan, the Autumn 1998 and Winter 1998-99 issue edited by Bob Conlon, and the Autumn 1999 and Winter 1999-2000 issues edited by Bill Whan. Perhaps as a result of missing these issues, Peterjohn does not mention an inland male harlequin duck observed by many along the Great Miami River in Sidney on 16-17 January 1999 (*TOC* 22(2):27). Similarly, though a record of 10 avocets in Licking County on 21 April 1974 is cited, there is no mention of the 10 birds seen at East Fork Lake in Clermont County on 20 and 21 April 1990 (*TOC* 13(3):9).

As mentioned earlier, *The Birds of the Oxbow* (Styer 1993) may only be of peripheral interest, though a specimen of a trumpeter swan in the Ohio portion of the oxbow area from February 1982 is a significant record perhaps worthy of mention. And though Peterjohn gives 29 September 1996 as the latest record for alder flycatcher, Mathena et al. (1984) record a singing bird on 2 October 1977. For the northern saw-whet owl, strangely there is no reference to the confirmed breeding in the Dayton area in June 1941 (Mathena et al. 1984), yet "a May sighting in Cincinnati" is deemed noteworthy. Somehow, such gaps in the species accounts appear glaring, but perhaps only on a regional basis. Despite the above critique, I find the vast majority of Peterjohn's research exhaustive, thorough, and accurate. The author's conservative filter on data is something I tend to agree with on some questionable reports, such as his assertion that most CBC sightings of chipping sparrows are misidentifications. He also mentions that a reported clay-colored

sparrow was banded in Miami County during December of 1961, "but no details are available to support this record." Since a basic-plumaged chipping sparrow can be easily confused with a clay-colored sparrow, this cautious assessment seems reasonable to me. And lastly, Peterjohn offers this comment regarding winter sightings of Harris's sparrow: "There are at least eleven confirmed winter sightings and a number of unconfirmed records." Since basic-plumaged and immature birds can be easily confused with basic-plumaged Lapland longspurs, the author's perspective is sensible.

One final mystery posed by this treatment of the state's birds concerns the apparent decline of the white-crowned sparrow on CBCs in the last 20 years. Certainly, the breeding habitat of this northern bird is not in serious jeopardy. And, though raw numbers cannot be argued with, I suspect that at least part of the answer lies in the decline of participants on CBCs in our area, which peaked in Cincinnati during the 1970s.

In conclusion, while this second edition of *The Birds of Ohio* is packed with volumes of accurate data, more careful proofing and interaction with area experts would have caught many of the oversights mentioned above. In any event, by all means get a copy immediately, or at least before that vireo shows up on a CBC and demands documentation.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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Book Review: *The Birds of Ohio, Second Edition*, by Bruce G. Peterjohn
by Jim McCormac

The first edition of Bruce Peterjohn's *The Birds of Ohio* appeared in 1989, and was rightfully hailed as the definitive work on Ohio ornithology. Serious Ohio birders have this book, and consult it regularly. Its excellence derived from the author's intimate knowledge of Ohio's bird life, gained from several decades of active field experience throughout the state, as well as from exhaustive research of the literature on the topic. A thorough look through that first edition reveals very few mistakes or errors of omission. It deservedly stands as a benchmark for state bird monographs.

The passage of only eleven years sees the release of the second edition of *The Birds of Ohio*. Although little more than a decade seems a remarkably short period of time between revisions, this new release is welcome if for no other reason than that the first edition had gone out of print and was becoming difficult to find. Touted on the cover as "Completely Revised & Updated," the new version does have a wealth of new information, but to call it "completely revised" overstates the case. Ten years is but a brief period when looking at overall changes in bird distribution and abundance, and Peterjohn's approach to the material has not changed in the slightest. Indeed, beyond the extensive updated material, the rest of the text seems unaltered from that of the inaugural edition, save for minor stylistic changes.

As I have been involved with the Ohio Bird Records Committee (OBRC) for a number of years, serving as its Secretary for the last three, I focus here on Peterjohn's treatment of Ohio's rare avifauna. By OBRC criteria, a significant percentage of Ohio's bird life falls into this category, as we list 112 species requiring adequate documentation before they can be added to the official records. These species are not recorded more than two or three times during any recent year, and generally will not find their way into the published literature if not accepted by the OBRC. Careful documentation of reports of these species is important for a number of reasons: extralimital occurrences, for example, can be precursors of range expansions caused by large-scale environmental changes. In addition, rare species are of great interest to birders, as many of us actively seek out the unusual, chasing such birds when they are discovered.

