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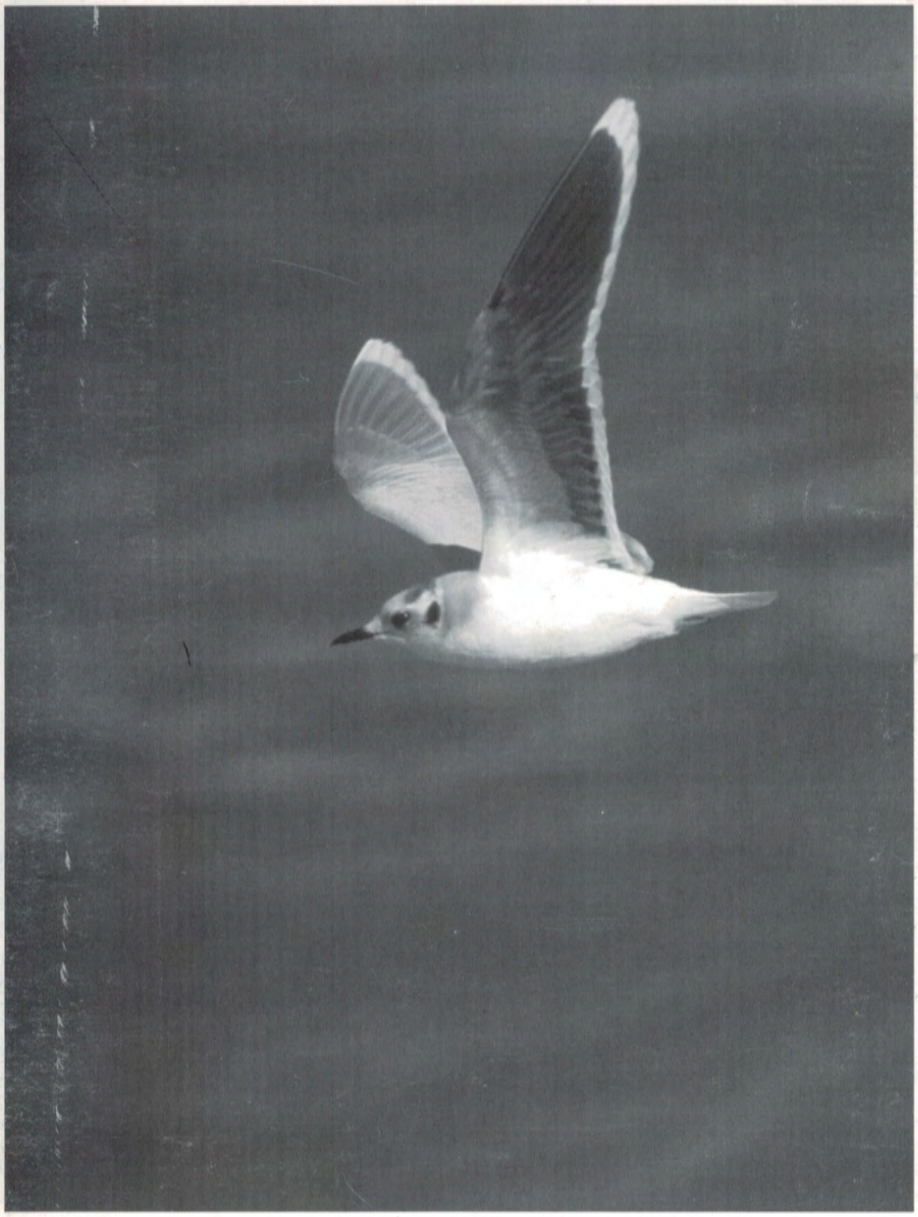

The Ohio Cardinal is a quarterly publication devoted to the study and appreciation of Ohio's birdlife.

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	Bill Whan 223 E. Tulane Rd. Columbus, OH 43202 danielel@iwaynet.net

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The Ohio Cardinal

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On the Cover: This adult little gull was photographed at East 72nd Street in Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, on 23 March 2002 by Bob Royse.

Spring 2002 Overview

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Going by the numbers, it was an average spring, though averaged from higher highs and lower lows than usual. We saw a lot of some of our birds, and few of others. In March, it dipped to 7°F on the 4th, then hit the month's high of 60°F just four days later. Four documented reports of Kirtland's warblers was an all-time record, but only one sighting of white-rumped sandpiper was a record of a different kind for recent years.

The weather featured lots of seesawing. March's major event was a storm on the 25th and 26th that brought most of spring's snow, followed by SW winds. Many peak numbers of loons, grebes, and ducks showed up over the next few days. April came out much warmer than average, but mostly because of a heat wave from the 11th to the 19th; southwest winds during this period aided early first arrivals of many breeders, as well as overflights in the northern counties. Averaged or not, May was chilly, and wet—it rained on 21 days. This made for some welcome fallouts of migrants in the usual locations, but killed others when insectivores couldn't find food during the double-digit below-normal temperatures and below-freezing wind chills of 18-22 May.

Fully 14 individuals of 10 Review Species were reported this spring, including one potentially new to the state list. The latter, a garganey, did what every first state record should do—a male in alternate plumage, it stuck around for seven days in a predictable location. Loons and grebes in big numbers were easy to find at the right times. Waterfowl more or less continued the trends of winter, with few hardy diving ducks, and a precipitous rush of the rest that left us mostly with the usual lingering wounded, lost, or committed celibates through the end of the period. Raptors overall continued recent trends, if in fits and starts due to the unstable weather. Shorebirds were hampered by 160% of normal rain in May, and sightings consisted of relatively small numbers either gathered at selected sky ponds on agricultural lands, or circling in frustration over traditional areas looking for a parking place. A commendable effort by Ottawa NWR to draw down an impoundment for spring shorebirds was unfortunately not a great success this time. Good numbers and varieties of gulls continued from winter. It was a memorable year for the migrant neotropical passerines, as the weather tended to interrupt their flight often enough to satisfy observers statewide.

Rob Harlan's column "Further Afield" will not appear in this issue, but will be back for the Summer 2002 number. We hope the feature on Smith's longspur will persuade readers to undertake concentrated searches for this species in Ohio next spring, and that following the advice of experts in finding these hard-to-find birds will pay off.

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

Underlined names of species indicate those on the OBRC Review List; documentation is needed to add reports of these species 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 Reports 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; CCE= Crane Creek estuary in Ottawa NWR; CPNWR=Cedar Point NWR in *Lucas*; CVNP=Cuyahoga Valley National Park in *Cuyahoga* and *Summit*; EFSP=East Fork SP in *Clermont*; fide="in trust of," said of data conveyed on behalf of another person; GPI=Gordon Park impoundment (Dike 14) in Cleveland; GRWA=Grand River Wildlife Area in *Trumbull*; HBSP=Headlands Beach SP in *Lake*; Killbuck=Killbuck Marsh WA in *Wayne*; KPWA=Killdeer Plains WA in *Wyandot*; LMP=Lakeshore Metropark in *Lake*; 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; MWW=Miami-Whitewater Wetlands in *Hamilton*; NWR=National Wildlife Refuge; OBRC=Ohio Bird Records Committee; ONWR=Ottawa NWR in *Ottawa/Lucas*; PCWA=Pickerel Creek WA in *Sandusky*; 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.

Corrigenda

We regret having made two serious errors in the previous issue, and urge subscribers to correct these on paper in their copies of the Winter 2001-02 issue. First, on p. 84, the name of the Hancock County naturalist who authored the wood stork record is Richard Stuart Phillips. Second, the record of the Swainson's thrush on p. 68 is even more significant than our erroneous date indicated; the bird was found on 24 January.

For the Record

Here are a few noteworthy reports that for one reason or another escaped our notice until recently:

Tundra Swan: 34 were at S. Bass Isl 9 Jan 2002 (**S. Wulkowicz**).

Long-tailed Duck: Four were off HBSP on 8 Dec 2001 (**R. Hannikman**).

Bufflehead: 893 off S. Bass Isl 14 Dec 2001 (**S. Wulkowicz**).

Common Goldeneye: 426 off S. Bass Isl 14 Dec 2001 (**S. Wulkowicz**).

Northern Harrier: **H. Devine** observed a pair in *Highland* 11 May to 7 Jul 2001, when apparently delivering food; not seen thereafter, and nest possibly destroyed by mowing.

Northern Goshawk: One was in Strongsville, *Cuyahoga*, 29 Jan 2002 (**C. Caldwell**).

American Coot: One seen seven times through 22 Jan 2002, S. Bass Isl (**S. Wulkowicz**).

Common Snipe: As many as nine at a spring (**E. Yoder**, m obs), and five in a ditch (**A. Raber** m obs), in *Holmes* apparently spent the Winter 2001-02 period.

Purple Sandpiper: One on 1 Dec 2001 on S. Bass Isl (**S. Wulkowicz**).

Brown Creeper: Max of eight through Winter 2001-02 on S. Bass Isl (**S. Wulkowicz**).

Savannah Sparrow: ~30 reported wintering (2001-02) in *Holmes* and *Tuscarawas* (*fide The Bobolink*).

Eastern Meadowlark: Rare was one in Fairport Hbr on 15 Jan 2002 (**R. Hannikman**).

Evening Grosbeak: One was in Mohican SP on 17 Jan 2002 (**L.A. Yoder**).

New State Checklist

The OBRC has completed a new and more detailed checklist of Ohio's birds. This 36-page booklet covers all 410 species on the official Ohio list as of 1 May 2002. In addition to all information included in the previous checklist, it features bar-graphs indicating the abundances of non-Review species at optimal locations in Ohio throughout the year, brief annotations, the most dramatic changes in status for breeders according to the Breeding Bird Survey, and graphs of occurrences of Review Species since 1980. Limited numbers of this booklet are available free, thanks to a grant from the Master Family Fund, through Jim McCormac, OBRC Secretary, at <jim.mccormac@dnr.state.oh.us>, at (614) 265-6440, or at ODNR-DNAP, 1889 Fountain Square Ct., Columbus, OH 43224-1388.

Dawes Arboretum in Licking County was the site of Ohio's first black-throated gray warbler record since 1994. Unfortunately, the bird stayed for only a small number of observers on 17 April 2002. Photo by Mike Williams/ODNR.

Spring 2002 Reports

Bill Whan

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Red-Throated Loon: A couple, normal numbers in recent years: one at Nimisila Res in *Summit* 15 Apr (**B. Morrison**), and one on the Cleveland lakefront 1 May (**P. Lozano**).

Common Loon: Over 1200 reported. First noted 16 Mar at Cowan Lk SP (**D. Graham**), loons peaked the last week of Mar, with remarkable numbers of 70 the 26th at Buckeye Lk (**G. Buckey**), 38 at Alum Ck and 35 at Hoover reservoirs the same day (**R. Thorn**), then 45 at Caesar Ck Lk (**L. Gara**) and a memorable 200 at Pleasant Hill Lk (**S. Snyder**), both on the 27th. The last reported was also at Cowan Lk, by **Gara** 28 May.

Pied-billed Grebe: A few wintered. Notable numbers of migrants included 22 at Mogadore Res on 31 Mar (**L. Rosche**) and 23 at the Shaker Lks on 9 Apr (**L. Deininger**). By 26 May, four pairs had brought off broods at Slate Run MP, *Pickaway* (**R. Rogers**).

Horned Grebe: A big spring, with close to 2000 reported, nearly all in Mar. A final straggler was at Medusa Marsh on 11 May (**J. McCormac**). High count at Lk Erie 101 in Cleveland 27 Mar (**S. Zadar**), but 10+ inland reservoirs boasted numbers of 30+, with high counts of ~225 at BCSP 24 Mar (**D. Overacker**), then ~250 at Pleasant Hill Lk (**S. Snyder**) and ~300 at Springfield Lk, *Summit* (**R. Harlan**, **S. Wagner**), both on 27 Mar.

Eared Grebe: A bird in transitional plumage was at Metzger Res, Lima, 26 Mar (**J. Kuenzli**), and another at Conneaut 31 Mar (**R. Harlan**, **S. Wagner**), where two were photographed 7 Apr (**J. Pogacnik**).

American White Pelican: **B. Menker** discovered four at BCSP 4 Apr, where numbers reached a state-record 19 on 7 Apr (**D. Overacker**); **Overacker** saw the last there 11 Apr, soon to be on their merry way.

A new American white pelican record count was set this April at Buck Creek State Park in Clark County. Troy Shively was able to photograph 14 of the state-record 19 present on 9 April 2002.

Double-crested Cormorant: At the Turning Pt Isl roost in Sandusky, **R. Harlan** and **S. Wagner** found 90 on 10 Mar. Inland migrants numbered as high as ~200 near Columbus 11 Apr (**R. Thorn**) and 150 in *Holmes* 23 Apr (**J. Miller**). Scattered individuals remained away from the Lake late, including 16 on 28 May in *Hancock* (**B. Hardesty**).

American Bittern: Reports amounting to 23 birds came from *Ashtabula*, *Butler*, *Cuyahoga*, *Darke*, *Greene*, *Hamilton*, *Lake*, *Lucas*, *Marion*, *Pickaway*, and *Wayne*. **F. Frick** noted the first, on 26 Mar at MWW, and one as late as 31 May at Killbuck (**E. Snively**) raised hopes for nesting there.

Least Bittern: Just as last spring, the first was noted at MWW on 13 Apr (**P. Wharton**). Few reported outside the western Lk Erie marshes, though the high count of five came from SVWA 5 May (**D. St. John**), and the last from GRWA 27 May (**C. Babyak**).

Great Blue Heron: At Grand Lk St. Marys ~100 nests were observed as early as 3 May (**L. Gara**). High count was a healthy 399 birds at Magee 19 May (**H&S Hiris**).

Great Egret: Setting a local early record was one at HBSP 10 Mar (**L. Rosche**). By 26 Mar, **K. Davis** was to notice 30 in *Jefferson* and 12 at Dillon Lk SP in *Muskingum*.

Snowy Egret: Perhaps it's too early to worry. We reported 24 birds for spring of 1992, but this spring only one near Wooster 17 (**E. Snively**) through 22 Apr (**S. Snyder**) for a second local record (**Snively**), and one 5 May at ONWR (**R. Harlan**, **S. Wagner**).

Little Blue Heron: All reports: near-ad in Columbus 13 Apr (**R. Thorn**); calico- plumaged bird in *Hardin* 16 Apr (**M. Misplon**); ad near Magee 17 (**V. Fazio**) through 18 Apr (**N. Bixler**); ad in *Lake* 26 Apr (**J. Pogacnik**); ad at Slate Run MP, *Pickaway*, 29 (**J. Cairo** *fide* **J. Fry**) through 30 Apr (**A. Haslage**); ad at MWW 5 May (**B. Schurenberg**), one at Funk WA 9 May (**S. Hannan**); one at SVWA 24 May (**D. St. John**). Six of eight were inland.

One of the famous Columbus, Franklin County, yellow-crowned night-herons posed for the camera on 7 June 2002. Photo by Mike Williams/ODNR.

Cattle Egret: One was in *Hardin* by 13 Apr (**J. Kuenzli**), one in Cincinnati 20 Apr (**N. Cade**), and two at ONWR 27 Apr (**N. Bixler**). In Sandusky near the current roost, eight were present 3 May (**S. Young**), and 11 on 25 May (**D. Sanders**). Farther away was one at Metzger 10 May (**B. Morrison**).

Green Heron: Touched down 19 Apr in *Adams* (**D. Overacker**) and *Hamilton* (**R. Kolde**), and by the 22nd was in *Stark* (**P. Soehnlen**). Good spring counts were six at Killbuck 11 May (**L. Yoder**) and 10 at Gilmore Ponds, *Butler*, 25 May (**M. Busam**).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: A few apparently wintered along the Cleveland lakefront, where one was duly found 1 Mar (**P. Lozano**). In Sandusky 38 birds, 90% adults, were at the Turning Pt Isl colonies by 10 May (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**). The Merwin St roost in Cleveland peaked at 56 birds 6 Apr (**G. Leidy**).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: Two were noted at the Columbus nest site of six years' standing 7 Apr (**J. Grabmeier**), where **A. Paschall** confirmed nesting 10 Apr. Four adults were counted at the site 27 May (**R. Cressman**), with four nestlings through the period (**Paschall**). **D. Brinkman** et al. spied one at Gilmore Ponds 11 May.

White-faced Ibis: One photographed in *Butler* 7 May. Details with the OBRC.

Glossy Ibis: Just one reported, near Lodi 23 Apr; details sought by the OBRC.

Black Vulture: In Mar, winter aggregations persisted, with 45+ in *Licking* 6 Mar (**R. Thorn**), nine in *Holmes* 7 Mar (**E. Schlabach**), 18 over Paint Ck SP 15 Mar (**L. Gara**), and ~100 in *Brown* the 21st (**B. Lund**). An oddball showed up with 20 TVs in *Lake* 29 Mar (**J. Pogacnik**). One was in *Coshocton* 15 May (**Schlabach**), and another in *Holmes* 26 May (**L. Deininger**); 34 in *Adams* 24 May (**D. Overacker**) was encouraging.

Turkey Vulture: Migration continued in Mar, with four over the Cleveland lakefront on the 2nd, where 137 were sighted the 28th (both **P. Lozano**) and 200 the 29th (**G. Leidy**). The Granville, *Licking*, roost diminished from 300 on 2 Mar to 50 by 30 Mar (**R. Thorn**). Further migration continued at a leisurely pace, for **E. Schlabach** was to count 97 over Conneaut on 17 April. In *Hancock*, 168 were counted 11 May (*fide* **B. Hardesty**).

Greater White-fronted Goose: The KPWA flock tarried, with 13 still there 23 Mar (**T. Archdeacon**). Two late birds were at Funk WA 15 Apr (**S. Snyder**).

Snow Goose: The wintering flock at ONWR had 190 birds (~50% blues) 17 Mar (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**). Among the wayward were two in *Adams* 10 Mar (**P. Whan**), one at Ross Lk, *Ross*, 28 Mar (**J. McMahon**), one at Cowan Lk SP 6 Apr (**E. Roush**), one near Wooster 30 Apr (**S. Snyder**), and one still in *Paulding* 1 May (**M&D Dunakin**).

Brant: At Conneaut, four were present 4 May, then two 11 May (**J. Pogacnik**).

Mute Swan: Twenty-two ganged up on Mogadore Res 31 Mar (**L. Rosche**). Twelve flew overhead to give the CVNP census a first record 11 May (**D&A Chasar**).

Tundra Swan: A flock that spent much or all of the winter at KPWA still numbered 37 on 3 Mar (**S. Cagan**). The wintering flock at CPNWR counted out at 175 on 16 Mar (**E. Tramer**). **B. Royse** reported 67 over Columbus 24 Mar, and 14 remained at ONWR 1 Apr (**J. Pogacnik**). Tardy were two in *Stark* 27 Apr (**E. Snively**).

