On the cover:
Ohio’s second state record Mountain Bluebird appeared at the end of March, but was not publicized until a few days later. Many birders traveled to see this individual, which remained in the vicinity of the Toledo Express Airport through 17 April. This photograph by George Sydlowski on 09 April 2009 shows the bird perched atop Common Mullein (Verbascum thapsus).
Spring 2009 Overview

By Craig Caldwell

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Does any season’s weather qualify as “normal”? Early March brought single-digit temperatures to the southeastern part of the state, but there were also many record-high temperatures in both March and April (some, such as Painesville’s 87° F on 04 April, were five degrees above the previous record.) Conversely, there were temperatures around the freezing mark throughout the state during the second week of May, setting many record-low temperatures.

The northern quarter of the state had heavy rains between 08 and 11 March; some single-day measurements were double the previous records for their dates. The rest of the state had below-average rainfall that month. April had rainfall at 75% to 200% of average in no particular pattern, and there were even a few slightly increased snowfall records set in the northeast. May was wetter than average in the southeast and much drier elsewhere. (Weather data are from the National Weather Service: http://water.weather.gov/precip/, and LongRange Weather: http://www.extremeweatherrecords.com/Records/default.aspx.)

The individual species accounts include many notes of earlier-than-usual arrivals, which can probably be attributed to the strong and persistent south winds in late April. Swallows were particularly noteworthy as early arrivals. There were unusually high numbers reported of the sought-after Eurasian Wigeon, White-winged Scoter, and Long-tailed Duck. The many Willets seen, with a sprinkling of less-common shorebirds, made us long for more habitat for their stopovers. An unusually high number of gulls typically associated with Lake Erie (especially Glaucous Gull) were found at inland reservoirs and lakes.

Black-billed Cuckoos and several owls were reported in unusually high numbers, and the large counts of Rusty Blackbirds were heartening. Winter visitors also lingered: Lapland Longspurs put on a show, stragglers from the winter’s White-winged Crossbill invasion remained into May, and there were multiple reports of nesting Pine Siskins.

In the following accounts, review species (those which are not on the state’s Core List) are underlined. There were reports of 15 review species, with as many as six sightings of one of them, Kirtland’s Warbler. Unfortunately, five of the species and some sightings of the other 10 were not documented to the Ohio Bird Records Committee, so few if any details are available for future use. Reports of sightings whose documentation has been accepted by the OBRC include the names of the observers; those for which no documentation was submitted or whose documentation was not considered sufficient are listed anonymously.

The committee urges birders to report all sightings of Review List species, of Core List species found at unusual times, of nesting by birds previously not known to nest in the state, and, of course, sightings of
birds never before found in Ohio. Information on how to document rarities is available at http://www.ohiobirds.org/records/documentation.php.


The following abbreviations are used in these accounts:

Bellevue skyponds = wetland region spanning Sandusky and Seneca

Bobolink area = an area encompassed by 12 counties: Ashland, Carroll, Coshocton, Guernsey, Harrison, Holmes, Knox, Muskingum, Richland, Stark, Tuscarawas, and Wayne. This area is named for the quarterly ornithological journal of the same name that serves this region.

BSBO = Black Swamp Bird Observatory, Ottawa

CVNP = Cuyahoga Valley National Park; spans multiple counties, primarily in Cuyahoga and Summit

Deer Creek = Deer Creek WA, spanning Fayette, Madison, and Pickaway

fide = on the authority of (used for second-hand reports)

Funk = Funk Bottoms WA, Ashland and Wayne

Hoover = Hoover Reservoir, Delaware and Franklin

Killbuck = Killbuck Marsh WA, Holmes and Wayne

Killdeer Plains = Killdeer Plains WA, Wyandot

Magee = Magee Marsh WA, including the boardwalk (Lucas) and the causeway (Ottawa)

Metzger = Metzger Marsh WA, Lucas

m. obs. = multiple observers

Oak Openings = a region composed of multiple parks, including Oak Openings MP, spanning Lucas, Henry, and Fulton

ONWR = Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, Lucas and Ottawa

RBA = Rare Bird Alert summaries shared by phone messages and e-mail

SF = state forest

Shawnee SF = spans Scioto and Athens

SP = state park

SNP = State Nature Preserve

WA = Wildlife Area

Zaleski SF = mostly Vinton, partly in Athens
Spring 2009
Season Report

By Ethan Kistler and Gabe Leidy

Greater White-fronted Goose:
About 115 reported, all in Mar, nearly doubling last year’s count. High counts include 42 at Mercer WA (07 Mar, Rick Asamoto) and 34 at Hardin wetlands (18 Mar, Rick Counts). The latest report came from Englewood Metropark, Montgomery, on 24 Mar (Ed and Bev Neubauer).

Snow Goose:
Around 90 reported, with single digits from Clark, Crawford, Franklin, Hamilton, Highland, Lake, Marion, Seneca, and Wayne. High counts include several dozen at Killdeer Plains (05 Mar, Tom Rooney), 12 in Paulding (08 Mar, Doug and Micki Dunakin), and 20 in Hancock (10 Mar, Betty Hardesty), where one lingered through 05 May.

Ross’s Goose:
Reports of singles came from Delaware SP (01 Mar, John Habig, Troy Shively, Bill Whan), Hancock (23 Mar, Betty Hardesty), and Hardin wetlands (08 Apr to 11 Apr, Rick Counts). Other reports include seven, some possibly hybrids, at Cowan Lake (13 Mar, Rick Asamoto) and two at Old Reid Park, Clark (22 Mar, Doug Overacker), which moved to Buck Creek SP, Clark (23 Mar, Rob Lowery) and remained until 26 Mar (m. obs.).

Cackling Goose:
Four reports: three at Buck Creek SP, Clark (01 Mar, Doug Overacker), two at Sidecut Metropark (01 Mar, Elliot Tramer), two at Funk (07 Mar, Suzanne Wagner), and two off Lake (07 Mar, John Pogacnik).

Brant:
Casual in early spring; John Pogacnik had one during his lakeshore waterbird survey in Lake on 08 Mar.

Mute Swan:
An increasingly common invasive, this species was reported in Champaign, Clark, Clermont, Clinton, Columbiana, Darke, Defiance, Delaware, Erie, Fairfield, Franklin, Geauga, Hamilton, Highland, Hocking, Huron, Lake, Lorain, Mahoning, Marion, Medina, Montgomery, Holmes, Mercer, Ottawa, Lucas, Paulding, Sandusky, Stark, Summit, Warren, Wayne, and Wyandot.

Tundra Swan:
Reported in usual numbers, with high counts of 368 on 01 Mar during the ONWR monthly census and 268 over Akron, Summit, on 10 Mar (Gregory Bennett).

Wood Duck:
Good numbers included 48 in Lake (07 Mar, John Pogacnik), 21 at Hoover (20 Mar,
Charlie Bombaci), and 72 during the ONWR monthly census (05 Apr, Doug Vogus).

**Gadwall:** High counts, all from *Ottawa/Lucas*, include 120 at Metzger (09 Mar, Kenn Kaufman), 542 during the ONWR monthly census (05 Apr, Doug Vogus), and 150 at Medusa Marsh (22 Apr, Rob and Sandy Harlan). A lone female lingered in *Lorain* through 18 May (Gregory Bennett).

**Eurasian Wigeon:** Reports of this species have been increasing considerably, with at least 12 individuals reported this spring. Singles came from Delaware SP (06 Mar, Charlie Bombaci); Killbuck (06 Mar, Helen Ostermiller), which remained until 08 Mar; Cowan Lake (07 Mar, Jay Lehman), which remained until 09 Mar (Shane Egleston, Rick Asamoto and John Habig); Mosquito Lake (15 Mar, Philip Marcischak); Metzger (17 Mar, Kenn Kaufman); Killdeer Plains (22 Mar, Pam Unger), which remained through 08 Apr (Ben Warner); *Hardin* wetlands (24 Mar to 11 Apr, Rick Counts); Springville Marsh, *Wayne* (11 Apr, Tom Bartlett); Bellevue Skyponds, *Seneca* (12 Apr, Rob and Sandy Harlan), which remained through 16 Apr (Kent Miller); and near Wooster, *Wayne* (09 May, James E. Yoder), which remained the following day (Kevin Kline).

**American Wigeon:** High counts include 140 at Metzger (09 Mar, Kenn Kaufman), 150 at Funk (08 Mar, Ken and Helen Ostermiller), and 355 at the Bellevue Skyponds (12 Apr, Rob and Sandy Harlan). Two remained at ONWR 09 May (Ken and Helen Ostermiller).

**American Black Duck:** The high count of the season came from Blendon Woods MP, *Franklin*, where Bruce Simpson had an astounding 545 on 06 Mar.

**Mallard:** High counts of this widespread species include 1,000 at Funk (Su Snyder), where 500 remained on 19 Mar (Robert Hershberger), 500 at Delaware SP (06 Mar, Bruce Simpson), 600 at Big Island WA (15 Mar, Jim McCormac), and 500 at Hoover (20 Mar, Charlie Bombaci).

**Blue-winged Teal:** The ONWR monthly census counted 102 on 05 Apr, and 50 were at Funk on 12 Apr (Ken and Helen Ostermiller). Su Snyder observed a leucistic individual at Killbuck on 27 Mar.

**Northern Shoveler:** Notable numbers reported include 161 on the ONWR monthly census (05 Apr, Doug Vogus), 130 at Big Island WA (15 Mar, Jim McCormac), and an impressive 400 at Funk (19 Mar, Robert Hershberger).

**Northern Pintail:** Good numbers passed through, mostly during Mar. Su Snyder observed 400 at Funk on 05 Mar, which doubled to 800 by 19 Mar (Robert Hershberger), and Jim McCormac had 180 to 200 at Big Island WA on 15 Mar.

**Green-winged Teal:** By 09 Mar, 50 had congregated at Deer Creek (Rob Royse). High counts include 250 to 300 at Big Island WA (15 Mar, Jim McCormac) and 400 at Funk (19 Mar, Robert Hershberger), which increased to 570 two days later (Kevin Kline).
Canvasback: Reported in fewer numbers than last year. The high count of 200 was observed at Deer Creek (09 Mar, Robert Royse). A single individual lingered in Columbiana through 11 May (Bob and Denise Lane).

Redhead: High counts for this species include 2,500 at Deer Creek (09 Mar, Rob Royse) and 1,000 at Metzger (22 Mar, Elliot Tramer). A lone female lingered at Killbuck through 16 May (Adam H. Troyer).

Ring-necked Duck: High counts include 1,000 at Killbuck (05 Mar, Su Snyder), which increased to 2,478 by 09 Mar (Kevin Kline) and 800 at Deer Creek on 09 Mar (Robert Royse). Lingering individuals include a drake at Pickerington Ponds, Franklin, on 30 May (Aaron Boone) and a pair at Shaker Lakes, Cuyahoga, remained through the end of May (Leo Deininger).

Greater Scaup: The Kelleys’ Island census on 20 Mar had the spring high count of 671 (Tom Bartlett). *Aythya* species such as Canvasback and both scaup species appeared to be in lower numbers than in prior years.

Lesser Scaup: More abundant than Greater Scaup, Lesser Scaup had a high count of 2,500 at Deer Creek on 09 Mar (Robert Royse).

Surf Scoter: At least 35 reported including three at Buck Creek SP, Clark (05 Apr, Rick Asamoto), Clear Fork (08 Apr, John Herman), Edgewater Park (29 Mar, Paula Lozano), and Wellington Upground Reservoir (12 Apr to 16 Apr, m. obs); two in Lake (28 Mar, John Pogacnik), Pleasant Hill Lake (30 Mar, Su Snyder), and Findlay Reservoir (08 Apr to 14 Apr, m. obs); and singles in Cuyahoga, Delaware, Highland, Huron, Lorain, Lucas, Pickaway, Portage, Paulding, and Summit. The last report came from Grand Lake St. Mary’s on 14 May (Mary Misplon).

White-winged Scoter: Around 35 reported, including two at Avon Lake (06 Mar, Spencer Ryan), both remained the following day (Lukas Padegimas); one at Pleasant Hill Lake (06 Mar,
Kani Fenstermaker and Su Snyder), both remained through 10 Mar (Rose O’Donnell); two at Cowan Lake (06 Mar, Charlotte Mathena), which remained through 16 Mar (John Troyer, Jr.) and one remained through 27 Mar (Larry Gara); three at Caesar Creek SP (Shane Egleston, Rick Asamoto and John Habig); two at Sims Park, Cuyahoga, (14 Mar, Nancy Anderson); three at Killbuck (19 Mar, fide Bruce Glick), which remained through 28 Mar (m. obs.); and two in Mahoning (Bob and Denise Lane). John Pogacnik’s lakeshore waterbird surveys in Lake produced two on 07 Mar and 08 Mar, one on 22 Mar, and three on 05 Apr. Singles came from Clark, Delaware, Lorain, Lucas, Richland/Morrow, Van Wert, and Wood.

Black Scoter: Eight individuals reported this spring, including one at Cowan Lake (05 Mar, Bob Powell), two at Edgewater Park, Cuyahoga, (14 Mar, Gabe Leidy), and one at Bresler Upground Reservoir, Allen (11 Apr, Ed Schlabach). John Pogacnik’s lakeshore waterbird surveys in Lake produced two on 07 Mar and 08 Mar, one on 22 Mar, and three on 05 Apr. Singles came from Clark, Delaware, Lorain, Lucas, Richland/Morrow, Van Wert, and Wood.

Long-tailed Duck: Nearly 40 individuals reported throughout the state, with the high count of nine from Harrison (19 Mar, Bruce Glick). John Pogacnik’s lakeshore waterbird surveys in Lake produced two on 14 Mar, one on 15 Mar, and one on 04 Apr. Other reports came from Ashland/Richland, Clinton, Defiance, Erie, Guernsey, Lucas, Medina, Pickaway, Richland/Marrow, Summit, and Wayne.

Bufflehead: High counts include 342 during the Kelleys’ Island census (20 Mar, Tom Bartlett) and 860 in Mahoning, Summit, and Portage combined (06 Apr, Gregory Bennett).

Common Goldeneye: John Pogacnik’s lakeshore waterbird surveys in Lake had a total of 1,247, with the high count of 637 on 07 Mar. The Kelleys’ Island census recorded 824 on 20 Mar (Tom Bartlett).

Hooded Merganser: High counts for the season include 30 at Metzger (09 Mar, Kenn Kaufman) and 40 at Killbuck (16 Mar, Su Snyder).

Common Merganser: John Pogacnik’s lakeshore waterbird surveys in Lake had a total of 1,247 with the high count of 637 on 07 Mar.

Red-breasted Merganser: The Kelleys’ Island census recorded 755 on 20 Mar (Tom Bartlett). John Pogacnik’s lakeshore waterbird surveys in Lake had a total of 20,579, with the high count of 6,946 on 28 Mar.

Ruddy Duck: Reported in good numbers, including a total of 910 in Mahoning, Summit, and Portage (06 Apr, Gregory Bennett), 750 at Wellington Reservoir (12 Apr, Rob and Sandy Harlan), and 501 at Magee (21 Apr, Jim Witter).

Red-throated Loon: About a dozen reported, including two at Clear Fork (28 Mar, Bruce Glick), with one remaining through 11 Apr (Su Snyder). Single reports come from Seneca Lake (19 Mar, Bruce Glick); Buck Creek SP, Clark (22 Mar, Doug Overacker), which remained through 29 Mar; Caesar Creek (30 Mar, Rick
Asamoto), which remained through 07 Apr (Jason Cade); Wellington Reservoir (31 Mar, Su Snyder), which remained the following day (Gabe Leidy); Findley Reservoir (23 Apr, Chris Knoll); Lake (25 Apr, John Pogacnik); and Clear Fork (26 Mar to 17 Apr, John Herman).

**Common Loon:** John Pogacnik had 11 on his lakeshore waterbird survey in Lake on 24 Apr, and 12 were at Buck Creek SP, Clark, on 28 Mar (Doug Overacker). A few birds lingered through the end of May in the northern part of the state.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** High counts for this species all occurred in Apr, including 22 during the ONWR monthly census on 05 Apr, 20 at Killbuck also on Apr 5 (Ken and Helen Ostermiller), and 26 at Wellington Reservoir on 12 Apr (Rob and Sandy Harlan).

**Horned Grebe:** Thirty were at Wellington Reservoir on 01 Apr (Gabe Leidy; Ken and Helen Ostermiller) and persisted through 05 Apr (Rob and Sandy Harlan). The high count was 38 individuals recorded by John Pogacnik during his lakeshore waterbird survey in Lake on 22 Mar.

**Red-necked Grebe:** Nearly 40 reported in the state, with the high count of seven at Tappan Lake, Harrison (19 Mar, Bruce Glick). Other reports came from Ashland/Richland, Clark, Clinton, Franklin, Guernsey, Harrison/Belmont, Lorain, Lucas, Mahoning, Pickaway, Portage/Mahoning, Richland/Morrow, and Summit.

**Eared Grebe:** Five reported, all singles, from Lake Medina (11 Mar, Karen Gray); Bellevue, Sandusky (12 Apr, Rob and Sandy Harlan), remaining through 27 Apr (Jay Lehman); Clear Fork (14 Mar, Kevin Kline); Lake (18 Apr, John Pogacnik); and Caesar Creek (23 Apr, Philip Ware).

**American White Pelican:** One was at Hoover 19 Mar through 28 Mar (Charlie Bombaci). John Herman had one at Clear Fork between 21 Mar and 22 Mar and again 08 Apr and 09 Apr. One was also reported from Bresler Upground Reservoir, Allen, on 18 Apr.

**Double-crested Cormorant:** Clear Fork had 700 on 11 Apr (Su Snyder) and Craig Holt had 300 at Metzger on 25 Apr. John Pogacnik’s lakeshore waterbird surveys produced a total of 1,427 off Lake, with the high count of 734 on 19 Apr.

**American Bittern:** Singles reported in Columbiana, Coshocton, Delaware, Erie, Franklin, Geauga, Greene, Licking, Lorain, Lucas, Ottawa, Richland, Warren, Wayne, and Wood, with the high count of five at Hardin wetlands on 16 Apr (Rick Counts).

**Least Bittern:** Chris Knoll reported one along the Magee boardwalk on 08 May, which was occasionally seen but mostly heard for at least a week or two longer. Other reports include singles at Navarre Marsh, Ottawa (07 May), Cedar Point NWR (02 May and 30 May, Elliot Tramer), and Springville Marsh (23 May, Tom Bartlett).
Great Blue Heron: The ONWR monthly census recorded 12 on 01 Mar and 33 on 05 Apr. Betty Hardesty observed 50 in Hancock on 07 Mar and John Pogacnik recorded 32 flying along the lakefront in Lake on 25 Apr. The high count of 79 was observed at a rookery in CVNP (16 May, Dwight Chasar).

Green Heron: The first report came from Washington on 03 Apr (Barb Hohman). The high count of eight was observed at CVNP on 16 May (Dwight Chasar).

Great Egret: One at Maumee Bay SP, Lucas, on 14 May was the first of the season (James Cole). The ONWR monthly census recorded 47 on 05 Apr, and John Herman counted 24 at Clear Fork on 08 Apr, which is likely a record high count for Richland. The season’s high count of 65 was observed at ONWR on 09 May (Ken and Helen Ostermiller). Marcia Brehmer observed two nests on an island in a quarry in Columbus on 23 May.

Snowy Egret: Lukas Padegimas observed one along the Magee causeway on 11 Apr, which grew to 15 by 21 Apr (Jim Witter). At least one was occasionally seen through the rest of the season. Mary Misplon had one at Grand Lake St. Mary’s (Mercer/Auglaize) on 14 May, and four were present at Killbuck on 27 Apr (Kevin Kline).

Little Blue Heron: The first of the season was reported at Armleder Park, Hamilton, on 11 Apr (Barb Schwallie). Singles were also observed at Veler Road, Lucas (28 Apr, Phil Chaon), Wright Marsh in Killbuck (30 Apr, Bruce Glick), Magee (01 May, Bruce Glick; remained through the month), Montgomery (02 May, Shane Egleston), Mogadore Reservoir, Portage (06 May, Kent Miller), and again at Armleder Park on 08 May (Frank Frick).

Cattle Egret: A half-dozen reports, including nine at Killdeer Plains (25 Apr, Ron Sempier), four in Auglaize (27 Apr, Jay Lehman), 15 at Arrowhead Park, Lucas (28 Apr, fide Ohio RBA), 10 at Wright Marsh, Killbuck (30 Apr, Bruce Glick), one at Armleder Park, Hamilton (07 May, Allan Claybon), and one at Grand Lake St. Marys (Mercer/Auglaize) (14 May, Mary Misplon), which remained three days later (Russell Reynolds).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: Reported in good numbers this year, with the high count of 94 at Merwin Street, Cuyahoga, on 28 Mar (Paula Lozano). Other reports include 15 in Ashtabula (12 Apr, Rick Oxley) and 12 at the Lorain Impoundments (09 May, Robert Jackson). Small numbers were present at Magee through the season (m. obs.).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: One returned to the traditional nesting spot in suburban Columbus (Bexley) for the 13th consecutive year on 01 Apr (Bill Whan); up to five were present by 17 Apr (Barbara Abrams).

Black Vulture: Reported in usual numbers in the southern part of the state. Northern reports include eight in Tuscarawas (09 Mar, Sandy Brown), two in Richland (14 Mar, John Herman), five in Sandusky.
Turkey Vulture: The BSBO hawk counts in Ottawa/Lucas recorded 6,480 for the season, with a high count of 1,414 on 08 Apr. Various hawkwatches at Conneaut counted 1,491, including 761 on 24 Mar.

Osprey: Two were present at Lake Logan by 11 Mar (Bob Scott Placier). The BSBO hawk counts in Ottawa/Lucas counted 38 for the season, including 12 on 25 Apr. Hawk counts at Conneaut observed 42, including 31 on 25 Apr. It appears there was a good push on 25 Apr: both hawkwatches reported high counts on that day totaling 43 birds.

Mississippi Kite: A single flyover was observed by David Yoder near New Bedford, Coshocton, on 26 Apr. The OBRC accepted his documentation.

Bald Eagle: The ONWR monthly census recorded 12 on 01 Mar and 17 on 05 Apr, and Ed Schlabach observed 13 at Funk on 21 Mar. The BSBO hawk counts in Ottawa/Lucas recorded 179 for the season, including 21 on 09 Mar.

