

THE

OHIO CARDINAL

DEVOTED TO THE STUDY AND APPRECIATION OF OHIO'S BIRDLIFE • VOL. 38, NO. 2, WINTER 2014-15





Northern Goshawks are rarely seen in Ohio, much less documented with such outstanding clarity as this image of an immature bird at Maumee Bay on 21 Dec provided by Charles Owens of Blissfield, Michigan.

On the cover:

Darlene Friedman photographed this stunning Common Redpoll perfectly posed at Lorain on 15 Jan.

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COMMENTS ON THE SEASON

By Craig Caldwell

It was another weird winter, weatherwise. Dec temperatures were above average, ranking among the warmest 15% of the 120 years with data. Precipitation, almost all of it rain, was below average. Only the southeast had as much as double its normal amount while the northwest received as little as half of its norm. Jan's temperatures were almost the opposite, with the month's overall average, average maximum, and average minimum all being in the lowest third of all years. Statewide precipitation was above average, though the northwest continued to be dryer than usual. The Dayton area had about double its previous norm. The 20 or so counties from *Sandusky/Seneca/Wyandot* east to the Pennsylvania line had at least 1.5 times their normal precipitation with pockets receiving double to triple the norm. Widespread snows began in late Jan and continued into Feb.

Feb was, almost literally, the killer. It was the second-coldest on record in Ohio; indeed, the entire eastern half of the country other than the deep south had similar conditions. According to the *Plain Dealer*, Lake Erie was 94% ice covered by 16 Feb. The *Plain Dealer* also reported that Feb was Cleveland's coldest ever, with the temperature never above freezing from 12 Feb into Mar. Many stations in the northeast set records for low temperature and the number of consecutive days below zero. Precipitation was also below average, in the lowest 20% of years, but a couple of areas got up to 150% of normal. However, the deep freeze meant that what fell, remained, and the northern half of the state still had snow on the ground through the first week of Mar. Ironically, Jan through Mar were "the hottest worldwide since record-keeping began 136 years ago" according to the *Plain Dealer* of 26 Apr.

Weather data are from the National Weather Service (<http://water.weather.gov/precip/>), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/temp-and-precip/maps.php> and <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/extremes/records/>), and the *Plain Dealer*.

This issue includes reports of 175 species, the lowest number since we editors began reporting on every species in the winter 2007-08 issue. Two winters since then have each posted 178. Six hybrids are also included, three of waterfowl, two of gulls, and one of a songbird (or should I say of songbirds?). Eight more reports are at the genus or higher taxonomic level, and reports of three subspecies are separately presented.

Despite the mild Dec, this winter was the first in many with no hummingbirds; the last sightings had been on 18 Nov. And no Harris's Sparrow visited, though they have otherwise been regular for many years. We had no Black-headed or California gulls, though the lack of open water probably contributed to their being elsewhere, and a Black-headed had been reported in Nov. Other gull species, such as Glaucous, Thayer's, Iceland, and the two Black-backed were seen much further south than usual. As always, a few shorebirds lingered past their usual departure times. Migratory songbirds also followed their usual pattern; the accounts include one vireo and five warbler species, both typical numbers.

This winter marked the 115th Audubon Christmas Bird Count (CBC). As is customary, Ned Keller summarizes the Ohio counts in a separate article which is accompanied by a table of CBC results. In the species accounts which follow this section I usually note the highest number of a species found. These values are for single birders or parties, usually

birding in a relatively small area, and often are the counts from a single route within a CBC. However, I seldom include counts from an entire CBC, each of which is the result of many parties' efforts in scattered locales within a 15-mile diameter circle; those data are in the table. Three reports of two species which "shouldn't" be here in winter were reported on CBCs; I have not been able to see their documentation, if any. They are listed with that caveat.

Eight review species are listed in the Species Accounts with their names underlined. Observers sent documentation for six of them directly to the OBRC. Two sets have been accepted and the Committee will be examining the other submissions. Reports of the other two species, and additional reports of three of the six species which were documented, were made to eBird and other online venues. Though these are also forwarded to the Committee, many lack any substantiating detail and are not substitutes for formal documentation. *Reports which the Committee can't evaluate can't be included in the official record.* The five possibly "orphaned" species are Northern Goshawk, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Common Raven, Golden-crowned Sparrow, and Hoary Redpoll. Note that the OBRC, in actions described in the article later in this issue, has removed Eurasian Collared-Dove and Common Raven from the review list, but they were still on it during the winter season and so are mentioned here. In addition, the Committee has now received documentation for the Loggerhead Shrike reported as undocumented in *Gallia* this past fall.

The Records Committee and this editor urge birders to formally 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>.

Data for the following Species Accounts come from reports submitted directly to the *Cardinal*, eBird (<http://ebird.org/content/ebird>), the Ohio-birds listserv (<http://birding.aba.org/maillist/OH>), rarebird.org (<http://rarebird.org/forum/default.asp>), Audubon (<http://birds.audubon.org/christmas-bird-count>), and the Cincinnati Bird Sightings Log (<http://cincinnatibirds.com/goodbird/sighting.php>). Data from *The Bobolink* were not available at press time and will be included as an addendum in a future issue.

You will see that the number of reporting counties for each species is now in most cases a simple parenthetical appendage—I got tired of trying to write the counts in a different way for each species. All of our 88 counties contributed reports, though those from *Putnam* were only from a CBC. Two sightings of one species in addition to a CBC report came from *Jackson* and seven species were reported in *Van Wert*. No species was definitely seen in every county, though because I don't know in most cases how sightings were distributed in multi-county CBCs, a few might have been. Red-tailed Hawks, Blue Jays, and European Starlings were seen in at least 86 counties, and 16 other species were seen in at least 80.

Taxonomic order and nomenclature follow the *Check-List of North American Birds*, 7th Edition (1998) as updated through the 55th Supplement (2014). This document is published by the North American Classification Committee of the American Ornithologists' Union and is available at <http://www.aou.org/checklist/north/print.php>. County names are in bold italics. Locations whose counties are of the same name, for example Ashtabula (city) and Delaware Wildlife Area,

usually do not have the counties repeated. County names for sites described in Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, and Dayton are also omitted. Shortened names and a few sets of initials are used for locations and organizations which occur repeatedly; these abbreviations are listed here. The term “*vide*” is used in some citations; it means “in trust of” and is used where the reporter was not the observer.

Abbreviations:

Alum Creek = Alum Creek Reservoir, **Delaware**, unless otherwise noted
 Armleder Park = a Cincinnati city park on the Little Miami River, **Hamilton**
 Avon Power = the generating station in Avon Lake, **Lorain**
 Bayshore = a fishing-access point by the eponymous power plant, **Lucas**
 Big Island = Big Island Wildlife Area, **Marion**
 Blendon Woods = Blendon Woods Metro Park, **Franklin**
 Buck Creek = Buck Creek State Park, **Clark**
 BRAS = Black River Audubon Society
 Caesar Creek = Caesar Creek State Park, **Warren**
 CBC = Audubon Christmas Bird Count
 Clear Fork = Clear Fork Reservoir (or Lake), partly in **Morrow** but most of the birding is done in the larger **Richland** Section.
 CLNP = Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve (the former Dike 14), **Cuyahoga**
 Conneaut = the mudflats to the west of Conneaut Harbor, **Ashtabula**
 CP = County Park
 CPNWR = Cedar Point National Wildlife Refuge, **Lucas**
 CVNP = Cuyahoga Valley National Park, **Cuyahoga** and (mostly) **Summit**
 Darby Creek = Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park, **Franklin**
 Deer Creek = the State Park is in **Pickaway**, the Wildlife Area is in **Fayette**, and Deer Creek Lake is in both but mostly **Pickaway**
 East Fork = East Fork State Park, **Clermont**
 East Harbor = East Harbor State Park, **Ottawa**
 Eastlake Power = the Lake Erie viewpoint east of the First Energy plant in Eastlake, **Lake**
 Edgewater = the Edgewater unit of Cleveland Lakefront Metroparks, **Cuyahoga**
 Fernald = Fernald Preserve, **Butler** and **Hamilton**
 Findlay Reservoirs = several contiguous water bodies east of town in **Hancock**
 Funk = Funk Bottoms Wildlife Area, **Ashland** and (mostly) **Wayne**
 Headlands = Headlands Dunes State Nature Preserve, Headlands Beach State Park, and adjoining waters, **Lake**
 Hoover NP = Hoover Nature Preserve, **Delaware**
 Hoover Reservoir = the northern 80% is in **Delaware**, but the dam is in **Franklin**
 Kelleys Island = the island and adjoining waters, **Erie**
 Killbuck = Killbuck State Wildlife Area, **Holmes** and **Wayne**
 Killdeer = Killdeer Plains State Wildlife Area; a bit is in **Marion** but it's mostly in **Wyandot**
 LaDue = LaDue Reservoir, **Geauga**
 Lorain = the dredge spoil impoundment east of downtown in the city and county of the same name, unless otherwise noted
 Lost Bridge = a Great Miami River crossing on Lawrenceburg Road near Elizabethtown, **Hamilton**, where a covered bridge was lost to fire in 1903
 m. obs. = multiple observers

Magee = the boardwalk and immediate vicinity in Magee Marsh Wildlife Area, **Lucas**, unless otherwise noted.
 The northern third of the causeway is also in **Lucas**, the rest in **Ottawa**.
 Maumee Bay = Maumee Bay State Park, **Lucas**, unless otherwise noted
 Medusa = Medusa Marsh, **Erie**, an informally named and privately owned area between Sandusky and Bay View
 Metzger = Metzger Marsh Wildlife Area, **Lucas**
 Mohican = Mohican State Forest and State Park. Many trails cross the boundaries so some reports include sightings from both without distinction.
 Mohican SF = Mohican State Forest, **Ashland**
 Mohican SP = Mohican State Park, (mostly) **Ashland** and (slightly) **Richland**
 Mosquito Lake = Mosquito Creek Lake, also called Mosquito Creek Reservoir, **Trumbull**. Mosquito (Creek) Wildlife Area adjoins it.
 MP = Metro Park, MetroPark, or Metropark depending on the system
 NC = Nature Center
 NP = Nature Preserve, except as part of CVNP
 OBRC = Ohio Bird Records Committee
 Old Highland Stone = that company's water-filled gravel pits, **Highland**
 OOPMP = Oak Openings Preserve MetroPark, **Lucas**
 ONWR = Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, **Lucas** and **Ottawa**
 Pickerington Ponds = Pickerington Ponds Metro Park, **Fairfield** and **Franklin**
 RBA = Rare Bird Alert
 Rocky Fork = Rocky Fork State Park, **Highland**
 SNP = State Nature Preserve
 SF = State Forest
 SP = State Park
 SWA = State Wildlife Area
 WA = Wildlife Area
 Wendy Park = a lakeshore Cleveland park, **Cuyahoga**
 Wilderness Road = a road which traverses Funk Bottoms Wildlife Area, **Wayne**, and adjoining farmland
 The Wilds = a limited-access big-mammal breeding and research facility in **Muskingum**, also used generically to include the surrounding reclaimed Ohio Power strip mines

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

By Craig Caldwell

Greater White-fronted Goose

Andrew Cannizzaro saw the last of the season, on the Great Miami River, **Butler**, on 24 Feb, though March produced additional sightings. Rick Asamoto made the high count of 38, at the Ferguson-Metzger Reservoirs, **Allen**, on 30 Dec. Killdeer hosted up to 30 in late Dec. (25 counties)



Leslie Sours shot this stellar image of a Greater White-fronted Goose on 29 Jan at Eastwood MP, **Montgomery**.

Snow Goose

The high count was a flock of 102 at Fernald on 12 Feb, and Brian Wulker wrote, “large fly-over flock counted individually and then by 10s. Nearly 50/50 blue and white. They flew east to west, and were not relocated at other locations later in the day.” The second-highest count of 70 was shared by Irina Shulgina at Deer Creek SP on 01 Dec and Brian Menker at Buck Creek on 03 Dec. (43 counties)

Ross's Goose

Leslie Sours counted 10 mixed in among Snow Geese along Horseshoe Road, **Clinton**, on 09 Feb. The second-highest count was four, by multiple birders at Lost Bridge on 05 and 06 Dec. (16 counties)



A series of photos taken by Leslie Sours provided a tally of 49 Snow Geese and 10 Ross's Geese near Port William, **Clinton**, on 09 Feb.

[Snow x Ross's Goose]

Shane Myers and Robert Sams picked out one at the Findlay Reservoirs on 04 Dec.

Brant

Many birders saw one unusually far inland at Friendship Park, **Jefferson**, between 21 and 25 Dec. Jonathan Oliveras reported four flying past Wendy Park on 02 Jan.

Cackling Goose

Brad Cullen and family saw 16 on the Stoneridge golf course in Bowling Green, **Wood**, on 23 Dec. The Kmart retention pond near Fremont, **Sandusky**, hosted 10 on 04 Jan (Victor Fazio III). (34 counties)

Canada Goose

Tyler Ficker and Bill Stanley estimated 5000 at the Old Highland Stone on 24 and 28 Jan. Joe Kappa saw about 3500 fly over the Kilby Road gravel pits, **Hamilton**, on 14 Jan. Only **Fulton**, **Jackson**, **Lawrence**, **Meigs**, and **Van Wert** did not have sightings.

Mute Swan

Stefan Minnig's 21 at Indian Lake SP, **Logan**, on 21 Feb was the high count. The second-highest count, 12, came from Huffman MP, **Greene**, on 18 and 21 Jan (Jeremy Dominguez and Eric Elvert, respectively). (46 counties)

Trumpeter Swan

Dylan and Kim Leedom noted about 40 along Arguette Road, **Lucas**, on 26 Jan. (32 counties)

Tundra Swan

Ed Pierce's ONWR census teams counted 1772 on 07 Dec and 1953 on 04 Jan (*vide* Douglas Vogus). The most elsewhere were Ron Sempier's 301 at Killdeer on 02 Jan, which he noted was a “firm count”. (43 counties)

Wood Duck

Gabriel Amrhein saw 15 in Glen Helen Preserve, **Greene**, on 14 Jan. Mary Anne Romito saw nine at the Cleveland Zoo on 28 Dec and took pains to determine that they were not part of the zoo's collection. (29 counties)



Su Snyder found this picturesque Wood Duck at Manchester Trail Head, **Summit**, on 17 Feb.

Gadwall

Victor Fazio III counted 815 at Castalia Pond, *Erie*, on 11 Dec and wrote, “remarkable... double my previous high count here...possible source [of] the concentration at Medusa Marsh days earlier.” He was referring to Paul Sherwood’s 439 at Medusa on 03 Dec, which number Paul beat with 444 there on 17 Dec. The highest inland count was 175 at Fernald on 19 Dec (Brian Wulker). (52 counties)

American Wigeon

Castalia Pond, *Erie*, hosted up to 63 on several dates (m. obs.). The most elsewhere were Paul Sherwood’s 32 at Medusa on 10 Dec, and the most well inland were 30 which Ronnie Clark found at Darby Creek on 19 Dec. (36 counties)

American Black Duck

Robert Foppe and Jennifer Smolenski noted about 450 at Old Highland Stone on 02 Jan. The pond at Blendon Woods held up to 300 on various dates (m. obs.). (60 counties)



Kevin McKelvey captured this great action shot of an American Black Duck preying on a frog at Sandy Ridge on 26 Dec.

Mallard

Old Highland Stone also hosted about 4200 Mallards on 02 Jan for Robert and Jennifer. The most elsewhere were 1852 at ONWR on 07 Dec (Ed Pierce *et al.*, *vide* Douglas Vogus). (80 counties)

[Gadwall x Mallard]

Tom Bartlett found one at Kelleys Island on 14 Dec.

[American Black Duck x Mallard]

Lake Cascades, *Hancock*, held 12 on 08 Jan (Edward Ingold), as did Castalia Pond, *Erie*, on 06 Feb (Ed Wransky). (20 counties)

Blue-winged Teal

The reports are:

One at Englewood MP, *Montgomery*, on 01 Dec (R. Lee Reed)

Two at Lorain on 18 Dec (Chris Pierce)

One at Sharon Woods MP, *Franklin*, on 20 Dec (Jerry Strosnider)

One at Old Highland Stone on 17 Jan (William Hutchinson and Bill Stanley)

Two at Blendon Woods on 23 Jan (*vide* Bruce Simpson)

One along the Great Miami River Trail, *Montgomery*, on 25 Feb (Carrie and Mark Ruane)

Northern Shoveler

Jeff Harvey provided the high count of 110, from Pine Lake, *Mahoning*, on 07 Dec. Bill Stanley found the second-highest number, 75, at Rocky Fork on 13 Dec. (36 counties)

Northern Pintail

The waterfowl concentration at Old Highland Stone on 02 Jan included 145 pintails (Robert Foppe and Jennifer Smolenski). The most elsewhere were 75 off Avon Lake, *Lorain*, on 28 Dec (Chris Pierce *et al.*). (43 counties)

Green-winged Teal

Ned Keller counted 45 at Cleves Community Park, *Hamilton*, on 01 Jan. (30 counties)

Canvasback

Bayshore hosted 600 on 28 Jan for Kim Warner, and the second-highest count was Paul Sherwood’s 342 at Avon Power on 24 Feb. The inland high number was 100, shared by Alum Creek on 25 to 28 Feb (m. obs.) and two sites along the Ohio River shore in *Hamilton* on 26 and 27 Feb (m. obs.). (51 counties)

Redhead

Alex Eberts counted 315 at the Island Road Quarry, *Pickaway*, on 26 Feb. Robert Royse found at least 300 at Deer Creek on 10 Feb. (59 counties)

Ring-necked Duck

A small bay on Long Lake, *Summit*, held 217 on 18 Feb (Dennis Mersky) and other sites had up to 175 (Fernald, 19 Dec, Brian Wulker). (51 counties)

Greater Scaup

Tom Bartlett and Paul Sherwood agreed that more than 1300 were at East Harbor on 02 Jan. Robert Foppe and Jennifer Smolenski found about 750 at Bayshore on 08 Jan. William Hull saw about 40 fly past the Four Seasons Marina, *Hamilton*, on 23 Feb, for the inland high count. (34 counties)

Lesser Scaup

Victor Fazio III estimated 6000 were off the East Harbor shore on 11 Dec. The second-highest number reported was 500; Mark Rozmarynowycz saw that many at Maumee Bay on 05 Dec, as did Robert Foppe and Jennifer Smolenski at Bayshore on 08 Jan. The largest inland flock (though it wasn’t far from Lake Erie) was of 71 at Wellington Reservoir, *Lorain*, on 03 Jan (Paul Sherwood). (47 counties)

Scaup sp.

Tom Kemp estimated that the mixed flock he saw off CPNWR on 14 Dec contained at least 22,000 scaup.

Harlequin Duck

Tom Bartlett saw a female at Kelleys Island on 13 Dec. Eastlake Power hosted a female between 11 Jan and 01 Feb and again from 22 to 26 Feb (m. obs.). Did we have one, two, or three visit us this season?



On 13 Dec Tom Bartlett found and photographed this female Harlequin Duck at Kelleys Island.

Surf Scoter

Scott Myers saw the first of the season, at the Paulding Reservoirs on 04 Dec. Chris Pierce saw the season's last, at Avon Power on 22 Feb. Chris and his CBC team also contributed the high count of 12, off Bay Village, **Cuyahoga**, on 28 Dec. A BRAS field trip found the next highest count, three, at the Wellington Reservoir, **Lorain**, on 05 Dec. One spent from 21 Jan to 08 Feb in a **Pickaway** quarry (m. obs.). **Ashtabula**, **Auglaize**, **Hamilton**, and **Washington** round out the list of eight counties with sightings.

White-winged Scoter

Robert Edelin and Ginny Fantetti saw the first of the season all the way south at East Fork on 12 Dec. Mark Rozmarynowycz found 20 at Avon Power on 22 Feb, while the most away from Lake Erie were three at Hunt Farm in CVNP on 16 Feb (George Novosel). (14 counties)

Black Scoter

Tom Kemp noted that the bird at Grand Rapids, **Wood**, on 12 Dec was only the second recorded in that county. The shared high count was four. Chris Pierce *et al.* saw them off Bay Village, **Cuyahoga**, on 28 Dec, and Bill Deininger found his at Avon Power on 22 Feb. **Clermont**, **Delaware**, **Franklin**, **Lake**, and **Lucas** also contributed sightings.

Long-tailed Duck

The number of birds (at least 19), and the number of counties represented (14) were both unusually high this season. George Novosel saw four in Cleveland's East 55th Street Marina on 31 Dec and there were many reports of two birds. The furthest south penetration was to Eastwood

MP, **Montgomery**, where one spent from 04 to 11 Jan (m. obs.)



Kevin McKelvey snapped this image of a handsome Long-tailed Duck at Avon Power on 22 Feb.