Gadwall: Some wintered, with 32 at Sandy Ridge MP, *Lorain*, 2 Mar (**P. Lozano**). High count 1256 at Magee 17 Mar (**H&S Hiris**). Pairs with ducklings were noted at Deer Ck SP 2 May (**N. Cutright**), and at ONWR 75 were around 5 May (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**).

Eurasian Wigeon: **J. Pogacnik** found one at the CCE on 1 Apr.

American Wigeon: By 1 Mar their migration was well underway, with 700+ at Medusa Marsh (**E. Snively**), then ~500 there 16 Mar (**G. Leidy**). Five remained at ONWR 5 May (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**), and six at KPWA 15 May (**J. Hammond**).

American Black Duck: At Blacklick Woods MP in Columbus, 400 were seen 6 Mar (**R. Thorn**). In *Mahoning* one lingered 4 May (**N. Brundage**), one at ONWR the 5th (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**), one at BIWA the 18th (**D. Overacker**), and one at Mallard Club Marsh WA 25 May (**J. Hammond**).

Blue-winged Teal: The first reported, a drake, was at Killbuck 4 Mar (**S. Snyder**). At KPWA, ~125 were present 14 Apr (**R. Sempier**). A pair at Mallard Club Marsh WA had four ducklings to accompany their garganey guest 21 May (**T. Shively**).

Northern Shoveler: Excellent numbers inland included 80 in Lima 26 Mar (**J. Kuenzli**) and 100+ at BIWA 17 Apr (**K. Davis**). Loath to depart were two at Sheldon Marsh and four at Pipe Ck WA 19 May (**J. Hammond**), three at KPWA 20 May (**D. Sanders**), two in *Marion* 22 May (**D. Overacker**), and a drake in *Butler* 25 May (**M. Busam**).

Northern Pintail: After wintering in small numbers, numbers peaked in Mar, when on the 17th 1892 were at Magee (**H&S Hiris**) and ~300 at BIWA (**K. Davis**); "several hundred" remained at the CCE 31 Mar (**J. Pogacnik**). Thirty-five remained at ONWR 5 May (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**), and two at Sheldon Marsh 19 May (**J. Hammond**).

Garganey: On 19 May **D. Brackman** spotted this Eurasian rarity at Mallard Club Marsh WA (*fide* **B. Murphy**), where it was rediscovered 21 May (**G. Links** et al.) and seen daily by m obs through 25 May (**J. Watts** et al.). Details are with the OBRC. If accepted, this will become Ohio's first record.

This garganey floated in and out of view at Mallard Club Marsh Wildlife Area in Lucas County from 19-25 May 2002. This will become Ohio's first record if accepted by the OBRC. Digiscoped photo by Art Osborn.

Green-winged Teal: A handful may have wintered, and the first spring report came from near Medusa Marsh 1 Mar (**E. Snively**). **J. Miller** tallied 160 migrants at Killbuck 23 Mar. **G. Leidy** encountered ~200 at ONWR 11 May.

Canvasback: Following low winter numbers on Lk Erie, nearly all reports came from reservoirs in Mar, with the high count 32 at Tappan Lk, *Harrison*, the 27th (**E. Snively**). The last six were found at BIWA 10 Apr (**V. Fazio**).

Redhead: Passed mostly in Mar, with a high count of 884 at Magee the 17th (**H&S Hiris**). May loiterers included three in *Paulding* the 16th (**D&M Dunakin**), two at BIWA the 18th (**D. Overacker**), and one at Sheldon Marsh the 19th (**J. Hammond**).

Ring-necked Duck: March marked the passage of nearly all ring-necks, with a high count of 4892 at Magee the 17th (**H&S Hiris**). Inland, Mogadore Res hosted the most, with 2100+ on 13 Mar (**L. Rosche**), 1000+ on 27 Mar (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**), and 525 on 31 Mar (**Rosche**). Lagging behind were one near Wooster 4 May through the end of the period (**S. Snyder**) and one at KPWA 18 May (**D. Overacker**).

Greater Scaup: Having virtually abandoned Lk Erie this warm winter, not expected in numbers this spring. Only two counts of double figures were made, both inland: 10 were in Alum Ck Res, *Delaware*, 26 Mar (**R. Thorn**), and 20 in Tappan Lk, *Harrison*, 27 Mar (**E. Snively**).

Lesser Scaup: Nine gatherings of from 412 (**T&B Sponseller** at Nimisila Res, *Summit*, 26 Mar) to 1750 birds (**R. Harlan** and **S. Wagner** at Wellington Res, *Lorain*, 29 Mar) were reported at seven inland reservoirs 26 Mar-7 Apr. High count on Lk Erie was 1000+ in *Ottawa* 17 Apr (**V. Fazio**). One lingered at KPWA 14 May (**J. Kuenzli**).

Scaup sp.: Making hash of the above numbers was a tremendous raft with an estimated 18,000 scaup sp. in Maumee Bay off CPNWR 14 Apr (**E. Tramer**).

Surf Scoter: A total of 89 birds reported, with a high count of 11 at Tappan Lk 27 Mar (**E. Snively**), from *Allen*, *Ashtabula*, *Crawford*, *Cuyahoga*, *Delaware*, *Fulton*, *Harrison*, *Huron*, *Lake*, *Licking*, *Lorain*, *Portage*, *Richland*, *Stark*, *Summit*, and *Warren*. The first was at Lakeshore MP 17 Mar, the last in Conneaut 4 May (both **J. Pogacnik**), but in between nearly all birds were found in reservoirs, 74 of them between 24 and 31 Mar. Reports here in recent springs: 1990:2, 1991:4, 1992:3, 1993:20, 1994:14, 1995:17, 1996:48, 1997:33, 1998:23, 1999:99, 2000:57, 2001:40-50.

White-winged Scoter: One report: a drake was at Medusa Marsh 11 May (**G. Leidy**). Reports here in recent springs: 1990:188, 1991:2, 1992:1, 1993:20, 1994:15, 1995:9, 1996:13, 1997:1, 1998:1, 1999:18, 2000:6, 2001:1.

Black Scoter: A female was at Summit Lk 28 Mar (**R. Harlan**, **S. Wagner**) and two were at a Lima reservoir 2 Apr (**G. Miller**). Reports here in recent springs: 1990:0, 1991:0, 1992:4, 1993:0, 1994:2-3, 1995:6, 1996:14, 1997:4, 1998:2, 1999:7, 2000:0, 2001:1.

Long-tailed Duck: Decent numbers, with 45 reported and a high count of 12 (Berlin Res 28 Mar, **B. Morrison**). Like surf scoter, seen mostly in reservoirs 26-31 Mar, in *Ashtabula*, *Cuyahoga*, *Harrison*, *Mahoning*, *Richland*, *Stark*, *Summit*, *Van Wert*, and *Warren*. The last report, of two birds, came from Van Wert Res 11 Apr (**J. Perchalski**).

Bufflehead: As usual, Kelleys Isl provided the high count, with 833 on 17 Mar (**T. Bartlett**). The apparent wintering birds down in Wilmington lasted through 17 Apr, with three seen (**L. Gara**). The bulk of this species, like many other waterfowl, passed through during the last few days of Mar, with a high count of 90-120 at Nimisila Res 26 Mar (**B&T Sponseller**). Last report was of a female at ONWR 5 May (**R. Harlan**, **S. Wagner**).

Common Goldeneye: A few, with 12 at Hoover Res 12 Mar (**R. Thorn**), 43 at Kelleys Isl 17 Mar (**T. Bartlett**), and a last female at Frame Lk 12 Apr (**L. Rosche**).

Hooded Merganser: The wintering birds at Hoover Res, *Delaware*, remained as 50 on 2 Mar (**R. Thorn**). Like other waterfowl, this species moved largely in late Mar, with notable numbers on the 26th, when 82 were at Nimisila Res (**T&B Sponseller**), and on the 31st, when 125 were at Mogadore Res (**L. Rosche**). Nested locally this spring.

Common Merganser: Five in *Adams* 5 Mar were unusual (**P. Whan**). Mar 17 brought 572 to Magee Marsh WA (**H&S Hiris**) for the high count. Most exciting was a pair present most of May along the North Fork of Little Beaver Ck in *Columbiana*; nesting was probable this year, and confirmed last spring with flightless young accompanying a female (**J. Dolan** *fide* **J. McCormac**).

This albinistic adult male ruddy duck caused quite a stir at Metzger Reservoir in Allen County for several days in April. Digiscoped photo by Art Osborn on 13 April 2002.

Red-breasted Merganser: At Lakeshore MP, **J. Pogacnik** reported 187 on 3 Mar, 398 on 9 Mar, 445 on 30 Mar, and 357 on 7 Apr for the high counts along Lk Erie. Inland numbers during the last week of Mar included 300+ at BCSP 24 Mar (**D. Overacker**), ~300 at Alum Ck and Hoover Res in *Delaware* 26 Mar (**R. Thorn**), ~400 at Pleasant Hill Lk 27 Mar (**S. Snyder**) and 500+ on Buckeye Lk 27 Mar (**G. Buckey**). Lingerers were at a Findlay Res 14 May (*fide* **B. Hardesty**) and at KPWA 15 May (**T. Archdeacon**).

Ruddy Duck: First reported were 13 in Wilmington 13 Mar (**L. Gara**), and the throngs swelled to an estimated 6400 off Ottawa 17 Apr (**V. Fazio**). Inland high counts came during the last few days of Mar, topped by 425 at Lk Rockwell, *Portage*, 29 Mar (**L. Rosche**). An unusual number of alternate-plumaged ruddies were reported late in May, up through the 31st, when two drakes and a female were in *Wayne* (**S. Snyder**).

Osprey: **E. Schlabach** reported 13 from the Conneaut hawk watch of 8 Mar. The first of the reintroduced nesters arrived 9 Mar at Salt Fork SP, an early date (**J. Larson**).

Mississippi Kite: On 2 May, m obs. witnessed a flyover at Green Lawn Cem in Columbus; details with the OBRC. Many vagrants were reported in the East this spring.

Bald Eagle: One new nest was noted by *Hancock* birders, just SE of Findlay. Two ad on the beach at Beach City WA 12 and 24 May were not near a known nest (**P. Soehnlen**). **D. Sanders** was able to count 10 imm on one scope sweep at PCWA 25 May.

Northern Harrier: **R. Harlan** and **S. Wagner** reported seven in western *Lorain* 2 Mar, and **K. Ostermiller** 20+ in the air at once over KPWA 10 Mar. Seven migrants were over *Holmes* 29 Mar (**E. Schlabach**), who counted 22 on 8 Mar and 11 on 17 Apr over Conneaut. Reports after 28 Apr came from *Lake*, *Lucas*, *Hancock*, *Summit*, and *Wyandot*, reminding us to confirm nesting whenever we can.

Northern Goshawk: All reports: ad 17 Mar Kelleys Isl (**T. Bartlett**), 28 Mar *Medina* (**R. Harlan**, **S. Wagner**), 7 Apr Magee (**B. Barchus** et al.)—one of four reported for the season by the BSBO hawk watch—, 7 Apr *Ashtabula* (**V. Fazio**), two 17 Apr Conneaut (**E. Schlabach**), imm 17 Apr MBSP (**D. St. John**), ad 19 Apr KPWA (**G. Miller**).

Red-shouldered Hawk: One set up a territory near Oak Openings MP beginning 8 Mar, and remained through the period (**E. Tramer**). On 10 Mar, **J. Switzer** et al. found 15+ migrants grounded by weather in *Lucas*. Despite intensive searches, **R. Thorn** found none in Columbus riparian areas this spring, though **B. Whan** noted the urban pair persisted in the Clintonville neighborhood. **G. Leidy** noted a migrant in Parma 23 May.

Broad-winged Hawk: First arrival in *Holmes* 12 Apr (**L. Yoder**), then reports from *Hamilton* (**W. Hull**), *Scioto*—six birds—(**B. Royse**), *Cuyahoga* (**G. Leidy**), and *Holmes* (**J. Miller**) on the 15th. By 17 Apr, 1300+ were to pass over Magee (*fide* **V. Fazio**), and 430 over Conneaut (**E. Schlabach**). BSBO's Magee count for the season was 3170.

Rough-legged Hawk: Sparse in winter, sparse in spring, with the high count seven at The Wilds 9 Mar (**J. Larson**). **S. Snyder** saw the latest, a light morph at Funk WA 24 Apr.

Golden Eagle: The ad that's wintered at The Wilds for 3-4 years appeared 9 Mar (**J. Larson**). The BSBO reported 5 seen through 5 May, but most of the action was later, with an imm 5 May in *Lake* (**J. Pogacnik**), an imm over CPNWR 11 May (**E. Tramer**), and an adult over Monclova, *Lucas*, quite late on 23 May (**M. Anderson**).

Merlin: Two remained at Spring Grove Cem in Cincinnati 2 Mar (**L. Brumbaugh**), with one persisting 20 Apr (**J. Stenger**). Twenty-seven other reports, the latest of them from 14 May at Kelleys Isl (**K. Metcalf**).

Peregrine Falcon: The Lorain harbor bird remained 1 Mar (**G. Miller**). One in *Holmes* 1 May (**E. Schlabach**) was of interest. The introduction program produced 36 eyasses.

Wild Turkey: Wildlife officials estimated the state population at 260,000 this spring, up 30% from last spring. The take on a longer four-week hunting season, however, was down 15.2% because of inclement weather. Seems to signal a lot more turkeys.

King Rail: Very skimpily reported: one at Mallard Club Marsh WA 11 May (**J. McCormac**), and two at BIWA 15 May (**T. Archdeacon**).

Virginia Rail: Sparsely reported. Quite early was one at SVWA 11 Mar (**S. Reeves**), The high count was only four, again at SVWA, 9 Apr (**G. Miller**). Two 18 May at the Toledo airport constituted a first record at the location (**M. Anderson**).

Sora: At SVWA, the first was noted 9 Apr (**G. Miller**), and by 16 May 31 were to be found there (**D. St. John**). This note from **E. Tramer**: "An astounding 99 were counted at CPNWR on May 11; I say 'astounding' because the count represents soras who responded to stones thrown into the marsh. Probably 95% of the marsh was well beyond the reach of our stones!"

Posing along the bird trail at Magee Marsh Wildlife Area in Lucas County, this sora provided good views for many. Photo by Bob Finkelstein on 23 May 2002.

Common Moorhen: **S. Pelikan** reported one from MWW as early as 27 Mar. Large counts included 20 at ONWR 5 May (**R. Harlan**, **S. Wagner**), 20 on 11 May at Mallard Club Marsh WA (**J. McCormac**) and 10 at Mosquito Lk WA (**C. Babyak**).

American Coot: **H&S Hiris** tallied 8350 migrants at Magee 17 Mar. The late Mar push brought 1750-2000 to Nimisila Res 26 Mar (**B&T Sponseller**), and on 10 Apr **V. Fazio** estimated 3600-3700 at BIWA. Fifteen remained at KPWA 20 May (**D. Sanders**), and three at Gilmore Ponds 25 May (**M. Busam**).

Sandhill Crane: Between 40 and 50 birds reported, in *Ashland*, *Ashtabula*, *Clark*, *Erie*, *Geauga*, *Greene*, *Hamilton*, *Lake*, *Lorain*, *Mahoning*, *Medina*, *Paulding*, and *Wayne*—not only the western counties one would expect. High count was 10 birds at MWW 18 Mar (**J. Sheehan**). May sightings included one in *Clark* the 4th (**D. Overacker**), another the 4th at Medusa (**G. Leidy**), one near Castalia the 20th (**S. Young**), and two in southern *Mahoning* the 24th (**B. Jones**). In *Geauga*, the Claridon pair haunted the Tuttle Swamp after mid-Mar (*fide* **D. Best**), and the Troy trio returned 9 Mar (**D. Ferris**).

Black-bellied Plover: Earliest was one in *Scioto* 28 Apr (**G. Miller**). Later migrants persisted into the next period, with the latest spring reports of "3-4 dozen" at Mallard Club Marsh WA (**S. Corbo**) and one near Killbuck (**S. Snyder**), both 26 May. Lakeside mudflats were very scarce, and birds were often found in nearby flooded fields. A first for the Ravenna Training and Logistics Site in *Portage* was a flock of nine 13 May (**L. Rosche**).

American Golden-Plover: Nothing like last spring's, their migration began 9 Apr with a single bird in *Paulding* (**M&D Dunakin**). A few showed up near Magee (six 10 Apr, **G. Miller**) and at MWW (five on 14 Apr, **F. Frick**), but the high count was only 44, admittedly handsome alternate-plumaged birds at KPWA 11 May (**B. Whan** et al.).

Semipalmated Plover: Three arrived earliest 2 May in *Paulding* (**D&M Dunakin**), and nearly all reports were inland at flooded fields, peaking at 40 at KPWA 18 May (**B. Royse**). There were ~40 at ONWR 11 May (**G. Leidy**), and 10 at the CCE 14 May (**S. Reeves**). The last report came from near Wooster, two birds 30 May (**S. Snyder**).

American Avocet: A lone report: a bird briefly at Conneaut 4 May (**J. Pogacnik**).

Greater Yellowlegs: First reported 10 Mar with three at Metzger Marsh WA (**R. Harlan**, **S. Wagner**), they peaked in April, with 70 in *Paulding* the 10th and 19th (**M&D Dunakin**), 80 at Funk WA the 15th-20th (**S. Snyder**), and 111 at BIWA the 20th (**V. Fazio**). Two remained at KPWA 20 May (**D. Sanders**).

Lesser Yellowlegs: Early were four in *Portage* 15 Mar (**L. Rosche**). High count was 535+ at BIWA 20 Apr (**V. Fazio**). One remained at Funk WA 23 May (**S. Snyder**).

Solitary Sandpiper: Returned 12 Apr at KPWA (**T. Archdeacon**). Seven were counted over Wadsworth, *Medina*, 8 May (**R. Harlan**, **S. Wagner**), and the last was seen in a muddy field in *Hancock* 21 May (*fide* **B. Hardesty**).

Willet: Mostly inland, all reports follow: five at Hueston Wds SP 23 Apr (**D. Russell**), one 1 May, then two 2 May, in *Paulding* (**D&M Dunakin**), another near Killbuck 6 May (**S. Snyder**), three in *Lucas* 15 May (**D. Friedman**), and two at Caesar Ck SP 19 May (**L. Gara**).

Spotted Sandpiper: **E. Roush** found one at Cowan Lk SP 17 Apr, and **P. Soehnlen** one in *Stark* the 18th. The high count was of a flock of 34—undoubtedly liberated females of this polyandrous species—enjoying the beach at Sheldon Marsh 19 May (**J. Hammond**, **J. Watts**). **E. Roush** saw one in a tree at SVWA the same day.

