

THE



OHIO CARDINAL

DEVOTED TO THE STUDY AND APPRECIATION OF OHIO'S BIRDLIFE • VOL. 34, NO. 1 FALL 2010





*A prized find for birders each fall, elusive Northern Saw-whet Owls are infrequently found outside dense cover during their movement southward, giving rare photographic opportunities like this striking individual captured by Ben Warner at Headlands Dunes SNP, **Lake**, on 10 Oct 2010.*

On the cover:

*Difficult to find and see, let alone photograph, this LeConte's Sparrow was beautifully captured by Laura Keene along the Wake Robin Trail at Mentor Marsh SNP, **Lake**, on 09 Oct 2010.*

THE  **OHIO CARDINAL**

EDITORS

Jill M. Russell
College of Mount St. Joseph
5701 Delhi Rd.
Cincinnati, OH 45233
513-244-4783
jill_russell@mail.msjs.edu

Craig Caldwell
1270 W. Melrose Dr.
Westlake, OH 44145
440-356-0494
craig_caldwell@sbcglobal.net

PHOTO EDITOR

David E. Russell
russeld@muohi.edu

CONSULTANTS

Mike Egar
Laura Peskin
Bill Whan

**OHIO BIRD RECORDS
COMMITTEE**

Ned Keller
Secretary
8098 Turcotte Lane
North Bend, OH 45052
nedkeller49@gmail.com

PAST PUBLISHERS

John Herman (1978-1980)
Edwin . Pierce (1980-2008)

PAST EDITORS

John Herman (1978-1980)
Edwin C. Pierce (1980-1991)
Thomas Kemp (1987-1991)
Robert Hardin (1991-1996)
Victor W. Fazio III (1996-1997)
Bill Whan (1997-2008)
Andy Jones (2008-2010)



FROM OUR EDITORS

Greetings, Ohio Birders!

I hope you have enjoyed the last two issues of *The Ohio Cardinal*. Since stepping in as editor, I have received helpful feedback from you on both the content and the organization of the journal, and I thank you. I especially want to thank Bill Whan for his patience, guidance and never-ending support as I learned the ropes of editing the *Cardinal*. I couldn't have done it without him. Editorship of the *Cardinal* and participation in the Ohio Ornithological Society has been a rewarding experience and I am grateful to have been part of this team. Ohio has a rich ornithological history and it's been a real pleasure working with and getting to know many of you.

The current issue of the *Cardinal* is a collaborative effort between me and the incoming *Ohio Cardinal* Editor, Craig Caldwell. Although new to the Editor's chair, Craig has been on the Publications Committee and has been working behind the scenes on the past two issues. As my workload has increased, I have had less and less time available to devote to the journal, and I am thrilled that he has offered to step in as editor. Craig is an extraordinary birder, an excellent writer, and he has a long history (not saying that he's old, you know) as a seasonal editor and contributor to *The Ohio Cardinal*. I hope you will welcome him, as you did me, and support him as he continues to work hard to keep the *Cardinal* the great journal that it is.

Thank you for a wonderful experience!

Jill Russell

A MESSAGE FROM THE NEW EDITOR

As I begin my tenure as Editor in Chief I owe thanks to those who came before me. First, to all the editors of the pre-OOS era, who conceived and built this well-regarded journal. Next, to Jim McCormac, who first trusted me to write the fall seasonal accounts. To Andy Jones and Jill Russell, who served so faithfully despite the demands of their professions and their family tragedies. To Deborah Griffith, who as Assistant Editor has shared her professional publishing knowledge and keen eye during the production process. Last, but certainly not least, I thank you, our readers, who have been so (mostly!) patient for so long.

Unfortunately, the experiment of using different editors for each season was not a success; to use one of my favorite similes, Andy's and Jill's job was like herding cats. I therefore will be writing the seasonal accounts and overviews myself. Providing the rest of each issue – anecdotes, book and other media reviews, general interest articles, research papers, photographs – will be up to you. I'd love to have the burden of choosing from too many submissions.

I will do all I can to maintain the high standards set by my predecessors.

Craig Caldwell

COMMENTS ON THE SEASON

By Craig Caldwell

We experienced typical weather during the fall of 2010 – that is to say, it varied greatly and followed no discernible pattern. Storms in mid-Aug set daily rainfall records from Dayton to Steubenville and south of that line. A storm which moved south off Lake Erie on 25 Oct had the second lowest barometric reading for the area since 1900; few daily records were set but that month's rainfall near the lake was almost double the average. Storms in late Nov set many daily records. Despite these individual events, rainfall was below average for most of the state in Aug, Sep, and Oct, with the southwest being especially dry in Sep.

The Cincinnati area had record high daily temperatures in early Aug and late Sep. Record highs were widespread on 09 and 10 Oct and 11 to 14 Nov. Though most of the new records were only a degree or two higher than the previous values, several in Oct were five to seven degrees above old values which dated back to 1949. Ironically, a record low of 24 was set in Paulding on 06 Oct and several record lows were set in the Cincinnati area during the first week of Nov.

Most species' migrations followed their usual timing though as always a few individuals were pioneers or stragglers. Several warblers, however, seemed to have both late arrivals and departures. Warblers and other neotropical migrants were plentiful; Ray Hannikman noted that he had his best Sep ever at Headlands SNP, a long-time migrant "trap". In the opposite corner of the state, the rather new Fernald Preserve in *Hamilton* and *Butler* is appearing in many reports, especially as a location for grassland species. A few water birds, among them Lesser Scaup, Red-breasted Merganser, Common Loon, and Horned Grebe, were seen in dramatically high numbers on Lake Erie during an apparent push on 18 Nov. The Crane Creek estuary, Conneaut, Funk Bottoms, Pickerington Ponds, Hoover Reservoir, Pipe Creek, and Caesar's Creek retain their appeal to shorebirds and shorebird-watchers.

Sightings were reported in 83 of Ohio's 88 counties. Many of them were represented only in eBird, where over 70,000 entries were made during the season. The prize for wide distribution goes to American Crows, which were reported in 73 counties; runners-up were Blue Jays in 72 and Turkey Vultures in 71. Despite the large

number of data points in eBird, the editor highly values the reports submitted directly to The Cardinal. Many of those reporters do not use eBird, and the details which observers include help to enliven what could otherwise be a rather dry presentation.

Ohio's "core list" of regularly occurring species has about 300 members; 10 of them had no reported sightings this season. This compares to eight "misses" in 2008 and 12 in 2009.

Review species are found less than annually, or their annual occurrence has only been for a few recent years. The Ohio Bird Records Committee (OBRC) maintains the core and review lists and is the repository of the documentation supporting them. This season 17 review species and one review genus were reported, with multiple sightings of several of them. Unfortunately seven of them, and some of the reports of the other 10, remain undocumented for the OBRC. The Committee urges birders to report all sightings of Review List species, of Core List species found at unusual times, of nesting by birds previously not known to nest in the state, and of course sightings of birds never before found in Ohio. Information on how to document rarities is available at <http://www.ohiobirds.org/records/documentation.php>.

Trumpeter Swan is a review species though it is not included in the count above. Despite the fact that they breed in the state, there are as yet no documented occurrences of truly wild birds in Ohio since introduction efforts began in the midwestern states. Another species which has been documented to breed in several locations in the state, but which is still a review species, is Eurasian Collared-Dove. The OBRC especially urges all observers to document sightings of it so that the spread of this recent arrival can be studied.

Review species' names are underlined in the species accounts. Reports whose documentation has been accepted by the OBRC include the names of the observers; those for which no documentation was submitted or whose documentation was not considered sufficient are listed anonymously.

The editors are indebted to Robert Hershberger, editor and publisher of *The Bobolink*, for providing his journal to us. Many of his contributors' careful observations in the region which *The Bobolink* covers would not otherwise be readily available to us. *Cardinal* readers who want a more detailed look at the 12-county area

centered around Sugarcreek than we, with our state-wide mandate, can provide, are urged to subscribe. Contact Robert at 6954 C.R. 77, Millersburg, OH, 44654 for information.

The Kirtland Bird Club publishes a similar regional journal, the *Cleveland Bird Calendar*, which covers seven counties in the northeast. Information is available at www.kirtlandbirdclub.org.

Taxonomic order and nomenclature follow the *Check-List of North American Birds*, 7th Edition (1998) as updated through the 51st Supplement (2010). This document is published by the North American Classification Committee of the American Ornithologists' Union and is available at <http://www.aou.org/checklist/north/print.php>. Weather data are from www.weather.gov/precip, www.extremeweatherrecords.com, and the *Plain Dealer* of 31 Dec 2010. In the species accounts, "normal" early and late dates are from Harlan and Whan, *Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Ohio*, 2008. Breeding ranges and isolated locations are from Harlan and Whan and OBBA II submissions. **County names** are in bold italics. Shortened names and a few sets of initials are used for locations and organizations which occur repeatedly; these abbreviations are listed here. The term "fide" is used in some citations; it means "in trust of" and is used where the reporter was not the observer.

Blendon Woods = Blendon Woods Metro Park, **Franklin**

BRAS = Black River Audubon Society

BSBO = Black Swamp Bird Observatory

Buck Creek = Buck Creek State Park, **Clark**

Caesar Creek = Caesar Creek State Park,

Warren

CPNWR = Cedar Point National Wildlife Refuge, **Ottawa**

Clear Fork = Clear Fork Reservoir, **Morrow** and **Richland**

Conneaut = the mudflats to the west of Conneaut Harbor, **Ashtabula**

Crane Creek estuary = The northernmost part of ONWR, **Lucas**

CVNP = Cuyahoga Valley National Park, **Summit** and **Cuyahoga**

Deer Creek = Deer Creek State Park, **Fayette** and **Pickaway**

East Fork = East Fork State Park, **Clermont**

Fernald = Fernald Preserve, **Hamilton**

Headlands = Headlands Dunes State Nature Preserve, Headlands Beach State Park, and adjoining waters, **Lake**

Hueston Woods = Hueston Woods State Park including Acton Lake, **Butler** and **Preble**

Kelleys Island = the island and adjoining waters, **Erie**

Killbuck Marsh = Killbuck Marsh State Wildlife Area, **Wayne** and **Holmes**

Killdeer Plains = Killdeer Plains State Wildlife Area, **Wyandot**

m. obs. = Multiple Observers

Magee Marsh = Magee Marsh Wildlife Area, **Ottawa** and **Lucas**

Medusa Marsh = the privately owned wetland along Barrett Rd. east of Bay View, **Erie**

Miami Whitewater = Miami Whitewater Forest County Park, **Hamilton**

Mill Creek = Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary, **Mahoning**

Navarre = Navarre Marsh Unit of Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, **Ottawa**

NP = Nature Preserve, except as part of CVNP

Oak Openings = Oak Openings Preserve

Metropark, **Lucas**

OBBA II = Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II

OWNR = Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge,

Lucas and **Ottawa**

OWU = Ohio Wesleyan University, **Delaware**

Pickerington Ponds = Pickerington Ponds Metro Park, **Fairfield** and **Franklin**

Pipe Creek = Pipe Creek State Wildlife Area, **Erie**

Pleasant Hill Lake = Pleasant Hill Lake, **Ashland** and **Richland**

Shawnee Lookout = Shawnee Lookout County Park, **Hamilton**

SNP = State Nature Preserve

SP = State Park

SWA = State Wildlife Area

Wellington Reservoir = Wellington Upground Reservoir, **Lorain**

Winous Point = Winous Point Shooting Club, **Ottawa**

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

By Craig Caldwell

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck:

Larry Richardson discovered one at Pipe Creek on 13 Aug and it remained for two more days. Diane Myers found what was probably a different individual at Buckeye Lake, *Allen*, on 26 Oct; it stayed to 26 Nov.

Greater White-fronted Goose:

One stayed 30 Oct to 23 Nov at Wellington Reservoir (Su Snyder, m.obs.) and 12 were at Killdeer Plains on 27 Oct (Ben Warner). Thomas Wetlands, *Paulding*, hosted eight on 22 Nov (Doug and Micki Dunakin). Craig Moore found one at Rush Run Park, *Franklin*, on 28 Nov, and 30 were reported in *Auglaize* on the same date (Scott Jennex).

Snow Goose:

The first of the season were two seen in the Crane Creek estuary (Laura Keene) and one at Prairie Oaks MP, *Madison* (Gene Stauffer), all on 10 Oct. Sightings continued through the end of the period with a high count of 27 at Thomas Wetlands, *Paulding*, on 22 Nov (Doug and Micki Dunakin).

Ross's Goose:

The Wellington Reservoir held four on 22 Nov (Doreen Linzell and Dan Sanders). One was at Deer Creek on 23 Nov (Robert Royle) and another near Sugar Creek, *Tuscarawas*, on the same date (Ed Schlabach). Up to three were seen near Lima, *Allen*, on 25 and 26 Nov (m.obs.); and two were at Grand Lake St. Marys, *Auglaize/Mercer*, on 26 Nov (John Habig).

Brant:

The earliest reported was at Conneaut from 11 to 16 Oct (m.obs.). Another, or possibly the same bird, appeared at Lakeshore Park, *Ashtabula*, on 30 Oct (John Pogacnik). Two flew past Gabe Leidy and Emil Bacik at Geneva SP, *Ashtabula*, on 06 Nov and one visited Lorain harbor on 07 Nov (BRAS). Another rather settled individual remained near Haviland, *Paulding*, from 19 to 27 Nov (m.obs.).

Cackling Goose:

Nine counties provided reports, starting with the first sighting at Killdeer Plains on 29 Oct (Julie and Ken Davis). The largest number seen was 24, in *Paulding* on 24 Nov (Dave and Emily Slager).

Canada Goose:

This species was of course widespread, with reports coming from 69 counties. Many flocks exceeded 300, with the largest number reported (approximately 1000) at Wellington Reservoir on both 27 Oct and 20 Nov (BRAS).

Mute Swan:

This species was present during the entire season. The most reported was 10 on 26 Nov at Medusa Marsh (Ken Ostermiller).

Trumpeter Swan:

This swan was also present for the whole season. Most reports were from ONWR and nearby marshes where they have been introduced and are breeding. Observers found 38 at ONWR on 01 Aug (Ed Pierce *et al.*) and several other counts of 10 or more were reported there. In the absence of positive evidence otherwise, all sightings of this species are assumed to be introduced birds or their recent offspring. They are not yet known to be a self-sustaining population anywhere in the Midwest.

Tundra Swan:

The first report, of two birds at Magee Marsh on 03 Oct, was rather early for the species; the editor suspects they were two of the resident Trumpeter Swans. Unambiguous reports began in the third week of Oct and they were reported between then and the end of the period with several double-digit counts. The highest was an estimated 800 visible from the Cedar Point Chausee, *Erie*, on 27 Nov (Craig Caldwell).



Brant photographed 22 Oct 2010 in Paulding by Laura Keene.

Wood Duck:

Bruce Leonhart found 150, "...the largest concentration...I have ever seen in one location" on a private lake near Lebanon, *Warren*, on 25 Sep. The 11 Oct ONWR monthly census found

189 (Ed Pierce *et al.*). There were several reports of 75 to 80 at other locations.

Gadwall:

The earliest reported were 20 at Winous Point on 14 Aug (Chris Decker), though a few were probably present in the state all summer. They were seen through the end of the season. The high count of 300 was shared by Karl Overman at ONWR on 23 Nov and Ken Ostermiller at Medusa Marsh on 26 Nov.

Eurasian Wigeon:

John Pogacnik reported a male at ONWR on 23 Oct.

American Wigeon:

The earliest report was of one at Funk Bottoms on 05 Sep (Alvin E. Miller) and the highest count was 180, in the Crane Creek estuary on 22 Oct (Kenn Kaufman).

American Black Duck:

A scattering of reports in early Aug grew to several counts over 100 at Blendon Woods during Nov, peaking at 300 on 27 Nov (Sylvia Townsend).

Mallard:

As expected, the largest numbers were found in the Lake Erie marshes, with 4678 being counted during the 02 Nov census at CPNWR (Elliot Tramer). Far to the south, Erich Baumgartner found 250 to 300 at VOA Park, **Butler**, on 09 Nov.

Blue-winged Teal:

This species was found regularly from the beginning of the period until 07 Nov, when three sites shared the (almost) last reported sightings. They were Winton Woods CP and Fernald (both in **Hamilton** by Mark Gilsdorf and Jay Stenger) and ONWR (Ottawa eTT). The last, a single male, was at Killbuck from 28 Nov into Dec (Su Snyder).

Cinnamon Teal:

Jen Brumfield discovered one at the Lorain dredge spoil impoundment on 06 Sep; it remained for two more days for many to collect their life or state listing.

Northern Shoveler:

The first report, from Pipe Creek, was not until 14 Aug (Scott Jenmex), though like Gadwall, a few are summer residents. They were seen into the winter with a high count of 71 at Killdeer Plains on 01 Nov (Laura and Tim Dornan).

Northern Pintail:

Tom Bartlett *et al.* reported the first of the season, on Kelleys Island on 15 Aug. Kenn Kaufman found more than 100 in the Crane Creek estuary on several dates, and the high count of 300 was at Medusa Marsh on 26 Nov (Ken Ostermiller).

Green-winged Teal:

A single bird at Conneaut on 07 Aug (Mark Vass) was the first reported, though they are usually fairly common in Jul. The CPNWR survey on 02 Nov found 1625 (Elliot Tramer). There were several triple-digit counts in Oct and Nov.

Canvasback:

The earliest report was of two at the Buckeye Woods wetlands, **Medina**, on 24 Oct (Ken Ostermiller). They were found in only 12 counties, with a high count of 15 at the Wellington Reservoir on 07 Nov (Chris Pierce).

Redhead:

Doug Overacker found the earliest, two at Buck Creek on 02 Oct. There were up to 70 at the Wellington Reservoir on several Nov dates but Ken Ostermiller made the high count of 100 at Medusa Marsh on 26 Nov.

