

*The Ohio*

Vol. 3 No. 4  
Winter 1980

# CARDINAL





The Ohio Cardinal is published quarterly each year in January, April, July and September. The subscription rate for four issues is \$6.50.

Send all subscriptions to Edwin C. Pierce, 520 Swartz Road, Akron, Ohio 44319.

Bird reports are welcome from any area in the State. They should be sent to Edwin C. Pierce at the above address by:

Winter, March 10  
Spring, June 10  
Summer, August 10  
Autumn, December 10

Report forms are not a necessity but will be supplied if requested. Unusual or rare species should be documented and forms will be provided upon request.

Cover: White-winged crossbill at feeder in Lorain, Ohio, on January 10, 1981, to June 9, 1981. Photograph by John Pogacnik. Reproduction by Gary Herbst.



## White-winged Crossbills at Lorain Feeder

John Pogacnik

I thought it was incredible when a white-winged crossbill first appeared at my yard feeder January 10, 1981. But then it never left. First the days passed and then the seasons changed, once: Spring and then twice: Summer!

Why did it stay? Food, shelter? I don't really know. It was an immature bird (Male). Does that explain it? Then the unbelievable occurred. A second immature male white-winged crossbill joined it on June 1, 1981, and stayed for eight more days until June 9, 1981, when suddenly both were gone as if I had never seen them at all.

The birds did not appear injured. They were in their first winter plumage. I have not found this plumage adequately depicted in any book. If you replace the red of the adult male with solid yellow, lightly streaked, and retain only that part of the black eyestripe with the downward hook at the end farthest away from the bill, you have the appearance of these birds. The birds were a bit larger than the 60+ house finches which were also at my feeder during this period. (Perhaps the occurrence of these other finches lured these birds.) They fed mainly on sunflower seed, but also fed heavily on thistle. How it was able to extract the thistle from the bag, I don't really know.

The first bird was surprisingly tame. On March 2, I caught and banded it. It sat calmly in my hand and made no effort to bite me. I recaptured it once March 12, and three times March 24. On the 24th, each time I caught it, I gave it a sunflower seed. Upon release, it immediately flew up in a tree and ate the seed, then back to the feeders. It usually ate peacefully with the other birds but at times would open its beak and charge them. During the first week of May, this bird was constantly pulling on different strings as if to gather nesting material. Red crossbills have remained in Ohio until June, but white-winged crossbills generally leave in early to mid-April. Will they return?

John Pogacnik  
6359 North Humphreys  
#127  
Oak Harbor, Ohio 43449

### OHIO BIRD BANDERS MEET

On Saturday, March 21, 1981, about 30-40 bird banders from around Ohio gathered at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. Dr. Hal Mahan, Director of the museum was in charge of the program. The group was given an "inside" tour of the museum which was very informative and exciting.

Various banders shared their experiences and some of their techniques. Kathleen Klimkiewicz presented a program with color slides on the use of molt in ageing birds. This was the highlight of the meeting for most of the banders.

The main purpose of the meeting was to possibly organize an Ohio Bird Banding Association. The objective of this group would be to share ideas and conduct training workshops. Mrs. Marie Morgan, Akron, was elected Chairperson and directed by the group to set up another meeting/workshop in August or September. At this meeting, a formal organization may be established. The tentative site is Columbus.

## What's In A Name?

Louis W. Campbell

In 1973 many changes were made by the American Ornithologists' Union in the genetic status and, accordingly, in the names of snow geese, flickers, orioles, myrtle/Audubon warblers, and juncos, to name a few. For example, Ohio's Baltimore oriole was combined with the western type, Bullock's oriole, under the label "northern oriole," and became "northern oriole, Baltimore form." Bullock's oriole, incidentally, has never been found in Ohio.

These new titles are undoubtedly accurate and must be used by the museum curator, the teacher, or by anyone producing a scientific paper or similar publication. But they have proved to be a burden and a source of confusion to the field ornithologist, especially if he receives data from several sources.

Field observers make up the vast majority of bird watchers. They gather widespread information on numerical variations, distribution of species, and time of migrations. Because of the huge number of facts accumulated, they must keep methods as simple as possible while still remaining accurate. The use of the new names has caused more work, a loss of important data and a greater possibility of error.

Consider the dark-eyed junco, for instance. This species now includes the white-winged (not found in Ohio, slate-colored, and Oregon. (In 1940, Oregon juncos were named from a combination of Cassiar, intermediate, and Shufeldt's.) An observer has three ways to enter a slate-colored junco:

1. Dark-eyed junco. This would be correct but would be inaccurate reporting because the name would include any of the three forms.
2. Dark-eyed junco, slate-colored form. This is correct but cumbersome. Few birds cards are suitable for this long a name.
3. Slate-colored junco. This is both correct and concise. No one using such an entry could possibly make a mistake or lead a compiler astray. If sub-specific names aren't used, how can we know, for example, the percentage of blue and snow goose color phases, the movements of northern horned larks, and the extent of the invasion of Oregon juncos in our area? We must also be alert to the possible occurrence of the red-shafted flicker, Bullock's oriole, and Audubon's warbler (which has been reported once in the Toledo area).

But it has already become obvious that many birders are using the general titles rather than specific names -- some to avoid the extra effort of entering double names, and others because they believe that, if the AOU proclaims it, it is much more "scientific." Actually, what happens is that an important source of information is being smothered or thrown out of balance, especially if some observers include secondary forms and others do not. I find it very disturbing that the new checklist of the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge contains only the general name of the forms under discussion and no mention of the sub-specific forms or space in which to write them.

We usually fail to face the fact that the naming of birds does not always follow a consistent pattern. A form may be named after its call; its size; its colors; its feet, legs, wings, or nesting preference; in honor of a scientist, or after the locality where it was first discovered. Vireos are a good example:

red-eyed, solitary, warbling, and Philadelphia. In recent years, many names of world-wide species have been changed to original old-world titles. Bird names in general are simply identification tags. In my personal record-keeping, some names have been changed three times. Revisions have not always been consistent. For instance, in the last flurry, common egret was changed to great egret because no bird should be called "common" because its numbers vary. Yet the tag "common" was applied to a group of flickers in the same report.

In keeping lists simple, it is not that field ornithologists are unscientific. They have always known about binominals and trinominals, about the relationship of numerous forms, for example of Savannah or song sparrows. If they keep lists simple, it is not because they are unaware of fundamentals.

Suppose the blue-winged and golden-winged warblers and their hybrids were treated in the same fashion as the juncos. We have always known the two species were very closely related. Some experts consider them north and south color forms of the same species. If the AOU decides this is the case, then we would describe them as follows:

Buzzing Warbler (my new name)

- Blue-winged phase
- Golden-winged phase
- Lawrence's hybrid
- Brewster's hybrid

Quite a bit to get on a bird card.

And this would be only a beginning. Within a decade, every trinomial would become a double entry. There is talk right now of combining several of the puddle ducks under one head.

There is considerable evidence that many birders are using the double entry names because they fear to be considered unscientific. I hope I have made it clear that they will not only be accurate but much more efficient if they use names which apply directly to the form listed.

We simply must remember that field observations and laboratory and museum studies are two completely different branches of ornithology contributing to each other, and the most efficient recording methods should be used by both.

Louis W. Campbell  
4531 Walker Avenue  
Toledo, Ohio 43612

Rare Woodpecker at OSU Museum

Edward S. Thomas

Ed. Note: This article is reprinted from The Columbus Dispatch, May, 1975 (Sunday edition), with the permission of The Columbus Dispatch and Dr. Thomas. The photos are reproduced with the permission of Bill Loebick and Norma Miller.

Among the cherished specimens in the bird collection of the Ohio State University Museum of Zoology is a woodpecker bearing the following label: "Picus borealis. Red Cockated (sic) Woodpecker. March 15, 1872. Loc. Columbus," and on the opposite side, "It was in the company with another of its own kind and 2 or 3 Sapsuckers, Nuthatches, etc., and shot from a high tree between Canal and Scioto Rivers."

This record has been viewed with a certain amount of skepticism by ornithologists. The identification is certainly correct. The label is in the well-known handwriting of Dr. Theodore Jasper, early Columbus ornithologist whose reputation as an ornithologist and a gentleman is above reproach.

And yet, the red-cockaded woodpecker otherwise was not known closer than the mountains of eastern West Virginia. Its occurrence at Columbus would be most unusual. Mistakes can happen.....

But history has a way of repeating itself. On April 22, Eddie Bowen, seasonal naturalist with the Ohio Division of Parks reported seeing a red-cockaded woodpecker at the parking lot at Old Man's Cave State Park. The identification was verified by William B. Price, zoology professor in Athens County and by Bill Loebick, chief naturalist of the Division of Parks. The first authenticated record of this species for Ohio in more than 100 years!





On April 29, Loebick was good enough to take me with him to Old Man's Cave in the hope of seeing the bird. On arriving at the place, we found Drs. Milton B. and Mary A. Trautman and Mrs. Aurthur S. Kiefer already there, along with Eddie Bowen. Not far away was Dr. Albert F. Prebus, physics department, OSU. Soon we were joined by Jim Fry, naturalist, Columbus Metropolitan Parks.

We tramped back and forth around the parking lot. Some of us watched a half-dead pine tree which the bird was supposed to frequent. After three hours of search, no sign of a red-cockaded.

Then, Bill, Milt, Eddie and I drove out to see some "yellow" trilliums which Eddie had located, leaving Jim and the two women to watch for the bird. Dr. Prebus left to meet a class at the University. Upon our return after seeing the trilliums, we found Jim and the ladies waving their arms wildly. They had found the woodpecker! In a moment, we also were looking at it. It was unquestionably a red-cockaded. But it was against the light and our view of it was not too satisfactory.

Then it flew and we groaned. However, it circled around and alighted on a tree trunk with the sun square at our backs! For minutes on end. We had a wonderful view of the marvelous creature. Bill secured a number of photographs of it. It resembled the downy and hairy woodpeckers, being only a little smaller than the hairy. Its most conspicuous feature was its "ladder back," a series of narrow black and white bars on its back. Also very showy was its snow-white cheek, with a narrow malar stripe ("Mutton-chops"). Its sides were streaked with black, as contrasted with the pure white sides of downy and hairy. A fine record!



Food For Thought  
Thayer's Gull Identification: A Hoax?

Tom Kemp

Ornithologists have long recognized the taxonomic difficulties existing within the family Laridae. These difficulties are compounded by wide variations in size and plumage within a species, geographic races of some species, and frequent hybridization between species. Recently, many field ornithologists have pronounced "sure-fire" ways of identifying these most-difficult-to-identify gulls. There appears to be weighty evidence that these identifications can indeed be made under most field conditions and with a good knowledge of this problem family. I present this piece as a caution and as a possible alternative to calling all gulls one sees.

Thayer's gull (Larus thayeri) was once thought to be a distinct species, then considered a subspecies of the Herring gull (L. argentatus), and now recognized as a separate species again. Some workers now feel it may be a race of the Iceland gull (L. glaucoides), at the dark end of a cline from the light nominate race (L. g. glaucoides), to L. g. kumlieni ("Kumlien's" gull), to thayeri (Lehman 1980). It would therefore be known as L. g. thayeri.

In light of this possibility, an examination of the North American breeding ranges of these three forms (glaucoides, kumlieni, and thayeri) is interesting. Glaucoides breeds in Greenland, kumlieni in eastern arctic Canada (Baffin Is.), and Thayer's largely in western arctic Canada. Thayer's does breed east to western Greenland and Baffin Is. (Lehman 1980, Peterson 1980). It is interesting to note that where kumlieni and Thayer's occur together on their breeding grounds, eye color seems to act as an isolating mechanism. That is, kumlieni shows a light iris in Thayer's dark. Where kumlieni and Herring gull breeding areas overlap, kumlieni shows a dark iris and Herring light (Smith 1966).

Let us now consider some characteristics of Thayer's gull that are widely accepted as being the best ways of distinguishing this species in the field. The following were gleaned from Gosselin and David (1975), Lehman (1980), and Hannikman (1980). These authors agree that no single characteristic can be used to identify this species; several in combination must be observed in order to ensure a "postive" identification. Since, in our area, Thayer's gull is most easily confused with Herring gull and "Kumlien's" gull, I will limit my discussion of field marks primarily to these three forms.

From reading the works cited above, I came up with several field marks that, if considered collectively, might lead one to conclude one was looking at an adult Thayer's gull. They are as follows: (1) shape and size of bill and head (bill short, slim; head more rounded; more "pigeon-like"), (2) dark irides (some have light eyes), (3) limited amount of black on upper surface of primaries, and (4) light lower surface of primaries. Contrast those marks with these of the Herring gull: (1) shape and size of bill and head (bill longer, stouter; head flatter); however, female Herring gulls may exhibit the round-headed and short-billed appearance of typical Thayer's gulls, (2) light irides (but see above), (3) more extensive black on upper primary surface (but not always), and (4) extensive black on underside of primaries (Thayer's gull never has this characteristic but may show a thin line of black on the trailing edge of the primaries). Evidently, this last character alone may be used to separate

Herring and Thayer's gulls in the field. Now let us consider kumlieni: (1) shape and size of bill and head similar to Thayer's, (2) irides usually light but may be dark, (3) upper surface of primaries with varying amounts of gray, in some individuals almost black; usually, but not always, with dusky subapical spots, (4) underside of primaries light. Typical kumlieni are easily distinguished from Thayer's by their overall lighter color. However, a very dark kumlieni would be indistinguishable from a Thayer's.

We may now turn to mantle color. If we have nearby Herring gulls to compare the individual with and find the mantle color is darker than that of the Herring gulls (but see Hannikman 1980), we can safely assume we have a Thayer's gull. Or can we? A further caution: Mantle color of gulls is very tricky and varies tremendously depending on the angle of light on the mantle. I have seen alot of "black-backed" or "white-winged" Herring gulls -- then they changed position thereby changing the angle of light on their mantles and therefore their color. (The gull in question could be a Herring X Iceland hybrid, not entirely impossible, although I know of no records of this situation.) If the gull in question has a mantle color similar to or a bit lighter than local Herring gulls, we may have a Thayer's or a kumlieni. In many cases (possibly most) we will have to let the gull go unidentified.

Consider all the field marks of Thayer's, Herring, and kumlieni and you will be hard pressed to find any combination of them that tells you beyond a shadow of a doubt you have one species or the other. There is simply too much variation in each species. For that reason, I chose to ignore the immature plumages of the birds in my discussion. We run into even more problems with young birds. I have rarely seen two young Herring gulls that looked exactly the same (in fact, most seem to be in some mid-term molt) and note that molt sequence in Thayer's gull is probably similar to that of Herring gull (Lehman 1980). Keeping this in mind, distinguishing young Thayer's (with all their intermediate plumages) from young Herring would seem an impossible task.

In my admittedly brief perusal of the literature existing on Thayer's gull, I have encountered the words "usually", "sometimes", "often", "but not always", etc., when field marks are advocated. What this says to me is that there seems to be no clear cut field marks or even combinations of field marks that determine a Thayer's gull. I submit that there is no "sure-fire" way to tell the above forms apart and furthermore that Thayer's is, in fact, a dark Iceland Gull so there is no need to distinguish them!

I offer this as a closing thought: Are we, as birdwatchers, building a case for ourselves in order to identify a difficult species such as the Thayer's gull? Are we grasping for things that don't really exist? Are we advocating "sure-fire" field marks that are, in reality, highly inconsistent? I can think of no other species that presents so many indefinite field marks as the Thayer's gull.

The Thayer's gull enigma may well end up again in the hands of the A.O.U. Checklist Committee (as will other Larids) and they, I predict, will again reduce it to subspecific rank, this time Larus glaucoides thayeri.

#### Literature Cited

- Gosselin, M. and N. David. 1975. Field Identification of Thayer's Gull (Larus thayeri) in eastern North America. Am. Birds 29:1059-1066.
- Hannikman, R. 1980. Identification Aid: Thayer's Gull. The Ohio Cardinal 3: 3-4.

- Lehman, P. 1980. The Identification of Thayer's Gull in the Field. Birding 12: 198-210.
- Peterson, R.T. 1980. A Field Guide to the Birds East of the Rockies. Houghton-Mifflin Co., Boston.
- Smith, N.G. 1966. The evolution of some arctic gulls (Larus): an experimental study of isolating mechanisms. A.O.U. Ornithological Monograph No. 4.