Upland Sandpiper: One arrived at the BIWA nesting grounds 10 Apr (**V. Fazio**), and by the 17th one was in *Lake* (**J. Pogacnik**). The *Lucas* birds at Krause Rd were first noticed 27 Apr (**J. Brumfield**), the Springfield Airport birds 4 May (**D. Overacker**), and one in *Ashtabula* 11 May (**L. Rosche**). One was found at the Dayton Airport 15 May, and two 30 May (**S. Lucas**), but a "wildlife reduction program" is now in force there.

Whimbrel: **J. Pogacnik** happened upon 18 at Burke Airport in Cleveland 23 May.

Hudsonian Godwit: **J. Faulkner** reported 10-12 at KPWA 13 May, then **M. Baughman** six alt males and four females there the 14th. The **Dunakins** had an alternate-plumaged male in *Paulding* 15 May, a first county record, and **D. Sanders** two at BIWA 20 May. Second-best spring state numbers, after 27 on 21 May 1975 in the Toledo area.

Marbled Godwit: Just one, at Salt Fork SP 16 Apr (**W. Sarno** *fide* **E. Snively**).

Ruddy Turnstone: Its numbers depressed as well, with only 24 reported, the first at HBSP 11 May (**H. Petruschke**), the last five near BIWA 22 May (**D. Overacker**). High counts were seven in the BIWA area 20 May (**D. Sanders**) and six on the Crane Ck SP beach 15 May (**D&A Chasar**).

Sanderling: Few as usual, the only reports of one 18 May at MBSP (**M. Anderson**), and another at the east beach at Magee on 22 (**D. Overacker**) and 23 May (**B. Finkelstein**).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: Only 35 birds of this common species reported, 21 of them on the high and last count in *Wayne* 30 May (**S. Snyder**). The first reports came from 11 May, with two at KPWA (**B. Whan**) and one at ONWR (**G. Leidy**).

Least Sandpiper: Fewer than 70 reported, only one of them near Lk Erie. Two 17 Mar at BCSP remained from at least 16 Feb (**D. Overacker**), and probably wintered locally. The first migrants were 20 in *Paulding* 2 May (**D&M Dunakin**), and the last one near Wooster 27 May (**S. Snyder**).

White-rumped Sandpiper: Five were in *Fulton* 21 May (**J. Yochum**).

Pectoral Sandpiper: A different story for this grasspiper. The first appeared at Bolton Field in *Franklin* 17 Mar (**P. Gardner**). On 19 Apr, **T&B Sponseller** saw 4000+ birds at Funk WA in *Wayne*, **S. Snyder** found 3000+ the following day, and **R. Troutman** 1500 there the 21st. **V. Fazio** reported 500+ from BIWA 20 Apr, and **D. Sanders** had 12 at KPWA 20 May.

Dunlin: Except on muddy margins at the CCE, mostly seen in flight near the Lake, and at sky-ponds inland. A basic-plumaged bird at Caesar Ck SP 14 Mar (**E. Roush**) was puzzling. One was early in Cleveland 2 Apr (**G. Leidy**), and a nearly alternate- plumaged bird was near Wooster 6 Apr (**S. Snyder**). High count was 2600 at ONWR 11 May (**Leidy**), and 35 circled Mallard Club Marsh WA 25 May (**J. Hammond**).

Stilt Sandpiper: Scarce in any spring, one was at BIWA 18 May (**D. Overacker**) and another at KPWA 20 May (**D. Sanders**).

Short-billed Dowitcher: Scattered, with inland (*Fairfield*, *Hamilton*, *Marion*, *Paulding*, *Wayne*, *Wyandot*) numbers close to those from near Lk Erie. High count 100+ at Pipe Ck WA 15 May (**J. Sedransk**), last four birds 22 May in *Marion* (**D. Overacker**).

Common Snipe: Were one near Wooster 1 Mar (**E. Snively**) and two there 2 Mar (**S. Snyder**) wintering birds or early migrants? Certainly 80 at MWW 27 Mar (**S. Pelikan**) were on the move, as well as 52 near Killbuck (**Snyder**). The high count was 125+ over Conneaut during the hawk watch of 17 Apr (**E. Schlabach**).

American Woodcock: Returned in late winter, apparently. The most interesting spring report involved "53 birds lined up along the stone walls in Erie St. Cemetery in Cleveland for Opening Day" 8 Apr (**R. Harlan**, **S. Wagner**). It seems we should be prepared to hear that we must open up more woodland areas for this game species, just as grouse hunters (and—amazingly enough—loggers!) have urged on behalf of the ruffed grouse.

While looking for American white pelicans at Buck Creek State Park in Clark County, some observers were treated to this adult laughing gull. Photo by Troy Shively on 9 April 2002.

Wilson's Phalarope: A male was near Killbuck WA 3 May (**S. Snyder**).

Red-necked Phalarope: An alt female was at Pipe Ck WA 9 May (**C. Tucker** et al.).

Pomarine Jaeger: **J. Pogacnik** discovered a light-morph imm at Fairport Hbr 10 Mar.

Laughing Gull: Five birds, two inland. **T. Shively** discovered an alt bird at BCSP 9 Apr, and **G. Miller** a similar one at Sheldon Marsh SNP 24 Apr. **M. England** found an ad near Lancaster, *Fairfield*, 25 Apr. An ad was at Conneaut 4 May (**J. Pogacnik**), and another on S. Bass Isl 7 May (**T. Bartlett**).

Franklin's Gull: **J. Pogacnik** discovered an ad at Lorain 6 Apr.

Little Gull: The first to appear were three ad off Lakeshore MP 10 Mar (**J. Pogacnik**), where one was seen 24 Mar. In between, 1-3 adults showed up intermittently in Cleveland (**G. Miller**, **L. Rosche**, **L. Gardella**). All Apr sightings belong to **Pogacnik**, with an ad at Lorain the 6th, two ad at Conneaut the 7th, two ad 14 Apr and one 20 Apr at Lakeshore MP, and two ad at Conneaut 4 May.

A few black-headed gulls made appearances along the Lake Erie shore this spring. This one was located at East 72nd Street in Cleveland, Cuyahoga County. Photo by Troy Shively on 18 March 2002.

Black-headed Gull: **S. Zadar** discovered one on the Cleveland lakefront 15 Mar, and two birds were confirmed 22 Mar (**G. Miller**), with the last sighting of one there 7 Apr (**L. Rosche**). **J. Pogacnik** had a flyby ad at Lakeshore MP 24 Mar, and another at Conneaut 7 Apr. Details with the OBRC.

Bonaparte's Gull: Wintered in some numbers on Lk Erie. Migrants were on the way by 15 Mar, witness 27 at Caesar Ck SP (**L. Gara**), and by 7 Apr **L. Rosche** estimated their numbers on the Cleveland lakefront at 10,000. At Conneaut, ~5000 were present on 5 May (**G. Miller** et al.), and an oddball basic-plumaged bird remained at KPWA through 14 May (**J. Kuenzli**, m obs).

California Gull: Several sent details to the OBRC on a bird at Fairport Hbr 11 Mar.

Thayer's Gull: Seven reports, the first from 2 Mar off E. 55th St in Cleveland (**R. Harlan**, **S. Wagner**), the last a first-year bird 11 May at Conneaut (**J. Pogacnik**).

Iceland Gull: Several ranged the lakefront in the Central Basin during Mar, and it is possible each was involved in **S. Zadar**'s report of one first-winter bird and two adults at GPI 15 Mar. Latest was an ad 22 Mar in Cleveland (**G. Miller**).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Many reports came from Lorain east, none more comprehensive than **G. Miller**'s of 1 Mar: three ad and one first-winter at Huron, two ad at Lorain, an ad at Avon Lk, and two ad at E. 72nd St in Cleveland. **Miller** also found one extraordinarily far inland at BCSP, a first-winter 9 Apr. Most surprising of all were the following observations by **J. Herman** et al. at Clear Fork Res in *Richland*: one ad 24-30 Mar, four ads on 31 Mar, three ads on 1 Apr, two on 2 Apr, and one ad 3-12 Apr. **J. Pogacnik** had the last one, an imm at Lakeshore MP 11 May.

Glaucous Gull: Perhaps as few as two ranged the lakefront. Two, one ad and one imm, were in Cleveland 8 Mar (**D&J Hoffman**), and a first-winter was there as late as 11 Apr (**S. Zadar**).

Great Black-backed Gull: Present in expected numbers, with a reported high count of 127 at Kelleys Isl 17 Mar (**T. Bartlett**). **Bartlett** noted 10 late birds, nine of them second-years, at S. Bass Isl 7 May. **J. Pogacnik** had two late ones at Lakeshore MP 11 May.

Caspian Tern: First to appear was a single bird in a field near Fostoria 2 Apr (**S. Ross** *fide* **B. Hardesty**), and by the 7th 25 were at Lorain (**D. Cole**). May birds included 11 at Conneaut the 4th (**J. Pogacnik**), and one in BCSP the 15th (**D. Overacker**).

Common Tern: **E. Roush** noted the first at Cowan Lk SP 6 Apr, and three were in *Mahoning* 17 Apr (**N. Brundage**). May birds away from the colonies included two at Conneaut the 4th (**J. Pogacnik**), two at HBSP the 7th (**L. Rosche**), one at Caesar Ck SP the 17th (**S. Reeves**), and three at Shreve Lk the 19th (**S. Snyder**).

Forster's Tern: **J. Kuenzli** saw the first, in Lima 26 Mar. The last sightings were of singles on 19 May at Caesar Ck SP (**L. Gara**) and Sheldon Marsh SNP (**J. Hammond**, **J. Watts**). High count was only 16, at Conneaut 4 May (**J. Pogacnik**), and the inland high 12, in *Paulding* 2 Apr (**M&D Dunakin**).

Black Tern: A minimum of 54 birds reported on 27 occasions, from 11 counties. As many as 11 (25 May, **J. Hammond**) were at Mallard Club Marsh WA from 21-26 May, and as many as 12 (15 May, **B. Whan**) at KPWA from 10-26 May. The first report came from Slate Run MP, *Pickaway*, 9 May (**B. Sparks**). Four birds were near Wooster on 12 May, and one remained into the summer period (**S. Snyder**).

Black-billed Cuckoo: **G. Miller** reported the first, from *Athens* 30 Apr. The BSBO banded a record seven at Navarre 5-31 May.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: **G. Miller** had this cuckoo as well in *Athens* 30 Apr. Overall this species seemed difficult to find until late May.

Snowy Owl: One owl was reported five times at Burke Airport in Cleveland, the latest 24 Mar (**P. Lozano**).

Long-eared Owl: **G. Links** had 6 or 7 at KPWA 4 Mar for the high count, where at least one remained as late as 6 Apr (**R. Sempier**). Elsewhere, one was at ONWR 1 Apr (**J. Pogacnik**).

Short-eared Owl: Twelve were at KPWA 4 Mar (**G. Links**), and one remained there 11 May (**S. Landes** et al.). Four at Spring Grove Cem in Cincinnati 16 Mar were a nice surprise (**L. Brumbaugh**). One was in *Lake* 29 Mar (**J. Pogacnik**), and another at HBSP 12 Apr (**R. Rickard**).

Northern Saw-whet Owl: Four could still be found at KPWA 6 Mar (**D. Snapp**). One was along the Magee bird trail 29 Mar (**D. Overacker**).

Common Nighthawk: Early birds included one in Cincinnati 18 Apr (**D. Brinkman**), and one in *Perry* 29 Apr (**J. Faulkner**). **M. Misplon** reported dozens at KPWA 26 May, a spot bereft of nesting habitat, and **L. Gardella** counted 81 over Pinery Narrows in Brecksville 27 May.

Chuck-will's-widow: Returned in expected numbers to its *Adams* haunts, but none was heard this spring in *Hocking*, for what would have been its fifth consecutive year.

Whip-poor-will: The first in *Hocking* was heard 13 Apr (**J. Fry**), and the first in *Adams* 15 Apr (**P. Whan**). By 6 May, one was at Lakeshore MP on Lk Erie (**J. Pogacnik**).

Chimney Swift: One in *Lake* 9 Apr was likely an overflyer (**J. Pogacnik**), as the earliest date elsewhere was 12 Apr in Cincinnati (**W. Hull**) and *Holmes* (**E. Schlabach**). Another was in *Hocking* 15 Apr (**D. Horn**). **B. McCullough** reported "hundreds" 2 May at a traditional site in Burton, *Geauga*.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Mid-Apr heat must have encouraged overflights, with one in *Hocking* on the 12th (**T. Sheley** *fide* **M. England**), and two on the 17th in *Warren* (**P. Terlinden**). The BSBO banded a record 110 at Navarre 3-30 May.

Red-headed Woodpecker: Widely reported in unglaciated Ohio. The high count of 29 birds came from the *Hancock* survey of 11 May (**K. Noblet**).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: An imm near Dayton 6 Mar (**C. Hawley**) was early, or perhaps had overwintered. One on 27 Mar in *Van Wert* (**J. Perchalski**) was more on time. Nine were in Burnet Wds in Cincinnati 2 Apr (**W. Hull**). The latest report came from the *Hancock* survey of 11 May (**B. Sams** *fide* **B. Hardesty**), but we can only assume others nested in the northeast.

Pileated Woodpecker: Scarce in the area, one on 12 May in the Oak Openings was a good find (**E. Tramer**).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Early birds were at MWW on 10 May (**N. Cade**) and in Bowling Green on 11 May (**B. Cullen**). The high count was three, with two birds in Oak Openings MP and one in Secor MP in *Lucas* 18 May (**M. Anderson**).

Eastern Wood-Pewee: The first report came from Highbanks MP in *Delaware* 2 May (**G. Miller**). The BSBO reported a Navarre banding record of 48 from 13 May through the end of the period.

This common nighthawk was observed at its day roost along one of Magee Marsh Wildlife Area's trails in Ottawa County on 22 May 2002. Photo by Bob Finkelstein.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: The first report was of one banded at Navarre by the BSBO 13 May; they subsequently set a record for the site with 153 birds captured this spring.

Acadian Flycatcher: Early was a bird at MWW 27 Apr (**A. Scruggs**). One at Magee on 22 May (**G. Miller**) was presumably headed farther north.

Alder Flycatcher: One was in *Knox* 13 May (**L. Deininger**). **G. Links** called them more prevalent than ever before, with pairs in *Sandusky*, *Erie*, *Lucas*, and *Williams* in the NW.

Willow Flycatcher: Birds were in Cincinnati by 5 May (**N. Cade**), 9 May in *Tuscarawas* (**E. Schlabach**), and 10 May at BIWA (**B. Conlon**).

"Traill's Flycatcher": Banders often don't separate silent Willow/Alder flycatchers, but the BSBO unit at Navarre captured a record 471 "Traill's" this spring, beginning 7 May.

Least Flycatcher: An early bird was at Magee 27 Apr (**J. Brumfield**), and 30 Apr brought reports from *Franklin* (**M. England**), *Clinton* (**E. Roush**), *Hancock* (**S. Baxter**), and *Delaware* (**J. Hammond**). High count eight, in NE *Coshocton* 15 May (**E. Schlabach**).

Eastern Phoebe: A few may have wintered, but our first report came from *Adams* 9 Apr (**J. Lehman**), and by the 14th one was at Lakeshore MP in *Lake* (**J. Pogacnik**). **J. Watts** noted a nearly complete nest in *Franklin* 11 Apr.

Great Crested Flycatcher: Early birds were in Cincinnati (**J. Stenger**) and at Salt Fork SP (**L. Yoder**) 20 Apr. Above-average numbers were reported by observers.

Eastern Kingbird: An early arrival was at SVWA 9 Apr (**G. Miller**), where it or another was reported 13 (**D. Overacker**) and 15 Apr (**D. St. John**). **E. Tramer** found 74 in a single field at Oak Openings MP in *Lucas* 12 May.

Loggerhead Shrike: One was reported in *Lake* 7 Apr, and another at Slate Run MP in *Pickaway* 14 Apr. This is now a review species; details are being sought for the OBRC.

Northern Shrike: On 17 Mar, one was at BIWA (**K. Davis**) and another in Fairport Hbr (**J. Pogacnik**). One remained at BIWA as late as 9 Apr (**J. Kuenzli**), and another at KPWA 10 Apr (**B. Sparks**).

Shrike sp.: **J. Hildreth** reported one at Irwin Prairie SNP in *Lucas* 6 Mar, and **D. Horn** another at KPWA 26 Mar.

White-eyed Vireo: Arrived 12 Apr at Cowan Lk SP (**L Gara**). High count six in *Tuscarawas* 20 Apr (**E. Schlabach**).

Bell's Vireo: On 4 May, **J. Hays** noted one at MWW; two were seen 5 May (**B. Schurenberg**). One was in *Hancock* 14 May (**S. Baxter**), and at BCSP one was singing 25 May (**D. Overacker**).

Blue-headed Vireo: One in Bowling Green 13 Apr was a new Toledo-area record (*fide* **M. Anderson**). Another record was the 27 banded by BSBO at Navarre 16 Apr-18 May. On territory in hemlocks in several *Geauga* MPs through the end of the period (**D. Best**).

Warbling Vireo: Quite early was one in Cincinnati 15 Apr (**W. Hull**).

Philadelphia Vireo: Arrived 5 May at MWW (**D. Graham**) and Magee (**R. Harlan**, **S. Wagner**). High count three, at Magee 22 May (**G. Miller**).

Red-eyed Vireo: Five arrived 15 Apr in Columbus (**P. Rodewald**) and in Shawnee SF, with 122 there 30 Apr (both **B. Royse**). High count: 30+ at Magee on 29 May (**E. Tramer**).

Blue Jay: On 17 Apr **D. St. John** counted 379 migrants over MBSP, and on 4 May **G. Leidy** 1000+ more over Magee.

Horned Lark: A flock of 700 was near Whitehouse, *Lucas*, 27 Mar (**E. Tramer**).

Purple Martin: Arrived 30 Mar in Cincinnati (**W. Hull**) and Indian Lk SP (**D. Sillick**).

Tree Swallow: On 8 Mar, 25 were at SVWA (**S. Reeves**), two at MWW (**D. Russell**), and one over Conneaut (**E. Schlabach**). Temps in the teens 22 Mar took their toll.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: Four were the first to arrive, near Wooster 3 Apr (**S. Snyder**). Sixty at Hoover Res 23 Apr was a lot for this unsocial species (**R. Thorn**). **T. Gilliland** noted the return of a pair to the mouth of the Rocky River, where J. P. Kirtland had reported the same 150+ years earlier.

Bank Swallow: One was near Wooster as early as 7 Apr (**S. Snyder**). Later, 1300 were estimated in the Metzger-Magee area 15 May (**M. Anderson**).