Ring-necked Duck:

The very early (29 Aug) bird which Gene Stauffer saw at Scioto-Audubon MP, **Franklin**, was probably one of the “casual through summer” birds noted by Harlan and Whan. More typically, the rest of the reports began 07 Oct from the Crane Creek estuary (Kenn Kaufman) and Pleasant Hill Lake (Gary Cowell). There were several counts exceeding 100 in Nov with the highest being 350 at Wellington Reservoir on 20 Nov (Ken Ostermiller).

Greater Scaup:

This species were noted in only eight locations in seven counties, but the sites and dates ranged from Conneaut on 05 Oct (Craig Holt) to Caesar Creek on 23 Nov (Rick Asamoto). These sightings shared the high count of four.

Lesser Scaup:

A single bird near the village of Trail, **Holmes**, from 11 Aug through Sep was unusual (James F. Yoder *et al.*). One was found 25 Sep at ONWR (Bruce Miller) and the next not until 14 Oct at Clear Fork (Gary Cowell). Jen Brumfield counted 840 on Lake Erie off Rocky River Park, **Cuyahoga**, on 18 Nov. She called that day “One of the best lakewatches I’ve personally had in Ohio.”

King Eider:

One was reported off Rocky River Park, *Cuyahoga*, on 18 Nov.

Surf Scoter:

The earliest were two on the Olentangy River in Columbus on 13 Oct (Craig Moore). Up to six stopped at Caesar Creek on several Nov dates, and Elliot Tramer found "a remarkable 18" during the 02 Nov CPNWR census.

White-winged Scoter:

One at Maumee Bay SP, *Lucas*, on 24 Oct, arrived about a week earlier than expected (Scott Jennex). Nancy Anderson made the high count of eight on 31 Oct from Perry Township Park, *Lake*. More typical numbers of one to three were in the Nov reports scattered among seven counties.

Black Scoter:

Chris Pierce found the first of the season, two birds on 31 Oct at Sims Park, *Cuyahoga*, where they and the other scoters are regular during Nov. At least 10 were seen there and off Rocky River Park, *Cuyahoga* (another reliable spot) on several Nov dates; the high count of 26 was at Rocky River Park on 18 Nov (Jen Brumfield).

Long-tailed Duck:

This species was reported from five sites. One or two individuals were seen between 25 Oct and 01 Nov at La Due Reservoir, *Geauga* (m.obs.); one was seen in *Ashtabula* on 13 Nov; three were off Rocky River Park, *Cuyahoga*, on 18 Nov (Jen Brumfield); two flew past John Pogacnik's Erie watch site in *Lake* on 28 Nov; and one appeared at Deer Creek Reservoir on 29 Nov (Eric Reiner).

Bufflehead:

Craig Holt found the first of these flashy little ducks at Conneaut on 29 Oct. Sightings were scattered throughout the state. Though they are often very numerous, the only count exceeding 100 was the 166 which Gregory Bennett found on Springfield Lake, *Summit*, on 06 Nov.

Common Goldeneye:

The earliest was seen at Conneaut by Craig Holt on 29 Oct; he also reported the largest count, 60 at Evans Lake, *Mahoning*, on 19 Nov. Most sightings were in counties near Lake Erie but birds at Pleasant Hill Lake on 12 Nov (Gary Cowell, Jr.), at Deer Creek on 19 Nov (Craig Moore) and at Buck Creek on 28 Nov (Doug Overacker) heralded the more widespread winter sightings to come.

Hooded Merganser:

These breed sparsely in Ohio, so the one seen 04 Aug at Carlisle Reservation, *Lorain*, was probably from that population (BRAS). Numbers were small through Aug and then built to above 100 at some sites, with Craig Holt reporting the highest count, 175, at Evans Lake, *Mahoning*, on 27 Nov.

Common Merganser:

This species, too, breeds in very small numbers in the state. Craig Holt said that the nine he found at Conneaut on 04 Sep were "probably locals". Irene Krise made the high count of 150 on 20 Nov off Rocky River Park, *Cuyahoga*.

Red-breasted Merganser:

Up to three were seen at Pipe Creek throughout Aug (m.obs.), but the next reported sighting was on 11 Oct when Suzanne Butcher found three at Mosquito Creek Reservoir, *Trumbull*. Many counts of 1000 or more were reported in Nov with a high of 10,300 off Rocky River Park, *Cuyahoga*, on 18 Nov (Jen Brumfield).

Ruddy Duck:

Richard Counts saw four at the *Hardin* Wetlands on 15 Aug. A few more were at other sites in Aug, but none were reported in Sep. They were widespread in Oct and Nov with several counts exceeding 1000 in the latter month. The highest number was at Wellington Reservoir, 3000 on 11 Nov (BRAS).

Northern Bobwhite:

There were seven reports. Seven birds were seen at Miami Whitewater on both 27 Sep (Joe Kappa) and 05 Nov (Bob Schlake), and smaller numbers were seen there on three other dates (Russell Taylor, David Brinkman). Single birds were at Fernald on 02 Oct (Robert Foppe) and outside Elizabeth McQuaid's office window in *Cuyahoga* on 07 Oct.

Ring-necked Pheasant:

There were seven widely separated reports. Two were first-time yard birds for Tracy Brewer in Amelia, *Clermont*, on 30 Aug. Robin Smith found three in *Fairfield* on 01 Sep. Killdeer Plains revealed one on 30 Oct (Steve LaRue) and three on 15 Nov (Charles Bombaci and Bruce Simpson). Delaware SWA, *Delaware*, had three on 31 Oct (Bill Tacon); Dave Woehr found four on 02 and 05 Nov in the grasslands at Caesar Creek; and Su Snyder reported a hen at Killbuck on 21 Nov.

Ruffed Grouse:

From *The Bobolink*: “[One] seen sw. of New Bedford on 9/22 & 9/29 was reported as being very tame and even let itself be caught several times!” (Adam H. Yoder and Jacob M. Hostetler) One was seen near the Beach City Dam, **Stark**, on several Sep days (Levi A. Yoder), three were along Iris Ridge Road, **Perry**, on 09 Oct (Howard Gratz), and one was near Layland, **Coshoc-ton**, on 20 Nov (Edward H. Yoder).

Wild Turkey:

This species was reported from 28 counties. Carlisle Reservation, **Lorain**, and South Chagrin Reservation, **Cuyahoga**, each provided multiple sightings. The Hager family reported that nine “made themselves at home for an hour” on 07 Aug in their **Clermont** yard (fide Ned Keller). Gary Cowell counted 34 at Malabar Farm SP, **Richland**, on 15 Nov, and Ralph Phingsten estimated the same number crossed the Middleburg Heights/Strongsville border, **Cuyahoga**, while he watched on 21 Nov.

Red-throated Loon:

John Pogacnik had singles fly by his **Lake** home on 16 Oct and 21 Nov. Solo birds at Caesar Creek on 06 Nov (Paul Krusling and John Moore), Buck Creek on 07 Nov (Doug Overacker), and Deer Creek on 23 Nov (Robert Royse) were apparently one day wonders. However, one stayed at the Wellington Reservoir from 24 to 30 Nov for multiple observers. Adam H. Yoder counted an impressive seven during a 13 Nov Lake Erie watch in **Ashtabula**.

Pacific Loon:

With only three records preceding 2010, the four reported this year is a phenomenal number if they were all correctly identified. Rick Asamoto found one on 31 Oct at Caesar Creek and it remained until at least 11 Nov. Other singles were reported near the Avon Lake power plant, **Lorain**, on 27 Nov; off Cahoon Park, **Cuyahoga**, on 16 Nov; and at Huron, **Erie**, on 21 Nov.



Pacific Loon (left), with Common Loon, photographed 03 Nov 2010 at Caesar Creek SP, **Warren**, by Allen Claybon

Common Loon:

One reported at Pipe Creek on 29 Aug falls in the gap between when summer “holdovers” are usually last seen, in late Jul, and the normal beginning of fall migration in early Oct. The first of the migrants was at Conneaut on 05 Oct (Craig Holt). The next sightings were on 23 Oct after which they were seen in over 25 counties by the end of the period. Jen Brumfield estimated the mind-boggling number of 1200 off Rocky River Park, **Cuyahoga**, on 18 Nov. (See her comment in the Lesser Scaup account.) Inland high numbers included the 332 which Leon Miller *et al.* counted in flight on 19 Nov at Walnut Creek, **Holmes**, and the 366 which Alvin E. Miller and Wayne E. Miller saw in flight near there on 28 Nov. Observers in the 12-county *Bobolink* area counted over 3500 during the season (fide Robert Hershberger).

Pied-billed Grebe:

These were found throughout the period with a high of 54 which Rick Asamoto counted on 12 Nov at Rocky Fork SP, **Highland**. Hallie Mason spotted a very late juvenile on 13 Nov at Shreve Lake, **Wayne**.

Horned Grebe:

One was seen 05, 06, and 12 Sep at the Lorain impoundment (m.obs.). The next was reported on 04 Oct at the same location (Laura Keene) and many were seen across the state starting the third week of Oct. The highest number was the “4000+” which a group of *Bobolink*-area birders found 13 Nov on Lake Erie in **Ashtabula** (fide Robert Hershberger). The highest inland count was 40, on 25 Nov at Caesar Creek (Paul Krusling).

Red-necked Grebe:

The eight which were reported are too many to detail, but the four off Cahoon Park, **Cuyahoga**, on 28 Nov were noteworthy (Claire Kluskens). One spent two weeks on Guilford Lake, **Columbiana**, starting 24 Oct (m.obs.).

Eared Grebe:

Dan Gesualdo reported one at LaDue Reservoir, **Geauga**, on 26 Oct.

Double-crested Cormorant:

As is usual, numbers climbed to their highs in Sep and early Oct, then declined through the end of the season. The highest count by a wide margin was over 22,000, found by Tom Bartlett *et al.* on his 13 Sep Kelleys Island survey. Samples of other large concentrations include 3500 flying westbound over Maumee Bay, **Lucas**, on

21 Sep (Elliot Tramer); more than 1100 at the OWU campus on 26 Sep (Sean Williams); and approximately 630 along the lower Great Miami River, **Hamilton**, on 26 Sep (Jay Stenger).

American Bittern:

Again there were a few too many reports to publish them all, with eight sightings in five counties. ONWR remains a reliable location, with sightings in Aug and Oct (m.obs.). Though they are often found into Nov, the last sightings were all between 10 and 12 Oct.

Least Bittern:

Ed Pierce's census crew found one at ONWR on 01 Aug, Sean Williams reported one from the OWU campus on 09 Sep, and Mark C. Yoder and James F. Yoder saw one in Wright Marsh, **Wayne**, on 11 Sep.

Great Blue Heron:

This nearly ubiquitous bird was reported from more than 60 counties and throughout the season. Numbers tended to be larger near Lake Erie as demonstrated by the season's highest count of 127 at ONWR on 01 Aug (Ed Pierce *et al.*). The other high counts, all of approximately 50, were well distributed. These were on 05 Sep at Hoover NP, **Delaware** (Craig Moore); on 26 Sep along the lower Great Miami River, **Hamilton** (Jay Stenger); and 06 Oct at ONWR (Terry Bronson).

Great Egret:

This species is often more numerous than Great Blue Heron but is not as widespread – most of the reports were from the western Lake Erie marshes. The 05 Sep ONWR census found 257 (Ed Pierce *et al.*) and Terry Bronson counted 163 there on 06 Oct. The inland high count was 30 on 22 Aug at Hoover NP, **Delaware** (Craig Moore). Nov provided few sightings but they did continue to the end of the season.

Snowy Egret:

All reports but one were from the Lake Erie marshes, with Pipe Creek leading in number of sightings. That location shared the high count of 30 on 14 and 29 Aug (Sameer and Gautam Apte) with ONWR on 19 Sep (Doug Overacker). Gautam Apte also made the sole inland report from Pickerington Ponds on 22 Aug. Mark Rozmarynowycz made the last sighting, at ONWR on 16 Oct.

Little Blue Heron:

Seven widely distributed counties produced nine reports. An immature spent at least 10 days

at Pipe Creek starting 19 Aug (m.obs.). Three turned up at Rocky Fork SP, **Highland**, on 21 Aug (Roy Goerler) and two at Tucaway Lake, **Portage**, on 05 Sep (Milly Piros). Other singles appeared in **Harrison**, **Lucas**, **Sandusky**, and **Wyandot** and the last graced Paint Creek SP, **Highland**, on 08 Oct (Greg Cornett).

Cattle Egret:

These were reported in 11 locations in 10 counties. Sean Williams found four on a roadside near Sandusky on 08 Aug but the next reports were not until early Oct when there were two **Ottawa** sightings. Two of the birds were much at home in their locations: One was at the Grand Lake St. Marys hatchery, **Auglaize**, from 08 to 23 Nov and the other hung out near a small pond in **Paulding** from 18 to 28 Nov (both m.obs.).

Green Heron:

This species was fairly widespread with reports from about 35 counties. They were regular at Mill Creek, where Bill Jones made the season's high count of 17 on 08 Aug. The latest report was of two at Days Dam on the Black River, **Lorain**, on 19 Oct (BRAS).

Black-crowned Night-Heron:

Most of the reports were from counties near Lake Erie and those reports extended until 22 Oct. The only report after that was of two on the Olentangy River, **Franklin**, on 21 Nov (Dave and Emily Slager); this is surprising because they are regularly found through the winter at several far northern locations. The high count was 51, at CPNWR on 28 Aug (Elliot Tramer).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:

Two were reported, both far from their few breeding locations in central Ohio. Charlie Saunders found one on the bank of the Great Miami River in **Butler** on 08 Aug and John Pogacnik found the other, an exceedingly late bird, in the Chagrin River MP, **Lake**, on 02 Nov.

Glossy Ibis:

One adult was reported at Sandy Ridge from 01 to 05 Sep.

Plegadis sp. Ibis:

Su Snyder documented two juveniles at Funk Bottoms; they were reported 28 Aug and remained for several days. The many experienced observers could not narrow the birds' identities to the species level though most leaned to Glossy. Another unspecified ibis was reported from the Crane Creek estuary on 08 Oct.

Black Vulture:

A scattering of Aug sightings continued through the end of the period. Headlands hosted one between 14 and 26 Sep (m.obs.); it may have been an adventurous individual from the small *Bobolink* area population where they were “observed as expected” (*vide* Robert Hershberger). The high count for the period was the 54 which Bruce Glick saw in Danville on 11 Oct.

Turkey Vulture:

Were the 80 which Sean Williams found on the OWU campus on 26 Sep gathering to look for frosh who found college harder than expected? The highest number reported was 227, from Cowan Lake SP, *Clinton*, on 23 Nov (Bob Powell). An albino individual near Becks Mills, *Holmes*, was reported to the *Bobolink* area Rare Bird Alert on 04 Aug (*vide* Robert Hershberger).

Osprey:

Between breeders and migrants, this species was found in over 30 counties. Paul and Norma Krusling watched one successfully defend its catch from a Bald Eagle along the Great Miami River, *Hamilton*, on 22 Aug. Ty Ficker found the largest concentration, six, at East Fork on 08 Aug. One lingered at a fish hatchery in *Coshocton* into mid-Nov (*vide* James E. Yoder) and Jonathan Frodge reported the last on 21 Nov from the Little Miami River by Armleder Park, *Hamilton*.

Mississippi Kite:

Elizabeth Delphia discovered Ohio’s first nest of this southern species in Hideaway Hills, *Hocking*. (The first confirmed breeding was in another part of Hocking in 2008, but that nest was never found.) Elizabeth arranged to open this private resort for the morning of 21 Aug and the 50 or so visitors saw the pair of adults and their two fledglings. The parents put on quite a show of aerial acrobatics while catching cicadas and feeding them to their perched offspring. There was also a report of one adult and one immature from *Fairfield*, just to the north of Hideaway Hills, on 23 Aug.

Bald Eagle:

This species was found throughout most of the state. The southeast, which suffers from relatively few water features (the Ohio River excepted, and it’s mostly owned by Kentucky) and observers, had almost no reports. Most of the sightings were in the western Lake Erie counties; the high count of 16 was near Milan, *Erie*, on 30 Oct (Kathy Mock). The 18 Sep CVNP census found only two (Dwight Chasar *et al.*).

Northern Harrier:

These are Ohio breeders, though sparse, so the very few Aug reports are not a surprise. The numbers of both reports and individuals per report grew steadily through the season to a high count of 12 at the *Hardin* Wetlands on 28 Nov (Richard Counts).

Sharp-shinned Hawk:

Sharpies were found in every month though the highest number of reports was during their Oct migration peak. The highest counts, however, were on 10 Sep, with four birds near Harrison (Russell Taylor) and on 26 Sep, another three not far away along the lower Great Miami (Jay Stenger). Both sites are in *Hamilton*.

Cooper’s Hawk:

Cooper’s Hawks sightings had a similar timing pattern to those of Sharp-shinned, though there were at least five times as many reports and they were from twice as many counties. Dwight Chasar’s census crews found the high count of 10 on 18 Sep in CVNP.

Red-shouldered Hawk:

The number of reports stayed nearly steady throughout the period. The 18 Sep CVNP census found 15 individuals (Dwight Chasar *et al.*); the next highest count was eight, on 25 Sep at East Fork (Cincinnati Bird Club).

Broad-winged Hawk:

Most of the few Aug sightings were probably of breeding birds. This species’ migration peaks in mid-Sep; they do not cross big waters so many from Canada pass through the Toledo area after sweeping around the western end of Lake Erie. Elliot Tramer’s high count of 90 over Oak Openings on 19 Sep fits this pattern perfectly. Mark Gilsdorf made the only other count above 10; he saw 45 at Shawnee Lookout on 26 Nov. The last report was also from Oak Openings, a single straggler on 16 Oct. (Joanne Hubinger).