Tom Kemp  
7327 Jeffers Road  
Whitehouse, Ohio 43571

#### Status of Ohio Bobwhite

Everyone knows that the winters of 1976 - 1977 through 1979 drastically reduced Ohio's bobwhite population. So apparently does the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' Division of Wildlife and they are trying to do something about it. The Chief of that Division, Carl Mosley, stated in an article in the Cincinnati Enquirer in January of this year that the state's fall quail population in 1979 was less than 500,000. He said there was no quail in 32 counties and another 40 counties had extremely poor populations. The quail hunting season was closed in 1978 and has not reopened. Three hundred pair of wild quail have been trapped from Ohio's remaining population and moved to a wildlife propagation unit at Urbana to use as breeders for a stocking program. "Without assistance, our figures indicate it would take 10 to 15 years for the quail population to recover to the 1976 level," Mosley said according to the paper. The quail will be released first in counties that have no signs of recovery by natural production, but have good quail habitat.

He further explained to the reporter that wild quail are hardier and adapt better to the habitat than those pen-raised. Artificial lights causing constant reproduction stimulus and incubator hatching were producing 1,000 eggs per week. This is up to 100 eggs per quail per year compared to 12 or 13 eggs per year under natural conditions.

The facility now has 3,000 chicks and 400 one-year old adults.

The Reports  
Winter  
1 December - February 28  
1980 - 1981  
Tom Bartlett

Fifty-five reports were received statewide. One hundred sixty-four species were reported.

Again this issue, as began in the last, we designate with the symbol (D), after the species name, those birds we suggest be documented. Those reports noted with an asterisk have a written documentation or photo on file with the magazine. The optional documentation form we provide also enumerates those species which we feel should be documented. At the end of this issue are several verbatim documentations so that the reader can make an independent decision if he wishes.

In the following reports the terms early, late and high are used to designate the extremes of the information we have received. These terms do not necessarily mean that the species has arrived or departed early or late nor that the migration has peaked at a particular time. The number of each species sighted is included unless only one bird was seen and then no number is designated. The location of the sighting is given with as much preciseness as possible to enable the reader to know where certain birds can be found. The county containing the location is identified for each location only at the first instance the location is mentioned. However, a cross-reference chart showing each location mentioned and its county appears at the end of the report.

"Winter weather came in earnest in mid-December, freezing the open water and covering the ground with several inches of snow. Below normal temperatures were continuous through mid-January, although precipitation was much below normal during this period. A brief January thaw was followed by several weeks of winter weather in early February. Spring apparently arrived early as above normal temperatures were present throughout the last half of February. For the month, temperatures averaged 4 degrees above normal while twice as much precipitation as normal was recorded.

Large concentrations of gulls were noted along Lake Erie through the second week of January. The birds then disappeared and never came back. During February, it was not uncommon to go to the Lake and not see a single gull. Apparently, the birds moved out into the lake with southerly winds and were never "blown back to shore." Movements of these birds remain a mystery and deserve study. (BP)"

Common Loon

Normal; various individuals lingered along Lake Erie until mid-Dec. and a few inland records. Late: 12/22 Cleveland (Cuyahoga Co.) (TL), 12/13 Alum Creek Res. (Delaware Co.) (JC), 12/6 Heuston Woods SP (HWSP) (Greene Co.) (2-3) (TP): High: 12/3-13 Clearfork Res. (Richland & Morrow Co.) (1-20) (JHr).

Red-necked Grebe (D)

2/13 Vermilion (Erie Co.) (JP \*), 2/16 Miami River, Dayton (CB, BB\*), and 2/21 Eastwood Lake (Dayton area) (DCh, et al\*).

Horned Grebe

Normal; Late: 1/26 Oregon (Lucas Co.) (JP), 1/3 Eastlake (Lake Co.) (TL),

12/21 Lorain (Lorain Co.) (JP, BP); High: 12/7 Huron (Erie Co.) 60+ (BP), 12/12 Cleveland 22 (WNK); Early Migrants: 2/21 Miami River (NW), 2/27 Seneca Co. 3 (TB).

#### Pied-billed Grebe

Normal; many reports into late December but few after 12/31. Several wintered in the Akron area at Summit Lake (high 1/31 - 7 (LR)). Early migrants: 2/6 Dayton (TH), 2/16 Dayton (CM, NC, AVR), 2/22 Oregon (TK), and 2/23 Lorain (JP).

#### Gannet (D)

12/13 Oregon (immature) (TK \*). See documentation printed at end.

#### Double-crested Cormorant

2/22-27 Erie Co. (AT).

#### Great Blue Heron

Normal; many reports into late December but few after. High: Up to 57 wintered at Oregon (JP, MS, TK), 31 Ottawa Co. (JRe), 26-29 Navarre Marsh (Ottawa Co.) (MS); Notables: 1/4-9 Ashland (Ashland Co.) (1-2) (JHr), 1/17 Cleves (NW), 1/24-2/14 Killbuck (Wayne) (2) (JHr), 2/14 Buck Creek SP (Clark Co.) (DO), 2/15 Sandusky Bay (Erie & Ottawa Co.) (AT), and 2/21 Dayton (3) (NW).

#### Cattle Egret

12/14 Navarre Marsh (MS).

#### Black-crowned Night Heron

12/16 Medusa Marsh (Erie Co.) (JP), 1/26 Oregon (2) (JP), 1/31 Toledo (50) (TK).

#### Mute Swan

12/27 - 2/18 Cleveland (1-3) (m. ob.), 12/20 - 2/17 Lorain (2) (m.ob.), 2/22 Sandusky (2) (AT), 12/21 Cedar Pt. NWR (Lucas Co.) (5) (MS), 1/12 Oregon (4) (JC, JF), 2/1-6 (4) (TK, JP).

#### Whistling Swan

12/1 - 1/4 Crane Creek SP (Ottawa Co.) (m.ob.), 12/11 Akron (Summit Co.) (7) (WS), 12/7-13 Richland Co. (JHr), 1/25 Oregon (4) (TK), 1/11-21 Washington Co. (1-2) (LB); Early: 2/20 Crane Creek SP (7) (MS, JP), 2/28 Huron (12) (LR).

#### Canada Goose

Normal; High: about 5000 wintered at ONWR, 200 Fairfield Co. (MT), up to 100 Washington Co. (Fayette) (LB), and 22 at Washington Court House (Fayette) on 1/28 (MI).

#### White-fronted Goose (D)

1/15-25 ONWR (Ottawa Co.) (4) (JP\*).

#### Snow Goose

1/17 - 2/28 ONWR (2-6) (JP, MS, JC), 12/13 Kingston (Ross Co.) (3 blue) (EE, WS, JC), 1/1 Franklin Co. (JC), 1/31 - 2/1 Corning Lake (Holden Arboretum; Lake Co.) (EF).

#### Mallard

Normal; many stayed in the state until late Dec. before leaving. High: 12/21 Buck Creek SP (9000) (DO), and 3000+ wintered at Castalia (Erie Co.) (MS).

#### Black Duck

Normal; many stayed until late Dec. before leaving. High: 12/20 Buck Creek.

Gadwall

Normal; High: 1/7 Castalia 35+ (MS).

Pintail

Normal; small numbers found around the state all winter.

Green-winged Teal

12/20 HWSP (TP), 12/28 Buck Creek (9) (DO), 1/1 - 2/5 Castalia (JP), 1/20-22 Dayton (1-2) (m.ob.) Early: 2/24 Darby Marsh (Ottawa Co.) (JP), 2/27 Crane Creek SP (MS), 2/28 Cleveland (2) (WNK).

Blue-winged Teal

12/20 HWSP (TP), 1/19 Castalia (AT), 2/4 Castalia (JP\*); Early: 2/24 Darby Marsh (JP).

European Wigeon (D)

2/28 ONWR (adult male) (JP\*).

American Wigeon

Normal; High: 400+ Castalia (MS), 1/17 Cleves (Hamilton Co.) (20) (NW); Early: 2/16 Navarre Marsh (MS).

Northern Shoveler

12/7-28 Buck Creek SP (1-7) (DO), 12/13-18 Pickerington Ponds (Franklin Co.) (1-7) (JC, MT), 1/10 West Chester (Butler Co.) (FR), 1/1 - 2/5 Castalia (1-2) (JP, JF, MS); Early: 2/22 Crane Creek SP (MS).

Wood Duck

12/17 - 2/28 Lorain Co. (AT, JP), 1/11 Akron (LR), 1/19-20 Castalia (m.ob.), 2/1-28 Cuyahoga Co. (7) (TL), 1/26 - 2/20 Crane Creek SP (MS, JP).

Redhead

Normal; High: 1/26 Oregon 1000+ (JP); Inland: 12/21 Buck Creek SP (DO), 1/11-17 Washington Co. (4-5) (LB), 2/25 Columbus (4) (JF).

Ring-necked Duck

Normal; High: 1/7 Castalia (50+) (MS).

Canvasback

Normal; High: 1/26 Sandusky Bay (2500+) and Maumee Bay (Lucas Co.) (1000+) (JP), 12/29 Maumee Bay (6000) (MS), 2/25 Crane Creek SP (550) (JRe); Inland: 12/6-28 Buck Creek SP (3-16) (DO), 1/11-17 Washington Co. (2-4) (LB), 2/20 Franklin Co. (5) (MT), 2/28 Clearfork Res. (7) (JHr).

Greater Scaup

Normal; High: 12/1-31 Cleveland (2-3000) (TL, WNK); Inland: 1/17 Shawnee (Perry Co.) (NW, notes).

Lesser Scaup

Normal; Late: 12/6-28 Buck Creek SP (2-6) (DO), 12/13 Alum Creek Res. (JC), 12/15 Crane Creek SP (MS); Early: 2/21 Pickerington Ponds (2) (MT), 2/22 Crane Creek SP (JRe); a female wintered at Walden Pond (Franklin Co.) (JF).

Common Goldeneye

Normal; High: 1/13-26 Maumee Bay (2-2500) (JRe, JP), 2/14 Avon Lake (Lorain Co.) (2000) (JC); Early: 2/20 Franklin Co. (MT), 2/21 Columbus (46) (JF), 2/27 Clearfork Res. (JHr).

**Bufflehead**

Normal (several observers felt declining); High: 2/14 Avon Lake (50+) (JC), 1/7 Castalia (20+) (MS); Early: 2/23 Crane Creek SP (JP), 2/28 Pleasant Hill Res. (Richland-Ashland Co.) (JHr).

**Oldsquaw**

12/6 Hoover Res. (Franklin Co.) (4) (BP), 12/12 Clearfork Res. (4) (JHr), 12/13 Buck Creek SP (3) (John Gallagher), 12/16 Lorain (female) (JP), 2/14 Avon Lake (pair) (JC), 2/25 Crane Creek SP (male) (JP,MS).

**Harlequin Duck (D)**

12/27 -1/2 Springfield (Clark Co.) (m.ob., DO\*, BS\*), see photo in this issue. 1/3 Eastlake (TL\*).

**Eider**

Not reported.

**White-winged Scoter**

12/12 Cleveland (WNK), 1/4 Akron (female) (LR), 1/26- 2/7 Oregon (female m.ob.), 2/14 Marblehead (Erie Co.) (2) (TK).

**Surf Scoter (D: inland only)**

Not reported.

**Black Scoter (D: inland only)**

12/7 Sandusky Bay (7) (AT), 12/13 Sandusky Bay (9) (JP, 1/13 Lorain (JP).



Harlequin duck at Springfield. Photographed by Doug Overacker, reproduced by Gary Herbst.



Ruddy Duck

Normal; High: 1/13 Maumee Bay (210) JRe); Inland: 12/6-21 Buck Creek SP (1-4) (DO), 12/3 Dayton (CBo), 12/18 HWSP (TP): Early: 2/16 Dayton (TH, DCh), 2/28 Crane Creek SP (JP).

Hooded Merganser

Normal; various individuals remained around the state until late Dec. and returned the last week of Feb. Mid-winter: 1/12 Oregon (male) (JF), 1/17 Washington Co. (2) (LB), 1/19 Lorain (JC), 1/22 Dayton (BS, PZ).

Common Merganser

Normal; same trend as Hooded Merganser; Inland: 1/1-31 Akron (LR), 1/11 Washington County (2) (LB), 1/17 Shawnee Lookout (Hamilton Co. Park, Hamilton Co.) (2) (NW), 1/20-22 Dayton (CM, AVR, JF).

Red-breasted Merganser

Normal; same trend as Hooded Merganser; Early: 2/20 Columbus (JF), 2/24 Crane Creek SP (MS), 2/28 HWSP (TP).

Hybrid Duck

Possible Cinnamon Teal x American Wigeon was sighted and documented at Blacklick Woods Metro. Park (Fairfield Co.) (JF). See documentation printed at end.

Turkey Vulture

9 reports during the period. Unusual reports included 2 at Delaware 1/9 and 1 near Mansfield 1/11 (VF). Possible early migrants included 1 in Pickaway Co. 2/28 (MT), 1 in Washington Co. 2/27 (LB) and 4 at HWSP 2/28 (TP).

Black Vulture (D: central and northern only)

12/8 Hocking Co. (2) (JC), 1/2-3 Clearcreek (Fairfield Co.) (4-12) (JC, JF), 1/12 Circleville (Pickaway Co.) (4) (MNN), 1/25 Ft. Hill S.M. (Highland Co.) (19) (MNN\*), 1/31 Hocking Co. (2) (MT).

Sharp-shinned Hawk

Still in trouble. There were 22 individuals reported during the period statewide. Reports came from Butler Co. (1), Delaware Co. (1), Erie Co. (1), Franklin Co. (3), Geauga Co. (2), Lorain Co. (1), Ottawa Co. (4), Richland Co. (1), Summit (5), and (3) unspecified.

Cooper's Hawk

Normal; 56 reports statewide from over 20 counties.

Goshawk (D)

2/24-28 Ottawa Co. (1) (JRe, MS\*, JP\*), 2/26 Fairfield Co. (BP\*), 2/28 HWSP (TP\*).

Red-tailed Hawk

Normal.

Red-shouldered Hawk

22 reports from 16 counties; this species needs to be watched in Ohio.

Rough-legged Hawk

Numbers up from the past few years and reported by nearly all. High: 12/28 Mohican S.F. (Ashland Co.) (23) (JHr), 12/13 Ross-Pickaway Co. Rd. (21) (m.ob.), Cleveland high (9), and ONWR (9).

**Bald Eagle**

A pair wintered at ONWR, at Cedar Point NWR, and at Carroll Twp., (Ottawa Co.) (m.ob.); 12/2 Fostoria (Seneca Co.) (i) (fide TB), 1/5 Tiffin (Seneca Co.) (a) (fide TB), 2/27 Old Fort (Seneca Co.) (a) (JK), 1/19 Navarre Marsh (i) (MS).

**Northern Harrier**

Numbers report up statewide with highs of 23 along the Ross-Pickaway Co. Rd. 12/13 (m.ob.), up to 13 at Maumee Bay SP (Lucas Co.) (JP), and up to 8 at ONWR (JP, MS).

Gyr Falcon (D)

1/22 - 2/15 ONWR (immature gray phase) (JP\*, MS\*). See documentation printed at end.

Peregrine Falcon (D)

1/6 Chardon (Geauga Co.) (John T. Ault) 1/31 Ottawa Co. (VF\*, CL\*).

Merlin (D)

12/21-24 Akron (adult male) (LR, WS\*).

**American Kestrel**

Normal.

**Ruffed Grouse**

12/6 Hocking Co. (JC), 12/28 Ashland Co. (JHr), 1/3 Clearcreek (JC, JF), 1/21 Cuyahoga Co. (TL), 1/25 Ft. Hill SM (MNN), 1/31 Chardon (EF), 2/7 Chardon (7) (EF), 2/8 Hocking Co. (JC).



Virginia rail at Summit County, photographed by Edwin Pierce and reproduced by Gary Herbst.

Bobwhite

12/7 Sycamore SP (14) (BB, CB), 1/8 Dayton (9) (CM), 1/12 Pickerington Ponds (4) (JC), 1/15 ONWR (2) (JP), 1/18 Oxford (Butler Co.) (18) (JI).

Ring-necked Pheasant

Normal; High: Maumee Bay SP (145) (released birds?) (JP).

Virginia Rail (D)

12/7 East Harbor SP (Erie Co.) (JP), 1/14-31 (2) Firestone Metro Park (Summit Co.) (EE, CEP\*). See photo in this issue.

American Coot

Normal.