Cliff Swallow: **E. Yoder** spotted the first, in *Holmes* on 14 Apr. The guests at **P. Yoder**'s *Holmes* farm were down to 482 nests, perhaps because of territorial disputes with a nearby kestrel (*fide* **S. Snyder**). Continues to colonize new areas.

Barn Swallow: **N. Cade** found the first, at MWW 29 Mar, and by 1 Apr one was to be found in *Holmes* (**L. Yoder**).

Black-capped Chickadee: Three were in *Holmes* 6 Apr, and one 1 May (**E. Schlabach**).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Numerous reports of birds persisting at feeders since winter statewide. The latest report came from a *Hancock* feeder 21 May (**B. Hardesty**).

Brown Creeper: First report from Hueston Wds SP 2 Mar (**N. Keller**). High count five in *Tuscarawas* 6 Apr (**E. Schlabach**). Nesting in CVNP 26 May (**D. Chasar**).

Carolina Wren: A record nine banded at Navarre by the BSBO during the season.

House Wren: Arrived 12 Apr Cowan Lk SP (**L. Gara**) and 13 Apr *Holmes* (**L. Yoder**).

Winter Wren: A migrant was singing in *Medina* 12 Mar (**R. Harlan**, **S. Wagner**). High count was 12 at Magee 10 Apr (**G. Miller**).

Sedge Wren: One was at Mallard Club Marsh WA 11 May (**E. Tramer**), one at Metzger and one at Magee 15 May (**M. Anderson**), and one at Killbuck 31 May (**E. Snively**).

Marsh Wren: Arrived Cowan Lk SP 23 Apr (**E. Roush**). High counts seven at SVWA 5 May (**D. St. John**) and six at Killbuck 23 May (**S. Snyder**).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: At Shawnee SF, 75+ were around 1 Apr (**B. Royse**) for the high count, and the latest was seen 11 May at Magee (**B. Whan** et al.).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Over 20 reported in May, the last of them the 21st in *Hancock* (**D. Barker** *fide* **B Hardesty**).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Arrived 1 Apr in *Adams* (**B. Lund**), and by 15 Apr **B. Royse** counted 121 in Shawnee SF.

Veery: **J. Miller** et al. furnished details on a very early bird 15 Apr in *Holmes*. High count was 20, on 15 May on Kelleys Isl (**G. Miller**).

Gray-cheeked Thrush: The first report came from N. Chagrin Res'n 28 Apr (**K. Metcalf**). One with a rufous tail was at Magee 15 May (**J. Hammond**, **B. Whan**).

Swainson's Thrush: Numbers better. On 15 May 50+ were on Kelleys Isl (**G. Miller**). Earliest 13 Apr at Magee (**B. Cullen**), 15 Apr in Cincinnati (**W. Hull**), and *Lucas* 19 Apr (**E. Tramer**). Latest 28 May in *Tuscarawas* (**E. Schlabach**).

Hermit Thrush: One at HBSP 9 Mar was early (**K. Metcalf**). A likely local breeder was singing in Clear Ck MP on 31 Mar, but another doing likewise in *Franklin* 23 May was interesting (both **M. England**).

Wood Thrush: Arrival 15 Apr, in *Clermont* (**B. Foppe**) and in Cincinnati (**L. Peyton**).

Northern Mockingbird: Four at HBSP 19 Apr (**L. Rosche**). **E. Tramer** calls them now "regular" in the Toledo area.

Brown Thrasher: Two were in Clear Ck MP 15 Mar (**M. England**), and one at KPWA 31 Mar (**R. Sempier**). Eleven 14 Apr at CPNWR was remarkable (**E. Tramer**).

American Pipit: Seven counts of 30 or more from five counties, the highest 120 in *Portage* 3 Apr (**L. Rosche**). Three remained on S. Bass Isl 16 May (**D. Horn**).

Cedar Waxwing: Sparsely reported till late May, with 27 in *Geauga* 7 Apr (**B. McCullough**) and 25 in *Holmes* 9 May (**E. Schlabach**).

Blue-winged Warbler: One at Bowling Green 16 Apr was a record early date for the Toledo area (*fide* **M. Anderson**). High count 18 in the CVNP in *Summit* 27 May (**G. Leidy**).

Golden-winged Warbler: First at Shawnee on 27 Apr (**T. Shively**), 22 birds reported, from *Cuyahoga*, *Defiance*, *Delaware*, *Franklin*, *Greene*, *Hamilton*, *Hancock*, *Lake*, *Lucas*, *Paulding*, *Preble*, *Scioto*, *Tuscarawas*, and *Wyandot*. High count two at Magee 13 May (**S. Reeves**).

Hybrids of the above: Brewster's was captured at Navarre 6 May by BSBO, seen 7 May at N. Chagrin Res'n (**B. Fambrough**), at Shaker Lks 8 May (**L. Deininger**), and in *Coshocton* on 25 May (**E. Schlabach**). Lawrence's was at HBSP 5 May (**R. Rickard**).

Metzger Marsh Wildlife Area in Lucas County played host to a number of birds this spring. Among them was this golden-winged warbler photographed there on 17 May 2002 by Troy Shively.

Tennessee Warbler: First seen 17 Apr in Cincinnati (**L. Peyton**), last at Cowan Lk SP on 23 May (**E. Roush**). High count 14 at Shawnee SF 6 May (**B. Royse**).

Orange-crowned Warbler: High count was two, in *Coshocton* 15 May (**E. Schlabach**). The BSBO banded 12 at Navarre 17 Apr (the early date) through 5 May.

Nashville Warbler: Showed up 16 Apr in *Hocking* (**T. Sheley** *fide* **M. England**) and in *Hancock* (**D. Barker** *fide* **B. Hardesty**). One at Magee 19 Apr tied the Toledo-area early record (*fide* **M. Anderson**). High count 35+ Highbanks MP, *Delaware* (**J. Hammond**).

Northern Parula: Doing well. First at Shawnee SF 10 Apr (**B. Royse**). **J. McCormac** noted territorial males in *Adams*, *Columbiana*, *Franklin*, *Hocking*, *Pike*, *Ross*, and *Scioto* during the period. **J. Lesser** had four at Lk La Su An WA in *Williams* 20 Apr. Ten were at Magee 14 May (**L. Rosche**), and one in Wadsworth 28 May (**R. Harlan**, **S. Wagner**).

Yellow Warbler: First reported 13 Apr at MWW (**P. Wharton**), they crossed the state by the 19th. High count was 35 in NE *Coshocton* 10 May (**E. Schlabach**).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: Arrived quite early, 15 Apr in Cincinnati (**W. Hull**), and numbered up to 30 at Magee by 18 May (**R. Harlan**, **S. Wagner**).

Magnolia Warbler: None earlier than 2 May in Rocky River (**P. Lozano**), their numbers reached 50 at Magee/Metzger on 18 May (**R. Harlan**, **S. Wagner**). In the 11 May CVNP census, 148 was a noteworthy count even for this common migrant (**D. Chasar**).

Cape May Warbler: Observers reported lower numbers. The first was in Franklin on 30 Apr (**P. Rodewald**). Ten were seen at Metzger Marsh WA 17 May (**J. Fuller, J. Hammond**) for the high count.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: First seen 1 May at MWW (**L. Brumbaugh**), by 13 May 40+ were at Magee (**S. Reeves**). BSBO banded a record 131 during May at Navarre.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: **G. Leidy** counted 125 in Parma 8 May, and the last report came from *Lucas* 24 May (**M. Anderson**).

Black-throated Gray Warbler: **S. Albaugh** discovered this rarity at Dawes Arboretum in *Licking* 17 Apr, where it remained a few hours for a handful of other observers. Details are with the OBRC.

Black-throated Green Warbler: Two very early birds were in *Scioto* 31 Mar (**P. Gottschling**).

Blackburnian Warbler: **B. Graves** reported the first, in Columbus 27 Apr. **E. Schlabach** had 13 in NE *Coshocton* 15 May.

Mike Williams (ODNR) was able to rush over to Dawes Arboretum in Licking County on 17 April 2002 and photograph this one-day wonder black-throated gray warbler. The most recent previous record is from 1994.

Yellow-throated Warbler: On 30 Mar **B. Sparks** found three in Shawnee SF, where **B. Royse** counted 36 on 10 Apr. **D. Chasar** had four in one tree in the CVNP 16 Apr, and one reached Lk La Su An WA by 20 Apr (**J. Lesser**).

Pine Warbler: One was at Hueston Wds SP 2 Mar (**N. Keller**), and a wintering bird in *Adams* was noted again 8 Mar (**B. Lund**). Three were in *Hocking* 15 Mar (**M. England**), and one on the 11 May count at the CVNP (**D. Chasar**).

Kirtland's Warbler: An astonishing four were reported, and the OBRC is rounding up documentation on birds at Metzger Marsh 6 May, at Cedar Pt 10 May, at Kelleys Isl 14 May, and at the Shaker Lks 19 May.

Prairie Warbler: The first occupied *Adams*, where it is the County Bird, 8 Apr (**P. Whan**). One in Oak Openings MP 19 Apr (**E. Tramer**) tied the early record for Toledo. A female apparently spent at least nine days (11-19 May) at Metzger Marsh—cold feet?

Palm Warbler: Materialized 15 Apr in Cincinnati (**J. Stenger**), Shaker Lks (four birds, **B. Winger**), and SVWA (three birds, **D. St. John**). Fifty were at ONWR 5 May (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**). **J. Pogacnik** had one of the extensively yellow eastern race in *Lake* 19 Apr, and BSBO banded another *hypochrysea* at Navarre 6 May.

This female prairie warbler lingered at Metzger Marsh Wildlife Area in Lucas County for over a week in May. Photo by Troy Shively on 17 May 2002.

Bay-breasted Warbler: A good flight. Starting with one in *Hamilton* 1 May (**A. Oliver**), numbers grew to 80 at Magee 14 May (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**). **E. Snively** had four 29 May in Massillon.

Blackpoll Warbler: One was at Gilmore Ponds 4 May (**M. Busam**). Numbers seemed down, but 10 were at Metzger and Magee 18 May (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**).

Cerulean Warbler: Two were at Shawnee SF 13 Apr (**G. Miller**), and 52 on 30 Apr (**B. Royse**). One was at Magee 6 May (**G. Links**), and it arrived in *Paulding* 7 May (**M&D Dunakin**).

Black-and-white Warbler: One was in Cincinnati 8 Apr (**W. Hull**), and one in Athens the 10th (**S. Moody**). **L. Rosche** had four up at Mentor Marsh 30 Apr, and 10 was the high count, in *Delaware* 3 May (**J. Hammond**).

American Redstart: Starting from three at Shawnee SF 15 Apr (**B. Royse**), their numbers grew to 30 at Metzger and Magee 18 May (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**).

Prothonotary Warbler: First noted 18 Apr at MWW (**J. Stenger**), then the 19th in Toledo (**E. Tramer**). Sixteen males were at the Hoover Res nest colony 24 Apr. **K. Metcalf** had one at HBSP 27 May, and one was singing at Magee the 29th (**E. Tramer**).

Worm-eating Warbler: Two in the Shawnee SF 15 Apr grew to 18 by the 30th (**B. Royse**). One at Brandywine Falls in the CVNP was a good find 26 Apr (**D. Chasar**). BSBO banded a record three at Navarre during the season.

Ovenbird: Quite early was one at Clear Ck MP, *Hocking*, 29 Mar (**M. England**). BSBO's Navarre unit banded a record 259 ovenbirds during the period.

Northern Waterthrush: **L. Yoder** had one at Salt Fork SP 20 Apr, and one in Toledo on the same day was probably an early record for the region (*fide* **M. Anderson**). Fifteen were counted at Magee on 14 Apr for the high count (**L. Rosche**).

Louisiana Waterthrush: Extraordinarily early was one in *Hocking* 15 Mar (**M. England**), but one was at Magee by 7 Apr (**C. Spagnoli**). The BSBO banded a record three birds at Navarre, two of them on 12 Apr.

Kentucky Warbler: **J. Stenger** had the first, at MWW 18 Apr; three were in *Adams* the next day (**D. Overacker**). One was singing in Wadsworth 7 May (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**). The high count was nine in NE *Coshocton* 15 May (**E. Schlabach**).

Connecticut Warbler: Earlier birds were one at MWW 10 May (**N. Cade**) and one in Maumee 12 May (**M. Anderson**). Nine others were reported, with the last 28 May in *Butler* (**D. Dister**).

Mourning Warbler: One was at Magee 6 May (**G. Links**), and another at Calamus Swamp, *Pickaway*, 9 May (**D. Horn**). High count three at Magee 13 May (**K. Tanquist**).

Common Yellowthroat: One at SVWA 29 Mar (**E. Roush**) had likely wintered locally. An overflight migrant was one at CPNWR 14 Apr (**E. Tramer**), as was one 15 Apr in Pataskala (**H. Nagy**).

Hooded Warbler: On 15 Apr, **L. Peyton** had one in Cincinnati, and **B. Royse** one at Shawnee SF, where he was later to count 69 on 30 Mar.

Wilson's Warbler: The earliest report came from Hoover Res 6 May (**R. Thorn**), and the high count 18 May, 15 between Metzger and Magee WAs (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**).

Canada Warbler: Very early was a probable local nester at Clear Ck MP 25 Apr (**M. England**). One was seen in the Happy Days area of CVNP from 10 May through the end of the period (**D&A Chasar**).

Yellow-breasted Chat: One was in Cincinnati 17 Apr (**L. Peyton**) and two in *Scioto* on 18 Apr (**B. Royse**). High count was five in *Adams* 24 May (**D. Overacker**).

Summer Tanager: **D. Horn** reported the first, from *Hocking* 24 Apr. The BSBO handled one at Navarre 15 May. The Highbanks MP male returned 6 May (**J. Hammond**).

Scarlet Tanager: Returned to Cincinnati 15 Apr (**W. Hull**). One at Magee the same day set an early Toledo-area record (*fide* **M. Anderson**).

American Tree Sparrow: Fair numbers lingered into Apr, with the last three reported from Mentor Lagoons on the 30th (**L. Rosche**).

Chipping Sparrow: Early were one 6 Mar in *Noble* (**B. Morrison**), one in Cincinnati 17 Mar (**N. Keller**), one 18 Mar in Killbuck (**E. Snively**), one in *Adams* 23 Mar (**B. Lund**), one in *Hamilton* 24 Mar (**F. Renfrow**), and one in *Paulding* 29 Mar (**D&M Dunakin**).

Clay-colored Sparrow: All over the place. All reports: one at **L. Yoder**'s feeder in *Holmes* 30 Apr was almost certainly the same that turned up at last year's site up the road 2 May; two at GPI 3 May (**S. Zadar**); one 10 May in Parma (**G. Leidy**); one banded at Navarre by BSBO 10 May; one at Crane Ck SP 11 May (**G. Leidy**) through 15 May (**J. Hammond**), singing somewhat like a chipping sparrow; one on Kelleys Isl 15 May (**G. Miller**); two others at GPI on 15 May (**S. Zadar**); one at Metzger 15 May (**M. Anderson**); one singing at a park in *Lucas* 15 May (**E. Tramer**); and one at MBSP 18 May (M. **Anderson**). Twelve in all.

Field Sparrow: Early arrivals were in *Franklin* 11 Mar (**R. Thorn**) and at Funk WA 18 Mar (**E. Snively**).

Vesper Sparrow: **N. Cade** found the first 29 Mar at MWW. Twelve were in *Tuscarawas* 6 Apr (**E. Schlabach**), and 16 in Parma 9 Apr (**G. Leidy**). One, perhaps from among the latter, remained apparently unmated 25-27 May (**Leidy**).

Lark Sparrow: **N. Cade** intercepted one at MWW 14 Apr. The first male returned to Oak Openings MP 19 Apr, six days ahead of the average date (**E. Tramer**).

Savannah Sparrow: Twenty were in *Tuscarawas* 6 Apr (**E. Schlabach**). By 22 May, among the 12 at the VOA site in *Butler* was a nest with five eggs (**M. Busam**).

Grasshopper Sparrow: One showed up in *Adams* 14 Apr (**D. Overacker**), and 26 were at Crown City WA by 6 May (**B. Royse**).

Henslow's Sparrow: Cincinnati hosted the first 9 Apr (**W. Hull**) and birds reached The Wilds the following day (**J. Larson**). On 20 Apr, two were near Lk La Su An WA in *Williams* (**J. Lesser**). One was at the Toledo Airport 5 May through the end of the period (**C. Anderson**).

Le Conte's Sparrow: **J. Nisely** et al. studied one at ONWR on 11 May, subsequently seen by m obs.

Fox Sparrow: Two appeared at Highbanks MP 3 Mar (**J. Hammond**). **G. Miller** had 12 at Magee 10 Apr. BSBO handled a record 41 between 10 and 14 Apr at Navarre. One was in *Mahoning* 16 Apr (**L. Warren**).

Song Sparrow: Sixty arrived at HBSP 9 Mar (**K. Metcalf**), and 100 were in Cleveland's Erie St. Cem 8 Apr (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**).

By spending several days in the lawn at Crane Creek State Park in Lucas County, this clay-colored sparrow provided ample viewing opportunities for many observers. Digiscoped photo by Joe Hammond on 15 May 2002.

Lincoln's Sparrow: Numbers seemed down. One or two came to **L. Warren**'s feeders in *Mahoning* 27 Apr-5 May. One was singing in *Fairfield* 7 May (**R. Thorn**). The last was seen 29 May at Magee (**E. Tramer**).

Swamp Sparrow: Found in known wintering locales, one in *Lucas* 29 Mar (**D. Overacker**) and one at SVWA 8 Mar (**J. Brown**) might still have been early migrants.

White-throated Sparrow: Lingering were 66 in *Hancock* 11 May (**K. Noblet**) and one at Killbuck 31 May (**E. Snively**). At Navarre, a record 737 were handled 10 Apr-30 May.

White-crowned Sparrow: One of the *gambelii* race was at ONWR 5 May (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**). In *Hancock*, 61 were still around 11 May (**K. Noblet**).

Harris's Sparrow: Details are with the OBRC for one found at SVWA 6 Apr.

Dark-eyed Junco: Breeds sparingly in the NE, but one in downtown Cleveland 14 May had to be a transient (**T. Colborn**).

Lapland Longspur: In *Geauga*, 3-4 were with snow buntings and larks 4 Mar (**D. Ferris**). Hundreds in alternate plumage were in *Paulding* 24 Mar (**J. Yochum**), and **G. Miller** noted 250-300 near KPWA 10 Apr.

Smith's Longspur: Unnoticed in Ohio for the eleventh consecutive year. They were almost certainly here, and the feature in this issue could help us find them next spring.