Bufflehead

Tom Bartlett *et al.* counted 333 at Kelleys Island during the 14 Dec. CBC. Ethan Kistler provided the second-highest count, 64, from Mosquito Lake on 08 Dec. (48 counties)

Common Goldeneye

Paul Sherwood estimated 2000 off East Harbor on 02 Jan. Chris Pierce's CBC team provided the second-highest number, 732, off Bay Village, **Cuyahoga**, on 28 Dec. The inland high number was William Hull's 140 at the Four Seasons Marina, **Hamilton**, on 26 Feb. (52 counties)



Su Snyder found a cooperative pair of female Common Goldeneye at Avon Power for this shot on 22 Feb.

Hooded Merganser

Ron Sempier found three rafts totaling 240 birds at Hoover on 13 Dec. The Great Miami River in Dayton held about 125 on 10 Jan (Daniel DeLapp). (53 counties)



Dane Adams caught a perfect reflection of this Hooded Merganser on 17 Jan near Mt. Hope, **Holmes**.

Common Merganser

Victor Fazio III saw about 8600 in the *Erie* section of Sandusky Bay on 02 Jan and said they were an “absolutely massive flock occupying the breadth of a 1 mile long ice lead x 200 yards at widest; densely packed throughout.” A Kent State Bird Club field trip contributed the inland high count of 144 from Lake Rockwell, *Portage*, on 05 Dec. (55 counties)

Red-breasted Merganser

Tom Bartlett *et al.* estimated at least 56,000 were around Kelleys Island during the 14 Dec CBC. The second-highest count was 9000 by Bill Deininger at Avon Power on 22 Feb. Sarah Lawrence found the inland high of 80 at Alum Creek on 27 Feb. (48 counties)

Ruddy Duck

Helen and Ken Ostermiller noted about 300 at the Wellington Reservoir, *Lorain*, on 06 Dec. (52 counties)

Northern Bobwhite

The Cincinnati CBC found 15 in *Clermont* and *Hamilton*, and several observers noted up to 15 at Springfield Bog, *Summit*, in Jan. The latter site is a known release point. Hallie Mason saw one presumably wild bird near West Union, *Adams*, on 04 Jan; Rebecca Reinke saw two near Piqua, *Miami*, on 14 Feb. One in Maumee Bay, also a release point, on 14 Dec (Greg Links and Tim Thompson) completes the sightings.

Ring-necked Pheasant

Alex Eberts counted 19 along Kuhlwein Road in Darby Creek on 19 Jan and there were smaller double-digit counts there and at Killdeer. (25 counties)

Ruffed Grouse

The reports are:

One along West Carlisle Road, *Muskingum*, on 03 Dec (James Gore)

Two in Harrison SF on each of 08 and 27 Dec (Scott Pendleton)

One in *Scioto* on 20 Dec during the Portsmouth CBC (*vide* Audubon)

One near Tappan Lake, *Harrison*, on 27 Dec (Margaret Bowman)

One during the week surrounding the 01 Jan Kingston CBC, *Pickaway/Ross* (*vide* Audubon)

One on 03 Jan during the Hocking Hills CBC, *Hocking/Fairfield* (*vide* Audubon)

One in Jockey Hollow WA, *Harrison*, on each of 07 Jan, 14 Jan, and 11 Feb (Scott Pendleton)

Wild Turkey

The high count was 63, an unusual number to be shared. Nonetheless, Gary Cowell saw that many at a roost along the Rocky Fork River, *Richland*, on 08 Jan, and Sean Artman matched him along State Road, Trumbull Township, *Ashtabula*, on 06 Feb. (61 counties)

Red-throated Loon

The reports, which curiously are only from Dec and Feb, are:

Two off Huntington Reservation, *Cuyahoga*, on 13 Dec (Jen Brumfield) and one there the next day (Mike Sandy)

One at Fairport Harbor, *Lake*, on 21 Dec (Irene Krise *et al.*)

One at the Barrett Paving gravel pits, *Clark/Greene*, on 15 and 16 Feb (Eric Elvert, m. obs.)

One at Avon Power on 22 Feb (Patricia McKelvey)

Up to four at Eastlake Power on 22 and 23 Feb (m. obs.)

Common Loon

Gabriel Amrhein found the last of the season in Eastwood MP, *Montgomery*, on 08 Jan. John Herman's 11 at Clear Fork on 04 Dec was the high count, and up to nine were at other locations. They ranged as far south as *Clermont* and *Hamilton* (26 counties)

Pied-billed Grebe

James Wheat found 70 at East Fork on 22 Feb. The most elsewhere were Bill Stanley's 20 at Old Highland Stone on 13 Dec (47 counties)

Horned Grebe

The Cleveland waterfront hosted up to 172 during the first week of Dec (Karen and Rich Kassouf, m. obs.) James Wheat provided the highest inland count, 85 at East Fork on 07 Dec. (38 counties)



Darlene Friedman perfectly captured this image of a Horned Grebe at Metzger on 07 Dec.

Red-necked Grebe

Last year's massive invasion wasn't repeated, but

there were still quite a few sightings:

One at several Cleveland locations on both 06 and 10 Dec (m. obs.)

Two at Lorain on 13 Dec (Patricia McKelvey)

One or two at Eastwood MP, **Montgomery**, between 31 Dec and 05 Jan (m. obs.), and again on 12 Feb (John Habig, Eric Elvert)

One flyby at CLNP (Victor Fazio III) and then nearby East 72nd Street (*vide* Jen Brumfield) on 01 Jan

One or two at Eastlake Power from 17 to 19 Jan (m. obs.)

One on a pond in Akron, **Summit**, on 13 Feb (Karen Zeleznik)

One at Caesar Creek on 15 Feb (Rick Asamoto)

One at the Ohio and Erie Canal Manchester Trailhead, **Summit**, from 16 to 22 Feb (m. obs.)

One at Nesmith Lake, **Summit**, on 23 Feb (Gregory Bennett)

Eared Grebe

Lots of birders saw one which spent from 02 to 11 Dec at Eastwood MP, **Montgomery**, and (presumably another) at Lake Rupert, **Vinton**, from 21 to 26 Dec.

Double-crested Cormorant

Chuck Slusarczyk, Jr., saw about 200 on the Cuyahoga River at Cleveland's Jefferson Avenue on 02 Feb. The inland high count was Doug Overacker's 100 at Buck Creek on 02 Dec. (33 counties)

American White Pelican

One spent 01 Dec on the Great Miami River at the Dayton Viet Nam Veterans Memorial (m. obs.). Ethan Kistler found one at Mosquito Lake on 05 Dec.

Great Blue Heron

Victor Fazio III counted 168 at the intersection of Routes 2 and 269, **Erie**, on 02 Jan, and wrote, "REMARKABLE gathering on ice immediately north of interchange; long historical wintering presence but exceptional to record triple digits in January." The second-highest count was 58, at the same location the day before (Paul Sherwood). The most away from Lake Erie were the 30 which Gary Cowell found at Charles Mill Lake, **Ashland**, on 13 Feb. (73 counties)

Great Egret

A few remained into Dec:

Three near the 5 Bells Inn near Cedar Point, **Ottawa**, on 02 Dec (Javier Hernandez)

One on Buck Creek itself (not in the SP), **Clark**, on 08 Dec (Brian Menker)

Two on the Cuyahoga River at Cleveland's 49th

Street on both 10 and 11 Dec (Lynn and Nic Shayko)

One at the Senecaville fish hatchery, **Guernsey**, on 15 Dec (Carlton Schooley)

One near Walnut Creek, **Holmes**, on 24 Dec (Hallie Mason)

Black-crowned Night-Heron

The mouth of Cold Creek, **Erie**, has open water even in the coldest winters, so herons congregate there. Paul Sherwood counted 28 there on 15 Jan. The next highest count was a shared 11, at Cold Creek on 11 Jan (Dan Gesualdo) and along the lowest mile of the Cuyahoga River on 06 Dec (Andy Jones *et al.*). Irina Shulgina found two at Scioto Audubon MP, **Franklin**, on 10 Dec, the most away from Lake Erie. **Ashtabula**, **Butler**, **Clermont**, **Lucas**, **Montgomery**, and **Trumbull** also provided sightings.

Black Vulture

James Wheat *et al.* found two roosts on 03 Jan in **Brown** which together held more than 300. Judy Strong saw "approximately 200 vultures on mulch piles, in surrounding trees, at dumpster eating carrion, on top of buildings" on the Denison University campus, **Licking**, on 28 Dec, for the only other triple-digit count. (34 counties as far north as **Lorain**)



Dane Adams beautifully photographed this unusual sighting for northern Ohio, one of four Black Vultures seen feasting on a deer carcass at Findlay SP, **Lorain**, on 02 Dec.

Turkey Vulture

Stefan Gleissberg saw at least 350 on the east side of Athens (city) on 10 Dec. James Wheat's two **Brown** roosts held 144 Turkey Vultures in addition to the Blacks on 03 Jan. (52 counties)

Golden Eagle

The reports are:

One or two at The Wilds and surrounding for-

mer strip mines on multiple dates (m. obs.)

One over U.S. 24 in **Henry** on 03 Dec (Scott Myers)

One soaring past Noah Brand's **Hancock** home on 06 Dec

One at Paulding Reservoir on 19 Dec (Doug and Micki Dunakin)

Northern Harrier

Carl Winstead found 20 at Darby Creek on 16 Dec and wrote, "My high count in binoculars was 16, but I count at least 20 in the video...P. Dunne's Field Guide Companion notes that they roost in groups of 5 to 30 in winter, but this is the first time I've seen such a gathering." Others saw up to 12 in that general area on other dates. The most elsewhere were eight. Richard Counts saw them at the Hardin Wetlands on 27 Dec, and participants in the OOS's trip to The Wilds on 17 Jan shared that number. (68 counties)



Allan Clayton snapped this Northern Harrier as it patrolled the fields of Fernald in search of prey on 27 Jan.

Sharp-shinned Hawk

Robert Bates saw two in Dublin, **Franklin**, on 24 Dec. Cynthia Norris also saw two; hers were at Tappan Lake, **Harrison**, on 26 Dec. The other sightings, from 68 counties in all, were of single birds.

Cooper's Hawk

Tom Kemp noted five in CPNWR on 14 Dec and there were many counts of three elsewhere. (74 counties)

Northern Goshawk

The OBRC has a formal report from **Lucas** and has gleaned some information about reported sightings in **Paulding** and **Wood**.

Bald Eagle

Bayshore hosted 22 on 28 Jan (Jon Cefus). Chris Pierce found 18 at ONWR on 04 Jan, as did Carrie and Scott Myers at Defiance Reservoir on 19 Feb. (73 counties)

Red-shouldered Hawk

James Wheat *et al.* counted seven along their 03

Jan CBC route in **Brown**. The highest number from other than a CBC was four, which was achieved at several locations. An interesting sidelight comes from Carol Bretz's large platform feeder at her **Columbiana** home. On 15 Jan she saw an immature Red-shouldered eating the popcorn she had put there; she hypothesized that it was still an inexperienced hunter and couldn't catch any of its usual prey in the snow-covered landscape. (66 counties)

Red-tailed Hawk

Gary Cowell's 53 mile CBC route in **Knox** yielded 25 on 21 Dec. The second-highest number was 15, achieved on a CBC route in **Crawford** and locations in **Franklin** and **Muskingum** (m. dates and obs.). Every county except **Putnam** and **Van Wert** produced at least one sighting.

Rough-legged Hawk

Participants in the OOS field trip to The Wilds on 17 Jan found up to 12. Killdeer hosted at least 10; Thomas Slemmer saw that many on 13 Feb as did Leslie Sours and Irina Shulgina three days later. (52 counties)

Virginia Rail

The five locations with the sightings, all of single birds, are:

The CVNP Ira Road marsh on 01 and 08 Dec (Mary Anne Romito *et al.*) and 07 Feb (Douglas Vogus *et al.*)

Lake Abram, **Cuyahoga**, on 28 Dec (Tim Krynak and Teri Martincic)

Spring Valley WA, **Greene** and **Warren**, on 12 Jan (Jason Cade), 31 Jan (Jay Lehman), and 11 Feb (Kent Miller)

Funk on 14 Jan (Michele Skolmutch)

The "usual spot" near Holmesville, **Holmes**, on 15 Jan (Kent Miller) and 17 Jan (Jon Cefus)

American Coot

Marsha Gilger estimated 770 were in several groups scattered throughout Portage Lakes SP, **Summit**, on 04 Jan. (48 counties)



This **Hancock** Bald Eagle was successfully captured mid-meal by Leslie Sours on 18 Jan.

Sandhill Crane

Reports were fairly steady to late Jan, but only **Clark** and **Greene** produced single Feb sightings. The high count was 300, by David Novitski at Fernald on 12 Dec. Lost Bridge hosted up to 160 in early Dec (m. obs.). (26 counties)



A hike at Sandy Ridge rewarded Kevin McKelvey with this image of a pair of Sandhill Cranes on 26 Dec.

Killdeer

The highest of several double-digit counts was Melanie Shuter's 29 at Deer Creek SP on 01 Dec. (32 counties)

Dunlin

Melanie Shuter found one at Deer Creek SP on 01 Dec. Ron Sempier discovered another at Killdeer's Pond 27 on 24 Dec.

Purple Sandpiper

John Pogacnik saw two at Conneaut on 07 Dec. One at Eastlake Power attracted several viewers on 12 Dec; it stayed one more day (*vide* Jen Brumfield).

Least Sandpiper

Daniel DeLapp found a straggler at Caesar Creek on 12 Dec.

Pectoral Sandpiper

The reports are:

One at Englewood MP, **Montgomery**, on 01 Dec (R. Lee Reed)

Two along Cemetery Road, **Wayne**, on 27 Dec (Eli Miller)

One at Killbuck's Butler Spring, **Holmes**, between 10 and 18 Jan (m. obs.) The spring has open water year-round.

Wilson's Snipe

The season's first sightings weren't until 19 Dec, when Kent Miller found one during the Wilmot

CBC, which includes parts of **Holmes**, **Stark**, **Tuscarawas**, and **Wayne**. The same day, another pleased multiple observers along the Great Miami River Recreation Trail, **Montgomery**. Margaret Bowman *et al.* found 10 in the **Holmes** section of Killbuck on 01 Jan. (13 counties)

American Woodcock

The seven reports are:

One displaying along Olentangy River Road, **Franklin**, in "late Jan" (*vide* Dave Horn)

One by Bill Stanley at his **Clermont** home on 05 Feb

One at Chilo Lock 34 Park, **Clermont**, on 09 Feb (Chris and Suzanne Clingman)

Five at Possum Creek MP, **Montgomery**, on 10 Feb (Jason Sullivan and Chris Zacharias) and one there on 13 Feb (Jeremy Dominguez)

One at Alum Creek on 25 Feb (Charles Bombaci)

One at Beaver Creek WA, **Greene**, on 28 Feb (Gabriel Amrhein)

Pomarine Jaeger

The first of the season were an adult and an immature at Wendy Park on 10 Dec (*vide* Jen Brumfield). One or both of that duo were reported at other Cleveland locations from then until the last sighting, of the immature at Wendy Park on 11 Jan (Kelly Kozlowski and Matthew Valencic).

Jaeger sp.

John Pogacnik saw a distant one from Lake Erie Bluffs MP, **Lake**, on 29 Dec.

Black-legged Kittiwake

John Pogacnik watched one fly past Lakeshore Park, **Ashtabula**, on 21 Dec.

Bonaparte's Gull

The last of the season graced the Camp Denison gravel pits, **Hamilton**, on 09 Feb (J.W. Rettig). Sites in **Cuyahoga**, **Lake**, and **Wood** had up to six on the second-last date of 24 Jan. Sameer Apte estimated 2000 off Wendy Park on 31 Dec and the inland high count was Melanie



On 17 Jan Dane Adams nicely documented this Pectoral Sandpiper which had survived a week of subzero temperatures at Killbuck.

the Iceland in **Belmont** and **Jefferson** in late Feb (Kyle Carlsen, Scott Pendleton). (19 counties; see the map)



[Herring x Glaucous (“Nelson’s”) Gull

Alex Lamoreaux and David Weaver saw what was could have been the same bird on the lower Cuyahoga River on 12 Jan and 26 Feb, respectively.

Great Black-backed Gull

Tom Frankel counted 205 on the ice at Eastlake Power on 21 Feb. Lynne and Nic Shayko saw about 200 on the Cuyahoga River from Cleveland’s Jefferson Avenue on 28 Feb. The inland high count was 136, at the Schroyer ball fields in Canton, **Stark**, on 26 Feb (Kent Miller and Ben Morrison), while the Ohio River flock on the **Belmont-Jefferson** line in Feb included at least eight (Scott Pendleton). (28 counties; see the map)



[Herring x Great Black-backed Gull]

Four were reported:
At Kelleys Island on 14 Dec (Victor Fazio III)
At Scranton Flats in Cleveland between 24 and 26 Feb (m. obs.)
At Avon Power on 25 Feb (Craig Caldwell)
At the Schroyer ball fields, **Stark**, on 27 Feb (Jon Cefus and Kent Miller)

Rock Pigeon

John Habig took the trouble to estimate 700 were by the Great Miami River at Washington Street, Dayton, on 03 Jan. (81 counties)

Eurasian Collared-Dove

Internet reports from **Ashland**, **Auglaize**, **Clark**, and **Clinton** may have enough information for OBRC review. Two CBCs also reported them.

Mourning Dove

Jack Stenger’s CBC route took him along 65 miles of **Butler** roads, where he found 325 on 20 Dec. Cory Gratz counted 176 in Blue Rock SP, **Muskingum**, on 20 Dec. Only **Meigs**, **Morgan**, **Putnam**, and **Van Wert** did not have sightings.

Barn Owl

The reports are below; those on CBCs (*vide* Audubon) might be some of the same birds which were reported individually.

One at the Pickerington Ponds maintenance building, **Fairfield**, between 06 Dec and 13 Jan (m. obs.)

One during the Wilmot CBC, **Holmes/Stark/Tuscarawas/Wayne**, on 19 Dec

One during the Buckeye Lake CBC, **Fairfield/Licking/Perry**, on 20 Dec

One during the Ragersville CBC, **Coshocton/Holmes/Tuscarawas**, on 30 Dec

One during the Millersburg CBC, **Coshocton/Holmes**, on 01 Jan

One southeast of Columbus on 03 Jan (Jeremy Dominguez and Sarah Lucas)

One in a Kidron, **Wayne**, silo on 15 Jan (Kent Miller)

Two at a private residence in **Wayne** on 17 Jan (Jon Cefus)

Eastern Screech-Owl

Tom Bartlett *et al.* found five on Kelleys Island on 14 Dec, as did Tom Kemp along his **Lucas** CBC route on 03 Jan. The most, however, were the seven which Ed Pierce *et al.* tallied in ONWR on 04 Jan (*vide* Douglas Vogus). (44 counties)

Great Horned Owl

Ed Pierce’s ONWR census team counted eight on 04 Jan (*vide* Douglas Vogus). CBC routes in a different part of **Lucas** and in **Hamilton** each yielded four and there were many doubles not during CBCs. (54 counties)

Snowy Owl

Though this season's invasion wasn't nearly on the scale of last winter's, these grand birds were still found in the 23 counties on the accompanying map, and a couple hung around the Cleveland area into Mar. Michelle Leighty and Tim Jasinski saw four at Burke Lakefront Airport, *Cuyahoga*, on 11 Dec, and Irene Krise *et al.* matched their count along Fairport Nursery Road, *Lake*, on 03 Jan.



Always a pleasing find for birders and photographers, this Snowy Owl posed for Dane Adams on 18 Dec in Homerville, Medina.

Barred Owl

Jon Cefus found three in Quail Hollow SP, *Stark*, on 06 Feb and there were several reports of two birds. (50 counties)

Long-eared Owl

Birders found two on several dates in both Walnut Woods MP, *Franklin*, and at Maumee Bay. (14 counties)

Short-eared Owl

Big Island, Darby Creek, and Killdeer each produced counts of six on two or more dates (all by m. obs.). (27 counties)

Northern Saw-whet Owl

Tom Bartlett banded one on Kelleys Island on 13 Dec; it was the first of the season for the state. The high count was two, at Maumee Bay on 20 Dec (Chris Byers and Kim Warner). One of the duo was seen until mid-Feb. (11 counties)

Belted Kingfisher

Kyle Brooks and Stefan Gleissberg traveled five miles of the Hockhocking Adena Bikeway, *Athens*, on 14 Dec and counted five kingfishers along the way. (62 counties)



A pair of Belted Kingfishers remained at the open water of Eastwood MP, Montgomery, on 02 Jan for Allan Claybon.