Northern Harrier: The BSBO hawk counts in Ottawa/Lucas counted 70 for the season, including eight on 09 Apr. Various counts at Conneaut recorded 44, including 31 on 25 Apr.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: Various counts at Conneaut recorded 803 for the season, including 590 on 25 Apr. The BSBO hawk counts in Ottawa/Lucas counted 513, including 121 on 25 Apr.

Cooper’s Hawk: The BSBO hawk counts in Ottawa/Lucas counted 252 for the season, including 31 on 17 Apr. Various counts at Conneaut recorded 21, including six on 25 Apr.

Northern Goshawk: Singles were observed in Hancock (03 Mar and 28 Apr, Betty Hardesty), Geauga (15 Mar, Brenda Barber), Lucas (19 Mar, Gerry Klug), and Lake (28 Apr, John Pogacnik), and a total of three were counted at various hawkwatches at Conneaut through the season. This species is often confused with the more common Cooper’s Hawk, and sightings without additional documentation should be considered with caution.

Red-shouldered Hawk: The BSBO hawk counts in Ottawa/Lucas counted 262 for the season, including 95 on 09 Mar. Various hawkwatches at Conneaut recorded 187, including 170 on 17 Mar.

Broad-winged Hawk: The BSBO hawk counts in Ottawa/Lucas counted 446 for the season, including 256 on 21 Apr. Bruce Glick counted 5,687 over Conneaut on 25 Apr.

Red-tailed Hawk: The BSBO hawk counts in Ottawa/Lucas counted 720 for the season, including 69 on 17 Mar. Various hawkwatches at Conneaut observed 246 including 143 on 17 Mar. It appears 17 Mar was the day for Red-tails; both hawkwatches had high counts on that day totaling 212.
Swainson’s Hawk: Two were reported over Conneaut on 25 Apr; the OBRC received no documentation.

Rough-legged Hawk: The high count of 28 was observed near Middlefield, Geauga, on 01 Mar (Andrew Morrison). The BSBO hawk counts in Ottawa/Lucas recorded only 10 for the season, the same number counted at Conneaut.

Golden Eagle: Singles were at ONWR (05 Apr, Richard Johnson), Coshocton (19 Apr, James E. Yoder), Dillon WA, Licking/Muskingum (19 Apr, Paul Haskins), Maumee Bay SP, Lucas (21 Apr, Chris Knoll, and 23 Apr, Lee Garling), Conneaut (25 Apr, Ed Schlabach), and Holmes (18 Apr, Kevin Kline). At least one was seen at Killdeer Plains through 22 Mar (Ken and Julie Davis, Rob Lowery) with two present on 15 Mar (Clyde Witt). The BSBO hawk counts in Ottawa/Lucas counted nine for the season, including three on 09 Apr.

American Kestrel: The BSBO hawk counts in Ottawa/Lucas counted 38 for the season, including 10 on 09 Apr. Various hawkwatches at Conneaut observed 130, including 97 on 25 Apr.

Merlin: Up to three roosted at Calvary Cemetery, with one remaining through 06 Apr (Lou Gardella). Two were in Tuscarawas on 14 Apr (Ed Schlabach), and John Pogacnik observed one on 19 Apr, three on 24 Apr, and three on 25 Apr in Lake. The BSBO hawk counts in Ottawa/Lucas counted nine for the season, and Bruce Glick had 12 at Conneaut on 25 Apr. Singles were reported in at least a dozen other counties.

Peregrine Falcon: Singles reported throughout northern Ohio. Various hawkwatches at Conneaut observed 11 for the season, including nine on 25 Apr. The BSBO hawk counts in Ottawa/Lucas counted seven, including two on 17 Apr.

King Rail: The only one reported this season was a single bird at Irwin Prairie, Lucas, on 02 May (Glen Crippen).

Virginia Rail: The first report came from Spring Valley WA, Greene/Warren, of a single bird on 13 Mar (Michael Gerringer). The high count of five came from CVNP on 16 May (Dwight Chasar).

Sora: One observed at Hardin wetlands on 24 Mar was the first one reported this spring (Rick Counts). There were many reports of small numbers but no notable concentrations reported.

Common Moorhen: Kenn Kaufman noted the first individuals of the season at ONWR on 18 Apr. Small numbers continued to be reported throughout the Magee/Ottawa marsh region. Bob Lane observed six around Guilford Lake, Columbiana, on 30 Apr.

American Coot: High counts for this species include 1,500 at Metzger (22 Mar, Elliot Tramer), 150 at Mogadore Reservoir, Portage (28 Mar, Gregory Bennett), and 645 counted on 05 Apr during the ONWR monthly census.
Sandhill Crane: Numerous reports from across the state, with a high count of 15 from Funk (28 Mar, Craig Caldwell). Away from their tradition flight path, one was observed by Lee Underschultz in Washington on 06 May. Other reports came from Allen, Clark, Clermont, Clinton, Darke, Erie, Franklin, Geauga, Greene, Hamilton, Hancock, Hardin, Highland, Lorain, Mahoning, Medina, Mercer, Montgomery, Ottawa, Paulding, Pickaway, Richland, Sandusky, Seneca, Summit, Tuscarawas, Warren, and Wayne.

Black-bellied Plover: First reported from Veler Road, Lucas, on 11 Apr (John Pogacnik); other reports include five in Delaware (01 May, Jack Stenger), one at Killbuck (03 May, Gabe Leidy), one in Darke (12 May, Regina Schieltz), and four at Pickeral Creek WA, Sandusky (17 May, Sheryl Young).

American Golden-Plover: The first report, of six birds, came from ONWR during their monthly census on 05 Apr. The high count was an impressive 2,000 in Marion on 22 Apr (Troy Shively). Bill Whan had 5,000 in the same field a few years ago. Additional important concentrations include 500 in Logan (18 Apr, Bill Whan) and 600 to 700 in Ottawa (20 Apr, Phil Chaon).

Semipalmated Plover: The first reports came from Orwell Marsh, Ashtabula (Craig Holt), and Shreve Fish Pond, Wayne (Su Snyder), of singles on 29 Apr. The 35 along Benton-Carroll Road, Ottawa, on 12 May (Ken and Helen Ostermiller) increased to the high count of 70 on 17 May (Doug Overacker).

Piping Plover: Two reported. One was seen along Wilderness Road, Wayne, on 02 May (Kevin Kline), and remained through 04 May (Dan Sanders); the documentation was accepted by the OBRC. One reported at Maumee Bay SP, Lucas, on 06 May was not documented to the OBRC.

Killdeer: The Hardin wetlands hosted 47 on 18 Mar (Rick Counts) and the ONWR monthly census recorded 49 on 05 Apr. The high count of 63 came from Hancock on 09 May (Betty Hardesty).

Black-necked Stilt: Two reports. One was reported along Benton-Carroll Road, Ottawa, on several dates from 23 to 27 Apr but not documented to the OBRC. The other report, supported with photographs by Bruck Glick, was of two birds along Prairie Lane, Wayne, on 01 May. The OBRC accepted the documentation.

American Avocet: Gabe Leidy and Sherrie Duris discovered 23 on Veler Road, Lucas, on 25 Apr, and Gabe Leidy had another at the Lorain Impoundments between 12 May and 14 May.

Spotted Sandpiper: The first report came from Licking on 15 Apr (Timothy Mason).

Solitary Sandpiper: A solitary bird at Columbia Woods Park in Norton, Summit, on 27 Mar was the first of the year (Rob and Sandy Harlan) and the high count of eight was at Orwell Marsh, Ashtabula, on 02 May (Craig Holt).
Greater Yellowlegs: One was at Shreve Fish Pond by 12 Mar (Su Snyder). High counts include 50 at Benton-Carroll Road, Ottawa (11 Apr, Ken and Helen Ostermiller), and 65 at Funk (21 Apr, Su Snyder).

Willet: Eighty-seven individuals reported in the state, including four at Deer Creek (01 May, Robert Royse), 43 at Killdeer Plains (02 May, Dan Sanders), one at Buck Creek SP, Clark (02 May, Darlene Snuffer), two in Hancock (03 May, Bob Sams), one in Butler (3 May, unknown), 25 at Buck Creek SP (07 May, Rick Asamoto), seven at Mogadore Reservoir, Portage (07 May, Gregory Bennett), one along the beach at Magee (14 May, James E. Yoder), one at Armleder Park, Hamilton (14 May, John Zahnen), and two at the Lorain Impoundments (17 May, Tom Fisher).

Lesser Yellowlegs: The first report came from Ross on 07 Mar (Tom Bain) and the high count of 117 was along Benton-Carroll Road, Ottawa, on 25 Apr (Vic Fazio III).

Upland Sandpiper: Three reports: one each in Delaware (18 Apr, Sean Williams), Conneaut (23 Apr, Robert Hershberger), and Madison (19 May, Aaron Boone). The latter was detected by its nocturnal flight call early in the morning.

Whimbrel: Two reports totaling 44 individuals: 43 in Lake (21 May, John Pogacnik) and a flyby at Magee (22 May, Dave Collopy).

Marbled Godwit: One report, a single bird along Veler Road, Lucas, on 25 Apr (Jay Lehman).

Ruddy Turnstone: All reports from May, with the first from Magee on 13 May (Mary Warren). High counts include 12 at Killbuck (14 May, Kevin Kline, Su Snyder) and 36 at Magee (27 May, Chris Knoll).

Red Knot: One report, Greg Links reported a group fly over Route 19, Lucas, the first week in May.

Sanderling: Uncommon in spring, singles were present in Scioto (30 Apr, Ben Morrison), Buck Creek SP, Clark (14 May, Doug Overacker), Metzger (16 May, Craig Caldwell), and Maumee Bay SP, Lucas (16 May, Doug Overacker). Two were in Darke on 17 May (Regina Schieltz) and another two in Hancock on 19 May (Betty Hardesty).

Western Sandpiper: Very rare in spring, singles were at Magee (26 May, Clyde Witt) and Conneaut (26 May, Craig Holt).

Baird’s Sandpiper: Quite rare in spring. Aaron Boone reported, “a single ‘long-winged’ peep—without a scope, the bird appeared to be a Baird’s Sandpiper,” on 30 May at Pickerington Ponds.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: The first report came from Benton-Carroll Road, Ottawa, of a single bird on 27 Apr (Vic Fazio III) and the high count of 30 was observed at the Lorain Impoundment on 14 May (Gabe Leidy).

Least Sandpiper: First reported at Buck Creek SP, Clark, on 23 Mar (Rob Lowry) the high count of 100 was observed at the Lorain Impoundment on 14 May (Gabe Leidy).
White-rumped Sandpiper: All reports from May, with the first report from the Lorain Impoundment of four on 09 May (Robert Jackson). Other reports include three at Conneaut (30 May, Mark Vass) and singles at Funk (May 16 and 23, Kevin Kline), Benton-Carroll Road, Ottawa (17 May, Doug Overacker; 20 May, Rob and Sandy Harlan), Findlay Reservoir (17 May, Bob Sams), and Bellevue Skyponds (20 May, Rob and Sandy Harlan).

Ruff: An individual reported by several observers along Stange Road, Ottawa, on 20 and 23 Apr was not documented to the OBRC. What was probably the same bird was reported several times from ONWR between 19 and 22 May. The documentation of this second event, by Brenda Tekin, was accepted by the OBRC.

Pectoral Sandpiper: Five at Maumee Bay SP, Lucas, on 14 Mar were the first reported (James Cole). High counts include 200 in Logan (18 Apr, Bill Whan), 1,000 around Ottawa (20 Apr, Phil Chaon), and 250 at Funk (27 Apr, Kevin Kline).

Dunlin: The first report came from Magee on 21 Mar (Gabe Leidy). High counts include 1,450 along Benton-Carroll Road, Ottawa (25 Apr, Vic Fazio III), 2,000 at ONWR (09 May, Rob and Sandy Harlan), and 1,000 at Maumee Bay SP, Lucas (17 May, Doug Overacker).

Stilt Sandpiper: Su Snyder found one at Shreve Fish Pond, Wayne, on 29 Apr and another six at Killbuck on 14 May, which increased to 11 later in the day (James E. Yoder).

This Ruff was documented at Ottawa NWR, Ottawa, by several birding groups, including local residents as well as visitors from Virginia. Brenda Tekin obtained the close photo on the left on 19 May, and Michael Bolton provided the photo on the right on 21 May as the bird was joined by two female Red-necked Phalaropes.
Short-billed Dowitcher: All reports from May, with the first from Magee (05 May, Clyde Witt). High counts include 20 at ONWR on 10 May (Rob and Sandy Harlan) and 43 at Killbuck on 14 May (Su Snyder).

Long-billed Dowitcher: One was in Logan (01 Apr, Troy Shively), three along Veler Road, Lucas (11 Apr, John Pogacnik), and one at Magee (10 May, Clyde Witt). Inland sightings are rare.

Wilson’s Snipe: First reports came from Ross (Tom Bain) and Cuyahoga (Paula Lozano) on 07 Mar. High counts include 145 at Killbuck (21 Mar, Ed Schlabach), 76 at ONWR during their monthly census on 05 Apr, and a couple hundred along Veler Road, Lucas (16 Apr, Kent Miller). Several reports were received of “winnowing” birds through the end of May.

American Woodcock: Rob Lowry had several at Highbanks MP, Delaware, on 06 Mar, and Rob and Sandy Harlan had the high count of 13 at Silver Creek MP, Summit, on 07 Mar.

Wilson’s Phalarope: Reports include one at the Bellevue Skyponds (16 Apr, Ben Morrison), one in Lorain (26 Apr, John Pogacnik), four along Veler Road, Lucas (08 May, Chris Knoll), one at Metzger (21 May, Ben Morrison), and one in Paulding (25 May to 26 May, Doug and Micki Dunakin).

Red-necked Phalarope: A single bird at ONWR on 19 May (Brenda Tekin) which was joined by another on 21 May (Michael Bolton).

Laughing Gull: Tom Bartlett had one from his ladder during his Big Sit! survey at Magee on 09 May. Craig Holt had one at Conneaut on 18 May, and Rick Asamoto had one in Montgomery on 25 May.

Franklin’s Gull: Two reports, one east of Cygnet, Wood (11 Apr, Becky Cullen), and two along Benton-Carroll Road, Ottawa (20 Apr, Phil Chaon).

Little Gull: Sally Isacco observed one at East 72nd Street, Cuyahoga, on 05 Mar.

Bonaparte’s Gull: John Pogacnik’s lakeshore waterbird surveys in Lake counted a total of 1,972, with the high count of 777 on 18 Apr. Other good numbers include 200 at Buck Creek, Clark (05 Apr, Rick Asamoto), and 224 at ONWR during their monthly census on 05 Apr.

Black-headed Gull: One reported flying along the lakefront in Lake on 18 Apr was not documented to the OBRC.

Ring-billed Gull: High counts of this species include 10,000 at Hoover (01 Mar, Dave Slager) and a total of 7,165 in Lake, counted during John Pogacnik’s lakeshore waterbird surveys, including a high count of 1,888 on 01 Mar.

Herring Gull: Lakeshore waterbird surveys produced 3,280 in Lake, with a high count of 1,344 on 01 Mar (John Pogacnik). Betty Hardesty had a good inland count of 323 in Hancock on 07 Mar.

Thayer’s Gull: A single first-cycle bird was found at Oberlin Reservoir, Lorain, on 01 Mar (Jim McCormac).
Iceland Gull: Five were at Oberlin Reservoir, Lorain, on 01 Mar (Jim McCormac) and Gabe Leidy had singles there on 02 Mar and 15 Mar. Singles were also at Hoover (03 Mar, Ken Davis), Conneaut (18 Mar, Craig Holt), and Edgewater Park, Cuyahoga (22 Mar, Gabe Leidy). John Pogacnik recorded three on 01 Mar, one on 28 Mar, and one on 04 Mar during his lakeshore waterbird surveys in Lake.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Probably a record spring, with numerous reports around the state. Four were at Oberlin Reservoir, Lorain (01 Mar, Jim McCormac), two at Deer Creek (04 Mar, Robert Royse), Berlin Reservoir (spans Mahoning, Portage, and Stark; 05 Mar, Ben Morrison), Findlay Reservoir (10 Mar, Bob Sams), Buck Creek, Clark (29 Mar, m. obs.), and Clear Fork (17 Apr, John Herman). Reports of singles also came from Clermont, Delaware, Erie, Franklin, Lake, Logan, Ottawa, Richland, Summit, and Warren.

Glaucous Gull: At least 16 reported, including one at Hoover (01 Mar, Ken and Julie Davis), which increased to two to three by 03 Mar, five to six at Oberlin Reservoir, Lorain (01 Mar, Jim McCormac), with one adult remaining the following day (Gabe Leidy), and singles at Berlin Reservoir (spans Mahoning, Portage, and Stark); 03 Mar, Craig Holt and 05 Mar, Ben Morrison), Deer Creek (04 Mar, Robert Royse), Lake Milton, Mahoning (05 Mar, Ethan Kistler), Conneaut (07 Mar, Craig Holt), Port Clinton (09 Mar, Kenn Kaufman), Clear Fork (21 Mar, James E. Yoder and 24 Mar, John Herman), and the Westerly Wastewater Treatment Plant in Cuyahoga (22 Mar, Gabe Leidy).

Great Black-backed Gull: As did other gulls, this species invaded inland reservoirs, with a high count of five at Lake Milton (04 Mar, Ethan Kistler). Other inland reports include two at Oberlin Reservoir, Lorain (03 Mar, Craig Caldwell), and singles at Hoover (01 Mar, Dave Slager), Deer Creek (01 Mar, Robert Royse), Berlin Reservoir (spans Mahoning, Portage, and Stark; 03 Mar, Craig Holt and 05 Mar, Ben Morrison), Mogadore Reservoir, Portage (13 Mar, Gregory Bennett), and Chippewa Lake, Medina (07 Mar, Ken and Helen Ostermiller). The high count along the lakefront was 73 in Lake on 01 Mar (John Pogacnik).

Black-legged Kittiwake: The bird found on 28 Feb at Hoover remained through 06 Mar (Kevin Hall).

Caspian Tern: First reported 26 Mar at East Fork (Rob Edelen), high counts include 60 at Lorain Impoundment (26 Apr, Gregory Bennett) and 308 off Lake (25 Apr, John Pogacnik).

Black Tern: First reported from Wayne on 30 Apr (James E. Yoder), increased to eight by 14 May (Adam H. Yoder). Other reports include one at Delaware WA (02 May, Darlene Snuffer), eight at Metzger (10 May, Rob and Sandy Harlan), one remained through 21 May (Ben Morrison), two at Sandy Ridge (10 May, Craig Caldwell), one along Veler Road, Lucas (12 May, Ken and Helen Ostermiller), seven in Erie (18 May, Gabe Leidy), and at least five birds.
and one nest at Cedar Point NWR (30 May, Tom Kemp).

**Common Tern:** The first report came from Cowan Lake on 23 Mar (Jason Cade) and the high count of six was in Lake on 08 May (John Pogacnik).

**Forster’s Tern:** Larry Gara had two at Caesar Creek by 10 Apr, and John Pogacnik had the high count of 131 in Lake during his lakeshore waterbird survey on 25 Apr.

**Rock Pigeon:** Bob Evans was alarmed to discover an individual on his property in rural Muskingum 24 May, only the third one he has seen in nine years here. No other unusual reports received for this widespread species.

**Eurasian Collared-Dove:** This spring’s reports: 04 Mar through end of period in South Baltic, Tuscarawas; 28 May into June north of Bunker Hill, Holmes; and a pair carrying nesting material up a grain elevator in Celina, Mercer, 18 Apr. More individuals were reported later that month in the same city. Though the Eurasian Collared-Dove is apparently becoming established in western Ohio and possibly in the Amish Country, it remains a review species. Documentation to the OBRC is especially important for a species expanding its nesting range into our state, so that the phenomenon can be properly studied. None of these sightings were reported to the OBRC.

**Mourning Dove:** Thirty-seven were part of a Lakefront movement 22 Mar past Edgewater SP, Cuyahoga (Gabe Leidy).

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** Regarded by some as scarce this year. Mark Gilsdorf had the first records for the season on 25 Apr at both Armleder and Magrish parks, Hamilton, and, by 27 Apr, birds had reached Holmes (Leroy Yoder) and Magee (Rick Nirschl). Nirschl’s eight at the Magee Bird Trail, Lucas, 27 May was the high tally.

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** One reached Shawnee Lookout, Hamilton, 25 Apr (Steve Bobonick), and Magee had its first the following day (Chris Knolls). Well reported overall, especially in the Bobolink area, where Black-billed reports nearly doubled those of Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Six in Coshocton 08 May (Kevin Kline) was an outstanding tally for this shy species.

**Barn Owl:** Four nests reported in the Bobolink area, along with a single bird in the Pickaway/Ross area 23 Mar (Charlie Bombaci, Bill Kincaid, Bruce Simpson).

**Eastern Screech-Owl:** Backyard fledglings were reported from two sites in Cuyahoga (Paula Lozano, Jeremiah Roth).

**Great Horned Owl:** Doug Vogus reported two active nests on the ONWRC 01 Mar, and a nest high on a powerline tower in Jefferson 04 Apr was unique (Emil Bacik, Gabe Leidy).

**Snowy Owl:** The two overwintering birds at Burke Lakefront Airport, Cuyahoga, just made it into this season’s report; Greg Cudworth observed both there on 01 Mar for the only spring’s only report.
Barred Owl: Six on the CVNP census 16 May was an all time high (Dwight and Ann Chasar).

Long-eared Owl: Two birds present at Caley Reservation, Lorain, at the beginning of the period, dwindled to one on 15 Mar, which remained through 27 Mar (Emil Bacik, Laura Keene, Jay Lehman, m. obs.). Twelve birds were reported within the Bobolink area, most of them overwintering, including a high count of four at Walborn Reservoir 06 Mar (Ben Morrison). Phil Chaon flushed a migrant near Camp Sabroske, Ottawa, 28 Mar.

Long-eared Owl sightings are a reward for cautious observers; Larry Rosche and Judy Semroc spotted this bird at Caley Reservation, Lorain, after a considerable effort by several other observers. Semroc photographed this drowsy individual in its pine tree roost on 06 Mar.

Short-eared Owl: Reported around the state, though they were not plentiful. Wintering birds were reported from 12 locales statewide, including high counts of six at Rockford, Mercer, 11 Apr (Ed Schlabach) and five at Killdeer Plains 14 Mar (Lukas Padegimas). The southernmost reports were of one at Armleder Park, Hamilton, 03 Mar to 01 Apr (Kirk Westendorf) and two at Miami-Whitewater Wetlands 05 to 22 Apr (Steve Bobonick, Neill Cade). Obvious migrants were one moving high over the Kline farm west of Holmesville, Holmes, 18 Apr (Dennis Kline), a flyby during a Conneaut hawkwatch 02 Apr (Ed Schlabach), and another at Lorain Impoundment, Lorain, 02 May (Emil Bacik, Gabe Leidy).