Snow Bunting: A couple frequented Findlay Res dikes on 5 and 12 Mar (*fide* **B. Hardesty**) and ~100 found fields S of *Paulding* to their liking 8-28 Mar (**D&M Dunakin**).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Perhaps their overall numbers were not up, but their widespread appearances in troops at feeders were extraordinary: a failure of some food source? Arrived earlyish, 16 Apr in *Hamilton* (**N. Keller**) and in *Stark* (**E. Snively**), with a high count of 30 on Kelleys Isl on 15 May (**L. Rosche**).

Blue Grosbeak: Out of the way sightings, all more or less one-day wonders, came from Findlay 23 Apr (**S. Ross** et al.); ONWR, with a male 5 May (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**); Spring Grove Cem on 12 May (**R. Kolde**); and Oak Openings MP 19 May (**G. Links**).

Indigo Bunting: First seen 18 Apr, in Cincinnati (**H. Armstrong**). By 30 Apr 38 had arrived at Shawnee SF (**B. Royse**).

Bobolink: **E. Schlabach** reported the first, from *Tuscarawas* 20 Apr. Two were singing at the VOA site in *Butler* on 25 Apr (**M. Busam**). The high count was of 100+ at a reclaimed strip mine in *Noble* 6 May (**B. Morrison**).

Eastern Meadowlark: The inviting grasslands at the VOA site in *Butler* harbored 50 on 7 Apr (**M. Busam**) for the high count.

Western Meadowlark: One stayed for about two weeks in *Hancock* after being heard 7 May (**B. Hardesty**). **D. Sanders** heard one at KPWA 20 May that didn't stay at all.

Yellow-headed Blackbird: As usual, a few spent the spring, probably based in CPNWR, and were seen around the area: at MBSP 31 Mar (**J. Pogacnik**), Magee 8 May (**H. Petruschke**), ONWR 11 May (**N. Keller**), and Mallard Club Marsh WA 22 May (**J. Yochum**).

Rusty Blackbird: On 9 Mar, **V. Fazio** estimated 600 at ONWR, and 100 remained at KPWA 10 Apr (**B. Sparks**). Late were three at MBSP 11 May (**J. McCormac**).

Brewer's Blackbird: **J. Seymour** reported one in Cincinnati 6 Mar. **B. Bowman** et al. reported up to 30 at two locations at KPWA 10 Mar. Eight to 10 were relocated 23 Mar (**B. Whan** et al.), and 15-20 were seen there as late as 29 Mar (**K. Davis**).

Orchard Oriole: Earliest, and a local record, was one at S. Chagrin MP 15 Apr (**L. Rosche**). One 19 Apr in *Wood* was a new early record for the Toledo area (*fide* **M. Anderson**). An 11 May survey in *Hancock* found 44 for the high count (**B. Hardesty**).

Baltimore Oriole: After two records last season you have to wonder: perhaps an overwintering bird was a male 27-28 Mar in Canal Fulton, *Stark* (**V. Capps** et al.), but confirmed records of orioles actually lasting the entire winter are rare as…March orioles. Early but on a more normal schedule was a migrant in Cincinnati 18 Apr (**H. Armstrong**). The BSBO Navarre station banded a record 62 this spring.

Purple Finch: Stayed as late as 15 Apr in *Adams* (**P. Whan**). Seen at **J. Fry**'s *Hocking* feeders that month over 15 days between the 5th and 28th, with a high of 24 on the 18th.

Red Crossbill: To see this bird, you had to camp at GPI season-long. **S. Zadar** had one there 2 Apr for the only report.

White-winged Crossbill: Mostly cameo appearances at feeders: in Sandusky 10 Mar (**S. Young**), Tiffin 28 Mar (**Z. Baker**), *Mahoning* 22 Apr (**N. Brundage**), and *Lake* 4 May (**J. Pogacnik**), but a family group of male, female, and one young was found near Akron 11 Mar (**W. Stover** *fide* **L. Rosche**) and was reliable through 8 Apr, when four were present (**J. Brumfield**).

Common Redpoll: Brief stays, mostly at feeders. **P. Lozano** had 11 in *Lorain* 2 Mar, **J. Pogacnik** two on 3 Mar and five on 29 Mar at Lakeshore MP, **S. Young** one in Sandusky 10 Mar, **Pogacnik** three in Conneaut 7 Apr, and **C. Tindira** three in N. Royalton 10 Apr.

Pine Siskin: Widely reported, especially at feeders, from *Clermont*, *Cuyahoga*, *Delaware*, *Erie*, *Franklin*, *Hamilton*, *Hancock*, *Lucas*, *Medina*, *Montgomery*, *Paulding*, *Pickaway*, *Scioto*, *Washington*. No nesting confirmed, but latest reports were of birds 28 May at N. Chagrin Res'n (**K. Metcalf**) and Wadsworth (**R. Harlan**, **S. Wagner**).

Evening Grosbeak: Growing scarcer. Only a pair 4-5 May in Lakeshore MP (**J. Pogacnik**).

Contributors

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At least one male yellow-headed blackbird frequented the feeders and lawn around the Migratory Bird Center at Magee Marsh Wildlife Area in Ottawa County this spring. This one was photographed there on 18 May 2002 by Troy Shively.

Smith's Longspur in Ohio and the Midwest

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In many ways a bird of mystery, it is nowhere plentiful, and its elusiveness makes it hard to find in the field, even where it is known to be present.

—Emerson Kemsies (1968)

I

Elusive, ephemeral, enigmatic—to no other bird on the Ohio list are these words better applied. Smith's longspurs *Calcarius pictus* are hard to find, hard to see well, even hard to count accurately. The history of reliable Ohio records of the species, though involving over 1800 individuals, spans a mere 42 years, and we have no verified report since 1991. Not for over 30 years has this longspur, so gregarious in migration, been seen here in numbers higher than three. Strangely enough, all but a few of our recorded birds were found in three areas: a small Butler County airport in the southwest, a few fields not far from Columbus, and a couple of Cuyahoga County sites in the northeast.

Smith's longspur's history in Ohio is curious in other ways as well. It goes unmentioned by our early ornithologists. The first published record[1] came from 1888, near Garrettsville in northeastern Portage County on the odd date of 29 January, when two birds were collected from a large flock feeding on ragweed. The specimens' whereabouts are unknown, and Peterjohn (2001) considers the record questionable, citing ragweed as a very unlikely food source for the species.[2] One was collected from a flock of 12 at the fish hatchery near Lake St. Marys on 23 October 1944 as part of the state's first recorded fall occurrence, but it too has not been preserved, in this case because it was too mutilated (Clark 1964); Peterjohn regards this as Ohio's first confirmed Smith's longspur.

In the spring of 1949, perhaps as many as 15 were discovered in a flock of about 25 longspur spp. at the Miami University airport just west of Oxford in Butler County, marking the first in an extraordinary series of observations at the site. On 18 April of that year, Emerson Kemsies, Ronald Austing, and Worth Randle collected four males from the flock, three going to the University of Cincinnati's Department of Zoology, and one to the Ohio State Museum in Columbus; these are the species' earliest extant specimens from Ohio. The airport regularly produced Smith's longspur records for the next 13 years, with high counts of 100 on 27 Mar 1954, ~300 in the spring of 1957, and 150 during the spring of 1962. A concerted effort in the spring of 1959 banded 42 of 65 birds found; 66 birds were banded there over the

[1] Dates, numbers, and literature citations for published records appear in Table 1.
[2] Ragweed seed has been identified in the stomachs of Smith's longspurs from Illinois (Martin et al.1951).

years, but none was recovered in subsequent seasons (J. Sheppard, pers. comm.), although banding did establish that individuals stayed as long as 19 days at the airport in spring (Kemsies and Randle 1964). After 1963, the longspurs were never reported again from the site, even though Peterjohn reports that habitats near the airport later seemed visibly unaltered.[3]

During this period, two significant occurrences were recorded elsewhere in the state, both in the spring of 1956. On 15 April, 250 were found in a Pickaway County field, with two individuals remaining on 1 May, and 25-30 birds, all presumably Smith's, at the Cuyahoga County airport on 29 April, dwindling to one from 6-16 May. Later a single bird was found at this airport during March 1957, then two in April 1959.

A male Smith's longspur in breeding plumage is an unforgettable sight. This one was photographed at Churchill, Manitoba in June 2002 by Bob Royse.

[3] Other local finds included *fide* Sheppard yellow rails *Coturnicops noveboracensis,* seen just east of the site during the 1950s; found most often in October, the birds flushed from cornfields being harvested, where one specimen was obtained after it hit a fence wire while fleeing. The airport was also the site of the first Ohio record of Sprague's pipit *Anthus spragueii*, collected by Sheppard on 15 Nov 1958, where a number of observers found three more 12 days later (Sheppard 1959). D. Osborne (pers. comm.) remembers the airport area as a haven for hundreds of American pipits, thousands of American golden-plovers, and 10-15 pairs of upland sandpipers during spring seasons during the late 1960s.

Having heard of the continual findings near Oxford, Milton Trautman visited the site in April 1963, at which time Sheppard (pers. comm.) showed him 15 or more Smith's longspurs and the local habitats they preferred during migration. While no more reports were to come from Oxford thereafter, a sixteen-year period ensued during which all known Ohio records emanated from central Ohio. Here during this period, Trautman reported flocks as large as 200 in 1965, 50 in 1967, and 100 in 1971. Others in his circle in Columbus's Wheaton Club, having learned how to recognize the appropriate habitat, found others during the 1960s in Franklin, Madison, and Pickaway Counties. Even though habitats in some of the sites involved in these repeated sightings—mostly weedy corn stubble—did not appear to have changed substantially fifteen years after the last significant record in 1971 (T. Thomson, pers. comm.), only a single bird has been recorded for central Ohio since that time, at Charley's Pond in Pickaway County in 1985.

Beyond one from Perry County in December 1977, judged by Audubon's Christmas Bird Count editor as furnishing "good details," subsequent Smith's longspur reports have arisen from near Lake Erie: first a bird at Cedar Point National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) in October 1980, then three at Ottawa NWR in March 1981, followed by records at Cleveland's Gordon Park of three on 6 April 1986 and a single bird on the same date in 1991. None has been recorded in Ohio since. Omitting a few reports either lacking in acceptable details, or examined and not accepted by the OBRC, Ohio's published sight records are shown in Table 1.

Many central Ohio reports from the 60s remain fragmentary and anecdotal,[4] and the Oxford airport record is likely incomplete as well, but the numbers of Ohio Smith's longspurs (Tables 1, 2) nevertheless amount to a minimum of 1803 birds, geographically distributed thus across the state:

Southwestern (all near Oxford in Butler County): 975
Central (Franklin, Madison, Perry, Pickaway Counties): 775
Northeastern (Cuyahoga and Portage Counties): 36
Northwestern (Auglaize and Lucas Counties): 17

Over time, the records are distributed thus:

1888-1948: 15 individuals
1949-1971: 1777 individuals
1972-2002: 11 individuals

[4] For example, valuable but undated is this report of Smith's longspur from Edward S. Thomas's *Columbus Dispatch* column of 9 May 1965: " ...we organized a drive to locate the birds. We were lucky in finding a few within a few yards of the road. They were not at all shy, but they were exceedingly difficult to see, as they crept, mouse-like, through the stubble. If one of them crouched motionless against the ground, their coloring and markings matched their surroundings so closely that they were well-nigh invisible... It was frustrating to have a half-dozen birds fly up at your feet from the very spot which you had been looking at without seeing a thing! We soon found it paid off to stop short upon flushing some birds, and to search the ground in front of us intensively. After a long and painful search, we would often locate from one to a half-dozen birds creeping over the ground. Sometimes the birds would fly a hundred feet and drop again to the ground. On other occasions, a flock would circle higher and higher and then strike out until they were lost from sight. All together we may have seen a total of as many as 150 birds...We are beginning to wonder if we may not be able to find this western species as far east as Columbus every April if we diligently search the stubble fields in prairie-like country."

Table 1. All published sight records of Smith's longspur in Ohio.

Date	Location	Number	Reference(s)
29 Jan 1888	Portage Co.	large flock, 2 collected	*Wilson Bull.* 16(3):85
8 & 24 May 1924	Cuyahoga Co.	1	*Cleve. Bird Cal.* 20(3):2
23 Oct 1944	Auglaize Co. (fish hatchery)	12	Clark 1964
9-30 Apr 1949	Oxford Airport	15	Kemsies and Austing 1949
			Aud. Field Notes 3(4):211
Through 21 Apr 1950	Oxford Airport	35	Kemsies 1968
Through 21 Apr 1951	Oxford Airport	20	Kemsies 1968
12 Apr 1952	Oxford Airport	20	Kemsies 1968
23 Mar 1953	Oxford Airport	unspecified	Kemsies 1961
27 Mar 1954	Oxford Airport	100	*Aud. Field Notes* 8(4):316
3 Apr 1954	Auglaize Co. (fish hatchery)	1	Clark 1964
19 Mar 1955	Oxford Airport	55	*Aud. Field Notes* 9(4):335
15 Apr 1956	Walnut Twp., Pickaway Co.	250	Kemsies and Randle 1964
16 Apr 1956	Walnut Twp., Pickaway Co.	3	Kemsies and Randle 1964
19 Apr 1956	Walnut Twp., Pickaway Co.	150	Kemsies and Randle 1964
22 Apr 1956	Walnut Twp., Pickaway Co.	50	Kemsies and Randle 1964
23 Apr 1956	Walnut Twp., Pickaway Co.	30	Kemsies and Randle 1964
1 May 1956	Walnut Twp., Pickaway Co.	2	Kemsies and Randle 1964
29 Apr - 16 May 1956	Cuyahoga Co. Airport	25-30 at peak	*Cleve. Bird Cal.* 52(2):13
16 Mar 1957	Cuyahoga Co. Airport	1	*Cleve. Bird Cal.* 53(2):13
24 Mar 1957	Oxford Airport	100+	*Cincinnati Enquirer* 4/7/57
30 Mar 1957	Oxford Airport	unspecified	Kemsies 1961
30 Apr 1957	Oxford Airport	unspecified	Kemsies 1961
Apr 1957	Oxford Airport	~300	Sheppard 2002
14 Apr 1958	Oxford Airport	3	Kemsies and Randle 1964
20 Apr 1958	Oxford Airport	unspecified	Kemsies 1961
15 Nov 1958	Oxford Airport	13	Sheppard 1959
28 Mar - 23 Apr 1959	Oxford Airport	65 at peak, 42 banded	*Aud. Field Notes* 13(4):376
11 Apr 1959	Cuyahoga Co. Airport	2	*Cleve. Bird Cal.* 55(2):12
Spring 1960	Oxford Airport	70-80	Kemsies and Randle 1964
			Kemsies 1968
6 Apr 1961	Oxford Airport	1, first arrival	*Aud. Field Notes* 15(4):416
31 Mar - 22 Apr 1962	Oxford Airport	150 at peak	*Aud. Field Notes* 16(3):336
Apr 1963	Oxford Airport	15+	This article
20 Apr 1965	Madison Co.	200	*Aud. Field Notes* 19(4):482
late Apr 1965	Pickaway Co.	2+	E.S. Thomas, *Columbus Dispatch* 4/25/65
late Apr 1965	Pickaway Co.	~150	E.S. Thomas, *Columbus Dispatch* 5/9/65
7 Apr 1967	Franklin/Pickaway Cos.	7-12	*Wheaton Club Bull.* 13:60
Apr 1967 (probably)	Paint Twp., Madison Co.	50	*Wheaton Club Bull.* 13:61
7 Jan 1968	Madison Co.	1-2	*Wheaton Club Bull.* 14:30
			Columbus Dispatch 1/21/68
30 Nov 1968	Madison Co.	2	*Wheaton Club Bull.* 14:33
6 Mar 1971	Franklin Co.	100	*Wheaton Club Bull.* 16:39
31 Dec 1977	Perry Co.	1	*Am. Birds* 32(4):638
12 Oct 1980	Lucas Co.	1	*The Ohio Cardinal* 3(3):34, 43
8 or 9 Mar 1981	Lucas Co.	3	*Am. Birds* 35(5):831
			The Ohio Cardinal 4(1):39
5-6 May 1984	Cuyahoga Co.	1	*Am. Birds* 38(5):919
24 Mar 1985	Pickaway Co.	1	*The Ohio Cardinal* 8(1):32
6 Apr 1986	Cuyahoga Co.	3	*Am. Birds* 40(3):481
6 Apr 1991	Cuyahoga Co.	1	*The Ohio Cardinal* 14(3):25

Table 2. Ohio specimens of Smith's longspur. Two reported in the literature have not been located. EC=Earlham College Biology collections; CMNH=Cincinnati Museum of Natural History; MUMZ=Miami University Museum of Zoology; OSUM=Ohio State University Museum of Biological Diversity; UMMZ=University of Michigan Museum of Zoology.

Date	Location	Specimen Number
18 Apr 1949	Oxford Airport	CMNH 21456
18 Apr 1949	Oxford Airport	CMNH 21457
18 Apr 1949	Oxford Airport	OSUM 6089
18 Apr 1949	Oxford Airport	UMMZ 134709
20 Apr 1950	Oxford Airport	CMNH 21458
20 Apr 1950	Oxford Airport	CMNH 21459
2 Apr 1951	Oxford Airport	CMNH 21460
5 Apr 1952	Oxford Airport	CMNH 21467
12 Apr 1952	Oxford Airport	Unlocated (Kemsies 1968)
23 Mar 1953	Oxford Airport	CMNH 21468
3 Apr 1954	Auglaize Co.	CMNH 21464
3 Apr 1954	Oxford Airport	Unlocated (Kemsies 1961)
17 Apr 1954	Oxford Airport	CMNH 21472
20 Apr 1954	Oxford Airport	CMNH 21473
20 Apr 1954	Oxford Airport	CMNH 21474
24 Apr 1954	Oxford Airport	CMNH 21475
19 Mar 1955	Oxford Airport	CMNH 21471
19 Mar 1955	Oxford Airport	CMNH 21476
7 Apr 1956	Oxford Airport	OSUM 9419
14 Apr 1956	Oxford Airport	CMNH 21469
23 Apr 1956	Pickaway Co.	OSUM 9421
30 Mar 1957	Oxford Airport	CMNH 21465
30 Mar 1957	Oxford Airport	CMNH 21466
20 Apr 1958	Oxford Airport	CMNH 21470
15 Nov 1958	Oxford Airport	CMNH 21462
15 Nov 1958	Oxford Airport	CMNH 21463
1959	Oxford Airport	CMNH 21461
3 Apr 1962	Oxford Airport	MUMZ 0921
17 Apr 1962	Oxford Airport	EC A-801
17 Apr 1962	Oxford Airport	EC A-865
17 Apr 1962	Oxford Airport	EC A-925
17 Apr 1962	Oxford Airport	EC A-2158
23 Apr 1962	Oxford Airport	OSUM 12793
11 Apr 1965	Pickaway Co.	OSUM 10550
19 Apr 1965	Pickaway Co.	OSUM 10644
3 Apr 1966	Pickaway Co.	OSUM 12999
8 Apr 1967	Madison Co.	OSUM 13377
14 Apr 1968	Madison Co.	OSUM 13787
14 Apr 1968	Madison Co.	OSUM 13788
14 Apr 1968	Madison Co.	OSUM 13789

These are perplexing numbers. Why do all our records from westernmost Ohio emerge from a single site? Was this our only longspur spot, or were they being overlooked elsewhere? Why is it that between 1949 and 1971 our neighboring state Indiana possesses records of only 80 birds, a tiny fraction of the 3045 in published reports (K. Brock, pers. comm.), while over 98% of Ohio's recorded Smith's were found within this 23-year span? Why has Smith's seemingly disappeared from western Ohio for 40 years? And why have we seen none anywhere in Ohio over the past decade or more?