Red-headed Woodpecker

Eight miles of wandering OOPMP yielded 25 for Brandon Brywczyński on 21 Jan. Ron Semper found 13 at Killdeer on 11 Jan as did Louis Hoying in Lake Laramie SP, *Shelby*, on 27 Feb. (55 counties)

Red-bellied Woodpecker

The high count was the 24 which Gustino Lanese found at Mentor Lagoons NP, *Lake*, on 27 Dec during a CBC. Only *Henry*, *Putnam*, and *Van Wert* did not produce reports.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

Joe Bens, James Wheat, *et al.* counted six in *Clermont* and *Hamilton* on 28 Dec during the Cincinnati CBC. The highest non-CBC number was three, which was achieved at many locations. (49 counties)



This Yellow-bellied Sapsucker found fortification at photographer Allan Claybon's feeder 14 Jan in Hamilton.

Downy Woodpecker

The high count honors were a tie at 39. Tom Bartlett *et al.* saw them on Kelleys Island on 14 Dec during the regular monthly census, while Joe Bens, James Wheat, *et al.* found theirs in **Clermont** and **Hamilton** during the 28 Dec Cincinnati CBC. Some non-CBC counts were also in the 30s. Reports came from every county except **Morgan**, **Putnam**, and **Van Wert**.

Hairy Woodpecker

Doug Overacker spent almost four hours in John Bryan SP, **Greene**, on 14 Dec and tallied 11 in that time. (77 counties)

Northern Flicker

Tom Bartlett's census team counted 28 throughout Kelleys Island on 14 Dec. Joe Bens, James Wheat, *et al.* came in second with 19 during the 28 Dec Cincinnati CBC on their **Clermont** and **Hamilton** route. (80 counties)

Pileated Woodpecker

The high count of six was shared by the Navarre Towpath, **Stark** (Cynthia Norris on 19 Dec), Highbanks MP, **Delaware** (m. obs. on 26 Dec), and a **Clermont/Hamilton** CBC route (Joe Bens, James Wheat, *et al.* on 28 Dec). (69 counties)

American Kestrel

Hallie Mason found 10 on 30 Dec around New Philadelphia, **Tuscarawas**, during the Ragersville CBC. She just edged Diane Steele and Donna Kuhn, who (respectively) counted nine along Greenwich Road, Homerville, **Medina**, on 22 Dec and at The Wilds on 25 Dec. (84 counties)



This American Kestrel successfully captured a fine meal, an event well photographed by Allan Clayton at Fernald on 13 Jan.

Merlin

Union Cemetery, **Franklin**, hosted three on 26 Feb (Joseph Parrish). So did Water Works Park, **Summit**, on 28 Feb (Joseph Ford). There were many reports of two birds. (39 counties)

Peregrine Falcon

Scott Myers counted four along the Cleveland harbor breakwall on 06 Dec, and many reports from that area and elsewhere had two birds. (28 counties)

Eastern Phoebe

Single sightings of this rather hardy flycatcher were scattered throughout the season. Gina Sheridan found two at Turkey Creek Lake in Shawnee SP on 15 Dec as did Robert Sams in Springville Marsh NP, **Seneca**, on 28 Dec. (16 counties)

Myiarchus sp. Flycatcher

One was photographed at Fairport Harbor, **Lake**, on 08 Dec. It was facing away from the viewer, and so the photo was not definitive, but tentative identifications call it an Ash-throated Flycatcher. The OBRC has the photo and some descriptive material. Though Ash-throated is a bird of the American southwest, the species has a pattern of early winter vagrancy. (see Cardiff, Steven W. and Donna L. Dittmann. 2002. Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*), The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed.), Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America Online: <http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/664doi:10.2173/bna.664>). In personal testimony to their wandering, I saw my lifer in a Boston suburb on 29 Dec 1982.

Loggerhead Shrike

One spent at least 14 Dec to 05 Jan at an **Adams** site. Kathi Hutton, Rich McCarty, and Mark Zloba documented it for the OBRC.

Northern Shrike

Jeffrey Spaulding found three at The Wilds on 20 Dec. Rich Pendlebury saw two in Tri-Valley WA, **Muskingum**, on both 14 and 16 Feb. The rest of the sightings were of singles. (17 counties as far south as **Greene** and **Montgomery**)

White-eyed Vireo

James Muller saw one in Kiwanis Riverway Park, **Franklin**, on 11 and 30 Dec, and Leslie Sours found it again on 05 Jan. Gary Cowell saw another in the Home Road Marsh, **Richland**, on 20 Dec.

Blue Jay

Thomas Czubek counted 86 in the Bethel area, **Clermont**, on 03 Jan during the East Fork Lake CBC. Every county but **Putnam** and **Van Wert** had sightings.

American Crow

Herb and Sarah Myers estimated that 20,000 were in a night roost near Martins Ferry, **Belmont**, on 24 Feb. The next highest number was Tresor Birdsall's 3000 in his **Summit** neighborhood on 11 Dec. Only **Auglaize**, **Henry**, **Lawrence**, **Putnam**, and **Van Wert** did not produce reports.

Common Raven

The OBRC has some formal reports from *Harrison* and has gleaned others from there and *Jefferson*.

Horned Lark

Fields along Conservancy Road, *Montgomery*, held about 1000 on 23 Feb (Jason Sullivan and Chris Zacharias). Tom Kemp found about 400 during 20 miles of driving in *Wood* on 17 Feb. (67 counties)

Tree Swallow

Up to 13 lingered into Dec at Maumee Bay (Carl Winstead, 30 Dec) and two remained until 09 Jan (Ryan Jacob). The last, however, were two in *Champaign* on 19 Jan (Dillon Nott). Another Lucas site and one in each of *Hamilton* and *Montgomery* complete the sightings.

Carolina Chickadee

David Carr *et al.* found 74 along their Newtown Bottoms, *Hamilton*, CBC route on 28 Dec. (59 counties)

Black-capped Chickadee

The top three counts were all from Kelleys Island on 14 Dec: 108 in the eastern side and 168 on the western (Victor Fazio III) and 123 along Tom Bartlett's regular census route. The most elsewhere were 61 at Maumee Bay, also on 14 Dec (Greg Links and Tim Thompson). (33 counties)

Chickadee sp.

Most of these reports came from the overlap zone between the two species, which roughly follows U.S. 30 across the state, but some were far south of it. In the overlap area, we sometimes get reports of birds which visually appear to be one species but which are singing the other's tune, so just hearing fee-bee, fee-bay might not mean that a Carolina is hiding in that bush. No hybrids were identified (usually that's possible only in hand) but they were surely present. (22 counties)

Tufted Titmouse

Susie Short wandered three miles of trails in Blacklick MP, *Franklin*, and came up with 45 titmice. Reports came from every county except *Henry*, *Jackson*, *Lawrence*, *Mercer*, *Putnam*, and *Van Wert*.

Red-breasted Nuthatch

The high count was four. It was shared by the Little family in Walnut Woods MP, *Franklin*, on 02 Jan and Don Jaenke at his Mansfield, *Richland*, home on 14 Feb. (44 counties)

White-breasted Nuthatch

Two miles of the Navarre Towpath, *Stark*,

during a CBC produced 31 for Cynthia Norris on 19 Dec. (81 counties)

Brown Creeper

Tom Bartlett *et al.* counted 13 on Kelleys Island during the 14 Dec monthly census. Brian Wulker found nine in the Rentschler Preserve, *Butler*, on 02 Dec. (68 counties)

House Wren

One was reported without documentation on each of the Portage County and Caesar Creek-Spring Valley CBCs (*vide* Audubon).

Winter Wren

Alex Eberts saw four in wetlands along State Route 93, *Vinton*, on 07 Feb. Keith Michalski tied him along Dodd Road, *Lake*, on 16 Feb. (41 counties)

Marsh Wren

The reports are:

At Darby Creek, one on 02 Dec (Carl Winstead), four on 03 Dec (Alex Eberts), and two on 07 Dec (Jeremy Dominguez)

One at Spring Valley WA, *Warren*, on 07 Dec (Daniel DeLapp)

Two in CPNWR on 14 Dec (Tom Kemp)



Alex Eberts obtained this image of a hardy Marsh Wren on 03 Dec at Darby Creek.

Carolina Wren

Elliot Tramer wrote, "This species is supposed to die off during hard winters, but in our yard [Whitehouse, *Lucas*] a pair has survived two brutal winters in a row...At dusk every evening they fly into a wreath hanging on the outside wall of the house, where they apparently spend the night." Joe Bens, James Wheat, *et al.* counted 51 along their *Hamilton* CBC route on 28 Dec, and Steve Pelikan found 24 in Glenwood Gardens, *Hamilton*, on 13 Dec. (76 counties)

Golden-crowned Kinglet

Victor Fazio III counted 20 on the east side of

Kelleys Island on 14 Dec and there were other counts in the teens on the island as well. The most on the mainland were Benjamin Miller's 13 in Mohican SP on 07 Feb. (59 counties)

Ruby-crowned Kinglet

The last of the season was a solo bird which was seen in Crains Run Nature Park, **Montgomery**, between 31 Jan and 03 Feb (m. obs.). Ronnie Clark saw five at Darby Creek on 12 Dec and there were several reports of two elsewhere. (16 counties)

Eastern Bluebird

Scott Pendleton counted 75 in Jockey Hollow WA, **Harrison**, on 07 Jan. Gary Cowell came up with 45 along his **Knox** CBC route on 21 Dec. (78 counties)

Hermit Thrush

Tom Bartlett *et al.* found at least 32 on Kelleys Island on 14 Dec and noted that this conservative number was above average for the time and place. The island produced other double-digit counts as well. The most elsewhere were Ethan Kistler's five at Maumee Bay on 28 Dec. (34 counties)



While some Hermit Thrushes quietly spend their winters undetected in Ohio, few are as beautifully captured as in this image by Chris Collins, taken on 30 Jan at Spring Lake Park, **Greene**.

American Robin

Harris Abramson was at Glenwood Gardens, **Hamilton**, on 07 Dec and saw "Wave after wave perhaps a 1/4 mile wide moving northeast over my position for the better part of an hour" which he estimated at about 4500 robins. Jack Stenger wandered **Butler** for seven hours on 20 Dec and tallied about 1200. (73 counties)

Varied Thrush

One was reported in **Holmes** during the Millersburg CBC. The OBRC has the documentation.

Gray Catbird

The latest sighting was a single in Cascade Valley MP, **Summit**, on 25 Jan (Gregory Bennett). One bird was also reported in each of **Clermont**, **Franklin**, **Greene**, **Hocking**, **Lake**,

Montgomery, **Muskingum**, **Portage**, **Tuscarawas**, and **Wayne**.

Brown Thrasher

Robert Roysse reported "several found along Odell Creek in Shawnee SF (Scioto) Jan 18, a regular wintering spot for them." Brian Wulker found two at Fernald on 04 Dec and the remaining sightings were of singles. (10 counties as far north as **Trumbull**)



Donald Morse snapped this Brown Thrasher feeding in a snowy setting on 22 Feb in **Clermont**.

Northern Mockingbird

The shared high count was 11. Gary Cowell found them along his CBC route in **Knox** on 21 Dec; Thomas Czubek's were also during a CBC, in the Bethel area, **Clermont**, on 03 Jan. (64 counties)

European Starling

Paul Hurtado estimated 30,000 were infesting (my word) the area around the I-670/I-71 interchange, **Franklin**, on 11 Dec. David A. Brinkman noted about 15,000 streaming over I-75 in West Carrollton, **Montgomery**, on 10 Dec. Only **Champaign**, **Putnam**, and **Van Wert** did not produce a sighting.

American Pipit

The last, and the most as well, were 24 in Riverside Natural Area, **Butler**, on 10 Jan (Charlie Saunders). Ronnie Clark found 20 in a field at Darby Creek on both 11 and 29 Dec; they were the second-most and second-last. (14 counties)

Cedar Waxwing

Inga Schmidt saw about 90 along Chagrin River Road, **Geauga**, on 16 Jan. (45 counties)

Lapland Longspur

Leslie Sours checked a home on Maloney Road, **Delaware**, where the family spreads seed, and found about 500 longspurs there on 10 Jan. There were several more triple-digit counts as well in other locations. (43 counties)

Snow Bunting

Deb Tefft *et al.* saw about 300 along Howard Road, **Lucas**, on 26 Dec. Fields along Soltis

Road, **Geauga**, hosted about 150 in mid-Jan (m. obs.) as did fields along Irwin-Shoots Road, **Marion**, on 09 Feb (Steve Jones). (37 counties)

Orange-crowned Warbler

Gary Cowell found one just over the **Richland** line during the Ashland County CBC on 19 Dec. Aaron Miller found another at The Wilderness Center, **Stark**, during the Wilmot CBC, also on 19 Dec. One spent “all week” ending 15 Jan at a Granville, **Licking**, home (Tammy Nickerson)

Nashville Warbler

Alex Champagne and Alex Eberts well described the one they found in the OSU wetlands, **Franklin**, on 14 Dec. That same day, the Toledo CBC also tallied one (*vide* Matt Anderson).

Common Yellowthroat

The reports, all of single birds, are:

In Highbanks MP, **Delaware**, on 07 Dec (Jennifer Kuehn)

In the Hardin Wetlands on 14 and 27 Dec (Richard Counts)

At Lake Rupert, **Vinton**, on 21 Dec (Alex Eberts)
During the Wooster, **Wayne**, CBC on 27 Dec (Gary Cowell and Don Plant)

In the Short Creek marshes, **Jefferson**, on 03 Jan (Scott Pendleton)

Pine Warbler

Castalia Pond, **Erie**, on 15 Dec (Paul Sherwood) and the Ragersville CBC, **Coshocton/Holmes/Tuscarawas** on 20 Dec (*vide* Audubon) each produced one.

Yellow-rumped Warbler

Charles Bombaci counted 43 feasting in berry-laden poison ivy plants in Char-Mar, **Delaware** on 16 Jan. David Carr *et al.* found 32 in Newtown Bottoms, **Hamilton**, during a CBC on 28 Dec. (49 counties)

“Audubon’s” Yellow-rumped Warbler

Jon Cefus discovered and photographed one in Crystal Springs Park, **Stark**, on 27 Dec, and many other birders saw it through 31 Dec.



Jon Cefus provided this photograph of the “Audubon’s” Yellow-rumped Warbler which he found on 27 Dec.

Eastern Towhee

Woodland Mound Park, **Hamilton**, produced 19 for Bill and René McGill on 13 Dec. Not much farther east, Cincinnati Nature Center’s Long Branch Farm, **Clermont**, hosted 15 for Neil Gilbert on 07 Feb. (46 counties)

[Spotted x Eastern Towhee]

Mike Horn discovered this bird on 17 Feb at Scioto Audubon MP, **Franklin**. Its plumage was intermediate between those of the two “parent” species but appeared to be weighted to the Spotted end of the spectrum. Perhaps it is a second or third generation back-cross. It stayed at least until 21 Feb.



Mike Horn photographed his hybrid towhee discovery on 19 Feb.

American Tree Sparrow

Robert Roysse found “500++” in and around Deer Creek WA on several Jan dates. Steve Jones noted 420 at Killdeer on 10 Jan. (80 counties)

Chipping Sparrow

One spent most of the winter at Ben Morrison’s **Stark** feeder; he last saw it on 23 Feb. The high count was 10, at OSU Waterman Farm, **Franklin**, on 14 Feb (m. obs.). (23 counties)

Field Sparrow

James Wheat’s CBC route in **Brown** produced 45 on 03 Jan. Most sightings were in the southern 2/3 of the state, but several birds were in **Lucas** throughout the season. (49 counties)



Kathy Mock photographed this Field Sparrow on 09 Feb, an excellent winter find in her back yard in **Summit**.

Vesper Sparrow

Edward Ingold and Robert Sams noted one in

a flock of Horned Larks by County Road 205, **Hancock**, on 22 Feb, and Shane Myers saw it there two days later. This very early bird was a good three to four weeks ahead of the species' usual arrival date.

Savannah Sparrow

A sprinkling of these was here all season. Most were in the southern counties, but singles were at Lorain on 02 Dec (Carlton Schooley) and along the Wake Robin Trail, **Lake**, on 20 Dec (Tom Frankel). The high count was six, by Kevin King at Campbell Lakes Preserve, **Hamilton**, on 08 Dec. (22 counties)

Fox Sparrow

Eric Elvert found eight at the Germantown MP Nature Center, **Montgomery**, on 10 Jan, and Christopher Collins saw them (or another eight) there on 23 Feb. David Carr *et al.* saw the most elsewhere in Newtown Bottoms, **Hamilton**, on 28 Dec. (30 counties)

Song Sparrow

Joe Bens and James Wheat *et al.* tallied 82 along their **Hamilton** CBC route on 28 Dec. (81 counties)

Lincoln's Sparrow

One was reported during the 14 Dec Toledo CBC, which covers a circle that is mostly in **Lucas** and **Wood** but also includes bits of **Huron** and Michigan, on 14 Dec.

Swamp Sparrow

Robert Roysse wrote, "Exceptional numbers present this winter in middle and southern wetland tracts at Deer Creek WA (Pickaway Co.) due to dense smartweed growth last fall. Tallies of 100+ possible throughout season." Richard Counts found the most elsewhere, 29 in the Hardin Wetlands on 14 Dec. (55 counties)

White-throated Sparrow

Joe Bens, James Wheat, *et al.* found 99 along their CBC route in **Hamilton** on 28 Dec. (73 counties)

White-crowned Sparrow

Gary Cowell's CBC route is in **Knox**; he found 58 there on 21 Dec. J.W. Rettig counted 52 in Armleder Park on 09 Jan, not during a CBC. (59 counties)

"Gambel's" White-crowned Sparrow

Individuals of this western *gambelii* subspecies were described or photographed at Lorain on 13 Jan (Kent Miller), in Armleder Park on 17 Jan (Ethan Rising), and at Magna Carta, **Franklin**, on 20 Feb (Carl Winstead).

Golden-crowned Sparrow

This winter regular, which was banded during his

first visit to **Hancock** in early 2009, was again reported between 02 Dec and 08 Feb, but without formal documentation (m. obs.). This intrepid traveler is now nearly seven years old.

Dark-eyed Junco (Slate-colored)

Leslie Sours found about 100 in the OSU West Campus woodlots, **Franklin**, on 23 Jan. Only **Jackson**, **Meigs**, **Pike**, **Putnam**, and **Van Wert** did not produce sightings.

Dark-eyed Junco (other forms)

I am hesitant to unequivocally accept reports, even those with photographs, of forms other than our familiar slate-colored. That subspecies, *Junco hyemalis hyemalis*, has a range of coloration which at one extreme is quite similar to that of many western subspecies. In addition, hybridization among the subspecies is known. Nevertheless, some reports are compelling enough to include here, though with qualifiers. Inga Schmidt photographed an apparent "Cassiar" type at her **Geauga** home; it was there for most of Jan. Other "Cassiar" were reported in **Ashland**, **Lake**, and **Richland**. ("Cassiar" birds, *J. h. cismontanus*, are part of the slate-colored group with *J. h. hyemalis*.) Mark and Sherry Plessner photographed one apparently of the *oreganus* "Oregon" group of subspecies at their **Lucas** feeders several times during Jan and Feb. Jon Cefus photographed an apparent "Oregon" in Senecaville, **Noble**, on 31 Jan. Others were reported in **Ashtabula**, **Delaware**, **Franklin**, and **Montgomery**.

Northern Cardinal

A **Hamilton** CBC route produced 181 for Joe Bens, James Wheat, *et al.* on 28 Dec. James also provided the second-highest number, 118, in **Brown** during another CBC on 03 Jan. Every county but **Jackson**, **Pike**, **Putnam**, and **Van Wert** had sightings.

Indigo Bunting

Dillon Nott photographed one singing from the top of a tree in **Champaign** on 19 Jan.



Dillon Nott photographed this rare winter Indigo Bunting at his grandparents' house in **Champaign** on 19 Jan.

Red-winged Blackbird

Jason Sullivan and Chris Zacharias saw about

400 in Possum Creek MP, *Montgomery*, on 15 Jan. About the same number were along Upper River Road, West Carrollton, *Montgomery*, on 25 and 26 Feb (m. obs.). (49 counties)

Eastern Meadowlark

Bill Stanley counted 30 at Old Highland Stone on 01 Jan. (26 counties)

Yellow-headed Blackbird

The Upper River Road, *Montgomery*, Red-winged flock included one Yellow-Headed on 25 and 26 Feb (m. obs.)



Leslie Sours centered this Yellow-headed Blackbird in her image, taken at dusk on a snowy 26 Feb in Montgomery.