Killdeer

Normal; 13 December reports and 12 January reports stateside. Early: 2/14 Dayton (CM); 2/18 Magee Marsh (Ottawa Co.) (m.ob.), Maumee Bay SP (2) (TK), Lake Rockwell (Portage Co.) (2) (LR); 2/19 Fayette Co. (MI); 2/21 Fairfield Co. (JC); and 2/22 Richland Co. (2) (JHr).

Black-bellied Plover (D)

12/6-13 Hoover Res. (Delaware Co.) (injured) (BP, JC).

American Woodcock

Early: 2/25 Chardon (EF), 2/27 Columbus (BP), 2/28 Crane Creek SP (JP, MS).

Common Snipe

12/20 HWSP (TP), 12/20 Seneca Co. (JK), 12/28 Buck Creek SP (3) (DO), 1/2 Ross Co. (JF), 1/4 Richland Co. (JHr), 1/11 Buck Creek SP (1) (DO), 1/15-16 Washington Co. (LB), 1/24 Dayton area (TH, DCh), 1/24 - 2/14 Killbuck Marsh (JHr), and Columbus area (6 wintered) (BP).

Purple Sandpiper

12/26-29 Cleveland (m.ob., VF\*).

Pectoral Sandpiper (D: migrant month early or late)

Early: 2/28 Crane Creek SP (JP).

Dunlin (D: month early or late)

12/13 Lorain (JP).

Sanderling (D: migrant month early or late)

12/22 Huron (Dr. Howard Hintz\*).

Red Phalarope (D)

12/13 Lorain (JP), 12/13 Cleveland (WNK\*), 12/16-20 Cleveland (2) (WNK), 12/20 Euclid (Cuyahoga Co.) (2) (m.ob.).

Pomarine Jaeger (D)

12/24 Lorain (i) (JP\*).

Parasitic Jaeger (D)

12/3 Oregon (i) (TK).

Glaucous Gull (D: away from Lake Erie only)

Increasing along Lake Erie; High: 1/11 Lorain Co. (26) (BP), 2/13 Vermilion (14) (JP), 12/27 Lorain (2a, 4i) (RH), 1/17 Cleveland (5) (WNK); Inland: 2/21 Akron (2nd year bird) (LR).

Iceland Gull (D: away from Lake Erie only)

12/26- 1/12 Lorain (1a, 1i) (m.ob.), 2/13 Vermilion (3) (JP),  
2/28 East Harbor SP (Kumlein's race) (BP).

Great Black-backed Gull (D: away from Lake Erie Only)

Increasing along Lake Erie; High: 1/11 Lorain Co. (275+) (BP),  
1/7 Cleveland (62) (WNK), 2/16 Navarre Marsh (12) (MS).

Lesser Black-backed Gull (D)

12/12 - 16 Lorain (2a) (JP\*), 12/21 Lorain (3rd year bird) (JP),  
1/10-11 Cleveland (a) (m. ob.), 1/12 Lorain (a) (JP), 2/23 Sheldon's  
Marsh, Erie County, (a) (JP).

Herring Gull

Normal; High: 12/20 Cleveland (10,350) (WNK).

Thayer's Gull (D)

12/12 Lorain (a) (JP), 12/16-20 Lorain (1st year bird) (JP\*),  
12/21-26 Lorain (1-3) (JP\*), 1/13 Lorain (a) (JP), 1/17 Lorain (one  
1st year bird and two 2nd year birds) (RH\*,EE).

Ring-billed Gull

Normal; High: 12/22 Cleveland (52,000) (WNK), 12/20 Lorain  
(40,000+) (BP).

Black-headed Gull (D)

12/20-1/2 Lorain (a) (JP,EE), 12/14 Oregon (a) (TK\*).

Franklin's Gull

12/1 - 20 Lorain (BP, AT), 12/1 Cleveland (WNK), 12/26 Cleveland  
(VF).

Bonaparte's Gull

Normal; High: 12/14 Cleveland (15,000) (WNK), 12/20 Lorain  
(6,000) (JP, BP), 12/14 Navarre Marsh (1,000+) (MS), 12/7-21 Buck  
Creek SP (1-40) (DO).

Heermann's Gull (D)

12/20 Lorain (JP\*), 1/10 Lorain (JHr), 1/19 Lorain (JP), 2/23  
Vermilion (JP). See Vol. II, No. 4. and Vol. III No. 1, for the  
other sightings of what must be the same bird in Ohio and Vol. 34, No. 2.  
Page 165, and Vol. 35, No. 2, Page 187 of American Birds for other  
sightings of this bird at Macomb, Michigan. The pattern has been:  
8/26/79 until early December 1979 at Macomb; 2/12/80 to 2/18/80 and  
3/3/80 to 3/12/80 at Lorain; 10/24/80 until into November 1980 at  
Macomb; and now 12/20/80 to 2/23/81 at Lorain and Vermilion. Will  
it return to Macomb this Fall?

Little Gull (D: away from Lake Erie only)

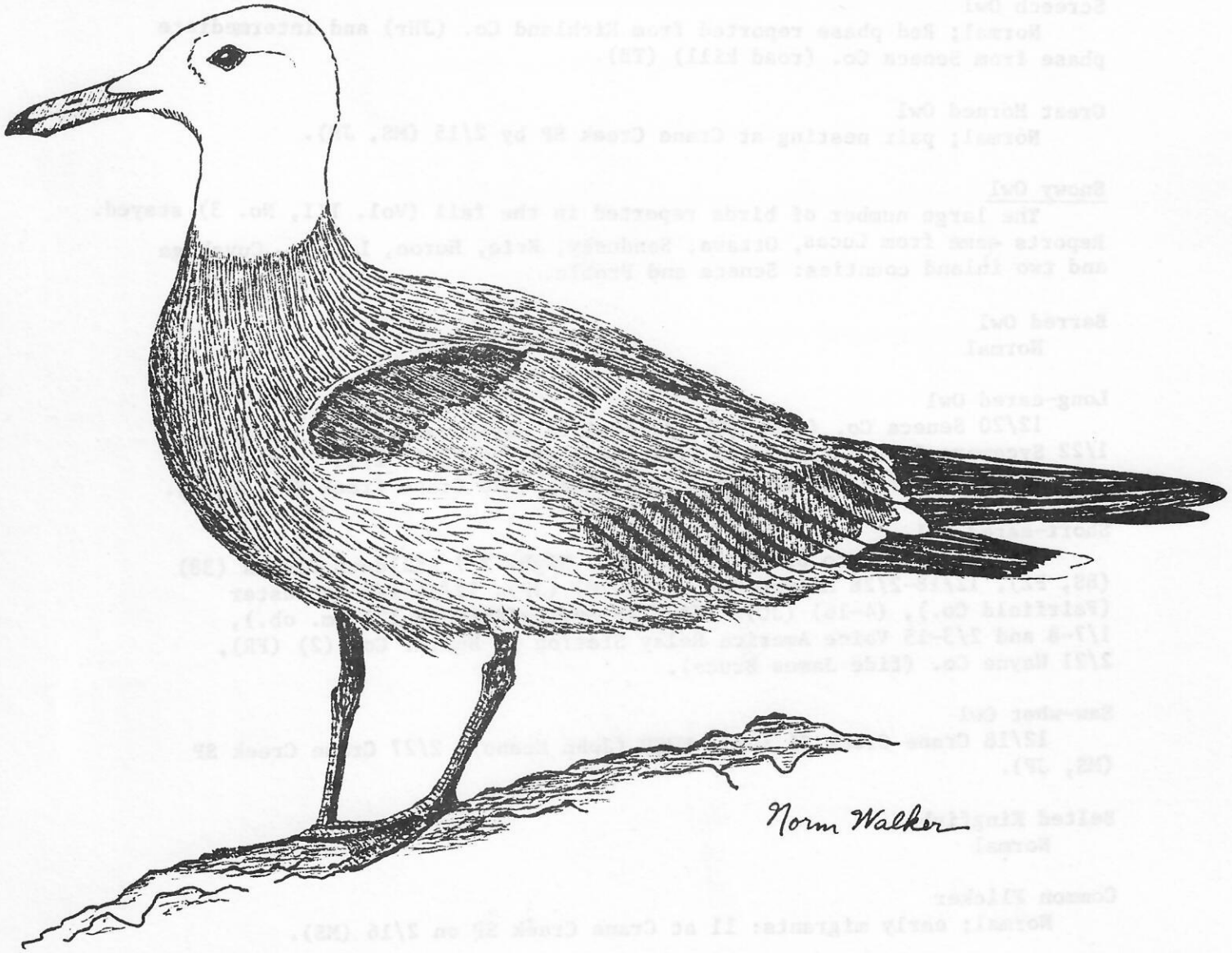
12/2-1/2 Lorain (1-3) (JP), 12/3 Oregon (TK), 12/14 Oregon (2)  
(TK), 12/20 Lorain (3) (BP), 12/28-31 Cleveland (WNK).

Black-legged Kittiwake (D)

12/1-16 Huron (JP\*), 12/13 Oregon (i) (TK\*), 12/20-21 Lorain  
(JP\*), 11/28-12/3 Dayton area, see photo Vol. III, No. 3, Pg. 21 (m.ob.\*).

Hybrid Gull

Possible Glaucous and Herring gull hybrid was sighted and  
documented at Lorain on 12/26 by (JP).



Norm Walker

Common Tern (D: migrant month early or late)  
12/14 Huron (JP, BP).

Rock Dove  
Normal

Mourning Dove  
Many observers felt there was an increase over past couple of years.

Screech Owl  
Normal; Red phase reported from Richland Co. (JHr) and intermediate phase from Seneca Co. (road kill) (TB).

Great Horned Owl  
Normal; pair nesting at Crane Creek SP by 2/15 (MS, JP).

Snowy Owl  
The large number of birds reported in the fall (Vol. III, No. 3) stayed. Reports came from Lucas, Ottawa, Sandusky, Erie, Huron, Lorain, Cuyahoga and two inland counties: Seneca and Preble.

Barred Owl  
Normal

Long-eared Owl  
12/20 Seneca Co. (fide TB), 12/20-1/24 Dayton area (1-4) (m.ob.), 1/22 Sycamore SP (3) (JF), 2/8 Buck Creek SP (DO, JF), 2/14 Dayton area (2) (NW), 2/18 Maumee Bay SP (2) (TK), 2/25 Crane Creek SP (JP,MS).

Short-eared Owl  
Numbers appear to be up statewide. High: 2/7 Killdeer Plains (38) (BS, PZ), 12/18-2/28 Maumee Bay SP (1-20) (JP), 12/14-1/9 Lancaster (Fairfield Co.), (4-16) (JC), 1/1-2/28 Springfield (8-12) (m. ob.), 1/7-8 and 2/3-15 Voice America Relay Station in Butler Co. (2) (FR), 2/21 Wayne Co. (fide James Bruce).

Saw-whet Owl  
12/18 Crane Creek SF (JP), HWSP (John Means), 2/27 Crane Creek SP (MS, JP).

Belted Kingfisher  
Normal

Common Flicker  
Normal; early migrants: 11 at Crane Creek SP on 2/16 (MS).

Pileated Woodpecker  
Normal; reported from Ashland, Butler, Cuyahoga, Hamilton, Highland, Lake, Miami, Montgomery, Portage and Summit.

Red-bellied Woodpecker  
Normal.

Red-headed Woodpecker  
Normal.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker  
Numbers appear up with reports statewide.

Hairy Woodpecker

Several reports felt there was a slight increase; should be watched carefully.

Downy Woodpecker

Normal

Eastern Phoebe (D: migrant month early or late)

12/29 - 1/3 Clearcreek (JF, JC\*), 1/24 Scioto County (JC).

Horned Lark

Normal; large flocks did seem to move further south in the state as shown by 1,000+ near Cincinnati on 1/4-11 (m. ob.).

Blue Jay

Normal

Common Crow

Normal; roosts: winter near Mansfield (6,000+) (JHr). 12/1 Oak Openings, Lucas County, (500+) (TK), 1/1 Seville (400+) (TB); migration: 2/23 Crane Creek SP (25 - 30,000) (MS), 2/22 Maumee Bay SP (600+) (TK).

Black-capped Chickadee

Normal in the north; south and central reports: 12/20 Licking Co. (JC), 12/5- 1/5 Washington Co. (1-3) (LB), 2/7 Sycamore SP (5) (TH, Dch), 2/26 Indian Lake SP (JP).

Carolina Chickadee

Normal

Tufted Titmouse

Several reports noted an increase over last two years.

White-breasted Nuthatch

Several reports noted an increase over last two years.

Red-breasted Nuthatch

Most reports noted an increase.

Brown creeper

Normal

House Wren (D: migrant month early or late)

2/25 Oxford (TP).

Winter Wren

12/6-17 Shaker Lakes, Cuyahoga Co., (VF), 12/20 Dayton area (CM), 12/20 Aullwood Nature Center, Montgomery Co., (JC), 1/6 Geauga Co. (2) (EF), 2/7 Glen Helen, Greene Co., (DO), 2/15 Clearcreek (JC).

Carolina Wren

12/1 Shaker Lakes (VF), 12/1-18 Highland Co. (MNN), 12/10-22 Shaker Lakes (VF), 12/20 Oxford (2) (TP), 12/21 Dayton area (2) (J and C Garber), 12/26-30 Clearcreek (JC), 1/3 Columbus (JF, JC), 1/5 Pickaway Co. (JF), 1/14 Dayton area (CM), 1/17 Shawnee Lookout (2) (NW).

Mockingbird

Many felt that winter numbers were up. The one bird that wintered at Crane Creek SP was unusual.

Gray Catbird (D: migrant month early or late)

12/20-1/19 Lorain Co. (JP,AT), 12/27 Columbus (JC\*), 1/2 Castalia (JP).

Brown Thrasher

12/11 Crane Creek SP (MS), 12/17 Lorain Co. (AT), 12/26-1/11 Buck Creek SP (DO), 12/28 Fairfield Co. (JC), 1/1 Sycamore SP (CM), 1/10 Hocking Co. (JC\*), 1/17 Dayton (fide CM), 2/14 Fairfield Co. (MT), wintered in Dayton (m. ob.) and wintered at Aullwood Nature Center (m.ob.).

American Robin

Number way up everywhere.

Varied Thrush (D)

1/17 Parma Hts., Cuyahoga County (TL\*, WNK\*). This is fourth Ohio record (see Ohio Cardinal Vol.II. No. 4 and Vol. III, No. 1). See documentation printed at end. 2/3-7 Lima, Allen Co. (BS\*, PZ, JF\*), fifth Ohio Record.

Thrush sp.

1/10 Hocking Co. (JC).

Hermit Thrush

12/1 Shaker Lakes (VF), 12/1 Cuyahoga N.R.A. (Summit Co.)(LR), 12/7 Oak Openings (singing!) (TK), 12/20 Navarre Marsh (MS), 12/28 Homes Co. (JHr), 1/1 Sycamore SP (CM,NC), 1/20 Lorain (JP), 1/25 Mohican S.F. (JHr), 2/11 Crane Creek SP (JP).

Eastern Bluebird

Normal, although several observers felt there was a slight decline.

Golden-crowned Kinglet

Normal.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet

12/1-26 Shaker Lakes (2-4) (VF), 12/20 Tiffin (TB), 12/27 Franklin Co. (MT), 12/28 Richland Co. (JHr), 12/28-2/15 Buck Creek SP (DO), 1/8 Ottawa Co. (JP), 1/12 Findley SP (Lorain County) (JP).

Cedar Waxwing

Normal.

Northern Shrike (D: central and northern only)

12/20-1/12 Seneca Co. (TB), 1/22 Maumee Bay SP (JP), 1/25 Mosquito Lake, Trumbull Co.(LR), 2/20-22 Crane Creek SP (JP).

Loggerhead Shrike

12/1 Alum Creek Res. (JP).

Starling

Normal.

Orange-crowned Warbler (D: migrant month early or late)

12/5 Lorain (window kill) (AT), 12/7 Crane Creek SP (MS,JP,BP).

Nashville Warbler (D: migrant month early or late)

12/1 Shaker Lakes (VF,\*), see documentation printed at end.