Red-tailed Hawk:

Our most widespread raptor was reported from 67 counties; being generalists they can be found in almost any terrestrial habitat. Many observers found five to 10 during an outing. The high count was 39 migrants during 31 Oct at Walnut Creek, *Holmes* (Leon Miller).

Rough-legged Hawk:

David L. Erb saw the first of these winter visitors near Blissfield, *Coshocton*, on 30 Oct. The most in a single location was three, at The Wilds, *Muskingum*, on several dates (m.obs.).

Golden Eagle:

The Thomas Wetlands, **Paulding**, provided the first sighting, on 01 Oct (Doug and Micki Dunakin). The Dunakins saw another there on 15 Oct. Two subadults flew over Ben Morrison's Alliance, **Stark**, home on 16 Oct. A juvenile passed over I-70 in **Muskingum** on 24 Oct; John Kuenzli thought it might be heading for The Wilds which are just to the south in the same county. Scott Albaugh and Howard Gratz found one adult at The Wilds on 26 Nov.

American Kestrel:

These were reported from over 40 counties, though few were found in the southeast or southwest. Some high counts were 10 at Huffman Prairie, **Greene**, on 21 Aug (Gautam Apte), 20 at Killdeer Plains on 15 Nov (Charles Bombaci), and 12 in **Paulding** on 20 Nov (Andy Sewell).

Merlin:

Danielle McCament noted on 10 Aug that her fledgling merlin was out and about in **Knox**. This is Ohio's second breeding record since the 1930's and was well documented for the OBBA II since she first noted copulation in May. (The first "modern" breeding record was last year in **Lake**.) Gary Moon had one presumed migrant fly overhead in Columbus on 12 Aug, and Carl Ball noted another at Magee Marsh on 15 Aug. They were seen on several dates in Sep and Oct at Conneaut and individuals had settled in at many urban cemeteries by the end of the season. *The Bobolink* received 14 reports of single birds in its coverage area (*vide* Robert Hershberger).

Peregrine Falcon:

Cuyahoga produced more reports than any of the other 17 counties with sightings. The birds were found in both urban and rural settings; sightings in the latter were probably mostly of migrants. The small number of Aug reports grew as migration swelled the sightings. Most re-



Black-bellied Plover photographed 14 Sept 2010 at Caesar Creek SP, Warren, by Allan Claybon.

ports were of single birds though a few apparent pairs were also seen.

Yellow Rail:

Two were reported flushed by a hay mower in **Wayne** on 16 Oct.

King Rail:

Doug and Micki Dunakin saw one in the Thomas Wetlands, **Paulding**, on 28 Aug.

Virginia Rail:

Reports came from 12 counties. All were of single birds except that of the three that Hanna Brewster found in Spring Valley SWA, **Greene**, on 05 Sep. The last report was on 11 Oct from the Ira Rd. marsh of CVNP (Mary Anne and Tom Romito).

Sora:

Reports were fairly numerous through the first week of Oct, with high counts of five at Sandy Ridge on 08 Aug (Dan Gesualdo and Lynn Gesualdo) and 09 Oct at Fernald (Joe Kappa). The latest sighting was on 29 Oct at Killdeer Plains (Greg Cornett).

Common Moorhen:

The few reports of this species were from the northern third of the state. **Wayne**, which contains both Funk Bottoms and Killbuck Marsh, held most of the birds, including at least 40 on 23 Aug (Albert L. Troyer). Breeders there were represented by 15 adults and chicks on 05 Sep (Sue Snyder) and of an adult with three chicks on 17 Sep and 03 Oct (Hallie Mason). The last sighting of the season was of a single bird at ONWR on 10 Oct (eBird user "r.s.").

American Coot:

This species is much more numerous, and more hardy as well, than its moorhen cousin. They were seen throughout the period, with several Oct and Nov estimates near 1000 at Clear Fork; Wellington Reservoir; and Camp Dennison, **Hamilton**. Laura and Tim Dornan made the high count of 1500 at Killdeer Plains on 01 Nov.

Sandhill Crane:

Fifteen counties were represented. Adam H. Yoder found 82 at Funk Bottoms on 02 Oct. Counts of 85 to 115 were noted there on several dates between 14 and 23 Nov; there was probably some turnover during that period. Fields around the **Highland** Stone Pits held about 200 on 21 Nov (eBird user "Farm Birder").

Black-bellied Plover:

Multiple observers found them at Pickerington

Ponds between 06 and 10 Aug. There were many counts of 70 or more at ONWR starting 09 Oct; they peaked at 100 on 29 Oct (Annie Crary). Though they are often present well into Nov, the last was seen 07 Nov, also at ONWR (eTT).

American Golden-Plover:

Craig Holt made the earliest report, from Conneaut on 10 Aug, and Elliot Tramer made the latest on 09 Nov from ONWR. The high count of 48 was made by Richard Counts at the *Hardin* wetlands on 17 Oct.

Semipalmated Plover:

Reports came from 17 widely separated counties with several being of 10 to 20 birds. The high was 30, at Hoover Reservoir on 04 Sep (Thomas Slemmer) and the last sighting, of two, was at Conneaut on 31 Oct (m.obs.).

Killdeer:

Almost 70 counties yielded reports, and triple-digit counts were widespread in both space and time. Up to 500 were found along Wilderness Road, *Wayne*, during the second week of Aug (m.obs.) and a similar number occupied Funk Bottoms on 31 Aug (Su Snyder). The 09 Oct ONWR census counted 850 (*vide* Mark Shieldcastle).

American Avocet:

This species, beautiful even after the breeding season, graced 14 counties. One at Hoover Reservoir on 01 Aug had arrived in Jul (m.obs.). Observers enjoyed them at Conneaut on many scattered dates in Aug and Sep. Regina Schieltz found one or two at a private wetland in *Darke* during most of Sep. The high count was a phenomenal 27 at Caesar Creek on 05 Oct, and five lingered there until the latest report on 27 Oct (both Larry Gara).

Spotted Sandpiper:

The high count of 25 at Caesar Creek on 01 Sep (Larry Gara) was probably a mix of breeders and migrants. Gary Cowell made the latest sighting, on 14 Oct at Pleasant Hill Lake.

Solitary Sandpiper:

The many reports during Aug declined steadily through Sep to the last on 14 Oct at Caesar Creek (Bob Powell). The 20 at both Pleasant Hill Lake on 27 Aug (Gary Cowell) and Mill Creek on 28 Aug (Bill Jones) belied their name.

Greater Yellowlegs:

A few were present in early Aug and they were seen until the last report on 21 Nov from the

Great Miami River in *Butler* (Mike Busam, Charlie Sanders). The high count was 72 during the 23 Aug ONWR survey (*vide* Mark Shieldcastle).

Willet:

The first was seen 13 Aug at Pipe Creek and up to three were there through 29 Aug (m.obs.). There were several other Aug sightings, including the season's high count of seven on 23 Aug at ONWR (*vide* Mark Shieldcastle). One found at ONWR on 16 Sep was the only report from that month (Ed Pierce). The last was in the Crane Creek estuary on 08 Oct (Mark Rozmarynowycz).

Lesser Yellowlegs:

Most of the sightings were in Aug and Sep but the highest count was on 09 Oct, 520 at ONWR (*vide* Mark Shieldcastle). The last date of 13 Nov was shared by Wellington Reservoir (BRAS) and Pleasant Hill Lake (Greg Cornett).

Upland Sandpiper:

Robert Sams saw two birds at a landfill conservation area in *Hancock* on 06 Sep. Single fly-bys were seen 07 Aug in *Tuscarawas*, 13 Aug in *Holmes*, and 09 Sep in *Wayne* (*vide* Robert Hershberger).

Whimbrel:

Charles Crawford found one at Sheldon's Marsh SNP, *Erie*, on 05 Aug. The three at Pipe Creek on 22 Aug (Irene Krise) could have included the two seen there on 24 Aug (Craig Holt). Two were at Winous Point on 02 Sep and one was at ONWR on 08 Sep (both *vide* Mark Shieldcastle). Two were at Conneaut on 10 Sep (*vide* Cole DiFabio) and 12 Sep (Bob and Denise Lane). The most reported was five in Wright Marsh, *Wayne*, on 12 Sep (Gabe Hostetler); that date was the last.

Hudsonian Godwit:

These were reported from *Ashtabula, Erie, Lorain, Lucas, Mahoning, Ottawa, and Trumbull* with several sightings in each. Craig Holt made the first report, nine adults at Conneaut on 04 Aug. Chris Pierce found six in the Crane Creek estuary on 24 Oct for the latest sighting. The high count of 38 was on the 15 Oct survey at ONWR (*vide* Mark Shieldcastle).

Marbled Godwit:

These were found in the same locations as Hudsonian Godwits, plus sites in *Clermont* and *Delaware*. Craig Holt reported the first of the season at Conneaut on 04 Aug, though they had

been present in Jul. The high count of five, curiously much smaller than that of Hudsonians, was at ONWR on 21 Sep (Jan Landry) and in **Trumbull** on 07 Oct (Carole Babyak). The last report was of four at ONWR on 18 Nov (*fide* Mark Shieldcastle).

Ruddy Turnstone:

These too were found all along the Lake Erie shore and a few inland locations. The first were five at Conneaut on 18 Aug and the most were the seven at the same location on 04 Sep (both Craig Holt). The last was one bird which graced Pleasant Hill Lake from 12 to 24 Oct (Gary Cowell).

Red Knot:

The first arrived in Jul. Ben Warner reported the last three of the season on 29 Oct in the Crane Creek estuary. The high count was there also, nine on 22 Oct (Kenn Kaufman). They were found in seven counties, **Delaware** and **Wayne** being the only inland ones.

Sanderling:

There were many reports from Jul until the last, of 10 at ONWR on 18 Nov (*fide* Mark Shieldcastle). His survey teams counted 615 on 09 Nov.

Semipalmated Sandpiper:

These were reported throughout the state, with a high count of 400 on 30 Aug at Winous Point (*fide* Mark Shieldcastle). Tom Bartlett banded 473 at ONWR between 01 Aug and 04 Sep. Peter Hellman made the last sighting on 22 Oct at the Lorain impoundment.



Semipalmated Sandpiper photographed on 14 Sept 2010 at Caesar Creek SP Warren, by Allan Clayton.

Western Sandpiper:

One or two were reported from 10 counties between 11 Aug, at the Woods Road wetlands, **Darke** (Regina Schieltz), and 12 Oct, at Hoover NP (Greg Cornett).

Least Sandpiper:

This species vies with Pectoral as our most abundant and widespread sandpiper. They started arriving in Jul and there were many double-digit counts in Aug; from Sep on the counts were mostly below 10. The high was 145, on 16 Aug at Winous Point (*fide* Mark Shieldcastle). Tom Bartlett banded 446 at ONWR during Aug. Mark Gilsdorf saw the last at Paint Creek SP, **Highland** on 26 Nov. This date was unusual only because of the gap since the second last report, on 08 Nov at Pleasant Hill Lake (Gary Cowell).

White-rumped Sandpiper:

Jon Allen noted the first arrival on 08 Aug at Pickering Creek SWA, **Sandusky**. The high count of 33 occurred two months later on 09 Oct at ONWR (*fide* Mark Shieldcastle). The latest sighting, of three on 08 Nov at Pickerington Ponds (Brad Sparks *et al.*), was also the only report from that month.

Baird's Sandpiper:

A few were seen in Jul; Craig Holt saw the first of the fall season at Conneaut on 04 Aug. The only reports from south of Columbus (out of 19 counties represented) were of one at Armleder Park, **Hamilton**, on 05 Sep (Stanley Hadeen and David Hadeen) and of two at Buck Creek on 14 Oct (Rick Asamoto). The high count of 12 was at Pelican Island, **Delaware**, on 31 Aug (Ben Warner) and the last report was of a single bird at the Lorain impoundment on 02 Nov (Aaron Milenski).

Pectoral Sandpiper:

These were seen from Jul until 21 Nov, when Bill Jones found the last one at Mill Creek. The high count was 385, at ONWR on 09 Oct (*fide* Mark Shieldcastle), while Elliot Tramer commented that 31 at ONWR "was a nice number for October 22".

Purple Sandpiper:

There were five reports. Single birds visited Mentor Headlands on 11 Nov (*fide* Doreen Linzell) and 27 Nov (Ethan Kistler *et al.*). Two were at Huron, Erie (John Pogacnik) and one at Lorain Harbor (m.obs.) on 21 Nov. The last before winter was at Fairport Harbor, **Lake**, on 27 Nov (Jen Brumfield).

Dunlin:

The only early reports were of two birds at Mill Creek on 07 Aug (Bill Jones) and one at ONWR on 09 Aug (*fide* Mark Shieldcastle). The next sighting, on 06 Sep, was of six in the Woods

Road wetlands, *Darke* (Regina Schieltz), and they were then seen through the end of the period. ONWR produced many triple-digit counts during Oct topped by the 5400 there on 09 Nov (*vide* Mark Shieldcastle).

Stilt Sandpiper:

These were present from Jul until 02 Nov, when Gary Cowell found one at Pleasant Hill Lake. Doug and Micki Dunakin found up to 16 at the Thomas Wetlands, *Paulding*, on multiple dates between 19 Aug and 13 Sep. ONWR had the high count of 147 on 23 Sep (*vide* Mark Shieldcastle).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper:

These delicate, much-sought, birds were found in six counties, all from the Columbus area north. The first were at Funk Bottoms, *Wayne*, from 22 Aug to 05 Sep (m.obs.); the most – 13 – were at Pelican Island, *Delaware*, on 31 Aug (Tom Bain); and the last was at the Lorain impoundment on 11 Sep (Irene Krise).

Short-billed Dowitcher:

Several were present at Pipe Creek in late Jul and all of Aug. Winous Point had approximately 200 on both 14 and 30 Aug (*vide* Mark Shieldcastle). The last reliable report was from Hoover Reservoir on 15 Oct (Ben Warner); the reports of this species which carried well into Nov were not documented and the sightings were more likely of Long-billed Dowitchers.

Long-billed Dowitcher:

Though their migration peak is in Oct, this species usually begins arriving in summer; so the bird at Fernald on 07 Aug (John Marvin) was not unusual. They did have a larger than usual high count, 106 at ONWR on 23 Sep (*vide* Mark Shieldcastle). The last, and only report in that month, was of seven at Clear Fork on 17 Nov (Greg Cornett).

Wilson's Snipe:

This species breeds in Ohio (though sparingly) and often overwinters so sightings during the whole fall season are expected. They were found in nearly 30 counties with a high count of 22 at Caesar Creek on 02 Oct (Larry Gara).

American Woodcock:

This odd little breeder was sparsely seen in Aug. Sightings throughout the state increased in Sep and Oct as migrants came through. Laurens Halsey saw three on 18 Oct in the Virginia Kendall area of CVNP and Robert Sams found three on 31 Oct at Springville Marsh SNP, *Seneca*.

The last report, of only four in the month, was on 20 Nov at Shawnee Prairie Preserve, *Darke* (Robb Clifford).

Wilson's Phalarope:

Up to three were seen between 05 and 09 Aug at Pickerington Ponds (m.obs.). They were reported in only seven other counties, with the most – four – in *Trumbull* on 07 Oct (Carole Babyak) and the last on 14 Oct at Navarre (BSBO).

Red-necked Phalarope:

This phalarope was by far the most numerous, being seen in 14 counties. Up to nine were at Pipe Creek for most of Aug. Tom Bartlett banded 14 at ONWR between 15 Aug and 04 Sep. The 01 Sep survey at Winous Point found 30 (*vide* Mark Shieldcastle) and the last was seen 14 Oct at Navarre (BSBO).

Red Phalarope:

The first was quite early at ONWR on 08 Sep (*vide* Mark Shieldcastle); the next did not show up until 28 Sep at Sandy Ridge (Craig Caldwell). One or two were at Conneaut 14 through 19 Oct (m. obs.) and the last of the season flew by John Pogacnik in *Lake* on 26 Nov.

Black-legged Kittiwake:

Jim McConnor and Roger Beuk reported one 10 Sep at Conneaut and John Pogacnik did the same on 03 Oct at Lorain Harbor.

Sabine's Gull:

Single sightings were at the Avon Lake power plant, *Lorain*, on 12 Sep (Jen Brumfield and Emil Bacik) and at Lorain Harbor on 03 Oct (John Pogacnik). One spent an atypically long time, 21 to 26 Nov, at Metzger Marsh (m.obs.).

Bonaparte's Gull:

A trickle of sightings in Aug turned into a torrent of reports by mid-Sep, and the number of birds exploded in Nov. There were several counts in the 1000 to 5000 range from Lorain Harbor. Kenn Kaufman estimated 6000 at the Bayshore power plant, *Lucas*, on 29 Nov. Inland, several hundred were seen at Pleasant Hill Lake and Caesar Creek on many dates (m.obs.).

Black-headed Gull:

Jen Brumfield found one at Lorain Harbor on 27 Nov; it was last reported on 30 Nov.

Little Gull:

Conneaut hosted one or two on many dates between 10 Oct and 06 Nov; given the length of time involved, it is possible that the sightings represent several individuals. Single birds were seen

in *Lake* on 26 Nov (John Pogacnik), on 27 Nov at Lorain Harbor (Jen Brumfield) and *Huron* (Gabe Leidy *et al.*), and at the Bayshore power plant, *Lucas*, on 29 Nov (Kenn Kaufman).

Laughing Gull:

One was occasionally seen at Conneaut between 31 Aug and 12 Sep (m.obs.) and one was at Summit Lake on 09 Oct (Gregory Bennett).