Rusty Blackbird

Most of the reports were in Jan and Feb. The high count of 60 was achieved twice, on 30 Jan in Jackson Bog SNP, *Stark* (Ryan Gniewiecki) and on 22 Feb in Bradford, *Darke* (Regina Schieltz). (24 counties)

Common Grackle

Possum Creek MP, *Montgomery*, hosted about 1000 on 13 Feb (m. obs.). Robert Foppe and Jennifer Smolenski found about 450 near Maineville, *Warren*, on 23 Jan. (50 counties)

Brown-headed Cowbird

James Wheat noted 500 during his *Brown* CBC efforts on 03 Jan. Rick Asamoto and John Habig found the same number along Dayton's Lutheran Church Road on 31 Jan. (49 counties)

Blackbird sp.

Eric Elvert reported a mixed flock of about 10,000 from the Great Miami River Trail, *Montgomery*, on 15 Jan.

Baltimore Oriole

One was reported without documentation on the Chandlersville CBC (*vide* Audubon).

House Finch

Armeleder Park hosted 100 on 04 Jan (Lauren Boerger and Michael Gertz). David Carr *et al.* counted 100 during their Newtown Bottoms

CBC on 28 Dec, and noted that most of them were at Armeleder. (78 counties)

Purple Finch

John Habig carefully described an unusually large flock of 25 in Germantown MP, *Montgomery*, on 20 Dec. David Helm and Bill Stanley counted 16 along their *Adams* CBC route on 14 Dec. (51 counties)

Red Crossbill

Jeff Loughman heard one as he was parking at a horse camp in *Hancock* on 27 Jan; he couldn't locate it but noted that the voice resembled recordings of Type 2.

White-winged Crossbill

The three sightings are:

One at his *Lorain* home on 07 Jan (Ed Wransky)

One at the Becky and Jim Ferguson home in *Stark* between 11 and 13 Jan (the Fergusons and m. obs.)

One at Wendy Park on 13 Jan (Kent Miller)



On 12 Jan, Kent Miller photographed this female White-winged Crossbill which was hosted by the Ferguson family in Canton, Stark.

Crossbill sp.

Dan Ombalski too-briefly saw two in Marietta's Ohio Riverfront Park, *Washington*, on 22 Jan.

Common Redpoll

Kent Miller saw about 40 on several visits to Lorain between 13 Jan and 25 Feb. Ian Lynch found the most elsewhere, 21 at Lake Erie Bluffs MP, *Lake*, on 30 Jan. (17 counties as far south at *Butler* and *Warren*)

Hoary Redpoll

Kim Warner documented and Dylan Leedom photographed one which spent from 20 to 31 Jan

along the Ottawa River Interpretive Trail, **Lucas**. Many others posted photos of the bird. OBCR has also gleaned internet reports from **Cuyahoga**.

Pine Siskin

Brandon Brywczyński found about 60 at OOP-MP on 21 Dec. (52 counties)

American Goldfinch

James Wheat found 130 during his 03 Jan CBC efforts in **Brown**. Cory Gratz counted 71 in Blue Rock SP, **Muskingum**, on 20 Dec. **Auglaize**, **Jackson**, **Morgan**, **Putnam**, and **Van Wert** did not provide reports.

Evening Grosbeak

One female visited the feeder on the edge of Mohican SF, **Ashland**, which had hosted so many two years ago; it was seen between 13 Dec and 28 Jan. One was reported on each of four CBCs: Adams County, Lancaster (**Fairfield**), Portsmouth (**Scioto** and a bit of Kentucky), and Toledo (mostly **Lucas** and **Wood**, plus bits of **Huron** and Michigan).



Su Snyder nabbed this image of the Mohican Evening Grosbeak on 07 Feb.

House Sparrow

Victor Fazio III counted 1185 in the six miles between Maple and McCartney Roads, **Erie**, on 02 Jan. Paula Lozano *et al.* found 457 in their section of the Lakewood CBC, **Cuyahoga**, on 28 Dec. (81 counties)

Errata

The Fall issue contained several errors.

1. The Ruffed Grouse reported at The Swiss Hills Career Center was misplaced. The Center is in **Monroe**, not **Montgomery**.
 2. I neglected to include the map below with Dwight and Ann Chasar's article on Broad-winged Hawks. And we misspelled the Chasar's last name in the Table of Contents, to boot.
- The three errors above were corrected in the on-line version of the Fall issue.
3. Also in the Fall issue, the list of counties which recorded Little Gulls was cross-contaminated by the Laughing Gull list. The correct Little Gull county list is **Ashtabula**, **Clark**, **Cuyahoga**, **Delaware**, **Erie**, **Hancock**, **Lake**, **Logan**, and **Lorain**.
 4. And I belatedly found a Nov report of a Rock Wren sighting in **Lucas**. The OBRC has the documentation.

Google Earth® map of Broad-winged Hawk habitat, Brecksville Reservation



41°18'31.19"N and 81°36'38.28"W. Google Earth. 14 Jun 2014, accessed 15 Jan 2015.

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THE GREAT GULL INVASION

Inland Great Black-backed and Glaucous Gulls, Winter 2014–15

By John P. Herman

Great Black-backed Gulls (GBBG) were rare Ohio winter visitors to Lake Erie during the late nineteenth century (Wheaton 1882), with a specimen being obtained near the city of Lorain on 22 Dec 1888 (Jones 1903) which was preserved at the Oberlin College museum. The Reverend W.F. Henninger observed a GBBG along the Scioto River in **Pike** on 21 Mar 1900 (Henninger 1902). **Franklin** recorded its first GBBG on the OSU campus at the Olentangy River on 16 Dec 1907 (Jones 1908). There is a 03 Mar 1928 record of a GBBG in the Toledo area which is unclear about the specific location (Mayfield 1943). Dr. Milton B. Trautman observed a second-winter GBBG at Buckeye Lake, **Fairfield**, just north of Journal Island on 19 Nov 1933 (Troutman 1940). **Lucas** had its first GBBG on 18 Feb 1934 along the Maumee River southwest of Waterville (Campbell 1940), while the Cleveland area saw its first GBBG at Lakewood on 29 Feb 1936 (Kendeigh 1936). Arthur B. Williams stated in the *Cleveland Bird Calendar*, “there seems to have been quite an invasion of the region by these large gulls of the north this winter”, with a peak count of 21 seen on 26 Jan 1945 at Cleveland (Williams 1945). The first Akron area GBBG was observed on 08 Feb 1959 at Summit Lake (Newman 1959). Grand Lake St. Marys, **Auglaize/Mercer**, had three GBBGs on 05 Nov 1952 and one on 25 Feb 1972. Three were recorded at C.J. Brown Reservoir, **Clark**, from 03 to 05 May 1979 (eBird).

In the 1960s, Great Black-backed Gull populations increased significantly (Devos 1964), resulting in midwinter concentrations being common by the end of the decade, including 350 at Toledo in Dec 1967 (Campbell 1968). The Cleveland area recorded its first GBBG numbers of more than one hundred on 21 Jan 1972, when 156 were at Lorain (Hocevar 1972). A decade later, at least 640 GBBGs were observed at Lorain on 08 Feb 1983 (Hannikman 1983). Great black-backed gull populations showed slight increases among five-year periods from 1951–1990, with a 3.3-fold increase from 1986–1990 to 1991–1995 (Tyson, *et al.* 1999). During the 1990s, concentrations of 800 to 1000 GBBGs were observed along Lake Erie (Peterjohn 2001). On 14 Jan 2003, 1300 were seen at Lorain and during Jan 2004, at least 1500 GBBGs were observed at Cleveland (Whan 2003, Whan 2004). On 20 Jan 2005, 1960 adult GBBGs were observed in **Cuyahoga**

and **Lorain** combined (Fazio 2005). The 2000 or more at Cedar Point, **Erie**, on 03 Jan 1998 is probably the record high count (Whan 1998).

An early record of a GBBG in unglaciated Ohio came from Tappan Lake, **Harrison**, on 17 May 1998 (Schlabach 1998). A first-cycle GBBG was found at Gallipolis, **Gallia**, on 27 Feb 2004, for a rare southeastern Ohio record (Whan 2004). Another southeastern sighting was of 15 GBBGs at Pike Island Lock and Dam, **Belmont**, on 13 Feb 2015 (Scott Pendleton, pers. comm.). A GBBG at Deer Creek SP, **Pickaway**, on 04 Feb 2007, was the first for south-central Ohio (Fazio 2007) since Henninger’s **Pike** record in 1900. The first southwestern Ohio record was at Dayton on 16 Jan 1999 (Brock 1999). As of 2001, this Dayton GBBG “provided the only report from southern Ohio” (Peterjohn 2001). Now there are at least twenty GBBG records from that half of the state.

Great Black-backed gulls remained rare visitors to Ohio inland locations until the winter of 2012–13. (For the purpose of this paper, “inland” refers to locations at least five miles south of Lake Erie. Also, “winter” includes the months of Dec through Mar.) On 30 Dec 2001, 41 GBBGs were observed at Oberlin Reservoir, **Lorain**, twelve miles south of the lake, and 26 were there on 04 Jan 2002 (Whan 2002). During the winter of 2012–13, GBBGs were observed in the inland counties of **Allen**, **Defiance**, **Franklin**, **Hancock**, and **Wyandot** (Caldwell 2013). In the winter of 2013–14, inland GBBGs were observed in **Belmont**, **Clermont**, **Delaware**, **Franklin**, **Hamilton**, **Hancock**, **Jefferson**, **Montgomery**, **Stark**, **Tuscarawas**, and **Wood** (Caldwell 2014).

During the winter of 2014–15, at least 354 Great Black-backed Gulls were observed at Ohio inland locations. Many of these gulls were seen at or near county landfills, though surely not all landfills were checked during the season. Thirty-eight percent of the total number of inland GBBGs were observed near the Schroyer ball fields on the outskirts of Canton, **Stark**. The following is a list of the 18 Ohio inland counties with records during Feb 2015 and the number of GBBGs seen in each: **Belmont** (15), **Butler** (2), **Clermont** (3), **Crawford** (12), **Defiance** (2), **Franklin** (2), **Jefferson** (2), **Licking** (3), **Montgomery** (11), **Muskingum** (1), **Pickaway** (1), **Richland** (6), **Seneca** (18), **Stark** (136), **Summit** (20), **Tuscarawas** (47), **Washington** (1),

and **Wood** (4). **Crawford, Knox**, and **Paulding** had their first ever GBBG in early 2015, and **Muskingum** had its second record.

Great black-backed gulls were also recorded at inland locations in counties that border Lake Erie. Farnsworth MP, near Waterville, **Lucas**, had four GBBGs in Jan and Mar. The **Lorain** regional airport, 19 miles south of the lake, had two GBBGs on 08 Feb. Walsh Park, an inland **Sandusky** location, had a GBBG on 24 Feb. The **Erie** landfill had 11 GBBGs on 11 Jan 2015, and Rocky River Reservation, **Cuyahoga**, had a GBBG on 19 Feb.

The 2014–15 inland movement of GBBGs started in Dec, with a GBBG seen at Alum Creek reservoir, **Delaware**, on 10 Dec, followed by one at Findlay Reservoirs on 19 Dec, and an immature seen 30 Dec at Eastwood MP, **Montgomery**. It appears the GBBG invasion continued through early Mar with several peak counts recorded then. Seven GBBGs were seen near Dover, **Tuscarawas**, on 26 Feb, at least 40 there on 28 Feb (C. Caldwell, pers. comm.), and 23 on 06 Mar. Thirty-four GBBGs were observed at the **Seneca** landfill on 06 Mar, and 18 were recorded there on 27 Feb (eBird; H. Thomas Bartlett, pers. comm.). GBBGs were seen at Silver Lake, **Summit**, during the winter of 2014–15, with a probable total there of 20, including immatures (Larry Rosche, pers. comm.). Up to 15 GBBGs were at the Chapel Hill Mall, **Summit**, parking lot during the coldest portion of the winter of 2014–15. The peak count of GBBGs along the Great Miami River at Dayton was 11 on 23 Feb (eBird). At least 14 GBBGs were recorded at the **Richland** landfill in Butler Township during the period; the only previous **Richland** records were of single gulls in Dec 1983, from Dec 1994 to Jan 1995, and in Jan 2012.

Almost 40 inland counties had records of GBBGs before this winter. The maps on the right show the counties which hosted GBBGs before the winter of 2014–15 and during it.

Curiously, Great Black-backed Gulls were seen at eight inland counties during Jan and Mar 2015, but not in Feb. Five inland counties had GBBG records only in Mar: in **Delaware** at Alum Creek reservoir, two on 01 Mar; in **Warren** at Caesar Creek, a single gull on 09 Mar; at Buck Creek in **Clark**, a single on 24 Mar; at the **Paulding** reservoir, one on 25 Mar; and at Kokosing lake in **Knox**, an adult on 29–31 Mar (eBird).

This inland invasion of GBBGs was not limited to Ohio. Forty-two GBBGs were seen on 22 Feb 2015 at the Pike Island dam, West Virginia,

across the Ohio River from Yorkville, **Belmont**; some of them crossed to the Ohio side (eBird). Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania had 67 GBBGs on 28 Feb. Arkansas had its first ever GBBG in Jan 2015. Kentucky had at least seven GBBGs during the winter of 2014–15; that state has at least 46 records all-time (Palmer-Ball, Jr. 2002; Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., pers. comm.). Colorado, Iowa, Oklahoma, and Tennessee each had at least one GBBG the winter of 2014–15, and Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska each had at least two (eBird).

Glaucous Gulls (GLGU) were not recorded in Ohio during the nineteenth century. What seems to be Ohio's first GLGU was observed near Sandusky, **Erie**, from 20 to 23 Mar 1902 (Moseley 1912). Northeast Ohio's first GLGU was

Great Black-backed Gull, pre 2014–15



Great Black-backed Gull, winter 2014–15



recorded at Ashtabula on 22 Mar 1933 (Hicks 1936). The Toledo area's first GLGU was on the Maumee River on 25 Feb 1934 (Stuckey 2006). Glaucous gull sightings increased with those of all gulls during the 1960s and 1970s. During sub-average temperature winters, 10 to 20 GLGUs may often be seen at hot-water locations along the Lake Erie shore.

Prior to 2011, GLGUs were accidental inland Ohio visitors. Ohio's first inland GLGU was recorded at Grand Lake St. Marys, *Auglaize/Mercer*, on 18 Jan 1958 (Clark and Sipe 1970). Single GLGUs were observed at Summit Lake, *Summit*, on 8-9 Feb 1959 and 21 Feb 1981 (Newman 1959, Rosche 2004), and two were there on 18 Feb 1979 (Hannikman 1979). Four GLGUs were observed at Summit Lake between 20 and 26 Feb 1978 (Hannikman 1978). An adult male GLGU was collected by John Ruthven at the Lorain city dump on 22 Feb 1964 (Newman 1964). A Glaucous Gull was reported at Indian Lake, *Logan*, during a CBC on 29 Dec 1965. Other inland records of single GLGUs are the only *Seneca* sighting prior to the winter of 2014-15, from 06 to 10 Apr 1981 at Beaver Creek reservoir (Bartlett 1989); at Lake Rockwell, *Portage*, on 01 Jan 1995 (Harlan 1995), and at Kokosing Lake, *Knox*, on 10 Jan 1998 (Schlabach, R. 1998). Three Glaucous Gulls at Dayton on 16 Jan 1999 provided the first *Montgomery* record (Brock 1999).

During Jan and Feb 2015, at least 40 GLGUs were observed at fourteen Ohio inland locations. The initial 2015 Ohio inland GLGUs occurred on 11 Jan at both Farnsworth MP, *Lucas*, and at the *Erie* landfill, and were followed by one in *Montgomery* on 14 Jan (eBird). The following is a list of the inland counties and the number of GLGUs seen in each during Jan and Feb 2015, according to eBird data: *Belmont* (2), *Clermont* (1), *Crawford* (1), *Defiance* (3), *Delaware* (1), *Franklin* (2), *Hancock* (2), *Henry* (1), *Montgomery* (2), *Seneca* (1), *Stark* (6), and *Tuscarawas* (4). Glaucous gulls observed at inland locations in counties bordering Lake Erie were a single at the *Erie* landfill on 11 Jan; up to four on several dates along the Maumee River between Grand Rapids and Farnsworth MP (on the *Lucas/Wood* border), and one observed at several locations a mile or more up the Cuyahoga River in Cleveland throughout the season. The *Crawford* bird was the first ever for the county, and *Clermont*, *Seneca*, and *Tuscarawas* had their second all-time records.

Almost 30 inland counties had records of GLGUs before this winter, as did inland sites in some

of the Lake Erie counties as well. The maps below show the counties which hosted GLGUs before the winter of 2014-15 and during it.

Glaucous Gull, pre 2014-15



Glaucous Gull, winter 2014-15



The winter of 2014-15, GLGUs were seen at multiple locations away from the Great Lakes. Pittsburgh had six GLGUs on 06 Mar (eBird). Glaucous Gulls were also recorded in Jan and Feb 2015 at states south and west of Ohio. Arkansas and New Mexico each recorded one GLGU, South Dakota and Utah each had two, three were in each of Kentucky and West Virginia, at least seven were in Colorado, Kansas had at least 11, and 16 or more were seen in Nebraska (eBird).

The winter of 2014-15 witnessed a historic number of Great Black-backed and Glaucous gulls at Ohio inland locations. The 136 GBBGs at the **Stark** location were an amazing sight. Both GBBGs and GLGUs were seen throughout Ohio, all the way south to the Ohio River and in the unglaciated areas of the state as well. The 10-year average numbers of GBBGs and GLGUs for inland Ohio before this past winter are 3.1 and 4.4, respectively. If the numbers for the winters of 2012-13 and 2013-14, when at least 21 GBBGs and 16 GLGUs were reported, are deleted, the average drops to 1.25 for GBBG and 2.8 for GLGU.

Chip Weseloh, a colonial waterbird specialist now retired from the Canadian Wildlife Service, proposed one hypothesis about the inland movement of GBBGs and GLGUs during the winter of 2014-15. He attributes it to the reduction in the amount of open water at hot-water locations along Lake Erie. The power plant at East 72nd Street, Cleveland, went to reduced output a couple of years ago, and only operated intermittently this past winter (Craig Caldwell, pers. comm.). The Eastlake, **Lake**, plant has also been on reduced output for a year or two and is slated for closing. So, previous to three years ago, there were Ohio hot-water locations along Lake Erie at Bayshore, near Toledo; in Avon Lake, **Lorain**; and those in Cleveland and Eastlake. With Lake Erie almost entirely ice-covered, and half of the power plants barely operating, the gulls apparently roamed far and wide to find open water.

Whatever the reasons, the winter of 2014-15 produced some unique gull watching at Ohio inland locations. By 01 Apr, most of the GBBGs and GLGUs had moved back to Lake Erie, though a GBBG was at the Findlay Reservoirs on 22 Apr and a GLGU remaining at Indian Lake SP, **Logan**, on 23 Apr.

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THE CUYAHOGA VALLEY TOWPATH TRAIL CENSUS The First Five Years: 2010–2014

By Douglas Vogus

Being a veteran of Christmas Bird Counts since my teens in the early 1980's, taking over Carol Tveckrem's Summit County Breeding Bird Census in 1999, volunteering on Ed Pierce's monthly ONWR Census since February of 2001, and volunteering on Dwight and Ann Chasar's CVNP Spring and Fall Censuses since 2005, I decided in 2010 to start a Cuyahoga Valley Towpath Trail Census. This would be something tangible, something I could call my own. What could be found along the same stretch of habitat, once a month, within the first ten days of the month, on a year to year basis?

The Cuyahoga Valley is a place very dear to me. Before I could even drive I was able to walk to this beautiful area, enjoy the many trails and in many cases, no trails at all. To get into the "guts" of The Valley, as it is locally known. The Valley has changed over the years, mostly for the better. From John Seiberling's vision of a treasured green space to be enjoyed by many, to becoming the vague "National Recreation Area" in 1974, to a full-fledged National Park in 2000, it is (combined with adjacent properties as well as properties within its boundaries managed by the Cleveland Metroparks and Metro Parks, Serving Summit County) a gem nestled in between Cleveland to the north and Akron to the south. It is well over 33,000 acres of wildlife-rich habitat extremely close to home.

The heartbeat of the Cuyahoga Valley is the Cuyahoga River, winding its way out of Akron and heading north to Lake Erie. In 1993 the first twenty miles of the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail were opened and it quickly became a favorite, the main artery through The Valley, paralleling the Cuyahoga River. This would be my monthly route around which I would plan my census. As much as I wanted to combine both the eastern and western ridges, with this main artery down the middle, I felt it best to keep it to just the Towpath Trail. A trail that is nice and flat, mostly crushed limestone and a hardly noticeable elevation change. A trail for all ages, all disabilities. Any birds seen on the census could also be found by most anyone due to the accessibility of this trail.