Northern Saw-whet Owl: A banner spring for the number of these tiny owls that were detected: nine were reported, all but one in the northern part of the state. Following Phil Chaon’s report of three calling birds at Magee’s east beach 28 Mar, m. obs. heard at least one along the boardwalk trail 02 to 16 Apr. In the northeast, John Pogacnik found four birds in a two-week period in late Mar to early Apr, all in Lake. On 07 Mar, Terri Martincic heard a calling bird at Hinckley Reservation, Medina, and on 18 Apr, Bob Sams found one at Camp Berry, Hancock (fide Betty Hardesty).

Common Nighthawk: Very few reports and even fewer of multiple birds. The first were a surprisingly early four near Mt. Eaton, Wayne, 26 Apr (Aden Yoder). Three were east of Ragersville 14 May (Leroy Schlabach), and Craig Holt was delighted to hear a bird in Struthers, Mahoning, 13 May. Doug Overacker racked up eight from Maumee Bay SP, Lucas, to Magee 15 May for the high count.
The banding efforts during spring migration at Navarre Marsh, Ottawa, occasionally produce Whip-poor-will records (top; 07 May). More unexpected was the Chuck-will’s-widow (middle, bottom) that appeared 21 May. These species and other members of the Caprimulgidae family feature a comb-like edge on the middle toe’s toenail which is an aid in preening.

Three photos by Mark Shieldcastle.
Chuck-will’s-widow: One of the these giant goatsuckers made its way into BSBO’s mist nets at Navarre Marsh, Ottawa, 21 May. More routine were calling birds along Waggoner Riffle Road, Adams, 07 and 19 May (Steve Bobonick, Robert Foppe).

Whip-poor-will: Adams hosted the first 15 Apr (Jay Lehman), and by 19 Apr, three were at Shawnee SF (Kani Fenstermaker), where five were tallied 02 to 04 May (Ron Kolde). Three migrants were detected at northern Ohio locales 24 Apr: Maumee Bay SP, Lucas, (Bob Kingsbury fide Chris Knoll), Magee Marsh WA (Kim Kaufmann), and North Perry, Lake, (John Pogacnik).

Chimney Swift: Moved north in orderly fashion: 11 Apr two at Hamilton (Jonathan Frodge), 17 Apr three in Holmes (fide Bobolink area RBA), and 18 Apr two past the Magee hawkwatch tower (Emil Bacik, Gabe Leidy).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Arrived 19 Apr in Athens [Janet Duerr] and the following day in Perry (Diane Brooks). These birds wasted no time getting down to business; Bob Evans observed a female attending to a nest on his Muskingum property 08 May and Craig Holt another in Mahoning 12 May.

Belied Kingfisher: Often overlooked are the diurnal movements of kingfishers along the lakeshore in Mar and Apr; John Pogacnik recorded five 22 Mar and seven 18 Apr flying past his home in North Perry, Lake.

Red-headed Woodpecker: Three overwintering birds were found on both the 01 Mar and 06 Apr Ottawa NWR censuses (Doug Vogus).

Red-bellied Woodpecker: Bill Stanley tallied 10 at Indian Creek WA, Brown, 14 Apr. Scott Albaugh witnessed an intriguing behavior 16 Apr in Belmont, when a female Red-bellied chased a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker off its tree, then proceeded to visit the sap wells the sapsucker had created.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Unusually late migrants included birds at Magee 21 May (Kenn Kaufmann) and Tuscarawas 13 May (Keith Schlabach fide Ed Schlabach). Eight migrants were seen in Coshocton 04 Apr (Adam Yoder), and six in Ashtabula 17 Apr may have included some local residents (Sean Artman).

Downy Woodpecker: Thriving in the Ottawa NWR environs, where 26 were counted on the 06 Apr census (Doug Vogus).

Hairy Woodpecker: It is always interesting to note this species’ relative rarity in relation to its cousin the Downy Woodpecker. For example, on the 26 Apr ONWRC, only four Hairy Woodpeckers were found (Doug Vogus). It is a rare area in the state, if any exists, where Hairy outnumbers Downy Woodpecker, due to its more selective habitat requirements. Nineteen were racked up on the CVNP census 16 May (Dwight and Ann Chasar).

Northern Flicker: The first definite migrant was noted 22 Mar past Edgewater SP, Cuyahoga, (Gabe Leidy). Hawkwatchers at Conneaut tallied 44 on 02 Apr (Ed Schlabach).
**Pileated Woodpecker:** Three sharp-eyed observers reported Pileated nest excavation this spring: 14 Mar at Spring Valley WA, *Greene/Warren*, right next to last year’s site (Cindy Beckman), 23 Mar in *Montgomery* (Christine Hawley), and 19 Apr in *Athens* (Janet Duerr). Those in attendance at a public bird banding program 09 May in *Crawford* were lucky enough to watch Bob Scott Placier band one (*fide* Bill Fisher) and retain all his fingers!

**Eastern Wood-Pewee:** Arrived 24 Apr at Magee (Chris Knolls) and the next day in Mt. Hope, *Holmes*, (Michael Hershberger).

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** Ten at Magee 21 May was a nice tally (*Ben Morrison*). Bruce Simpson found the first on 09 May at Blendon Woods MP, *Franklin*, after which none were reported until 14 May at Magee (Josh Engel). Still trickling through at the end of the month (and into the next), the last bird of the period was seen at Sugarcreek, *Holmes*, 31 May (Leroy Schlabach).

*The range of Pileated Woodpecker covers all of Ohio, yet their abundance varies regionally due to their dependence on fairly mature woodlots. This female was banded by Bob Scott Placier at Lowe-Volk Park, *Crawford*. In-hand examination showed that she had a brood patch, confirming this species as a nester for that location. Photograph by Bill Fisher, 09 May.*
Acadian Flycatcher: Steve Bobonick had the first on 25 Apr at Shawnee Lookout, Hamilton, which was followed by another at Miami-Whitewater Forest, also Hamilton, 29 Apr (David Brinkman) and one at Blacklick MP, Franklin, 30 Apr (Robert McNulty). The CVNP census recorded 36 on 16 May (Dwight and Ann Chasar).

Alder Flycatcher: First heard 10 May at Blendon Woods MP, Franklin, (Bob and Elaine McNulty) and 16 May at Hamilton (Kirk Westendorf), Franklin (Rob Thorn), and Magee (Ethan Kistler). High count was a mere two along the Magee boardwalk 23 May (Emil Bacik, Sherrie Duris, Gabe Leidy).

Willow Flycatcher: Quite ahead of the pack was a bird in Hocking 02 May (Dave Horn); there was not another reported until 11 May at Delaware (Charlie Bombaci).

Least Flycatcher: Apr 24 brought the first wave of these minute flycatchers, with reports from Magee (Chris Knoll) and Navarre Marsh, Ottawa, (BSBO), Apple Creek, Wayne (Aaron Miller), and New Bedford, Coshocton (Adam, David, and James E. Yoder). BSBO banders netted 108 birds, nearly doubling last year’s total.

Eastern Phoebe: Two in College Hill, Hamilton 04 Mar were the firsts (Steve Pelikan), followed by birds in Hocking 06 Mar (Dave Horn) and Lucas 11 Mar (James Cole).

Great Crested Flycatcher: Arrived at Holmes (Aaron Schlabach), Zaleski SF (Robert Royse), and Clermont (Michael Gerringer) with the 24 Apr wave. Seventeen were recorded on a bike trip from New Bedford, Coshocton, to Killbuck on 09 May (Adam, David, and James E. Yoder). A hefty 89 were totaled on the 16 May CVNP census (Dwight and Ann Chasar).

Eastern Kingbird: Early birds were at Shawnee SF 17 Apr (Steven Harvey) and Holmes 22 Apr (Jacob Hostetler). Steven Harvey reported 25 at Shawnee SF on 24 Apr, quite early for such a concentration.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: Jim McCormac passed along information about one that was seen at Crown City WA, Gallia/Lawrence, 20 May by an undisclosed “reliable observer.” It was not seen again, and the original observer did not provide documentation to the OBRC.

Loggerhead Shrike: Only one report was received, of a transient bird on 17 May along Highway 51 in northwestern Sandusky (John Kuenzli). His documentation was accepted by the OBRC.

Northern Shrike: Nine birds made this spring’s report fairly typical: 01 Mar at Herrick Fen, Portage (Deb Neidert, Kay Lauener), two through 18 Mar along the Magee causeway (Kenn Kaufman, Chris Knoll), 07 Mar near Dundee, Tuscarawas (David Miller), one at Deer Creek thru 09 Mar (Robert Royse), 14 Mar at Jaite CVNP (Robert Jackson), 20 to 28 Mar at Wright Marsh, Killbuck (Su Snyder, Samuel Weaver, m. obs.), 22 Mar at Mosquito WA (Brenda Baber, Emil Bacik), and one at Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary, Mahoning (Bill Jones, Bob and Denise Lane).
White-eyed Vireo: Eight were already at East Fork SP, Clermont, 18 Apr (Bill Stanley) and two at Summit Lake, Summit, the following day (Gregory Bennett). A dozen at Shawnee SF 24 Apr was the highest total reported (Steven Harvey).

Bell’s Vireo: Unreported until late May, when territorial birds were discovered at Kilby Road Gravel Pits, Hamilton, 25 May (Neill Cade) and near Homestead Park, Franklin, 27 May (Rob Lowry).

Yellow-throated Vireo: Right on schedule 18 Apr in Delaware (Sean Williams) and 19 Apr in Hamilton (Jim McCormac). They were abundant on Glen Helen Institute’s Big Day 09 May in Greene, where they had been absent a year before (Nick Boutis).

Blue-headed Vireo: Arrivals 05 Apr near New Bedford, Holmes, (David Yoder) and 09 Apr in Jeff and Becky Cullen’s Bowling Green yard, were quite hasty in their northbound movements, the latter setting an early date for the Toledo area. Much farther south, three potential breeders were back at Shawnee SF 11 Apr (Brad Sparks). Other probable breeders were at Conkle’s Hollow SNP, Hocking, 23 May (Aaron Boone) and Mohican SP in late May (fide Bobolink area RBA).

Warbling Vireo: Birds showed up statewide 24 Apr, including at Magee (Chris Knoll), Holmes (Daniel and Eli Hershberger), Prairie Oaks MP, Franklin/Madison, (Nathaniel Nye), and Hocking (Robert Royse).

Philadelphia Vireo: An early bird was at Spring Grove Cemetery, Hamilton, 02 May (Jay Stenger), followed by no reports until the species’ arrival at Magee 08 May (Sam Woods). At Magee, they quickly built in numbers and were regarded as “numerous” on 14 May (Josh Engel), and five were seen on a quick dash down the boardwalk on a 17 May big day (Gabe Leidy, m. obs.).

Red-eyed Vireo: Arrived simultaneously with the strong south winds 24 Apr, from Shawnee SF (Steven Harvey) to Wayne (Andy and Marty Troyer) and Magee (Chris Knoll).

Blue Jay: Usually these diurnal migrants generate a few sizeable counts numbering in the hundreds or more along the lakefront in late Apr and early May. These year, however, the peak count received was 79 passing Magee in 30 minutes, 27 Apr (Vic Fazio III).

American Crow: 100 passed North Perry, Lake, 07 Mar (John Pogacnik), and 138 were tallied from Edgewater SP, Cuyahoga, 22 Mar (Gabe Leidy).

Common Raven: While no nesting was confirmed this year, a number of sightings again arose from the east-central part of the state. On Mar 01, Eric Hall observed a raven over New Alexandria, Jefferson, near last season’s nest site at Fernwood SF. On 09 Mar, he spied another in Newell, also Jefferson. Between 26 Mar and 04 Apr, up to three ravens were observed by in the general vicinity of Fernwood SF, but no positive reports followed thereafter (Gabe Leidy, Rob Lowry, Ben Morrison, m. obs.). All of these sightings were reported to the OBRC and their documentation accepted.
Horned Lark: On 17 Mar, a hefty 483 passed an Ottawa hawkwatch site (Mark Shieldcastle). Ninety-three were counted on the 02 Mar Ottawa NWR census (Doug Vogus).

Purple Martin: Birds arrived to check out real estate in Wayne 22 Mar (Ben Troyer) and Holmes (Tom Bartram) the following day. Swarms around the parking area at Metzger in mid-May were a spectacle to behold, numbering several hundred (Gabe Leidy, m. obs.).

Tree Swallow: Though not the very first arrival, one made it to Trail, Holmes, on the first day of the period (Jamin Schrock). Quite a gap separated the first inland reports and those in the northern counties on 17 Mar at Summit (Gregory Bennett) and Magee (Mary Warren). An additional 300 were observed during the 06 Apr Ottawa NWR census (Doug Vogus).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: Two arrived in Goshen, Clermont, 24 Mar (Bill Doss), and another on 29 Mar at Clear Fork Reservoir, Richland, (Gary Cowell). No notable concentrations reported.

Bank Swallow: One at Pleasant Hill Dam, Richland, on 26 Mar was incredibly early (Levi Yoder), though Bruce Glick and Su Snyder note that there are other Mar records for the Bobolink area. Kenn Kaufman located an early northern arrival at Ottawa NWR 09 Apr.

Cliff Swallow: First arrived at Andy A. Troyer’s farm in Wayne 09 Apr, where a personal best of 635 nests was counted later in the season.

Barn Swallow: Continuing the trend of early arriving swallows, Kenn Kaufman observed one at Toussaint WA, Ottawa, 30 Mar, and Ed Schlabach reported another at Conneaut 02 Apr, besting the southern arrivals in Clermont 03 Apr (Bill Stanley) and Franklin 06 Apr (Al La Sala).

Carolina Chickadee: None were spied north of their normal range. Al La Sala encountered a nest containing seven eggs in Union 08 May—a pair with their work cut out for them.

Black-capped Chickadee: Two were reported south of their usual haunts, at The Wilderness Center, Stark, 18 Apr (Su Snyder) and visiting a Tuscarawas feeder 16 May (Hallie Mason, Su Snyder).

Tufted Titmouse: Quite unusual for the Magee Marsh region, one visited BSBO’s feeders in Apr (Chris Knoll).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: A good number of wintering birds were to be found at feeders and pine plantations, including a report from Zaleski SF 17 Mar that, “every clump of pines has one or more in attendance” (Robert Royse). Migrants were detected as small numbers in late Apr to May, though a feeder bird 08 May in Albany, Athens, was a bit unusual (Scott Moody).

White-breasted Nuthatch: On the CVNP Spring Census 16 May, parties counted 36 total (Dwight and Ann Chasar).

Brown Creeper: Seven at Killbuck 14 Mar (Aden Yoder) was a good early
season count, perhaps comprised of both early migrants and breeders: Doug Vogus heard three in full song there on 16 Mar. Although no unusual migrant concentrations were reported, many probable breeders were reported.

**Carolina Wren:** Ten at Delaware Run, *Delaware*, 22 Mar was a healthy count (Sean Williams).

**House Wren:** Returnees were at Miami-Whitewater Wetlands, *Hamilton*, 05 Apr (Neill Cade) and Walnut Creek, *Holmes*, 11 Apr (Alvin and Eli Miller).

**Winter Wren:** Reported high counts for migrants were 11 in northeast *Coshocton* 04 Apr, including seven singing birds (Adam Yoder), and 10 on the Ottawa NWR monthly census 06 Apr (Doug Vogus). Late records included one banded at Navarre Marsh, *Ottawa*, 13 May (BSBO), and others at Oak Openings MP 17 May (Greg Links) and CVNP, *Summit*, 18 May (Chris Pierce, Jeremiah Roth), and a singing male apparently holding territory along Overton Road near Wooster, *Wayne*, 21 May through the end of the period (Willis Brubaker).

**Sedge Wren:** Birds in *Butler* 02 May (Jay Stenger) and at Glacier Ridge MP, *Franklin*, 03 May (Rob Thorn) were a bit ahead of schedule. Nine total were reported, including three in separate locations 17 May for a team in the North Coast Open event; one singing just after midnight at Krause and Stange roads and two others within Oak Openings MP (Sherrie Duris, Gabe Leidy, Troy Shively, Ben Warner).

**Marsh Wren:** Arrival date was 05 Apr at Miami-Whitewater Wetlands (Neill Cade) and Guildford Lake SP, *Columbiana*, (Bob and Denise Lane). By 11 May, at least 20 were singing away at Guildford Lake (Bob and Denise Lane).

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** 89 in northeast *Coshocton* was an impressive inland tally 04 Apr (Adam Yoder), and, closer to the lake, 61 were tallied on the 21 Apr Magee census (Jim Witter). No news of potential nesting birds was received this season.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** Nick Boutis had the first on 29 Mar at Glen Helen SP, *Greene*, followed by one at Metzger 03 Apr (Chris Knoll). Seventy-eight at West Creek Reservation, *Cuyahoga*, 21 Apr was the high count (Gabe Leidy).

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** Those at Killdeer Plains 21 Mar (Ron Sempier) and Burr Oak SP, *Morgan*, 29 Mar (Glen Crippen) were quite early, with the next arrivals showing up 10 Apr at Limpytown, *Holmes*, (Aaron Hershberger) and Little Hocking, *Washington*, (Lee Underschultz). High counts: 30 in *Greene* 26 Apr (Rob Thorn), at least 25 at Prairie Oaks MP, *Franklin*, 24 Apr (Rob Thorn), and 24 at East Fork SP, *Clermont*, 19 Apr (Bill Stanley).

**Eastern Bluebird:** Bob and Denise Lane’s 20 or more in *Columbiana* 07 Mar was a nice tally of wintering birds.

**Mountain Bluebird:** One of this season’s highlights was a young male discovered 30 Mar by Dan Barda
and independently observed a few days later by Pat Hayes, though news did not officially spread to the birding community until 05 Apr (fide Greg Links). The bird remained on location, hanging out along the fenceline at Toledo Express Airport’s western end and also using the “sparrow field” at Wilkins and Sager Roads, Lucas, through 17 Apr (m. obs.).

Veery: First of seasons showed up 24 Apr at Magee (Chris Knoll), Firestone MP, Summit, (Janet Wertz), and Shawnee SF (Steven Harvey). Much tardier migrants were found at Magee 27 May (Rick Nirschl) and Wayne 29 May (Adam Yoder). On 18 May, 10 were counted at Mohican SP downstream from the covered bridge (Phyllis Jones).

Gray-cheeked Thrush: The firsts were “several” at Magee 24 Apr (Chris Knoll), one in Holmes 25 Apr (Daniel Hershberger), one in Clark (Doug Overacker), and two in Cuyahoga 26 Apr (Fred Losi). Quite widespread overall, and judging by the number of reports from late Apr, a bit advanced in their northbound movements this spring, capped by an impressive nine at Magee on 27 Apr (Vic Fazio III). Late May totals of four in Stark (Aden Yoder) and eight at Magee 27 May (Rick Nirschl) were more typical of normal occurrence patterns.

Swainson’s Thrush: As with Gray-cheeked, prolonged south winds produced counts unheard of from our state for April: at least 40 on 26 Apr at Magee (Greg Links) and 47 there the following day for Vic Fazio III, along with 25 on 29 Apr in Coshocton (Adam Yoder) and 22 on 28 Apr in Hancock (Betty Hardesty, m. obs.). Eight were still at Magee 29 May (Kenn Kaufman).

Hermit Thrush: The many early Mar reports indicated the local survival of a number of these hardy wintering thrushes. Migrants peaked with at least 25 at Green Lawn.
Cemetery, Franklin, (Michael Packer) and Hancock (Betty Hardesty) 18 Apr, both sizeable inland tallies. A straggler at Magee 28 May (Rick Nirschl) was incredibly late. Seven territorial birds were at Conkle’s Hollow SNP, Hocking, 23 May (Aaron Boone).

Wood Thrush: Showed up 19 Apr as far north as New Bedford, Coshocton (fide Bobolink area RBA), and also in Columbus (Joan Frederick), Athens (Dan Weber), and Clermont (Bill Stanley).

American Robin: At least 500 at Cowan Lake SP, Clinton, 08 May (Jay Stenger) was an interesting concentration well advanced into the breeding season. Hancock birders tallied 701 on 31 Mar (Betty Hardesty).

Varied Thrush: Observers reported a flyby male at Headlands Beach SP, Lake, 14 May. However, it was not documented to the OBRC.

Gray Catbird: One in Charm, Holmes, 12 Apr (Ivan H. Miller) preceded all other reports by 12 days, perhaps a locally wintering bird. Arrivals rode the 24 Apr wave en masse, showing up as far north as South Bass Island, Ottawa (Lisa Brohl).

Northern Mockingbird: “Mockers” continue their expansion into the northern realm of the state, thriving especially around urban sections of Cleveland, Cuyahoga. Dianne Jones of Cleveland’s West Park neighborhood began hosting a pair in early Mar and providing them with meal worms, cranberries, and dried raisins.

Brown Thrasher: Given this mimic’s rare but regular wintering status in the state, it is difficult to distinguish the first spring arrivals. Scott Hite’s bird in Wood 08 Mar was a bit earlier than normal, and may have wintered somewhere in the north. The next reports—15 Mar in Clermont (Bill Stanley), 17 Mar at Hueston Woods SP, Butler/Preble (Tim Tolford), and 17 Mar in Hamilton—were clustered and were likely early migrants. One found dead along the interstate near Cleveland, Cuyahoga, 31 Mar was the first to be reported in the northern half of the state (Nancy Howell).

European Starling: This heartily disliked species was nevertheless widely reported. Many reports did not include quantities, but the largest flock noted, 07 Mar at Big Island, Marion, was estimated to contain 1,200 birds (Charles Bombaci).

American Pipit: Highest counts tied at 200 in rural Holmes 06 Mar (fide The Bobolink) and Lorain 21 Mar (Emil Bacik, Gabe Leidy).

Cedar Waxwing: High counts were approximately 350 at Spring Grove Cemetery, Hamilton, 18 Apr (Jay Stenger) and 200 at Magee 27 May (Rick Nirschl), characteristic of this species’ two-part migration through our state each spring.