Franklin's Gull:

This is clearly a bird of small waters: Seven of the nine counties represented do not border Lake Erie. The earliest was at Caesar Creek on 13 Sep (m.obs.); it (presumably the same bird) was seen frequently through the rest of the month. There were additional infrequent sightings of one bird there in Oct but Larry Gara and Bob Powell found a flock of 29 on 28 Oct. Scott Jennex reported the last of the season on 28 Nov at Lorain Harbor.



Franklin's Gull photographed on 20 Nov 2010 at East Fork SP, *Clermont*, by Allan Claybon.

Ring-billed Gull:

Our most numerous gull was seen in the hundreds along Lake Erie into Nov, when many counts moved into the thousands. Jen Brumfield reported the highest estimate, 8000 at Lorain Harbor on 27 Nov. The highest number elsewhere was 4000, at Berlin Reservoir, *Mahoning*, on 21 Sep (Ben Morrison), and there were many triple-digit counts even further south.

California Gull:

One was reported at Conneaut for three days starting on 29 Oct.

Herring Gull:

These were seen throughout the state, though as expected counts in the southern counties were at most in the low double digits. On 12 Aug Gregory Bennett noted a "dark fuzzy chick on a rooftop" in the Cedar Point amusement park, *Erie*, and added that it was "difficult to find a flat roof space...that does NOT have nesting HEGU." Ken Ostermiller estimated about 2000

on 13 Nov at Cleveland's East 72nd Street and Jen Brumfield a similar number on 27 Nov at Lorain Harbor.

Thayer's Gull:

Laura Keene found one at Lorain Harbor on 27 Nov; many observers saw what could have been the same bird at the Avon Lake power plant, *Lorain*, the next day. Kenn Kaufman saw another at the Bayshore power plant, *Lucas*, on 29 Nov.

Iceland Gull:

Robert Royse noted that the one he found on 01 Nov at Deer Creek was "...a huge surprise both for the location and date." They usually arrive about mid-December and are seldom found far south of Lake Erie.

Lesser Black-backed Gull:

There were about a dozen reports from Lake Erie and a few inland sites. Craig Holt made the first from Conneaut on 04 Sep. Jen Brumfield found the high count of four at the Avon Lake power plant, *Lorain*, on 28 Nov. The furthest south was at the western end of Grand Lake Saint Marys, *Mercer*, on 27 Sep (Terry Bronson).

Glaucous Gull:

The first of these winter visitors was seen 26 Nov at Metzger Marsh (m.obs.). Others were seen on 27 Nov at Huron (Gabe Leidy and Emil Bacik), at East 72nd Street, *Cuyahoga* (Brian Wulker); and in *Lake* (John Pogacnik).

Great Black-backed Gull:

All of the sightings were along the Lake Erie shore. A few which probably summered in the area were seen in Aug and Sep. The high count of six was made twice, on 13 Nov along the Cleveland lakefront (m.obs.) and on 28 Nov at Lorain Harbor (Scott Jennex).

Caspian Tern:

Dave Slager and Ben Warner counted 85 at Pipe Creek on 19 Aug; smaller numbers were seen there through the end of Sep. Tom Bain made the largest inland count of 18 at Pelican Island, *Delaware*, on 31 Aug. The last far-north sighting was on 10 Oct at Wildwood SP, *Cuyahoga* (Tom and Mary Anne Romito) and the last of the season was only a day later at Caesar Creek (Laura Keene).

Black Tern:

Donald Morse, Jr. saw four at East Fork on 03 Sep for the high count. Craig Holt found two at Conneaut on 04 Sep and John Pogacnik saw (possibly the same) two in *Lake* later that day.

Wright Marsh, *Wayne*, had one on 15 Aug (Levi Troyer) and three on 04 Sep (m.obs.). Singles were also seen at Pelican Island, *Delaware* (08 Sep, Charles Bombaci); Pleasant Hill Lake (15 Sep, Gary Cowell and Su Snyder); and Walborn Reservoir, *Stark* (17 Sep, Shari Jackson and Ronnie Macko).

Common Tern:

John Shrader made the high count of 700 on 18 Sep at Magee Marsh. They were seen in moderate numbers at many other Lake Erie sites and a sprinkling were as far south as *Clermont*. Ben Warner and Dave Slager made the last report on 29 Oct from Huron harbor.

Arctic Tern:

Kenn Kaufman found one at Maumee Bay SP, *Lucas*, on the morning of 11 Aug; quite a few other birders got to see it before it apparently departed that night. This bird was the third documented in Ohio.

Forster's Tern:

These sightings mirrored those of Common Terns except that their peak was later. Chris Pierce found 300 in the Crane Creek estuary on 10 Oct. Kenn Kaufman reported the latest, seven at Magee Marsh's east beach, on 30 Oct. Like Commons, they were seen all the way to the Ohio River.

Pomarine Jaeger:

There were five reports: One bird at the mouth of the Cuyahoga River on 13 Nov (m.obs.); two at Sunset Park, *Lake*, on 17 Nov (Dan Gesualdo); a wonderful six off Rocky River Park, *Cuyahoga*, on 18 Nov (Jen Brumfield); one at the Avon Lake power plant, *Lorain*, on 21 Nov (m.obs.); and one at Lorain Harbor on 27 Nov (Jen Brumfield and Laura Keene).

Parasitic Jaeger:

Flybys were reported in *Lake* on 12 Sep and 21 Nov. One was reported from Sunset Park, *Lake*, on 17 Nov. Two were reported off Rocky River Park, *Cuyahoga*, on 18 Nov.

Long-tailed Jaeger:

There were three reports of sightings on 04 Sep. They were at Sunset Park, *Lake*; at Conneaut; and at Huron harbor. One was reported at a different location in *Lake* on 05 Sep.

Rock Pigeon:

These were reported from 59 counties, a number surely reflecting lack of reporting rather than lack of sightings. Todd Deal reported a concentration of 175 in Nelsonville, *Athens*, on 23 Oct.

Eurasian Collared-Dove:

Dave Slager documented a sighting of three in Celina, *Mercer*, on 20 Nov. Other sightings were also reported in that city on several dates, in ONWR on 28 Oct, near Sugar Creek, *Tuscarawas*, on multiple dates in Oct and Nov, in *Mari- on* on 19 Nov, and on 21 Nov in *Paulding*.

Mourning Dove:

There were several accounts of raptors chasing or taking these. Elliot Tramer's report of about 300 feeding in a recently seeded construction area near Waterville, *Lucas*, on 18 Oct was the highest count.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo:

Though this species is even more secretive in fall than spring, they were reported from 24 counties. Bill Stanley managed to find three during a 29 Aug outing in *Clermont* and three were also along the Mahoning Valley Trail, *Stark*, on the same date (*vide* Robert Hershberger). Gary Cowell and Su Snyder made the last report on 10 Oct from Killbuck Marsh.

Black-billed Cuckoo:

Black-billeds were found in only seven counties. The highest number was three, at Gary Cowell's home in *Richland* on 02 Aug. The last was one near the ONWR Visitors Center on 19 Sep (m.obs.).

Barn Owl:

Wes Hatch found two while chasing the Apple Creek, *Wayne*, Rufous Hummingbird on 06 Aug. The only other "sighting" was on 31 Oct, when Bob Lane found Barn Owl feathers at what he termed a "traditional site" in *Columbiana*.

Eastern Screech-Owl:

Single birds were found in almost 20 counties. Four observers each found two. They were Hal- lie Mason in *Tuscarawas* on 27 Sep, Gary Cowell at Killbuck Marsh on 10 Oct, Bruce Miller in *Hocking* on 23 Oct, and Charles Bombaci along Little Walnut Creek, *Delaware*, on 03 Nov.

Great Horned Owl:

Suzanne Clingman noted on 04 Nov in *Cler- mont*, "There is still a young Great Horned beg- ging for food. It doesn't call for food every night anymore but seems like a mighty lazy youngster to still be calling at all." There were several ob- servations of two birds, and Leslie Warren heard three calling near her *Mahoning* home on 28 Nov.

Barred Owl:

Christine McCandliss wrote, “My daughter did a great Barred Owl call and was rewarded by 5 or more Barred Owls replying from across the ravine. It was a ‘hoot!’” This event was on 27 Sep in *Medina*. Others were seen or heard in ones and twos in 21 counties.

Long-eared Owl:

One just squeezed into the season on 30 Nov at the Chippewa Ford Field, Brecksville Reservation, *Cuyahoga* (Jen Brumfield).

Short-eared Owl:

Scott Jennex saw the first in *Lorain* on 16 Oct. They were well established in their usual grassland strongholds such as Killdeer Plains and The Wilds by early Nov. Richard Counts found the high count of 13 in the *Hardin* wetlands on 28 Nov.

Northern Saw-whet Owl:

The first was seen at Mentor Headlands on 10 Oct; it stayed for several days. John Pogacnik spooked one while filling his feeders in *Lake* on 05 Nov. Five banding stations reported these captures:

Akron (Dan Kramer): 26, of which one was a recapture from a previous year

Buzzard’s Roost Preserve, *Ross* (Bob Scott Placier and Kelly Williams-Sieg): 22

Caesar Creek (Rebecca Elephante): 28

Kelleys Island (Tom Bartlett): 57, four of which were recaptures; 21 of the captures were on 02 Nov

Miami Whitewater (Lester Peyton): 2

Common Nighthawk:

What Elliot Tramer calls the “Formerly common Nighthawk” was seen in about 20 counties, mostly as small migratory flocks. Two counts exceeded 100. Sean Williams noted 554 passing over the OWU campus on 29 Aug. James E. Yoder watched several groups in Aug near New Bedford, *Coshocton*, including what must have been the fantastic sight of 1037 on 31 Aug. Su Snyder’s flyover at Killbuck Marsh on 10 Oct was the latest sighting.

Eastern Whip-poor-will:

Bruce Simpson provided the only report, of three singing birds in Zaleski SF, *Vinton*, on 03 Sep.

Chimney Swift:

The high count of 1400 was shared by Doug Overacker on 11 Sep in Springfield, *Clark*, and Robert Foppe on 12 Sep in *Clermont*. The last sightings, on 13 Oct, were also shared, by *Ham-*

ilton, *Lorain*, *Mahoning*, and *Richland*.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird:

These were widespread until early Oct, and Bill Jones reported the last on 23 Oct at Mill Creek. The feeders at the Germantown MetroPark Nature Center, *Montgomery*, hosted 12 on 07 Aug for Leslie Houser. What must have been the peak of migration delivered 27 to James E. Yoder near New Bedford, *Coshocton*, on 28 Aug.

Rufous Hummingbird:

The only confirmed report was of one at the Christy Troyer home in *Wayne*; it was first seen 28 Jul and remained until 21 Sep (m.obs.).

Belted Kingfisher:

These were reported in over 50 counties. Regina Schieltz saw 14 while boating at Caesar Creek on 18 Sep.

Red-headed Woodpecker:

Clusters seem to go hand in hand with their rather patchy distribution. Joanne Hubinger saw six at Oak Openings on 16 Oct and Dwight Chasar *et al.* counted 12 during the 18 Sep CVNP census.

Red-bellied Woodpecker:

The high count prize went to the 18 Sep CVNP census with 106 (Dwight Chasar *et al.*). Bill Stanley’s 24 at East Fork on 25 Sep was the second highest count of the season and the most by a single observer. While it’s common to find four woodpecker species during a field trip, seeing them simultaneously in a single tree must be nearly unique. Ann Oliver did so on 19 Sep when Red-bellied, Downy, and Pileated woodpeckers shared a tree with a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker in Rapid Run Park, *Hamilton*.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:

There were no reports from the far northeast, where a few pairs breed. Sean Williams noted the first migrants on the OWU campus on 14 Sep. Two cemeteries yielded the high count of five: Erie Street, *Cuyahoga*, on 29 Sep (Aaron Milenski), and Spring Grove, *Hamilton*, on 21 Nov (Mark Gilsdorf). The latter sighting included two immature birds. The two which Bruce Glick found near Millersburg, *Holmes*, on 24 Nov may have been thinking of overwintering.

Downy Woodpecker:

Once again the CVNP census on 18 Sep produced by far the highest number, 139 (Dwight Chasar *et al.*). The runner-up was Tom Bartlett’s Kelleys Island survey of 13 Sep, which found 28.

Hairy Woodpecker:

These were found in about two-thirds as many counties as Downys; they are scarcer because they prefer larger and more mature woodlands. Four were found on 14 Sep at Blendon Woods (Patrick Johnson), and also on 22 Nov along the Towpath Trail, **Stark** (Darrin Petko). The 18 Sep CVNP census found 14 (Dwight Chasar *et al.*).

Northern Flicker:

Aaron Milenski and John Shrader shared the highest counts of 12, at the Erie Street Cemetery, **Cuyahoga**, on 29 Sep and 24 at Magee Marsh on 18 Sep respectively. These birds were probably mostly migrants, though a nest at either location would not be a surprise.

Pileated Woodpecker:

These flashy giants were found in almost half of our counties. The highest count, 30 during the 18 Sep CVNP census (Dwight Chasar *et al.*), dwarfed the next highest, six at Blendon Woods on 02 Oct (Craig Moore).

Olive-sided Flycatcher:

Migrants were seen in 14 well-distributed counties as far south as **Hamilton** and **Vinton**, though historically most sightings are near Lake Erie. Charles Crawford found the first on 07 Aug at Carlisle Reservation, **Lorain**. James F. Yoder saw one on 08 Aug in **Tuscarawas** which Robert Hershberger noted is probably the earliest record for the **Bobolink** area. Victor Fazio III reported the high count of three at Shaker Heights' Horseshoe Lake, **Cuyahoga**, on 01 Sep and Charles Bombaci saw the last at Mudhen Marsh, **Delaware**, on 29 Sep.

Eastern Wood-Pewee:

This common breeder was widespread. Dwight Chasar *et al.* provided the high count of 16 in the CVNP on 18 Sep. Gary Cowell saw the last on 23 Oct in Byers Woods, **Ashland**.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:

Charles Crawford found the first of these migrants on 05 Aug at Magee Marsh; the next report was not until 28 Aug, in **Cuyahoga** (Andy Jones). Kenn Kaufman saw the last on 04 Oct, again at Magee Marsh. Most sightings were of singles but several reporters saw two in a given area. BSBO banded 24 at Navarre between 23 Aug and 24 Sep.

Acadian Flycatcher:

There were several reports in Aug of five individuals; these were probably the first migrants mix-

ing with breeders. Albert L. Troyer saw the last on 05 Oct near Apple Creek, **Wayne**.

Willow Flycatcher:

There were reports from only nine counties, the last coming 26 Sep from Sharon Woods MP, **Franklin** (Bill Tacon). The 01 Aug ONWR census found 13 (Ed Pierce *et al.*)

Least Flycatcher:

There were a few Aug sightings before the migrants began flowing through. Megan Shoemaker saw three on 09 Sep at Independence Dam SP, **Defiance** and John Shrader did the same on 18 Sep at Magee Marsh. Paul Krusling reported the last was reported on 08 Oct from Fernald.

Eastern Phoebe:

These were quite common; the 18 Sep CVNP census found 59 (Dwight Chasar *et al.*). The last report was on 21 Nov at the Lorain impoundment (Dan Gesualdo) though typically a few overwinter.

Great Crested Flycatcher:

ONWR had 10 on 01 Aug (Ed Pierce *et al.*) and the next highest number was the four at Shawnee Lookout on 28 Aug (Mark Gilsdorf). The last was reported from **Delaware** on 26 Sep (Gary Moon).

Eastern Kingbird:

Tom Bartlett's crew found 58 on Kelleys Island on 15 Aug, and Beth Fonville counted 25 in Winton Woods CP, **Hamilton**, on 04 Sep. Craig Moore found the last on 10 Oct in O'Shaughnessy NP, **Delaware**.

Northern Shrike:

At least seven individuals were reported from six counties. The first was along the Wake Robin Trail, **Lake**, from 16 to 18 Oct (m.obs.). Another was seen off and on at Killdeer Plains between 28 Oct and 15 Nov (m.obs.).

White-eyed Vireo:

Aden A. Yoder provided the high count of 10 from The Wilderness Center, **Stark**, on 12 Sep. Robert Sams made the last report from Springfield Marsh, **Seneca**, on 31 Oct.

Yellow-throated Vireo:

Many observers noted two of these per location, and Dwight Chasar's crew found nine on the 18 Sep CVNP census. The latest was seen 02 Oct at Shawnee Lookout (Albert Scruggs and Julie Moore).

Blue-headed Vireo:

The first, which Su Snyder noted on 16 Aug at Killbuck Marsh, was probably a migrant rucker than one of the state's scarce hemlock-zone breeders. CVNP which includes that habitat and Dwight Chasar *et al.* found six on 18 Sep. Elliot Tramer reported the last on 02 Nov at CPNWR.

Warbling Vireo:

The highest count, and one of only a few in double digits, was 20 at Metzger Marsh on 14 Sep (John Shrader). The last were seen 29 Sep at Sandy Ridge (BRAS) and Pipe Creek (Ben Warner).

Philadelphia Vireo:

Gary Cowell reported the first a bit earlier than usual, on 07 Aug at Malabar Farm SP, *Richland*. John Shrader saw four at Magee Marsh on 18 Sep and Gregory Bennett found the last in *Summit* on 24 Oct.

Red-eyed Vireo:

This ubiquitous singer was present until 20 Oct, when BSBO banders caught one at Navarre. There were many double-digit counts crowned by the 31 found in CVNP on 18 Sep (Dwight Chasar *et al.*).

Blue Jay:

Many double-digit flocks were reported in Sep and Oct, with Joe Kappa's 80 at East Fork SP on 25 Sep being the largest.

American Crow:

Doug Overacker writes, "[The] roost has formed in Springfield again. I haven't stopped to estimate the numbers but there are thousands." Estimates around 1000 were made at Clear Fork on 05 Nov (Gary Cowell) and Mill Creek on 24 Nov (Bill Jones).