The route I would choose would traverse some of the best habitat found within Summit County and cover 13 miles in length. Starting at Red Lock Trailhead on Highland Road at the *Cuyahoga/Summit* border, the route heads

south through the old canal-era town of Boston, then under both the Ohio Turnpike and Interstate 271 bridges spanning both sides of The Valley. From there it continues past Stumpy Basin to the bustling village of Peninsula. Heading south out of Peninsula it takes you past Summit parks' Deep Lock Quarry as it starts the longest section of unbroken trail between Deep Lock and Bolanz Road and Szalay's corn fields. South of Bolanz Road the surroundings become the large wetland area that makes up the Ira Beaver Marsh, complete with an elevated boardwalk that takes you through the marsh. Past Ira Road it parallels Riverview Road and the Cuyahoga River to the east and the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad to the west as it heads to Bath Road and the Botzum Trailhead parking lot. This ends the section managed by CVNP; as the trail leads you south towards Akron's Merriman Valley and the end of the census route, the lands are managed by Metro Parks, Serving Summit County.

The best word to sum up the habitat along the census route would simply be "river bottom." But it is so much more than that. Gentle, sloping hillsides come down from both the east and the west, covered in red and white oak, black cherry and maple. Once on this river bottom you are surrounded by black walnut, Ohio buckeye and elm. Lining the banks are large cottonwoods and sycamore. Near the village of Peninsula there are many shady ravines cutting into the hillsides; lined with Eastern hemlock, where they are guarded from the sun's prying rays. Many feeder creeks empty into the Cuyahoga River along this route, from Brandywine Creek near Red Lock, Boston Run in Peninsula, Furnace Run near Bolanz Road, to the pristine Yellow Creek near Bath Road, to the not so pristine Sand Run, which tells you that you've almost made it back to the city of Akron.

One can expect to find mostly woodland birds typical of northeastern Ohio, but fly-over species are always a possibility. Being that it is a river bottom, there aren't a lot of fields for grassland species like sparrows and meadowlarks. There aren't a lot of mudflats to produce any good numbers of shorebirds during migration. Other than the Cuyahoga River itself, there aren't very many large bodies of water to get great numbers of waterfowl during migration, just Dover Pond near Red Lock and the aforementioned Ira Beaver Marsh. But the mature woodlands are very good for Pileated Woodpeckers and the large sycamores are good for Cerulean and Yellow-throat-

ed warblers. With that being said, I have tallied 168 different species of birds along with 17 different species of mammals during the first five years of the Cuyahoga Valley Towpath Trail Census.

The first year of the census, 2010, I tallied 133 species of birds and logged 87 hours and 40 minutes of time spent afield. This number included all three falcon species and 24 species of warblers, and it set the template of what I could expect along this route. In 2011 I tallied only 129 species, but of these 129 species, 11 were new to the census, putting the two-year total at 144 species. Two of these eleven were fly-overs, a single Snow Bunting in Jan and two pairs of migrating Common Loons in Apr. Twenty-five species of warblers were recorded with Louisiana Waterthrush and Orange-crowned Warbler being the new additions.

In both 2012 and 2013 I tallied 127 species, yet continued to add some new ones each year. The 2012 censuses saw the addition of five new species of birds to the census, a single Brown Thrasher in Apr, a single Black-billed Cuckoo in Aug, single sightings of Olive-sided Flycatcher and Philadelphia Vireo, both in Sep, and mixed in with a flock of Ring-billed and Herring Gulls was a single Bonaparte's Gull in Nov. Highlights of the 2013 season were a single Evening Grosbeak, flying over and calling in Jan, a single Purple Martin following the Cuyahoga River south in Aug, the first Mourning Warbler of the census (a single male in Oct), and a pair of Lapland Longspurs in Dec at Szalay's corn fields. These new species, along with Common Merganser, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Barred Owl, and Cape May Warbler brought the census total to 157 species. Warbler totals for 2012 and 2013 were both at 21 species for the year.

By now I had felt as if the census had peaked as the number of species per year continued to decrease, but 2014 would prove to be the best season to date. The winter of 2013-14 was extremely cold, freezing all the large bodies of water including Lake Erie to the north. This would be a bonus for the Cuyahoga Valley as the only open water to be found was the Cuyahoga River. Suddenly I was getting sightings of good numbers of waterfowl, some I had never seen in all my years of birding it. Lesser Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Hooded and Common Mergansers, and new additions such as Redhead and Red-breasted Merganser made it exciting to see what the next bend of the river held. It wasn't limited to waterfowl though. In the winter months many flights of gulls leave the safety of Lake Erie in the morning and follow the river south, only to reverse this pattern in the late afternoon. Based on

sightings from Kent Miller, Ben Morrison, and others at a landfill in *Tuscarawas*, it is my belief that these streaming flocks of gulls follow the Cuyahoga River and then the Tuscarawas River like a road map to reach this landfill to scavenge before returning to Lake Erie to spend the night. My constant gull counting paid off in early 2014 as a single Iceland Gull was found amongst the flocks in Feb and a pair of Great Black-backed Gulls were spotted in Mar.

Good sightings continued from later winter into early spring. A Northern Shrike at Stanford Swamp was added in Feb. Blue-winged Teal at Dover Pond and Bufflehead at the Ira Beaver Marsh, as well as the first Hermit Thrush, were added in Apr. Thrushes are easily found on the wooded hillsides of the Cuyahoga Valley with much lower numbers found in the river bottom, but this would change in 2014 as well. May's census was like 13 miles of the Magee Marsh boardwalk. The first Gray-cheeked Thrush was added to the list along with 10 Swainson's Thrushes; the previous high was only two. Twenty-five species of warblers were seen on May's census with high numbers like seven Blackburnian, 13 Nashville, 11 Tennessee, 10 Chestnut-sided, and seven Northern Parula. Dwight Chasar commented that the spring migration was the longest sustained migration he had seen in the Cuyahoga Valley in years – and I could not have agreed more.

I finished 2014 with 144 species, eleven of them new to the census, and by adding a pair of Orange-crowned Warblers in Oct, ended up with 26 species of warblers. I also set a new high for time afield finishing with 102 hours and 30 minutes. Those who participate in bird censuses in semi-rural areas only to watch “progress” chew it up and change it into semi-urban or completely urban know the heartbreak of returning to “your” area only to see a wetland filled in or another housing or industrial development replacing that prime field for certain sparrow species. Fortunately, the Cuyahoga Valley should remain as it is, simply “river bottom”, yet so much more than that.

Douglas W. Vogus is a life-long native of Summit County, residing in the Merriman Valley area of north-west Akron within the Cuyahoga Valley. He's been an active participant in the Cuyahoga Falls CBC since 1979, the monthly ONWR Census since 2002, and the CVNP Spring and Fall Censuses since 2005. He has also been coordinator of the Greater Akron Audubon Society's Summer Breeding Bird Census since 1999. Doug can be found birding in all four seasons in his local patch, the Cuyahoga Valley. Occasionally other birders have joined Doug for his monthly censuses, but they have remained mostly a one-man project.

CUYAHOGA VALLEY MONTHLY TOWPATH CENSUS

TOTAL HOURS AFIELD

<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>
87:40	86:10	94:55	99:00	102:30

FOOT MILES AFIELD

<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>
154	156	156	156	156

SPECIES BY YEAR

<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>
133	129	127	127	144

TEMPERATURE EXTREMES

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>
<u>LOW</u>	19 (12/04)	21 (12/03)	27 (01/07)	13 (02/01)	20 (01/01)
<u>HIGH</u>	88 (08/08)	95 (09/03)	99 (07/06)	85 (06/10)	81 (06/07) 81 (08/09)

YEAR TO YEAR COMPARISON

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>SPECIES / INDIVIDUALS</u>				
	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>
<u>JAN.</u>	39 / 1,152	40 / 654	42 / 1,400	48 / 2,385	46 / 1,570
<u>FEB.</u>	43 / 1,244	41 / 1,183	40 / 744	39 / 658	45 / 1,863
<u>MAR.</u>	47 / 1,220	46 / 1,327	47 / 1,008	44 / 689	50 / 1,871
<u>APR.</u>	49 / 758	50 / 975	57 / 691	52 / 730	57 / 878
<u>MAY</u>	86 / 1,202	90 / 763	86 / 786	83 / 1,018	104 / 1,150
<u>JUN.</u>	80 / 1,002	72 / 1,322	73 / 815	79 / 1,013	75 / 894
<u>JUL.</u>	68 / 823	74 / 935	72 / 1,152	76 / 1,601	66 / 1,008
<u>AUG.</u>	60 / 612	52 / 697	55 / 1,445	60 / 1,736	62 / 1,109
<u>SEP.</u>	60 / 952	52 / 524	71 / 1,167	56 / 935	56 / 2,108
<u>OCT.</u>	67 / 5,796	63 / 1,324	53 / 1,250	54 / 1,886	59 / 1,857
<u>NOV.</u>	52 / 1,101	46 / 702	55 / 1,314	50 / 1,457	50 / 1,933
<u>DEC.</u>	45 / 1,480	42 / 763	42 / 999	47 / 1,425	40 / 1,790

LONGEST TIME AFIELD: 10:55 (05/09/2014)

SHORTEST TIME AFIELD: 5:30 (08/06/2011)

MOST SPECIES IN 1 DAY: 104 (05/09/2014)

MOST INDIVIDUALS IN 1 DAY: 5,796 (10/01/2010)

FEWEST SPECIES IN 1 DAY: 39 (01/01/2010 & 02/01/2013)

FEWEST INDIVIDUALS IN 1 DAY: 524 (09/03/2011)

SOME OBSERVATIONS ON OHIO BIRD RECORDS

By Bill Whan

Bird records in Ohio begin with ancient traces. This oldest evidence is not easy to interpret today. In archaeological studies of human habitations, we have found remains of birds which our predecessors discarded in middens, or utilized in various ways. We have also developed interesting but less firm notions of prehistoric occurrences of birds by studying the artistic or ritual use of bird images by earlier human societies. These prehistoric records are fascinating, but we have little assurance that they reflect the local presence of specific bird species rather than trophies from voyages or trade, or even if in some cases they are representations born of hazy remembrances or even entirely imagined.

Our prehistoric records, valuable and fascinating as they are, understandably suffer from inadequacies. Most of the recovered data involve discarded skeletal remains of birds found in excavations; it is conceivable that these remains represented birds collected elsewhere, of course. Some pictorial and sculptural representations of birds in preserved artifacts are often suggestive of the local presence of certain species in life. It also seems likely, for example, that prehistoric Ohioans used the feathers of a number of species in many ways—fletching arrows, applying colors, making fans and toys, decorating clothing, etc.—but identifiable physical evidence of this sort of material is usually missing, even though artistic representations of feather ornaments exist. Specimen evidence of some important rarities on the Ohio list—Ivory-billed Woodpecker, Trumpeter Swan, Whooping Crane, even Common Raven (yes, no Ohio specimen is known to remain of this once-common bird)—consists entirely of scattered prehistoric remains, though we have more recent photographic evidence of the raven at least.

We can more easily recognize and accept bird reports from the modern era. In Ohio, we have a few offhand reports from early visitors such as the French voyageurs, Daniel Boone and his ilk, and later from settlers' tales. Some reports seem unreliable, as many immigrants gave local birds the names of similar European species. Eventually, enthusiasts with free time and learning began to record their observations for one another in a careful and systematic manner, the best of them based on the work of early pioneers like Wilson (d. 1813), who made careful illustrations of birds

shot in the field. It was no accident that many of these reporters were physicians. They were trained and inquisitive observers, knowledgeable about anatomy, dissection, scientific methods, and precise technical language; in those early days they also passed a lot of quiet time outdoors as they made rural visits to see human patients and their animals.

The modern era of organized bird records began with the mustering of careful enthusiasts by the establishment of the American Ornithologists' Union in 1883. The AOU acted quickly to standardize the nomenclature and recognize the validity of a large body of knowledge about the continent's birds. Soon thereafter, in many detailed works its leaders offered guidance to lay bird observers that led to more stable and reliable reports of observations and many verified specimens, which in turn enabled the development of authoritative checklists of American birdlife.

Ohio's founding member of the AOU was John Maynard Wheaton, a Columbus physician who during his short life of 46 years found time to study and collect birds, assemble records from Ohio, and in 1860 to publish a list of Ohio's birds. He then in 1882 produced a 441-page compendium of what was known about 320 bird species found in the state by that time. His *Report on the Birds of Ohio* greatly enlarged upon important early lists by Dr. Jared Kirtland, whose 27-page work of 1838 constituted the first realistic attempt at a complete list of Ohio's birds, naming 223 species. Like Wheaton, Kirtland had collected many bird specimens, establishing a museum in Cleveland in 1858. But with time, circumstances exposed too many of the specimens to insect infestations and other perils, and only a portion remain. A half-century later, Wheaton's collection of over a thousand round (i.e., "stuffed") skins had a luckier career, and may be found pretty much intact—though lacking important dates and places of collection—at the OSU Museum and the Ohio Historical Society.

From ornithology's earliest days the recognized record of a bird species has been the specimen—the carefully preserved round skin of a bird (minus soft parts such as eyes, muscles, viscera, etc.)—accompanied by precise details attached by the preparator which included at least species, sex, date and location of collection, and the name of the collector. In the early days such specimens were stored in the private cabinets of enthusiasts. With the establishment of stable in-

situtions, such as museums, libraries, and large private collections, they were curated with more care and became widely available to investigators as well as recorded in print. In the present day, five or six million bird specimens are thus curated in North America, though inevitably many others have been lost, and remain at best only as written accounts.

The scope of these collections has critically depended on the ease with which bird specimens could be acquired. Many species were, during the early days in which many specimens were collected, easy to find, but others—the rarest or most interesting—were to be found only seldom, or in remote areas difficult to access. For some, only monetary value (such as prevailed in the egg trade) could lead collectors to brave difficult or even dangerous conditions to secure them. Lethal collection was banned long ago except by properly licensed scientists, as has the practice of selling bird remains or even possessing them. Yes, if you're still sweeping your hearth with a heron wing, you are technically subject to prosecution, as you are if your daughter puts a blue jay feather in her headband, or even keeps a fragment of a robin's egg.

Some birds' habitats presented special problems for collectors of days gone by. Species of woodlands and fields were, once found, easy enough to obtain. Birds seen far off in wide-open spaces, especially over water, could be far more challenging targets for verification. Nineteenth-century Ohio records of most bird species are overall well represented by specimens collected, except in the case of those most often found over wide watery expanses of lakes and marshes. Kirtland preserved less than conclusive evidence for many bird species of Lake Erie. (Not that he didn't try; in 1857 he wrote about an unfamiliar young jaeger said to have been captured while attacking barnyard fowl, and his plan to confirm its specific identity by feeding it in captivity until it molted juvenile plumage.) Decades later Wheaton and his contemporaries were not able to provide persuasive specimen evidence of certain water-loving species they felt certain were to be found on the Lake and inland expanses of water.

Until well after the twentieth century began, optical instruments like telescopes and binoculars were clumsy and usually inadequate to the task of accurately identifying distant birds in the field. Photography was even more delayed in its capacity to clarify the identities of such subjects. Certain species were often seen in circumstances that made them impossible to collect or identify with confidence using the instruments available. From the Lake Erie shore, the identification of birds on

or over the offshore waves was even more challenging, as birds hard enough to bring down were even harder to retrieve later.

Such conditions resulted in anomalous results. Certain species—some terns are good examples—were not well studied in Ohio during the early days. Terns were most often seen at a distance over terrain challenging to traverse, often too far away to shoot even when stationary. Even when killed they could often be retrieved only by luck after an arduous search—by human or canine—in vast muddy marshes, and identified specimens for comparison were few. Hence, Ohio's older tern records are largely a mess, with numerous old sight reports, even from experts, of species like Gull-billed and Roseate terns that lack specimens or even detailed descriptions and cannot today be verified or duplicated. These tern species remain missing from the official Ohio list today, despite iffy nineteenth-century reports from respected authorities.

Marshes were daunting, but the open waters of Lake Erie posed more dangerous challenges. Storms and icy conditions may have brought the most interesting birds tantalizingly within sight, but shooting and retrieving them to make conclusive identifications of specimens was far more difficult than on a placid wetland or reservoir, as distant views in wind and tossing waves were often the rule, and real danger was often involved in getting close looks or retrieving specimens. Such threats had the anomalous result that many Lake Erie species—such as King and Common eiders, all three scoters, Long-tailed Jaeger, Sabine's Gull, and Black-legged Kittiwake—were first collected in the rather tranquil inland waters of Buckeye Lake, finds which profited from the likes of Milton Trautman with shotgun and skiff. This happened despite the fact that in actuality they were far more likely present along the Lake Erie shore, where local citizens with shotguns and rowboats were hardly in short supply. Oceanic rarities such as Leach's Storm-Petrel and Atlantic Puffin have been found only grounded inland in Ohio, a Long-billed Murrelet was on the placid surface of a *Seneca* reservoir, and several Black-capped Petrels have been along the Cincinnati waterfront, but never confirmed on the Lake itself. Ohio's first five records of the Magnificent Frigatebird, another salt-water species, came from locations well inland, starting with a *Fairfield* specimen. Our only Sooty Tern record, a pelagic bird admittedly driven by hurricane winds up the Mississippi valley, came from far inland in *Clermont*.

Authorities have even differed in their reliance on documented specimens. Peterjohn did not ac-

cept the first Ohio specimen of the 1880 Magnificent Frigatebird because it had not survived to the present day, even though the precise and very public location of the conspicuous mounted specimen was for many years a doctor's office in *Fairfield* prior to the establishment of a stable museum environment. And curator Milton Trautman altered to Greater Yellowlegs the tag ID of a Florida specimen, identified when received in the OSU Museum collection as a Common Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*). This change was later recognized as an error, and Florida authorities recently examined the specimen and accepted it as Florida's first example of the greenshank.

Not so long ago, many experts, most prominently Trautman, considered it permissible to include a species in the official state list only if there existed "at least one specimen (or parts thereof) deposited in some accredited institution." Elsewhere in his introduction to his *Annotated List of the Birds of Ohio* (1968, p. 238), he made these additional remarks:

Bird observation in the past has been largely a professional and/or intellectual pursuit. Today a competitive element is becoming increasingly active, which entails considerable effort by individuals, or by groups, to obtain records, by sight only, of the most unusual species or the greatest numbers of individuals.

He went on to lament the development of rivalry among less-than-expert bird observers to report large numbers or unusual species, especially when their records might be "published in semi-scientific or scientific journals," thus becoming a permanent part of ornithological literature. He went on to say of accidental species actually collected here that "[t]he vast majority... are juveniles less than one year old, and many are in such obscure juvenile plumage that it would be most difficult or even impossible to identify them in the field." He concludes that "in order to avoid mistakes only museum specimens with proper data would qualify a species for inclusion in the list." He admits only one exception, Bell's Vireo, documentation of which at the time included recordings made by a fellow professor of the songs of two individuals and deposited at the Ohio State University Museum (Trautman, p. 316).

Since Trautman's time, the composition of our state lists has ceased to be an activity conducted strictly by academic ornithologists. The rivalries, extravagances, and wishful thinking which Trautman cited persist, but the editors

of publications and the acceptance in Ohio, as in every other state and province, of the deliberations of a state records committee have prevailed. As for specimens, sight records aided by technologies like today's sound recordings and digital photographs have made the killing of birds—especially rarities—unnecessary. While Trautman's misgivings remain valid, these technologies have helped to make lethal methods of verification, in a well-studied area such as Ohio, extremely rare.

For some of us, it is intriguing to speculate which species might be added to the state list in times to come. Certainly a newly introduced exotic species might join the European Starling and the House Sparrow in our avifauna; the Monk Parakeet once seemed to pose enough of a threat that Ohio state law was written to forbid the possession of free-flying birds (Ohio Revised Code 901:5-42-01[A-2]). Warming temperatures may bring new southern species here accidentally via violent storms, as they have formerly Large-billed and Royal terns, Purple Gallinules (which bred), Anhingas, Frigatebirds, Reddish Egrets, and Roseate Spoonbills. Droughts in the west may, as with a recent Cassin's Sparrow, or long ago a Harris's Hawk, drive new species east, as other factors may have for Long-billed Murrelet, Heermann's Gull, Brambling, Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch, Townsend's Warbler, Mountain Bluebird, Violet-green Swallow, Painted Redstart, Western Kingbird (which have also bred here), and various odd hummingbirds. It was likely fierce Atlantic storms that brought us oddities like Leach's Storm-Petrel, Black-capped Petrel, Northern Lapwing, Thick-billed Murre, Black Guillemot, Ancient Murrelet, Ivory Gull, Eurasian Woodcock, and Atlantic Puffin. Unusual winter conditions may bring northern species occasionally to Ohio, as they probably have given us Boreal, Hawk, and Great Gray owls, Black-backed Woodpecker, Boreal Chickadee, Northern Wheatear, Bohemian Waxwing, and Pine Grosbeak. Perhaps only dramatic weather events like hurricanes are forecastable enough to alert observers to some of these possibilities, but the persistent climatic patterns that might govern the arrival of new breeding species are becoming apparent. New species resulting from taxonomic splits seem quite unlikely, as contrasting conditions usually characterize the habitats populated by such new species, and Ohio probably does not possess sufficient variations in these factors.