Peterjohn left Ohio for the east coast in the early 1990s, shortly after the publication of *The Birds of Ohio*'s first edition. As he has made only sporadic birding trips back to Ohio since that time, much of the new material for this edition has understandably been acquired second-hand. Less understandably, he seems to have relied upon a quite small network of informants to provide him with updates, while apparently consulting various birding journals to glean additional material. His communications have been less than comprehensive, however, and many birders who could have provided a great deal of useful information were never contacted. For example, he never made inquiries about rare bird reports submitted to the OBRC, either to me or to my two predecessors over the previous decade. In cases in which he disagrees with the Committee's decisions (see p. xx of the Introduction), I

am not aware of his ever having requested the opportunity to review the relevant documentation—written accounts, photos, etc.—in the OBRC's freely-accessible archives. While the author of a work such as *The Birds of Ohio* must be concerned with accuracy and will ultimately be held accountable for errors, when an individual chooses to act as the final authority and ignores the collective wisdom of peers, mistakes will happen. This is, in part, why virtually every state now has a bird records committee to provide an unbiased and balanced approach to the task of assessing exceptional records.

While the first edition of *The Birds of Ohio* was far from infallible, it was notably lacking in serious errors. The same cannot be said of the new edition. There are numerous errors of omission here, in addition to a few very questionable inclusions of species new to the state. Most, if not all, of these problems result from the author's lack of involvement with the Ohio birding scene, coupled with his disregard for the opinions of others regarding the identification of certain Ohio rarities. I limit my comments here to records occurring during the 1990s, material that became available between the first edition and the stated cutoff date for inclusion in the new one, 31 December 1999.

One discrepancy shows up in the total number of species cited for Ohio, which Peterjohn has as 409. The official Ohio list, as maintained by the OBRC, comprises 408 species. One of them was added to the Ohio list after Peterjohn's cutoff date—white-winged dove—but his treatment of Ohio's avifauna is less conservative than the Committee's, adding two species considered but not accepted by the OBRC. One, Bicknell's thrush, he includes based on a 1933 record from Lucas County. The specimen is in the OSU Museum, and was critically examined by myself and other OBRC members, who found that exact measurements, conducted in our presence by the curator, fell more within the range of gray-cheeked thrush than Bicknell's. These records are in the OBRC archives. We believe it is not a clear-cut example of Bicknell's, and probably a gray-cheeked, and have chosen not to include it on the Ohio list.

The other surprising inclusion is slaty-backed gull. Perhaps no other Ohio record has produced the controversy this one has. Peterjohn found the bird in question on 28 and 29 December 1992 in Eastlake on Lake Erie, and he states that what was "probably the same individual" was photographed in Lorain on 8 February 1993. A careful review of the documentation shows that these observations were indeed of the same bird. This record became the most protracted and paper-generating report the OBRC has ever received. Ultimately the record was rejected unanimously in 2000, following an extensive interchange of comments between members and outside experts consulted [then-Secretary Tom Bartlett offered a summary of the Committee's reasoning in *The Ohio Cardinal* 17(3) 113-114 -Ed.]. Some of the world's leading authorities on gulls were consulted, and offered opinions to the Committee; all agreed that whatever this bird was, it was not a slaty-backed gull, or at least a pure-blooded one. The prevailing opinion was that it likely was of undetermined hybrid origin. In any event, in light of numerous expert opinions expressing strong doubts of this bird's identification as a slaty-backed gull, and its eventual non-

acceptance by the OBRC, there seems to be no reasonable explanation for its inclusion in this work.

Many of us are intensely interested in rarities, and publications such as *The Birds of Ohio* serve a valuable function in elucidating the vagrancy patterns of such species. Thus, it was with great surprise that I learned that this second edition was not only planned, but also nearly completed by the time most Ohio birders were made aware of it. Most authors attempting such a work—especially those residing in another state—will be in contact with all the people who might be able to add useful information, subscribed to all the relevant publications, and making public appeals for interesting data, but there seems to be little evidence Peterjohn did these things. This has unfortunately led to many errors of omission in this edition. While I detected too many inaccuracies to cite here in full, a few examples are offered:

Brown pelican—The new edition includes a 1996 report that was rejected by the OBRC, principally because it was based on very sketchy information for this very rare visitor.