Common Raven:

One was reported in *Coshocton* on 09 Sep and another near Jelloway, *Knox*, on 07 Nov.

Horned Lark:

Though a few singles were seen throughout summer, Robert Sams noted the first autumn flock, of 33, on 15 Aug at Findlay Reservoir, *Hancock*. At least 100 had settled in at Killdeer Plains by 15 Nov (Charles Bombaci).

Purple Martin:

Tom Bain estimated 1100 staging for migration on 08 Aug along Moreland Road, *Wayne*. The third to last sighting was on 20 Sep in Strongsville, *Cuyahoga* (Curt Harler); BSBO's station at Navarre had a straggler on 05 Oct and one

exceptionally late bird "lingered into November" near Clark, *Holmes* (*vide* James E. Yoder).

Tree Swallow:

Several staging concentrations of about 1000 were noted in mid-Aug, and the last of the season of these, our hardest swallow, were 14 at ONWR on 26 Nov (Karl Overman and James Fox).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow:

Charles Saunders and Mike Busam reported the largest flock: 215 were on the lower Great Miami River in *Butler* on 12 Sep. The last of the season was found at the Lorain impoundment on 21 Nov (m.obs.).

Bank Swallow:

Ken Ostermiller found about 300 gathered in Bay View, *Erie*, on 16 Aug. BSBO noted the last one on 05 Oct at Navarre.

Cliff Swallow:

This is our least common breeding and migrant swallow, so the rather small maximum count of 40, on 14 Aug at Winous Point, is not surprising (Chris Decker). The last were seen in *Wayne* on 29 Sep, one at each of Funk Bottoms (m. obs.) and Wright Marsh (Aaron E. Miller).

Cave Swallow:

This species is now a regular fall visitor. The first reports were of one to four seen for three days beginning 30 Oct at the Lorain impoundment. Dane Adams, Gabe Leidy, and Doreen Linzell documented the find. James E. Yoder saw one near New Bedford, *Holmes*, on 31 Oct. John Pogacnik found two at ONWR on 25 Nov. The other reports were of four at Conneaut on 31 Oct, one at Huntington Reservation, *Cuyahoga*, on 31 Oct, several in various other *Lake* locations in Oct, and another one in *Holmes* on 25 Nov.

Barn Swallow:

Aug and Sep provided many triple-digit flocks with the largest count being 367 on Kelleys Island on 15 Aug (Tom Bartlett *et al.*). Two at Deer Creek (Gene Stauffer) were a bit later than usual, but the one at Lorain Harbor on 29 Nov was decidedly a straggler. Su Snyder noted that she "tried real hard to turn it into a Cave Swallow". Several leucistic or albino Barn Swallows were seen in the *Bobolink* area (*vide* Robert Hershberger).

Carolina Chickadee:

For you trivia buffs, this species is the only one of the approximately 15 lower-48 endemics whose

range includes Ohio. They were of course widespread in the southern two-thirds of the state, with 50 being noted in Spring Grove Cemetery, **Hamilton** on 21 Nov (Mark Gilsdorf).

Black-capped Chickadee:

Dwight Chasar *et al.* found 427 during the 18 Sep CVNP census. There were many double-digit counts throughout the northern third of the state.

Tufted Titmouse:

These were found throughout the state and season. Laura Keene counted 40 in Huntington Reservation, **Cuyahoga**, on 24 Oct.

Red-breasted Nuthatch:

The sprinkling of Aug reports from **Ashland**, **Cuyahoga**, **Geauga**, and **Lake** probably represent breeders. One at Crooked Run SNP, **Clermont**, on 26 Aug was unusually far south for that date (Suzanne Clingman). Numbers of reports and individuals built as the season progressed, with the high being 18 found on Kelleys Island on 13 Sep (Tom Bartlett *et al.*).

White-breasted Nuthatch:

Dwight Chasar's census crew found an amazing 111 in CVNP on 18 Sep. The next highest count was also in CVNP, when Hope Orr found 14 in the more limited Boston Store area on 30 Sep.

Brown Creeper:

The first two reports were probably of breeders, in **Mahoning** on 07 Aug (Leslie Warren) and in Mohican SF, **Ashland**, on 27 Aug (Gary Cowell). A high count of 12 was at Pipe Creek on 29 Sep (Ben Warner) and they were found through the end of the season.

Carolina Wren:

The high count was again from the 18 Sep CVNP census; 39 were found (Dwight Chasar *et al.*). Kathi Hutton estimated 24, most of which were calling, in Crooked Run NP, **Clermont**, on 21 Nov.

House Wren:

Ed Pierce's crew found 30 at ONWR on 01 Aug. Other high counts include 16 on the CVNP census of 18 Sep (Dwight Chasar *et al.*) and 10 at Blacklick Woods MP, **Fairfield** (Ben Warner). The latest was on the Ohio Wesleyan campus on 09 Nov (Sean Williams).

Winter Wren:

A few nest in the northeast hemlock ravines and were reported in those areas in Aug, but John Shrader's 04 Sep bird at Metzger Marsh was

the first migrant. They had reached Bass Island, **Hamilton**, by 10 Oct (Kirk Westendorf). Andy R. Troyer found seven near Apple Creek, **Wayne**, on 05 Oct.

Sedge Wren:

Craig Moore found one on 14 Aug at Pickerington Ponds which could have nested there. There were many Sep sightings in Miami White-water. Adam H. Yoder and James E. Yoder made the high count of six on 02 Oct at Funk Bottoms, and Kirk Westendorf reported the last on 29 Oct at Armleder Park, **Hamilton**.

Marsh Wren:

An exploration of Funk Bottoms on 29 Sep yielded at least 30 (Melvin Weaver, David Weaver, and Aaron E. Miller). Renee Tressler saw an adult feeding a new fledgling at Herrick Fen, **Portage**, on 06 Sep. Members of a BRAS field trip noted the last on 21 Oct at Carlisle Reservation, **Lorain**.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:

Caley Reservation, **Lorain**, held 10 on 25 Aug (BRAS). The latest sighting was on 24 Oct at Tanglewood Preserve, **Hamilton** (Steve Pelikan).

Golden-crowned Kinglet:

A few nest in northeastern conifer stands, but the first reported, on 09 Sep at Huntington Reservation, **Cuyahoga**, was probably a migrant (Dan Gesualdo). Jay Stenger found the first at the other end of the state in **Hamilton** on 26 Sep. The 03 Oct ONWR census, which found 96 (Ed Pierce *et al.*), was edged for the high count by the 97 on Kelleys Island on 17 Oct (Tom Bartlett *et al.*).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet:

The first report was from West Woods, **Geauga**, on 06 Sep (eBird user "r.s.") and they had made it to Cincinnati by 14 Sep (Jonathan Frodge). Elliot Tramer counted 80 in ONWR count on 07 Oct. There were only a few Nov reports; Kenn Kaufman made the latest on 23 Nov at Metzger Marsh.

Eastern Bluebird:

These were seen throughout the season and state; we will see what winter holds for them. Dwight Chasar *et al.* counted 74 during the 18 Sep CVNP census and Hope Orr found 47 in the Boston Store area of CVNP on 21 Oct.

Veery:

Of the fifteen counties which had sightings, only **Hamilton** was south of Columbus. The

high count was six, on the 18 Sep CVNP census (Dwight Chasar *et al.*). Most reports were of singles but three parties found two. The latest was one banded at Navarre on 12 Oct (BSBO).

Gray-cheeked Thrush:

BSBO saw the season's first at Navarre on 05 Sep and banded a record 274 between then and 11 Oct. Adam H. Yoder heard 21 overhead before dawn on 25 Sep in *Coshocton* for the highest inland count. The last were at Navarre (BSBO) and Mentor Headlands (Cole DiFabio) on 17 Oct. Most sightings were in the north though *Butler* and *Hamilton* were also represented.

Swainson's Thrush:

Elliot Tramer wrote, "An immense flight must have occurred over [northwest] Ohio in the pre-dawn hours of September 17. As I stood outside my home in Whitehouse at 5:30-5:40 that morning, the sky was continuously 'alive' with their call notes." Adam H. Yoder had a similar experience on 25 Sep in *Coshocton* when he counted 143 individuals calling in passage. The earliest sighting was on 24 Aug in College Hill, *Hamilton* (Steve Pelikan), and the latest was at the Buckeye Quarry, *Allen*, on 31 Oct (Brad Sparks and Andy Sewell).

Hermit Thrush:

Tom Bartlett *et al.* saw the first migrant on 15 Aug on Kelleys Island, far from their restricted northeast Ohio breeding patches. The high count of 12 was at ONWR on 07 Oct (Kenn Kaufman) and also at the Norma Johnson Center, *Tuscarawas*, on 16 Oct (Aden A. Yoder).

Wood Thrush:

Greg Cornett saw the latest of this flute-voiced breeder on 31 Oct at his home in *Delaware*. René and Bill McGill made the high count of eight in Logan, *Hocking*, on 16 Aug.

American Robin:

The annual invasion by Canadian robins was well underway by 14 Oct, when Andy R. Troyer estimated 2200 assembling at an evening roost in *Wayne*. There were some triple-digit counts throughout the state in Sep and the number of them increased through the end of the period.

Gray Catbird:

The highest counts were 35 on 20 Sep at the OWU campus (Sean Williams), 50 at ONWR on 01 Aug (Ed Pierce *et al.*), and 186 in CVNP on 18 Sep (Dwight Chasar *et al.*). The last sightings, on 14 Nov, were widely separated: Five at ONWR (eTT) and one at Fernald (Kirk Westendorf). Often a few stay into Dec.

Northern Mockingbird:

These were found throughout the season. Kathi Hutton noted on 06 Nov that a Felicity, *Clermont*, "family [of three juveniles] doesn't want to disperse". Robert Hershberger counted the high of nine near Mt. Hope, *Holmes*, on 03 Oct.

Brown Thrasher:

The high count of eight was on the 01 Aug ONWR census (Ed Pierce *et al.*). They were sparingly seen through Oct. The only two records in the season's last month were at the Delaware SWA on 07 Nov (Bill Tacon) and in Armleder Park, *Hamilton*, on 28 Nov (Kirk Westendorf).

European Starling:

Many reports were in the thousands. Gary Cowell made the highest estimate, 6000 in Mansfield, *Ashland*, on 11 Sep.

American Pipit:

Mark Vass saw the first at Conneaut on 12 Sep. Perry Hershberger estimated over 200 near Farmerstown, *Holmes*, on 23 Oct. The last reported for the season were 75 near Miami White-water, on 24 Nov (Brian Wulker), though some are usually in the state all winter.

Cedar Waxwing:

Sam Fitton noted dependent young in *Prebler* on 24 Sep. The species was seen in more than 50 counties and many flocks numbered in triple digits. The high counts were on 31 Aug and 01 Sep in *Coshocton*, when Adam H. Yoder and James E. Yoder found more than 1000.

Lapland Longspur:

Aaron E. Miller saw the first four near Apple Creek, *Wayne*, on 27 Sep. There were a few Oct reports before their more numerous Nov appearances. Flocks of 100 to 250 were noted in *Paulding* in late Nov (m.obs.). They were also reported from *Allen*, *Ashtabula*, *Butler*, *Lucas*, and *Tuscarawas*.

Snow Bunting:

The earliest were seen on 23 Oct at the Findlay Reservoir, *Hancock* (Robert Sams) and they had reached East Fork SP by 06 Nov (Bill Stanley). The high count of 200 was noted 27 Nov at Metzger Marsh, *Lucas* (Ken Ostermiller) and there were several counts near 100. They were also reported from 13 other counties.

Blue-winged Warbler:

These were found in 11 counties. The last two were seen 12 Sep in *Hamilton*. Ann Oliver found one in Rapid Run Park, and Susan and

Linda Osterhage saw the other in Shawnee Lookout. Usually a few linger into early Oct.

Golden-winged Warbler:

Four were reported, from The Wilderness Center, **Stark**, on 21 Aug (*fide* Su Snyder); Farbach Warner NP, **Butler**, on 04 Sep (Albert Scruggs and Julie Morris); Magee Marsh on 08 Sep (Jim Witter); and the OWU campus, **Delaware** on 13 Sep (Sean Williams).

[Blue-winged x Golden-winged ("Brewster's") Warbler]:

Edward H. Yoder sighted one near Baltic, **Tuscarawas**, on 27 Aug.

Tennessee Warbler:

The first was seen 17 Aug in **Coshocton** (Adam H. Yoder) and the last on 30 Oct at a **Hamilton** home (John Marvin). James F. Yoder found the high count of 22 near Saltillo, **Holmes**, on 04 Sep.

Orange-crowned Warbler:

Most of the reports were from Columbus north, though the first of the season was found in Zaleski SE, **Vinton**, on 02 Sep (Bruce Simpson). The highest single-day count was near Apple Creek, **Wayne**, on 05 Oct. Aaron E. Miller found four that day and six others as well during the season. There were several reports of twos in Oct and Nancy Anderson saw the last individual on 31 Oct at Geneva SP, **Ashtabula**.

Nashville Warbler:

Rueben Miller found the first on 21 Aug near Mt. Eaton, **Wayne**. BSBO banded a record 66 at Navarre between 28 Aug and 13 Oct. The most for a day, 13, were at Villa Angela SP, **Cuyahoga**, on 18 Sep (Nancy Anderson) and the last were found at Mill Creek on 17 Oct (Bill Jones).

Northern Parula:

This species nests in Ohio, mostly in the south, so Bruce Miller's 02 Aug sighting in **Franklin** could have been either a resident or an early migrant. The high count was only four, at Magee Marsh on 23 Sep (Chris Decker). Sean Williams found the last on the OWU campus on 05 Oct.

Yellow Warbler:

Given that this is one of our two or three most numerous and widespread nesting warblers, finding 33 on 01 Aug in ONWR was not a surprise (Ed Pierce *et al.*). Almost all of them had left the state before the end of Oct, but Gabe Leidy found one at Conneaut on 06 Nov and that individual was seen intermittently until 14 Nov (Robert and Denise Lane).

Chestnut-sided Warbler:

Some nest in Ohio but the 05 Aug bird at Magee Marsh was almost surely a migrant (Charles Crawford). Ben Warner found the high count of 12 in Blacklick Woods MP, **Fairfield**, on 27 Aug. Kirk Westendorf reported the last two on 09 Oct at Armleder Park, **Hamilton**.

Magnolia Warbler:

Leslie Houser made the first report, from Germantown MP, **Montgomery**, on 07 Aug. There were many Sep reports including the high estimate of at least 25 at Villa Angela SP, **Cuyahoga**, on 04 Sep (Nancy Anderson). Bob Beason found the last on 17 Oct at Sheldon's Marsh, **Erie**.

Cape May Warbler:

One at Walnut Creek, **Holmes**, on 26 Aug was a bit later than usual for the first migrant (Ed Schlabach). Perhaps their whole movement was shifted, because the last seen was also late, an adult female in **Franklin** on 02 Nov (Bernie Master). The high count was 22, during the 18 Sep CVNP census (Dwight Chasar *et al.*).

Black-throated Blue Warbler:

Bob Finkelstein saw the first on 22 Aug at Lower Shaker Lake, **Cuyahoga**. Irene Krise saw the most, eight in Huntington Reservation, **Cuyahoga**, on 11 Sep. The last was again a straggler, a female in **Franklin** on 04 Nov (Dave Slager).

Yellow-rumped Warbler:

Inga Schmidt found the first in Chagrin Falls, **Geauga**, on 22 Aug and they were present in many locations into (and probably through) winter. Several counts of 100 or more were obtained in Sep and Oct with the highest being an estimated 500 at Mentor Headlands on 10 Oct (Claire Britton).

Black-throated Green Warbler:

This is a fairly common breeder in some parts of the state, but not in **Adams** where Ned Keller and Kathy McDonald found one on 22 Aug. They were seen in the state until 16 Oct, with that date shared by Mudhen Marsh, **Delaware**, and Bass Island, **Hamilton** (Charles Bombaci and Kirk Westendorf, respectively). The only double-digit counts were 10 at Blacklick Woods MP, **Fairfield**, on 11 Sep (Ben Warner), and 12 during the 18 Sep CVNP census (Dwight Chasar *et al.*).

Blackburnian Warbler:

The first sightings of this crowd-pleaser were

on 18 Aug, at Sandy Ridge (Dan Gesualdo and Lynn Gesualdo) and New Bedford, *Coshocton* (James E. Yoder). New Bedford also yielded the high count of nine on 27 Aug (Adam H. Yoder). The last were at Three Creeks MP, *Franklin* (Rob Thorn) and Armleder Park, *Hamilton* (Kirk Westendorf), both on 09 Oct.

Yellow-throated Warbler:

The 06 Aug sightings at Englewood Preserve, *Montgomery* (Rick Asamoto), and Fernald (John Marvin), were well within the species' breeding zone. There were few reports from north of Columbus with the last of the "regular" migrants being seen 23 Sep on the *Holmes/Wayne* Rails-to-Trails (Bruce Glick). The last of the migrants were found 10 Oct in *Hamilton*, at Avoca Park (Kirk Westendorf) and Fernald (Jay Stenger). However, *vide* Robert Hershberger, "The individual that overwintered [near Fredricksburg, *Wayne*] last year returned this year on 11/29 [David Kline] for a remarkable record."

Pine Warbler:

Many who viewed the Mississippi Kites at Hideaway Hills, *Hocking*, on 21 Aug also saw these warblers, which probably nested there; this was the earliest record of the season. Lavon Yoder provided the latest at Bakersfield, *Tuscarawas*, on 19 Nov. Three were reported in Wayne NF, *Lawrence* on 06 Sep (Paul Dresher), and at Magee Marsh on 18 Sep (Patti Smith).

Kirtland's Warbler:

Rick Nirschl found one in Spencer Township, *Lucas*, on 19 Sep. Another was reported at Magee Marsh on 10 Sep.