Blue-winged Warbler: One was an early arrival to Hamilton 14 Apr (Steve Pelikan), followed by singles in Perry (Diane Brooks) and at Ault Park, Hamilton, (Michael Gerringer) 21 Apr.
[Golden-winged x Blue-winged Warbler]: On 01 May, Ault Park, Hamilton, hosted a rare ‘Lawrence’s’ hybrid (Sally Wood) and a female showed up 09 May near Sugarcreek, Holmes, (Ed Schlabach). Although usually the more common of the hybrids, only two ‘Brewster’s’ were reported this spring, 25 to 26 Apr at Magee (Sherrie Duris, Craig Holt, Chris Knoll, m. obs.) and 05 to 06 May at Blendon Woods MP, Franklin (Charlie Bombaci).

Golden-winged Warbler: A nice showing of these flashy warblers, with 17 reports this spring. On 25 Apr, the season’s firsts showed up in the greater Magee area: at Benton Carroll Road, Ottawa, (Sherrie Duris, Craig Holt, Chris Knoll, m. obs.) and Metzger (Sherrie Duris, Gabe Leidy, Jay Lehman, m. obs.), and another was photographed in a Medina backyard (Scott Orcutt fide Dan Bertsch). Other late Apr males were observed at Cowan Lake SP, Clinton, 26 Apr (Ed Rousch), Coshocton 29 Apr (Adam and David Yoder), and CVNP 30 Apr (Jared Mizanin). Spring Grove Cemetery, Hamilton, hosted two 03 May (Joe Bens) and the latest was a female at North Perry, Lake, 21 May (John Pogacnik).

Tennessee Warbler: Arrived 24 Apr, when a female was mist-netted at Navarre Marsh, Ottawa (BSBO), a male visited Magee (Kenn Kaufman), and three were recorded much further south at Shawnee SF (Steven Harvey). Fifteen at Spring Grove Cemetery, Hamilton 03 May constituted the high count (Joe Bens).

Orange-crowned Warbler: An early push of this species included one at Shawnee Lookout, Hamilton, 24 Apr and four in the Magee/Metzger area both 25 and 27 Apr (Vic Fazio III, Rick Nirschl). Other reports of multiple birds were three near Apple Creek, Wayne, 11 May (Aaron Miller) and a couple at Spring Grove Cemetery, Hamilton, 03 May (Joe Bens).

Nashville Warbler: Although none were seen earlier, Apr 24 produced reports of at least 17 birds by a total of 11 observers. High counts in early May included 25 at Spring Grove Cemetery, Hamilton, 03 May (Joe Bens) and at Ottawa NWR 08 May (Ethan Kistler), and 14 in Apple Creek, Wayne, 08 May (Andy and Marty Troyer) and Holmes 12 May (Levi Yoder). A singing male at Alum Creek SP, Delaware, 30 May was tardy (Rob Thorn). The 430 individuals banded at Navarre Marsh, Ottawa, far exceeded the 20-year average of 185 (BSBO).

Northern Parula: Local breeders were the first to arrive: 08 Apr at Crooked Run, Clermont, 11 Apr at Sharon Woods, Hamilton, (Brian Walk), and 12 Apr at Shawnee SF (Matthew Studebaker), and a migrant made it up to Magee 18 Apr (Emil Bacik, Gabe Leidy). Ten were ZIIIIPing at Shawnee SF 24 Apr (Steven Harvey). BSBO set a record high, with 34 banded at Navarre Marsh, Ottawa, including 14 on 17 May.

Yellow Warbler: First arrivals matched expected first dates: 18 Apr at Magee (Ed and Bev Neubauer) and 19 Apr in Franklin (Joan Frederick).
and Summit (Gregory Bennett). Most impressive were 276, mostly singing males, counted on a bike trek from New Bedford to Killbuck, Holmes, 09 May (Adam Yoder). Equally impressive were 561 banded at Navarre Marsh, Ottawa, (BSBO), an all time high.

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** An ambitious bird 19 Apr in Summit (Gregory Bennett) moved ahead of the Neotropical wave; 25 Apr brought the next arrivals, at Killbuck (Paul Hershberger, Rick Stevick) and Columbus (Robert Royse). Twenty were in Lucas 16 to 17 May (Doug Overacker) and migrants were still trickling through Magee as late as 26 May (Chris Knoll).

**Magnolia Warbler:** Characteristically a bit laggard, with the first detected 25 Apr at Magrish Preserve, Hamilton, (Mark Gilsdorf) and the next reports coming 27 Apr from Magee (Vic Fazio III) and Calamus Swamp, Pickaway, (Dave Horn). Twenty-one east of Trail, Holmes, 12 May (Leroy Yoder) and 19 near Apple Creek, Wayne, 08 May (Andy and Marty Troyer) were excellent migrant totals from the interior of the state, and Doug Overacker found 30 in Lucas 16 May. Still trickling through at the end of the month, with one present at Punderson SP, Geauga, 31 May (Elaine Snively). Aaron Boone reported six to seven males occupying territory at Conkle’s Hollow SNP, Hocking, 23 May.

**Cape May Warbler:** 24 Apr produced the firsts of the season, at Magee (Chris Knoll), Lake (John Pogacnik), Zaleski SF (Robert Royse) and Shawnee SF (Steven Harvey). Although no high counts were reported from Magee, six were present at Spring Grove Cemetery, Hamilton, 03 May (Joe Bens). Most interesting was the report of a singing male at Mohican SP 30 May (Eli Miller); there are no Ohio breeding records of this species.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** Southern arrivals at Cincinnati Nature Center, Clermont, 24 Apr (Michael Gerringer) and five at Shawnee SF 25 Apr (Steven Harvey) beat out the first bird at Magee 02 May (Chris Knoll) by over a week. Thirteen in Apple Creek, Wayne (Andy and Marty Troyer) and eight in the small woodlot at Lorain Harbor 14 May (Gabe Leidy) were the high counts. Kenn Kaufman had one at Magee 29 May, and on 30 May, a singing male was present at Mohican SP (Eli Miller), near where they have summered in the past.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** “Hundreds” at Spring Valley WA, Greene/Warren, 23 Apr (Dave Collopy) and 220 counted at Magee 27 Apr (Vic Fazio III) surpassed other high counts. The latest report came 22 May from Navarre Marsh, Ottawa, where 1,414 were banded during the period, three times the species’ 20-year average (BSBO).

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** Individuals at Spring Grove Cemetery, Hamilton, 14 Apr (Elizabeth Brennan), Canter’s Cave, Jackson, 16 Apr (Jim McCormac), and Shawnee SF 20 Apr (Bruce Simpson) were the first to appear in the state. Big numbers were not far behind these birds; on 25 Apr, 50 were at Magee (Gabe Leidy), making it the second
most abundant warbler species that day. A lingering male at Highbanks MP, Delaware, 30 May assumed to be a late migrant (Rob Lowry).

**Blackburnian Warbler:** First arrivals appeared 24 Apr at Prairie Oaks MP, Franklin (Nathaniel Nye) and Zaleski SF (Robert Royse), and then at Magee the following day (Gabe Leidy, Sherrie Duris). A wonderful inland and statewide high count of 16 came from The Wilderness Center, Stark 12 May (Aden Yoder). Possible territorial birds were noted from Conkle’s Hollow SNP, Hocking (Aaron Boone), Troyer Hollow, Holmes (Adam and James Yoder), and Mohican SP (Eli Miller) towards the month’s end, although late migrants were also noted at this time, with five reports of six late migrants around Amish Country 30 to 31 May (fide The Bobolink).

**Yellow-throated Warbler:** Although always one of the earliest warblers to return to breeding grounds, Bernie Master’s bird on 23 to 24 Mar in Worthington, Franklin, bested the previous early date by two days (Peterjohn 2001). One was photographed at a feeder in Lake 04 Apr (fide John Pogacnik), fairly early for the northern reaches of the state. By 11 Apr, 20 were singing along the creeks of Shawnee SF (Brad Sparks).

**Pine Warbler:** The hardiest of our warbler species besides the Yellow-rumped, there were already a half dozen singing at Zaleski SF 13 Mar and another reached Mt. Eaton, Wayne, 18 Mar (Michael Miller). Most migrants pass through during the second half of Apr, sometimes developing into unusual concentrations. Such was the case for John Pogacnik 24 Apr, when he counted a whopping 19 birds in his Lake backyard.

**Kirtland’s Warbler:** An incredible six reports, falling between 12 and 21 May, made it a notable spring for these rare jack pine-nesters. The first was discovered 12 May by Chris Bedel and Pete Whan at Edge of Appalachia Preserve, way down in Adams, and was especially notable because the vast majority of our sightings have come from the far northern part of the state. Ryan Schroeder observed a singing bird at Lou Campbell SNP, Lucas, 15 May. On 16 May, one was picked up from Public Square in downtown Cleveland after a window collision and subsequently released after treatment by the Lake Erie Nature and Science Center (fide Dan Kramer of ODOW, to whom LENSC reported the bird). Young birder Andy Johnson, of Michigan, discovered the next—a young male near the Sportmen’s Migratory Bird Center at Magee, which equally delighted and frustrated crowds over the next two days with its evasiveness but did allow Sam Woods to photograph it. Finally, 21 May brought two more males—another at Magee, which stayed a short while (Ben Morrison, Rick Nirschl), and one photographed in North Perry, Lake, by John Pogacnik. All of these, except the downtown Cleveland bird, were documented to the OBRC or had photos posted, and the records were accepted.

**Prairie Warbler:** Arrived 19 Apr farther south, at East Fork SP, Clermont, (Bill Stanley) and Shawnee SF (Kani Fenstermaker), 21 Apr in Columbus (Rob Thorn),
and on 25 Apr, a bird was singing at the entrance to the Cedar Point Chaussee, **Erie**, (Craig Holt). A healthy number of transient birds were detected this year, and one apparently set up territory in the Oak Openings, **Lucas**, discovered 15 May by Ben Warner and still present in the same spot 25 May (Jeremy Ross). Another northerly bird, near Jaite in CVNP 14 May through the end of the period, reclaimed an area where this species has been absent for many years (Dwight and Ann Chasar, Fred Losi).

**Palm Warbler:** Record-early was Bruce Simpson’s report of a singing bird 15 Mar at Blendon Woods MP, **Franklin**, its appearance preceding all others by a full month. More typical in their arrival date were Palms 15 Apr in **Licking** (Timothy Mason), a ‘Yellow Palm Warbler’ (of the *Dendroica palmarum hypochrysea* subspecies, much yellower below than western populations) 19 Apr in **Holmes** (James Yoder), and 20 Apr at Squire Valleevue Farm, **Cuyahoga** (Lisa Rainsong) and Shawnee SF (Bruce Simpson). Approximately 200 outnumbered even the Yellow-rumps at Magee/Metzger 27 Apr (Rick Nirschl). Three observers reported seven total ‘Yellow’ Palms this spring, from 19 Apr to 02 May (Chris Knoll, John Pogacnik, James Yoder), and BSBO pulled another four out of mist nets, among 322 total Palm Warblers banded.

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** Reached the southern end of the state with the first wave 24 Apr at Cincinnati Nature Center (Michael Gerringer) and 25 Apr at Sharon Woods, **Hamilton** (Jason Cade), and Magee 27 Apr (Rick Nirschl). Twenty-five were tallied from Maumee Bay SP, **Lucas**, to Magee 16 May (Doug Overacker).

**Blackpoll Warbler:** Apr 27 brought the first three reports, from Magee Marsh and Reno Beach, **Lucas** (Vic Fazio III) and Green Lawn Cemetery, **Franklin** (Michael Packer). Twenty was a respectable total 16 May in **Lucas** (Doug Overacker), and there were multiple inland high counts of six birds: 12 May in **Coshocton** (Leroy Yoder), 16 May at **Tuscarawas** (Levi Yoder), 16 May in **Franklin** (Rob Thorn), and 25 May around Bakersville, **Coshocton** (Adam Yoder). 176 banded at Navarre marsh, **Ottawa**, set yet another BSBO high count.

**Cerulean Warbler:** Arrived in good numbers 24 Apr, including four at Shawnee SF (Steven Harvey), and another foursome at Zaleski SF (Bruce Simpson), where Dan Weber counted 10 on 26 April, the highest reported total.

**Black-and-white Warbler:** This species reached Shawnee SF 11 Apr (Brad Sparks), Spring Grove Cemetery, **Hamilton**, 14 Apr (Elizabeth Brennan), **Adams** 15 Apr (Jay Lehman), **Jackson** 16 Apr (Jim McCormac), and **Holmes** 19 Apr (Emery Yoder). Counts of 10 at Shawnee SF 20 Apr and Zaleski SF 24 Apr (both Bruce Simpson) reflect a heavy percentage of breeders.

**American Redstart:** One returned to Shawnee SF 19 Apr (Kani Fenstermaker) and a male at Salt Fork SP, **Guernsey**, 23 Apr was just ahead of the big warbler wave (Roger Merrick, Rose Anne

Prothonotary Warbler: First appeared 19 Apr at East Fork SP, Clermont (Bill Stanley), 21 Apr at Spring Valley WA, Greene (Cindy Beckman), and 23 Apr at Hoover (Kevin Hall). Interesting migrant reports included one singing in a wooded backyard in Farmerstown, Holmes, 02 May, which flew in to the porch railing in response to call playback (Jacob Beechy), and an extremely late migrant at Wildwood SP, Cuyahoga, on 30 May (Nancy Anderson). Michael Hershberger counted 16 on 10 May at Killbuck.

Worm-eating Warbler: Arrived both north and south simultaneously on 24 Apr, at Magee (Chris Knoll), Zaleski SF (Robert Royse, Bruce Simpson), and Shawnee Lookout (Andy Bess). Uncommon migrants in the northern reaches of the state, two were recorded at Magee 25 Apr (Vic Fazio III) and Hancock 28 Apr (Betty Hardesty) and singles at Pipe Creek WA, Erie, 26 Apr (Gregs Links), Dike 14, Cuyahoga, 02 May (Gabe Leidy), Magee 08 May (Chris Knoll), and Oak Openings 14 May (Geoff Cottier). BSBO captured a record five at Navarre Marsh, Ottawa.

Ovenbird: Returnees to the breeding grounds were one 15 Apr in Adams (Jay Lehman) and three 19 Apr at Shawnee SF (Kani Fenstermaker), and one reached Magee on 24 Apr (Chris Knoll). That very day, at least 15 were teacher-TEACHERing farther south in Zaleski SF, Vinton (Bruce Simpson). A 29 May bird at Magee was a bit tardy (Kenn Kaufmann).

Northern Waterthrush: One at Magee 18 Apr was surprisingly early (Emil Bacik, Kenn Kaufman, Gabe Leidy); the next was reported 24 Apr at Shaker Lakes, Cuyahoga (Steve and Beth Cagan). There is certainly no better place instate than Magee to see numbers of migrant Northerns; the high count this spring was 10 on 27 Apr by Rick Nirschl.

Louisiana Waterthrush: It’s often regarded as a harbinger of spring, but Rob Thorn’s bird 14 Mar in Columbus, Franklin, was early even by this species’ standards. Recorded next at Rocky Fork Gorge, Highland, 24 Mar (Bruce Lombardo), Washington (Becky Wright) and Hocking (Ann Cramer) 28 Mar, Greene 29 Mar (Nick Boutis), Fairfield 31 Mar, and finally Ottawa NWR 02 Apr (Dan Gesauldo). A respectable 30 or more were tallied at Shawnee SF 11 Apr (Brad Sparks). Out of place was a late migrant at Magee 16 May (Sam Woods).

Kentucky Warbler: The first representatives showed up at Magee (Chris Knoll) and Cowan Lake SP, Clinton, (Ed Roush) 24 Apr. A couple migrants lingered along the Magee boardwalk 24 to 27 Apr (Chris Knoll, fide Vic Fazio III, m. obs.) and 08 to 10 May (Chris Knoll, Ethan Kistler, m. obs.), and another was observed coming off the Lake 25 Apr in Lake (John Pogacnik). Adam Yoder had 10 in northeastern Coshoxton 29 Apr. BSBO banded a late migrant 28 May at Navarre Marsh, Ottawa.
Connecticut Warbler: Not as many were reported as last year, but there were still decent numbers this season. First arrivals were 14 May at Magee (Kenn Kaufman), 15 May at Kettering, Montgomery (Phil Ware), and 16 May in Franklin (Rob Thorn). Eighteen reports overall and two of multiple birds: two at Magee 27 May (Rick Nirschl) and an impressive five banded at Navarre Marsh, Ottawa, that same day (BSBO).

Mourning Warbler: David Miller found the first, and a fairly early one at that, 02 May along the Rails to Trails, Holmes. A mini-wave arrived 08 May, dropping birds at The Wilderness Center, Stark (Aden Yoder), Magee (Chris Knoll) and Metzger (Andy Dettling). This was regarded as a banner spring for this species by some folks, and an impressive nine birds 21 May in John Pogacnik’s Lake yard were a testament to that, as were “35 birds in 27 reports” from the Bobolink area. And lest we underestimate just how many of these enigmatic warblers are avoiding detection, Navarre Marsh, Ottawa, banders processed 109 individuals, including 15 on 28 May (BSBO).

Common Yellowthroat: This species was first heard in Holmes 18 Apr (Nelson Troyer), and by 24 Apr it was common at both Zaleski SF (Bruce Simpson) and Shawnee SF (Steven Harvey).

Hooded Warbler: Early arrivals were found in Hamilton 19 Apr (Lori Brumbaugh) and Shawnee SF the next day (Bruce Simpson).

Wilson’s Warbler: The strong southerlies at the end of Apr brought several early arrivals to the state; this is typically one of the latest warbler species to pass through. On 25 Apr, one was seen in Richland (Albert Troyer) and another 27 Apr at Magee (Vic Fazio III), and, notably, the next report to follow was not until 08 May. A dozen at Magee 26 May was a nice total (Mark Garland, fide Chris Knoll), as was 15 seen on an outing from Maumee Bay SP, Lucas, to Magee 17 May (Doug Overacker).

Canada Warbler: The arrival date for this species this spring was as expected 08 May at Magee (Chris Knoll) and two near Mount Eaton, Wayne (Michael Miller). A healthy 15 were found in Lucas 17 May (Doug Overacker) and four was the next highest reported total, from Elmwood Wetlands Preserve, Lorain, 18 May (Gregory Bennett). Three at Conkle’s Hollow SNP, Hocking, on 23 May seemed to be occupying territory (Aaron Boone).

Yellow-breasted Chat: The first chats showed up at Shawnee SF 24 Apr (Steven Harvey) and Magee 25 Apr (Sherrrie Duris, Gabe Leidy, Rick Nirschl, m. obs.).

Eastern Towhee: Adam Yoder tallied 76 in northeastern Coshocton 04 Apr.

American Tree Sparrow: Lingered until 26 Apr at Lake (John Pogacnik) and Erie (Greg Links). 105 were counted on ONWRC 01 Mar (Doug Vogus).

Chipping Sparrow: Appeared at Spring Grove Cemetery, Hamilton, 13 Mar (Frank Renfrow) and Delaware (Sean Williams) and
Ottawa NWR (Linda Sekura) 22 Apr. One hundred twenty-eight were counted 28 Apr in Hancock (Betty Hardesty) and 33 were concentrated on John Pogacnik’s Lake property 24 Apr.

Clay-colored Sparrow: Eleven individuals reported this spring: 24 Apr North Perry, Lake (John Pogacnik), 26 Apr Pipe Creek WA, Erie (Greg Links), 08 May Voice of America, Butler (Mike Busam, Dave Russell), 09 to 10 May two individuals at Magee (David Johnson, Gabe Leidy, m. obs.), 09 May Benton-Carroll Road, Ottawa (Tim Hochstetler), one in an off-limits section of Ottawa NWR (Greg Links), 16 May Magee (Rick Nirschl), 17 May Oak Openings, Lucas (Greg Links), 29 May Ottawa NWR (Chris Knoll), and a territorial bird near Walnut Creek, Holmes, 03 May through the period (Reuben Erb, James F. Yoder, m. obs.).

Field Sparrow: The high count was of 50 at Indian Creek WA, Brown, 14 Apr (Bill Stanley).

Vesper Sparrow: One in New Bedford, Holmes, 22 Mar was slightly early (James E. Yoder), with 28 Mar bringing the first wave of reports: three to four at Charlie’s Pond, Pickaway (Doreene Linzell, Rob Lowry, Dan Sanders), another in Hardin (Rick Counts), and “more than expected” seen along back roads in Seneca (Bill Whan).

Lark Sparrow: Continuing to branch out within the state: a pair were seen regularly at Waterman Farm, Franklin, 11 May through the end of the period (Alex Champagne, John Lennon, Dave Slager). Other reports alluding to possible breeding include a pair at Oakes Quarry Park, Greene, 05 Apr (Greg Spahr), and up to three occupying Leighley Hill, Tuscarawas, through the end of the period (James F. Yoder, Alvin and Wayne Miller, m. obs.). The Oak Openings birds returned 19 Apr (John Habig). A Holmes migrant was discovered 09 May (Kevin Kline, Samuel Weaver).

Savannah Sparrow: The season’s high count was 28, by Robert Hershberger in a single field near Mt. Hope, Holmes, 09 Apr.

Grasshopper Sparrow: One in Walnut Creek, Holmes, 09 Apr (Wayne Miller) was early, preceding the next report by 11 days. Scarcely reported overall this spring; Robert Royse considered them “numerous” at Deer Creek 01 May and expected this species to benefit from organized burns to preserve grasslands here. The high, and only, count was 18 in Hancock 12 May (Bob Sams).

Henslow’s Sparrow: Pairs were detected 26 Apr in northwestern Coshocton (Leroy Yoder) and 27 Apr at Voice of America Park, Butler (Mike Busam), and Levi Yoder found a migrant near Trail, Holmes, that same day. As a species that is often overlooked during the warbler rush of mid-May, few were reported, with certainly more to follow in Jun. The high count was of four at CVNP’s Coliseum site, Summit 24 May (Robert Jackson).

Le Conte’s Sparrow: Doug and Micki Dunakin encountered one
singing in a field at Black Swamp Audubon Sanctuary near Antwerp, **Paulding**, 15 May.

**Nelson’s Sparrow:** One was discovered 15 May at Killbuck by Allen Troyer, and refound later that day by Kevin Kline and James F. Yoder, quite an unusual occurrence for that part of the state during spring migration. Another was singing at Mallard Club Marsh, **Lucas**, 17 May (Doug Overacker).