Golden eagle—This is no longer a review species, but I was surprised to find that the bird's apparent over-wintering at The Wilds in Muskingum County during the past three years was not mentioned, as this is quite noteworthy.

Black-necked stilt—This shorebird is a mega-rarity in Ohio, so it is important to note that 1995 saw three indisputable records, not two as cited.

Common raven—Inexplicably absent is the 1998 Lake County record, which was documented in part by a photograph.

Spotted towhee—There are actually three accepted records of this western species from the 1990s, rather than the two cited.

Clay-colored sparrow—This species seems to be undergoing a gradual range expansion, and may soon be verified as a successful Ohio nester. Therefore it is surprising that Peterjohn doesn't mention the pair that attempted nesting in Franklin County—even building a nest—despite the fact that this record was published in *The Ohio Cardinal* in 1996 (Watts and Albin, 19(4):104-105).

While the number of questionable reports, and errors of omission, in the second edition of *The Birds of Ohio* is not alarmingly high, there are enough to raise eyebrows, particularly in contrast to the comparatively error-free and painstakingly researched first edition. So, is this book worth buying? Emphatically yes, as it serves up a wealth of knowledge of Ohio's avifauna, while providing valuable updates since the original edition. Does it continue the latter's tradition of relentless accuracy? Unfortunately, no.

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Short Note: The Roughest Ruffed Grouse

In late March on the Edge of Appalachia Preserve in Adams County my 5 year-old son Eli Bird Bedel and I arrived at the preserve gate to find a male ruffed grouse. We were delighted to see the grouse approach the car, offering a perfect opportunity to study the bird's magnificent feather patterns. Little did we know at the time how familiar this bird was to become.

On subsequent days the grouse regularly appeared at the gate in full breeding splendor. We finally decided to see if it would allow us to approach on foot for even closer study. When we tried, it circled us, pecked nervously at vegetation, and made low clucking noises. At other times, it walked nearly sideways, its ruff partially extended, its crest erected and its tail fanned. When we squatted, the bird rushed us, thudding our boots with its wings. We were thrilled.

As time passed, the bird appeared nearly every day, becoming more aggressive and determined. On several occasions when Eli turned and ran away, the bird pursued on foot, then took flight and like a shot hit his back with its feet. If we extended a hand or foot toward him, he would counter with a flurry of beating wings, scratching the earth with his claws. We soon recognized the signs of an impending attack: he lowered his crest, made a guttural growl, then squatted and leaped forward. It was amazing. The bird not only chased whoever was found around our gate, but any visitor to the nearby cemetery as well. One evening we returned from a night of toad-watching around 11:00 p.m. We heard rustling in the woods, nervously groped for a flashlight, and found the grouse in hot pursuit even in complete darkness!

He later took up habitual car-chasing. If we made it past the wing-beating of our boots as we got in and out of our vehicle to open and close the gate, we had to contend with an attack on the tires. He'd jump, kick and smack the tires with flailing wings as we attempted to pull away. The bird had no fear, and at times held cars hostage, running amuck around the vehicles' wheels. Feints and bursts of speed had to be employed to escape without running over the bird. Alas, even once on our way we weren't safe, for the bird would run at great speeds down the road after us. Instead of giving up as we pulled away, he'd take to the air and fly at full speed



Chris Bedel

toward the car. Looking in the rearview mirror to see a furious bird aiming himself at you through a storm of gravel dust is an unforgettable experience. Sometimes he would halt only just before colliding with the car, then resume the onslaught.

On several occasions his hormones got the upper hand and he made contact. He rammed the sides of more than one car. Once he bashed the window of a local contractor's pickup. "He came straight at me like a rocket," the driver told us later. "He hit the front window and feathers went everywhere. He bounced over the top of my truck. I thought that was the end of him. I saw him when I left that day and amazingly he was okay." No miscalculations, these were intentional assaults on perceived trespassers. One day after another violent encounter with my wife's car, Eli dubbed the bird "the roughest of ruffed grouse." By then a familiar neighbor, the grouse never ceased to amaze and amuse over its two-month tenure at the gate.