Apparently, detailed lore about the species' habitat preferences and techniques for finding it, won after the discovery of a migratory staging area at a little sod airport in Butler County, came to be passed on to others, who later discovered new haunts of migrant longspurs in central Ohio. Perhaps a similar and more or less contemporaneous discovery at an isolated scrap of appropriate habitat far to the north and east in a Cuyahoga County airport led to increased awareness there, which in turn resulted in further local records for this scarce migrant. Cleveland has relatively few acres of potential habitat, but many dedicated birders. By contrast, agricultural lands to the west feature enormous stretches of appropriate habitat, but correspondingly few seekers of birds. Relatively few observers, working in a handful of areas, have recorded a huge share of Ohio's Smith's longspurs; this should alert us that luck and/or observer familiarity with the species' habits has probably influenced the record more than the longspur's true numbers. Smith's are not numerous, and often migrate in flocks faithful to certain locations, making for very uneven distribution. Additionally, the Ohio habitats most inviting to migrant longspurs tend to be on remoter parts of privately-owned farmland and hence more difficult of access. Agricultural fields lack much in the way of diversity of birdlife that would make exploring them otherwise productive or enjoyable for the casual field observer. Now, after the heyday of our longspur observations has passed, a new cohort of birders—undoubtedly more numerous, but perhaps collectively less well-acquainted with the habitat preferences and bird-finding techniques associated with Smith's longspur—has ensued. We must also consider the possibility that habitats in specific sites once attractive to this species have changed in crucial ways. Perhaps all these factors play roles in Smith's longspur's strange local history.

II

Smith's longspurs nest just where the tree-line meets the tundra in a narrow strip across the remote Nearctic, and winter in a fairly small range in the south-central Great Plains centered in northeastern Texas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas and contiguous parts of several adjacent states.[5] Recorded in more than 40 states and provinces, Smith's is an infrequent but wide-ranging vagrant, its records ranging from Arizona and northern California to South Carolina and Nova Scotia. As migrants in the Midwest they are most often reported during the spring, when regionally the largest numbers are detected in Illinois. To Ohio's south and east, the species is accidental

[5] Ranges illustrated in Briskie (1993) and Peterson (1980) are too extensive, at least for the present day; there are, for example, only two accepted modern winter records in Iowa (Kent and Dinsmore 1996), and five in Missouri (Robbins 1992). Sibley's (2000) map more accurately represents the present winter range.

in Kentucky (one record), and West Virginia (one record); Tennessee had 27 records through 1996, nearly all in fall and winter in the western part of the state. There is no accepted record for Pennsylvania. To the west, it is a fairly common migrant in Indiana and common in Illinois, uncommon in Missouri (rare in the eastern part of the state), and rare in Iowa. To the north it is casual at best, with 10 verified records (involving 12 birds) in Michigan, 11 in Wisconsin (with as many as 40+ birds, 20-30 of them in a single flock in 1921), and in Ontario, where the species breeds, only four records south of 47°N, including one found in the winter of 2001-2002. In Minnesota, the species is very rare in spring and very uncommon in the fall, with larger numbers in the western part of the state.

Comparing its range map with accepted records suggests some questions. Why are there so few records just north of the wintering grounds (in western Kentucky and Tennessee, or eastern Missouri), and so many from Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio? Why are they so seldom found farther north in Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa, eastern Minnesota, and southern Ontario, areas that must also lie along Smith's longspur's route? Its records on migration seem discontinuous from north to south. Staging areas between 39°N and 44°N latitude, where the birds may spend several weeks, constitute their only known regular stops on their northward passage. They arrive in Churchill, Manitoba during the first week of June (Briskie 1993), while in northern Minnesota the average spring departure date is 15 May (A. Hertzel, pers. comm.). Where are they in the meantime? Bob Royse (pers. comm.) has observed that extensive and remote boglands in the taiga resemble the species' breeding grounds far more than do the cornfields of the Midwest, and might provide acceptable stopover conditions.

Since numbers of Smith's rapidly diminish toward the east in our region, one would expect their reported numbers in eastern Indiana to equal or exceed those from western Ohio. Ohio has records of 975 birds from our westernmost tier of counties, however, and Indiana only 80 from their contiguous easternmost ones, even though a traveler passing over the border would notice no apparent change in the landscape. There are no published records of Smith's longspur (though Sheppard in pers. comm. reports having seen some at a wet depression in a corn field there during two springs during the early 1960s) from Franklin Co., Indiana, whose eastern border is less than 3 km from the fabulously productive Oxford airport site. So there seem to be anomalies in its range from east to west, as well as from north to south. For example, records show a patchy, almost stripey, distribution across the 40th parallel: the longspur is said to be more common in the west than in the east in each of four contiguous Midwestern states: Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Missouri! Unless wild birds are scrupulously observing state boundaries, we must conclude it is our coverage, not the longspur's distribution, that is patchy.

These birds' numbers in Ohio may be influenced by the weather, particularly by spring storms with strong southwest winds. These winds can bring remarkable numbers of American golden-plovers *Pluvialis dominica* to Ohio, along with other birds that winter in the grasslands and breed in the tundra. The single Smith's record in West Virginia followed a 3 April storm that also brought 14 inches of snow and 1000+ American pipits *Anthus rubescens* to the site (Argabrite 1988, pers. comm.). We must not overestimate this influence, however, as the Oxford airport hosted the longspur for 14 consecutive springs regardless of the prevailing winds.

Smith's longspur is not an abundant species. Briskie (1993) estimates its world population at 75,000 or fewer. Additionally, the narrow swath of Arctic territory they occupy during the breeding season stretches 2500 miles, suggesting a broad dispersal of birds in migration. Its easternmost nesting population is located on Cape Henrietta Maria at the northwest corner of James Bay in Ontario. A direct route there from the wintering grounds, however, includes Michigan, a state with only four spring records of Smith's longspur. A direct path through Indiana and Illinois to breeding grounds farther west passes through Wisconsin, but Wisconsin has only six spring records of Smith's longspur. Authorities in both states admit to puzzlement about these anomalies. Robbins (1991) has this to say in *Wisconsin Birdlife*:

In recent years various observers, believing that this species should be found more frequently than the records indicate, have made occasional special efforts to find it in southwestern Wisconsin during April. Investigators have reasoned that: (1) the regular migratory ranges lies only slightly to the west of Wisconsin; (2) in some years the eastward movement of fall birds has carried them to Chicago, to Indiana, and even to western Ohio; (3) if Smith's are present, they may so conceal themselves in short grass that they are easily passed over, unless seen at close range. Sorties to locate birds have produced only negative results to date. But they should be continued.

For his part, Granlund (1994) says of migrant Smith's longspurs in *The Birds of Michigan*:

The eastern edge of their migration route appears to bring them up the west side of Lake Michigan, since birds are annually found in good numbers in northern Illinois and Indiana. However, the species is rare to casual in Wisconsin and only accidental in Michigan. This situation has perplexed birders in both states. Some hypothesize that if observers could find the preferred stop-over habitat and gain knowledge of the migration chronology, the Smith's longspur could be found regularly in Wisconsin and Michigan. So far such efforts in both states have met with failure. An equally likely explanation is that birds fly directly from staging areas in Illinois and Indiana to their breeding grounds without stopping for significant periods of time.

Granlund's hypothesis sounds reasonable. After all, we have only four accepted records of Smith's longspur from southern Ontario. But Michigan's latest spring record comes from the Upper Peninsula on 20 May, two weeks before Smith's average arrival dates near Hudson Bay. Though northern Ontario's 750 km from Lake Superior to Hudson Bay presents an expanse of boreal forest up to the edge of the breeding grounds, few observers get to the open spruce/tamarack bogs within the taiga at that time of year, where longspurs may stage while awaiting the fickle arrival of the northern spring.

III

There is some evidence that the wintering range of Smith's longspur has shifted or at least contracted somewhat over the past hundred or more years, perhaps in response to changes in food resources. Ryff (1987) offers some intriguing speculations on the species' fall migrations, among which he suggests that the virtual obliteration of tall-grass bluestem prairies and mixed oak-hickory and bluestem

associations in the Midwest during the 19th century forced Smith's longspurs to extend their movements south just far enough to reach areas relatively free of snow (tall bluestem had provided a food source in deep snow), where they were able to adopt pastureland and grassy areas such as airports as wintering habitat. Kemsies and Randle (1964) chronicle numerous new discoveries of this species at airports in at the southern edge of the wintering range in Mississippi, Alabama, and Louisiana during the mid-20th century. While its winter range may changed slightly, there is no evidence that Smith's migratory routes have done so, even though the disappearance of some suitable stopover habitat may have reduced its reported numbers in certain states and provinces along the way. Robbins (1991), for example, cites Wisconsin's early ornithologists as finding Smith's on the state's former prairies during the 19th century oftener than have much more numerous modern observers in the 20th, and Kent (1981) tells us "early Iowa ornithologists suggest that Smith's Longspur was a common, but erratic migrant...prior to 1900...After 1900 the records are sparse."

While its diet on the breeding grounds includes many insects, Smith's longspur subsists almost entirely on grass seeds at other seasons. In its wintering areas, even at the margins in Tennessee, Mississippi, and Louisiana, it is said to be closely tied to three-awned grasses of the genus *Aristida* (Kemsies 1968). This native, more western genus is not a major component of Ohio plant communities however, and Kemsies (1968) states that analysis of the crops of two Smith's taken at the Oxford airport showed no *Aristida* seeds, even though some plants of that genus were growing in the field where they were collected; instead, 99%+ of the seeds found were of the genus *Sporobolus*. The latter genus, with a common name of dropseed grass, is another native plant group of the west, and even though the Oxford airport furnished it in the 1950s it, like *Aristida*, is seldom found in stands extensive enough to support flocks of migrant longspurs in Ohio (J. McCormac, pers. comm.).

Judging by reports, the grass with which migrant Smith's longspurs are most often associated in their strongholds in Illinois and Indiana is the abundant *Setaria*, an introduced European genus comprising those known as foxtails. Prostrate, matted plants of giant foxtail *S. faberi* remaining from the previous growing season scattered throughout corn-stubble fields featured prominently in central Ohio longspur reports, and this is prime habitat for Smith's in Indiana and Illinois. All the same, this longspur has been known to frequent tomato plants in large numbers on migration in Ohio, so we should not to be too doctrinaire in describing its preferences.

All in all, we know relatively little about this obscure species, and we may even have collectively forgotten some of what we once knew. Without the work of a few Oxford-area ornithologists during the mid-20th century, and those they influenced, state records of Smith's longspur might amount to a few dozen birds, mostly from the usual migrant traps along Lake Erie. Indeed, a large proportion of the scientific literature about this species on migration derives from their work in Butler County. It seems unlikely there was anything unique about the Oxford airport—except for the lucky presence of a handful of observant bird enthusiasts—to account for the huge proportion of our records that come from the site. Later, perhaps the most important factor in the central Ohio records was the number of local birders accustomed to look for these birds at the right time in the right places, based on what they had learned from the Oxford observers.

Further confirmation of this explanation comes in comparing Ohio records with those of neighboring areas of Indiana, where the known migratory path of the species suggests it should be seen more often. In Ohio, over 1750 Smith's longspurs have been reported in the western half of the state, and fewer than fifty in the eastern half. Strangely enough, in Indiana similar trends prevail: nearly 90% of 3045 Smith's longspurs records in Indiana come from the first one or two counties east of the Illinois line, whereas reports from the eastern half of Indiana involve only four counties and total 423 birds (just 81 of them since 1938), with only 80 over recorded history in the easternmost tier of counties. It seems only uneven observer coverage can explain the dearth of eastern Indiana records. In practice, Indiana birders looking for Smith's longspur—even during the period when so many were being seen less than 3 km from the border in Oxford, Ohio—seem to have satisfied themselves by following traditional advice to look in the western part of the state.

How can we explain Ohio's shifting pattern of records over time? Why have the large numbers of the 1950s and 1960s since fallen so low? Perhaps the population of *C. pictus* has declined significantly, and its numbers in Ohio, at the eastern extreme of its known migratory path, have declined as well, with remaining birds sticking to the center of the route. But Smith's remote breeding grounds have been relatively immune to deterioration at human hands, and the variety of habitats it uses on the wintering grounds and during migration argue for some adaptability. Finally, there is no firm evidence from elsewhere to suggest an overall population decline.

Have Smith's longspurs, while remaining relatively unchanged in overall numbers, shifted their migratory path westward for some other reason? After all, fully 87% of Indiana's records have occurred since Ohio's reported numbers fell off steeply after 1971, as might be expected if birds had moved their route westward. Judging by reports, occurrences of Smith's in Illinois seem to have involved larger numbers since the 70s as well (Bohlen 1989). But authorities in those states seem to feel that increased reports in recent decades are most likely attributable to growing numbers of observers familiar with the species' habitat preferences in spring, rather than to increased local numbers of birds. Birds tend to be highly conservative as well, and permanent shifts in migration patterns usually take place only in the face of wholesale habitat destruction. While appropriate habitats in the Midwest have undoubtedly changed, they have nevertheless changed relatively uniformly east to west.

Perhaps patterns of human land use have caused migrants to depart Ohio. No doubt current agricultural practices produce lower stubble, fewer and different weeds in fields, much narrower fencerows, different crop types and schedules, etc. than those of the mid-20th century. Sod airports in remoter areas are no longer the rule, and native grasslands and even pastures are harder to find. Smith's longspurs, however, have been found on migration in a variety of habitats—wheat, alfalfa, clover, corn stubble, grasslands, sparsely vegetated mudflats, mowed turf, even tomato fields—and modern agriculture is practiced across the Midwest, not just in Ohio.

Finally, perhaps the birds are still here, and in similar numbers, but we are simply no longer detecting them. Smith's longspurs are secretive, cryptic birds, easily eluding discovery. Their favored habitats, however widespread in glaciated

areas of the state, are also those least often and most superficially investigated by birders. Perhaps it has not been the birds' numbers or range, but rather birders' efforts, and their knowledge about how to find them, that has diminished.

Iowa, on the other edge of Smith's migratory pathway, may furnish a lesson. After regular 19th century records, Iowa had only nine reports of the species from 1900-1930, than only three from 1930-1981 (Kent 1981). Thinking they might be overlooked, Tom Kent organized an Iowa survey for Smith's longspurs in 1982. Nine sightings were reported just that spring, and heightened awareness has resulted in many more, spring and fall alike: recently, in 1999 there were 14 published reports of 347 birds, in 2000 10 reports of 244, and in 2001 six of 112.

Some of the anomalies in status in other states and provinces along this species' migratory path may be explained by disparities in observers' knowledge and effort. Is it coincidence that nearly all Ohio's records arise from areas close to major universities where curious observers cooperated to find and study these birds in the field? Perhaps Ohioans have grown too comfortable with the prevailing notion that Smith's longspurs have abandoned us. Out in the vast treeless plains of agriculture-dominated Ohio, the winds of April are chilly and unwelcoming. Unwelcome too may be the very short list of species one will have after a day spent there. But here the mysterious Smith's longspur is to be found, and perhaps the accompanying advice from experts will help us see them more often.

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Grassland Habitats at the Miami University Airport: A Brief History

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> *As is true of most declining species in North America, the primary cause of emberizid population decline is habitat loss. The grassland species, in particular, have suffered from the widespread conversion of their habitats to agriculture and housing developments.*
>
> —John B. Dunning, Jr. (2001)

Without a doubt our knowledge of the true status of Smith's longspur *Calcarius pictus* in Ohio is heavily biased by data from a little-known site on the southwestern edge of the state, the Miami University Airport near Oxford. Several authors note that the species has often been found at small airports. Lowery (1974) reports that the only records for Smith's longspur in Louisiana came from the old Municipal Airport in Shreveport, where it was found during the winters of 1952-53 and 1953-54. Kemsies and Randle (1964) note that during the winters of the 1950s and 60s this species was discovered at small airports in Arkansas, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Alabama. This information enabled the more accurate delineation of its wintering range.

Airports also host Smith's longspurs on migration, as observers at the Miami University facility were to learn beginning in April 1949. Many flocks of longspurs were studied there over the years, until the last report of the species from the site in 1963. The dearth of information after 1963 may be due to a lack of investigation by observers, but I doubt this to be the case. At least one observer that I know of continued to visit the airfield after 1963. David Osborne, an ornithologist with Miami University's Department of Zoology, visited the airfield throughout his career as a faculty member until his retirement in 1998. He regularly took students from his ornithology classes to the field from January to May almost every year to search for longspurs and other grassland species. They did not find Smith's longspurs, and I would argue that previous changes in management practices at the property had probably led to the abandonment of the airport as a migratory stopover location for the species.

The university airport was first established in January 1943 on a 300-acre tract of land, purchased in 1942, on Fairfield Road just west of Oxford proper. The earliest historical record of land use for this property I was able to locate dates to 1912. At that time the majority of the acreage was utilized for agricultural purposes, with several small woodlots (~35 acres total: 5, 7, 10, and 13 acres individually) dotting the landscape. In 1912 these woodlots were comprised of both old-growth and young-growth beech, gum, elm, maple, hickory, ash, and some basswood. A small stream is documented in the northeastern corner of the property running through one small woodlot (McDonald 1941).

In 1943, 30 acres of the 300 purchased by the university were cleared of trees and graded, and a makeshift hangar was erected on the property. The few aircraft present used grass fields for landings and take-offs, as there were no runways. By mid-1943 a total of 85 acres was being utilized, with an additional 60 acres in the process of preparation through seeding (White 1994).

Photo taken by Gilson Wright in January 1943 of the Miami University airport's first hangar. The structure was moved from an abandoned Cincinnati airfield. Photo courtesy of the Smith Regional History Library of Oxford, Ohio.