**Fox Sparrow:** One was counted on the 01 Mar ONWRC, and on the following month’s census 06 Apr 109 were counted, outnumbering even Song Sparrows (Doug Vogus). One wintered nearby at the BSBO office, **Ottawa** (Chris Knoll). The first certain migrants were seen at Highbanks MP, **Delaware** 09 Mar (Bruce Miller) and Sims Park, **Cuyahoga**, 14 Mar (Nancy Anderson). Paula Lozano hosted seven 29 Mar in Lakewood, **Cuyahoga**, a nice yard count. By May, Fox Sparrows are typically long gone, so one 02 May at Wildwood MP, **Lucas**, was notable (Rick Nirschl).

**Song Sparrow:** Coinciding with this species’ northward movements in spring, Paula Lozano reported “triple figures” 29 Mar at Elmwood Park, **Cuyahoga**.

**Lincoln’s Sparrow:** Typically late, arrived with the warbler mob 24 Apr, when singles were noted at Magee (Rick Nirschl) and **Wayne** (Aaron Miller). All reports of one to two birds, except four in **Lucas** 16 May (Doug Overacker); last seen 27 May at Magee (Rick Nirschl).

**Swamp Sparrow:** Surprisingly, only three were noted on the ONWRC 06 Apr (Doug Vogus) and seven on the Magee census 21 Apr (Jim Witter).

**White-throated Sparrow:** One hundred forty at Magee 27 Apr was a standard high count (Vic Fazio III), and one lingered until 27 May (Rick Nirschl). A bizarre white headed partial albino was netted at Navarre Marsh, **Ottawa**, 28 Apr (BSBO), looking like the “tiniest Bald Eagle ever seen” to one observer.

**Harris’s Sparrow:** A one-day wonder was photographed by Tammy Seaman in Moncolva, near Toledo, on 16 May. Her documentation was accepted by the OBRC.

**White-crowned Sparrow:** A fair number of mid- to late-Mar sightings indicated a good crop of wintering birds, including four along Prairie Lane, **Wayne**, 16 Mar (Doug Vogus). One on Kelleys’ Island 22 Mar (Tom Bartlett) was notable. Forty-three were totaled on the **Hancock** Big Day 09 May (Betty Hardesty), Erie Street Cemetery, **Cuyahoga**, hosted eight to ten on 14 May (Steve Cagan), and Bob Beason had the latest at his feeders in **Erie** 25 May. A representative of the western ‘Gambel’s’ subspecies was banded by BSBO at Navarre Marsh, **Ottawa**, 14 May.

**Golden-crowned Sparrow:** On 07 Apr, Ohio’s first Golden-crowned Sparrow appeared at a feeder near Findlay, **Hancock**. Tom Bartlett banded it on 16 Apr. Access was initially limited for the birding public, but local birders Jeff Loughman and Bob Sams kept us updated on the bird’s status, and eventually birders were welcomed for two days, 22 and
23 Apr. The sparrow cooperated wonderfully, and about 160 visitors were able to view it just in the nick of time; it was not seen again after the evening of 23 Apr. The detailed documentation was accepted by the OBRC. [Editor’s note: At press time, it was known that the same bird returned during the winters of 2009-2010 and 2010-2011]

**Dark-eyed Junco:** Ron Kolde reported one fairly late individual (for this southern location) on a trip to Shawnee SF 02 to 04 May, and one hung around Lake until 10 May (John Pogacnik). Hildegard Bingen found a nest on the eaves of her house 10 Apr in Bainbridge Twp, Geauga, where they have bred for several years.

**Lapland Longspur:** An incredible 4,503 were counted at the Lickert–Harder Road hawkwatch site, Ottawa, 17 Mar (Mark Shieldcastle). Doug and Micki Dunakin had up to 300 in Paulding, with the last birds departing by 09 Apr.

**Smith’s Longspur:** The rediscovery of this species within the state was a wonderful highlight this season. Two birds were initially found 11 Apr in Rockford, Mercer—not far from the Indiana border—by excellent Bobolink area birders on a Smith’s-finding mission (Ed Schlabach, Adam, James E. and Levi Yoder, m. obs.). This group of a dozen observers was canvassing southern Van Wert and northwest Mercer looking for potential Smith’s habitat—fields with corn stubble and especially foxtail (mostly Setaria faberi), a preferred food source of Smith’s away from the breeding grounds—and they struck big. Once the news broke, more birders began to make the pilgrimage to western Ohio, only to find that the number of birds was building at this location. The next day, Troy Shively reported five to seven Smith’s here, then on 14 Apr, 35 or more were seen right off the road and well photographed (Emil Bacik, Gabe Leidy, and Phil Chaon). On 18 Apr, Bill Whan’s group observed at least 40. The last reported sighting came 25 Apr (Jay Lehman) when nine were seen, ending a thrilling two-week vigil and hopefully adding new insight into this species’ migratory habits within our state. Though no formal report was made to the OBRC, the many online descriptions and photographs provided enough documentation for acceptance.

**Snow Bunting:** The 331 in Ottawa 17 Mar made up the high count (Mark Shieldcastle).

A first state record, this Golden-crowned Sparrow was present for several weeks in Apr at a private residence near Findlay, Hancock. Ethan Kistler took this photo on 22 Apr.
Summer Tanager: A male at Magee 25 Apr was the first reported (Chris Knoll, Gabe Leidy, Rick Nirschl), hanging around until the next day to be joined by a female (Jay Lehman). Five were counted at Miami–Whitewater Forest/Wetlands on the fairly early date of 26 Apr, and another in Richland the same day (Albert Troyer). Accounted for at most of the usual locales by early to mid-May; Lakeshore migrants were at Magee 02 May (Jim Witter) and 17 May (Rick Nirschl), and Pipe Creek WA, Erie, 08 May (Gabe Leidy).

Scarlet Tanager: On 19 Apr, the first males appeared in southwestern forests at East Fork SP, Clermont (Bill Stanley) and Shawnee Lookout, Hamilton (Jim McCormac). The next reports came in 24 Apr: from Magee (Chris Knoll, Robert Jackson), The Wilderness Center, Stark (Aden Yoder) and Zaleski SF (Robert Royse). Nice single site counts included 16 near Apple Creek, Wayne, 08 May (Andy and Marty Troyer), 14 at The Wilderness Center 12 May (Aden Yoder), and a record 82 on the CVNP census 16 May (Dwight and Ann Chasar).

Northern Cardinal: Counts reported on the ONWRC were 19 on 02 Mar and 64 on 06 Apr (Doug Vogus), fluctuating perhaps due to more conspicuous breeding activity on the latter date. Forty-two at Delaware Run, Delaware, 22 Mar (Sean Williams) and 36 at East Fork Lake SP, Clermont, (Bill Stanley) were single site high counts.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: An overflight female arrived at Delaware Run, Delaware, on 18 Apr (Sean Williams), a full week before the first males were reported around the state 24 Apr (m. obs.).

Blue Grosbeak: Returned to familiar haunts in Butler and Hamilton by 25 to 27 Apr (Mark Gilsdorf, Lee Gruber, Laura Keene). A good number of migrants were located in wayward locations this spring, especially in the east-central portion of the state, conceivably an indicator of breeding expansion to come. Migrant reports: 28 Apr Blendon Woods MP, Franklin (Doreene Linzell, Bruce Simpson), 28 Apr near Walnut Creek, Holmes (Levi Keim), two at feeders in Becks Mills, Holmes, 06 to 08 May (Roy Stutzman), 09 May Delaware WA, Delaware (Luke Heider, photo provided), 09 May Walhonding, Coshocton (Steve Mast), west of Baltic 14 May (fide Bobolink area RBA), and 16 May Stillwell, Holmes (Ed Schlabach, m. obs.).

Indigo Bunting: Widespread on 24 Apr, when one made it all the way to Magee (Chris Knoll) and nine were already at Shawnee SF (Steven Harvey). Aden Yoder turned in a nice count of 25 at The Wilderness Center, Stark, 12 May. Fifty-five were counted during the annual “Big Day” in Hancock 09 May (Betty Hardesty).

Dickcissel: An overwintering young male remained at Blendon Woods MP, Franklin, feeders through 15 Mar (Bruce Simpson). The next reported, and quite early, was 20 Apr at Baltic, Coshocton/Homes/Tuscarawas (James Hershberger), followed by the first at Armleder Park, Hamilton, 03 May (Kirk Westendorf). Kilby Road Gravel Pit, Hamilton, was home.
to 15 on the last day of the period (Neill Cade). Sam Corbo’s team in the North Coast Open event found one in Bellevue, Sandusky, on 16 May, the farthest north report.

Bobolink: Coincidentally (or perhaps not), the Bobolink area produced the first reports this spring: 24 Apr at Apple Creek, Wayne (Andy and Marty Troyer) and 25 Apr at Sugarcreek, Holmes (Robert Schlabach), and four flew over Pipe Creek WA, Erie, the next day (Greg Links). A mere nine at CVNP, Summit, 16 May (Doug Vogus) was the largest concentration accounted for.

Red-winged Blackbird: Robert Royse estimated 250,000 or more blackbirds at a roost in Franklin 05 Mar, the majority of which were Red-winged.

Eastern Meadowlark: Jim McCormac found meadowlarks “all over the place” in Adams 07 Mar, and shortly thereafter first-of-the-season announcements began popping up statewide.

Western Meadowlark: Six records this spring, all of singletons: 21 to 22 Mar at Fredericksburg, Wayne (Perry Yoder), 07 Apr through the end of the period at the traditional Wood spot (Rob Lowry, m. obs.), 10 Apr through the end of the period in Bowling Green, Wood (Tom Kemp), a first county record 23 Apr for Logan (Troy Shively), 03 May at Oak Harbor, Ottawa, and 23 May in Paulding (Doug and Micki Dunakin).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: All reports came from Lucas and

Ottawa: one at Inland Marina 16 Apr (Hugh Rose and Judy Kolo-Rose), a male on the beach at Magee 16 May (Rick Nirschl), at least one distant male on the Ottawa NWR driving tour 09 May (Gabe Leidy), and the best news of all, a male at Metzger 18 May (Sam Woods), where the species remained into the summer season.

Rusty Blackbird: Concentrations around Ottawa were impressive this spring: 1,450 were tallied at Lickert-Harder Road 17 Mar (Mark Shieldcastle), and on 22 Mar at least 1,000 south of Ottawa NWR (Dave Dvorak, Linda Sekura). Elsewhere around the state, the numbers were significantly less impressive, with peak counts of 50 at CVNP 14 Mar (Robert Jackson) and Ashland 31 Mar (Su Snyder). A late Rusty was banded 10 May at Ottawa (BSBO).

Brewer’s Blackbird: Brewer’s were especially difficult to come by this spring, with two reports: 28 Mar two north of Killdeer Plains WA (Bill Whan) and 12 Apr, a well studied female in New Bedford, Coshocton (James E. Yoder).

Common Grackle: No big flocks reported to this journal, making 250 or more 07 Mar in Columbiana the largest total (Bob and Denise Lane).

Brown-headed Cowbird: The CVNP census on 16 May counted 105 (Dwight and Ann Chasar).

Orchard Oriole: A couple of birds preceded the wave: one 19 Apr near New Bedford, Coshocton (James E. Yoder) and another 21 Apr at Three Creeks MP, Franklin (Rob Thorn).
Ten made for a sizable total 26 Apr at Miami-Whitewater Forest/Wetlands (Paul Wharton) and seven passed by North Perry, Lake, 08 May (John Pogacnik).

**Baltimore Oriole:** One at Atwood Lake, Carroll, 15 Apr was quite early (Tom Hay), followed by one 21 Apr at Mount Eaton, Wayne (Aden Yoder).

**Purple Finch:** Thirty-five at East Fork SP, Clermont, 28 Mar was a nice sum (Bill Stanley) as were 17 Coshocton flybys 18 Apr (Adam, David and James E. Yoder).

**House Finch:** Reported from throughout the state, with no unusual counts.

**Red Crossbill:** Two reports were submitted: one on 28 Mar in Franklin (Steve Landes) and a surprising flock of 12 reported by James Lesser and m. obs. 15 May in the Oak Openings. Over the next three days, the latter flock roamed the area, frustrating observers with their random occurrences. Matt Anderson counted 13 on 16 May and Geoff Cottier last reported the group 18 May.

**White-winged Crossbill:** An unforgettable season for White-winged Crossbills! Nearly every observer in the state had a memorable crossbill encounter during our most impressive irruption on record (lasting from this past fall through spring). Some peak counts for the spring period included 25 at Washington 01 Mar (Barb Devola), 15 to 20 at Green Lawn Cemetery, Franklin, 01 Mar (Bill Whan), 20 at Baldwin-Wallace College, Cuyahoga, 07 Mar (Paul Cary), 25 in Sagamore Hills, Summit, 09 Mar (Denise Powers-Kissel), 25 at Woodlawn Cemetery, Lucas, 14 Mar (Tim Haney), at least 20 at Kidron Park, Wayne, 06 Mar to 03 May (David Weaver), and 20 more over Overton, Wayne, 19 Apr (Willis Brubaker). A few lingered into early May: a singing male at Hell Hollow MP, Lake, 04 May (John Pogacnik), eight at Spring Grove Cemetery, Hamilton, 05 May (Jay Stenger), and 08 May at North Perry, Lake (John Pogacnik). A very intriguing observation came out of Fremont, Sandusky, 16 Mar, where a pair were apparently gathering nesting material (“small globs of leftover duckweed and dead vegetation”) and flying it to a nearby spruce stand, but no follow-up behavior was observed (Robert Morton).

**Common Redpoll:** Decent numbers in scattered locations this spring. Thirty were at Elizabeth Heineman’s feeders on South Bass Island 07 Mar for the state’s high count, and a dozen visited Whitehouse, Wood (08 Mar, Matt Anderson) and Lake (29 Mar, John Pogacnik) feeders. Two lingered in Damascus, Mahoning, 21 Apr (Bob and Denise Lane) and one in North Perry 10 May (John Pogacnik).

**Pine Siskin:** A huge year for siskins led to a banner early nesting season, with birds in Trumbull (Suzanne Butcher), Cuyahoga (Craig Caldwell, Mike Sandy), Mahoning (Craig Holt), Montgomery (Ed and Bev Neubauer), Van Wert (John Perchalski), Lucas (Matt Anderson), Summit (Gregory Bennett), Holmes (James E. Yoder), Wayne (Su Snyder), and Clermont (Donald Morse) exhibiting nesting behavior.
From 08 to 10 May, John Pogacnik’s feeders swarmed with over 100 siskins, and Leslie Warren hosted 69 in *Mahoning* 09 Mar. Also fitting, BSBO caught its first siskin in 21 years of banding operations at Navarre Marsh, *Ottawa*.

**American Goldfinch**: Vic Fazio III counted 113 in passage past Magee Marsh 27 Apr.

**Evening Grosbeak**: A *Montgomery* flyover 24 Apr (Julie Zickefoose) and a feeder bird at North Perry, *Lake*, 27 Apr (John Pogacnik) were the season’s only representatives.

**House Sparrow**: The only unexpected observation was of one that nearly became the victim of a Blue Jay in a bit of avian drama in Cleveland Heights, *Cuyahoga*, 22 Apr. The jay had captured the sparrow and had it pinned down, pummeling it ferociously, though after being roughed up a bit the sparrow escaped (Steve Cagan).

**Literature Cited**

The editorial staff of *The Ohio Cardinal* thanks all of the individuals and organizations who made their field data available to us through reports submitted directly to us by mail and e-mail, as well as through online resources managed by the Ohio Ornithological Society and other means.

Summer 2009 Overview and Reports

By Aaron Boone

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The summer 2009 reporting period resulted in an impressive tally of 240 species. Within this roster are some truly remarkable discoveries. This season was the fourth field season of Ohio’s second Breeding Bird Atlas effort (OBBA2). Numerous volunteers (212, to be exact) took to their survey blocks and logged an incredible 128,716 individual breeding-bird observations, all of which came from 2,061 survey blocks (about 45% of all blocks). As a whole, these atlas data represented a total of 190 species. Many of these species denote remarkable chapters in Ohio’s ornithological history.

Overall, the summer period was relatively mild. Temperatures in Ohio reached the 90s, but mean temperatures were below the norm. When summer days are mild, contributing to volunteer citizen science projects like OBBA2 can be much more enjoyable. However, it would be interesting to see how local conditions affect one’s field results. Regardless, this reporting period presented many opportunities to cover new ground, to make new discoveries, and to follow up on previously formulated hunches.

Bird distribution is a topic that is, in many aspects, just as important as field identification skills. Analyzing habitat cover in association with larger ecoregion patterns and recent data trends, birders can sometimes predict future species distribution events. Reports of vagrancy were few and far between (e.g., a late July record of White Ibis, Ohio’s eighth accepted record) but resident breeding activity produced some exceptionally noteworthy records. The first that comes to mind is the stunning discovery of a breeding pair of Merlin that successfully reared offspring. Many birders had been predicting that this species might someday return to Ohio as a breeding species (see “Ohio’s Newest Breeding Birds?” in the first issue of The Ohio Atlaser newsletter). John Pogacnik’s stellar find is apparently the first nesting evidence of Merlin in Ohio since the mid-1850s. If a stable population did exist in northeastern Ohio, it apparently vanished by the 1930s (Peterjohn 2001).

When we look at this raptor species from a regional context, we see that Merlin has dramatically expanded its breeding range quite recently. To the east in Pennsylvania, Merlin has only recently been re-confirmed as a nesting species. During the 1980s, when the state collected data for its first breeding bird atlas, no data suggested that Merlin were nesting within the state (Brauning 1992). As of the completion of atlas data collection in 2009 for their follow-up survey effort, this amazing raptor was reported in 17 survey blocks, three of which were relatively close to Ohio’s northeastern border. Confirmed nesting evidence existed in six of those blocks (2nd Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas, unpublished data).

If we look even farther to the east, New York offers a particularly amazing story relating to the expanding distribution of breeding Merlin. Like Ohio and Pennsylvania, the state of New York conducted field-work for its first breeding bird atlas during the 1980s (Andrle and Carroll 1988). This period saw no official breeding Merlin records for the state; however, post-publication reports confirmed that
Merlin were nesting in the Adirondack mountains (Spahn 1998). Nesting in the Adirondacks was verified in 1992 and continues to the present (McGowan and Corwin 2008). New York’s second atlasing effort ultimately demonstrated that Merlin has recovered as a breeding species within its Adirondack region, in addition to showing that many urban areas outside of the Adirondacks are hosting this species among their local breeding avifauna. A couple of confirmed breeding records from western New York in the Erie–Ontario Plain, in conjunction with Pennsylvania’s and Ohio’s recent nesting confirmations, may represent a larger recolonization trend of this species’ former regional distribution.

What does the future hold for nesting Merlin in Ohio? Birders should keep this species at the forefront of their minds, especially when summer birding efforts take place in northeastern Ohio. Learn the details of their breeding habits and habitat preferences. If you suspect that potential breeding habitat exists off-road, it might be rewarding to seek appropriate access.

Review species (those which are not on the state’s Core List as designated by the Ohio Bird Records Committee [OBRC]) are underlined. There were reports of eight review species. Reports of sightings whose documentation has been accepted by the OBRC include the names of the observers; those for which no documentation was submitted or whose documentation was not considered sufficient are listed anonymously. The committee urges birders to report all sightings of Review List species, of Core List species found at unusual times, of nesting by birds previously not known to nest in the state, and, of course, sightings of birds never before found in Ohio. Information on how to document rarities is available at http://www.ohiobirds.org/records/documentation.php.


The following abbreviations are used in these accounts:

*fide* = “on the authority of”; typically a record submitted by a third party

NWR = National Wildlife Refuge


ODNR = Ohio Department of Natural Resources

ODOW = Ohio Division of Wildlife

WA = Wildlife Area

**Literature Cited**


Canada Goose: Reported to the OBBA2 from 278 blocks from throughout the state.

Mute Swan: Reported to the OBBA2 from 13 survey blocks, mainly from the northern two-thirds of the state.

Trumpeter Swan: A pair of swans was confirmed nesting in Guernsey on 29 Jun (Doug LeVasseur). The ODOW reports that 2009 saw an all-time high record for reproduction, with 73 birds fledging from 10 counties.

Wood Duck: Reported to the OBBA2 from 168 blocks throughout the state

Gadwall: A lone bird was in Harrison 03 Jun (Scott Albaugh) and in Lorain 06 Jul (Black River Audubon Society).

American Black Duck: A likely mated pair stayed for a couple of weeks at the Hardin wetlands (08 to 20 Jun, Rick Counts). A pair of ducks was also seen 01 Jun in Fulton County (Tom Kemp). On 13 Jun, multiple adult birds were seen in both Trumbull and Summit (Dave and Judy Hochadel; fide Dwight and Ann Chasar).

Mallard: Reported to the OBBA2 from 259 blocks from throughout the state

Blue-winged Teal: Reported to the OBBA2 from 11 survey blocks.

Northern Shoveler: The Hardin wetlands produced the site’s first nesting record; 10 birds were seen 04 Jul (Rick Counts). Shovelers were also detected in Lorain on 09 Jun (Sue Yost, Jan Auburn).

Northern Pintail: A pair was suspected of nesting in Ottawa 18 Jun (Mark Shieldcastle).

Green-winged Teal: Two drakes were found at Ottawa NWR, Ottawa, on 07 Jun (fide Douglas Vogus), but more intriguing was a pair of birds at Tri-Valley WA, Muskingum, on 14 Jun (Chris Pierce). It is unclear whether the Muskingum birds were a mated pair. A single bird was seen in Fulton (a male in suitable habitat 29 Jun, Tom Kemp). Breeding was confirmed at the Hardin wetlands (as many as eight birds on 04 Jul, Richard Counts).

Redhead: Confirmed as nesting in Ottawa on 18 Jun (Mark Shieldcastle), when a hen with a brood was observed. A lone Redhead was on the Ohio River on 23 and 25 Jun (Jonathan Frodge).

Ring-necked Duck: Single midsummer Ring-necked Ducks were found in Franklin (two individuals on 05 Jun, Steve Jones; 08 Jun, James Thurston), Auglaize (3 Jul; Darlene Snuffer), and Montgomery (03 Jul; Rick Asamoto).

Lesser Scaup: A lone drake Lesser Scaup was seen in Guernsey on 20 and 21 Jun (Dan Sanders, Doreene Linzell). An unidentified scaup was observed 29 Jun in Summit (Darlene Snuffer).

Hooded Merganser: Unusual in southeastern counties, a mated pair of Hooded Mergansers was in southeastern Ohio (Morgan)
on 12 Jun (Betty Lowe). Hooded Mergansers were reported from an additional 24 atlas survey blocks from the species typical breeding distribution within the state.