Chris Bedel

We saw another grouse with him only once. Another male was on the scene when we reached the gate one day, but it fled upon our arrival and our grouse quickly turned his attention to us. It's safe to assume our bird was on territory and simply defending his turf from all comers. We always made it a practice to back off from every encounter, feigning defeat to satisfy the determined guardian. We know of only one human who captured the curious creature in hand. The grouse appeared to be in molt at the time, as feathers exploded in the tussle. When released, the bird ambled into the woods with ruff extended and tail at full mast. The bird appeared a few times after that encounter, then vanished into the Appalachian forest. Only a handful of Ohio birders witnessed this unusual spectacle. The grouse had his wings full dealing with the daily trespasses of locals. We can only hope that he mated successfully, perhaps passing on his uniquely assertive gene!

*Chris, Suzanne, and Elijah Bird Bedel
Edge of Appalachia Preserve
19 Abner Hollow Rd.
Lynx, OH 45650*

Recent Actions of the Ohio Bird Records Committee

Here is a summary of actions taken by the Ohio Bird Records Committee since our last report:

ACCEPTED RECORDS: Documentations received from the observers specified for the following records were judged sufficient to verify them by at least nine of the eleven members of the Committee.

Tricolored Heron—Erie County, 17 May 2001, observer B. Whan
Glossy Ibis—Hamilton County, 6-10 September 2000, observers F. Renfrow, J. Lehman, N. Keller
Glossy Ibis—Summit County, 5-11 November 2000, observers D. & A. Chasar, H. Petruschke, G. Leidy, E. Pierce
White-faced Ibis—Ottawa County, 12 May 2001, observers J. Lesser, B. Whan
Ross's Goose—Lorain County, 10 March 2001, observer V. Fazio
Ruff—Marion County, 10 April 2001, observer B. Whan
Townsend's Solitaire—Lake County, 17 January-21 February 2001, observers J. Pogacnik, J. McCormac, B. Whan
Townsend's Solitaire—Wyandot County, 1&14 February 1998, observers S. Richards, J. Peacock
Varied Thrush—Hancock County, 12 December 2000-9 April 2001, observers A. Wymmer, B. Hardesty, J. McCormac, B. Whan
Varied Thrush—Lucas County, 14-21 December 2000, observers T. Kemp, G. Links
Kirtland's Warbler—Paulding County, 5-6 May 2001, observers M. Dunakin, J. Yochum
Le Conte's Sparrow—Cuyahoga County, 23 September 2000, observers S. Zadar, T. Gilliland
Le Conte's Sparrow—Holmes County, 12-21 October 2000, observer E. Yoder
Le Conte's Sparrow—Cuyahoga County, 13-16 October 2000, observer S. Zadar
Le Conte's Sparrow—Wyandot County, 10 April 2001, observer P. Weber
Harris's Sparrow—Marion County, 27 December 2000, observer T. Romine
Harris's Sparrow—Wayne County, 1 January-7 May 2001, observers J. McCormac, B. Whan

RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED: Documentations received for the following reports received fewer than six votes to accept, and were hence not accepted.

Tricolored Heron—Athens County, 10 April 2001
Ross's Goose—Delaware County, 2 February 2001
Gyr Falcon—Ottawa County, 22 February 2001
Dovekie—Auglaize County, 30 October 2000
Eurasian Collared-Dove—Lucas County, 14 April 2001
Northern Hawk Owl—Wyandot County, 17 January 2001
Western Tanager—Cuyahoga County, 3 October 2000

RECORDS IN RECIRCULATION: Having received between six and eight votes to accept, the following reports are currently being recirculated in the Committee.

Glossy Ibis—Wyandot County, 13 April 2001
"Harlan's" Red-tailed Hawk—Holmes County, 18 November 2000
Long-tailed Jaeger—Lake County, 15 September 2001
Black-legged Kittiwake—Warren County, 2 December 2000
Chestnut-collared Longspur—Marion County, 10 April 2001
Shiny Cowbird—Lucas County, 5 May 2001
Hoary Redpoll—Cuyahoga County, 20-21 January and 16-18 February 2000

The 1998 record of Townsend's solitaire, Ohio's fourth record of this species, was finally accepted based on late submission of notes from a second observer of this bird, which was reportedly seen—but not documented—by several others during an apparent two-week stay at Killdeer Plains WA.