Prairie Warbler:

All four reports are described. Art Mayer found one in Hueston Woods on 31 Aug and Russell Taylor found one at the Miami Whitewater wetlands on 12 Sep. Bruce Simpson had one on both his 02 and 22 Sep trips to Zaleski SF, *Vinton*.

Palm Warbler:

Robert Hershberger found an early bird near Mt. Hope, *Holmes*, on 03 Sep. Aaron E. Miller made the high count of 15 on 06 Oct near Apple Creek, *Wayne*. Palms were fairly widely reported until 17 Oct, when they were seen in at least four counties, but the last report was not until 08 Nov from Armleder Park, *Hamilton* (Paul Krusling).

Bay-breasted Warbler:

The first was on time but far south in *Adams* on

22 Aug (Ned Keller and Kathy McDonald). Ben Warner found 12 in Blacklick Woods MP, *Fairfield*, on 11 Sep and Gary Cowell saw the last on 11 Oct in the Home Road Marsh, *Richland*.

Blackpoll Warbler:

Rob Thorn noted that the first, which he saw in Gahanna, *Franklin*, on 06 Aug, was early. They left on time, with John Marvin making the last sightings on 31 Oct at Fernald. The birds seemed to come in bunches – there were several double-digit reports and the high counts were 50 at Magee Marsh on 18 Sep (John Shrader) and 81 banded at Navarre on 22 Sep (BSBO). The latter was part of a record 1017 for the season.

Cerulean Warbler:

Six positive identifications were reported between 24 Aug and 03 Sep; they were seen in *Coshocton* (Adam H. Yoder, Jacob M. Hostetler), *Holmes* (Ed Schlabach), *Stark* (Su Snyder), and *Vinton* (Bruce Simpson). Barb Schwallie noted "...what I believe was a female Cerulean..." at Shawnee Lookout on 24 Aug.

Black-and-white Warbler:

Joshua Eastlake noted the earliest in Burnett Woods, *Hamilton*, on 02 Aug. The high count of five was shared by the OWU campus on 05 Sep (Sean Williams) and Magee Marsh on 18 Sep (John Shrader). Linda Kurth chased the last, a wayward juvenile, out of her garage in *Lucas* on 12 Oct.

American Redstart:

This is one of Yellow Warbler's rivals for the "most-widespread and numerous Ohio warbler" prize, and they were seen in about 40 counties. Irene Krise made the high count of 25 on 19 Sep in Elmwood Park, *Cuyahoga*. Rob Thorn reported the last on 09 Oct in Three Creeks MP, *Franklin*.

Prothonotary Warbler:

These much-sought beauties appeared in 11 counties. Ed Pierce *et al.* found the most, four in ONWR on 01 Aug. Darrin Petko saw the last along the Towpath North, *Stark*, on 14 Sep; this is about two weeks later than usual.

Worm-eating Warbler:

Ryan Steiner found two on 20 Aug in Mohican SP, *Ashland*. On 02 Sep Bruce Simpson found a singing male in Zaleski SF, *Vinton*, and a silent individual in Clear Creek MP, *Hocking*. These were the only reports.

Ovenbird:

Though they are widespread nesting species, the

first migrant of the season was not noted until 24 Aug, when there was one near Apple Creek, *Wayne* (Aaron E. Miller). Melvin and David Weaver saw the next to last near Trail village, *Holmes*, on 28 Oct. The last was very much a straggler at Magee Marsh on 28 Nov (Mark Rozmarynowycz).

Northern Waterthrush:

Gabe Leidy and Emil Bacik found the first at Pipe Creek on 07 Aug; the next report was not until nearly the end of that month. All of the reports were of single birds and the last was on 14 Oct at Navarre (BSBO).

Louisiana Waterthrush:

Bruce Glick had one near home in Millersburg on 05 Aug. Bill Stanley found three: two along Bootjack Road on 08 Aug and one in East Fork SP on 14 Aug. Both of his locations are in *Clermont*.

Kentucky Warbler:

Bill Stanley found the first two at East Fork SP on 14 Aug and Eli Hershberger the last on 03 Oct near Farmerstown, *Holmes*. Between those dates three were seen in *Bulter* and one in each of *Coshocton*, *Holmes*, and *Vinton*.

Connecticut Warbler:

BSBO banders found the first at Navarre on 28 Aug. Craig Moore saw the last at Blendon Woods on 09 Oct. They were recorded in *Coshocton* (two locations), *Cuyahoga*, *Holmes*, *Lake*, *Lorain* (two locations), *Tuscarawas*, and *Vinton* between those dates.

Mourning Warbler:

These were seen in 16 counties from 08 Aug at Beatty Landing, *Lake* (Rebecca Thompson and Jim McConnor), to 13 Oct south of Mt. Hope, *Holmes* (Paul Hershberger).

Common Yellowthroat:

This widespread nester and migrant was last seen 22 Nov, in the United American Cemetery, *Hamilton* (Kirk Westendorf), though sometimes a few are in the state through the winter. Dwight Chasar *et al.* counted 81 during the 18 Sep CVNP census and there were several other records in double digits.

Hooded Warbler:

Another nester, this species was recorded only until 07 Oct, in *Coshocton* (David H. Yoder). The high count of 26 was found during the CVNP census on 18 Sep (Dwight Chasar *et al.*).

Wilson's Warbler:

The first was at Navarre on 24 Aug (BSBO). Nancy Anderson found at least 20 on 11 Sep at Villa Angela SP, *Cuyahoga*. Another notable day in *Cuyahoga* was 19 Sep, when Caleb Gordon counted 10 at Cleveland harbor and Jen Brumfield found 12 at Elmwood Park. Doug Overacker and James E. Yoder saw the last stragglers in *Clark* and *Holmes* respectively.

Canada Warbler:

The first, seen 16 Aug at Sandy Ridge, *Lorain* (BRAS), was probably a migrant because that site is rather far from the eastern hemlock gorges which it favors for nesting. All but two of the approximately 25 sightings were of single birds, with the last being on 09 Oct at the Delaware SWA, *Delaware* (Charles Bombaci).

Yellow-breasted Chat:

Jacob M. Hostedler found one in *Coshocton* on 28 Sep. His was the only report from north of Columbus and also the latest. The sightings in the other six locations were in a fairly small time window. Kirk Westendorf saw one or two during most of Aug in Armleder Park, *Hamilton*. Rob Thorn noted that two remained from summer until at least 20 Aug at Pickerington Ponds. Shawnee Lookout had one on 22 Aug (Albert Scruggs and Julie Morris); so did Blendon Woods on 30 Aug (Ben Warner). The last were in Zaleski SE, *Vinton*, on 02 Sep (Bruce Simpson) and Hueston Woods on 07 Sep (Mark Artmeyer).

Eastern Towhee:

These were reported in over half of our counties and throughout the period. The high count was 37 in CVNP on 18 Sep (Dwight Chasar *et al.*) and the runner-up was 15 in Buck Creek on 02 Oct (Doug Overacker).

American Tree Sparrow:

Isaac Miller saw the first of these winter visitors on 01 Oct at Alum Creek SP, *Delaware*. Charles Bombaci found at least 200 at Killdeer Plains on 15 Nov.

Chipping Sparrow:

These were seen all season, though sightings were sparse after the first week of Nov. About sixty were found on each of 18 Sep in CVNP (Dwight Chasar *et al.*); 25 Sep in Highland Park Cemetery, *Cuyahoga* (Inga Schmidt); and 03 Oct near Sugar Creek, *Tuscarawas* (Leroy A. Schlabach).

Clay-colored Sparrow:

One male Clay-colored and a female Chipping

Sparrow raised two hybrid broods in Terry and Barb Sponseller's Canton yard. They saw the Clay-colored feeding the single youngster on 05 Aug and last saw any of them on 22 Aug. David H. Yoder and Adam H. Yoder winkled one migrant from a flock of Chipping Sparrows near New Bedford, *Coshocton*, on 02 Sep. Victor Fazio III made the only other sighting of the season on 13 Sep in Shaker Heights, *Cuyahoga*.

Field Sparrow:

This species was widespread throughout the period. (It was found in over 40 counties.) Sean Williams made the high count of 40 on the OWU campus on 23 Oct.

Vesper Sparrow:

Up to five were found in the Margaret Peak NP, *Lorain*, through 20 Sep (BRAS) and that high count was matched 31 Oct at the Lorain impoundment (Mark Rozmarynowycz). Two in Miami Whitewater on 08 Oct were the only ones reported from south of mid-state (Paul Krusling). Bob and Denise Lane reported the last from Mentor Headlands on 14 Nov.

Lark Sparrow:

Though most of Ohio's few breeders nest in the Oak Openings, OBBA II plots also show scattered sites from Cincinnati northeast past Columbus. The Ohio Wesleyan visitor on 09 Aug (Sean Williams) could have been a local, while the one in Oak Openings on 16 Oct (Joanne Hubinger) hung around much later than usual.

Savannah Sparrow:

These were reported in only 20 counties but were present in the state for the whole season. Richard Counts found 125 in the *Hardin* wetlands on 02 Oct.

Grasshopper Sparrow:

These little skulkers were reported in 11 counties spread from *Lake* to *Hamilton*, with a high count of 12 from Fernald in the latter (John Marvin). James F. Yoder saw the last on 17 Oct near Walnut Creek, *Holmes*.

Henslow's Sparrow:

This much-sought species was reported from three sites. They were regular in VOA Park, *Butler*, with a high count of six on 05 Aug (Lauren Kane). Gary Moon found one at Hoover Meadows, *Delaware*, on 27 Sep. There were also reports from the Coliseum Grasslands area of CVNP on 30 Sep (Dan Gesualdo) and 03 Oct (m.obs.).

Le Conte's Sparrow:

Jen Brumfield found the first on 27 Sep, at the CVNP Coliseum Grasslands. They were regular along the Wake Robin Trail in Mentor Marsh, *Lake*, from 09 to 23 Oct (m.obs.). That late date was shared by the OWU campus (Sean Williams). Two were found at Funk Bottoms on 16 Oct (m.obs.). There were also single reports from *Lucas* and *Tuscarawas*.

Nelson's Sparrow:

Sean Williams found the earliest on the OWU campus on 19 Sep and they shared the Wake Robin Trail with Le Conte's Sparrows from 02 to 18 Oct (m.obs.). There were several reports of up to four in "Snipe Marsh", *Delaware*, for a few days starting 22 Sep. *Lucas*, *Pickaway*, *Seneca*, *Tuscarawas*, *Warren*, and *Wayne* also provided sightings.

Fox Sparrow:

Our largest common sparrow first appeared on 25 Sep at Dike 14, *Cuyahoga* (Patience Hoskins). They were seen through the end of the period, with a high count of 68 at CPNWR on 02 Nov (Elliot Tramer).

Song Sparrow:

This adaptable sparrow was reported from 60 counties. Hallie Mason watched parents feed a late youngster in *Tuscarawas* on 18 Sep. There were many counts in double digits; a "sparrow walk" near Sugar Creek, *Tuscarawas*, on 05 Oct found 155 (Ed Schlabach) and Dave Slager estimated 100 at the Lorain impoundment on 31 Oct.

Lincoln's Sparrow:

Sean Williams found the first, on the OWU campus on 05 Sep. Migration was well under way by the middle of the month. The largest of the few double-digit counts was of 33 on Ed Schlabach's 05 Oct "sparrow walk" in *Tuscarawas*. Paul Krusling reported the last two at Armlerder Park, *Hamilton*, on 08 Nov.

Swamp Sparrow:

These were found throughout the state and period with a high count of 100 at Funk Bottoms on 02 Oct (Adam H. Yoder).

White-throated Sparrow:

In character with the species' broad-front migration, the first sightings, on 10 Sep, were at Navarre (BSBO) and Huntington Reservation, *Cuyahoga* (Dan Gesualdo). They reached *Clermont* by 26 Sep (Bill Stanley). Dave Slager made the high count of 250 on 31 Oct at the

Lorain impoundment, but Carole Babyak noted “hundreds” in a logged area near Niles, *Trumbull*, on 13 Oct.

White-crowned Sparrow:

The earliest sightings were on 20 Sep, in the Ira Road area of CVNP (Tom and Mary Anne Romito) and in a Stark yard (Pat Soehnen). They were followed quickly by more along the northern border counties. They were in *Hamilton* by 02 Oct (Ned Keller). The largest concentration was estimated at 75, in ONWR on 09 Oct (Chris Pierce).

Golden-crowned Sparrow:

The individual which Tom Bartlett banded at a *Hancock* residence on 16 Apr 2009, and which was present for the winter of 2009-2010, returned again to be seen 20 Nov (m.obs.).

Dark-eyed Junco:

The earliest, seen 01 Aug in Kirtland, *Lake* (anonymous eBird contributor) and 17 Aug in the Chagrin River valley, *Geauga* (Inga Schmidt) had probably nested near those sites. James E. Yoder saw the first definite migrant near New Bedford, *Coshocton*, on 19 Sep. Dave and Emily Slager found about 100 in Greenlawn Cemetery, *Franklin*, on 21 Nov.

Summer Tanager:

As expected, the bulk of the reports were from the southern third of the state, where this species commonly nests. One did summer near Millersburg, *Holmes*, and was last seen 05 Aug (James Hershberger). One seen frequently from 24 Aug to 29 Sep at Blendon Woods was towards the northern edge of the contiguous breeding zone. One summered well north of that zone at the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes, *Cuyahoga*, and was last seen 07 Sep (m.obs.). Steve Pelikan saw the last in Tanglewood Preserve, *Butler*, on 09 Oct.

Scarlet Tanager:

These were fairly widely reported, with a high count of 13 in northeast *Coshocton* on 12 Sep (Adam H. Yoder). Oddly, the last was seen in the far north, on 24 Oct at Beatty Landing, *Lake* (Cole DiFabio and Rebecca Thompson).

Northern Cardinal:

Many field trips found 30 or more, and the 18 Sep CVNP census counted 183 (Dwight Chasar *et al.*).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak:

The high count of 14 was shared by the CVNP census on 18 Sep (Dwight Chasar *et al.*) and

Bill Yeck Park, *Montgomery*, on 25 Sep (John Shrader). Darrin Petko found the latest on 03 Nov on the Towpath North, *Stark*. They were reported from only 25 counties, fewer than the editor expected given that they breed almost statewide.

Blue Grosbeak:

This is primarily a southern nester but for a scattering of sites north to about US 30 and the disjunct population in *Lucas*. The high count of three occurred twice, on 14 Aug at Fernald (Kirk Westendorf) and in *Wayne* on 04 Sep (James E. Yoder). Jay Stenger saw the season's last on 10 Oct at Fernald.

Indigo Bunting:

Several double-digit concentrations were reported, with the most, 33, being found 01 Aug during the ONWR census (Ed Pierce *et al.*). Two weeks went by between the second last sighting, on 17 Oct on Kelleys Island (Tom Bartlett *et al.*), and the last on 31 Oct by Regina Schieltz on her *Darke* farm.

Dickcissel:

These were reported from 10 locations. John Marvin's count of 20 at Fernald on 01 Aug was notable. Several areas had three birds. The only reports after Aug were of one at a feeder on Kelleys Island on 13 Sep (Pat Hayes), one heard overhead in the pre-dawn of 25 Oct in *Coshocton* (Adam H. Yoder), and one photographed at a residence near CVNP on 26 and 28 Nov, which is a month after their usual departure (*vide* Dwight Chasar).

Bobolink:

Reports came from 15 counties, with only *Butler* and *Hamilton* being south of Columbus. Robert Schlabach provided the high count of 60 near Sugar Creek, *Tuscarawas*, on 13 Sep. James E. Yoder saw the last two on 16 Oct at Funk Bottoms.

Red-winged Blackbird:

There were many reports of 1000 or more, with an estimate of 5000 at Funk Bottoms on 07 Nov being the highest (Ken Ostermiller).

Eastern Meadowlark:

These were seen throughout the period in, of course, the grassier parts of the state. Leroy A. Schlabach had the high count, 27, west of Walnut Creek, *Holmes*, on 25 Aug.

Yellow-headed Blackbird:

Ed Pierce *et al.* found one during the 05 Sep ONWR census.

Rusty Blackbird:

Tim Krynak noted the first on 18 Sep in Mayfield, *Cuyahoga* and there were a few other reports in that month. There were many double-digit counts, a few in triple digits, and one estimate of about 1000 over ONWR in early Nov (Elliot Tramer).

Brewer's Blackbird:

Aaron E. Miller saw and heard a female near Kidron, *Wayne*, on 22 Oct. Eric Mullholand found "a small group" at Killdeer Plains on 26 Nov.

Common Grackle:

Migratory flocks of several thousand were noted in many locations. Elliot Tramer estimated 14,500 flew over him at Oak Openings in a 15 minute period on 25 Sep.

Brown-headed Cowbird:

These were found throughout the period. A flock of about 2500 on 24 Nov near Fernald was the largest reported (Brian Wulker).

Orchard Oriole:

This species was reported in nine counties. Two were seen at each of Fernald on 14 Aug (Kirk Westendorf), Margaret Peak NP, *Lorain*, on 14 Aug (BRAS), and on 15 Aug on Kelleys Island (Tom Bartlett *et al.*). Joe Kappa and Jay Stenger reported the latest from Shawnee Lookout on 11 Sep.

Baltimore Oriole:

The 15 Aug Kelleys Island census provided the high count of 37 (Tom Bartlett *et al.*). The second to last report, on 22 Sep from Zaleski SF (Bruce Simpson) preceded the last by almost three weeks. Terry Bronson found that straggler in Huron, *Erie*, on 07 Oct.

Purple Finch:

Though these nest in the far northeast and the Mohican area, the earliest sighted was probably a migrant; it was on the OWU campus on 15 Aug (Sean Williams). Adam H. Yoder observed 51 flybys in *Coshocton* during Oct and Nov with the high count of 21 on 31 Oct.