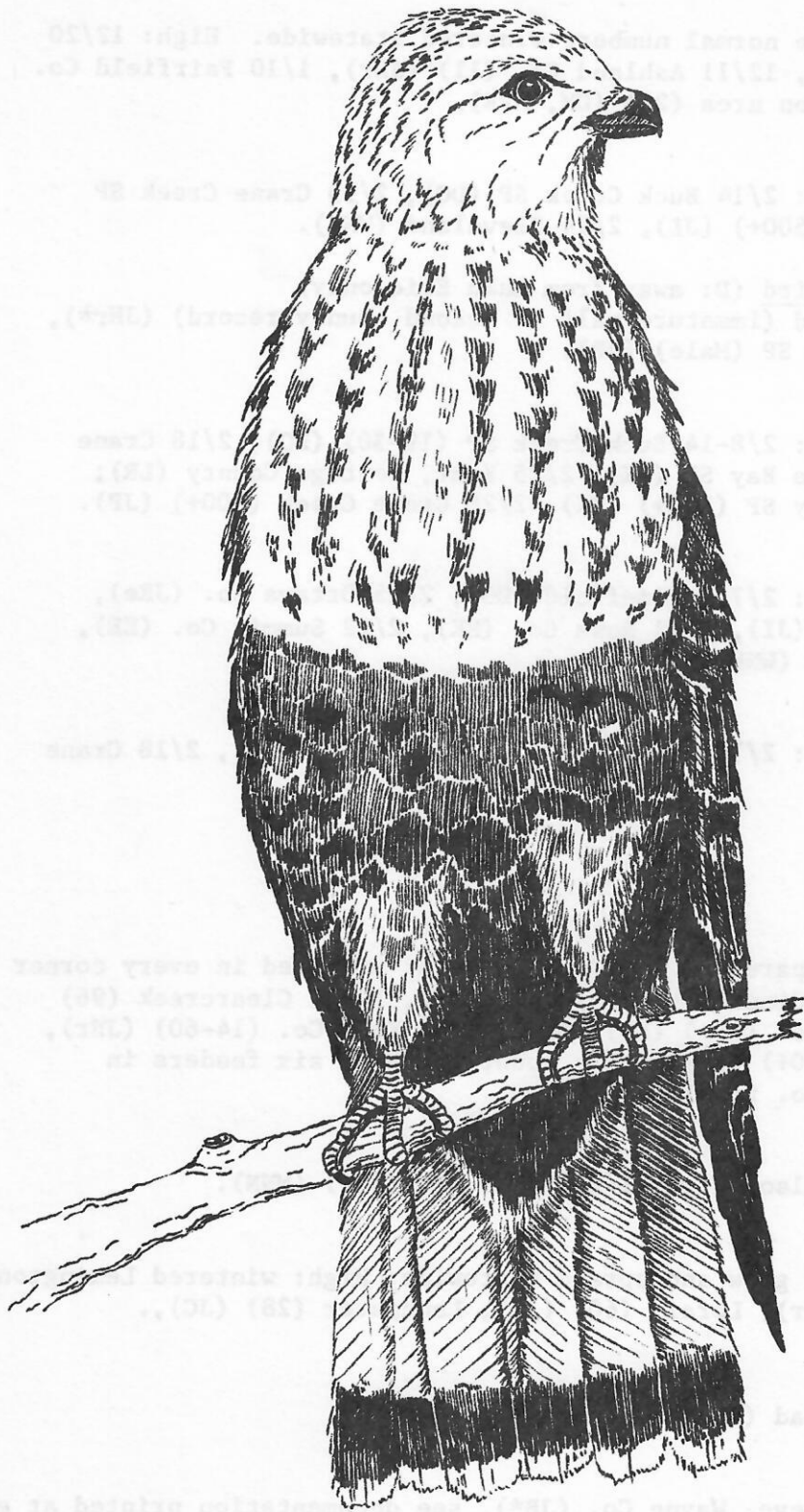
Yellow-rumped Warbler

Normal

Ovenbird (D: migrant month early or late)

Wintered again in Cincinnati at same feeder as last year (KM).





Norm Walker

Common Yellowthroat (D; migrant month early or late)  
12/7 Crane Creek SP (JP, MS).

House Sparrow  
Normal

Eastern Meadowlark  
Slightly above normal numbers wintered statewide. High: 12/20 Seneca Co. (18) (TB), 12/11 Ashland Co. (11) (JHr), 1/10 Fairfield Co. (35) (JC), 1/14 Dayton area (23) (CM, AVR).

Red-winged Blackbird  
Normal; early: 2/14 Buck Creek SP (DO), 2/15 Crane Creek SP (JRe), 2/20 Oxford (500+) (JL), 2/24 Cleveland (WNK).

Yellow-headed Blackbird (D: away from Lake Erie only)  
1/17 Mansfield (immature male - second county record) (JHr\*),  
1/29-2/6 Crane Creek SP (Male) (JP).

Rusty Blackbird  
Normal; early: 2/8-14 Buck Creek SP (19-30) (DO), 2/18 Crane Creek SP (JP), Maumee Bay SP (TK), 2/25 Kent, Portage County (LR);  
High: 2/22 Maumee Bay SP (150+) (TK), 2/28 Crane Creek (200+) (JP).

Common Grackle  
Normal; early: 2/7 Springfield (DO), 2/15 Ottawa Co. (JRe),  
2/20 Oxford (2500+) (JI), 2/21 Ross Co. (HK), 2/22 Summit Co. (EE),  
2/23 Cleveland (369) (WNK).

Brown-headed Cowbird  
Normal; early: 2/11 Reynoldsburg, Licking Co. (JF), 2/18 Crane Creek SP (JP, MS).

Cardinal  
Normal

Evening Grosbeak  
Excellent compared to last two winters; wintered in every corner of the state; High: Cincinnati (24) (fide AW), 12/29 Clearcreek (96) (JC), 12/23 Summit Co. (10+) (EE), 12/26-2/14 Knox Co. (14-60) (JHr), 2/11 Oak Openings (60+) (TK), and a count taken of six feeders in Athens and Hocking Co. totaled 192!

Purple Finch  
Good winter also; High: 1/28 Adams Co. (50+) (MNN).

House Finch  
Continuing to grow and spread statewide; High: wintered Lexington, Richland Co. (10) (JHr), Lorain (60) (JP), Lancaster (28) (JC),.

Pine Grosbeak (D)  
2/23 Marblehead (immature or female) (JP\*).

Hoary Redpoll (D)  
2/19 near Shreve, Wayne Co. (JB\*), see documentation printed at end.

Common Redpoll  
Not as common as fall migration promised; high: 1/27 Toledo (30+) (TL), 12/27 Shaker Lakes (27) (VF), 2/23 Lorain (35) (JP).

Pine Siskin  
Excellent winter statewide; high: 1/27 Toledo (100+) (TL), 12/28

Holden Arb., Lake Co. (35) (VF), 12/29 Clearcreek (50+), Washington Co. (35) (LB), and the six feeders count in Athens and Hocking Co. had 216!

American Goldfinch  
Normal

Red Crossbill  
1/13-2/23 Toledo (1-3) (JP).

White-winged Crossbill  
1/1-3 Butler Co. (immature male) (m.ob.), 12/1 Akron (3) (WS),  
1/12 Findley SP (4) (JP), 1/13-2/23 Toledo (1-4) (JP), 1/18-2/9 Columbus  
(2-3) (JF, JC, BS, PZ), 1/10 -2/28 Lorain (1st year male banded) (JP) see cover  
photo and article in this issue.

Rufous -sided Towhee  
Slightly above normal numbers statewide.

Savannah Sparrow (D: migrant month early or late)  
1/3 Franklin Co. (JC\*)

Vesper Sparrow (D: migrant month early or late)  
12/21 Ashland Co. (JHr\*), 12/31-2/8 Richland Co. (JHr, SM\*, banded).

Dark-eyed Junco  
Normal to slightly below normal numbers.

Tree Sparrow  
Normal  
Chipping Sparrow (D: migrant month early or late)  
12/20 Shaker Lakes (VF), 2/3 Allen Co. (JF\*)

Field Sparrow  
Above normal numbers during December but dropped sharply after Jan. 1st.

Harris Sparrow (D)  
1/9-12 Findley SP (AT,\* JP), see documentation printed at end.

White-crowned Sparrow  
Numbers appeared down in the northern part of the state but  
normal elsewhere.

White-throated Sparrow  
Normal

Fox Sparrow  
Normal although there were more reports for February than other  
months.

Swamp Sparrow  
Normal in December, but disappeared after Jan. 1st.

Song Sparrow  
Normal

Lapland Longspur  
1/1 Richland Co. (2nd county record) (JHr), 1/2 Pickaway Co. (JF),  
1/3 Killdeer Plains, Marion Cty. (fide K.R. Troutman), 1/3-4 Dayton (2-4)  
(CB, BE, PK, RM), 1/4-11 Hamilton Co. (3+) (m.ob.), 1/9-10 Fairfield Co.  
(2) (JC), 1/9 Delaware Co. (9) (VF), 1/19 Lucas Co. (4) (AT), 1/24  
Oxford (TP), all January Seneca County (60+) (TB), February:  
Maumee Bay SP (JP), 2/15 Ottawa Co. (60+) (TK).

Snow Bunting

Excellent numbers, found everywhere; Southern; 1/4-11 Hamilton Co. (100+) (m.ob.), 1/3-4 Dayton area (400+) (m.ob.), 1/9 Fairfield Co. (260) (JC); High: 2/15 Ottawa Co. (3000+) (TK), 1/2 Seneca Co. (600+) (TB).

Bird Report Contributors

Ron Austing	(RA)	Charlotte Mathena	(CM)
Lynn Barnhart	(LE)	Steve McKee	(SM)
Tom Bartlett	(TB)	Morris Mercer	(MM)
Betty Berry	(BB)	Roland Mercer	(RM)
Charlie Berry	(CB)	Marge & Norm Neuberger	(MNN)
Chet Bowsher	(CBo)	Doug Overacker	(DO)
James Bruce	(JB)	Paul Payne	(PP)
Jerry Cairo	(JC)	Bruce Peterjohn	(BP)
Dale Chase	(DCh)	Town Peterson	(TP)
Nancy Cherry	(NC)	Cheryl & Ed Pierce	(CEP)
Elinor Elder	(EE)	John Pogacnik	(JP)
Eric Faber	(EF)	John Redman	(JRe)
Vic Fazio	(VF)	Frank Renfro	(FR)
Jim Fry	(JF)	Anne Van Roekel	(AVR)
Polly Hall	(PH)	Larry Rosche	(LR)
Ray Hannikman	(RH)	Mark Shieldcastle	(MS)
John Herman	(JHr)	Bruce Stehling	(BS)
Jim Hickman	(JHn)	Woody Stover	(WS)
Jim Hill	(JH)	Dave Styer	(DS)
Tom Hissong	(TH)	Marjory Thomas	(MT)
James Ingold	(JI)	Arden Thompson	(AT)
Melinda Irvin	(MI)	Laurel Van Camp	(LVC)
Tom Kemp	(TK)	Donna Wagner	(DW)
Herman Kind	(HK)	Steve Wagner	(SW)
William & Nancy Klamm	(WNK)	Norman Walker	(NW)
Jean Knoblauch	(JK)	Art Wiseman	(AW)
Jeff Knoop	(JKp)	Paul Zieber	(PZ)
Paul Knoop	(PKp)		
Chris Lee	(CL)		
Tom LePage	(TL)		
Karl Maslowski	(KM)		

NOTES

Please add the following observation to the Fall 1980 issue (Vol. 3, No. 3):

Surf Scoter (D)

9/24 West Chester (Butler Co.) (2 im.) (FR\*).

Please change the following in the Fall 1980 issue (Vol. 3, No. 3):

Oldsquaw

11/16 Buck Creek SP (SM) to 11/16 Clearfork Reservoir (SM).

Short-eared owl

11/15-30 Killdeer Plains (8) (fide JH) to  
11/15-30 Killdeer Plains (8) (fide JHr).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird  
 10/2 Richland Co. (JH) to  
 10/2 Richland Co. (JHr).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

11/26 Richland Co. (JH) to  
 11/26 Richland Co. (JHr).

House Finch

Richland County (JH) to  
 Richland County (JHr).

Pine Siskin

10/27-29 Ontario (Richland Co.) (6-30) (JH) to  
 10/27-29 Ontario (Richland Co.) (6-30) (JHr).

CROSS-REFERENCE

<u>Location</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>County</u>
Akron	Summit	Kingston	Ross
Alum Creek Res.	Delaware	Lake Rockwell	Portage
Ashland	Ashland	Lancaster	Fairfield
Aullwood Nature Center	Montgomery	Lexington	Richland
Avon Lake	Lorain	Lima	Allen
Buck Creek SP	Clark	Lorain	Lorain
Carroll Twp.	Ottawa	Magee Marsh	Ottawa
Castalia	Erie	Maumee Bay	Lucas
Cedar Pt. NWR	Lucas	Maumee Bay SP	Lucas
Chardon	Geauga	Medusa Marsh	Erie
Cincinnati	Hamilton	Marblehead	Erie
Circleville	Pickaway	Mohican SF	Ashland
Clearfork Res.	Richland-Morrow	Mosquito Lake	Trumbull
Clearcreek	Fairfield	Navarre Marsh	Ottawa
Cleveland	Cuyahoga	Oak Openings	Lucas
Cleves	Hamilton	Old Fort	Seneca
Columbus	Franklin	ONWR	Ottawa
Corning Lake	Lake	Oregon	Lucas
Crane Creek SP	Ottawa	Oxford	Butler
Cuyahoga Valley NRA	Summit	Parma Hts.	Cuyahoga
Darby Marsh	Ottawa	Pickerington Ponds	Franklin
Dayton	Montgomery	Pleasant Hill Res.	Richland-Ashland
Eastlake	Lake	Reynoldsburg	Licking
East Harbor State Park	Erie	Sandusky	Erie
Euclid	Cuyahoga	Sandusky Bay	Erie and Ottawa
Findley SP	Lorain	Shaker Lakes	Cuyahoga
Fort Hill SM	Highland	Shawnee	Perry
Fostoria	Seneca	Shawnee Lookout	Hamilton Co. Park
Glen Helen	Greene	Sheldon's Marsh	Erie
Holden Arboretum	Lake	Shreve	Wayne
Hoover Res.	Delaware	Springfield	Clark
Hueston Woods SP	Preble	Tiffin	Seneca
Huron	Erie	Toledo	Lucas
Indian Lake SP	Logan	Vermilion	Erie
Kent	Portage	Walden Pond	Franklin
Killbuck Marsh	Wayne	Washington Court House	Fayette
Killdeer Plains	Marion	West Chester	Butler

## Crane Creek Bird Trail

The Ohio Cardinal received the following letter from Karl E. Bednarik, Supervisor, Waterfowl Research & Management, Crane Creek Wildlife Experiment Station, Oak Harbor, Ohio, on April 17, 1981:

"I am earnestly soliciting your assistance in preserving the understory habitat of the Division of Wildlife's Bird Trail, Crane Creek Wildlife Experiment Station. I am appending a copy of my file relative to the problem. My letter of May 14, 1979, to Mr. Edward Hutchins, Director, Columbus Metropolitan Park Board, explains the problem.

I have been a birder since I was a freshman in Barberton High School in 1937, 44 years ago. I enjoy it a great deal. I have attempted to take a positive, objective approach to the problem; however, I am concerned with the manner that many of the newer birders perform reference the environment. Many do not believe that they can be consumptive users of the environment. At the Crane Creek Wildlife Experiment Station's Bird Trail, this has been painfully true.

Since The Ohio Cardinal reaches a wide number of birders, a note by you might prove to be extremely rewarding in preserving this fragile birding habitat. We recently refurbished the Bird Trail with new gravel and a few new signs; however, the problem continues.

Thank you for your assistance."

The letter to Mr. Hutchins is excerpted below:

"In 1956, I developed a birding trail along a small swamp forest-barrier beach area on the Crane Creek Wildlife Experiment Station. With the construction of the Sportsmen Migratory Bird Center, in 1970, I enhanced the foot trail by purchasing 150 tons of washed glacial gravel from a quarry in Upper Sandusky, Ohio, rather than spreading white, crushed limestone from a local quarry. The intent was to make the bird trail ecologically correct. To minimize compaction, we hauled the glacial gravel in by hand with 5-gallon buckets and wheel barrow.

The Bird Trail has gained great popularity with annual use doubling annually. This particular area is probably the best birding area along the south shore of Lake Erie. On a typical May day, one can see 125 species in a short time.

Besides the fact of geography, one of the reasons that the area is so good is that the dense under brush, coupled with small swampy areas between old sand beach lines, and a marsh edge, provided excellent habitat for a great variety of birds.

Bird watchers begin using the area in February and on a seven-days per week basis, daylight to dark until the first week of June. The people have beat down scores of side trails off the main glacial gravel trail. They have created trails and sub-trails every 20 feet by trampling down the once dense underbrush. The compaction is so great that the vegetation never recovers. Wild flowers, (Columbines, violets, Solomon's seal and the few trilliums that formerly occurred there) are completely gone. If this situation is permitted to continue, I predict that in another five years, all of the understory will have been eliminated with the result that a formerly outstanding birding area will have been destroyed.