Each spring, we rehearse the Review List in these pages. It is published so birders will know which species occur rarely enough in Ohio that it's necessary to be sure of each occurrence for the historical record. Acceptable documentation—written, photographic, tape-recorded, or specimen data—is the only way to verify such occurrences for publication and other historical purposes, and the Ohio Bird Records Committee exists in part to solicit, examine, verify, and archive this information.

These data have many uses. The taxonomy of birds changes, records committees will make mistakes, specimens may be lost, etc.; cataloguing and storing these documentations will enable future researchers to use the primary evidence—written descriptions, photographs or tape recordings, comments by experts, etc.—to assess these records. Shooting a bird and preserving its remains in a museum was once necessary and acceptable as a way to document an occurrence. Complete documentations of such occurrences—absent a specimen—play an analogous role in the maintenance of modern bird records.

Inclusion on the Review List is usually governed by quantifiable data, specifically the number of verified yearly reports of a species over a ten-year period. Twenty years ago surf scoters and lesser black-backed gulls were on Ohio's Review List, but since that time increases in their abundance—measured by acceptable documentations from birders, as vetted and accumulated by the OBRC—demonstrate that these species are no longer rare but only uncommon visitors to Ohio.

The "invisible" species on the Review List are those species (over nine thousand of them, as a matter of fact) never verified as having occurred in the state. Many of us are aware of odd and half-remembered old reports, or much-disputed recent ones, of very unusual species. Some of them come from very reputable persons. Lou Campbell, for instance, reported a sooty shearwater from the western Lake Erie marshes, Bruce Peterjohn a slaty-backed gull from the northeast, and more than a century and a half ago the eminent ornithologist Jared Kirtland published a report of a specimen of brown-headed nuthatch he'd collected in Ohio; none of these is on the current official Ohio list. More recently, stories heard of other species that would have been new to Ohio—smew, acorn woodpecker, yellow-billed loon, great skua, neotropic cormorant, etc.—have subsided into the shadowy realm of rumor and hearsay because undocumented, unreviewed by the OBRC, and unpublished. Just since our last issue, two species reported (and documented) for Ohio—dovekie and Eurasian collared-dove—have failed to make the list, but these records, and the votes of Committee members, are on file and available upon request. To prevent a state of anarchy as to what is an accepted species or sighting for an area, in US states and many foreign countries bird records committees have emerged to conduct and organize peer-reviewed decisions about the species on official area lists and occurrences of rarities. Nearly all of them rely on review lists, which alert observers to which species require special efforts to add to the official lists and historical records.

Here is the current Ohio Review List, substantially unchanged (as it should be, being a conservative document) from last year's. As always, the List includes all those rarities from the official state list below, as well any species never acceptably documented for the state:

Pacific Loon	Long-billed Curlew	Western Kingbird
Western Grebe	Red-necked Stint	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
Leach's Storm-Petrel	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Black-billed Magpie
Northern Gannet	Curlew Sandpiper	Common Raven
Brown Pelican	Ruff	Violet-green Swallow
Anhinga	Eurasian Woodcock	Boreal Chickadee
Magnificent Frigatebird	Parasitic Jaeger	Rock Wren
Tricolored Heron	Long-tailed Jaeger	Bewick's Wren
White Ibis	Black-headed Gull	Northern Wheatear
Glossy Ibis	Heermann's Gull	Mountain Bluebird
White-faced Ibis	Mew Gull	Townsend's Solitaire
Roseate Spoonbill	California Gull	Varied Thrush
Wood Stork	Ross's Gull	Sprague's Pipit
Ross's Goose	Ivory Gull	Bohemian Waxwing
Cinnamon Teal	Royal Tern	Black-throated Gray Warbler
Tufted Duck	Arctic Tern	Townsend's Warbler
King Eider	Least Tern	Kirtland's Warbler
Common Eider	Large-billed Tern	Swainson's Warbler
Barrow's Goldeneye	Thick-billed Murre	Painted Redstart
Swallow-tailed Kite	Black Guillemot	Western Tanager
Mississippi Kite	Long-billed Murrelet	Green-tailed Towhee
Harris's Hawk	Ancient Murrelet	Spotted Towhee
Swainson's Hawk	Atlantic Puffin	Bachman's Sparrow
Gyrfalcon	White-winged Dove	Black-throated Sparrow
Prairie Falcon	Common Ground-Dove	Lark Bunting
Yellow Rail	Smooth-billed Ani	Baird's Sparrow
Black Rail	Groove-billed Ani	Le Conte's Sparrow
Purple Gallinule	Northern Hawk Owl	Harris's Sparrow
Northern Lapwing	Burrowing Owl	Smith's Longspur
Snowy Plover	Great Gray Owl	Black-headed Grosbeak
Wilson's Plover	Boreal Owl	Painted Bunting
Piping Plover	Rufous Hummingbird	Great-tailed Grackle
Black-necked Stilt	Red-cockaded Woodpecker	Bullock's Oriole
Spotted Redshank	Gray Flycatcher	Brambling
Eskimo Curlew	Say's Phoebe	Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch
	Vermilion Flycatcher	Pine Grosbeak
		Hoary Redpoll