With new technologies, it seems the time has passed when rarities are routinely collected for the archives. Dr. Trautman and colleagues carefully collected two adult Western Kingbirds and

all three nestlings from a nest in **Lucas** in 1933, a nesting site that apparently still represents their easternmost ever in the US. It is likely that a similar occurrence—lethal collection of adults and young—will seem even less acceptable in the future than now. Trautman eventually came to be widely criticized for the practice in his day, even as he collected seemingly valuable specimens. Some of his friends, before returning from a birding trip out west, apparently picked up a dead magpie and tossed it in his driveway one night in 1964; he duly repaired the battered corpse and deposited it in the OSU Museum as an Ohio specimen. Stories were told of his standing day-long at the Ohio-Michigan border for a chance to shoot a rarity that could qualify as a species seen in this state. When in 1974 Ohio's second Red-cockaded Woodpecker was found in a state park, members of the Columbus Audubon Society mustered an informal on-site surveillance by volunteers for its safety lest Trautman try to shoot it for the Museum collection. As it was, Ohio's first record of this species was already sleeping in a drawer at the Museum, having been collected in Columbus, on the site now occupied by Scioto Audubon Metro Park, in 1872. Trautman too has passed away, along with any compelling necessity to verify a new species for Ohio only by collecting it. The onus for adding to that list now falls on observers who benefit so much from advanced technologies to thoroughly document verifications.

Bill is a Columbus birder and the longest-serving editor of the Ohio Cardinal.

THE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS REPORT

By Ned Keller

This year, the 115th year of the Audubon Christmas Bird Count, we present the results from 73 Christmas Count Circles, a considerable increase from last year's 68. This includes one count, Carey, which is not reported to National Audubon Society, and two new Audubon counts, Portage County and Southern Cuyahoga.

We found 155 species on the counts this year, up from last year's 151 but far below the previous year's 171. Three additional species were found during count week, but not on official count days: Harlequin Duck at Lake Erie Islands, American White Pelican at Trumbull County, and Golden Eagle at Black Swamp.

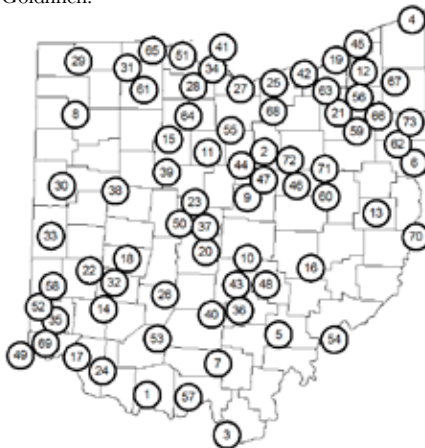
Twelve species were each seen on only a single count: Pectoral Sandpiper at Wooster (two individuals), Little Gull at Lakewood, Kumlien's Gull at Lake Erie Islands (treated as a full species, since no other Iceland Gulls were found this year), Pomarine Jaeger at Lakewood, Loggerhead Shrike at Adams County, White-eyed Vireo at Mansfield, Common Raven at Cadiz (five individuals), Varied Thrush at Millersburg, Palm Warbler at Ohio River (IN-OH), Vesper Sparrow at Ashland/Boyd County (KY-OH, six individuals), Lincoln's Sparrow at Toledo, and Baltimore Oriole at Chandlersville. At the other end of the spectrum, eleven species were found on all 73 counts: Mallard, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Tufted Titmouse, European Starling, Song Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Northern Cardinal, House Finch and American Goldfinch.

Toledo circle counters once again found the most species, with an even 100 this year. No other count had as many as 90, but Cincinnati had 88, Wooster had 85, Western Hamilton County had 83, Columbus had 82, Lake Erie Islands and Millersburg had 81, and Caesar Creek/Spring Valley, Mansfield, and Ragersville had 80. Cuyahoga Falls had an outstanding 165 observers, while Cincinnati also broke 100, with 107 observers.

We ordinarily report all the records that were reported to National Audubon Society, without making any effort to redact possible mistaken identifications. This year, we received advance notice that the regional editor for N.A.S. has deleted a couple of rarities that were not accompanied by documentation; we have eliminated those records from this report. This situation points up the importance of documenting records of unexpected birds.

Again this year, we would like to thank the National Audubon Society for making their compilation of Christmas Count data available to us. An overview of the Christmas Bird Count is on their web site, at <http://www.audubon.org/conservation/science/christmas-bird-count>. All the data, including masses of historical data, are available online at <http://netapp.audubon.org/CBCObservation/>.

Ned has written this summary of CBC results for the Cardinal for many years. He hosts the Cincinnati Bird Sightings Log, <http://cincinnatibirds.com/goodbird/sighting.php>. Though he recently retired from administering the OOS Ohio-birds listserve, we still draw on his expertise for many computer-related issues.



115TH AUDUBON CHRISTMAS COUNT

	Adena 12/14/2014 (1)	Ashland 12/19/2014 (2)	Bay View 12/27/2014 (3)	Delaware 12/27/2014 (4)	Athens 12/14/2014 (5)	Beverly Creek 12/14/2014 (6)	Brown Valley 12/21/2014 (7)	Black Swamp 12/17/2014 (8)	Brown Family Farm Center 12/21/2014 (9)	Backus Lake 12/20/2014 (10)	Boyer 14/2015 (11)	Boyer 1/3/2015 (12)	Castro 12/27/2014 (13)	Central 12/16/2014 (14)	Conry 1/3/2015 (15)	Crandallville 12/20/2014 (16)	Cromwell 12/20/2014 (17)	Conover 12/16/2014 (18)	
Greater White-fronted Goose									19	3									
Snow Goose									1										
Rose's Goose																			
Cackling Goose									1									1	
Canada Goose	376	376	14	1030	443	180		712	3405	631	520	3175	675	21	2077	294	1359	893	
Mute Swan		3								1		4		4				1	
Trumpeter Swan																35			
Tundra Swan												ow						4	
Wood Duck	7								1			1		2		2	7		
Gadwall				12	2		25		9				20	ow		26	27	148	
American Wigeon	4				6			1	3					1		9	25		
American Black Duck	112		2	16	1		8	5	9	11	2	15	19		22	14	13	40	
Mallard	111	107	60	244	152	153	171	769	886	351	20	357	90	21	1011	83	593	793	
Blue-winged Teal																			
Northern Shoveler		8								14			4				21	4	
Northern Pintail	1			1				7						1	1		1	5	
Green-winged Teal							11						ow			2	1		
Canvasback				3														12	
Redhead		ow							5						3	1	14		
Ring-necked Duck	4				ow		2		3	1		2	28	2	10	85	23	22	
Greater Scaup				1										6					
Lesser Scaup	13			2					5	1				3			2		
scaup sp.				22															
Harlequin Duck																			
Surf Scoter																			
White-winged Scoter				2															
Black Scoter																			
Long-tailed Duck									1										
Bufflehead	10	1		47					10	16		1		11		50	22	6	
Common Goldeneye				32					2					8	2		2		
Hooded Merganser	11			5	11				13	23		4	10	78			123	82	
Common Merganser	5			54		1			1			9	ow						
Red-breasted Merganser				802					11				6	1	5				
merganser sp.																			
Ruddy Duck	3	ow		1				1	14	1			ow	77	1		3		
duck sp.				67												180			
Ring-necked Pheasant		1																	
Ruffed Grouse													3						
Wild Turkey	31	47		89		14		12	ow	15	2	26	ow	31	13	9	4		
Northern Bobwhite																		15	
Common Loon				6	2				ow				ow	2			2	1	
Pied-billed Grebe				1	5				2				ow	4		1	12	1	
Horned Grebe				18						2				14				5	
American White Pelican																			
Double-crested Cormorant	8		1	6									80						
Great Blue Heron	7	10		15	4		1	1	4	12		2	13	14	ow	7	14	14	
Black-crowned Night-Heron				2															
Black Vulture	147		12		33				16				1					63	

115TH AUDUBON CHRISTMAS COUNT

Adams County 12/20/2014 (18)	Coloche 12/14/2014 (20)	Courtois Park 12/14/2014 (21)	Delaware 12/20/2014 (22)	Delaware Reservoir 12/14/2014 (23)	East Fork Lake S.P. 12/20/14 (24)	Elm Fork Lake 12/20/2014 (25)	Fayette County 12/17/2014 (26)	Friends 12/14/2014 (27)	Frontier 12/27/2014 (28)	Gay Woods 12/20/2014 (29)	Grand Forks 12/20/2014 (30)	Greene County 12/14/2014 (32)	Hammond 12/20/2014 (33)	Oram 12/20/14 (34)	Hambro Reservoir 12/20/14 (35)	North Fork 12/20/14 (36)	Hoover Reservoir 12/20/2014 (37)	Jordan Lake 12/20/2014 (38)	
					1				17										2
						1													
1051					3			1	15		3	2							4
	2065	3339	1658	904	948	1378	495	1369	3648	620	1100	1259	370	468	4051	730	83	752	380
	7	1	1												25	3	9		5
									14						8	2			
				1		2		125	1362						471				ow
	5			1					1		3								
1	17	10	120		4	1	9					3			106	36	6	29	ow
	1	8	1		1	2						ow			1	2			13
1	173	29	5		15	1		17	12			17			77	8	14	20	
278	1013	1167	376	288	422	431	94	430	1058	220	109	1183	124	19	5162	551	214	682	477
						1												1	
	10	13				15	36		1						27				
	1	1			1		2		14						25				
4	1				1	7		7								6			
						1											2	3	
	4	15				7		1	5						51	40	4	1	
	141	66	104	1	14				10			200				100	5		
															1365	1			
	2		8			100	37	3	600				3		305	2		1	15
						1													
1						1													
						1													
4	11	6	19			13	1	3	2						15	2	3	18	13
			16			372		33							2133	9	ow	16	
	146	6	124		4	51		4	3			2	50		10	26	107	622	
152						30		2	43			5			16061	ow			
810			4			65		194	7						179			1	10
3	1	136				84	2	10	31						23		9	52	34
				8											5300				
				1					2			1							
39	49	6		ow	17				ow	3		34			5	111	14		
		1				4												7	
	16	6	23			20		1				1			6	5	2		
83		1	2		2	5		4			2							33	6
8	56							2							3		1	1	4
7	41	28	33	42	36	6	19	15	39	1	4	4	5	2	178	24	4	18	1
			1																
					337		5						37				132		

115TH AUDUBON CHRISTMAS COUNT

	Adena 12/14/2014 (1)	Ashland 12/19/2014 (2)	Adrian 12/27/2014 (3)	Akron 12/27/2014 (4)	Athens 12/14/2014 (5)	Beverly 12/14/2014 (6)	Brown 12/21/2014 (7)	Black Swamp 12/17/2014 (8)	Bowling Green 12/21/2014 (9)	Black Lake 12/20/2014 (10)	Boyd 14/2015 (11)	Chillicothe 1/3/2015 (12)	Celina 12/27/2014 (13)	Central 12/16/2014 (14)	Cornelius 1/3/2015 (15)	Crandall 12/20/2014 (16)	Cromwell 12/20/2014 (17)	Chambers 12/16/2014 (18)	
Turkey Vulture	9		33	3	45		9		5	1			12					6	
Bald Eagle	3	3			8	1	3	2	4	17	4	3	8	5	13	8	1	10	4
Northern Harrier	5			2				2			2		4	1	2	12	2		
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1			3	1				2	1	1	2	2	4	1			4	1
Cooper's Hawk	4			6	4	2	1	2	10	6	1	4	3	4	6	2	22	1	
Accipiter sp.				1	1														
Red-shouldered Hawk	18	8	6	3	5	3	11			14	4		27	2	28	1	13	31	
Red-tailed Hawk	45	13	4	29	15	36	17	5	98	26	19	32	79	39	24	59	55	9	
Rough-legged Hawk		2		ow						1		3	8	1	2	17			
Buteo sp.								ow										2	
Golden Eagle																			
hawk sp.																			
American Kestrel	53	6	6	8	13	3	13	16	27	9	4	5	7	21	11	22	7	4	
Merlin				1							1		ow	2			3	1	
Peregrine Falcon			1	1													2		
Virginia Rat																			
American Coot	17				ow				6	10		21	ow	388	1		98	20	
Sandhill Crane																			
Killdeer	5	1	14				5							17				4	
Pectoral Sandpiper																			
Wilson's Snipe																			
Little Gull																			
Bonaparte's Gull		35		12									50	53					
Ring-billed Gull	2	252		1130	1	197		ow	137	424	22	33	700	103	42	24	12	223	
Herring Gull	2		281							18	6	1		4			6	2	
Kumlien's Gull																			
Lesser Black-backed Gull																			
Glaucous Gull																			
Great Black-backed Gull				35															
Great Black-backed X Herring Gull																			
gull sp.																			
Pomarine Jaeger																			
Rock Pigeon	184	64	301	172	105	153	192	340	193	84	189	230	102	96	268	26	751	96	
Eurasian Collared-Dove																			
Mourning Dove	548	85	48	55	100	138	168	40	380	418	36	151		398	90	527	690	164	
Barn Owl										1									
Eastern Screech-Owl	11			2	1	2		4			1	ow	3	3			5	4	
Great Horned Owl	12	1		3				ow	1	4		1	ow	5	4		12		
Snowy Owl				3				ow			1								
Barned Owl	2	1		1	2	1				2	3	3		1		1	3		
Long-eared Owl																			
Short-eared Owl										2						9	2		
Northern Saw-whet Owl								1											
owl sp.																			
Belted Kingfisher	12	5	3	1	7	3	1		11	5	2	9	8	1	9	22	10		
Red-headed Woodpecker	19			2				5	17	3	4	ow	2	32	2	2	10	1	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	67	38	7	20	35	71	14	18	75	39	12	59	61	109	30	39	322	35	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker			1		3				2			1	2	8		3	19	2	

115TH AUDUBON CHRISTMAS COUNT

Adams 12/20/2014 (16)	Colville 12/14/2014 (20)	Countdown Hill 12/14/2014 (21)	DeWane 12/20/2014 (22)	DeWane Reserve 12/14/2014 (23)	Earl Onk Lake S.P. 12/20/15 (24)	Elm Lake 12/20/2014 (25)	Flycatcher County 12/17/2014 (26)	Friends 12/14/2014 (27)	Frontier 12/27/2014 (28)	Gov. Woods 12/20/2014 (29)	Grand Rapids 12/20/2014 (30)	Grand Rapids 12/20/15 (31)	Greene County 12/14/2014 (32)	Greenville 12/20/2014 (33)	Orsum 12/20/15 (34)	Hambro-Field 12/20/15 (4/25)	North Fork 12/20/15 (36)	Hoover Reserve 12/20/2014 (37)	Island Lake 12/20/2014 (38)	
	1				177							6w	11				70			
4	4	8	3	17	3	5	2	32	104			5	6		1	157	1	4	9	6w
	2		2	3		1	2	6w	1	6w			1		1	3				1
	1	4	1			1	2	1		1	2	1	3		2	2	3	2		
7	30	23	3	11	1	4	1	4	10	2	1	2	3	1	9	9	2	8	4	
				2																
4	2	22	1		28	8	9	2					7	7			1	17	3	
24	69	85	22	33	27	28		32	59	11	23	25	12	7	21	30	42	56	12	
						1			6w											
				2																
	4	2	6	20	19	3	7	2	15	9	14	4	3	19	3	19	9	5	14	
4	1	1	1	1	6w		1	6w	1								1			
1	6w	3			1				2		6w				1	1		1		
2	73	189	20	1		1		1					5				1	10	120	3
						2								26	14					
			4		1			1		1							6	3		
1																				
6				26	325	1									120	2		83	6w	
830	2874	1146	2330	383	2535	3944	421	15164	26730	1	880	3833			51179	25		1915	834	
251	39	108	6	2	6	23		340	1269	1	41	351			19152	5		21	5	
								2					12			1				
																1				
8						14		23								95				
											143					2000				
290	1085	610	330	265	60	44	195	678	662		171	82	190	30	120	1310	2	140	44	
												14								
261	878	557	171	363	205	117	29	155	141		1	192	46	41	8	626	321	388	192	
1	2	8	3	4	3		1	15	5	5		30	1	1	20	5		1		
	4	7	1	6	1			6	3	2		4	2	3	6	1	1	4	3	
2						3			1						2					
1	9	3		4	1	2		1		1		3		4		2	4	6		
						3														
												1				1	6w			
1	15	14	13	17	6	1	4	3	6		3	4	10	1	3	15	8	11	3	
3	13			7	21	1		2		3	1	12	1			6w		3	1	
76	171	303	100	79	68	61	3	47	45	19	15	57	74	19	51	46	75	140	22	
	11	1	6	1	4			3	1	1			4		1	5	2	3		

115TH AUDUBON CHRISTMAS COUNT

	Adena 12/14/2014 (1)	Ashland 12/19/2014 (2)	Adena 12/27/2014 (3)	Adena 12/27/2014 (4)	Athens 12/14/2014 (5)	Beverly Creek 12/14/2014 (6)	Brown Valley 12/21/2014 (7)	Black Swamp 12/17/2014 (8)	Brown Family Farm Center 12/21/2014 (9)	Backus Lake 12/20/2014 (10)	Bryant 14/2015 (11)	Beaumont 1/3/2015 (12)	Castro 12/27/2014 (13)	Central New Sping 12/16/2014 (14)	Conry 1/3/2015 (15)	Chandlerville 12/20/2014 (16)	Cromwell 12/20/2014 (17)	Conry 12/16/2014 (18)
Downy Woodpecker	58	62	7	42	66	58	13	27	74	34	16	126	45	142	34	54	341	47
Hairy Woodpecker	29	10	3	6	14	17	4	2	24	4	3	39	10	24		15	58	1
Northern Flicker	17	4	3	2	12	13	4	1	15	12	3	9	34	39	13	28	112	20
Pileated Woodpecker	28	7	2	6	12	13	7	cw	16	9	1	12	25	18		22	48	2
woodpecker sp.																		
Eastern Phoebe	5	1												1				1
Loggerhead Shrike	1																	
Northern Shrike											1					3		
White-eyed Vireo																		
Blue Jay	372	96	41	86	102	172	72	81	216	82	43	190		269	143	146	552	51
American Crow	489	1052	55	407	110	314	349	2	612	127	112	187	276	202	39	582	810	25000
Common Raven													5					
Horned Lark	2	4		3				55			31			8	310	7	32	
Tree Swallow																		
Carolina Chickadee	165	44	35		201	16	28		120	63	5		139	291	1	169	1418	81
Black-capped Chickadee		1	3	142	1	90		34				484			31			
chickadee sp.		37				99					8							
Tufted Titmouse	124	60	23	39	90	164	11	15	146	32	17	161	84	158	14	91	616	10
Red-breasted Nuthatch	10	1		1					2			5	2					
White-breasted Nuthatch	70	62	7	19	60	87	11	27	80	44	11	103	69	134	29	66	215	49
Brown Creeper	6	7			2	8	4	13	10	3		2	5	19	12	14	17	17
Carolina Wren	52	10	29	1	65	38	8	5	26	20	2	8	19	58	6	23	367	24
House Wren													1					
Winter Wren			1		1				1	1			cw	1		4	1	
Marsh Wren														4	1			
Golden-crowned Kinglet	17	1		cw	6	16	4		22	10	5		16	26	5	20	15	8
Ruby-crowned Kinglet																	5	
Eastern Bluebird	84	53	10	42	44	40	10	3	154	47	10	90	180	39	1	94	90	10
Hermits Thrush	2				5								1	8			4	10
American Robin	25		16	3	4	4		cw	4	100	2	38	57	695	7	2	5176	167
Varied Thrush																		
Gray Catbird																		
Northern Mockingbird	37		13		28	17	7		26	12	1		7	16		13	110	4
Brown Thrasher			1					cw										
European Starling	1549	662	404	1442	771	960	1721	1686	1601	616	866	861	653	1567	1542	662	42036	1325
American Pipit															2			
Cedar Waxwing	1				cw	7			1	1		70	cw	36		45	31	cw
Orange-crowned Warbler		1																
Nashville Warbler																		
Yellow-rumped Warbler	5				cw				1			1		50				3
Yellow-rumped		18					2	6		1			16			1	65	
Pine Warbler																		
Palm Warbler																		
Common Yellowthroat																		
Eastern Towhee	16	1	12		7		2			4			12	31		9	105	6
American Tree Sparrow	56	115		50	14	81		52	103	19	88	213	54	70	276	105	240	51
Chipping Sparrow																	4	
Field Sparrow	16		4		4	6			2	6			1	9	1		81	