I have discussed this situation with Mr. Lou Campbell, one of Toledo's most outstanding birders' with Mr. Robert Crofts, President, Toledo Naturalist Association, and Mr. Lou Klewer, Outdoor Editor, Toledo Blade, who has been a birder for 60 of his 76 years. All are in agreement that something must be done to protect the environment.

The question is how many people can the best portion (a 3-acre area) of our 7-acre bird trail support? I pose the question "are birdwatchers consumptive users of the environment?" I find that they consume it at a great rate where 300-400 people use it each Saturday and Sunday, with average daily use of 85 per day on other days. Birding has become very popular. In the last five years, we have a new generation of birders who having never seen the original vegetative complex on our bird trail accept the compacted trails as "normal". They fail to realize that each time they wander into the remaining underbrush for a "closer look" at a bird, they create a new path for another person.

I welcome any objective management suggestions that you can offer me in formulating a positive, acceptable management plan which will protect the habitat and permit people to do birding."

Prior to Mr. Hutchins reply, Mr. Bednarik received the following letter from Robert M. Bruce (subscriber to The Ohio Cardinal) written May 16, 1979:

"Later that morning I saw at first-hand the problem which we discussed the day before--too many birders on too small a terrain and a few badly mannered individuals. Point Pelee, to which we traveled on later on Friday, would have the same problem except for the vast territory over which the birders can spread.

I offer two minor suggestions, both of which really have to do with education of the birding public. At no place did I notice any indication of your concern for the habitat; hence:

1. I suggest several discretely placed signs asking for cooperation in the use of the paths. You may have tried this previously without success or even with loss of signs to vandalism, but I submit that some individuals do not know of, or appreciate, your concern.
2. Obviously the first hundred yards, more or less, of the trail offer the problems. Have you thought of running a single strand of wire, possible three feet above the ground, on either side of the crucial part of the trail? It would not prevent crossing; but, with appropriate signs, would alert the public to your concerns.

Thank you again for your assistance. You manage a wonderful piece of property; I wish you success in controlling the multitudes who share your enthusiasm."

Mr. Hutchins' reply on June 6, 1979, offered the following suggestions:

1. Establish a policy;
2. Appoint a committee of prominent birders to help;
3. Establish a carrying capacity; "you presently have far too much public visitation for the existing trail system. Perhaps you could strike a compromise between enlarging the trail system and reducing the numbers of visitors at peak periods."
4. Plug unwanted impromptu trails with vegetation. "However, there may be one or two of these impromptu trails that could be considered logical additions to your planned trails."

5. Use split rail fence to establish control points and close off impromptu trails. "The fencing should be installed to be aesthetically pleasing in each situation and ideally not giving the appearance that someone has closed off an unwanted trail."

"6. Try to design some means of controlling access to the area. There may eventually have to be a system of controlling numbers of people using the trails at a given time so you may as well design in a control point.

7. Use signs as necessary. At least one will be needed at the control point setting forth the rules and regulations; here and there you will need a few "stay on the trail" reminder signs.

8. Lastly, you will more than likely need someone (unarmed) patrolling the trails at busy times reminding people who have left the trails that they are destroying habitat and violating the rules."

Gary R. Moore, a naturalist with the Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks added the following to Mr. Hutchins' letter:

"The problems with off trail usage at Crane Creek sound complex but manageable. On the positive side, most birders are aware of ecological concepts and could identify with efforts to preserve this excellent site; unfortunately birders are often a single minded lot when it comes to adding that extra bird to the day's list and are usually content only with sightings rather than species heard. Although not intimately familiar with the area, I would assume this is a problem that has developed for some time rather than just recently. In addition, the size of the area in relation to the high visitorship represents some real challenges.

I suggest a three phase approach of interpretation, trail evaluation, and enforcement. Each should compliment the others.

Interpretation should introduce the site and the problem to visitors with a better understanding of why the area attracts masses of migrant birds, (dense underbrush). Visitors should develop an appreciation and respect for the natural features. Permanent exhibits at the beginning of the trail could enforce the theme of Crane Creek as a special place deserving of preservation as well as enjoyment.

Solicit the visitors assistance. Birders jealously defend fine birding areas and make them part of a conservation consciousness to rebuild and maintain the integrity of the area.

In essence, identify the problem for the visitors and enlist their support in its solution.

Trail evaluation should include an on site behavior study. Why are certain subtrails being created? If consistent with area goals perhaps some of these could be improved instead of fighting human behavior. Others could be eliminated following guidelines suggested in your letter of June 6th.

A definite trail head should be established. This will facilitate visitor awareness of the problem and assist interpretive and enforcement efforts. Great effort should be made to establish primary access and discourage "any point" entry onto the trail.

Enforcement should be low key but consistent and based on well established goals. I suggest a volunteer staff of area birders. This staff could walk the trails during peak visitation periods assisting visitors in



locating migrant birds observed in addition to checking for and eliminating off trail activities. The volunteer staff should be well coordinated, trained, uniformed and appreciated by their supervisors."

On September 8, 1979, Mr. Bednarik met with Lou Klewer, Robert Crofts, Lou Campbell, Laurel VanCamp and Frank McConoughey concerning the trail. From this meeting came the following proposals which Mr. Bednarik submitted to Steven H. Cole, Executor Administrator, Wildlife Research and Management Group, Division of Wildlife, Columbus, Ohio, on March 21, 1980:

- "1. The Bird Trail to have a wire (#9 or 4' high livestock fence) to be erected on both sides of the main trail, with two side loops, to control birder movement and preserve the understory habitat.
2. An appropriate master sign be erected at the west end of the Bird Trail (where most birders park and concentrate) explaining the reason for the control fence with non-offensive wording restricting:
  - a. No pets on the trail,
  - b. No flower picking on the trail,
  - c. No picknicking on the trail,
  - d. No collecting of snakes, turtles, lizards, frogs and toads.
  - e. No motor bikes, bicycles or baby buggies and strollers on the trail.

Our naturalist will be out on the Bird Trail explaining to the birders the reasons for our fence."

3. Log seats.

This proposal was approved by Mr. Cole on March 25, 1980. On April 9, 1980, Mr. Bednarik reported to Mr. Cole that the approximate cost of this type of fencing would be \$ 5,000.00, for 5100 feet and that a wood split rail fence would be cheaper and more fitting aesthetically. Mr. Cole's complete response on May 5, 1980, follows:

"SUBJECT: BIRD TRAIL FENCE

Since the cost of fencing the bird trail with either woven wire or wooden rails will be in excess of \$5000.00 and there is no guarantee that this will solve the problem, please construct a fence of metal posts with 2 or 3 strands of #9 wire strung between them along the trail. Obviously this will not be as aesthetically appealing as the rail fence, however, if the problem still exists after the fence is constructed, we will likely be force to close the trail to everything but scheduled tours in order to protect the habitat. This way we will not have an expensive fence, serving no purpose, if we are forced into the latter alternative."

The fence was not constructed. Mr. Bednarik, John Pogacnik and Mark Shieldcastle in preparation for the 1981 Spring migration, spread crushed limestone on the major trail and two connecting loops. They hauled this material by hand in buckets and a wheel barrow. Signs were again placed at the beginning of each impromptu trail stating "No trail." (The ones erected in 1980 were vandalized during the summer.) Log seats were placed at several points. Recently, the Toledo Naturalists Association appointed a committee headed by John J. Stophlet to help Mr. Bednarik with this problem.

After reading the above, you've got to agree that overuse is the major problem on the Crane Creek bird trail. Until 1980, most people were unaware

of any problem. There were no signs telling you to stay on the trail and it was accepted practice to leave the major trail in search of birds. When you left the trail in those years, your individual passage generally left no visible destruction. You generally moved slowly and quietly in stalk of birds. If you had not been on the trail prior to the flood years in the early 1970s, you had no knowledge of how the habitat once looked. You only knew its present condition. Perhaps you never realized that the dense underbrush contributed to the outstanding concentration of birds during migration. But you certainly did not feel that your actions were causing any damage. Individually they probably weren't, but in combination with 300 to 400 people per day on weekends they were. In 1980, signs warned to stay on the trail, but which trail? By then there was a multitude. Now the trail to stay on is clearly marked with a crushed limestone surface. In short, the trail was damaged by overuse by people generally unaware that exploration was not permitted and that their small individual action would result in any damage. People were not vandalizing the understory nor intentionally violating any announced sanction to stay on the trail.

However, now that we know the problem, we can help by not leaving the trail for any reason, encouraging others not to do so and reminding those off the trail to return. But can we sacrifice our own personal satisfaction in seeing a rare bird for the greater good of preserving the outstanding birding area in the state for the future? We'd better if we don't want to be rightfully labeled ugly birders.

You've probably also come to the conclusion by now that closing this trail except for tours is not the answer to this problem. So many areas are now restricted to the "elite." How did this problem have so many and varied solutions at first and then end with a cheap fence and closing? We must be educated by displays and signs to the problem and the danger of seemingly innocent actions. Such an educational display could be put at the trail head.

The trail must be patrolled in some fashion. There will always be some for whom their perception of overregulation or skepticism that a problem exists or belief in divine right justifies what is now surely a trespass on us all. A certain amount of fencing as outlined by Mr. Bruce and Mr. Hutchins at critical points could be used. Finally, if all else fails, the capacity of people on the trail at one time could be controlled. But education, patrolling and self-restraint are crucial.

Finally, all of us with binoculars are not responsible for the actions of others just because they also wear binoculars but that does not diminish our responsibility to try to help one another in so vital a thing on which we are united, the protection of habitat.

Ohio Records of the Yellow-headed Blackbird  
(*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*)

John Herman

The yellow-headed blackbird is a summer resident of marshes and sloughs of western and prairie provinces and states. It nests regularly as far east as eastern Wisconsin and northeastern Illinois. There are nesting records for Ottawa and Lucas Counties, Ohio (4) (13).

According to Peterson: "there have been numerous reports in the fall and winter east to the Atlantic coast." (20).

Although the yellow-headed blackbird has been observed annually at Lucas and Ottawa counties of Ohio within the last decade, it remains an accidental or casual species for the other 86 Ohio counties. In this paper I separate Lucas and Ottawa county records from all other Ohio records.

There are 90+ Ohio yellow-headed blackbird records (a single record may include more than one bird). Lucas and Ottawa counties, combined, have 42+ records. There are 11 Ohio counties that have single records: Athens, Columbiana, Delaware, Fairfield, Geauga, Hancock, Logan, Marion, Morgan, Pickaway and Tuscarawas. Counties with multiple records (more than a single record in the same or different years) are: Ashtabula (2), Cuyahoga (8), Erie (3), Franklin (6), Hamilton (2), Lake (2), Licking (2), Lorain (2), Lucas (13+), Mercer (2), Montgomery (4), Ottawa (29+), Richland (2), and Summit (2). The majority of the records are concentrated near population centers. This probably reflects the distribution of the observers rather than the birds.

There are 18 winter records of the yellow-headed blackbird. Six are from Lucas and Ottawa counties and the other twelve from central and southern Ohio locations. Nine of these records are of birds at feeders.

There are 40 spring records. Thirty-three are of birds seen at counties along or near Lake Erie which includes 25 records from Lucas and Ottawa counties.

There are a few records of yellow-headed blackbirds summering in Ohio. In 1873, at Groveport, Franklin county, one pair summered and possibly nested (21). One adult pair plus 3 juvenile birds were observed at Metzger Marsh from late April until August, 1938 (4). A yellow-headed blackbird nest with four eggs was found at Metzger Marsh in 1940, with one juvenile bird collected, for scientific purposes, in July of 1940 (4). An adult male stayed at Burke Airport, Cleveland, from 22 May through 3 July 1960 (17). Five birds stayed at Magee Marsh from 18 May through 9 July 1961 (4). Two territorial males were observed in Lucas county from 11 May through June of 1980 (18).

There are fifteen autumn records. Eleven are of birds seen at counties along or near Lake Erie.

Prior to 1930, there are about eight acceptable Ohio yellow-headed blackbird records (12). There were 12 records in the 1930s, 10 records in the 1940s, 3 records in the 1950s, 19 records in the 1960s, 31 records in the 1970s and 10 records so far in the 1980s. This increase since 1960 is probably due to the increased number of competent observers.

Ohio Yellow-headed Blackbird Records  
(Exclusive of Lucas and Ottawa County Records)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Comment</u>	<u>Source</u>
1873 Summer	Groveport (Franklin Co.)	1 pair possibly nested	(21)
1896 Oct. 9	Oberlin (Lorain Co.)	6 birds	(13)
1903 or prior	McConnellsville (Morgan Co.)		(13)
1903 or prior	Sandusky (Erie Co.)	1 bird collected	(13)
1925 Feb. 26	Franklin County		(10)
1931 Mar. 8	Columbus		(12)
1933 Feb. 26	O'Shaughnessy Res. (Delaware Co.)	2 birds	(12)
1934 May 11-12	Erie County	1 male	(12)
1936 Mar. 8	Grand Lake St. Marys (Mercer Co.)	22 birds	(12)
1936 Aug. 21	Cleveland	female or imm.	(8)
1937 Apr. 5	Pymatuning Res. (Ashtabula Co.)	2 birds	(12)
1938 Mar. 12	Indian Lake (Logan Co.)	3 birds	(12)
1938 Mar. 28	Erie County	21 birds	(12)
1942 Mar. 11	Greencamp (Marion Co.)	9 birds	(12)
1946 1st half June	Hancock County	2 singing males	(20)
1946 August	North College Hill (Hamilton Co.)	hypothetical	(14)
1957 May 9	Barberton (Summit Co.)		(17)
1957 Oct. 23	Hebron NFH (Licking Co.)	1 adult male	(15)
1959 Sept. 3	Ashtabula County	adult male & female	(3A)
1960 May 22 - Jul.3	Burke Airport (Cuyahoga Co.)	adult male	(17)
1961 June 3-4	Burke Airport		(16)
1961 or 1962 July	Fernald (Hamilton Co.)		(11)
1962 Apr. 26	Willoughby (Lake Co.)		(17)
1962 May 10	North Chagrin Res. (Cuyahoga Co.)		(17)
1962 Spring	Grand Lake St. Marys		(6)
1962 June 1	Geauga County		(17)
1962 June 1	"Near Cleveland"	same report as Geauga County above?	(3B)
1962 Oct. 15	Lisbon (Columbiana Co.)		(15)
1963 Sept. 29	Hebron NFH	adult male	(15)
1964 Jul. 25-26	Gnadenhutten (Tuscarawas Co.)	5 birds	(15)
1966 May 14	Lakewood Park (Cuyahoga Co.)		(17)
1967 Spring	Centerville (Montgomery Co.)	female	(9)
1969 Winter	Kettering (Montgomery Co.)	male	(9)
1971 Mar. 16	Mansfield (Richland Co.)	adult male	(1A)
1971 Oct. 24	North Chagrin Res. (Cuyahoga Co.)	female	(7)
1973 Sept. 10	Mentor Headlands (Lake Co.)	imm. male	(7)
1973 Sept. 13	White City (Cuyahoga Co.)	imm. male	(7)
1974 Feb. 26	Columbus	male, remained to Spring	(17)
1976 Dec. 19	Pickaway County	adult male	(2)
1979 Jan. 3	Nelsonville (Athens Co.)	female	(5)
1979 Jan. 3-13	New Albany (Franklin Co.)	imm. male	(5)
1979 Sept. 28	F.A. Seiberling Nature Center (Summit Co.)	adult male	(5)
1979 Oct. 30	Oberlin Reservoir (Lorain Co.)	adult male	(22)
1979 Winter	Centerville (Montgomery Co.)	female	(9)
1980 Dec. 20 to Feb. 4	Englewood (Montgomery Co.)	female	(9)
1981 Jan. 9	Blacklick Metro. Park (Fairfield Co.)	adult male	(18)
1981 Jan. 1st wk. thru 17th	Mansfield	imm. male	(18)
1981 Jan.21 - Feb. 9	Worthington and Upper Arlington (Franklin Co.)	adult male	(18)