House Finch:

This common feeder bird is not confined to urban and suburban habitats despite its name. Dwight Chasar *et al.* obtained the high count of 50 during the 18 Sep CVNP census.

Red Crossbill:

There were two sightings, both of eight, and

both in *Lucas*. Elliot Tramer saw them pass overhead in Whitehouse on 21 Nov and Greg Links found his in Cullen Park trees on 29 Nov.

White-winged Crossbill:

Usually these are more numerous than Red Crossbills, but there were only four reports, all of singles. The *Bobolink*-area Rare Bird Alert noted one on 04 Nov but without a location. One was in Millersburg, *Holmes*, on 05 Nov (*vide* Sean Williams), one joined Pine Siskins at a *Richland* feeder on 12 and 13 Nov (Albert L. Troyer), and one made a brief visit to John Pogacnik's feeder in *Lake* on 14 Nov.

Common Redpoll:

John Pogacnik saw six in Geneva SP, *Lake*, on 30 Oct and three at his *Lake* feeder on 13 Nov. Robert Sams saw three in Van Buren SP, *Hancock*, on 07 Nov and one was "the best bird of the season" at Emery A. Yoder's *Holmes* feeder on 23 Nov.

Pine Siskin:

This species was surprisingly widespread, being reported from about 20 counties all the way to *Clermont* and *Hamilton*. The first was in *Lucas* on 19 Sep (Doug Overacker) and the high count of 25 was at Villa Angela SP, *Cuyahoga*, on 10 Oct (Tim and Laura Dornan). There were several other double-digit counts.

American Goldfinch:

Many double-digit flocks were reported. Dwight Chasar's crew counted the high of 311 during the 18 Sep CVNP census.

Evening Grosbeak:

This uncommon visitor was seen five times. The Wallace Dowd SWA, *Hocking*, had three on 17 Sep (Lynda Andrews); one was briefly at a South Russell, *Geauga*, feeder on 01 Nov (Sue and Paul Kiplinger); single flybys were noted at two *Holmes* locations on 06 Nov (Levi A. Yoder and an unrecorded reporter); and two flew over a group of birders near Conneaut on 13 Nov (Adam H. Yoder, James E. Yoder).

House Sparrow:

"Only" 65 counties were represented, probably because many of us try to ignore this aggressive interloper.

CONTRIBUTORS

The Species Accounts could not be written without the data provided by these contributors either directly to the Editors or by posting to an on-line venue. We thank you.

Dane Adams	Elizabeth Delphia	Kathi Hutton
Scott Albaugh	Leo Deininger	Denise Iams
Jon Allen	Cole DiFabio	Shari Jackson
Nancy Anderson	Laura Dornan	Scott Jennex
Lynda Andrews	Tim Dornan	Patrick Johnson
Gautam Apte	Doug Dunakin	Andy Jones
Samir Apte	Micki Dunakin	Bill Jones
Mark Artmeyer	Dave Dvorak	Lauren Kane
Rick Asamoto	Rebecca Elephante	Joe Kappa
Carole Babyak	David L. Erb	Kenn Kaufman
Emil Bacik	Victor Fazio III	Laura Keene
Tom Bain	Ty Ficker	Ned Keller
Carl Ball	Bob Finkelstein	Paul Kiplinger
Tom Bartlett	Sam Fitton	Sue Kiplinger
Erich Baumgartner	Anders Fjeldstad	Ethan Kistler
Bob Beason	Beth Fonville	David Kline
Gregory Bennett	Robert Foppe	Claire Kluskens
Roger Beuk	James Fox	Dan Kramer
Black River Audubon Society (BRAS)	Janathan Frodge	Irene Kris
Black Swamp Bird Observatory (BSBO)	Jim Fry	Paul Krusling
Charles Bombaci	Larry Gara	Norma Krusling
Terry Bronson	Dan Gesualdo	Tim Krynak
Tracy Brewer	Lynn Gesualdo	John Kuenzli
Hannah Brewster	Mark Gilsdorf	Jan Landry
David Brinkman	Stefan Gleissberg	Bob Lane
Ben Britton	Bruce Glick	Denise Lane
Claire Britton	Ray Goerler	Steve LaRue
Terry Bronson	Caleb Gordon	Gabe Leidy
Mike Busam	Howard Gratz	Bruce Leonhart
Susan Butcher	John Habig	Greg Links
Craig Caldwell	David Hadeen	Paula Lozano
Cincinnati Bird Club	Stanley Hadeen	Doreen Linzell
Robb Clifford	Laurens Halsey	Ronnie Macko
Gary Cowell	Curt Harler	John Marvin
Annie Crary	Wes Hatch	Hallie Mason
Margaret Bowman	Pat Hayes	Bernie Master
Jennifer Brumfield	Peter Hellman	Art Mayer
Dwight Chasar	John Herman	Danielle McCament
Hans Clebsh	Eli Hershberger	Christine McCandliss
Suzanne Clingman	James Hershberger	Jim McConnor
Greg Cornett	Michael Hershberger	Kathy McDonald
Richard Counts	Perry Hershberger	Bill McGill
Gary Cowell, Jr.	Robert Hershberger	René McGill
Charles Crawford	Craig Holt	Bob McNulty
Julie Davis	Patience Hoskins	Elaine McNulty
Ken Davis	Gabe Hostetler	Elizabeth McQuaid
Todd Deal	Jacob M. Hostetler	Aaron Milenski
Chris Decker	Leslie Houser	Aaron S. Miller
	Nancy Howell	Alvin E. Miller
	Joanne Hubinger	Bruce Miller

Isaac Miller	Mark Shieldcastle
Leon Miller	Megan Shoemaker
Wayne E. Miller	John Shrader
Kathy Mock	Matt Shumar
Gary Moon	Bruce Simpson
Craig Moore	Dave Slager
John Moore	Emily Slager
Julie Moore	Thomas Slemmer
Donald Morse, Jr.	Patti Smith
Ben Morrison	Robin Smith
Eric Mullholand	Su Snyder
Diane Myers	Pat Soehnen
Rick Nirschl	Brad Sparks
Ann Oliver	Barb Sponseller
Hope Orr	Terry Sponseller
Linda Osterhage	Bill Stanley
Susan Osterhage	Gene Stauffer
Ken Ostermiller	Ryan Steiner
Ottawa NWR eTT (eBird data entry station)	Jay Stenger
Doug Overacker	Bill Tacon
Karl Overman	Russell Taylor
Barb Parkington	Rebecca Thompson
Steve Pelikan	Rob Thorn
Darrin Petko	Sylvia Townsend
Lester Peyton	Elliot Tramer
Ralph Phingsten	Renee Tressler
Chris Pierce	Albert L. Troyer
Ed Pierce	Andy R. Troyer
Milly Piros	Levi Troyer
Bob Scott Placier	Mark Vass
John Pogacnik	Ben Warner
Bob Powell	Leslie Warren
Eric Reiner	David Weaver
Mike Resch	Melvin Weaver
Larry Richardson	Sean Williams
Paul Rodewald	Kelly Williams-Sieg
Mary Anne Romito	Clyde Witt
Tom Romito	Jim Witter
Robert Royse	Dave Woehr
Mark Rozmarynowycz	Brian Wulker
Robert Sams	Adam H. Yoder
Dan Sanders	Aden A. Yoder
Charlie Saunders	Edward H. Yoder
Regina Schieltz	Emery A. Yoder
Ed Schlabach	James E. Yoder
Leroy A. Schlabach	James F. Yoder
Robert Schlabach	Lavon Yoder
Bob Schlake	Levi A. Yoder
Inga Schmidt	Mark C. Yoder
Barb Schwallie	
Albert Scruggs	
Andy Sewell	

NEW RESEARCH

CHANGES IN THE SUGARCREEK METROPARK BIRD COMMUNITY BETWEEN 1978 AND 2010

Thomas P. Rooney¹, Jeffrey L. Peters, and Jennifer L. Hays
Department of Biological Sciences
Wright State University
3640 Colonel Glenn Hwy.
Dayton, OH 45435

¹Correspondence author: thomas.rooney@wright.edu

ABSTRACT

Baseline bird surveys provide an anchor for contemporary observations. The rate and magnitude of changes observed are more accurately judged as our temporal perspective broadens. Here we conduct an avifauna survey of Sugar-creek Metropark in 2010, matching an identical survey conducted in 1978. We examined changes in avifauna species richness and composition and compared local changes to statewide trends. Species richness declined 19%. This decline was most pronounced for migratory species, which declined 28%. Only three species ranked among the ten most abundant species in both time periods. These results demonstrate a major turnover in the avian community. Local trends for individual species mostly mirrored statewide trends. Historic surveys provide a useful baseline for contemporary observations, and re-surveys allow us to develop a more complete understanding of how our avifauna is changing.

INTRODUCTION

Since 1966, the North American Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) has generated a wealth of data highlighting both continental and regional bird population trends, which in turn stimulated research into the consequences and mechanisms of habitat fragmentation (Robbins et al. 1989; Askins 1993). However, the utility of BBS data is limited for natural areas managers, because the spatial resolution of the BBS is too coarse (Hutto and Young 2002). Park-specific bird surveys are of more use to managers, but budget constraints often prevent continuous monitoring efforts. In addition, the absence of historical baseline surveys pose a challenge, because the more restricted our temporal perspective, the more likely we are to misjudge the rate and magnitude of change (Magnuson 1990). Historic baselines provide an anchor for contemporary observations.

Several researchers have repeated historical surveys to evaluate local avifauna changes

through time (Ambuel and Temple 1982; Hall 1984; Horn 1985; Wilcove 1988). Because repeating historical surveys cover only two (or sometimes more) points in time, researchers cannot always disentangle short-term variability from meaningful change. However, repeating historical surveys remains a valid way to assess change at a particular locale between two points in time, and it can be a useful supplemental source of data for regional or national monitoring efforts conducted at coarser spatial scales.

In this study, we repeat an historical survey to examine changes in the bird community at Sugarcreek Metropark between 1978 and 2010. Part of the Five Rivers Metropark system, Sugar-creek Metropark (39.62° N, -84.10°W) is located in Greene County in southwestern Ohio, 24 km SE of Dayton. The Five Rivers GIS system indicates that vegetation in the 237 hectare (585 acre) park consists mostly of broadleaf deciduous forest (89%) and grassland (6%) with lesser amounts of controlled succession, conifer forest, and developed areas (Hays 2011). One major change in vegetation occurred between the sampling periods. In the late 1970s, Amur honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*) established and spread throughout the park, forming a dense shrub layer. Field surveys conducted by park staff reveal that over half of the forest contains > 40% coverage by Amur honeysuckle (Hays 2011).

This study had three objectives: 1) Identify changes in the richness and abundance of resident and migrant species at Sugarcreek, 2) Identify changes in the abundance of the ten most common species during each time period, and 3) Compare changes at Sugarcreek Metropark to statewide trends during the same time period. Our goal was to provide a picture of how the bird community at Sugarcreek changed between 1978 and 2010.

METHODS

In 1978, Noss (1981) surveyed the birds of

Sugarcreek to determine species richness, composition, and relative abundance during the breeding and postbreeding season. From 31 May to 9 August, Noss conducted 33 breeding bird surveys, beginning a half hour before sunrise and continuing for three hours. Surveys were conducted during mornings of fair weather conditions. Using both an auditory and visual fixed-strip technique with a 40-m width (Emlen 1971), Noss walked the existing trails, with frequent stops to look and listen for birds. The number and identity of all birds seen, heard, or flying over the strip was recorded. Different trail routes were walked on different days to provide a stratified sample each week. The identity and number of each species recorded is provided in Noss (1981).

We repeated this study in 2010, conducting 33 surveys from 31 May to 8 August. We consulted with Noss, making sure that we correctly replicated his methods and effort in our protocol. We tallied the identity and number of each species encountered in each survey.

We used rarefaction analysis to compare species richness between 1978 and 2010. Rarefaction is a desirable statistical approach when there is an unequal number of individuals present in different samples, because it provides an expected species richness for a sample consisting of fewer individuals (Gotelli and Colwell 2001). For 1978 and 2010, we generated a rarefaction curve using Analytic Rarefaction 2.0 (Hunt Mountain Software 2009). This software also allowed us to obtain 95% confidence intervals for each species richness estimate, following Heck et al. (1975). Therefore we could determine, for a given number of birds, whether species richness significantly differed between the 1978 and 2010 samples. We also partitioned data into resident and migratory species. Resident species are those that are present throughout the year. This category is broad, in that it includes species like Blue Jay that have both resident and migratory populations (Tarvin and Woolfenden 1999). These populations in summer and winter could be made up of different individuals, but we classify the species as resident. It also includes Carolina Wren, a species undergoing a range expansion (Haggerty and Morton 1995). It was absent in 1978, but a permanent resident by 2010. Migratory species are those that are not present throughout the year, and includes both short- and long-distance migrants. We computed separate rarefaction curves for resident and migratory species in both 1978 and 2010. Species maintained the same designation during both sample periods.

To determine if there were any changes in the abundance of the most common birds between the sampling periods, we determined the ten most abundant species in 1978, and the ten most common in 2010. Because three species were common to both periods, we analyzed data for 17 species. For each species, we tested the null hypothesis that the proportion of individuals present did not change between sampling periods. We tested this hypothesis using a 2 x 2 contingency table, and evaluated statistical significance using a chi-square test. To obtain expected frequencies, we computed the average relative abundance of a given species using the combined 1978 and 2010 survey data. We multiplied this value by the total number of individuals present in 1978 to obtain an expected abundance in 1978, and by the total number of individuals present in 2010 to obtain an expected abundance in 2010. Because we conducted 17 chi-square tests, we applied a Bonferroni correction for multiple comparisons to our P-values. As a result, we required a threshold of $P < 0.0029$ ($0.05/17$) for a result to be considered statistically significant.

To compare population trends of individual species at Sugarcreek to statewide trends in Ohio, we calculated annualized growth or decline rates for each species as:

$$S(x) = (\ln(Ix2010) / (Ix1978)) / 32$$

where $S(x)$ is the annualized change in species x , and I_x is the number of individuals for that species. These annualized percent changes were compared to the statewide data for Ohio (BBS 2011), using data from 1978 and 2010 to compute the same annualized change. We confined this analysis to species with ten or more individuals observed for each year at Sugarcreek ($n = 31$). To determine if there was a significant relationship between local and statewide trends in growth or decline rates, we used a Spearman rank correlation.

RESULTS

The 1978 survey contained 7,609 individuals representing 77 bird species. In the 2010 survey we counted 6,443 individuals representing 63 species (Table 1). If species richness had not changed between 1978 and 2010, we should have observed 76.5 species even with the reduced number of individuals in our sample (Fig. 1). Instead, we recorded a 19% decline in species richness between 1978 and 2010.

Resident species comprised 64% of all individuals recorded in 1978, and 80% in 2010. Despite the total increase in resident individuals,

rarefaction revealed an 8% decline in resident species richness between 1978 and 2010 (Fig. 1). Between 1978 and 2010, there was a decline in the relative proportion (36% to 20%) of individuals belonging to migratory species. The abundance of individuals belonging to migratory species recorded in 2010 was less than half (48%) of the number recorded in 1978. We recorded a 28% decline in migratory species richness between 1978 and 2010 (Fig. 1). Migrants detected in 1978 but absent in 2010 are listed in Table 1.

Of the ten most abundant species in either 1978 or 2010, six have increased at least two-fold since 1978: Northern Cardinal, American Crow, American Robin, Blue Jay, Tufted Titmouse, and Red-Bellied Woodpecker (Fig. 2a). In contrast, seven species declined by more than 50% since 1978: Common Grackle, Red-winged Blackbird, American Goldfinch, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, European Starling, Field Sparrow, and Brown-headed Cowbird (Fig 2b). Indigo Bunting declined 33%. Three species showed no statistically significant changes in abundance: Carolina Chickadee, Acadian Flycatcher, and Eastern Towhee.

Temporal change in species abundance at Sugarcreek generally reflected changes in Ohio during the same period ($n = 31$; Spearman $r = 0.40$; $P = 0.03$). Although the magnitude of changes of particular species at Sugarcreek are greater than for the state as a whole, the local and state-wide data exhibit a positive rank correlation for species with ten or more individuals recorded in each time period.

DISCUSSION

When compared to 1978, the avifauna at Sugarcreek in 2010 consisted of fewer species and fewer individuals. These declines were largely concentrated in migratory species. The relative abundance of resident species increased during this time, although absolute abundances declined. There was considerable turnover in the most common species; only 3 of the ten most common species in 1978 were still among the ten most common in 2010. Changes in the abundance of particular species at Sugarcreek generally mirrored statewide trends, with a few exceptions. It may seem exceptional that a protected area would experience such drastic declines in species richness in just a few decades. However, such declines were predicted by Noss (1981). We encourage readers to carefully consider the caveats and qualifications when interpreting our results.

First, we recorded 15% fewer individuals than Noss (1981). Were there really fewer indi-

viduals present in 2010? It is possible that there was a real decline in the number of individual birds over the past 32 years. Other researchers have reported declines in total abundance of birds through time (Holmes and Sherry 1986, 2001; Askins and Philbrick 1987; Rittenhouse et al. 2010). Two possible mechanisms for bird declines include year-to-year weather variation and migration hazards. The winter of 1978 was among the coldest on record in southwestern Ohio, whereas 2010 had a warm and wet spring. It is possible that in 1978, there were still late spring migrants passing through Sugarcreek in late May and early June, which may have inflated the 1978 number of birds observed. However, only migratory birds that breed locally were observed in both surveys, suggesting that late migrants cannot account for this difference. The Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico that occurred in spring 2010 may have reduced the numbers of successful trans-Gulf migrants (Table 1). Research to date has focused on oil spill impacts on shorebirds (Henkel et al. 2012), but passerines might also be affected. Trans-Gulf migrants were only a third as abundant in 2010 as they were in 1978 at Sugarcreek. However, this study is not designed to assess what fraction of these declines (if any) might be attributable to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

Alternatively, there may not have been a real decline in bird numbers. Environmental stochasticity (i.e., year-to-year variation in survival and reproduction) alone could account for an above average number of birds breeding in 1978, and/or a below average number of birds breeding in 2010. Likewise, differences between the birding skills of observers could also create an apparent decline in individuals when in fact no such decline exists (Preston 1979). While we were careful to replicate the protocols, timing, and intensity of the original survey, differences in skill level could account for differences in the number of birds recorded. In "snapshot" type studies from a single site like ours, even simple questions like "Have the number of individual birds declined?" is difficult to answer, as there are multiple factors that can influence standardized counts 32 years apart.