115TH AUDUBON CHRISTMAS COUNT

	Adena 12/14/2014 (1)	Ashland 12/19/2014 (2)	Adelphi 12/27/2014 (3)	Adelphi 12/27/2014 (4)	Athens 12/14/2014 (5)	Brewer Creek 12/14/2014 (6)	Brown Valley 12/21/2014 (7)	Black Swamp 12/17/2014 (8)	Brown Family Farm Center 12/21/2014 (9)	Backus Lake 12/20/2014 (10)	Boyrut 14/2015 (11)	Boyrut 1/3/2015 (12)	Cast 12/27/2014 (13)	Central 12/16/2014 (14)	Cherry 1/3/2015 (15)	Chanderwale 12/20/2014 (16)	Cromwell 12/20/2014 (17)	Cherry 12/16/2014 (18)	
Vesper Sparrow			6																
Savannah Sparrow													1					1	
Fox Sparrow	5													1				8	
Song Sparrow	125	22	26	10	88	45	19	1	81	36	17	11	99	53	59	80	535	16	
Lincoln's Sparrow																			
Swamp Sparrow	5	5	2		1	3			3	4			11	8	9	9	32		
White-throated Sparrow	43	22	21	11	55	16	7	7	22	31	2	12	47	129	17	22	690	71	
White-crowned Sparrow	84	5		1	25	9	2		62	51	1	1	30	1	10	5	124	1	
sparrow sp.									4										
Dark-eyed Junco	333	133	27	126	107	143	15	46	267	74	34	406	121	316	378	157	415	39	
Lapland Longspur								420			1					237			
Snow Bunting			72					10											
Northern Cardinal	241	137	44	54	148	249	20	55	243	110	33	291	136	261	158	144	1550	88	
Red-winged Blackbird	2			1	ow									50	1	1	11	130	
Eastern Meadowlark	18									17							21	9	
Rusty Blackbird				4														13	
Common Grackle	4					3	2				2		1		1	1	6	1	
Brown-headed Cowbird	4								40	3						30			
blackbird sp.																			
Baltimore Oriole																	1		
Purple Finch	28			2		1			1		6	3	2	6	1			11	
House Finch	63	52	35	81	64	54	28	13	72	14	41	117	23	95	21	22	473	12	
Common Redpoll				27					ow										
Pine Siskin	3	8			1				ow	2		13		1		4	5		
American Goldfinch	223	78	51	53	117	98	13	35	121	33	18	215	108	120	59	149	412	33	
Evening Grosbeak	2																		
House Sparrow	81	357	75	229	68	544	10	707	728	527	174	418	128	297	826	65	877	71	
Total Species	78	54	43	74	59	47	44	42	72	68	45	58	62	80	59	65	88	63	
Total Individuals	6367	4163	1468	7220	3293	3945	3026	5246	10319	4294	2398	8233	4469	6837	8091	4259	62273	29831	
observers	26	13	3	17	16	20	2	9	34	18	4	18	12	63	14	11	107	54	
party hours	80	38	8	85.25	42.25	66.25	8	19.25	66.55	36.5	16.5	96.5	74	51	26	43.5	177.5	32.5	

115TH AUDUBON CHRISTMAS COUNT

Location 12/20/2014 (18)	Colchester 12/14/2014 (20)	Concord 12/14/2014 (21)	Danvers 12/20/2014 (22)	Dedham Beach 12/14/2014 (23)	Easton Lake S.P. 12/20/15 (24)	Essex 12/20/2014 (25)	Flycatcher 12/17/2014 (26)	Friends 12/14/2014 (27)	Forest 12/27/2014 (28)	Gay Woods 12/20/2014 (29)	Grand Rapids 12/20/14 (30)	Green County 12/14/2014 (32)	Hampton 12/20/2014 (33)	Oran 12/20/15 (34)	Hambrook Field 12/20/15 (4/25)	North 12/20/15 (36)	Hoar's Beach 12/20/2014 (37)	Island Lake 12/20/2014 (38)		
		2			1												5			
34	142	200	60	89	190	42	2	16	58	7	16	61	34	22	34	196	61	94	32	
3	11	17	2	10	24			1	21							71	4	5		
20	408	159	167	31	174	1	2	12	25		1	10	159	1	22	296	41	163	2	
		17	14	2	44	47		3	3			8	5		1	99		4	17	
							20												8	
246	419	784	136	215	189	184	6	110	330	52	97	692	72	48	119	65	421	383	80	
									96	ow		34							1	
									ow			2								
113	551	938	213	265	529	132	8	105	200	27	62	365	133	46	125	212	246	337	49	
9	24	21	1		1	22		8	930		1				6				16	
					22								35							
	1	68	2	6	100		50	3	5								ow			
	3	8		1	942				21	10					3				2	
				7												6				
	1		8		3						1						1	10	1	
67	396	324	93	126	119	73	52	28	294	11	15	116	47	51	115	205	18	118	33	
						4														
	5	10		5	30				12			68	26		10			3	25	4
63	345	817	127	147	256	58	10	39	314	12	26	167	126	28	125	135	193	213	30	
601	1387	1924	290	677	72	471		196	761	270	1349	412	230	242	2031	119	40	349	757	
63	82	79	70	82	74	75	44	68	75	40	48	65	57	40	75	74	64	77	57	
6726	53337	27885	14467	10989	26805	13935	2466	21039	42660	2794	6628	12140	4969	2496	115379	22503	4506	11747	4988	
52	74	165	52	32	20	25	20	22	28	6	5	26	26	10	14	13	53	56	14	
54.5	171	228	80.5	84.9	41.75	49	5	38	67.75	10.5	34.5	89.5	21.5	16.8	34	56	56.56	79.5	28.5	

115TH AUDUBON CHRISTMAS COUNT

	Midwest Painesville Area 12/25/14 (59)	Knox 11/20/15 (40)	Lake Erie Islands 12/14/2014 (41)	Wesley 12/20/2014 (42)	Lancaster 12/27/2014 (43)	Monroeville 12/20/2014 (44)	Mentor 12/27/2014 (45)	Milburg 11/20/15 (46)	Monroeville 12/20/14 (47)	New Lection 11/20/15 (48)	Ohio River (W/OH) 12/14/2014 (49)	O'Shaughnessy Reinforced/ 12/15/2014 (50)	Orwa NWR 11/20/15 (51)	Oxford 12/20/2014 (52)	Pink Creek Area 12/14/2014 (53)	Painesburg (W/OH) 12/20/15 (54)	Plymouth 12/20/15 (55)	
Greater White-fronted Goose	30	4																
Snow Goose													2					
Rose's Goose	1																	
Cackling Goose	1						5											
Canada Goose	1954	332	421	938	228	2075	1215	910	402	127	821	1027	3591	271	5	1611	544	
Mute Swan					9	3	1			2		2	3					
Trumpeter Swan	20												78					
Tundra Swan	397		2						ow			3	6934					
Wood Duck				9		2											1	
Gadwall	9		43		23	36		18		9	170	3	40				5	
American Wigeon		1						1	3		6		1	ow				
American Black Duck	22		10	16		41	30	29	20		86	14	99		1	4		
Mallard	164	38	435	1193	178	426	247	304	404	15	624	918	1959	58	11	322	201	
Blue-winged Teal																		
Northern Shoveler											69	16	15				106	
Northern Pintail	4			76		1			ow		16		8		2		ow	
Green-winged Teal		1				1		7								ow		
Canvasback		ow	53		1							6		1				
Redhead	17		50		4									1	1			
Ring-necked Duck					21		2			1	5		4			11		
Greater Scaup			193	131			19	1			2		1					
Lesser Scaup			487	15		10					2	4	43		ow			
scaup sp.			1763	146									20					
Harlequin Duck		ow																
Surf Scoter				12														
White-winged Scoter																		
Black Scoter			4	5									1					
Long-tailed Duck			1															
Bufflehead			1541	41		13	1				11		28	3	29	23	1	
Common Goldeneye			1014	867		3	6				5	11	1312		ow			
Hooded Merganser			11	3		17	9	1			55	43	5		21	3		
Common Merganser			164	16		3					3	5182	3	1				
Red-breasted Merganser			43161	377		1	4215					611			3			
merganser sp.			417	10														
Ruddy Duck			4	14		25		6			4	2		16	510		7	
duck sp.			329										387					
Ring-necked Pheasant	ow	5	10					1				2	1					
Ruffed Grouse		ow																
Wild Turkey			4	10		131		25	203	11	51	6		11	28	81		
Northern Bobwhite																		
Common Loon			4				1								5	1		
Pied-billed Grebe	1		1	2	1	1					7	1		3	191			
Horned Grebe			70	15			5	1			1		1		28			
American White Pelican																		
Double-crested Cormorant			22	8			42					1			4			
Great Blue Heron	1		2	1		11	14	5	3	1	59	86	26	10	26	18	1	
Black-crowned Night-Heron																		
Black Vulture		19			8			62	ow		1			25	48			

115TH AUDUBON CHRISTMAS COUNT

Polk County 12/14/2014 (66)	Putnam 12/20/2014 (67)	Sevier 12/15/2014 (68)	Sevier County 12/15/2014 (69)	Quitman 12/20/2014 (59)	Roger Williams 12/30/2014 (60)	Swain 12/27/2014 (61)	Salem 12/27/2014 (62)	Southern Ocala 12/25/15 (63)	Tipton 12/20/2014 (64)	Toledo 12/14/2014 (65)	T. R. Rorer 11/25/15 (65)	Thomas County 12/14/2014 (67)	Washington 10/20/15 (68)	Western Hamilton County 12/27/2014 (69)	Washington 10/20/15 (70)	Wilcox 12/15/2014 (71)	Yamhill 12/27/2014 (72)	Youngstown 12/20/2014 (73)	Total Individuals	Total Counts
						3				51	1			2					76	6
																			2	2
						16										6			1109	13
336	357	757	3537	591	1528	1690	382	829	2249	1560	2394	1558	1393	344	1199	1991	896	81827	71	
			15			7						10	1		3		2	124	25	
1									30			33	6					227	10	
			4						259			18				14	102	9698	15	
									2			4				4		52	16	
	1		1	18					4			9		211		6	2	1219	38	
												6	1	6		ow		103	23	
2	57		14	2	2				123	24	32	29	5		2	5	4	1351	53	
60	351	86	1064	140	450	296	248	151	1006	692	343	511	646	480	180	768	165	32504	73	
													3					5	3	
			3			1			ow	2				19		20		412	21	
			1									ow	6	14		35		224	23	
	5											1		66				121	15	
												6	6					100	12	
									4			11	11					250	21	
12	13		1						3		53	100	130					1179	33	
									6001									7721	11	
									24835	16	5	25	1					26545	28	
									22100									24041	5	
																		0	0	
													1					13	2	
																		5	4	
																		10	3	
									2									5	4	
4		5	1				4		46	7	78	4	1				4	2129	43	
		4							58	10	18	7	8	8				5955	25	
40	2	3	14				2		8	21	25	30	10	4		2	28	1872	46	
9					6				72		7	4						21833	23	
	8		4				3		1	10	6	2						50497	26	
																		427	2	
	1	15	14						106		25	113					21	1369	35	
14			26	56												5		6372	10	
					3						1							28	11	
	5																	9	3	
	6		27	50				88		53	87	40	34	104	78	89		1748	43	
									1									16	2	
				1							ow				1			38	14	
	5	1							50	2	4	1	3	2		1		343	34	
	1									1	1			ow				301	23	
					27		2	2				2						0	0	
									10									290	21	
2	29	4	9	5	2	3	2	3	16	3	5	1	12	6	18	21	1	1031	67	
									6		1							10	4	
														5			2	953	18	

115TH AUDUBON CHRISTMAS COUNT

	Wilder/Paine/Walks Area 12/25/14 (59)	Krogon 11/20/15 (40)	Lake Erie Islands 12/14/14 (41)	Adams 12/20/14 (42)	Lancaster 12/27/14 (43)	Monroeville 12/20/14 (44)	Metc 12/27/14 (45)	Milburg 11/20/15 (46)	Monroeville/Forest 12/20/14 (47)	New Lection 11/20/15 (48)	Ohio River (W/OH) 12/14/14 (49)	O'Shaughnessy/ Remond/ 12/15/14 (50)	Obama NWR 11/20/15 (51)	Oxford 12/20/14 (52)	Park Creek Area 12/14/14 (53)	Parkburg (W/OH) 12/20/15 (54)	Plymouth 12/20/15 (55)
Turkey Vulture		8	ow		7			74		1				33		4	
Bald Eagle	44	10	29	5	1	6	11	11	30		10	12	106	2	4	2	2
Northern Harrier	34	6	1					2		3	3	3	15		7		
Sharp-shinned Hawk		1	4		1	1	2	8				1	1	1	1	1	
Cooper's Hawk	1	5	12	17	2	3	4	19	1	2	7	25	3	4	3	3	3
Accipiter sp.																	
Red-shouldered Hawk	ow	4		5	1	6	5	2	5	3	4	7		7	2	9	
Red-tailed Hawk	33	41	12	32	26	40	29	157	22	9	42	95	53	11	27	31	5
Rough-legged Hawk	2							6	4			1	1	1			
Buteo sp.																	2
Golden Eagle																	
hawk sp.					1												
American Kestrel	21	25		7	7	3	3	27	4	11	25	24	30	8	12	15	6
Merlin											2						
Peregrine Falcon			ow	3		ow	2	1			2					1	
Virginia Rat				1				2									
American Coot				3	6	521					257		1	16	118		
Sandhill Crane				2									22				
Killdeer	1					3		43							22		
Pectoral Sandpiper																	
Wilson's Snipe		1						17									
Little Gull				1													
Bonaparte's Gull			37	2220		18	62					6	5		ow		
Ring-billed Gull	286	411	9056		1502	8019		14	1	175	275	2955	100	472	3	4	
Herring Gull	3	1062	370		22	3195	1					1596	1			ow	
Kumlien's Gull		1															
Lesser Black-backed Gull				1		ow	2						2				
Glaucous Gull																	
Great Black-backed Gull			33	30			128						14				
Great Black-backed X Herring Gull		1															
gull sp.		157															
Pomarine Jaeger				1													
Rock Pigeon	800	289		351	140	220	167	581	171	63	329	146	57	180	25	1442	101
Eurasian Collared-Dove									5								
Mourning Dove	205	258	14	238	138	187	29	888	133	26	310	328	135	446	400	574	135
Barn Owl								2									
Eastern Screech-Owl	5		26		18			3	4		2	1	11			1	1
Great Horned Owl	3		20		1	2	2	10				2	9	7			1
Snowy Owl			2	1													
Barned Owl	1			7	3	2		7				4		2	1		1
Long-eared Owl			1				1					1	1				
Short-eared Owl	6											1	1				
Northern Saw-whet Owl			3			1											
owl sp.																	
Belted Kingfisher	2		1	6	8	15	2	9	3		9	9	2	6	8	2	1
Red-headed Woodpecker	49			1	1	7	1	2				6	2	1	3		
Red-bellied Woodpecker	20	43	61	68	46	108	37	261	43	16	66	82	20	73	25	53	7
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker			5			3		2		3	11	7	1	7	2	7	

115TH AUDUBON CHRISTMAS COUNT

Polk County 12/14/2014 (66)	Putnam 12/20/2014 (67)	Sevier 12/15/2014 (68)	Sevier 12/15/2014 (69)	Sevier 12/20/2014 (69)	Roger Williams 12/30/2014 (80)	Sevier 12/27/2014 (81)	Salem 12/27/2014 (82)	Southern Christian 12/25/15 (83)	Sevier 12/20/2014 (84)	Toledo 12/14/2014 (85)	Sevier 12/25/15 (86)	Sevier 12/14/2014 (87)	Wellspring 12/27/2014 (88)	Western Hamilton County 12/27/2014 (89)	Wellspring (WCH) 12/25/15 (90)	Winted 12/15/2014 (91)	Sevier 12/27/2014 (92)	Youngstown 12/20/2014 (93)	Total Individuals	Total Counts
				294	1										8				812	22
2	8		2	10	3	2	4		35	35		8	11	2	5	1	10	4	901	67
	1	1		8	13					13	1	2	1	8		2	8		184	40
2	3		1	3	2	2			1	5		1	2	2	1	3	2		101	51
4	4	1	13	30	8	6	4	4	4	25	4	3	2	11	2	23	17	1	489	71
				2										2					8	5
2	4		10				6	6		1	19	13	4	14		6	5	2	437	54
7	20	6	77	249	63	42	6	38	50	47	16	17	54	16	146	85	9		2637	72
	1		19	1							1			1		11	3		87	21
2														1					10	6
																			0	0
			2										1						5	4
	5	10	8	58	40	11	1	16	35	1	2	7	16	3	42	21			918	68
	1		1					1		2				cw			cw		26	18
					3					4			cw	2					32	18
																			3	2
	1									36		1	152	1		1			2101	33
		1								1	3						38		109	9
		2		8						2				5		1	1		149	21
																2			2	1
				6			1							1	1	6	1		35	9
																			1	1
										110			cw						3181	18
60		215	534	1787	251	22	104	1	8808	1065	564	55	1075	143	14	23	6531	162857	63	
1			180	40	37		2		2025	40	11	9	2	58	1	4		30611	45	
																			1	1
					3					9									32	8
										1									2	2
										13									393	10
																			1	1
18			52													95			2455	6
																			1	1
19	981	61	457	1535	156	113	40	204	651	56	5	133	499	409	1255	236	68	21794	71	
																			20	3
102	656	84	714	1176	353	224	31	78	326	68	369	304	808	184	1188	367	152	19956	71	
				1												1			5	4
			3	11	18				12	23		3		1	3	4	5		296	46
1	3		7	13	8	1		2	11					4	6	10	2		222	47
				1	1					1									18	11
	2	1	4	8		1		1			1	2	1	4		11	6	1	132	46
				2															6	5
				3										1		1	2		31	11
										3									10	6
																			1	1
4	7	6	6	9		2	5	1	1	1	2	3	2	12	5	14	8	2	419	67
	1		2	34	5		4	3			2	3	2		16	24			336	45
30	32	18	100	365	46	26	28	68	61	38	65	18	201	47	362	135	15		5206	73
		2		2				1	2					15	2	1			157	39

115TH AUDUBON CHRISTMAS COUNT

	Blaker-Peters Marsh Area 12/25/14 (5)	Krogon 11/20/15 (6)	Lake Erie Marsh 12/14/14 (4)	Lancaster 12/20/14 (4)	Lancaster 12/27/14 (4)	Monroe 12/20/14 (4)	Metc 12/27/14 (4)	Milburg 11/20/15 (6)	Montpelier 12/20/14 (7)	New Lection 11/20/15 (6)	Ohio River (A-C) 12/14/14 (4)	O'Shaughnessy 12/14/14 (4)	Owens MWR 12/14/14 (5)	Owens MWR 11/20/15 (1)	Oxford 12/20/14 (5)	Palm Creek 12/14/14 (5)	Parkburg (W-C) 12/20/15 (4)	Plymouth 12/20/15 (5)
Downy Woodpecker	23	29	223	159	42	140	45	316	53	16	72	88	54	70	20	57	9	
Hairy Woodpecker	5	3		26	14	34	10	75	15	3	7	31	10	11	3	8	2	
Northern Flicker	19	21	82	5	17	12	1	52	9	8	48	36	13	16	15	27	2	
Pileated Woodpecker	1	7		9	11	19	8	43	7	4	15	11		14	13	12	1	
woodpecker sp.																		
Eastern Phoebe																	2	
Loggerhead Shrike																		
Northern Shrike	ow						1							1				
White-eyed Vireo						1												
Blue Jay	145	135	93	362	136	337	114	262	102	38	130	293	102	99	64	420	28	
American Crow	63	331	121	65	1060	15000	154	545	419	120	960	212		173	220	242	163	
Common Raven																		
Horned Lark	451	158	1			15		217	52		1	151	35		2		47	
Tree Swallow													4					
Carolina Chickadee		78			157	72		435	67	41	245	270		156	89	236		
Black-capped Chickadee			759	220		1	154	3	7				18				15	
chickadee sp.	12					242			24									
Tufted Titmouse	14	61	1	107	77	266	80	375	62	34	105	167	7	106	29	176	12	
Red-breasted Nuthatch		4				16		2	1			1		2				
White-breasted Nuthatch	24	41	44	128	76	258	75	320	44	14	58	81	20	77	24	48	17	
Brown Creeper	6	3	66	1	4	15	1	28	4	1	5	20	14	16	3	6	2	
Carolina Wren	3	21	39	17	38	23	2	149	18	12	108	41	3	24	16	74	1	
House Wren																		
Winter Wren			1	2	1	1	2	4		1	1	ow	3	3	4			
Marsh Wren																		
Golden-crowned Kinglet	2	4	78	2	1	23		46	3		25	4	5	7	5			
Ruby-crowned Kinglet			2				1										10	
Eastern Bluebird	10	88	26	1	58	258	36	361	20	37	73	147	10	12	55	82	7	
Hermit Thrush		1	69	1							4	ow	1	5	1			
American Robin	45	9	194	159	42	9	23	20	2		3145	380	13	1813	1	113	4	
Varied Thrush							1											
Gray Catbird			1															
Northern Mockingbird	2	16		2	16	1	2	75	5	4	37	17	ow	6	8	55		
Brown Thrasher		ow																
European Starling	1852	4347	8597	705	528	562	2580	1802	1517	199	6351	5898	1390	5635	532	2287	858	
American Pipit			4			ow		20			1							
Cedar Waxwing	6		102	ow			33	44			16	5		5	16	3		
Orange-crowned Warbler																		
Nashville Warbler											1							
Yellow-rumped Warbler		8									9		10			23		
Yellow-rumped			55	1		3		2		1		4		3				
Pine Warbler																		
Palm Warbler												1						
Common Yellowthroat			1															
Eastern Towhee		1			4	2		11	2	1	25	2		11	2	9		
American Tree Sparrow	158	136	20	170	21	181	75	391	202	23	92	235	248	42	13	20	23	
Chipping Sparrow			ow					1							5	1		
Field Sparrow					14	1		11			13	9		3	8	13		