Lucas and Ottawa County Yellow-headed Blackbird Records

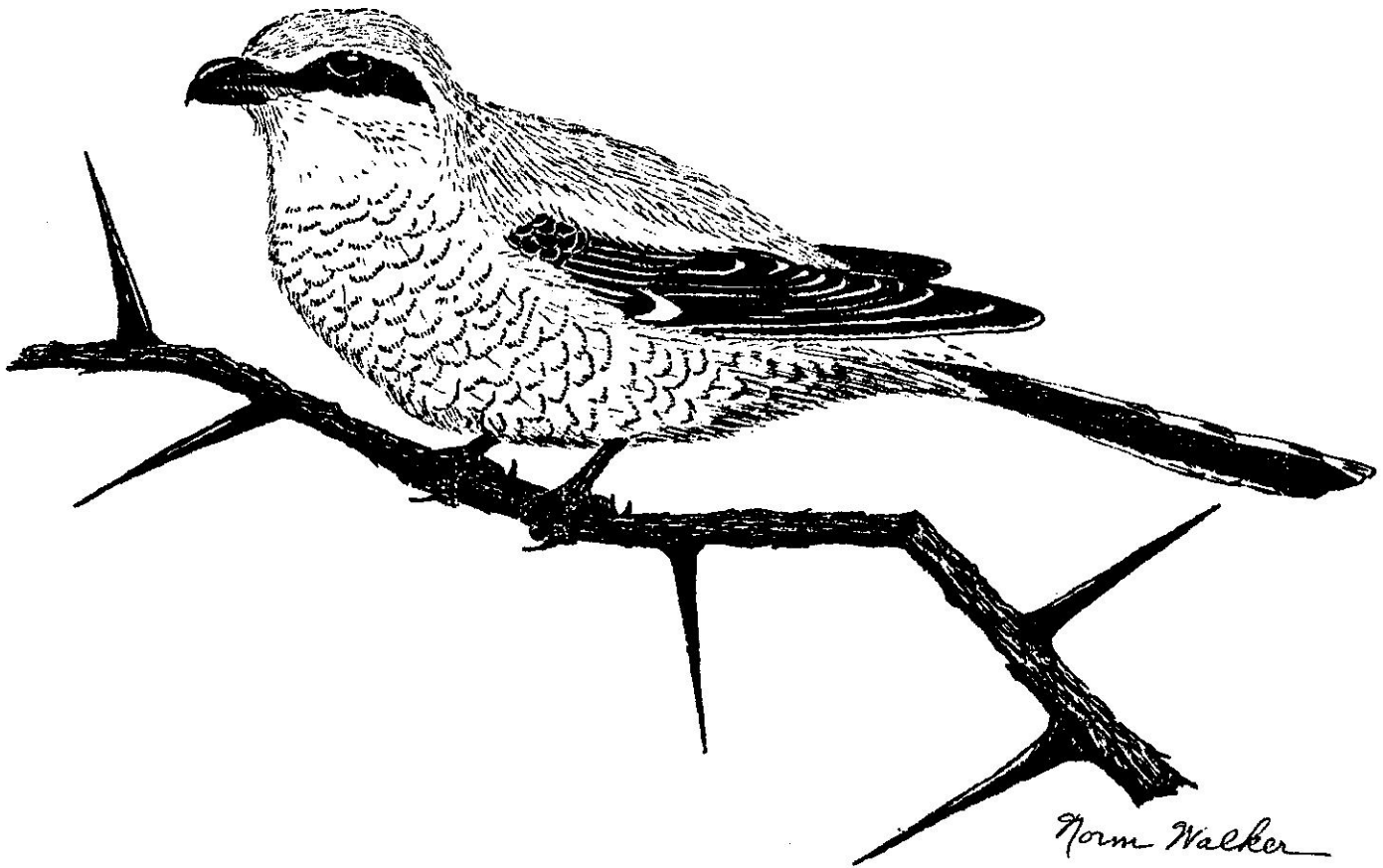
<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Comment</u>	<u>Source</u>
1936 May 21	Magee Marsh	one pair	(4)
1938 late Apr.-Aug.	Metzger Marsh	one pair plus 3 juv.	(4)
1939 Mar. 23	Port Clinton (Ottawa Co.)	6 birds	(12)
1939	Lucas County	one pair	(12)
1940 May 18	Metzger Marsh	nest with 4 eggs	(4)
1940 May 30 - Jun.10	Bono (Lucas Co.)	male defending terr.	(4)
1940 July 21	Metzger Marsh	1 juv. collected	(4)
1941	Metzger Marsh	1 pair	(4)
1941 Apr. 4	Port Clinton (Ottawa Co.)	1 bird	(12)
1944 Mar. 24	Reno Beach (Lucas Co.)	12 birds	(12)
1947 Oct. 22	Lucas Co., western	25 birds	(4)
1960 May 3-Jun. 15	Magee Marsh	1 pair	(4)
1960 Jun.8 - Jul. 8	Winous Point Marsh	female & imm. male	(4)
1961 May 18 - Jul. 9	Magee Marsh	5 birds	(4)
1964 May 17	Port Clinton	male	(16)
1966	Magee Marsh		(16)
1970 May 10	ONWR	female	(16)
1971 May 8	ONWR		(16)
1972 Jan. 15	Ottawa County		(16)
1972 May 4- 10	Ottawa County		(16)
1973 Apr. 25-May 5	Magee Marsh	2 males - 1 female	(16)
1974 Apr. 27-May 28	Magee Marsh	5 birds	(1B)
1975 May 15-18	Ottawa County		(16)
1976 May 28-Jun. 10	Magee Marsh	male	(16)
1977 Mar. 6	Waterville	at feeder	(16)
1977 May 6-10	ONWR		(16)
1977 Jun. 15-Jul.	Navarre Marsh		(16)
1977 Sept. 24	ONWR	2 birds	(16)
1978 May 7	Ottawa County		(16)
1978 June 23	Ottawa County	3 birds	(16)
1979 Apr. 13-May 4	Ottawa County		(16)
1979 June 2	ONWR	7 males & 1 female	(16)
1979 June 2	Lucas County	2 territorial males	(5)
1979 June 24	ONWR	male collecting nest material	(16)
1979 Oct.25-Dec. 2	Danbury Twp. (Ottawa Co.)	1 male & 1-3 females	(5)
1979 Dec. 16	Cedar Point Marsh	3 birds	(16)
1980 Jan. 1-Feb. 8	ONWR	1 male - 1 female	(5)
1980 Jan. 1	Lucas County	imm. male	(5)
1980 Aug. 29	ONWR	female	(18)
1980 May 14-Jun.16	Magee Marsh and ONWR	1 pair	(18)
1980 May 11 -June	Lucas County	2 territorial males	(18)
1981 Jan. 29-Feb, 6	Magee Marsh	adult male	(18)

LITERATURE CITED

- American Birds: (A) Vol. 25 No. 3 p. 587.  
(B) Vol. 28 No. 3 p. 648.
- American Birds: Vol. 31 No. 4 p. 625.
- Audubon Field Notes: (A) Vol. 14 No. 1 p. 41.  
(B) Vol. 16 No. 5 p. 480.
- Campbell, L. 1968. Birds of the Toledo area. The Toledo Blade Co. Toledo.
- The Cardinal: Vol. I No. 4, Vol. II No. 2,3,4.
- Clark, F. and Sipe, J. 1967. Birds of the Grand Lake St. Marys area. Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources. Columbus, Ohio.

7. Cleveland area records, 1966-81, supplied by Mr. Ray Hannikman, Editor of the Cleveland Bird Calendar.
8. Cleveland 1936 records supplied by Mr. J. P. Perkins.
9. Dayton area records supplied by Mr. James H. Hill and Mr. Paul E. Knoop.
10. Franklin County records, 26 Feb. 1925, supplied by Dr. Milton B. Trautman.
11. Hamilton County records of 1961 or 1962 supplied by Mr. David Styer.
12. Hicks, L. E. 1945. Yellow-headed blackbird breeding in Ohio. *Auk* 62: pp. 314-315.
13. Jones, L. 1903. The birds of Ohio, a Revised catalogue. Ohio State Academy of Science. Special Papers No. 6. Ohio Academy of Science. Columbus, Ohio.
14. Kemsies, E. and Randle, W. 1953. Birds of southwestern Ohio. Edward C. Brothers Inc. Ann Arbor, Michigan.
15. Licking County records supplied by Mr. George F. Griffith.
16. Lucas and Ottawa County records, 1964-1981, supplied by Mr. Louis W. Campbell.
17. Newman, D. A field guide to the birds of the Cleveland region. Cleveland Museum of Natural History. Cleveland, Ohio.
18. The Ohio Cardinal. III: No. 1, 2, 3, 4.
19. Peterson, R. T. 1980. A field guide to the birds east of the Rockies. Houghton Mifflin Co. Boston.
20. Phillips, R. S. 1959. The birds of Hancock County.
21. Wheaton. 1882. Report of the geological survey of Ohio: 4 Zoology and Botany Part 1: Zoology Section II: Report on the birds of Ohio. p. 356. Nevins & Myers, State Printers. Columbus, Ohio.
22. Wingtips. Dec. 1979 issue. Blackriver Audubon Society.

John Herman  
 1257 Lewis Road  
 Mansfield, Ohio 44903



## A Summary of 1980 Ohio

### Christmas Bird Counts

Finally the results. This huge effort needs an editor for this year's counts. Please let me know if you wish the job.

The format below is different than American Birds. It combines the 51 Ohio counts together to provide a statewide picture of bird populations in Ohio for the period December 20 through January 4. Forty-seven compilers responded to our request for count results. Our thanks to them. No results were received from Firelands, New Lexington, VanWert and Zanesville compilers despite letters and a phone call. Perhaps next year.

The first chart below lists alphabetically the name of each count as it appears in American Birds. It provides some basic information on each count such as the day of the count, number of species, races and forms seen and number of observers. Some compilers did not provide all of this information. Thus the blanks. The second chart combines all of the count results on a species basis. It provides the number of counts reporting at least one of the species, the first two initials of the name (three initials if the first two are the same for two counts) of the count recording the highest number of that species and its total and the total number of that species seen on all counts. There were 140 species, two exotics, one form, two races and 973,501 individual birds reported. The two exotics were mute swans (Toledo 5 and Elyria-Lorain 1) and a ruddy shelduck (Salem, 1). The form was a snow goose-blue form (Ottawa NWR, 1). The three races were Oregon junco (Ashtabula, Burton, Columbus, Gypsum, Hoover Reservoir, Wooster and Youngstown, 1 each), Richardson's goose (O'Shaughnessy Reservoir and Salem, 1 each) and northern horned lark. Horned larks were generally not differentiated except for Burton, Goll Woods and Toledo which specified 38, 116 and 10 northern horned larks, respectively, and Darbydale which stated "both races" 570. An additional four species were reported during the count week: northern oriole, Burton, Cadiz and Toledo, one each; pomarine jaeger and lesser black-backed gull, Elyria-Lorain, one each; white-winged crossbill, Toledo.

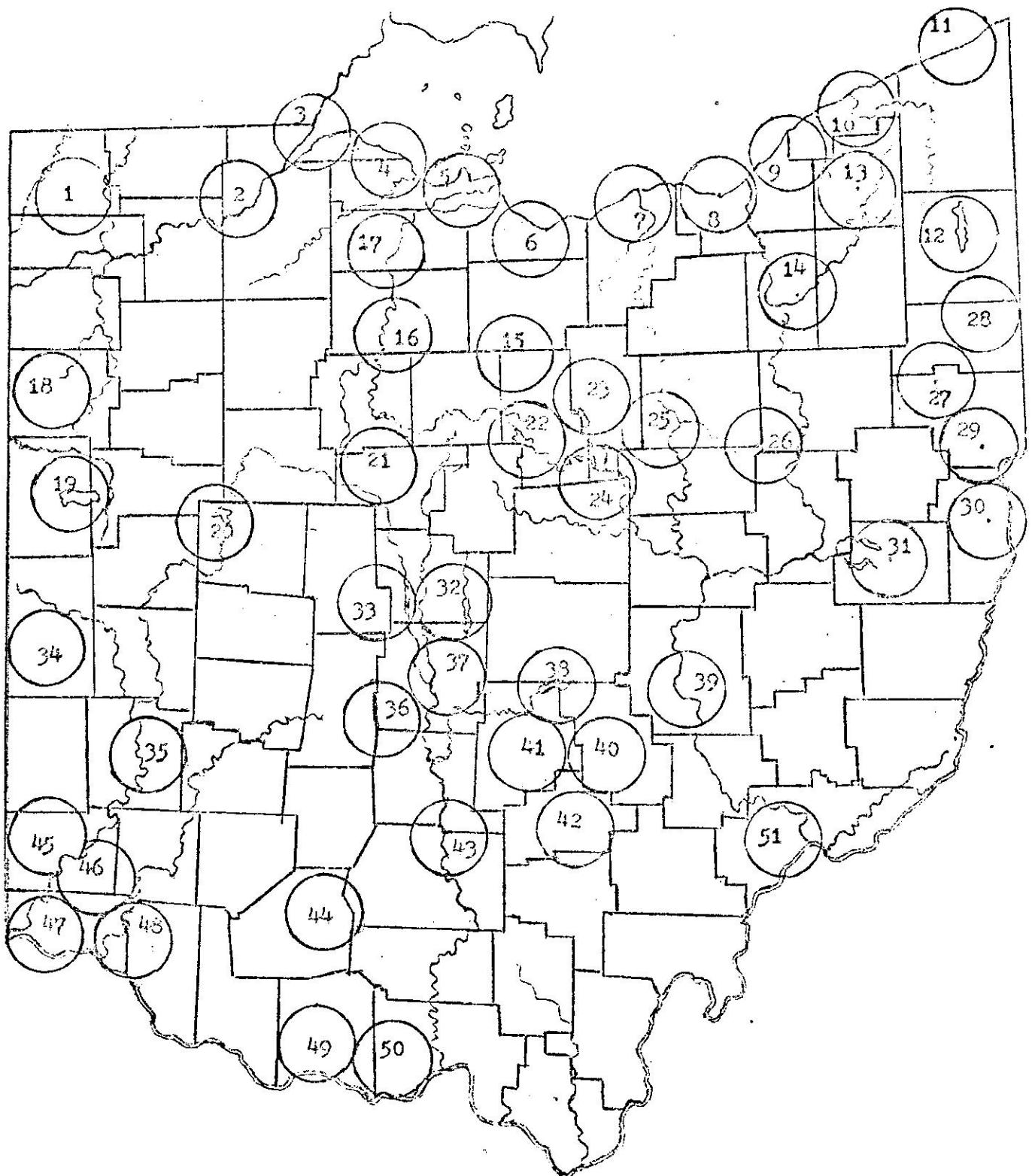
All 47 counts reported red-tailed hawk, American kestrel, rock dove, mourning dove, common flicker, downy woodpecker, blue jay, white-breasted nuthatch, starling, house sparrow, cardinal, dark-eyed junco, tree sparrow and song sparrow.

Common crow, tufted titmouse, American robin and American goldfinch were reported on 46 counts. At least forty counts tallied mallard (43), Cooper's hawk (40), belted kingfisher (43), red-bellied woodpecker (44), hairy woodpecker (45), brown creeper (43) and white-throated sparrow (41). At least thirty counts included great blue heron (31), Canada goose (33), black duck (36), rough-legged hawk (30), northern harrier (35), great horned owl (36), pileated woodpecker (30), red-headed woodpecker (30), horned lark (37), black-capped chickadee (34), red-breasted nuthatch (38), eastern bluebird (30), golden-crowned kinglet (39), cedar waxwing (37), red-winged blackbird (32), common grackle (33), brown-headed cowbird (31), rufous-sided towhee (34), field sparrow (36), white crown sparrow (32) and swamp sparrow (33). The remaining species were reported on less than thirty counts.