**Common Merganser**: Continues along the Little Beaver Creek (*Columbiana*) in good numbers. Breeding is possible in *Ashtabula* along Conneaut Creek; an observation of a female on 04 Jun continues to suggest that this might be another breeding location for the state (Craig Holt).

**Red-breasted Merganser**: Appeared in *Ashtabula* (Mark Vass) and *Lorain* (Black River Audubon Society), each with single birds on 07 Jul.

**Ruddy Ducks**: Reported from five atlas survey blocks in northern Ohio counties. The only confirmed breeding for the species was reported from *Ottawa* (18 Jun; Mark Shieldcastle).

**Northern Bobwhite**: Away from the species’ stronghold in southwestern Ohio, isolated observations of Northern Bobwhite came from *Columbiana* (25 Jul, Jim Dolan), *Mahoning* (16 Jun, Bill Jones), *Trumbull* (01 Jun, Dave and Judy Hochadel), *Wood* (05 Jul, Tom Kemp); a brood was seen in *Mahoning* on 21 Jun (Jim Dolan). Bobwhite were reported to the OBBA2 from 53 survey blocks. According to the ODOW, midsummer weather conditions may have been favorable for successful brood rearing but overall impacts on this year’s population are not currently clear.

**Ring-necked Pheasant**: Reported to the OBBA2 from 74 survey blocks. The most southerly record was of a possible breeding individual in *Ross* just northeast of Chillicothe, right at the edge of the glaciation line (12 Jun, Eric Hall).

**Ruffed Grouse**: Encouraging was a pair of Ruffed Grouse observed in the northeast (*Geauga*) on 16 Jun and again from the same area on 23 Jun (Carol Skinner). The ODOW reports a decline in the drumming index for 2009 with few observations of hens with broods (25 observations reported).

**Wild Turkey**: Reported to the OBBA2 from 162 survey blocks. Current atlas data show a strong statewide distribution for this species, with noticeable gaps in the counties directly to the south and west of Columbus (*Franklin*) and up along Lake Erie in *Ottawa* and *Lucas*.

**Common Loon**: Reported throughout the period in the state (*Hamilton* on 27 Jun, Kirk Westendorf; *Lorain* on 10 Jun, Black River Audubon Society; *Mahoning* on 08 Jun, William Jones; *Pike* on 04 Jun, Carl Ball; *Portage* on 26 Jun, Gabe Leidy; *Richland* on 15 Jun, Gary Cowell; *Ashtabula* on 08 Jul, Craig Holt) with as many as four birds seen 24 Jul in *Warren* (Rick Asamoto).

**Pied-billed Grebe**: Reported to the OBBA2 from 16 survey blocks scattered throughout the glaciated region of the state (69% of these block records representing “confirmed” breeding).
American White Pelican: Representatives of this majestic species dropped in to a local Stark park on 25 Jun (fide Dan Kramer), with numbers quickly escalating to 28 birds on 26 Jun (Gabe Leidy). Dane Adams photographed two pelicans at Magee Marsh WA (Ottawa) 21 Jun and Rick Counts added the species to the Hardin wetlands site list with one bird on 13 Jul.

Brown Pelican: Three reports of this species came from Portage 18, 21, and 25 Jun. These reports were never confirmed and no documentation was provided to the OBRC. A single bird was photographed in Lake on 07 Jul (John Pogacnik). Frank Renfrow confirmed another individual 13 Jul in Hamilton as he nabbed it flying in from the Kentucky side of the Ohio River. The documentation of these two sightings was accepted by the OBRC.

Double-crested Cormorant: Scattered reports from across the state included one from southeastern Ohio (Washington) at the Willow Island Lock and Dam on 18 Jul (James Sipiora). Several block records were submitted to the OBBA2, but the only confirmed breeding record was from Hancock on 11 Jul, with young birds reported at Lake Mosier (Robert Sams).

American Bittern: Encouraging was a bird observed at Big Island WA, Marion (Wilma Bird) on 05 and 15 Jun. Unexpected was the individual that flew into a small wetland in Morgan on 10 Jun (Dan Sanders, Doreene Linzell)—follow-up efforts could not establish this individual as a resident. Also of note was another Morgan bittern heard calling on 03 Jul (Betty Lowe). Focal marsh bird research (Ohio State University) failed to detect any American Bitterns at wetlands randomly surveyed across the state (fide Karen Willard).
Least Bittern: Focal marsh bird research through Ohio State University (fide Karen Willard) turned up Least Bittern records in Erie, Lucas, Ottawa, Sandusky, and Union (a calling bird at a restored wetland 15 Jun in Union is especially noteworthy). Robert Sams found a bird at a Hancock wetland on 12 Jul. Fledglings were found in Summit on 13 Jul (Mary Anne Romito).

Great Blue Heron: Thirteen rookeries were reported to the OBBA2 during the summer reporting period.

Great Egret: Twenty-five birds was a nice concentration in Trumbull on 01 Jun (fide Dave Hochadel); an individual was observed collecting nesting material on 10 Jun (Laura Gooch).

Snowy Egret: The West Sister Island population remained stable (fide ODOW).

Little Blue Heron: Away from Lake Erie, a single bird was found in Montgomery on 26 Jul (Rick Asamoto) and was not suspected of local nesting.

Cattle Egret: A single bird showed up in Ohio on 05 Jun (Franklin, Gary Moon).

Green Heron: Reported to the OBBA2 from 139 survey blocks scattered across the state.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: Away from the Lake Erie marshes, this species was reported from Erie (27 Jun, Craig Caldwell), Clermont (1 Jun, Tyler Ficker), Hamilton (28 Jul, John Marvin), Montgomery (1 Jul, Paul Krusling), Franklin (22 and 31 Jul, Dave Slager), Guernsey (14 and 15 Jul, Dave Slager and Ben Warner), and Mahoning (15 Jul, William Jones). Subsequently, no confirmed nesting records were submitted to the OBBA2 during the 2009 breeding period.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: Rob Thorn observed a single adult bird feeding in a Franklin spillway on 14 Jun, possibly representing a re-colonization of an area where the species has been absent for a decade.

White Ibis: This individual arrived in Guernsey on 14 Jul (Eric Hall, Renee Tressler) and was seen by

Late summer is a time of post-breeding dispersal for many waterbirds, and common southern species often disperse north for a few weeks before returning south in fall migration. This White Ibis fit that dispersal pattern, appearing in Guernsey where Renee Tressler photographed it on 14 Jul.
many through 19 Jul. It was well documented and was accepted as Ohio’s eighth record of the species.

**White-faced Ibis:** One was reported at Ottawa NWR by Rebecca Hinkle on 29 Jun; it was seen at least until 04 Jul. It was well photographed by several observers and the documentation was accepted by the OBRC.

**Black Vulture:** Two Black Vultures were seen 03 Jul in Ashland (Gary Cowell). Breeding confirmation for this species was not submitted to the OBBA2, but records for Black Vulture were recorded in 27 survey blocks in southern counties.

**Turkey Vulture:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 446 survey blocks from all Ohio survey regions. Owing to the difficulty of finding nests for this species, only four of these survey block detections consisted of confirmed breeding. Increasing the confirmed breeding status for Turkey Vulture may involve a simple correspondence with your local farmer to see if any birds are currently using any farm structures for nesting.

**Osprey:** Several new nests cropped up in the state with new locations in Cuyahoga, Franklin, Geauga, Marion, Meigs, Portage, Summit, and Warren (fide Dave Sherman, ODOW). Linda Kurth observed a single Osprey 08 Jun in Henry, where no breeding is currently known. The 2009 ODOW production report indicates that there were 75 known nests during the period and that chick production increased to 175 (up from 102 in 2008).

**Mississippi Kite:** Could this elegant raptor be nesting in multiple Ohio locations? According to a course employee, kites returned once again to a golf club in Hocking, with sightings on 12 and 17 Jun. Unfortunately, other birders reported no sightings, so the return remains undocumented. What appeared to be a Mississippi Kite was photographed in silhouette flying over the Cincinnati Zoo, Hamilton, on As with the White Ibis, post-breeding dispersal likely explains the presence of this White-faced Ibis outside its breeding range. Gabe Leidy photographed this bird at Ottawa NWR, Ottawa, on 30 Jun.
30 Jun; the photos are under OBRC review. Another adult kite was well documented in suburban Columbus, Franklin, on 15 and 16 Jun (Bernie Master) and was accepted by the OBRC. Any reports of this species in Ohio during the breeding season could mean that nesting is potentially taking place in the vicinity of the site of original observation.

Bald Eagle: The Ohio population experienced an increase for the 22nd consecutive year in Ohio; 33 new eagle nests were found in Butler, Franklin, Hamilton, Logan, Medina, Montgomery, Paulding, Pike, and Scioto (fide ODNR). In 10 years’ time, the Ohio Bald Eagle nest count has increased approximately four-fold.

Northern Harrier: Birds were recorded in 13 OBBA2 survey blocks during the summer period. A bird in Stark on 12 Jun was a good find (Chuck McClougherty). Nesting harriers in southeastern counties are particularly rare during the breeding season (only two confirmed breeding records in the Unglaciated Plateau during Ohio’s first breeding bird atlas), so a bird seen on 27 Jun in Washington was particularly noteworthy (Brad Bond).

Sharp-shinned Hawk: This state species of concern is not typically reported in northwestern Ohio during summer, except in the Oak Openings region, but two Sharp-shinned Hawks were tallied during the Jun census at Ottawa NWR, Ottawa (07 Jun, fide Douglas Vogus). OBBA2 survey data involve records from only nine survey blocks, the vast majority representing only “possible” breeding evidence.

Cooper’s Hawk: Reported to the OBBA2 from 172 survey blocks.

Red-shouldered Hawk: A probable breeding record was reported from the Oak Openings region in Fulton on 27 Jun (Mark Shieldcastle).

Broad-winged Hawk: A flyover adult (unknown local breeding status) in Clark on 05 Jun was unusual (Larry Jeanblanc, Brian Menker, and Julie Karlson).

Red-tailed Hawk: Reported to the OBBA2 from 451 survey blocks.

Mississippi Kites are being spotted more regularly in central Ohio, and Bernie Master documented this one landing by his home in Worthington, Franklin, 15 Jun.
American Kestrel: Reported to the OBBA2 from 263 survey blocks.

Merlin: A rare summer Merlin observation was first made on 16 Jun in Lake (John Pogacnik) and continued from the same location throughout the remainder of Jun and into Jul. On 16 Jul, an adult female was observed bringing food to at least two birds in fresh juvenile plumage. It had been predicted that Merlin would show up during the field work period for Ohio’s second atlas period, and this nesting record mirrors an apparent westward expansion of the species’ range within the Great Lakes basin. This represents Ohio’s first nesting record in many decades, probably since the 1930s.

Peregrine Falcon: Two new pairs of Peregrine Falcons were observed (one each in Franklin and Trumbull; fide ODOW) but apparently did not nest. The ODOW considered 19 nests, which resulted in 63 chicks, to be successful.

King Rail: Birds were observed at Pickerel Creek WA, Sandusky (a pair 13 Jun, Karen Willard) and at Killbuck Marsh WA, Wayne (27 Jun, Gabe Leidy).

Virginia Rail: Reported to the OBBA2 from seven survey blocks, including one from the south in Ross on 07 Jun (David Hess).

Sora: Reported to the OBBA2 from only four survey blocks, including one from the south in Ross on 07 Jun (David Hess).

Common Moorhen: This species was at a restored Union wetland on 04 Jun, with a pair evident 15 Jun (fide Karen Willard). Eric Hall found a Moorhen on a nest in Belmont 22 Jun.

American Coot: Lone adult birds were seen in Clermont on 01 Jun (Tyler Ficker) and Defiance on 09 Jun (Tom Kemp). Confirmed nesting records were reported from Hardin (Richard Counts) and Ottawa (Mark Shieldcastle).

Sandhill Crane: A pair of cranes at Slate Run Metro Park, Pickaway, continued into Jun and may have attempted to nest, but ultimately no conclusive evidence was found (fide John Watts). Also remarkable was a new nest in Madison that produced at least one young (fide Dave Sherman); ODNR survey efforts yielded evidence of 22 young produced in the state during the period. A reliable second-hand report of a pair with one fledgling in Knox is also intriguing (fide Margaret Bowman). Sandhill Cranes are currently known to nest in nine Ohio counties.

Black-bellied Plover: Single plovers were in Ottawa (Craig Caldwell) and Ashtabula (Craig Holt) on 18 Jul.

Semipalmated Plover: One in Hardin on 04 Jul (Rick Counts) could have been a spring or fall migrant. The highest single count was three birds on 21 Jul at Conneaut (Ashtabula, Craig Caldwell). The species was also detected in Ottawa, Franklin, and Montgomery.

Piping Plover: A banded adult was found at Conneaut, Ashtabula, on 26 Jul (Robert Krajjeski fide John Pogacnik) and stayed through the end of the period, allowing multiple
observations. The documentation was accepted by the OBRC.

**Killdeer:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 455 survey blocks.

**American Avocet:** Four were in Franklin 26 and 27 Jul (Brad Sparks, Dave Slager). A single bird was at Conneaut, Ashtabula, on 28 Jul (Craig Caldwell); two showed up in Montgomery on 31 Jul (Rick Asamoto).

**Spotted Sandpiper:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 55 survey blocks throughout the state, except for the southeastern-most counties.

**Solitary Sandpiper:** Fifty birds in Montgomery (31 Jul, Rick Asamoto) was an excellent count for the species. Solitary Sandpipers showed up across the state during the period, the vast majority of which came from Jul. Other good counts were 16 in Ashland (29 Jul, Gary Cowell) and 10 in Montgomery (27 Jul, Laura Keene).

**Greater Yellowlegs:** Reported from several counties during Jul (no Jun records).

**Willet:** A great count of 15 was at Conneaut, Ashtabula, on 22 Jul (Craig Holt). Single Willets were in Ottawa (23 Jul, Tom Bartlett fide Bill Whan), Erie (26 Jul, Gabe Leidy), and Wayne (24 to 28 Jul, James F. Yoder, Willis Brubaker).

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** A straggling spring migrant was in Clermont (1 Jun, Tyler Ficker) but, as is to be expected, the majority of records from across the state represented the beginnings of fall migration beginning in mid-Jul. The Pipe Creek WA (Erie) had the highest period count with 40 birds present on 26 Jul (Andy Sewell).

**Upland Sandpiper:** Surprisingly not from habitat near airport properties, atlas efforts in Ohio turned up territorial Upland Sandpipers in Champaign (15 and 16 Jun, Troy Shively, Aaron Boone), Madison (21 Jun, Doug Overacker), and Mercer (24 Jun, Tom Kemp) bean fields. Encouraging counts of Upland Sandpiper came from Richland (as many as eight reported through Jun, m. obs.) and Harrison (up to four birds reported during Jun, m. obs.). William Jones reports a bird from Jefferson (19 Jun).

**Whimbrel:** An early bird was in Ashtabula on 13 Jul (Craig Holt).

Whimbrel often make brief appearances in Ohio during their southbound migration; late July is a prime time to look for this species even though July is technically considered part of the nesting season by publications such as this one. Lana Hayes photographed this Whimbrel at Conneaut, Ashtabula, 26 Jul.
Other late period Whimbrel records came from Ashtabula (31 Jul, Mark Vass), Lorain (26 Jul, Chris Pierce), and Ottawa (24 Jul, Craig Caldwell).

Marbled Godwit: A single Marbled Godwit was at Conneaut, Ashtabula, briefly on 21 Jul (Craig Caldwell); another individual was at Ottawa NWR, Ottawa, on 26 Jul (fide Christopher Knoll).

Ruddy Turnstone: A late turnstone was in Ottawa on 15 Jun (fide Jim Witter). John Moore had three individuals at Englewood Reserve (Montgomery) on 29 Jul.

Sanderling: A late Sanderling was in Ashtabula on 05 Jun (Mark Vass); the species reappeared in Ashtabula on Jul 13 (Craig Holt).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: The highest count for the period was 66 birds on 02 Jun at the Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary, Mahoning (William Jones). The habitat restoration efforts at this site and subsequent monitoring efforts attest to the importance of managing and preserving shorebird stopover habitat.

Western Sandpiper: A good find for central Ohio was a single Western Sandpiper in Franklin on 23 Jul (Brad Sparks, Ben Warner, Dave Slager); the species first appeared during the period at Pickerel Creek Wildlife Area, Sandusky, on 21 Jul (Gabe Leidy).

Least Sandpiper: Reported from numerous counties across the state during the period. Forty birds seen on 15 Jul in Mahoning (William Jones) was the highest reported tally.

White-rumped Sandpiper: Brad Sparks tallied eight birds in Franklin on 02 Jun. Single Jul birds were in Franklin (26 Jul, Gene Stauffer) and Wayne (14 Jul, Ken Ostermiller).

Baird’s Sandpiper: One bird seen at Conneaut (Ashtabula) on 28 Jul (Lana Hays).

Pectoral Sandpiper: This species did not represent a major component of the shorebirds moving through Ohio during the season, but it was represented by records from scattered counties across Ohio with no more than a handful of birds at each location. Five birds were reported at Willow Point WA (Erie) on 18 Jul (Craig Caldwell).

Dunlin: Robert and Sandy Harlan reported 10 birds from Sandusky and five birds from Erie on 01 Jun.

Stilt Sandpiper: The earliest report of southbound Stilt Sandpiper came from Sandusky with one bird on 06 Jul (Emil Back fide Gabe Leidy). Andy Sewell reported six birds at Ottawa NWR, Ottawa, on 26 Jul.

Short-billed Dowitcher: Sixty made an appearance in Erie on 18 Jul (Craig Caldwell).

Long-billed Dowitcher: Detected only along the lakefront (four birds in Ottawa on 24 Jul, Craig Caldwell; two birds in Lorain on 26 Jul, Chris Pierce).

Wilson’s Snipe: Possibly breeding snipe were reported from the southwest in Butler but could have been early migrants (3 Jul, John Hull); also observed farther to the north in Mahoning (21 Jun, fide William Jones). The OBBA2
did not report any conclusive breeding evidence for the period.

**American Woodcock:** The ODOW indicates continued decline of this upland shorebird species. This species has a low report rate to the OBBA2, but this is likely a result of inadequate survey efforts for the species. Possible breeding records in the southeast came from Morgan (20 Jun, Betty Lowe) and Athens (27 Jun, Gary Cowell).

**Wilson’s Phalarope:** A migrant Wilson’s Phalarope showed up at a farm pond in Tuscarawas on 06 Jun (Jennifer and Christina Schlabach). Two birds were in Sandusky on 21 Jul (Gabe Leidy) and one bird was in Erie on 26 Jul (Andy Sewell).

**Red-necked Phalarope:** A single female Red-necked Phalarope was a surprise in Sandusky on 01 Jun (Rob and Sandy Harlan).

**Bonaparte’s Gull:** The only reports this period were from Magee Marsh WA, Lucas, on 16 Jul (fide Jim Witter) and Conneaut, Ashtabula, on 28 Jul (two birds, Craig Caldwell).

**Ring-billed Gull:** Daniel Kramer reported a colony of approximately 1,000 pairs in an industrial area along the Cuyahoga River, Cuyahoga (22 Jun). Fledglings were also reported from Summit and Mahoning on 12 Jul (Gregory Bennett).

**Herring Gull:** A juvenile bird was seen flying over a known gull colony in Summit on 12 Jul (Gregory Bennett). Adults were sitting on nests in Ottawa (18 Jun, Mark Shieldcastle).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** A first-cycle bird was at Conneaut, Ashtabula, on 13 Jun (Craig Holt). **Great Black-backed Gull:** Seven birds was an excellent number at Conneaut, Ashtabula, on 07 Jun (Mark Vass). Two Great Black-backed Gulls were at Headlands Beach State Park, Lake, on 27 Jun (Chuck McClaughey, m. obs.).

**Caspian Tern:** Three birds were
at Conneaut, *Ashtabula*, on 07 Jun (Mark Vass). Intriguing was a single tern spotted in *Richland* on 15 Jun (Carl Ball). The high count was 16 individuals in *Knox* on 31 Jul (Gary Cowell).

**Black Tern:** Marsh bird surveys at Cedar Point NWR, *Lucas*, yielded a single nest on 16 Jun (Karen Willard). Single migrants were reported in *Montgomery* (25 Jul, Rick Asamoto) and *Knox* (31 Jul, Gary Cowell), and three birds were observed in *Pickaway* on 17 Jul (Rob Thorn). Oddly, a single stray was observed at a farm pond in *Holmes* (23 Jun, Bruce Glick).

**Common Tern:** A pair of birds was seen during an avian census on Kelly’s Island, *Erie*, on 18 Jun (Tom Bartlett). This Lake Erie island could conceivably host nesting pairs of this species. The Lake Erie population increased by 42% because of a second successful nesting season at the artificial nesting platforms in Willow Point WA (85 nests fledging 163 young). Single birds were reported from *Clermont* on 01 Jun (Tyler Ficker), *Lake* on 27 Jun (Chuck McClaugherty, m. obs.), and *Knox* on 31 Jul (Gary Cowell).

**Forster’s Tern:** A single Forster’s Tern in breeding plumage was in *Columbiana* on 21 Jun (Bob Lane); two birds were in *Portage* on 26 Jun (Gabe Leidy).

**Rock Pigeon:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 250 survey blocks.

**Eurasian Collared-Dove:** Ohio’s first confirmed breeding record for this species came from *Logan* on 15 Jun, when juvenile birds were found in the vicinity of where an adult had been observed carrying nesting material (Troy Shively). The documentation was accepted by the OBRC. In northeastern Ohio, multiple doves were reported in *Holmes* and *Tuscarawas* throughout the period (fide Ed Schlabach); some were photographed and their

*The spread of Eurasian Collared-Doves has not proceeded as many observers expected; rather than proliferating through the eastern half of the continent, their numbers have swelled west to the Pacific coast. Ohioans may have expected this to become a common urban bird (as it is in the southern part of their naturalized range in North America), but so far they have preferred agricultural areas in the state, such as this bird photographed 27 Jun near Bunker Hill, *Holmes*, by Gabe Leidy.*
documentation accepted. In addition, undocumented reports continue to come from Celina, *Mercer*.

**White-winged Dove:** One was observed sporadically on 25 and 26 Jun in *Holmes* (Adam Barkman *fide* Ed Schlabach). The excellent documentation of the bird’s appearance and behavior was accepted by the OBRC.

**Mourning Dove:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 565 survey blocks.

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 182 survey blocks.

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** Of the 47 survey block records submitted to the OBBA2, only one represented confirmed breeding (01 Jun, *Harrison*; Scott Albaugh).