Bill Whelan



Retrospective: 20 Years Ago in the Cardinal

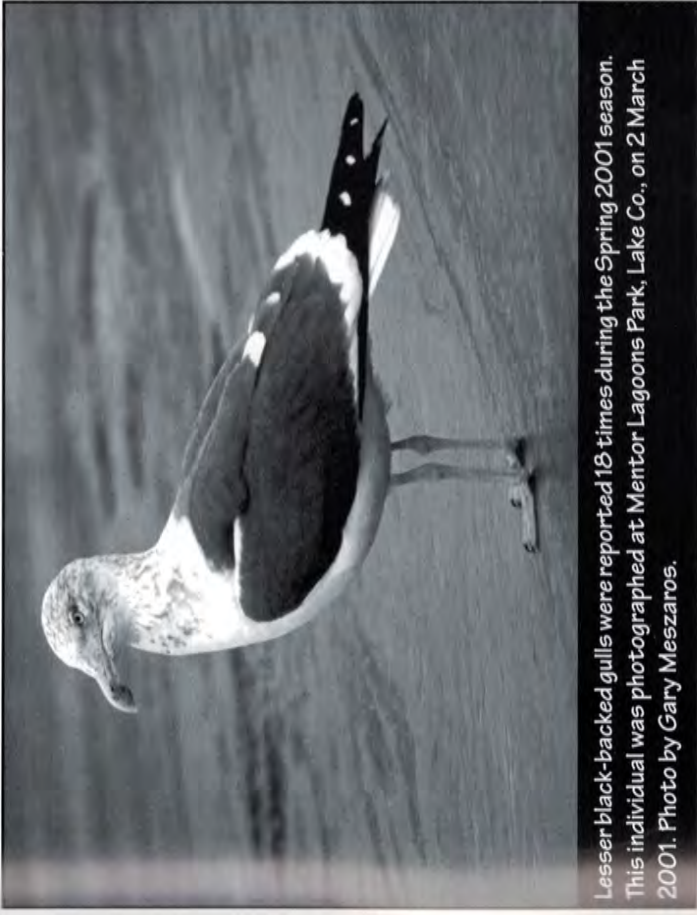
The Spring 1981 *Cardinal* was not an average, ordinary issue. In addition to the usual articles, notes, reprints, and reports, the magazine ushered in a new era of birding for the state with the formation of the first Ohio Bird Records Committee. Following a reprint of a long-eared owl article by Robert Finch and a request for information regarding color-banded common terns, a notice on page 7 describes the new committee, explaining why it was formed and providing a synopsis of the process by which it was to review records. Five Ohioans were selected as

charter members: Ray Hannikman, Jean Hoffman, Bruce Peterjohn, Worth Randle, and Elliot Tramer. Following the notice are biographical sketches and photos of each member. Little did they know that this initial effort would expand into today's 11-member team. Congratulations on a great idea and happy 20th anniversary.