Hoover Reservoir had the greatest number of species, 87. Also in

<u>Count Name</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Map No.</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>No. Obs.</u>	<u>Total Party Hours</u>	<u>No. Sp.</u>	<u>No. Ra.</u>	<u>No. Fo.</u>	<u>Total number individuals</u>
Adams County	Adams	(49)	21			59			4,654
Ashland	Ashland	(23)				54			3,434
Ashtabula	Ashtabula	(11)	3		70	69			13,572
Beaver Creek	Columbiana	(29)	22	31	61	51			4,955
Buckeye Lake	Licking	(38)	20	28	124	84			12,147
Burton	Geauga	(13)	1			41	1		3,701
Cadiz	Harrison	(31)	29	9	26	40			1,334
Cincinnati	Hamilton	(48)	28	151	292	73			25,936
Cleveland	Cuyahoga	(9)	20	63		78	1		73,935
Columbus	Franklin	(37)	27	69	122	70	1		22,274
Cuyahoga Falls	Summit	(14)	21	116	224	78			34,028
Darbydale	Franklin	(36)	3	12	43	53	1		7,286
Dayton	Montgomery	(35)	21	79	85	71			340,508
Elyria-Lorain	Lorain	(7)		50	140	76			76,222
Firelands	Erie	(6)							8,090
Fremont	Sandusky	(17)	27	17	30	48			4,044
Goll Woods	Fulton	(1)	20	16		36			9,131
G L St. Mary's	Mercer	(19)	21	15		46			4,350
GR-Waterville	Wood	(2)	20	26	35	52			5,960
Greenville	Darke	(34)	4	18	37	43			6,922
Gypsum	Erie	(5)	4	8	27	56	1		3,875
Hamilton-Fair.	Butler	(46)	20	14		56			18,660
Hoover Res.	Delaware	(32)	21	17	56	87	1		542
Indian Lake	Logan	(20)	22	2	9	24			13,487
Killdeer Plains	Marion	(21)	28	13	47	47			11,791
Kingston	Ross	(43)	28	11	49	60			43,380
Lakewood	Cuyahoga	(8)	21	28		68			6,407
Lancaster	Fairfield	(41)	28	29	82	64			4,281
Logan	Hocking	(42)				69			14,654
Mansfield	Richland	(22)	20	36	46	49			7,847
Mentor	Lake	(10)	27	23		53			6,453
Mohican SF	Ashland	(24)	28	10	48	54			
New Lexington	Perry	(40)							2,664
O'Shaughnessy Res.	Union	(33)	24	2	9	48	1		8,274
Ottawa NWR	Ottawa	(4)	4	5	15	48		1	5,300
Oxford	Butler	(45)	20	19		63			2,686
Paint Creek	Highland	(44)				50			2,443
Plymouth	Huron	(15)	29			37			6,952
Portsmouth	Scioto	(50)				70			2,723
Salem	Columbiana	(27)	21			58	1		3,890
Steubenville	Jefferson	(30)	27	18	43	50			8,165
Tiffin	Seneca	(16)	20	24	43	58			53,162
Toledo	Lucas	(3)	21		48	86			14,618
Trumbull	Trumbull	(12)				47			
VanWert	VanWert	(18)							4,324
Washington	Washington	(51)	28	23	268	58			17,195
W. Hamilton	Hamilton	(47)	21	59	147	56			9,930
Wilmot	Stark	(26)	3	49	137	64			6,412
Wooster	Wayne	(25)	20	15	36	59	1		30,903
Youngstown	Mahoning	(28)	20	22		57	1		
Zanesville	Muskingum	(39)							





Map designed and drawn by James M. Bruce, Wooster, Ohio

SUMMARY OF SPECIES REPORTED

Key to columns: A - Number of counts reporting  
 B - High number, count reporting  
 C - Total individuals

	A	B	C
C. Loon	2	2 Ho	3
H. Grebe	6	2 Cl	7
Pb Grebe	14	6 Cu	32
GB Heron	31	41 Fr	146
BCN Heron	1	55 To	55
M Swan	2	5 To	6
W Swan	3	2 Ot, Ho	5
C Goose	33	9500 Wa	28,963
WF Goose	1	1 G1	1
S Goose	3	2 Ot	4
R Sheldk	1	1 Sa	1
Mallard	43	20,330 To	53,034
B Duck	36	2,099 To	11,539
Gadwall	13	38 To	110
Pintail	7	400 Ki	415
Gw Teal	7	11 Po	20
A Wigeon	14	1240 Gy	1477
N Shvler	3	3 To, Co	7
Wd Duck	8	50 Ki	66
Redhead	7	368 Cl	553
Rnk Duck	8	4 Bu	16
Cnvsbk	12	8,220 To	8,442
G Scaup	5	1,500 Me	3,197
L Scaup	11	602 La	1,201
C Gdneye	21	229 Cl	628
Bflhd	11	58 El	179
Rdy Dk	10	72 To	103
H Mrgnsr	9	38 Ho	58
C Mrgnsr	13	11 Ast, To	58
RB Mrgnsr	7	22 El	39
T Vultur	2	5 Ho	6
B Vultur	2	3 La	5
Goshawk	2	1 Cu, La	2
Ss Hawk	23	9 Ci	55
Cp Hawk	40	13 Kin	115
Rt Hawk	47	82 Ci	1,076
Rs Hawk	16	10 Ci	34
Bw Hawk	1	1 Me	1
Rl Hawk	30	36 Kin	126
Fer Hawk	1	1 G1	1
B Eagle	5	2 El, Ot, Fr	8
N Harrier	35	30 Kin	242
Merlin	1	1 Cu	1
A Kestrel	47	120 Ci	1,028
Accipter Sp.	1	4 Ma	4
R Grouse	14	11 Be	49
Bobwht	12	92 Ci	269
Rn Phsnt	23	58 To	182
Turkey	1	12 Ho	12
V. Rail	1	1 To	1

	A	B	C
A Coot	12	75 Po	163
Kildeer	20	47 Ci	152
C Snipe	14	26 Wi	59
R Phalrp	1	2 Cl	2
Gla Gull	3	4 Cl	9
CBb Gull	6	43 Ast	93
H Gull	14	20,019 El	43,064
Tha Gull	1	1 El	1
Rb Gull	14	44,030 Cl	128,064
Bhd Gull	1	1 El	1
Frk Gull	1	1 El	1
Bon Gull	6	6,014 El	14,250
Lit Gull	1	3 El	3
Her Gull	1	1 El	1
Bl Kitwk	1	1 El	1
R Dove	47	1,937 Cu	15,549
M Dove	47	2,186 Co	18,808
Barn Owl	1	3 Ki	3
Scre Owl	28	80 Gr	191
GH Owl	36	16 Ci	191
Sno Owl	1	2 To	2
Bar Owl	19	11 Ci	42
Le Owl	2	2 Day, Ti	4
Se Owl	11	15 To	55
Sw Owl	1	2 To	2
B Kgfsr	43	39 Ci	382
C Flicker	47	154 Ci	975
Pi Wdpr	30	24 Ci	180
Rb Wdpr	44	399 Ci	1,345
Rh Wdpr	30	38 Wi	196
Yb Spsr	29	28 Ha	128
H Wdpr	45	55 Cu	675
D Wdpr	47	652 Ci	4,550
E Phoebe	3	4 Po	6
H Lark	37	1,291 Wi	5,651
B Jay	47	1,031 Cu	8,023
C Crow	46	5,000 Ma	16,376
Bc Ckde	34	1,677 Cu	5,078
Car Ckde	26	2,636 Ci	6,035
Ckde Sp.	3	160 Ma	408
T Titms	46	921 Ci	4,454
Wb Nut	47	333 Cu	2,886
Rb Nut	38	37 Co	296
B Crepr	43	87 Co	756
W Wren	16	2 Be,Ci,Day,La,Lo,To	22
C Wren	17	103 Ci	204
Lbm Wren	1	2 To	2
Mkgbrd	26	252 Ci	525
G Catbird	7	1 Bu,Co,Cu,El,Pa,Pl,Po	7
B Thrshr	15	4 Day, Po	23
A Robin	46	1,997 Ci	9,836
H Thrush	8	4 Cu	12
S Thrush	3	1 Cl,Cu,Me	3
E Blubrd	30	141 Wi	872
Gc Kgl	39	135 To	810
Rc Kgl	19	14 Wi	49
W Pipit	1	1 Ho	1
C Waxwg	37	727 Cu	2,625

A	B	C	
N Shrike	3	1 Bu, Cu, Ti	3
L Shrike	3	2 Ad	4
Shrike Sp.	1	1 Ma	1
Strlg	47	170, 190 Day	258,883
Yr Wrblr	26	47 Ci	257
Ovenbrd	1	1 Ci	1
C Yelotr	4	1 Cl, Fr, Ho, To	4
H Sparo	47	4,871 Cu	42,940
E Mdolrk	24	63 Kin	366
Rw Blkbd	32	318 Bu	1,628
R Blkbd	12	77 Co	115
B Blkbd	1	1 Da	1
C Grkle	33	83,293 Day	93,676
Bh Cowbd	31	80,098 Day	83,323
Cardnal	47	2,881 Ci	16,004
E Grosbk	21	331 Po	1,322
P Finch	26	104 Po	536
H Finch	18	128 ST	960
P Grosbk	1	1 Sa	1
C Redpol	5	59 Cu	98
P Siskin	28	178 To	763
A Gldfch	46	1,205 Cu	7,669
Rs Towhe	34	214 Ci	562
Sav Sparo	3	5 Kin	8
Ves Sparo	3	1 As, Da, Ki	3
De Junco	18	1,412 Ci	9,097
Slate Jun	29	1,012 Ha	10,063
Ore Jun	7	1 Ast, Bu, Co, Gy, Ho, Wo, Yo	7
Tre Sparo	47	1,300 Cu	10,450
Chp Sparo	4	6 Wi	13
Fie Sparo	36	108 Ci	548
Wc Sparo	32	158 Pa	746
Wt Sparo	41	1,315 Ci	3,944
Fox Sparo	17	7 Ox	37
Lin Sparo	1	3 Kin	3
Swp Sparo	33	69 Kin	529
Sg Sparo	47	1,665 Ci	8,625
L Lgspr	5	51 Fr	89
Lgspr Sp.	2	27 P1	37
Sno Btg	14	1,100 P1	2,837

the eighties were Toledo (86), and Buckeye Lake (84).

In terms of distribution, ruffed grouse and bobwhite were absent on the northern counts (except for Ashtabula which reported two ruffed grouse) while ring-necked pheasant was unreported in the southern counts (Adams, Hamilton-Fairfield, Oxford, Cincinnati, Western Hamilton, Paint Creek and Portsmouth). Only one killdeer was in the north (Toledo), small numbers on central counts (1-10) and larger numbers in the south (13-47). Gulls were found only in the north except for Hoover Reservoir. Pileated woodpeckers were spotty in the north (5 of 15 counts reporting) with all other counts reporting this species except for three of four counts in the west (Greenville, G. L. St. Mary's and Indian Lake). The Carolina chickadee was not found on counts above a line drawn across the state by joining the G. L. St. Mary's, Delaware and Salem counts except for 26 birds at Wilmot and 4 birds at Wooster. However, black-capped chickadees were reported in all areas except the south (Oxford and Portsmouth with three each were the exceptions) and the west (G. L. St. Mary's with eight was the exception) with Dayton, Greenville and Indian Lake not reporting this species.

The only areas unanimously reporting the Carolina wren were in the south: Adams, 4; Hamilton-Fairfield, 1; Oxford, 2; Cincinnati, 103; Western Hamilton, 43; Paint Creek, 2; and Portsmouth, 20. The Cincinnati total was reported as low. Cuyahoga Falls, Lancaster, Logan, Kingston, Salem and Dayton each reported two birds. The only other counts reporting Carolina wrens were Toledo, 1, Columbus, 3, and Washington, 12.

Eastern bluebirds were spotty in the north but present elsewhere. The house finch is now present in all areas but the west (Ashtabula 67, Cleveland 106, Lakewood 83, Elyria-Lorain 92, Cuyahoga Falls 82, Mohican SF 1, Mansfield 35, Wooster 40, Hoover Reservoir 28, Columbus 61, Logan 17, Buckeye Lake 14, Salem 27, Beaver Creek 24, Cadiz 22, Steubenville 128, Youngstown 47, Washington 86.). The swamp sparrow was unreported only in the west (G. L. St. Mary's was the exception with two birds).

The remaining species which were reported in sufficient numbers to discern any trends were reported statewide or as in the case of ducks where open water existed.

There were no details given on the ruddy shelduck and the goshawks. The ferruginous hawk was well observed and three written documentations were received. However, this is not to imply what decision the newly formed Ohio Records Committee (see next issue for details on this committee) will arrive at for this record as it would be a first state record. The broad-winged hawk was not documented. The bald eagles were all adults. Trumbull and Gypsum counts had one each while Toledo, ONWR and Fremont reported two each. The merlin was an adult male and accepted by American Birds (Vol. 35, No. 3). The high of 92 bobwhite at Cincinnati was reported as a low number for that count. Elyria-Lorain had a phenomenal eleven species of gulls including Thayer's, black-headed, Franklin's, little, Heermann's and black-legged kittiwake. As if this wasn't enough, a lesser black-backed gull was seen along with a pomarine jaeger during the count week at Elyria-Lorain. All of these birds except for the Franklin's gull and the pomarine jaeger are mentioned in American Birds (Vol. 35, No. 3). The travels of this Heermann's gull is detailed elsewhere in this issue. There is a documentation on file for the pomarine jaeger and the Franklin's gull was seen by others in Lorain during December.

The mourning doves outnumbered the rock doves. A crow roost was

reported at Mansfield (5,000 birds). Dayton reported a large roost of starlings (170,190), common grackles (83,293) and brown-headed cowbirds (80,098). The ovenbird reported at Cincinnati may be the same bird that over-wintered the previous year at the same location. Evening grosbeaks were spread over the state except for the western counts. House finches (960) outnumbered purple finches (536). Redpolls were scarce and only in the north (Ashtabula 2, Cleveland 30, Elyria-Lorain 6, Cuyahoga Falls 59, Columbus 1). Pine siskins were statewide. Darbydale was the farthest south for lapland longspurs. Snow buntings were concentrated in the northern counts although one bird was seen at Dayton and 248 at Darbydale.

Cuyahoga Falls with 116 observers and Cincinnati with 151 observers were much higher in this category than other counts. Thus they counted more numbers of birds in the commoner species such as American kestrel, rock dove, belted kingfisher, common flicker, downy woodpecker, Carolina chickadee, white-breasted nuthatch, cedar waxwing, blue jay, house sparrow, cardinal, American goldfinch, dark-eyed junco, tree sparrow, field sparrow, white-throated sparrow and song sparrow.

This type of summary should permit comparison with next year in terms of numbers of birds present within a species revealing increases or declines. Such a comparison could be made with past counts should anyone wish to do the work to combine them.

Finally, many of the records included in this Christmas count report are not found in Tom Bartlett's winter reports section in this issue as there are many more Christmas counters than report contributors to the Ohio Cardinal. For example, we report 22 sharp-shinned hawks this winter while the Christmas counters tallied 55. However, some of the birds reported here are duplicated in that section.

#### Renew your subscription

This issue is the last in Volume 3. For many of you it's also the fourth issue you've received since the change of editors. If so, it's time to renew your subscription for another four issues. Just send in \$ 6.50 to keep the issues coming. Regardless of when your subscription started, you are entitled to four issues. Once you have received them, it's time to renew. Please don't let the recent time lapse between issues discourage you from renewing. We need your support and I think you like the content of the magazine. We will become current as in the past.

We now have 120 subscribers to the magazine. As you renew your subscription, you'll automatically become a member of the Ohio Birding Association which we hope someday will be a statewide organization for Ohio birders with the Ohio Cardinal as its magazine. You'll receive a membership card. The Spring issue features the Columbus eared grebe in summer plumage, the newly formed Ohio records committee and its members, Norm Walker's long-eared owl, a trip through a long-eared owl roost, the Ottawa County burrowing owl, the new "Big Day" record of 179 species and other articles. Summer will include the nesting birds of Mohican State Forest, the Ottawa County black-necked stilt, the 192 nesting cliff swallows at a Wayne County barn, an update on Ohio's nesting bald eagles including the new nest at Mosquito Reservoir, broad-winged hawks nesting at Oak Openings and others.

Stay up-to-date.....renew!

Past Sightings of Bell's Vireo  
and Cinnamon Teal in Cincinnati

Worth S. Randle

Ed. Note: Mr. Randle's comments below are in reference to an article in The Ohio Cardinal Vol.III, No. 2, p. 7, concerning the Bell's Vireo that successfully nested in Lucas County, Ohio, in 1980. This Cincinnati record is the first state nesting record mentioned in that article. The comments concerning the teal are in reference to an article in the Cardinal, Vol. III, No. 1, p. 10, about a cinnamon teal sighting at Magee Marsh in 1980. This Cincinnati record was cited in that article. Incidentally, that article referred to the Magee Marsh sighting as a third state record. It has now been demoted to an eighth state record as Clark, C. F. and Sipe, J. P., Birds of the Lake St. Marys area, 1967 p. 16, Ohio Department of Natural Resources Columbus, Ohio, states:

"Clark reported three sight records from Lake St. Marys by years only: 1950, 1952 and 1953. The senior author found one of these rare birds on the Fish Farm on July 1, 1964; and Mr. & Mrs. Austil Chambers, Cincinnati, Ohio, observed one on the lake on August 29, 1964."