**Barn Owl:** At least 50 Barn Owl nests were known from their northeastern Ohio stronghold (*Holmes* and vicinity, *fide* Ed Schlabach). More scarce in southwestern Ohio, a single Barn Owl was observed in *Brown* throughout the period (reported 27 Jun, John Troyer Jr.).

**Eastern Screech-Owl:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 123 survey blocks.

**Great Horned Owl:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 52 survey blocks.

**Barred Owl:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 69 survey blocks.

**Long-eared Owl:** A bird was observed in *Ashtabula* (recorded vocalizations indicative of the species, possibly near a nest) from 08 Jun through 01 Jul (Laura Gooch, Julie West) representing probable breeding at best. Since the beginning of extensive survey efforts for the state’s second breeding bird atlas, this record represents the closest evidence to establishing Long-eared Owl as a nesting species within the atlas period (2006–2011). The true extent of breeding for this species in Ohio may never be well understood.

**Northern Saw-whet Owl:** Two separate birds summered in suitable breeding habitat in *Lake*, where they were previously detected during May 2009 (11 and 19 Jun respectively, John Pogacnik); this represents “probable” nesting at best.

**Common Nighthawk:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 49 survey blocks. Current breeding bird atlas data show a gap in this species’ Ohio distribution, where previously the species was known to occur in a large portion of east-central Ohio. This gap in the data could be a result of low survey effort in this region, especially considering the nocturnal nature of the species. In *Wyandot* (19 Jun), Rick Counts observed two recently fledged downy young perched on electrical lines.

**Chuck-will’s-widow:** Multiple birds were reported from northern *Adams* on 14 and 17 Jun (Aaron Boone, Dave Slager, Eric Hall).

**Whip-poor-will:** A territorial bird was heard the evening of 27 Jun at the *Knox/Holmes* line (Joe Herman). The remaining 25 atlas records were confined to southern Ohio. Gary Cowell recorded seven territorial birds the evening of 27 Jun in *Athens*. 
Chimney Swift: Reported to the OBBA2 from 413 survey blocks.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Reported to the OBBA2 from 283 survey blocks.

Belted Kingfisher: Reported to the OBBA2 from 165 survey blocks.

Red-headed Woodpecker: Reported to the OBBA2 from 173 survey blocks. Red-headed Woodpecker is more sparsely distributed in the southeastern counties as a breeding species—three atlas records from Washington (05 and 06 Jun, Eric Hall; 04 Jul, Sue Tackett) are noteworthy, considering that no nesting records were documented in this county during the first breeding bird atlas.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: Reported to the OBBA2 from 443 survey blocks.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: A female was observed in Lorain (6 Jul), farther west of the typical nesting range in extreme northeastern Ohio (Harry Spencer). Breeding sapsuckers are proving to be more common and locally widespread than previously documented. Possible breeding records were submitted to the OBBA2 from five survey blocks in Ashtabula.

Downy Woodpecker: Reported to the OBBA2 from 474 survey blocks.

Hairy Woodpecker: Reported to the OBBA2 from 219 survey blocks.

Northern Flicker: Reported to the OBBA2 from 451 survey blocks.

Pileated Woodpecker: Reported to the OBBA2 from 188 survey blocks. Four separate reports of Pileated Woodpeckers came from northwestern Ohio—two observations in Williams (13 and 20 Jun, Tom Kemp) and two from Lucas (28 Jun, fide Aaron Boone; 24 Jul, Mark Shieldcastle).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Jun records of Olive-sided Flycatcher

Look carefully and you will spot a female Yellow-bellied Sapsucker exiting a nest hole. This species has increased in abundance since the first Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas, and is fairly common as a breeder in the northeast corner of the state. Judy Semroc photographed this bird 12 Jun at Thompson Ledges, Geauga.
in Ohio involved single birds in
\textit{Cuyahoga} (Bill Tacon) and \textit{Geauga} (Inga Schmidt) on 02 Jun, with possibly the same individual again in \textit{Cuyahoga} on 14 Jun (Bill Tacon). Another late migrant was found at Oak Openings, \textit{Lucas}, on 10 Jun (Matt Anderson), as well as a bird in \textit{Tuscarawas} on 13 Jun (Leroy Schlabach).

\textbf{Eastern Wood-Pewee:} Reported to the OBBA2 from 519 survey blocks.

\textbf{Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:} Migrant birds were reported from Magee Marsh WA, \textit{Lucas}, on 07 Jun (Gene Stauffer) and \textit{Lake} on 08 Jun (John Pogacnik).

\textbf{Acadian Flycatcher:} Reported to the OBBA2 from 343 survey blocks.

\textbf{Alder Flycatcher:} One territorial bird continued through 08 Jul in \textit{Logan} (Troy Shively) and countersinging males were detected in \textit{Coshocton} on 22 Jun (Aaron Boone). Alder Flycatchers continue as breeders at Clear Creek Metro Park, \textit{Hocking} (pair observed 05 Jun, Carrie Morrow). The species was reported to the OBBA2 from an additional 15 survey blocks in northern counties. An unconfirmed pair of birds in \textit{Brown} on 13 Jun (Joshua Eastlake) needs further investigation.

\textbf{Willow Flycatcher:} Reported to the OBBA2 from 325 survey blocks.

\textbf{Least Flycatcher:} Territorial birds in southern Ohio were in \textit{Montgomery} on 09 Jun (Ed Neubauer) and in \textit{Pickaway} on 12 Jun (Carrie Morrow). Other reports of territorial birds (no breeding confirmations were obtained) were from \textit{Trumbull} (four separate records), \textit{Ashtabula} (three separate records), \textit{Richland, Stark, Columbiana, Knox,} and \textit{Defiance}.

\textbf{Eastern Phoebe:} Reported to the OBBA2 from 400 survey blocks.

\textbf{Great Crested Flycatcher:} Reported to the OBBA2 from 331 survey blocks.

\textbf{Eastern Kingbird:} Reported to the OBBA2 from 359 survey blocks.

\textbf{White-eyed Vireo:} Reported to the OBBA2 from 222 survey blocks. A single territorial individual was observed in suitable nesting habitat in western \textit{Defiance} on 12 Jun (Tom Kemp).

\textbf{Bell’s Vireo:} The species returned to a \textit{Franklin} location and was present at least through mid-Jun (16 Jun, Jay Lehman). Southwestern Ohio held a pair of vireos in \textit{Hamilton} (as late as 02 Jul, Brian Wulker), and a pair was confirmed nesting in \textit{Montgomery} on 03 Jul (Rick Asamoto, John Habig). There was also a singing bird in \textit{Clark} on 19 Jul (Doug Overacker).

\textbf{Yellow-throated Vireo:} Reported to the OBBA2 from 255 survey blocks.

\textbf{Blue-headed Vireo:} A territory was maintained throughout the period in \textit{Coshocton} (Adam Yoder). One territorial record was reported from the Oak Openings, \textit{Fulton}, on 27 Jun (Mark Shieldcastle).

\textbf{Warbling Vireo:} Reported to the OBBA2 from 325 survey blocks.
Red-eyed Vireo: Reported to the OBBA2 from 546 survey blocks.

Blue Jay: Reported to the OBBA2 from 526 survey blocks.

American Crow: Reported to the OBBA2 from 452 survey blocks.

Common Raven: Ravens continue to pop up in eastern Ohio; watch for the species when birding in the region, especially in strip mine reclamation areas. While near Cadiz, Harrison, on 28 Jun, Rob and Sandy Harlan observed four birds flying in a loose group. The documentation was accepted by the OBRC. A single raven was reported 01 Jun in Noble but not documented to the OBRC.

Horned Lark: Reported to the OBBA2 from 239 survey blocks.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: Reported to the OBBA2 from 268 survey blocks.

Purple Martin: Reported to the OBBA2 from 174 survey blocks.

Tree Swallow: Reported to the OBBA2 from 282 survey blocks.

Bank Swallow: Reported to the OBBA2 from 47 survey blocks.

Barn Swallow: Reported to the OBBA2 from 544 survey blocks.

Cliff Swallow: The detection of nesting Cliff Swallows in northwestern Ohio has apparently increased in recent years. In Williams alone, birds were likely nesting at five separate locations within the county (01, 13, and 30 Jun, Tom Kemp; 30 Jun, Karen Willard).

Carolina Chickadee: Reported to the OBBA2 from 312 survey blocks.

Black-capped Chickadee: Reported to the OBBA2 from 175 survey blocks.

Tufted Titmouse: Reported to the OBBA2 from 493 survey blocks.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: A noteworthy record was of a bird calling in Perry on 16 Jun (Eric Hall). Records from the northern counties include one in Richland on 26 Jul (Gary Cowell) and backyard sightings from Geauga (8 Jun, Wes Hatch) and Cuyahoga (07 Jul, Marcia Polevoi). A family of recently fledged young was seen in a pine plantation at Goll Woods SNP on 25 Jun (Ryan Schroeder).

White-breasted Nuthatch: Reported to the OBBA2 from 448 survey blocks.

Brown Creeper: A territorial bird in Muskingum was a good find 29 Jun (Dave Slager, Aaron Boone). Especially noteworthy for northwestern Ohio was a family of creepers in Lucas on 24 Jul (Mark Shieldcastle).

Carolina Wren: Reported to the OBBA2 from 357 survey blocks.

House Wren: Reported to the OBBA2 from 604 survey blocks.

Winter Wren: An unusual summer Hancock sighting came on 21 Jun (Robert Sams). A territorial bird in suitable breeding habitat was found in Wayne 6-14 Jun (Willis Brubaker).

Sedge Wren: Confirmed nesting was discovered 04 Jul in Union.
Territorial birds of note were in Butler on 25 Jul (Sam Fitton) and Lawrence on 24 Jul (Jason Friggens).

**Marsh Wren:** A nice concentration of at least eight territorial birds was in residence at a restored wetland in eastern Hardin (noted on 13 and 18 Jul, Richard Counts). Multiple pairs confirmed as nesting in Coshocton (24 Jun, Aaron Boone) and in Guernsey (28 Jun, Scott Pendleton) represent the southernmost detections for Marsh Wren during Ohio’s current breeding bird atlas.

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 313 survey blocks.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** A single bird of unknown breeding status was observed in Lorain on 02 Jul (fide Black River Audubon Society).

**Eastern Bluebird:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 484 survey blocks.

**Veery:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 59 survey blocks. A Veery at a preserve in Darke was a good find on 30 Jun (Robb Clifford).

**Swainson’s Thrush:** Late migrants were in Lake on 08 Jun (John Pogacnik) and in Summit on 04 Jun (Clyde Witt).

**Hermit Thrush:** A bird was apparently on territory in Harrison on 25 Jun—fairly distant from known breeding populations in the state (Eric Hall).

**Wood Thrush:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 458 survey blocks.

**American Robin:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 650 survey blocks.

**Gray Catbird:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 613 survey blocks.

**Northern Mockingbird:** Somewhat scarce in far northern Ohio, single mockingbirds were observed in Cuyahoga on 02 and 11 Jun (anonymous) and 02 Jul (Claire Kluskens). Compared with data from the first breeding atlas, Northern Mockingbird appears to have a more pronounced presence in northern Ohio, especially in the greater Cleveland region.

**Brown Thrasher:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 363 survey blocks.

**European Starling:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 494 survey blocks.
Cedar Waxwing: Reported to the OBBA2 from 451 survey blocks.

Blue-winged Warbler: A bird was on territory in Shelby (05 Jun, Troy Shively) and in Greene (01 Jun, Julie Karlson). This species was reported to the OBBA2 from 108 survey blocks.

‘Lawrence’s’ Warbler: This hybrid was reported to the OBBA2 from Summit on 14 Jun (Paul Hoffer). No information pertaining to what species this bird was paired with was obtained.

Golden-winged Warbler: During recent years, Cuyahoga Valley National Park (Cuyahoga) seems to be the only reliable Ohio location to find Golden-winged Warbler during the summer period—one was seen on 06 Jun (Rob and Sandy Harlan).

Tennessee Warbler: A late migrant was in Ottawa on 07 Jun (Aaron Bartley).

Nashville Warbler: Exceptionally rare as a breeder in northeastern Ohio, an adult Nashville Warbler (Lake, John Pogacnik) was observed attending to two fledglings on 13 Jul. A male of unknown breeding status was heard singing on 06 Jun in Tuscarawas (Levi Yoder).

Northern Parula: Reported to the OBBA2 from 77 survey blocks. Noteworthy observations came from Defiance (05 to 10 Jul, Robert Sams; 08 Jun, Karen Willard) and Henry (14 Jun, Ryan Schroeder). A singing male on Kelly’s Island, Erie, on 17 Jun could have been a breeder and may be a new island record for the summer period (Tom Bartlett). A possible migrant was in Ottawa on 24 Jul (Andrew Thornton).

Yellow Warbler: Reported to the OBBA2 from 412 survey blocks.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: A territorial bird in Knox on 06 Jul was at the southern edge of the species’ typical breeding range in Ohio (Aaron Boone). Reported to the OBBA2 from 18 survey blocks from northern counties.

Magnolia Warbler: A singing Magnolia Warbler was out of place on Kelly’s Island, Erie, on 17 Jun (Tom Bartlett). A territorial individual was in Jefferson on 06 Jun (Bob Lane). Two birds of unknown breeding status were found in Lake on 01 Jun (Laura Gooch).

Black-throated Blue Warbler: It should only be a matter of time before Black-throated Blue Warbler is again confirmed as a nesting species in Ohio—a male was singing in Ashtabula 13 Jun (fide Terri Martincic) but could not be relocated. A territorial male was found twice in Geauga (05 and 12 Jun, Linda Gilbert). Especially encouraging was the presence of at least three territorial males for the second year in a row at the Holden Arboretum (Lake) throughout the entire period (Haans Petruschke).

Black-throated Green Warbler: Reported to the OBBA2 from 17 survey blocks. A 30-year-old White Pine plantation in Morgan held a territorial male on 27 Jun (Eric Hall, Jason Friggens). A Black-throated Green Warbler was unexpected in Fulton on 6 Jun (Tom Kemp).

Blackburnian Warbler: A single bird was apparently on territory in Columbiana on 13 Jun (Ron...
Antonucci). A pair was found nesting in Hocking during Jun (fide John Watts).

Yellow-throated Warbler: Reported to the OBBA2 from 110 survey blocks.

Pine Warbler: Reported to the OBBA2 from 110 survey blocks.

Prairie Warbler: Reported to the OBBA2 from 62 survey blocks. A singing male in suitable nesting habitat was found in Delaware on 31 Jul (Charles Bombaci). Another Delaware bird was found on 05 Jun (Tom Bain). Prairie Warbler was an unusual summer find in Cuyahoga on 01 Jun (fide Dwight and Ann Chasar); a singing bird was also in Wood (16 Jun, Jeremy Ross).

Blackpoll Warbler: A late migrant Blackpoll Warbler appeared in Richland on 02 Jun (Gary Cowell).

Cerulean Warbler: Reported to the OBBA2 from 97 survey blocks. A territorial male was at Secor Metropark (Lucas) on 02 Jun (Matt Kemp).

Black-and-white Warbler: Reported to the OBBA2 from 54 survey blocks. A female observed in suitable breeding habitat was found in Paulding on 27 Jun (Tom Kemp); this species was not recorded in Paulding during the first breeding bird atlas. Charlie Bombaci detected a Black-and-white Warbler in Delaware on 05 Jun while conducting atlas surveys; a bird in Franklin on 21 Jul could have been an early fall migrant (James Sipiora).

American Redstart: Reported to the OBBA2 from 135 survey blocks.

Prothonotary Warbler: Thirty-nine Prothonotary Warblers detected on 18 Jun attests to this species’ sizeable population at Hoover Reservoir, Delaware (Charlie Bombaci). Reported to the OBBA2 from 33 additional survey blocks.

Worm-eating Warbler: A singing male was discovered on a forested hillside in northeastern Licking (Paul Rodewald) on 19 Jul. In northern Ohio, a singing male was apparently on territory in forested habitat in Summit on 13 Jun (fide Dwight and Ann Chasar).

Ovenbird: Reported to the OBBA2 from 147 survey blocks.

Northern Waterthrush: A probable breeding record was reported from Trumbull on 06 Jun (Dave and Judy Hochadel). An additional northern Ohio record came from Geauga on 13 Jun (Rob and Sandy Harlan).

Louisiana Waterthrush: Reported to the OBBA2 from 72 survey blocks. Relatively scarce in west-central counties, a territorial bird was reported from a forested wetland in Champaign (01 Jun; Troy Shively).

Kentucky Warbler: Reported to the OBBA2 from 101 survey blocks.

Connecticut Warbler: On 01 Jun, a Connecticut Warbler was found in Vinton (Bruce Simpson).

Mourning Warbler: A late migrant was in Montgomery on 03 Jun (Philip Ware). John Pogacnik had a possible breeder in Lake on 08 Jun (John Pogacnik).
Common Yellowthroat: Reported to the OBBA2 from 576 survey blocks.

Hooded Warbler: Reported to the OBBA2 from 208 survey blocks.

Wilson’s Warbler: A late migrant was singing in Marion on 01 Jun (Aaron Boone).

Canada Warbler: Territorial birds were again present at Clear Creek Metro Park (Hocking) on 13 Jun (Brad Sparks). A singing bird seen in Ashtabula on 04 Jun could have been a late migrant (Aaron Boone, Paul Rodewald). Most unusual was a bird found at the Wright Patterson Air Force Base (Greene) on 19 Jun (John Brenneman).

Yellow-breasted Chat: Reported to the OBBA2 from 173 survey blocks.

Eastern Towhee: Reported to the OBBA2 from 455 survey blocks.

Chipping Sparrow: Reported to the OBBA2 from 580 survey blocks.

Clay-colored Sparrow: One male was on territory throughout the period in Holmes but was apparently unmated (James F. Yoder).

Field Sparrow: Reported to the OBBA2 from 507 survey blocks.

Vesper Sparrow: Reported to the OBBA2 from 192 survey blocks. Preliminary data suggest that the species is not as widely distributed in eastern counties as it was during Ohio’s first breeding bird atlas, with relevant records coming from Geauga (one record), Trumbull (five records), Columbiana (three records), Jefferson (one record), and Washington (one record).

Lark Sparrow: The species continued at Ohio State University’s farm campus (Franklin), where three birds were observed 07 Jun (Dave Slager); two birds formed a mated pair and likely nested after they were observed copulating on 15 Jun (Aaron Boone, Dave Slager). A single Lark Sparrow was on territory at remnant dune habitat in Fulton on 03 Jun (Tom Kemp). In Green, the species was detected at a location where nesting was confirmed in previous years (13 Jun, Timothy Spahr) and...
was also detected at a quarry site a few miles to the north (09 Jun, Julie Karlson).

**Savannah Sparrow:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 307 survey blocks.

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 220 survey blocks. Relatively scarce in northeastern Ohio, a pair was observed in *Ashtabula* on 03 Jul (John Tautin), and a single territorial male was heard on 09 Jun in suitable habitat in *Lake* (Lisa Chapman).

**Henslow's Sparrow:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 47 survey blocks. In the northwest, territorial birds were in *Defiance* (06 Jun, Matt Kemp), *Wood* (02 Jul, Mark Shieldcastle), *Lucas* (24 Jul, Mark Shieldcastle), and *Fulton* (27 Jun, Mark Shieldcastle).

**Song Sparrow:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 667 survey blocks.

**Lincoln’s Sparrow:** An early migrant was found 19 Jul in *Hancock* at a county conservation area (Robert Sams).

**Swamp Sparrow:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 95 survey blocks. Since the beginning of Ohio’s second atlas, several Swamp Sparrow records have turned up south of their distribution that was delineated during the first atlas project. A confirmed nesting record from a wetland along the Ohio River (*Washington*) on 03 Jun is the southeastern most nesting record for the species to date during this atlas (Brad Bond). Probable nesting was recorded at a wetland in *Guernsey* (17 Jul, Doug Overacker) and from another wetland preserve in *Ross* (07 Jun, David Hess).

**White-throated Sparrow:** A late Jun record of two birds was reported from Sheldon Marsh State Nature Preserve, *Erie*, on 29 Jun (Mick Gentry). The species was also reported from a residence in *Cuyahoga* (04 Jul, Mike Bracken), *Lucas* (7 Jun, Gene Stauffer), and *Richland* (19 Jun, Carl Ball).

**White-crowned Sparrow:** A straggling migrant was found at Magee Marsh WA (*Lucas*) on 07 Jun (Gene Stauffer).

**Dark-eyed Junco:** On 20 Jun, a junco was found in rural *Richland* (Barbara Dilley).

**Summer Tanager:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 39 survey blocks. Not recorded in *Hancock* during the first atlas, a territorial record north of *Findlay* was unusual (19 Jul, Robert Sams). Also in northwestern Ohio, a pair of tanagers was seen in *Williams*, away from expected locations in the Oak Openings (13 Jun, Rick Nirschl).

**Scarlet Tanager:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 340 survey blocks.

**Northern Cardinal:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 598 survey blocks.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 230 survey blocks.

**Blue Grosbeak:** A Blue Grosbeak in *Guernsey* (15 Jul, Andy Sewell) may hint at the increased presence
of this species as a breeder in this eastern region of the state. Supporting this notion was the return of several pairs of grosbeaks (nesting confirmation noted) in nearby Tuscarawas; birds also turned up at two other locations within the county (fide Ed Schlabach). Tom Kemp found a territorial bird in Paulding on 16 Jun. In all, this species was reported from 21 atlas survey blocks.

**Indigo Bunting:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 611 survey blocks.

**Dickcissel:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 114 survey blocks. At least one pair of Dickcissel was confirmed as nesting in Holmes on 20 Jun (David Weaver).

**Bobolink:** On 20 Jun, Richard Counts reported an impressive 72 Bobolink from one location in Hardin. Overall, reported to the OBBA2 from 150 survey blocks.

**Red-winged Blackbird:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 517 survey blocks.

**Eastern Meadowlark:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 405 survey blocks. **Western Meadowlark:** A territorial bird returned to a previously documented location in Wood (fide Tom Kemp). Also of note was a singing bird in Hardin on 08 Jun (Rick Counts). Most surprising was a bird singing in southwestern Ohio on 01 Jul (Butler, Troy Shively).

**Common Grackle:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 435 survey blocks.

**Brown-headed Cowbird:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 425 survey blocks.

**Orchard Oriole:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 251 survey blocks.

**Baltimore Oriole:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 368 survey blocks.

**Purple Finch:** Southern Ohio records of Purple Finch came from Ross on 08 Jun (Dave Hess) and Washington on 07 Jun (fide Brad Bond). Also unusual was a bird singing in Lucas on 24 Jun (Elliot Tramer).