Despite differences in the numbers of individuals present during both sampling periods, rarefaction analysis allows us to infer with confidence that there has been a real decline in species richness, particularly for migratory species. There have been many studies in recent decades that found sustained declines of migratory species in wooded habitats bordered by agricultural

and residential land uses (Ambuel and Temple 1982; Brooks and Bonter 2010). Despite our failure to detect many migratory species in 2010 (Table 1), we make no claims that these species are extirpated from Sugarcreek. Our field surveys were not designed to exhaustively survey all species present at Sugarcreek, so some of these species (like Chimney Swift and Baltimore Oriole) may have in fact been present in the park but undetected. It seems probable that in some years these species will return in larger numbers some years to breed, so we are not confident that any of the species missing in 2010 reflect permanent extirpations.

There was considerable turnover in the identity of the most abundant species between 1978 and 2010. It is tempting to offer explanations for why some species increased and others declined over the interval. For example, the increase in Northern Cardinals and American Robins could be due to the local increase of Amur Honeysuckle over the past 32 years (McClusker et al. 2010; Gleditsch and Carlo 2011; Rodewald 2012), and the decline in Red-winged Blackbirds probably reflects in the disappearance of a damp depression that persisted for several years following the installation of a sewer line in 1972 (Noss 1981; Hays 2011). However, our study was designed only to identify shifts in species composition and abundance, not the underlying causes. However, future researchers will likely be able to evaluate how honeysuckle has shaped this bird community. Five Rivers Metroparks currently lists honeysuckle control as a high management priority at Sugarcreek, and this is likely to occur within the next few years. If honeysuckle is driving population changes for American Robin, Northern Cardinal, and other frugivores, we predict these species will decline following management intervention.

Shifts in the avifauna at Sugarcreek between 1978 and 2010 were positively correlated with shifts in Ohio. Of the thirty-one species analyzed, twenty-two exhibited the same trend abundance (either an increase or decrease) both at Sugarcreek and throughout Ohio between 1978 and 2010. Nine species did not follow this trend. Six species declined locally but increased statewide: Yellow-throated Warbler, Red-eyed Vireo, Mourning Dove, Indigo Bunting, House Wren, and Common Grackle. Acadian Flycatcher (thought to be adversely affected by Amur honeysuckle – Rodewald 2012), Eastern Wood-Pewee, and Tufted Titmouse increased at Sugarcreek, but declined statewide. Holmes and Sherry (2001) found similar patterns in pop-

ulation trends when they compared twenty-four forest bird species at Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest to Breeding Bird Survey data in New Hampshire. Most but not all species at Hubbard Brook mirrored statewide trends.

Are these 32-year changes in the Sugarcreek avifauna real, or a short-term deviation? While we do not have a compelling answer to this question, this question could not even be asked without the careful and well-documented research by Noss (1981). While Noss (1981) sought to describe the richness and composition of the Sugarcreek avifauna and interpret the results in the context of reserve design, we have re-purposed his data to describe the dynamic nature of richness and composition. Because historic baseline surveys provide a conceptual anchor for contemporary observations, we encourage ornithologists to locate existing baselines and conduct re-surveys whenever possible. Together, we can construct a more nearly complete picture of how bird life is changing in the state.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank Reed Noss for providing details about his study and field protocols, and Dave Nolin and Michael Enright of Five Rivers Metroparks for facilitating access and providing historical information about Sugarcreek.

LITERATURE CITED

- Ambuel, B. and, S. A. Temple. 1982. Songbird populations in southern Wisconsin forests: 1954 and 1979. *Journal of Field Ornithology* 53: 149-158.
- Askins, R. A. 1993. Population trends in grassland, shrubland, and forest birds in eastern North America. *Current Ornithology* 11: 1-34.
- Askins, R. A. and M. J. Philbrick. 1987. Effect of changes in regional forest abundance on the decline and recovery of a forest bird community. *Wilson Bulletin* 99: 7-21.
- BBS (Breeding Bird Survey). 2010. U.S.G.S. Department of the Interior. North American Breeding Bird Survey, Laurel, Maryland Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. <http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/BBS>. [Accessed: May 10, 2011].
- Brooks, E. W. and D. N. Bonter. 2010. Long-term changes in avian community structure in a successional forested and managed plot in a re-foresting landscape. *The Wilson Journal of Ornithology* 122: 288-295.
- Emlen, J. T. 1971. Population densities of birds derived from transect counts. *Auk* 88: 323-342.
- Gleditsch, H. M. and T. A. Carlo. 2011. Fruit quantity of invasive shrubs predicts the abun-

dance of common native avian frugivores in central Pennsylvania. *Diversity and Distributions* 17: 244-253.

Gotelli N. J. and R. K. Colwell. 2001. Quantifying biodiversity: procedures and pitfalls in the measurement and comparison of species richness. *Ecology Letters* 4: 379-391.

Hall, G. A. 1984. Population decline of Neotropical migrants in an Appalachian forest. *American Birds* 38: 14-18.

Haggerty, Thomas M. and Eugene S. Morton. 1995. Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*), *The Birds of North America Online* (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America Online August 21, 2012: <http://bna.birds.cornell.edu.bnaproxy.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/188Hays>, J. L. 2011. Changes in avian community composition at Sugarcreek Metropark between 1978 and 2010. M.S. Thesis, Wright State University. Dayton, OH.

Heck, K. L., G. Van Belle, and D. Simberloff. 1975. Explicit calculation of the rarefaction diversity measurement and the determination of sufficient sample size. *Ecology* 56: 1459-1461.

Henkel, J. R., B. J. Sigel, and C. M. Taylor. 2012. Large-scale impacts of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill: can local disturbance affect distant ecosystems through migratory shorebirds? *BioScience* 62: 676-685.

Holmes, R. T. and T. W. Sherry. 1986. Bird community dynamics in a temperate deciduous forest: long-term trends at Hubbard Brook. *Ecological Monographs* 56: 201-220.

Holmes, R. T. and T. W. Sherry. 2001. Thirty-year bird population trends in an unfragmented temperate deciduous forest: importance of habitat change. *Auk* 118: 589-609.

Horn, D. J. 1985. Breeding birds of a central Ohio woodlot in response to succession and urbanization. *Ohio Journal of Science* 85: 34-40.

Hunt Mountain Software. 2009. Analytic Rarefaction, Version 2.0. www.huntmountainsoftware.com.

Hutto, R. L. and J. S. Young. 2002. Regional landbird monitoring: perspectives from the northern Rocky Mountains. *Wildlife Society Bulletin* 30: 738-750.

Magnuson, J. J. 1990. Long term research and the invisible present. *Bioscience* 40: 495-501.

McClusker, C. E., M. P. Ward, and J. D. Brawn. 2010. Seasonal responses of avian communities to invasive bush honeysuckles (*Lonicera* spp.). *Biological Invasions* 12: 2459-2470.

Noss, R. F. 1981. The birds of Sugarcreek, an

Ohio nature reserve. *Ohio Journal of Science* 81: 29-40.

Preston, F. W. 1979. The Invisible birds. *Ecology* 60: 451-454.

Rittenhouse, C. D., A. M. Pidgeon, T. P. Albright, P. D. Culbert, M. K. Clayton, C. H. Flather, C. Huang, J. G. Masek, S. I. Stewart, and V. C. Radeloff. 2010. Conservation of forest birds: evidence of a shifting baseline in community structure. *PLoS ONE* 5 (2010): e11938.

Robbins, C. S., J. R. Sauer, R. S. Greenberg, and S. Droege. 1989. Population declines in North American birds that migrate to the Neotropics. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (USA)* 86: 7658-7662.

Rodewald, A. D. 2012. Spreading the message about invasives. *Diversity and Distributions* 18: 97-99.

Tarvin, Keith A. and Glen E. Woolfenden. 1999. Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*), *The Birds of North America Online* (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America Online August 21, 2012: <http://bna.birds.cornell.edu.bnaproxy.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/469>

Wilcove, D. S. 1988. Changes in the avifauna of the Great Smoky Mountains 1947-1983. *Wilson Bulletin* 100: 256-271.

Table 1. Mean number of individuals per species recorded per 3 hr survey (n = 33 surveys) during the breeding seasons of 1978 and 2010. Status indicates whether the species is a permanent resident (R) or migratory (M). Trans-Gulf migrants are denoted as M*.

SPECIES	1978	2010	STATUS
Canada Goose	0.0	0.5	R
Wood Duck	0.1	0.2	M
Mallard	0.6	0.6	R
Northern Bobwhite	0.3	0.0	R
Ring-necked Pheasant	0.6	0.0	R
Great Blue Heron	<0.1	0.1	R
Green Heron	0.5	0.0	M
Turkey Vulture	<0.1	1.7	M
Cooper's Hawk	0.0	0.1	R
Red-shouldered Hawk	0.0	0.1	R
Red-tailed Hawk	0.1	0.2	R
American Kestrel	0.3	0.0	R
Killdeer	0.3	0.0	R
Spotted Sandpiper	0.1	0.0	M
American Woodcock	0.1	0.0	M
Rock Pigeon	2.7	0.0	R
Mourning Dove	1.1	0.4	R
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	2.8	0.0	M*
Black-billed Cuckoo	0.8	0.0	M*
Great-horned Owl	<0.1	<0.1	R
Barred Owl	0.1	<0.1	R
Chimney Swift	3.9	0.0	M*
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	0.2	0.1	M*
Belted Kingfisher	0.9	0.2	R
Red-headed Woodpecker	0.2	0.0	R
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1.7	6.3	R
Downy Woodpecker	3.9	4.9	R
Hairy Woodpecker	0.1	0.2	R
Northern Flicker	3.0	1.9	R
Pileated Woodpecker	0.5	2.7	R
Easterb Wood-Pewee	3.1	5.2	M*
Acadian Flycatcher	7.6	8.9	M
Willow Flycatcher	1.9	0.0	M
Great Crested Flycatcher	0.8	0.3	M*
Eastern Kingbird	0.2	1.1	M*
White-eyed Vireo	1.7	0.0	M*
Yellow-throated Vireo	0.9	0.4	M*
Warbling Vireo	0.4	0.0	M*
Red-eyed Vireo	7.6	3.6	M*
Blue Jay	2.0	7.0	R
American Crow	5.2	15.1	R

SPECIES	1978	2010	STATUS
Purple Martin	0.5	0.0	M*
Tree Swallow	0.1	1.2	M
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	1.2	0.0	M
Barn Swallow	0.7	<0.1	M*
Carolina Chickadee	13.6	14.2	R
Tufted Titmouse	5.6	11.8	R
White-breasted Nuthatch	0.9	5.0	R
Carolina Wren	0.0	2.4	R
House Wren	3.4	0.3	M*
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	11.7	4.0	M
Eastern Bluebird	0.0	0.2	R
Wood Thrush	1.1	2.2	M*
American Robin	8.0	17.6	R
Gray Catbird	1.2	0.3	M*
Northern Mockingbird	0.1	0.1	R
Brown Thrasher	2.1	<0.1	M
European Starling	10.6	0.5	R
Cedar Waxwing	0.5	0.0	R
Ovenbird	0.2	0.2	M*
Blue-winged Warbler	0.2	0.0	M*
Black-and-white Warbler	0.3	0.0	M*
Kentucky Warbler	1.1	0.1	M*
Common Yellowthroat	6.1	2.1	M*
Prairie Warbler	0.0	<0.1	M*
American Redstart	0.6	0.0	M*
Cerulean Warbler	3.7	0.1	M*
Northern Parula	0.0	0.7	M*
Yellow Warbler	1.2	0.1	M*
Yellow-throated Warbler	1.0	0.3	M*
Yellow-breasted Chat	3.4	0.0	M*
Eastern Towhee	7.0	6.6	R
Chipping Sparrow	0.0	<0.1	M
Field Sparrow	9.6	3.8	R
Song Sparrow	4.6	0.3	R
Scarlet Tanager	0.1	<0.1	M*
Northern Cardinal	13.6	48.9	R
Indigo Bunting	10.0	6.7	M
Red-winged Blackbird	13.1	0.3	R
Eastern Meadowlark	0.2	0.0	R
Common Grackle	16.1	1.2	R
Brown-headed Cowbird	8.6	0.8	R
Baltimore Oriole	0.2	0.0	M*
American Goldfinch	12.0	1.2	R
House Sparrow	0.6	0.2	R

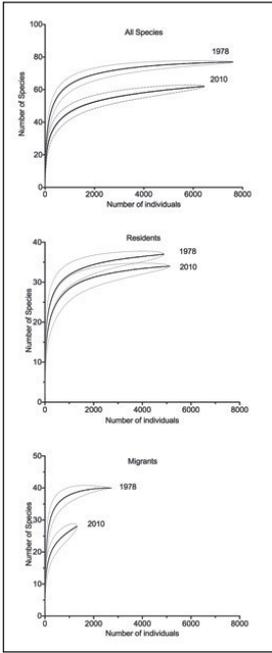


Fig. 1

Rarefaction curves and 95% confidence intervals in 1978 and 2010 for all species, residents only, and migrants only.

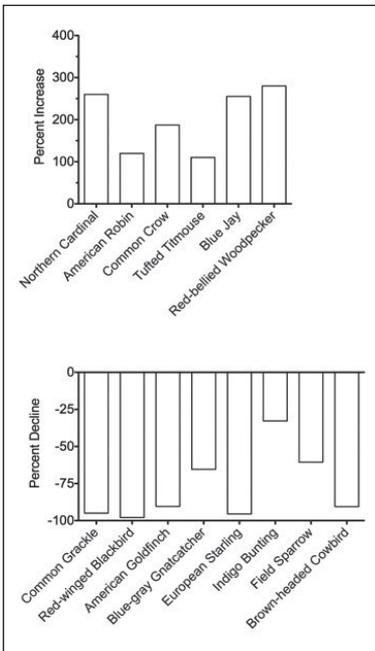


Fig. 2

Identity and percent change of ten most abundant species in 1978 and/or 2010. All species increasing at Sugarcreek also increased statewide, except American Crow (no change) and Tufted Titmouse (declined). All species decreasing at Sugarcreek also decreased statewide, except Common Grackle and Indigo Bunting (both increased).

BIRD QUIZ

The sparrow arrival each fall signals the beginning of the end of our passerine migration. What are the following 'harbingers of winter'?



Answers to Summer 2010 Photo Quiz

Upper Left Photo: American Robin Upper Right Photo: Chipping Sparrow
Lower Left Photo: House Sparrow Lower Right Photo: European Starling

Bird Trivia Question

Which North American Gull nests in trees?

Answers to Summer 2010 Trivia Question

The two men who each have five ABA Area birds named after them are John Cassin and Alexander Wilson. Their namesakes are Cassin's Auklet, Kingbird, Vireo, Sparrow, and Finch, and Wilson's Storm-Petrel, Plover, Snipe, Phalarope, and Warbler. Bonus answer to an unasked question: Until about 1900, the Veery was called Wilson's Thrush, so he lost his sixth then.

OOS MEMBERSHIP

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

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

If your membership has lapsed, we hope that you will renew your membership and be a part of this dynamic organization.



THE OHIO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL APPLICATION
www.ohiobirds.org



NAME			
ORGANIZATION			
ADDRESS			
CITY, ST, ZIP			
EMAIL			
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$15	STUDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$25	INDIVIDUAL	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$40	FAMILY OR NON-PROFIT	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$100	PATRON OR BUSINESS	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$250	SUSTAINING MEMBER	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$500	BENEFACTOR	<input type="checkbox"/>
Yes! I would like to make a one-time tax-deductible donation to support the Society's development and conservation activities!			
\$		DEVELOPMENT	\$
			CONSERVATION

Please make check payable to and forward to:
OOS ● PO Box 14051 ● Columbus, Ohio 43214
questions? oosmembers@gmail.com

Renew online at: <http://www.ohiobirds.org/site/membership.php>



The Counties of Ohio



*Seemingly unaware of the excitement it created, this stunning Red Phalarope was captured by Laura Keene on 19 Oct 2010 at Conneaut, **Ashtabula**.*

Instructions for Contributors

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

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

Craig Caldwell, 1270 W. Melrose Dr., Westlake, OH 44145
craig_caldwell@sbcglobal.net

Deadlines are as follows:

Winter (Dec, Jan, Feb) - 21 March

Spring (Mar, Apr, May) - 21 June

Summer (Jun, Jul) - 21 August

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

Back cover:

*A great find in Ohio, this basic plumage Red Knot photographed 17 Oct 2010 at Maumee Bay SP, **Lucas**, by Laura Keene was one of almost 20 individuals reported in Fall 2010.*

THE OHIO CARDINAL

The Ohio Ornithological Society
P.O. Box 14501
Columbus, OH 43214

Contents

Comments on the Season

By Craig Caldwell..... 3

Species Accounts

By Craig Caldwell..... 5

Changes in the Sugarcreek Metropark

Bird Community Between 1978 and 2010

By Thomas P. Rooney, Jeffrey L. Peters, and Jennifer L. Hays..... 30