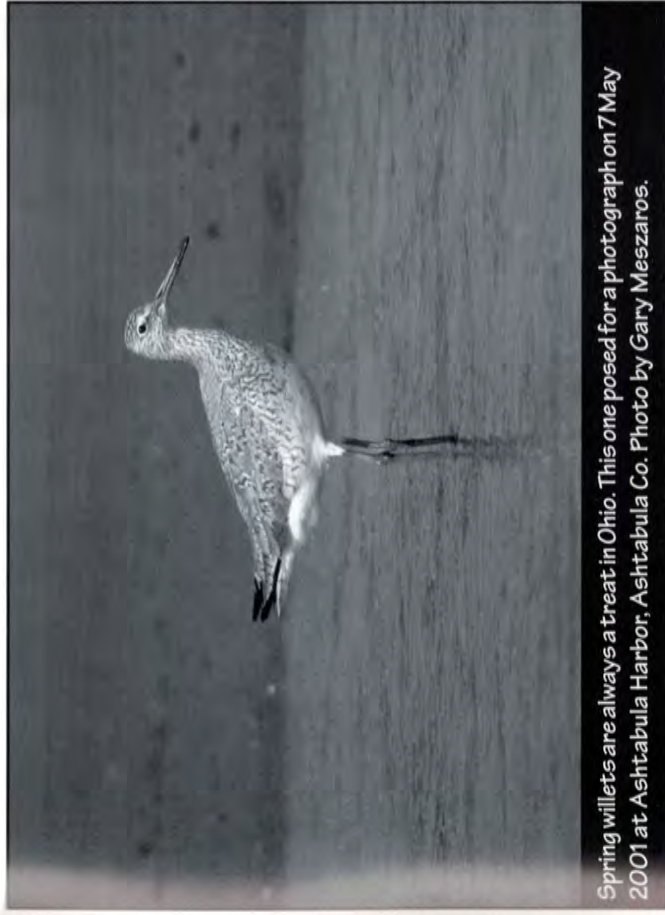
Along with the above, the Spring 1981 issue contained a report on the migration at Magee Marsh Wildlife Area by Mark Shieldcastle, two big day narratives, two reports on the discovery of Ohio's second burrowing owl by Sandra L. Zenser and Laurel Van Camp, a reprint of Homer F. Price's note describing Ohio's first burrowing owl in 1944, a note describing a "Lawrence's" warbler banded in Akron on 3 May, and seasonal sightings reports by Editor John Herman.

Mark Shieldcastle's view on the spring migration was double-edged. He described the shorebird migration as "disastrous," migrant waterfowl numbers as "less than expected," but characterized the hawk and passerine migrations as "fantastic." The big passerine day was 9 May, and it was on that date that Tom Bartlett, Bruce Peterjohn, Don Tumblyn, and Ed Pierce set a new Ohio big day record of 179 species; their adventure was chronicled in this issue. Working a later date, Jerry Cairo, Chuck Hovevar, Dave Corbin, and Howard Besser tallied 167 species on 15 May.

In all, 81 contributors reported a total of 276 species, and this was the first issue in which every documented bird report was reviewed by the new records committee. There were a number of quality birds reported between March and May, including an eared grebe at Blacklick Woods Metro Park from 19-20 May. Photographed by Don Tumblyn, it appeared on the cover of this issue. The best bird of the season was, of course, the burrowing owl discovered on 5 April by Sandra L. Zenser and Gilbert Gyde along Darsch Road in Ottawa County. The bird remained until the next day and provided Ohio with its second record. Three Smith's longspurs appeared at Ottawa NWR on 9 March, the Heermann's gull from the winter season stuck it out until 12 March at Lorain, a Le Conte's sparrow was banded at Sims Park in Euclid on 28 April, and a tricolored heron spent two days at Pickerington Ponds near Columbus in late April. Twenty-six shorebird species were reported, including one piping plover, 14 whimbrels, 19 red knots, 10 Wilson's phalaropes, and five red-necked phalaropes. There were so many black terns that only early dates, late dates, and maxima were reported—the largest flock was of 35. Finally, eight Connecticut and 27 golden-winged warblers were found, and northern mockingbird numbers were said to be "improving in central and southern Ohio." *Joseph W. Hammond*



Lesser black-backed gulls were reported 18 times during the Spring 2001 season. This individual was photographed at Mentor Lagoons Park, Lake Co., on 2 March 2001. Photo by Gary Meszaros.



Spring willets are always a treat in Ohio. This one posed for a photograph on 7 May 2001 at Ashtabula Harbor, Ashtabula Co. Photo by Gary Meszaros.

A friendly reminder...

It's time to renew your subscription if this box is checked.

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