By 1946 roughly 94 acres were devoted to wheat, with additional acreage for the growth of straw (~35 tons) and hay (~8 tons). Straw was shown to have a low return per acre, and therefore was incorporated into the soil. The planting and harvesting of straw may subsequently have been abandoned over the latter part of the decade. In a 1949 letter to Miami University's president W. P. Roudebush, Art Conrad, the grounds department land manager, specifies the proceeds generated from the sale of only hay and wheat for that season. Though this does not rule out the possibility that straw was still grown, it does suggest that not enough was planted to generate any income during this time period. In his report Mr. Conrad also remarks that the production of wheat was "spotty" due to variation in the conditions of the field, some areas being wetter than others. Overall, wheat was grown on 70 acres and hay on 25 acres during the 1949 season.

Though university documents are lacking for 1950-58, Jay Sheppard (pers. comm.) reports that in the summers of 1956 and 1957 approximately 82 acres of tomatoes were planted on the southern portion of the property. Later, the 1958-59 report to the president presented the first published documentation of a change in crops planted at the airfield. In this report, Mr. Conrad noted that 87 acres of the property had not been agriculturally developed in order to preserve landing areas for planes. Eighty-five acres were planted with corn on a fifty-fifty contract basis with an unidentified local farmer. In the Miami University business manager's report to the president for the 1960-61 fiscal year it is noted that, again, 85 acres of corn were planted and harvested. Additionally during this year, a 3000-foot blacktop runway was installed, and the construction of a 1700-foot hard-surfaced taxiway was underway at the time. Two hundred acres of turf were maintained for general landing purposes by aircraft. The 1961-62 report from the grounds department to the president documented the first use of selective herbicides for weed eradication throughout the university campus and airfield runways. Nonselective chemicals were applied to areas in which grass was undesirable. The following year, the remaining turf runways were sprayed in hopes of achieving weed control for several seasons.

The photos presented here were taken from roughly the same southward facing angle. The photo above was taken in 1960 by G.R. Hoxie. The photo below was taken in 1986. Notice the planes from the 1960 photo, parked to the west of the large hangar, are now parked on its south side in 1986. The paved plane parking area and taxiway shown in the 1986 photo do not exist in the photo taken in 1960. The encroaching agricultural fields can be seen in the upper left and right hand corners of the photo taken in 1986. These photos were provided by the Smith Regional History Library and Miami Computer and Information Services (MCIS) audio-visual department.

The Miami University grounds department report for the period of 1 July 1962 through 30 June 1963 notes a harvest of 82 acres of corn and 32 acres of soybeans at the airport property. After the harvest, 76 acres were replanted in corn and the 32 acres of bean fields were sown with wheat. Though not specified in the report, this replanting was most likely done in the spring of 1963. During this period weed-killing chemicals continued to be applied to the turf runways.

During the 1963-64 reporting season, 1710 feet of sub-surface drainage system was installed in the agricultural portions of the airfield. Presumably this was to eliminate the wetter areas that caused "spotty" crop production in years past. Interestingly, several authorities say that Smith's longspurs prefer wetter fields than do Lapland longspurs (see Bailey and McCoy this issue, and Kemsies 1968); Sheppard, who notes (this issue) the species' habit of going to standing water in fields every day, nevertheless does not believe they showed greater preference for wetter habitats in Ohio than do Lapland longspurs (pers. comm.).

By 1966 replanting of wheat was abandoned, and corn and soybeans became the staple crops for that year. The grounds department report for the 1966-67 fiscal year notes the planting of 82 acres with corn and 30 acres with soybeans, and fails to mention wheat or other crops such as hay. By the mid- to late 1980s the amount of land utilized for agricultural purposes had increased greatly. Aerial photos of 1986 show that much of the property once left as turf had been converted to what appear to be soybean fields. This increase in land use for agricultural crops may have begun in the mid-1970s, according to Mr. K. Haven (pers. comm.), former groundskeeper for the airport during that period. The conversion of turf to leased agricultural land was implemented by Mr. Haven as a means to reduce the amount of mowing that was necessary to maintain the turf areas. The available land was leased to local Oxford area farmers.

The transition from wheat and hay crops in the 1940s to corn and soybeans in the late 1950s and 1960s, coupled with increased drainage of the field in the early 1960s, may be the reasons for the abandonment of the area as a migratory oasis in Ohio. Briskie (1993) notes that Smith's longspurs' diets during winter and migration is composed of seeds of grasses, waste grain, and weeds. These include wheat, timothy, clover, crabgrass, ragweed, bulrush, millet, and sedge. Kemsies and Randle (1964) comment that in at least one occurrence of the species, near Montgomery, Alabama in December 1958, an individual was found feeding on waste grains of wheat. The use of herbicides, begun during the early 1960s, may have also affected what remaining food sources were available for the species in the corn and turf areas.

Jay Sheppard (pers. comm.) feels that the openness of the habitat was what drew Smith's longspurs to the area, and to similar fields nearby in Indiana. He comments that he rarely observed the species near fence lines or relatively large trees (>3-4 m in height), and speculates that the species may still pass nearby, but is simply too difficult to find. In recent years, however, many local birders have birded similar habitats in the surrounding areas (near Oxford, Reilly, Morning Sun, Eaton, and Camden in Ohio, and Bath, Brookeville, and Liberty in Indiana) from at least August through May and June of each year with no success in finding the species.

It is unfortunate that an area once noted for the presence of migrant and breeding grassland species such as Smith's longspur, Sprague's and American pipits, American golden-plover, upland sandpiper, short-eared owl, and loggerhead shrike is now suitable habitat only for such species as eastern meadowlark (early spring), horned lark (winter through early spring), northern harrier (late fall through winter), mourning dove, European starling, and house sparrow.

Based on the present status of Smith's longspur in North America, it may be worth the effort of local and state conservation organizations to encourage land managers to return portions of this property back to more grassland-like conditions. This could be accomplished through the planting of hay and wheat crops, or more native grassland plant species as a means of managing for the species in Ohio.

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Smith's Longspur: Occurrence in Indiana and Hints on Finding Them

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Smith's longspur was not regarded as a regular migrant through Indiana until the late 1940s and early 1950s, when birders seeking the last remaining prairie chickens in Newton County, near the town of Enos, began encountering them every April. Since then many records have accumulated, almost exclusively in the westernmost counties, from Lake Michigan south to Gibson County. They are difficult to locate even in areas where they are known to occur in numbers each spring, so it is not surprising that very few birds have been found elsewhere in the state, especially since their preferred corn-stubble habitat is not a very inviting locale for birding in early spring.

The peak time for Smith's in the Midwest is early to mid-April, but they can sometimes be found in late March and early May. Rarely are they found in anything other than corn-stubble fields, and they are very particular about the type of fields they feed in: the fields must be untouched by the plow since the harvest. Plowed fields are for the Lapland longspurs. In searching these unplowed corn-stubble fields, however, one's odds will be exponentially increased if a field can be found with copious amounts of the magic element that few Smith's can resist: FOXTAIL. Foxtail is a straw-colored weed that grows in thick clumps and is often smashed down and matted in the spring, sometimes missing its fluffy "tail" seed head. It commonly grows around the borders of fields, but when it is found growing throughout it is as good as gold for Smith's longspur in western Indiana. It is not certain whether they feed on the seed or use it for cover, but it is clear they have a penchant for it. It also helps if the accompanying stubble is not cropped too short: a foot or two high is good. A little vegetation of other types growing between the rows also helps, and thus fields that have been left fallow for a year or two are best. Smith's tend to gravitate toward the lower damper portions of the fields, so try these areas first.

If possible, try to pick a day with as little wind as possible. On calm days the longspurs are more likely to make short flights and to call, and it is easier to hear them at a distance. They are usually heard before they are seen. Their call is a rattle similar to the Lapland's and is difficult to differentiate without experience with both, but sounds slower and louder. The best way to describe the difference is to think of the Lapland's call as fast, thin, and dry and the Smith's as slow, fat, and wet, as though they are spitting as they give it. They will often come in and investigate when one plays a recording of this rattle call. Good examples of it can be found on both the Peterson Western Birds CD and the National Geographic Society's Bird Sounds CD.

Determining they are in a field is one thing; actually seeing anything other than a group of small specks flying quickly away is another. When in low flight, how-

ever, the white outer tail feathers and white shoulder patches are easy to see. The best strategy, once their calls have been heard, is to set up a scope and look down a set of rows, then continue moving a few rows and scanning again and again until they are spotted. If one tries to get close enough to see them through binoculars they usually either fly to a distant field, crouch dead still and become invisible, or run to one side or the other so that your line of sight is blocked by cornstalks. If you do flush one or more nearby, look carefully around in the immediate vicinity, as sometimes the entire flock does not flush at once. When they freeze they can be exceedingly difficult to spot and they are probably closer than one thinks. Be patient and still and they will start feeding again. If a single bird happens to become isolated from the flock it will almost always allow extremely close approach.

Another strategy, during dry years when flooded fields are scarce, is to find one of the few remaining flooded fields and wait with a scope while birds come in to drink.

Given the fact that American golden-plover, a much more conspicuous prairie migrant that abounds in the same general areas as Smith's longspur, occurs in numbers in certain areas of eastern Indiana and western Ohio, one would think that Smith's longspurs may also be passing through these areas, but are as yet undetected. Hopefully these notes will spur a few adventurous birders to set out into the great corn-stubble wastelands in early spring in search of this much sought-after species.

Taken in Benton County, Indiana, this Smith's longspur photograph shows a commonly encountered plumage in the Midwest—a male in mid-molt. Photo by Jeff McCoy on 13 April 2002.

Notes on Finding Smith's Longspurs in Ohio

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Each spring in the 1950s and early 1960s Smith's longspurs *Calcarius pictus* were found at the Oxford airport in Butler County, Ohio (Kemsies and Austing 1950, Kemsies and Randle 1953, pers. obs.). There was one fall record of a flock there during the last half of November 1958 (Sheppard 1959). All the spring records were between 15 March (1957) and 26 April (1958), with most records between about 1 April and 20 April. Flocks ranged from about a dozen to as many as about 300 (1957), with most flocks in the range of 50-75 birds. Since 1963, there have been no reports from the airport that I can find, although I suspect a few knowledgeable birders from the Cincinnati area still visited the airport each April for several years after that time. This note is about the types of habitat and behavior of the longspurs as observed in and around the airport.

The numbers of migrant Smith's longspurs passing through Ohio must be relatively small. The longitude of the easternmost nesting area in Canada is that of Lakewood, Ohio. Most of the birds winter well to our west, with only a few in the nearest part of their range in western Tennessee, northern Mississippi, and Alabama. The birds do seem to associate with the same areas while on migration from year to year, if the conditions remain suitable for them.

Finding this species each spring, once discovered at the Oxford airport, was not always easy. Even when they were known to be present, observers often had to explore the many fields on the property. Smith's longspurs only rarely called while on the ground, and then mostly when others were flying overhead; calls while on the ground were often audible at no more than 30-50 m. However, when flushed, they readily gave dry rattle calls that could be heard for several hundred meters as the flock wheeled and settled down some distance away. Although Lapland longspurs *C. lapponicus* were sometimes present at the airport at the same time, the two species were usually not seen to mix, especially once the larger flocks were in flight. Elsewhere, Smith's will sometimes associate readily with other longspurs when the former is numbered in just a few individuals.

Smith's longspurs are very cryptic while on the ground. It was often possible to approach them within distances of less than 10 m and still not be able to see them. They would often freeze low to the ground when they felt threatened and might remain in this state for 5 minutes or more. Since the flocks were scattered over an area, searchers usually needed to be about 40-50 m apart in order to encounter some member of the flock. Once a flock was seen settling to the ground, a very slow and deliberate approach was required to actually obtain close looks at the birds to verify their identity.

The Oxford airport is on a nearly flat area that lies across the watershed divide between two small streams several km to the east and west. The nearly flat tract had no stream beds, only a few low swales that accumulated water after heavy rains or snow melt. Smith's longspurs used many different habitats in and around the airport. There were some 60-70 ha of mowed grass runways and adjacent edges, constituting 50-60% of the airport property, up until the mid-1960s. The grasses were cut to a height of about 10 cm. The longspurs usually roosted out in the middle of the sod area, feeding either there or in adjacent cultivated fields. One spring they did roost in the stubble of a short (10-15 cm) hay field that was present next to the sod area.

The most favored feeding habitat during the late 1950s and early 1960s was the remains of a large field of cultivated tomatoes, present only for several springs. The various weeds and grasses that had been allowed to grow between the tomato plants and perhaps the remains of the dried tomatoes themselves seemed really attractive to the longspurs. In other years they were found in corn stubble and closely mowed hay. I have no notes showing the birds had any interest in winter wheat, soybeans or similar crops, though they might conceivably be attracted to a freshly planted field of spring wheat. All the published reports of the diet of this species involve seeds of various grasses, sedges, and similar plants during migration and winter (e.g., Kemsies 1968).

Several springs at Oxford, we attracted the longspurs to 40-80 kg of fine cracked corn that was spread across a half hectare or so of nearly bare soil in the sod area of the airport a week or two before they were expected. The longspurs were usually able to find this food, if scattered enough in an appropriate habitat. Once found, they readily came to it. One of the most important attractions to the birds was water. In the middle of every day, we would see the flock go to water. If a shallow skiff of water was present on the airport, they would go there. On days when surface water was not available at the airport, the birds would circle up and then move some distance from the airport for a couple of hours. Although no serious attempt was made to follow the flock at the time, we suspected they flew 1-3 km from the airport to private stock ponds or other sources of surface water.

The Smith's longspurs were almost never closer than 100-150 m to a fence or tree line, and rarely were seen in vegetation higher than about 20 cm, except for the corn stubble. On several occasions they perched on thin, isolated saplings that were next to the small pools of water at which they were drinking or bathing. The saplings were usually less than 4 m tall.

To find Smith's longspurs, I think most serious birders need to spend a lot of time in large fields. The minimum size of any set of fields without fences or trees I would think of searching would be at least 10 hectares, if not 20 or much more. A more optimum complex of adjacent fields (grass, hay, corn stubble, etc.) should total about 100 hectares or more. Such fields should be nearly flat, with no tall trees, power lines, or extensive fencerows present. Timothy and other hayfields mowed close to the ground in late fall would also be likely habitats. Naturally, any extensive mature grasslands such as at airports that have been mowed for decades should be searched. Commercial sod farms are very unlikely habitats due to the monocultural

and weedless nature of those fields. Any grasslands that routinely harbor nesting or migrating upland sandpipers *Bartramia longicauda* would be an indication of the extensiveness and quality of such grassland habitats. If anyone discovers an extensive commercial tomato-growing operation some summer in appropriate terrain, I would certainly advise checking the field out the following spring. The regular presence of Lapland longspurs during the winter might also be an indicator of appropriate habitats for the Smith's longspurs. Since the two species are very difficult to separate by calls, observers should try to observe carefully any flocks of longspurs: a few Smith's might be mixed into a flock of Laplands.

Since the early 1970s farmers have been using no-till farming. Most crop fields likely have extensive weeds and grasses in them all fall and into early spring the next year. This practice may well be the single biggest hurdle to finding Smith's longspurs in glaciated Ohio at this time, as it now may now provide thousands of square km of weedy corn fields at the end of each growing season just in western Ohio. I have no notes or recollection of finding the birds in plowed fields or in the stubble of crops such as wheat, rye, oats or soybeans, even when next to the sod areas of the Oxford Airport.

Birders could be stationed at some widely spaced intervals (ca. 1 km) in the middle of the day in appropriate habitats at the right times of the year (November and April, mostly) to hear the flocks going for their daily water. Dry periods would make this effort more likely to produce birds than when every field has some water standing on it. Fine cracked corn scattered in late October or late March in areas where birds have been reported in the past might also attract the species.

In summary, airports with extensive areas of mature, but mowed, grass and adjacent agricultural fields are probably the best candidates for finding this species. Besides gaining access to potential habitat for closer searches, a large number of birders need to organize their efforts so as to methodically cover as much potential habitat in the narrow window of time that the birds are most likely to be present. In Ohio, I would also restrict searches to the glaciated section that lies mostly to the north and west of I-71 and the periods of about 25 October to 25 November and 25 March to 25 April.

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The Smith's Longspur in Illinois

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In *The Birds of Illinois* (1989) Bohlen gives a brief but good description of the early history of Smith's longspur in Illinois, citing one of the earliest records as coming from the Calumet area of northeastern Illinois by Nelson in 1875. There are a few other early records from the Chicago area, but as the prairie and grassland disappeared, so did the longspurs. Bohlen himself has to be given credit for the "discovery" of this species in the modern era. With his dedication to looking for what was considered an uncommon to rare and elusive species before about 1970, Bohlen began finding the longspur regularly, and in some numbers, in Illinois. Bohlen and others found the longspur in a variety of shortgrass situations, with alfalfa /clover fields the most used habitats. Several observers, including the author, have found the species at airports, golf courses, and other artificial and natural short grass situations. All favored habitats are typically on flat ground with little topographical relief, reminiscent of the species' wintering and breeding grounds. I would be interested to know of any "hilly" areas where this species is found during migration.

As clover and alfalfa had become scarce by the 1970s, birders began noticing they could find Smith's longspurs in other agricultural field habitats, and by the mid to late 1980s several birders were regularly checking for and finding this species in unplowed corn stubble, specifically when it contained a common weed species, foxtail. It is probably no coincidence that these birds are now almost always found in Illinois fields with foxtail. I have many times found Smith's longspur in alfalfa fields, but more often flush them from patches of foxtail growing along the borders of such fields or in small patches throughout the field. Expounding on what Jeff McCoy says for Indiana, this species undoubtedly uses the foxtail mainly for a food source and possibly secondarily as cover. In analyses of stomach contents collected for this species, both in Illinois and elsewhere, the seeds of various species of foxtail have been found. In other locations this species seems to prefer the seeds of three-awn grass. The longspur does utilize a smaller-seeded agricultural crop in migration—wheat—in areas farther west. Smith's is almost strictly a seed-eater outside the breeding season.

In the corn stubble fields where longspurs are now mainly found in Illinois, foxtail is virtually the only thing growing which could provide sustenance for this species. It is even becoming increasingly difficult to find foxtail in these stubble fields as farmers continue to rid their fields of any weeds, especially foxtail, which tend to bind up their combines. It is my opinion that Smith's longspur takes very little if any corn in these fields, possibly only cracked pieces, as I have never observed them picking up corn, a behavior that would easily be visible with binoculars at some distance. Any time I have tried to determine what the longspurs are eating, the matter (likely seeds) has been so small as to be practically invisible, as foxtail seed would be at a great distance. Furthermore, I have never found this

species in corn or soybean stubble without at least some foxtail, even if just a tiny patch in an otherwise "clean" field.