**House Finch:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 374 survey blocks.

**Red Crossbill:** A female crossbill was seen in the Oak Openings region (Fulton/Lucas) on 09 and 10 Jun (Elliot Tramer, Matt Anderson) in an area where a large flock was observed on several occasions during May. Could the species have nested in the region during the period?

**Pine Siskin:** In the wake of the massive winter irruption of siskins into the region, most conclusive nesting evidence in Ohio came during spring. The only confirmed breeding report during the summer season was of fledglings in Columbiana on 15 Jun (Jim Dolan). Other records during the summer period were from Mahoning (one record), Marion (one record), Wood (one record), Lorain (two records), Trumbull (one record), and Stark (one record). An especially noteworthy record was of two birds in Athens on 12 Jun (Janet Duerr).
American Goldfinch: Reported to the OBBA2 from 632 survey blocks.

Evening Grosbeak: A single bird was seen in Erie on 24 and 25 Jun (Brad Phillips, Sandy Wright).

House Sparrow: Reported to the OBBA2 from 517 survey blocks.

The editorial staff of The Ohio Cardinal thanks all of the individuals and organizations who made their field data available to us through reports submitted directly to us by mail and e-mail, as well as through online resources managed by the Ohio Ornithological Society and other means.

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Michael Bailey
Tom Bain
Carl Ball
Daniel Bancroft
Bob Baran
John Barber
Adam Barkman
H. Thomas Bartlett
Aaron Bartley
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Sue Baxter
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Micki Dunakin
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The Impact of West Nile Virus on Ohio Birds

By Laura C. Gooch
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West Nile virus came to the attention of the North American ornithological community in 1999, when it caused significant mortality among birds in the New York City area (Kilpatrick et al. 2007). The virus also made newspaper headlines that year when it caused significant illness in 62 people and led to seven deaths (Komar 2003). Over the next five years as West Nile virus spread across North America, the presence of dead birds was used by public health officials to track the advance of the disease (Brault et al. 2004, Eidson et al. 2001, Hayes et al. 2005). In response to the obvious mortality among members of some species, ornithologists began to assess the effects that the virus might be having on susceptible populations. In an effort to determine whether West Nile virus has had a lasting impact on Ohio birds, I compared count numbers for five selected species before and after the arrival of West Nile virus in the Cleveland area, in Ohio as a whole, and in the United States as a whole.

Background

Virus Life Cycle

West Nile virus (WNV) is a mosquito-borne virus that infects humans, some other mammals, birds, and mosquitoes. Birds and mosquitoes are the primary carriers of the disease. Some birds bitten by infected mosquitoes temporarily develop sufficient concentrations of virus in their blood to transmit the virus to uninfected mosquitoes, which in turn bite and infect other birds. If a bird survives WNV, virus levels in its blood subside after a few days to a low enough level that it can no longer transmit the virus. In addition, surviving birds carry antibodies that make them immune to further infection. Humans and some other mammals may also become infected when they are bitten by infected mosquitoes but rarely carry enough virus to pass the infection on to an uninfected mosquito (CDC 2009a, Hayes et al. 2005).

Symptoms and Mortality

Symptoms of WNV in humans may include fever, headache, fatigue, and, more rarely, a rash, eye pain, or swollen lymph glands. An estimated 80% of those infected exhibit no symptoms (CDC 2004). Symptoms in birds include lethargy, ruffled feathers, unusual posture, inability to hold the head upright, and uncoordinated movement (Komar et al. 2003). More than 300 species of native and exotic birds have been reported as infected in the United States (CDC 2009b). The degree of illness in birds varies widely from species to species. In laboratory studies, WNV caused no mortality in about two-thirds of species studied (Komar et al. 2003). By contrast, 100% of American Crows infected in laboratory studies have died, and high mortalities are observed in most other corvids, as well as in some other species (Komar et al. 2003, McLean...
Laboratory studies of bird mortality have been quite limited, and laboratory mortality figures may not be representative of mortality rates for birds in the wild.

**Virus History**

WNV was first isolated in Uganda in 1937 (McLean 2006). Historically, the virus has been found over a widespread area, including Europe, Africa, the Middle East, southern Asia, and Australia. The disease has not typically caused illness or death in birds in these areas (Brault et al. 2004).

WNV was first identified in North America near New York City in 1999 (Kilpatrick et al. 2007). After 1999, the disease spread north and south and moved steadily westward across North America, reaching Ohio in 2001 (McLean 2006) and the West Coast in 2003 and 2004 (Hayes et al. 2005). Unlike WNV in the rest of the world, the North American strain of WNV (dubbed NY99) was characterized by the infection and illness of many bird species and frequent death for some. A 2004 study by Brault et al. showed that the NY99 strain of WNV was more deadly to American Crows than strains of WNV typically found in other parts of the world. The increased virulence of the NY99 strain was also seen in other corvids and in a variety of other bird species (McLean 2006).

**Effects on Bird Populations**

The effects of WNV on bird populations are often described as "patchy" and "focal" (McLean 2006). That is, the population of a species in one area may show a striking decline, whereas populations in adjacent areas may not be much affected. However, a 2007 analysis of USGS Breeding Bird Survey data through 2005 examined 20 species in six selected locations across the United States. This study indicated significant and, in some cases, sustained declines in the population of seven of the species examined. Not surprisingly, declines were most pronounced and sustained in American Crows, and crows declined significantly in every region considered. Other species that showed significant declines in one or more regions included Blue Jay, American Robin, Eastern Bluebird, Tufted Titmouse, Black-capped and Carolina chickadee (combined), and House Wren (Table 1). Blue Jay and House Wren populations rebounded to expected levels in 2005, whereas other species’ populations remained suppressed (Ladeau et al. 2007).

**WNV in Ohio**

Although WNV arrived in Ohio in 2001, the virus did not become widespread until 2002 and did not have much impact here until late summer of that year. In 2002, there were 441 documented human illnesses in the state (U. S. Geological Survey 2003), with 31 deaths (Mandalakas et al. 2005). The Cleveland area was particularly hard-hit, with 50% of the state’s documented cases occurring in Cuyahoga County (U. S. Geological Survey 2003), which then had 12% of the state’s population (U. S. Census Bureau 2009). A human serology study conducted in Cuyahoga County indicated that an estimated 1.9% of the county’s population (about 25,000 out of a total population of 1.3 million) had been infected by the end of 2002 (Mandalakas et al. 2005).

Documented infections in birds were widespread in Ohio in 2002, occurring in all 86 of Ohio’s 88
counties that submitted dead birds for testing (U. S. Geological Survey 2003). The highest numbers of infected birds were reported from the state’s urban areas, where dead or sick birds were more likely to be found and where the *Culex* spp. mosquitoes that are a primary carrier of the disease are more common (McLean 2006).

The reportedly patchy and focal nature of WNV’s impact on bird populations is borne out by observations in Ohio. Birders on Cleveland’s east side perceived the 2002 effect on the area’s American Crow population to be severe, and crow populations in the area seem to have remained depressed in the eight years since 2002 (pers. obs.). Systematic point counts begun in 2001 at the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes in Cleveland’s eastern suburbs recorded an average of 0.8 crows per count in 2001 and the spring of 2002. Between the fall of 2002 and the spring of 2009, counts averaged 0.01 crows per count, less than 15% of the previous level (J. West, unpublished data). After WNV, it became common not to see a crow in a morning’s birding, and any increase in observations since has been slight. Other species that birders perceived to have been affected on the east side of Cleveland included Tufted Titmouse, Blue Jay, and Black-capped Chickadee. By contrast, although Ohio’s state crow population was perceived to be affected by the 2002 epizootic, the perception from observations reported to *The Ohio Cardinal* has been that the population bounced back fairly quickly and completely (Whan 2004, Whan 2005, McCormac 2008).

### Methods

#### Data

To evaluate whether the perceived population declines in Ohio were significant and whether the apparent impact of the virus was sustained over time, I analyzed data from the USGS Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) (U.S. Geological Survey 2010, Sauer et al. 2008) and Audubon Christmas Bird Count (CBC) (National Audubon Society 2002). I looked at counts of five species: American Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*), Tufted Titmouse (*Baeolophus bicolor*), Black-capped and Carolina chickadee (treated together) (*Poecile atricapilla* and *P. carolinensis*), and American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*).

**Breeding Bird Survey Data:** For the BBS data for the United States and Ohio, I looked at two versions of the data: uncorrected average count per reported route (available through 2009) (U.S. Geological Survey 2010) and the annual indices calculated from the BBS’s own analysis of trends for each species and region (available through 2007) (Sauer et al. 2008). The BBS annual indices calculate an overall regional trend by averaging the trends from individual routes and incorporating a number of corrections to weight the trend from each route based on route distribution, habitat, the population represented by the route, observer experience, and other factors. The BBS indices are probably a more appropriate indicator of changes in population over a region than the simpler “uncorrected count per reported route” (Link and Sauer 1998). Comparison of results from the two BBS data sets is complicated by the fact that the average count per reported route is available through 2009, whereas the annual indices are
available only through 2007. The two different versions of the BBS data usually show significant change for the same populations.

For the Cleveland area, I used BBS count data from Routes 18 and 118, the only routes near the city. Both routes are located near the southern edge of Cuyahoga County, though neither route is located entirely in the county, and Route 118 is entirely in Lorain and Medina Counties. Route 18 was replaced by Route 118 in 1995, with a single year of overlap of the two routes. In addition, data for these routes are entirely missing in 1978, 2002, 2008, and 2009. Although the route change may introduce some error into the analysis, examination of the data indicates that it is reasonable to assume that the two routes are counting from the same population. Given the “patchy” nature of WNV outbreaks, data from these routes may not be fully representative of changes in populations in the immediate Cleveland area, which is more urban than the route area. In addition, other factors, such as change in observers, weather differences, and habitat change make results based on data from a single BBS route problematic.

Data from the BBS are generally considered more useful for evaluating the possible impact of WNV than CBC data, since the BBS presumably counts birds that breed in the count area and were therefore exposed to WNV in that area (Wheeler et al. 2009). In addition, BBS counts are conducted by skilled observers in a consistent manner and in good weather.

**Christmas Bird Count Data:** For the CBC data, I generally examined the number of birds observed per party hour for the Cleveland count circle, for the state of Ohio, and for the US as a whole. Using the CBC to evaluate the impact of WNV is complicated by the fact that the CBC counts birds that may not have summered and been exposed to WNV in the count area. In addition, counts are conducted on fixed dates regardless of weather and may not be conducted in the same way or by the same individuals from year to year (Butcher 1990).

For most species, using the number of birds reported per party hour is a reasonable (if imperfect) way to account for changes in observer effort over time. However, this approach may not be appropriate for birds like American Crows, for which a large fraction of the birds counted in winter will be those that congregate in large roosts in known locations. In a typical year, between 50% and 75% of the crows reported to the Ohio CBC will be in three or four roosts of between 5,000 and 25,000 birds each (The Ohio Cardinal reports, 1991 to 1999). Year-to-year changes in CBC party hours will have had little impact on the number of birds reported from these large roosts. Large crow roosts also occasionally move (Renfrow 2001), and movement of one large roost into or out of a count circle may dramatically change the number of crows reported for the state. An additional pitfall of using Ohio’s CBC data is that there are a few count circles that are reported in The Ohio Cardinal that are not reported to Audubon for inclusion in their CBC database. Although this probably does not have a significant impact for species that are well dispersed across the state, its impact on the reported crow count is significant. The Clark County count circle, which typically reports between 10,000 and 20,000
American Crows (14 to 38% of the state’s total), is published in *The Ohio Cardinal* (see issues dated 1991 to 2007) but is not in the Audubon database. An unwary user who compares historical Audubon data with current *Ohio Cardinal* figures may report a population increase that has not actually occurred.

In an effort to compensate for all of these problems with the use of CBC data for American Crow populations, I analyzed the total reported count of American Crows as well as the crows reported per observer hour for the Cleveland count circle and for Ohio. For Ohio, I also examined total counts as reflected in *The Ohio Cardinal* and as reflected in the Audubon database.

**Analysis**

I evaluated counts of the five selected species over approximately 40 years, beginning in 1966 (BBS) or 1970 (CBC) and continuing through the end of the available data in 2007 (BBS indices), 2008 (CBC), or 2009 (BBS count per reported route). For each species, I compared average counts normalized for effort before and after the onset of WNV using Student’s t-test for populations with unequal standard deviations. For Ohio and Cleveland American Crow counts from the CBC, I also compared the total counts (not normalized for effort) before and after WNV onset. Because so many comparisons were being made, the critical value for statistical significance of \( p \) was set at 0.001. Many counts showed trends in the period before WNV, so I compared the post-WNV counts to the decade before WNV (1992 to the last pre-WNV count) as well as to the entire period before WNV. Because BBS data are collected in June, before WNV had significant impact in Ohio in 2002, I considered 2003 to be the first post-WNV count for the BBS, and 2002 to be the first post-WNV count for the CBC.

**Table 1 - Expected Impact of West Nile Virus**
(from Ladeau, et al., 2007)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Expected Impact</th>
<th># of Regions Studied</th>
<th>Regions w/ Significant Impact</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American Crow</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue Jay</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tufted Titmouse</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chickadees</td>
<td>moderate</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Robin</td>
<td>moderate</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ladeau, et al., 2007, used 26 years of BBS data to evaluate the impact of WNV on 20 bird species in six regions across the US, including the Northeastern US (CN, DE, MA, NJ, PA, RI), Maryland, Virginia, Illinois, Colorado, and Oregon.
Table 2 - Summary of Significant Changes in Mean Decade Before WNV vs. Post-WNV

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BBS Count/Route</th>
<th>BBS Indices</th>
<th>CBC Count/Observer Hr</th>
<th>CBC Total Count</th>
<th>Ohio Cardinal Total Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Means</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>Means</td>
<td>P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleveland</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Crow</td>
<td>49/14</td>
<td>1.10E-04</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>8.5/1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tufted Titmouse</td>
<td>17/3</td>
<td>5.09E-05</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>1.8/1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohio</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Crow</td>
<td>38/32</td>
<td>7.10E-04</td>
<td>36/25</td>
<td>8.67E-07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tufted Titmouse</td>
<td>14/9.7</td>
<td>1.29E-04</td>
<td>9.2/6.0</td>
<td>4.09E-04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Robin</td>
<td>73/80</td>
<td>4.83E-04</td>
<td>97/119</td>
<td>4.3/5.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Crow</td>
<td>34/30</td>
<td>8.98E-06</td>
<td>22/21</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue Jay</td>
<td>13/12</td>
<td>9.7/8.3</td>
<td>6.31E-05</td>
<td>1.8/1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bold entries show statistically significant decline post-WNV.</td>
<td>Shaded entries show a statistically significant increase post-WNV.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

na indicates data not analyzed; NA indicates data not available. NS indicates a reported result that is not statistically significant with P < 0.001.

Figure 1. West Nile Virus (WNV) impacts in the Cleveland region as documented by Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) and Christmas Bird Count (CBC) observers.
Figure 1, continued.
Figure 1, continued.
Results

Cleveland Area (Figure 1, Tables 2 and 3)

In the Cleveland area, American Crow showed statistically significant declines in the wake of WNV in all analyses of both BBS and CBC data. The decline in the crow population was significant when compared with both the decade immediately before WNV (Table 2) and the entire period considered (Table 3), and the decline followed either a significant increasing trend (BBS) or fairly stable counts (CBC) over the previous several decades. Since the onset of WNV, all counts for the BBS have been lower than any since 1987 and all study period counts for the CBC have been lower than any since before 1970. No recent population rebound is evident, although BBS counts are missing for 2008 and 2009. The 2009 CBC results, which were released after the end of this study, indicated some minor increase in crow numbers.

Cleveland’s Tufted Titmouse counts also showed significant declines post-WNV on the BBS, but the decline was not significant for the CBC. As for crows, the BBS decline was significant compared with both the preceding decade and the entire period considered, and post-WNV counts have all been lower than any pre-WNV count since the survey began in 1966. Although there was no statistically significant decline of Tufted Titmouse counts from the Cleveland CBC, visual examination of the CBC data shows an apparent decline in counts after WNV, with some possible recovery. Cleveland CBC titmouse counts are typically
approximately one to two birds per observer hour, and the impact of running across an extra bird or two may have masked population decline and/or recovery. However, the 2009 CBC (not included in the statistical analysis) showed the highest number of titmice per party hour ever recorded, indicating that the Cleveland area population seems to have recovered from any WNV effects.

None of the other three species considered—Blue Jay, Black-capped/Carolina chickadees, and American Robin—showed a statistically significant increase or decrease in the Cleveland area after the onset of WNV.

Ohio (Figure 2, Tables 2 and 3)

Results for Ohio as a whole are similar to those for Cleveland. American Crows showed statistically significant declines compared with the preceding decade for both approaches to the BBS data and for the CBC count per observer hour. The CBC total crow count showed a marked decline that was not statistically significant, and the Ohio Cardinal total crow count showed a less-pronounced decline, also not statistically significant. For the BBS annual indices, there was also a significant decline compared with the more than three decades

Table 3 - Summary of Significant Changes in Mean Three to Four Decades Before WNV vs. Post-WNV

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>BBS Count/Route</th>
<th>BBS Indices</th>
<th>CBC Count/Observer Hr</th>
<th>CBC Total Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cleveland</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Crow</td>
<td>27/14</td>
<td>7.30E-04</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>7.4/1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tufted Titmice</td>
<td>14/3</td>
<td>1.43E-06</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>1.4/1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohio</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Crow</td>
<td>30/32</td>
<td>NS</td>
<td>32/25</td>
<td>8.6/9.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tufted Titmice</td>
<td>11/9.7</td>
<td>NS</td>
<td>10/6.0</td>
<td>2.56E-05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Robin</td>
<td>65/80</td>
<td>2.78E-05</td>
<td>72/119</td>
<td>2.12E-08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue Jay</td>
<td>14/12</td>
<td>6.32E-06</td>
<td>11/8.3</td>
<td>1.07E-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chickadees</td>
<td>17/13</td>
<td>4.03E-07</td>
<td>8.4/9.8</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Robin</td>
<td>38/38</td>
<td>NS</td>
<td>24/26</td>
<td>6.01E-06</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bold entries show statistically significant decline post-WNV.
Shaded entries show a statistically significant increase post-WNV.
na indicates data not analyzed; NA indicates data not available.
NS indicates a reported result that is not statistically significant with P < 0.001.

Figure 2 (Four following pages). West Nile Virus (WNV) impacts across Ohio as documented by Breeding Bird Survey (BBS), Christmas Bird Count (CBC), and The Ohio Cardinal observers.
Figure 2, continued.
Figure 2, continued.
Figure 2, continued.
Figure 2, continued.
pre-WNV. All BBS annual indices for Ohio since WNV have been lower than any prior BBS index. Visually, all data sets seem to show some slow recovery of the crow population since the first post-WNV count. All data except for the BBS indices suggest that Ohio’s crow population may have been approaching its pre-WNV level by the end of the study period.

Counts of Tufted Titmouse for Ohio show almost the same pattern as those of American Crow. Both BBS data sets indicate statistically significant declines post-WNV compared with the previous decade, and the BBS indices show the decline to be significant compared with all previous indices. Although the decline in counts for the CBC is not significant at the 95% confidence level for P<0.001, there is a visually apparent decline post-WNV. In addition, all post-WNV counts are lower than any in the previous decade for all approaches to the BBS data. Visual examination of the data suggests that Ohio’s population of Tufted Titmice may have been approaching its pre-WNV levels by the end of the study period.

In addition to the declines noted, American Robin showed statistically significant increases in Ohio BBS indices post-WNV, perhaps as the continuation of a long-term upward trend in population. In laboratory studies, robins have been shown to have relatively low mortality from WNV, and are thought to be one of the important carriers of the virus, since they develop fairly high virus levels in their blood without suffering ill effects. In the Cleveland area, the declines in crow and titmouse populations were much more pronounced than the decline for the state as a whole, emphasizing the patchy and focal nature of WNV’s impact on the Ohio population.
birds. The data suggest that these populations had limited recovery through the end of the study period and that the titmouse population had fully recovered by the end of the summer of 2009 (after the end of the study period). My personal experience with American Crows on Cleveland’s east side suggests that they had also begun to increase by the end of the study period.

Mortality from a viral epizootic tends to decline as susceptible individuals die, leaving a resistant population. However, this may not be the pattern that is followed by some bird species infected with the NY99 strain of WNV. For American Crows and some other corvids, there is little evidence that any significant number of infected birds survive to develop immunity to WNV. Because the virus is now established throughout the US, additional outbreaks can be expected wherever there is suitable mosquito habitat. Although such outbreaks become less severe as adults of carrier species (e.g., Blue Jay, American Robin, and House Sparrow) survive infection, become immune, and can no longer transmit infection, the virus can be expected to continue to infect mosquito populations, birds, and humans, albeit at lower levels than in the years immediately following its introduction into the US (Hayes et al. 2005, Wheeler et al. 2009). It will be interesting to observe and track the populations of susceptible species over time.

**Literature Cited**


The Counties of Ohio
Instructions for Contributors

*The Ohio Cardinal* would not exist without contributions from readers. We solicit contributions, including sightings, brief notes on unusual observations, in-depth scientific articles, historical accounts, book reviews, essays, artwork, and photographs, from all observers. All contributions must be directly related to Ohio and its birdlife.

Reports of bird sightings for each season are requested. Although individual season editors compile the reports, all reports should be submitted directly to the incoming editor-in-chief, Dr. Jill Russell. She can be contacted by e-mail jill_russell@mail.msj.edu and by postal mail:

Dr. Jill M. Russell  
College of Mount St Joseph  
5701 Delhi Rd  
Cincinnati, OH 45233-1670

Deadlines are as follows:

- **Winter** (Dec, Jan, Feb) — 25 March  
- **Spring** (Mar, Apr, May) — 25 June  
- **Summer** (Jun, Jul) — 25 August  
- **Fall** (Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov) — 25 December

Please refer to previous issues of *The Ohio Cardinal* and to our website (www.ohiobirds.org/publications/cardinal/aboutcardinal.php) for general guidelines on style and formatting.

**Back cover:**  
A Piping Plover sporting leg bands was found at Conneaut in Ashtabula County on 26 July and persisted through the end of this reporting season. The band combination suggests that it was originally banded in Manistee, Michigan. Lana Hays captured this photograph of the bird on 27 July.
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