Bell's Vireo: June 4, 1968, while doing an official BBS count, a singing male of this species was found in Sharonville limits (just north of Cincinnati) in a thicket along the B & O railroad tracks. Sven Sjudahl was doing that count for us along with my partner who has done the driving and recording and timing for all counts for the 15 years the BBS has been in operation in this part of the U.S. Sven heard the Bell's singing during an intermission (caused by a rainy front which moved in during his count) in the census. He didn't recognize the song. He and Art Wiseman called me that evening after Sjudahl had listened to some birdsong records he had at home and told me the story and, of course, I went out the next day with Wiseman to check out the bird which they suspected might be a Bell's vireo. I was able to immediately confirm the bird when I heard it. I penetrated the thicket where it was singing and observed it for about 20 minutes. I felt sure from the behavior known to me that the bird had a mate on a nest. I called another local birder who travelled near the area to and from work every day. He agreed to take on the finding of the nest in an area I designated. He did the job and came up with the nest which was photographed by a professional wildlife photographer (movies & still) and recorded singing. (All done with many witnesses including, eventually, all the local birdwatchers.)

Cinnamon Teal: March 20, 1951. This bird stayed around (within limits of City of Cincinnati proper) for nearly two weeks and was seen by every birdwatcher in the southwestern Ohio area who could stand on two feet. I asked one of my students who worked with me in the field to build a blind for me on the edge of the tree-surrounded backwater (Ohio River) pond which the bird frequented, so that I could study this bird's interaction with other teal species. I spent over 24 hours so doing. Many photos were taken.

Worth S. Randle  
1721 Beacon Street  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45230

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

1. Species Varied Thrush 2. Number: One
3. Location Parma, Cuyahoga County, Ohio
4. Date: Jan 16, 1981 5. Time Bird seen: 10:10 to 11:45
6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field): A thrush-like bird similar in shape and nearly as large as a Robin having a slaty head, back, wings, and tail, an orange stripe trailing from the eye, a dark band across the chest, orange underchin and breast fading to gray on belly, and two orange stripes and buffy area on wing was observed in various positions feeding and perching in yard.
7. Description of voice, if heard: None heard
8. Description of behavior: Robin-like in movement and action.
9. Habitat - general: Suburban residential area - (Mrs. Pender residence)  
specific: Back yard with trees, grass area, fence rows - snow on ground
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain:  
Pattern unique - distinct from other thrushes
11. Distance (how measured)? 20 to 50 feet - camera focus 12. Optical equipment:
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you): Variable sun and overcast - sun to right rear side when out.
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: California several times; Ohio 2 yrs ago in Mentor, 1 year ago at Findley.
15. Other observers: Nancy Klamm; Harold and Lois Wallin; Mrs. Pender
16. Did the others agree with your identification? Yes
17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: Mrs. Pender, Harold & Lois Wallin
18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:  
Several books at hand at this residence.
19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? 10 min.

William A. Klamm  
Signature

Address: 2140 Lewis Dr.

Date: 1-16-81

City, State: Independence, Ohio 44131



BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

1. Species GYRFALCON 2. Number: 1 immature

3. Location CRANE CREEK

4. Date: JANUARY 31, 1981 5. Time Bird seen: <sup>approx.</sup> 10:40 to 10:45

6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field):

THE BIRD WAS RED-TAILED HAWK SIZE. The wings were fairly wide at the base. The wingtips were fairly rounded. The tail was quite long. The bill was a blackish-color. The upperparts were gray and the underparts were a slightly lighter shade due to the heavy streaking below. UPON closer examination the overall color was gray with a brownish tinge to the feathers. The undersides of the wing were

7. Description of voice, if heard:  
none

8. Description of behavior:

9. Habitat - general: MARSH

specific: BIRD WAS FLYING FROM A POST STUMP OUT IN THE MARSH TO A MUSKRAT HOUSE

Just about as dark as the above sides. The head had a streak through the eye but it was indistinct. The eye was dark. The entire bird had a robust shape.

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain:  
Peregrine Falcon : smaller, distinct eye mark, slimmer build, pointed wing tips narrower wings

11. Distance (how measured)?

150 yards - 225 yards - estimate

12. Optical equipment:

20X SCOPE

13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):

MOSTLY SUNNY - SUN WAS TO MY RIGHT, LIGHT WAS VERY GOOD

14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:

HAVE SEEN THE GYRFALCON ONCE BEFORE

15. Other observers:

none

16. Did the others agree with your identification?

-

17. Other observers who independently identified this bird:

The bird was first seen by Mark Shield Castle but he could not ID. IT

18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:

none were used

19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? same day

Signature John Pygall

Address: 2966 Weller Ct

Date: 1-31-81

City, State: LORAIN Ohio

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

1. Species GANNET 2. Number: 1 immature
3. Location Bayshore Power Plant, Oregon Ohio
4. Date: Dec. 13, 1980 5. Time Bird seen: 9:00 am to 9:01 am
6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field): Very long forebody, tapering to a point, rear of body much shorter. Large size (much larger than Herring gulls that were chasing it). Wings long and narrow. Plumage basically dark with light patch at base of tail. Wings seemed to have some light splotches dorsally.
7. Description of voice, if heard: not heard
8. Description of behavior: Flying, chased by Herring gulls. Very distinctive flight, much like a large shearwater. Rather stiff winged, a few flaps, then a quick soar.
9. Habitat - general: Lake Erie  
specific: Power plant outflow
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain: Black backed gulls, herring gulls eliminated by body shape, wings shape, flight style, and size.
11. Distance (how measured)? 100-300 meters; eye balled 12. Optical equipment: 7x50 binocs
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you): overcast, sun in south bird in north light was quite poor
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: I have seen adult Gannets on the East Coast.
15. Other observers: Eric Durbin
16. Did the others agree with your identification? Yes
17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: no one to my knowledge
18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description: Peterson's Eastern + European guides. Did not influence description
19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? 11 hours
- Signature Thomas R. Kemp Address: 7327 Teller Rd.
- Date: 12/13/80 City, State: Whitehouse Ohio 43571

over, please, for additional comments

I first saw the bird being chased by Herring gulls and the first thing I said to Eric was, "It's shaped like a booby!" We watched the bird as it flew away (for not more than 20 seconds) and noted its pointed body shape (body part in front of wings longer than rear end), extremely long narrow wings, unusual flight style, and light patch at base of tail, with possibly some light areas on the upper wing surface. We were now thinking Gannet but wanted to consider other possibilities. All of the large gulls were quickly eliminated by the above characteristics. A cormorant was considered but the wing shape, body shape, and flight style weren't right. Therefore, although we did not have a long and unhurried look at it and the light was poor, we feel the above characteristics add up to gannet, especially considering the species even remotely similar to it.

ADDITIONAL NOTE: THIS BIRD WAS NOT A LAKE ERIE SPECIES. IT WAS SIMILAR IN BODY STRUCTURE TO A SHEARWATER, THE ONLY ATLANTIC BIRDS I'M PERSONALLY FAMILIAR WITH. AN EXAMINATION OF THE FIELD GUIDES & THE PROCESS OF ELIMINATION CAUSES ME TO AGREE WITH TOM'S IDENTIFICATION. ERIC DURBIN

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

1. Species HARRIS' SPARROW 2. Number: 1
3. Location FEEDER AT FINDLEY ST. PARK, LORAIN, O.
4. Date: 1/9/81, ALSO 1/12/81 5. Time Bird seen: 1:15 to 1:20
6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field):  
ABOUT 1" LONGER THAN WHITE-THROATS WHICH WERE ALSO AT FEEDER. SPARROW SHAPED, DARK CROWN, WHITE THROAT AND UNDER PARTS. BLACK BLOTCHED BIB RESEMBLING NECLACE OF CANADA WARBLER, WELL PRONOUNCED WHITE WINGBARS. PINK SPARROW TYPE BILL. FEET NOT NOTED.
7. Description of voice, if heard: NOT HEARD.
8. Description of behavior: STAYED IN LOW BRUSH, EXCEPT FOR 4 SHORT VISITS TO THE FEEDER.
9. Habitat - general: EDGE OF WOODS, MATURE TREES AS WELL AS UNDERBRUSH.  
 specific:
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain:  
NO SIMILAR APPEARING SPECIES TO MY KNOWLEDGE.
11. Distance (how measured)? 100 FT. EST. 12. Optical equipment: 8X40 BINOCULARS
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you): OVERCAST
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: NONE
15. Other observers: DEAN THOMPSON
16. Did the others agree with your identification? YES
17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: ~~NONE~~ JOHN POGACNIC  
(SEE BOTTOM OF PAGE)
18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:  
I CHECKED SPARROWS IN "BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA" BY ROBBINS, BRUNN, AND ZIM, ALSO PETERSONS "FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS", BEFORE DECIDING THE BIRD DIDN'T FIT THE DESCRIPTION OF ANYTHING EXCEPT HARRIS' SPARROW.
19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? I MADE NOTES IMMEDIATELY.

Arden D. Thompson  
 Signature

Address: 530 Bechtel Dr.

Date: 1/9/81

City, State: Lorain, Ohio 44055

Please see reverse side for birds that should be documented  
 ON 1/12/81 JOHN POGACNIC WENT WITH US AND OBSERVED WHAT WAS  
 PROBABLY THE SAME BIRD. HE USED A 20X SPOTTING SCOPE.

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

1. Species N. Hybrid, Duck 2. Number: One  
 3. Location Woodchuck Woods Metro Park, Fairfield County, Ohio  
 4. Date: January 6, 1981 5. Time Bird seen: 2:40 P.M. to 3:20 P.M.

6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field):

*bird slightly smaller than American Wigeon*  
 Head appeared dark green at times, brown-black at other times.  
 Bill dark blue. Gape dark grey. Underparts & breast dark brownish-orange with black speckling on the no. side of the upper breast.  
 Back brownish-black. Black tail with white patch (small) in front of tail.  
 Green feather on speculum which also appeared blue and grey. In flight showed a white wing patch like that in a Gadwall.

7. Description of voice, if heard: not heard.

8. Description of behavior: sleeping, preening, swimming, feeding (on land).

9. Habitat - general: metro park - fields & forests  
 specific: small pond, part of which is kept free of ice by an aerator.

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain:

11. Distance (how measured)? 25'-35' at least - estimated

12. Optical equipment: 8x40 Leica culture, 20# spotting scope.

13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):

cloudy sky, sun to right & behind me, I was looking east.

14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:

15. Other observers: Sue & Phillip

16. Did the others agree with your identification? not necessarily because I didn't identify it.

17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: Louise R. Terjeson identified it as a possible hybrid of the American Wigeon & Gadwall.

18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:

none

I thought it might have some Gadwall and Mallard genes also, and I agree with Louise that it must resemble the American Wigeon.

19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? I wrote the notes while watching the bird on the pond & documented it at night.

Signature: Nancy E. Furr Address: 6505 Rockwood Ave.

Date: Jan 6, 1981 City, State: Lima, Ohio 43062

I saw the bird again on Feb. 13 - the white patch before the tail appeared larger than on Jan. 6 and the head was greener.

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

1. Species hoary redpoll 2. Number: one  
 MAP: U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY 1:24000, SHREVE QUAD. SEC. 33, NW-160 acres; along north edge of this plot, about 0.15 M.  
 3. Location 5 West of elevation 1014 at bend of CR 149 (ELTRIA ROAD)

4. Date: 19 Feb. 1981 5. Time Bird seen: about 4 PM to 4:30 PM

6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field):

Total plumage closely resembled Common redpoll, in other words I was not aware of an overall frosty appearance depicted by Crosby <sup>BIRDS OF CANADA</sup> - but no common redpolls were present for comparison. Bill size and under tail coverts not observed. As this redpoll perched with its back toward me at only slightly above eye level for at least 5 minutes there is no doubt that its snow white, unmarked rump was diagnostic; strongly contrasting with the streaked back plumage. This redpoll was un wary even lethargic and observation was easy...

7. Description of voice, if heard: the redpoll was silent.

8. Description of behavior: First flushed from long grass at edge of small marsh. Companions were a few song sparrows, tree sparrows and a Swamp Sparrow.

9. Habitat - general: Small marsh where a tree lined brook descended slope to the flat valley floor.  
 specific: few acres of hardwood saplings to 30 feet tall edging a grassy marsh.  
The redpoll entered & perched in the saplings only shifting position a few feet each flight.

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain:

Common redpoll - as described above. Here's the original quote from my field note book written 2 hours after the observation: "Seeing a light-phase rough-legged hawk standing on a muskrat lodge and a ♀ Circus e. breeding nearby on the marsh edge, I walked down a field edge into a thicket of saplings which fans out to a (small) marsh grass area at the edge of the (wide) Muddy Fork (MORICAN RIVER) valley. (A small) number of sparrows and 2 downy woodpeckers were in the thicket. As I checked the sparrows through the TX binoculars (I saw

11. Distance (how measured)? estimated; 20 to 30 feet

12. Optical equipment: 7x35 Bushnell side of Zimoculars

13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you): heavy overcast, altho the bird was eastward of my position.

14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: none; have observed common redpoll infrequently

15. Other observers: none

16. Did the others agree with your identification? -

17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: -

18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:

TROUTMAN, M.B. and M.A. Annotated List of the BIRDS OF OHIO  
PETERSON, R. Field Guide to Western Birds. GODFREY, W.E. BIRDS OF CANADA  
CAMPBELL, LOU. BIRDS OF THE TOLEDO AREA  
FORBUSH, E.H. BIRDS OF MASSACHUSETTS VOL III  
BAILEY, A.M. and R.J. MEDBACH, BIRDS OF COLORADO

19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? 2 hours.

Signature: James Bruce Address: 565 Spring St.  
 Date: 4 April 1981 City, State: Wooster, Oh.

Please see reverse side for birds that should be documented

(diary quote cont'd.); a redpoll at about 120 feet (estimated). It dropped down into the long grass and I set aside my telescope and stalked it. (The last redpoll I had seen was in Jan. 1978) Half expecting to find a small flock (of redpolls) I noticed only a few tree sparrows. Directly up flew Acanthis perching a few feet above the ground with a dark tree trunk as back ground. The distance between me and the redpoll was now half that at which I first saw it. Slowly I approached to about 40 feet while the bird shifted position slightly. [I reached <sup>eventually</sup> a point about 20' distant without disturbing the redpoll at all]. I was not impressed with [excessively] pale feathering on the upper parts ... but as it perched back toward me I saw a large, white patch covering the rump <sup>and lower back</sup> devoid of any streaking. The breast was not conspicuously rosy. The bird was most inactive, unwary, and was in a marsh edge habitat similar to the site described by Lawrence Hicks where he collected his Ohio specimen in 1934 - near Lake Erie. (Lucas County). After reference to literature <sup>to</sup> I have no reservation that this lone bird was a hoary redpoll.

Already this ~~best~~ record has met with outright skepticism, as I <sup>had</sup> predicted, and, of course, I am prepared for a continuation of this attitude <sup>as long as</sup> this account is read by bird watchers or ornithologists. My first reaction was to tell no one; but I finally confided in my first cousin Bob who has observed hoary redpolls on their Alaskan nesting grounds. He accepted the sighting without question. Unfortunately I had no gun, <sup>mist</sup> net, nor camera with me that day! This was my first hoary redpoll in 54 years watching in the field... (The ~~red~~ redpoll had vanished when I returned to search 2 days later).

#### Documentation of Nashville Warbler

Vic Fazio

On December 1, 1980, while walking along a creek in the Shaker Lakes park area in Shaker Heights, I was startled by a streak of bright yellow across my path. The small bird alighted upon some weedy stalks in a small field. Viewing the olive back, I at first thought I had another kinglet. Then the bird faced me and proceeded to flit and hover amongst the weeds. Immediately I recognized the bird to be a Nashville Warbler (Vermivora ruficapilla). The underparts from vent to chin were a distinct bright yellow. The head region including the nape was dull, almost ash-gray in colour. The back and rump were a dull olive similar to a ruby-crowned kinglet (Regulus calendula), not as bright as a golden-crowned kinglet (Regulus satrapa). Both these species were observed that day. No wingbars were evident. The bird then recrossed the stream and appeared to glean something off a tree trunk in the fashion of a Black and White Warbler. The bird was observed at about 11:30am on a cloudy day. Although this is certainly one of very few winter records for the state (the only one I am familiar with), I am not too surprised that such a bird that is regularly seen in early November, occurred at this time.