115TH AUDUBON CHRISTMAS COUNT

Polk County 12/14/2014 (56)	Putnam 12/20/2014 (57)	Sevier 12/15/2014 (58)	Sevier 12/15/2014 (59)	Sevier 12/20/2014 (60)	Sevier 12/20/2014 (61)	Salem 12/17/2014 (62)	Sevier 12/20/2014 (63)	Tenn. 12/20/2014 (64)	Toledo 12/14/2014 (65)	TN 12/20/2014 (66)	Tenn. 12/20/2014 (67)	Union 12/20/2014 (68)	Union 12/20/2014 (69)	Union 12/20/2014 (70)	Union 12/20/2014 (71)	Union 12/20/2014 (72)	Union 12/20/2014 (73)	Total Individuals	Total Counts	
35	40	17	105	402	72	47	55	96	189	70	43	23	185	39	450	218	30	6721	73	
8	3	6	31	140	15	7	13	21	23	3	8	1	21	9	99	48	9	1345	70	
12	17	6	21	92	17	5	2	34	36	5	5	12	38	8	95	54	2	1696	73	
8	27	5	4	52	2	6	6	14	5		3	5	2	28	12	51	22	2	829	65
	1								1				1					1	1	
																		13	8	
									1									1	1	
									1		1	4			1	1		15	10	
																		1	1	
135	106	32	526	635	237	88	68	249	196	194	418	70	266	62	966	313	36	14321	72	
109	477	41	322	4269	130	749	64	139	16	254	170	27	1768	36000	728	374	6540	109088	72	
																		5	1	
	35	1	6	93	85	4		35	5				51	13		202	52	2709	43	
									6									10	2	
	157	45		684									846	252	399	279		9235	45	
116			314	15	23	78	131	93	229	207	155	73			89	25	65	5168	38	
															12	93	24	789	12	
42	121	15	145	538	73	30	65	37	48	85	73	21	181	148	477	215	36	7817	73	
	3		6	2				1	5	2			1		1	5	2	214	32	
44	26	18	143	419	102	41	58	97	60	57	67	31	105	56	465	168	30	6190	72	
5	2	3	3	35	24	3	4	7	25				3	23	3	59	36	1	864	67
2	30	3	31	240	22	17	9	17	34	11	14		205	60	188	104	13	3024	72	
1																		2	2	
			3						7						5	3	1	79	34	
									2							1		8	4	
	5	3	14	87	3	10		5	3	3	3	3	17	4	70	51	2	881	61	
	2														1	1		26	11	
23	46	6	73	496	7	48	23	22	4	66	60	14	57	52	432	146	20	4556	72	
			1	2					3				3	1	1	1		144	28	
2	4	356	15	11	9	22	1	226		8	2	2384	20	9	28	2	22466	66		
			1													1		7	6	
	14	1	6	118	6	6	5		16	2	2		69	5	160	37	5	1138	56	
			1															2	2	
158	4059	2300	4685	7001	5121	737	823	1403	11372	1768	835	2724	15485	1751	4409	1377	312	282489	73	
			28	1									1		26	1		84	9	
1	16	6	51	11		4	26		7					1	9	1		955	37	
									1						1			2	2	
												2		1				138	13	
			13	9	3			6	11	2			2		15	24		405	35	
			1															2	2	
																		1	1	
1	9		3	20			3				2		23	3	17	13		451	42	
140	6	13	526	756	264	140	71	202	612	125	212	38	149	11	651	742	17	11093	71	
	2		2						3						2			35	11	
3	19		53			1			1		ow		31	6	11	7		453	36	

115TH AUDUBON CHRISTMAS COUNT

	Wesley Fisher (Wesley Fisher Area 12/20/14 (59))	Knoxton 11/20/15 (40)	Lake Erie Islands 12/14/15 (41)	Lancaster 12/20/14 (42)	Lancaster 12/27/14 (43)	Mansfield 12/20/14 (44)	Martin 12/27/14 (45)	Milburg 11/20/15 (46)	Monroeville (West 12/20/14 (47))	New Lexington 11/20/15 (48)	Ohio River (W/OH) 12/14/15 (49)	O'Shaughnessy (Remond) 12/15/14 (50)	Orwell NWR 11/20/15 (51)	Oxford 12/20/14 (52)	Piquette Creek Area 12/14/15 (53)	Painesburg (W/OH) 12/20/15 (54)	Plymouth 11/20/15 (55)	
Vesper Sparrow																		
Savannah Sparrow								1										
Fox Sparrow				1		3		3			1	1		3		1		
Song Sparrow	21	44	12	38	119	80	7	635	86	9	259	77	18	23	48	122	7	
Lincoln's Sparrow																		
Swamp Sparrow	2	5		3	21	7		11	3		67	1	12	9	6	3		
White-throated Sparrow	13	63	98	12	17	10		362	42	8	199	84	15	84	13	110	2	
White-crowned Sparrow	8	13			11			520	29		351	6		5	21	43	5	
sparrow sp.			1		10													
Dark-eyed Junco	69	192	187	235	115	527	89	868	141	61	184	541	68	110	50	145	25	
Lapland Longspur	57			60														45
Snow Bunting			26										51					
Northern Cardinal	39	127	285	195	205	376	95	1130	261	68	295	539	122	144	117	400	27	
Red-winged Blackbird		35	6	6			17		2		305	1	84		30	150		
Eastern Meadowlark		6						10		1	4				1			
Rusty Blackbird			3															
Common Grackle			cw	1	5	15	41				36	4		2501		1		
Brown-headed Cowbird			cw			5		63	240		211		25	10	2	8	cw	
blackbird sp.								1										
Baltimore Oriole																		
Purple Finch			13		10	4			3			1		1		1		
House Finch	12	45	219	121	81	125	55	377	42	94	74	364	35	40	22	170	11	
Common Redpoll				2				1										
Pine Siskin			25		5	26	12	4		1	14	1						
American Goldfinch	103	72	114	203	61	227	110	441	123	29	169	241	95	76	29	108	20	
Evening Grosbeak				3					1									
House Sparrow	360	307	858	1226	194	631	177	1709	392	187	214	85	1390	149	65	205	139	
Total Species	58	49	81	77	53	80	62	81	52	44	76	76	76	66	72	61	43	
Total Individuals	7845	7496	64485	20679	4010	25042	21511	15255	5474	1298	17175	13138	29267	35265	3662	9564	2574	
observers	777	52	31	72	26	29	56	45	26	12	13	69	23	21	13	32	3	
party hours	34.75	50.25	97	76.75	42.5	75.5	54	174	55.25	27	37.5	168.45	48.5	52	34	60.5	14.5	

115TH AUDUBON CHRISTMAS COUNT

Polk County 12/14/2014 (67)	Pennsboro 12/20/2014 (67)	Polk County 12/14/2014 (67)	Polk County 12/20/2014 (59)	Reynolds 12/20/2014 (80)	Reynolds 12/27/2014 (81)	Salem 12/17/2014 (62)	Southern Orange 12/25/15 (65)	Taliaferro 12/20/2014 (64)	Toledo 12/14/2014 (65)	Tioga 12/20/2014 (65)	Tioga 12/27/2014 (65)	Transylvania 12/14/2014 (67)	Washington 12/20/15 (68)	Wayne 12/27/2014 (69)	Washington 12/20/15 (70)	Wayne 12/19/2014 (71)	Wayne 12/27/2014 (72)	Youngstown 12/20/2014 (73)	Total Individuals	Total Counts
			1	8					ow					4		5	1		6	1
	1			3					2					1					42	17
23	42	5	282	1435	39	30	7	42	89	24	20	5	343	71	808	397	11	7992	73	
									1										1	1
	4		12	23	5	1	1	3	30	1	ow	1	1	38	8	59	81		698	54
21	39	4	32	312	8	7	7	2	100	12	6		467	49	144	154	2	5417	70	
	11	4	77	951	2	22		1	11	5		1	37		652	78		3500	53	
2			3																48	7
95	205	34	498	1223	273	111	98	265	483	317	169	107	468	152	912	351	58	17191	73	
					2337				1							1			3290	12
									8										169	6
122	165	42	401	1342	114	170	52	161	395	207	173	76	583	200	1222	678	70	19226	73	
1	15			17	1	4			1827					3		6	33		3892	38
				14										3					161	13
	100		7						1					9		12	43		212	10
	72		1	7	1	1		2	11			2			5	11	2	25475	36	
			5	19	41		4		519	2	3			3		205	32		2084	30
			16						270										300	5
																			1	1
	1	1				2					1	3					2		129	30
43	30	25	127	486	282	38	12	49	360	41	15	62	89	46	555	151	47	7886	73	
									1							ow			35	5
6	30			16		1			24						3	2	1		406	35
72	50	31	180	519	68	55	43	68	281	27	63	109	260	65	603	277	44	10203	73	
	1								1										8	5
34	39	70	893	1313	1287	474	75	880	2277	346	204	298	621	122	2158	752	133	38904	72	
50	72	49	66	80	60	52	48	50	100	57	70	63	83	54	79	85	48	155		
1998	8604	4376	16450	30493	13700	5400	2635	5483	89073	7597	6978	6932	29792	41018	21916	11455	15406	1186915		
8	15	4	30	74	13	25	17	45	77	12	20	42	13	68	36	11				
41.5	30.5	28	76.2	263	67	47.95	35.18	40.65	109	60.5	57.25	25.6	90.5	47.25	148.5	61.5	26			

RECENT ACTIONS BY THE OHIO BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE, March–April 2015

by Paul Gardner

The Ohio Bird Records Committee contributes to the ornithological record of Ohio by reviewing reports of the sightings of review-list species and potential first state records. The review-list can be viewed and downloaded at <http://www.ohiobirds.org/site/committee/review.php>.

At the annual meeting on April 18, 2015, the committee approved changes to the official state list. Arctic Loon is added to the review list based on the acceptance of the first state record described below. It joins Neotropic Cormorant and Crested Caracara as additions to the state list since the last “annual” meeting in 2013. In addition, Black-necked Stilt, Eurasian Collared-Dove and Common Raven are moved to the core list from the review-list. The committee no longer asks that sightings of these three species be submitted for review.

Since the last published report (*The Ohio Cardinal* Fall 2014), the committee has resolved nine reports of nine species. Two reports were accepted and seven were not. Acceptance of a report requires approval by at least eight of the committee members. Reports receiving five to seven votes for acceptance are recirculated to the committee for up to three rounds of voting. Reports receiving fewer than five votes to accept are not accepted.

Reports of sightings of rare birds can be documented online using a handy form at <http://www.ohiobirds.org/site/committee/rare-bird-submission.php>. Alternatively, information can be emailed to the secretary at psg0708@gmail.com. While the committee endeavors to glean reports of sightings of rarities from internet sources, some reports never come to the committee’s attention, and many reports found on the internet lack sufficient details to enable review. Direct submission of reports is the only sure way to see that a sighting becomes part of Ohio’s official ornithological record.

The current membership of the committee is Mike Busam, Paul Gardner (Secretary), Rob Harlan, Rick Nirschl, Ed Pierce, Jay Stenger, Sue Tackett, Doug Vogus and Bill Whan. Craig Caldwell serves as an alternate. The terms of Mike Busam, Ed Pierce and Bill Whan expired at the end of the April 2015 annual meeting. All provided able and valuable assistance to the com-

mittee which is gratefully acknowledged. Elected to replace them were Dan Sanders, Jack Stenger and Su Snyder. They will begin voting with the next round of reports.

All common and scientific names, and the taxonomic order in which the records are presented, follow the Fifty-fourth Supplement to the American Ornithologists’ Union Check-List of North American Birds.

Records Accepted

Arctic Loon (*Gavia arctica*) One individual, Dillon Lake State Park, *Muskingum*, 23-24 October 2014. Documented by Brad Perkins, Carlton Schooley and Katie West. Photographed by Anthony Fry, Brad Perkins and Katie West. Vote 9-0. An alternate-plumaged Arctic Loon visiting an Ohio reservoir in mid-October is surely one of the most unexpected sightings imaginable. Fortunately Perkins and West were able to approach the bird on a pontoon boat to a reasonable distance and acquire diagnostic photographs. The committee thanks Jon Dunn, Paul Lehman, Peter Pyle and Thede Tobish for their opinions on the photographic evidence. This is a first state record and the first U.S. record east of Colorado.

Common Raven (*Corvus corax*) Two adults and four chicks, Barkcamp State Park, *Belmont*, May 17, 2014. Documented by Scott Pendleton. The details of this successful nesting have been published in the Summer 2014 *Cerulean*, Volume 11(1)2-3. Accepted as a nesting record 9-0. This is the second accepted nesting record in Ohio in modern times, the other being a 2008 record from Jefferson County.

Records Not Accepted

Cinnamon Teal (*Anas cyanoptera*) One individual, Cleremont, 23 September 2013. The description of a reddish eclipse-plumaged teal lacked sufficient details to convince the committee. Vote 2-7.

Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*) One individual, Rocky Fork Lake, *Highland*, 19 October 2013. This sighting, which would have constituted a first state record at the time, was of a fly-by cormorant observed from 20 yards or more without optics. Failure to

mention relative neck and tail lengths weighed heavily on the committee's decision. Vote 1-8.

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) One individual, Terrace Park Wilderness Preserve, **Hamilton**, 21 April 2013. In the report, written five months after the sighting, the observer confesses to much confusion at the time of the sighting. The committee was confused as well. Vote 1-8.

Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*) One individual, Paint Creek Wildlife Area, **Highland**, 3 September 2013. Sightings of Swallow-tailed Kites without optics generally divide the committee. Some feel the morphology of the bird is sufficiently distinctive to justify acceptance; others require supporting details. This report lacked such details. Vote 2-7.

Prairie Falcon (*Falco mexicanus*) One individual, near Lima, **Allen**, 18 April 2013. The committee felt the report, written five months after the no-optics sighting from a moving car, better described an American Kestrel. Vote 1-8.

Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*) One individual, BIWA, **Marion**, 9 November 2013. "Heard-only" reports of Yellow Rail are troublesome due to potential confusion with cricket frogs. While the reporter asserts that this was not a cricket frog, he provides insufficient information as to how that conclusion was reached. Further his statement that 500 rails and zero cricket frogs were present is troubling. Vote 2-7.

Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*) One individual, Rocky Fork Lake, **Highland**, 19 October 2013. This report of a flying swallow viewed in the rain may be a correct identification, but some details are wrong and viewing conditions were difficult. One co-observer felt that the bird did not fully match any species. Vote 2-7.

YEARS AGO

By Craig Caldwell

10 years ago, the Winter 2014–15 *Ohio Cardinal*, Vol. 28 No. 2 (Bill Whan, Editor) contained these items: Cleveland experienced its snowiest Dec to date. Statewide, Jan was much warmer than average and had so much rain that flooding resulted in several areas.

Four different hybrid ducks were reported.

Five Northern Goshawks (now a review species) were reported.

Two Prairie Falcons visited, the much-seen bird at The Wilds and another which was shot.

Two Varied Thrushes appeared.

A moribund Chuck-wills-widow was found in **Clermont** on 12 Dec; it was rehabbed locally and then released in Florida.

25 years ago, the Winter 1989–90 *Ohio Cardinal*, Vol. 13 No. 2 (Ed Pierce and Tom Kemp, Co-Editors), contained these items:

Ohio's first Mountain Bluebird, which spent 14 Dec to 13 Jan in **Tuscarawas**, justly rated its own article.

One Black Vulture was reported, in **Harrison**.

One Red-throated Loon was reported.

A then-record number of Red-breasted Nuthatches visited.

The season's only warblers were Yellow-rumpeds.

There were 55 CBCs which together netted 137 species.

35 years ago, the Winter 1979–80 *Ohio Cardinal*, Vol. 2, No. 4 (John Herman, Editor) included these items:

Two King Eiders and one Northern Goshawk were reported.

Four Bald Eagles at ONWR and one in **Seneca** were the full tally.

John Pogacnik documented a Gyrfalcon at ONWR.

John and others discovered Ohio's first Heermann's Gull, which spent 12 to 18 Feb at Lorain.

Four warbler species lingered.

Three Dickcissels also lingered.

50 years ago, *The Cleveland Bird Calendar* of Winter 1964–65, Vol. 61, No. 1 (Donald Newman, Editor) included these items:

At least 30 Rough-legged Hawks were in the coverage area, a 30-mile radius from Public Square. Of course, what are now the outer ring suburbs were then mostly farmland...

The Elyria-Lorain CBC found 76,000 Ring-billed Gulls at the Lorain harbor on 27 Dec and a 24 Jan estimate placed 100,000 there.

At least seven Snowy Owls were in the area.

One Common Eider, one Red-throated Loon, and one Red-necked Grebe were reported.

One Bald Eagle and three Northern Mockingbirds rated special mention.

Two flocks totaling six Evening Grosbeaks visited.

100 years ago, *The Cleveland Bird Calendar* did not publish an issue covering Dec 1914. Bulletin No. 1 of 2015 (Francis H. Herrick, Editor), which included Jan and Feb data, contained these items:

Two "White-headed Eagles" were seen at Vermilion.

Blue Jays were "seen and heard during winter but rarely".

A Miss Annin reported Canada Geese on 24 Feb; she "heard a flock fly over".

A male and two female "Cardinal Grosbeaks" visited Cleveland on 16 Jan and there were "a few other reports". Now we call them Northern Cardinals, and they're ubiquitous.

OOS MEMBERSHIP

Welcoming backyard birdwatchers and researchers in the field alike, the Ohio Ornithological Society is the largest statewide organization specifically devoted to fostering a deeper appreciation of wild birds, fellowship and collaboration in advancing our collective knowledge about them, and our ability to speak with one voice to preserve Ohio's bird habitats.

We encourage and support important research on birds. We provide educational resources to members, the public, and the news media. We unite individuals and constituencies interested in birds, and provide means and reasons for them to cooperate. Our activities are not conducted independently, but in concert with local organizations whenever possible, and when mutually beneficial.

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The Counties of Ohio



Kevin McKelvey timed his shot perfectly to capture a great display by this Red-throated Loon at Avon Power on 22 Feb.

Instructions for Contributors

The Ohio Cardinal would not exist without contributions from Ohio birders. We solicit sightings, notes on unusual observations, in-depth scientific articles, historical accounts, book reviews, essays, artwork, and photographs related to Ohio and its birdlife. Please refer to our website (www.ohiobirds.org/publications/cardinal/aboutcardinal.php) for general guidelines on style and formatting.

Reports of bird sightings for each season are requested and should be submitted directly, by email or postal mail to:

Craig Caldwell, 1270 W. Melrose Dr., Westlake, OH 44145

craig_caldwell@sbcglobal.net

Send digital photo files or links to Laura Keene:

laurakeene@cinci.rr.com

Deadlines are as follows:

Winter (Dec, Jan, Feb) - 21 March

Spring (Mar, Apr, May) - 21 June

Summer (Jun, Jul) - 21 August

Fall (Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov) - 21 December

Back cover:

Christopher Collins skillfully photographed this Loggerhead Shrike on a lofty perch 29 Dec in West Union, Adams.



OHIO CARDINAL

The Ohio Ornithological Society
PO Box 2432
Westerville, OH 43086

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