Concerning spring migration, Bohlen (1989) classifies Smith's longspur as a "common spring migrant and occasional fall migrant." I would add the modifier "regular," as the species is common every year in spring, although there do seem to be some years when it is not as numerous or as easy to find. Very few Illinois birders, perhaps only two or three, bother to look for this species in fall. If any are found in fall, reports are usually of only one or two birds. If more people looked for Smith's at the time, there would undoubtedly be more fall records, though the species overall is much more common in spring. Most of the fall records come from the western half of the state, although there are a few Chicago-area records from the Lake Michigan shoreline. The bulk of this species' fall migration takes place well to the west of Illinois, with the closest large numbers coming from western Missouri.

Most of this species' occurrences in Illinois fall within a rather wide swath across the middle portion of the state from about Springfield in the west to the Indiana line in the east. It is no coincidence that these regions of the state happen to be where Illinois' most active birders searching for the species reside. The other "hot spot" is the greater prairie-chicken refuges in southeastern Illinois, where much research is being done and from whence a few active birders occasionally report good numbers of longspurs, as do others attending prairie-chicken field trips there. Outside of the above-mentioned areas few records exist, and many are either historical or very recent, on the part of a couple of active birders seeking to extend the known limits of this species' range in the state. Just last year and again this year, ornithologist Doug Stotz of the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago found Smith's longspur in Iroquois County for perhaps the first time, even though Indiana birders had been finding them just across the border to the east in Indiana near Enos. Doug also pushed the species' range a little farther north, into Marshall County, in a part of the state (southern edge of north-central Illinois) where they had not been recorded before. Specimens in the Field Museum collection from back in the 1970s for Lee and Ogle Counties in far north-central Illinois vouch for some of the most northerly records in the state. Another individual found both spring and fall birds in McDonough County in the southern edge of northwestern Illinois, just north of where good numbers were formerly found in Knox County by an observer who no longer birds there. Northern Illinois is likely near the northern edge of this species' known range as a migrant, as there are extremely few records from anywhere in Wisconsin, including even the southern edge, despite a few concentrated searches there in recent years.

Judging from the past 30 years or so (from which many data exist), no discernible peaks and valleys in numbers are apparent for this species. It is regularly found here in good numbers, especially in areas immediately adjacent to the Illinois River valley, if much searching is done. Flocks in the 100-200 range are not uncommon and flocks of 500 or more have been found. Further east, in Vermilion and Champaign Counties in the extreme east-central part of the state, flock size is normally in the 25-75 range with flocks numbering from 100-150 occasionally

present, although up to 500+ may be located by checking several fields in a day. Unfortunately, these data may not be that meaningful when it comes to peaks and valleys because only a handful of Illinois birders regularly spend much time looking for the species in the state. Most others just come on a couple of the yearly field trips conducted to find the species, and hard-core listers look only until they find their "year bird," and then spend no more time pursuing the species.

In my opinion, Smith's longspur numbers are probably relatively stable overall, with the habitats used during the winter and breeding seasons changing very little from year to year. In fact, prevailing winds during migration may have more to do with how common the species is from year to year locally, especially at the periphery of its migratory range. I also believe this species' apparent numbers may be affected more by the conditions it finds in the areas it uses during migration than at any other time during the year. This time period may be the limiting factor in its life history. I definitely agree with Whan's assessment as to how often this species is or is not found, and in what numbers. In the Midwest at least, its discovery has everything to do with how much time a birder is willing to search, and if that person knows how, where, and when to look. I would agree that birder knowledge and effort has everything to do with Ohio's odd status for the species.

Spring and Fall Migration

The species is most often found from mid-March through mid-April in Illinois. Since Illinois is a very long state from north to south, arrival and departure dates as well as peak numbers may vary a fair amount depending on where you look in the state. Numbers (including peak numbers of birds per flock) tend to be the greatest in western Illinois, and diminish somewhat as you go east, although this species remains common in Illinois clear to the Indiana border. For several years, a few birders in the Illinois River valley in the center of the state took it upon themselves to look earlier and earlier each year and once came up with an early arrival date of the last few days in February or the first few days in March.

Smith's longspurs likely arrive in Illinois in late February in years with unusually early and strong warm fronts out of the southwest. This timetable agrees well with their departure from wintering grounds in Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Texas in middle to late February each year. Generally speaking, 20 March – 15 April is peak time for the longspur in Illinois. Most of these birds arrive in full basic plumage, and by the time they begin to depart, males are well into alternate plumage. The casual birder can regularly find this species well into April, but those who care to take the time to search the species' preferred open field habitat can still find at a least a few birds up until a few days before the spring bird count, anywhere from about 4-10 May. Unfortunately, only rarely are a few dedicated souls still looking anytime after late April.

The very limited fall data reveal it is best to search for this species during the first two weeks of November, when most records have occurred. However, this is likely the "peak" time, if that term can be used for a bird whose largest reported numbers for the fall season are one to a handful. If birders regularly looked, the

extremes would likely be mid-October to early December, and indeed there is a record for mid-October in Bohlen (1989), and we (the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee) have recently accepted a mid-December CBC record for southeastern Illinois.

One fallacy that continues to be passed on from source to source, even including the *Birds of North America* account for this species (Briskie 1993), is that the Smith's longspur winters in the upper Midwest. This is simply not the case. In the above source, for winter range, it is stated "...central Iowa south". Not only is this incorrect, there are no mid-winter records at all for the entire states of Iowa or Illinois, and virtually none in Missouri except for some traditional wintering areas in prairie fragments in the west and southwestern areas of that state. To my knowledge, these are the farthest northern regular winter records. Statements made by a couple of very early ornithologists, very likely erroneous, that this species wintered in Iowa and Illinois continue to be passed on as fact. The *National Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Birds* (Bull and Fearrand 1994) says, "Nebraska south." Wrong. The Peterson Guide (Peterson 2002) shows northern Missouri and southern Iowa. Again, wrong.

Concerning a few things birders need to know before and while they are searching for this species, I have already discussed the general habitats in which we find Smith's longspurs in Illinois. One more consideration is how much more difficult it has become to find any grassland in Illinois due to the conversion of almost all tillable ground to intensive row-crop monocultures. Most of these birds are found only in these intensively farmed areas where little grassland remains. There are still a few areas in Illinois where fairly large grasslands persist, including extreme southern Illinois (rather ironic, due to the fact that this was historically forest), far western Illinois, and extreme northwestern Illinois. These locations currently, and to a somewhat similar extent historically, have held very, very few active birders. At least some of these "good" habitats are likely being visited by Smith's longspurs, and they are also using CRP (Conservation Reserve Program) lands, where I have found them occasionally in east-central Illinois. In fact, the southeastern Illinois region (in and around lands being managed by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources for Illinois's remaining greater prairie-chicken population), where there is a mixture of restored prairie grasses and cool-season European grasses with an active management regime of burning, grazing, and field rotation, has produced the largest flocks and numbers of Smith's longspurs found in the state, several times in the thousands of birds. Again, unfortunately few active birders visit this part of the state with any regularity, so data on numbers even for this productive spot are spotty and irregular at best. It is just easier to find them in the very small (relatively speaking) "islands" of foxtail-covered corn stubble fields in central Illinois. Again, as mentioned earlier, these longspurs are virtually never found in soybean stubble fields, likely due to their extremely "clean" nature (i.e., free of foxtail and other weeds). Lapland longspurs, however, can commonly be found in both corn and soybean stubble.

Finding Smith's Longspurs in Illinois

Here is my approach to searching for Smith's longspurs. For those who want to find the species farther east from Illinois, this method may be the fastest and easiest.

This species prefers large open fields in the extensive farm belt of central Illinois that was formerly part of the Grand Prairie region, with the proportion of open field in a given landscape (compared with forested or urban/suburban etc. habitats) 90% or greater. When surrounded by much forest, even large fields are not likely to have this species.

I begin by driving into any location with large, open fields, and start looking for the tell-tale signs of a good field—patches of yellowish or yellow-gold foxtail plants. If the plants are on private property, one must get permission from landowners to walk particularly good-looking fields. If you drive the country roads slowly with the car window down, you can sometimes hear the birds if you have familiarized yourself with the rather distinctive rattle call note, and maybe even get a quick glimpse of a flock wheeling about over the middle of a field. You are not likely to see this species along roadsides as you can Laplands.

As Jeff McCoy remarks, there does seem to be somewhat of a micro-habitat within fields in which birds can often be found. Once in a field, the observer will want to check all patches of foxtail. I stress "all" as there will often be several to many patches and often most if not all of the birds will be in only one. That one remaining patch of foxtail in the far corner of the field should definitely be checked, as it may be the only spot in the whole field where the birds are. This species also seems to like the damp or wetter areas within a field. That is not to say they like flooded fields, but completely dry fields do not seem to be as productive as a field with at least a few wet spots. Smith's longspurs in Illinois have often been noted drinking from such small wet spots in the fields. In part this may have to do with foxtail's association with moister soil conditions.

My notes on this species' behavior are very similar to Jeff McCoy's, and also match the observations of virtually all Illinois birders. I have been highly successful at showing folks this species on my field trips, which routinely include between 40 and 55 birders, and my success rate at showing literally hundreds and hundreds of birders good looks at this species is 100 percent. Part of this is likely due to my approach, and the few others who now lead field trips for this species have adopted this method.

One note on which Jeff McCoy and I disagree is the effect of weather on the likelihood of getting good looks at this species. Bright, clear, sunny days with no wind are not the best days, at least in some aspects, when trying to see this species. Upon entering a field to look for the birds on such days, even if you know almost exactly where they are it can often be very difficult to approach the birds close enough for a good look. That is probably because on windless days the birds apparently can hear you approaching, especially with the loud crunching noises that are unavoidable in their favored corn-stubble habitat. Upon hearing a birder's approach, the species will either press itself low to the ground or hide (seemingly purposefully) behind the relatively wide stalks of the corn stubble, whereupon even

the largest flocks can instantly disappear. When one approaches too closely (6-12 ft or less), first one bird will fly, and many times its rattle call will take several others (sometimes all) into the air. Every few steps thereafter will continue to flush the remaining birds, also well-camouflaged and hidden from view. It is always better to begin searching the surrounding areas where the initial bird was flushed before continuing to walk, as there are almost always other birds close by ready to flush with the next couple of steps you take. They will nevertheless not be easy to see!

Once airborne on a clear, sunny, and windless day, the flock will continue to circle the field, many times going so high as to disappear entirely or, if you can keep an eye on them, land in a far side of the field or in a different field entirely. If, on the other hand, alone or with a small group, you are able to approach some longspurs with great stealth and patience on such a quiet clear day, you may be lucky enough to spot some birds before they spot you. Setting up a scope and observing the birds by looking down the open areas in the parallel rows of corn stubble is much easier when the wind is not blowing.

The flip side is that on windy and/or overcast days, this species seems much more reluctant to take flight, even if hearing your approach over the noise of the wind. Many times, even if they are flushed, they will often either hug the ground or fly much lower than on clear, windless days. They also tend to fly shorter distances before re-landing, often distances measurable in yards instead of field lengths. Sometimes they will even just run rapidly across the ground for short bursts in such weather, with head held lower than the rest of the body, before stopping to hide. The same holds if you wait to search a field until late in the day when it is approaching dusk, but still with plenty of light to see. Once again, the longspurs seem reluctant to fly very high or far under such conditions.

Although small groups are best, I have successfully shown up to 55 individuals good looks at this species. The key in this situation is to have a number of people (8-10+) willing to carry their scopes into the field for what will sometimes be extended walks back and forth across the field. Otherwise, it is helpful either to stay together so as not to flush the birds continually, or have everyone spread out in a line and walk TOGETHER, SLOWLY, across the field, stopping once someone sees or flushes a bird, then getting a scope on it (at the same time looking for other nearby hiding birds), or stealthily making a closer approach.

One of the main strategies in finding this species is becoming proficient at separating the rattle call of the Smith's from the somewhat similar call of the much more common Lapland longspur. In Illinois, the latter species has become greatly reduced in numbers by the time Smith's is peaking in April. However there are still days when Laplands can be quite numerous during this period. One can find Laplands in the same field as Smith's, and sometimes even within yards of one another. Still, the two species nearly always stay in distinct, separate flocks. Only once or twice in my 20+ years experience with the two species have I noted what appeared to be a single Smith's trying to join a flock of Laplands, and I have had numerous occasions, usually several times each year, where both species are in the same field.

Although tapes can help you learn the call, the best way is to learn with experience, in the field, hearing the birds while making a positive sight identification. Often hearing the bird's distinctive and diagnostic (with experience) call will be your first clue as to its presence. Although many less experienced birders tell me they cannot distinguish between the two species' rattle calls, those who have learned the calls over several years of looking and finding say it is easy to tell Smith's calls from those of the more common Lapland.

Although I find it rather difficult to get much use out of verbal or written descriptions of bird songs or calls, here is my take on the differences between the two species' calls. To me, the Smith's longspur rattle sounds more metallic, or more like a clicking sound, whereas the Lapland has a much "dryer" sound to the rattle. Smith's call is usually longer or more drawn-out, likely with more clicks or rattle notes to a series. One description I read in a book some time ago concerning the Smith's rattles seems the most apropos—"like the winding of a cheap (or child's) watch."

The Smith's longspur occasionally does sing on migration, usually only on clear, sunny, windless, and often warm days—not a frequent occurrence in March and April in the Midwest. It would be good to learn the song. The species is also very responsive to recordings of its rattling call, although that will often cause the birds to become airborne.

The main attributes I find easiest to observe on a bird in flight at almost any distance is the much buffier overall coloration compared with a Lapland, more extensive white edging to the outer tail feathers, and the presence of at least a small white or whitish shoulder patch, present on both males and (much more restricted) on females, even in full basic plumage on first arriving from the wintering grounds. Any of these is diagnostic to this species, although I would advise the inexperienced to use the amount of white in the tail cautiously. The only other species one is likely to encounter in the same time of year and habitat in the Midwest that could possibly be confused with Smith's longspur is the basic-plumaged Lapland longspur and perhaps the vesper sparrow. Of course, chestnut-collared and McCown's longspurs are a distinct possibility as vagrants, but would be extremely rare. The few other species I regularly encounter when looking for Smith's longspurs are savannah and song sparrows, horned lark, common snipe, killdeer, and American golden-plover.

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Recent Actions of the Ohio Bird Records Committee

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Accepted Records

In order to be accepted, records require a minimum of nine accept votes from the eleven-member committee.

Northern Gannet *Morus bassanus*—Lake County, 28 December 2001, observer Ben Fambrough.

Wood Stork *Mycteria americana*—Hancock County, 27 June to 11 July 1966. A fascinating historical record, complete with diagnostic photographs, just brought to our attention after having been discovered among historical documents at Bowling Green University.

Wood Stork *Mycteria americana*—Portage County, 9 September 2001, observers Brad Stemen, Jennifer Hillmer. The first Ohio record since 1966.

Ross's Goose *Chen rossii*—Licking County, 28 December 2001 to at least 7 January 2002, observers Jason Estep, Aimee Morrison, Tammera Nickerson, Dan Sanders, et al.

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*—Lorain County, 20 December 2001, observer Sean Zadar.

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*—Lake County, 30 December 2001, observers Larry Rosche, Ray Hannikman, Emil Bacik.

California Gull *Larus californicus*—Lake County, 11 March 2002, observers Ben Fambrough, Sandy Wagner, Rob Harlan.

***Selasphorus* hummingbird sp.**—Hamilton County, December 2001. A female, probably an adult and either rufous or Allen's, that was visiting a feeder. Despite good photographs, no one felt that it could be identified with certainty to species. Statistically, rufous hummingbird would certainly be the most likely.

Louisiana Waterthrush *Seiurus motacilla*—Summit County, 29 December 2001, observers Larry Rosche, Carl Johnson, Judy Semroc, et al. An amazing and indisputable record. Excellent photographs were obtained. This species is very rare in North America in the winter, and practically unknown in winter in the Midwest. Most depart Ohio by the end of August, and there are few records past early September.

Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra*—Lorain County, 4-25 January 2002, observers Larry Rosche, Ron Lang. Like the aforementioned waterthrush, a spectacular and unexpected winter record of a neotropical species. Also a good lesson in why not to assume that late or winter tanagers/orioles/warblers will be the most common species found during the breeding season. It was thought by some that this bird was a scarlet tanager, but photos and excellent descriptions by observers clearly document the bird as a summer tanager. To my knowledge, the latest previous record was 10 November.

Record Not Accepted

This report received fewer than six votes to accept, therefore it was not accepted.

Glaucous-winged Gull *Larus glaucescens*—Erie County, 26 January to at least 29 January 2002. This was a very puzzling bird, and one whose parental lineage may never be known with certainty. It must be said that it is a credit to all the observers' field skills that they recognized this gull as something out of the ordinary right away, and took steps to obtain excellent documentation in the form of video, drawings, and written details. In our view—and that of almost all of the outside gull experts who offered opinions—there is no question that glaucous-winged gull genetics make up part or most of this bird. However, this is a species that forms a large mongrel population—better termed a hybrid swarm—in the Pacific Northwest. There, it interbreeds freely with western gulls, and to a lesser extent, herring gulls. Without going into the numerous points as to why we felt this was a hybrid, suffice to say that there were a number of quantifiable reasons as to why almost all felt it was not a "pure" glaucous-winged gull. The outcome of this decision is a bit frustrating, admittedly, as we cannot definitely say what generation hybrid this bird represents, or even what species the other parent was. In essence, with gulls such as this, we are dealing with the outer limits of field ID regarding hybrids, and we felt it was best to take the conservative tack and not accept this individual as a first state record.

Record in Recirculation

Having received between six and eight votes to accept, the following record goes into its third round of circulation.

Bicknell's Thrush *Catharus bicknelli*—Ottawa County, 28 October 2001. Even though this bird was captured, banded, and photographed in the hand, certain important details were not documented, making it a troubling and difficult record. Bicknell's thrush was split from gray-cheeked thrush in 1993, and it is very similar to that species, and certain subspecies of hermit thrush.

New Circulations

White-faced Ibis *Plegadis chihi*—Butler County, 7 May 2002.

Garganey *Anas querquedula*—Lucas County, 19-25 May 2002.

Mississippi Kite *Ictinia mississippiensis*—Franklin County, 2 May 2002.

Mississippi Kite *Ictinia mississippiensis*—Lucas County, 3 June 2002.

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*—Cuyahoga County, 15 March 2002.

Black-throated Gray Warbler *Dendroica nigrescens*—Licking County, 17 April 2002.

Kirtland's Warbler *Dendroica kirtlandii*—Lucas County, 6 May 2002.

Kirtland's Warbler *Dendroica kirtlandii*—Erie County, 14 May 2002.

Harris's Sparrow *Zonotrichia querula*—Greene County, 6 April 2002.

Showing its propensity for swimming amongst dense vegetation, this garganey both delighted and frustrated many observers during its one-week stay at Mallard Club Marsh Wildlife Area in Lucas County. If accepted by the OBRC, this will become Ohio's first record. Digiscoped photo by Joe Hammond on 25 May 2002.

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