



Homeowners in the small town of Bellbrook in **Greene** were delighted to share the news of this western hummingbird that was coming to their backyard feeders. Sean Hollowell paid them a visit to see it on 09 Oct.

#### On the cover:

Christopher met up with two of our frequent contributors, Janice Farral and Debbie Parker, at Lorain Impoundment on 21 Oct to see the Purple Gallinule that Janice found.



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# COMMENTS ON THE SEASON

## By Craig Caldwell

This season's weather continued the wild swings which are now common world-wide. The Aug rainfall state-wide was average, though Cincinnati, the northwest, and far southeast had up to triple their usual amounts and scattered pockets as little as 25% of their norms. The average temperature was somewhat above the long-term mean but the average low was significantly higher than its long-term mean. Sep was very dry and hot. The rainfall amount was less than that of 80% of the 125 years with data. (Adjoining Kentucky and West Virginia had their driest years ever.) Even so, **Ashtabula**, the Youngstown area, and the far northwest had up to double their normal rainfall.

By contrast, Oct was wet and hot. The rainfall came in at number 99 with 125 being the wettest ever. A few areas had up to triple their usual amount of rain. The statewide average temperature ranked number 114 of the 125. Nov swung the opposite way in both categories. Precipitation was the 30<sup>th</sup> from the lowest (right at the 25<sup>th</sup> percentile). Only the Ohio Valley received more than its average amount, and only exceeded it by 10%. Temperatures plunged, with the overall average's being the 14<sup>th</sup> lowest of the 125 years. The first heavy snows hit the northeast during the second week of Nov and the night of 12 to 13 Nov set low-temperature records throughout the state.

Despite the dryness of Sep and Nov, the period from Dec 2018 through Nov 2109 was the wettest on record for the lower 48 states. The nationwide temperature average for those 12 months ranked at number 87, the 70<sup>th</sup> percentile.

Weather data are from the National Weather Service (<u>http://water.weather.gov/precip/</u>) and the NOAA (<u>http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/tempand-precip/maps.php</u> and <u>http://www.ncdc.</u> <u>noaa.gov/extremes/records/</u>).

This issue of the *Cardinal* contains reports of 315 species, only two lower than the high count of 2012. But two of this year's entries are review species with no documentation and so are not likely to enter the official record. Four hybrids and eight entries below the species level are included, as is one exotic. Three less-than-common color morphs were also reported, one of them quite rare outside Florida. Seven species were seen in 87, and 27 more were seen in at least 80.

Twenty-three review species were reported; their names are underlined. Sightings of 10 of them generated formal reports to the OBRC – thank you! Reports of four of those species and 11 of the others were only posted to eBird or other media, but with photos or descriptions which will allow review. Fish Crow reports are burgeoning, but though it is still a review species none of them generated a formal report. And unfortunately, two review species were reported with no supporting information, so almost without question they will not enter the official record, nor will they appear in eBird except to the observer. (These numbers don't include Trumpeter Swans, whose establishment or not is under study.)

The OBRC and this editor continue to urge birders to formally report all sightings of Review List species, of Core List species found at unusual times, of nesting by birds previously not known to nest in the state, and of course sightings of birds never before found in Ohio. An easy-to-use on-line form is available at <u>http://ohiobirds.org/</u> <u>rare-birds/report-a-rare-bird-sighting/</u>.

What can I say? Some species arrived earlier than usual, others later, some last sightings were earlier than usual but quite a few were later. Fortunately, Rob Harlan is hard at work on an update of the 2008 *Ohio Bird Records Committee Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Ohio*, which will bring the "usual" arrival and departure dates up to date. But of course those dates will continue to shift as the planet warms further.

Data for the following Species Accounts come from reports submitted directly to *The Cardinal* and *The Bobolink* (the latter courtesy of its publisher, Robert Hershberger), eBird (<u>http://ebird.</u> <u>org/content/ebird</u>), and the Ohio-birds listserv (<u>http://birding.aba.org/maillist/OH</u>). In the species accounts, "normal" departure and arrival dates are from Harlan ., *Ohio Bird Records Committee Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Ohio*, 2008. Mentions of breeding locations are from Rodewald ., *The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in Ohio* ("OBBA II", 2016) and Harlan .

Taxonomic order and nomenclature follow the *Check-List of North American Birds*, 7th Edition (1998) as updated through the 60th Supplement (2019). These documents are produced by the North American Classification Committee of the American Ornithological Society and are available at <u>http://www.checklist.aou.org/</u>.

County names are in bold italics. Locations whose counties are of the same name, for ex-

ample Ashtabula (city) and Delaware Wildlife Area, usually do not have the counties repeated. County names for sites described in Cincinnati (*Hamilton*), Cleveland (*Cuyahoga*), Columbus (*Franklin*), Dayton (*Montgomery*), and Toledo (*Lucas*) are also omitted. Shortened names and a few sets of initials are used for locations and organizations which occur repeatedly; these abbreviations are listed here. The term "*fide*" is used in some citations; it means "in trust of" and is used where the reporter was not the observer.

## Abbreviations:

- Alum Creek = Alum Creek Reservoir, *Delaware*, unless otherwise noted
- Armleder Park = a Cincinnati city park on the Little Miami River, *Hamilton*
- Audubon = the National Audubon Society (<u>http://www.audubon.org</u>)
- Aullwood = Aullwood Audubon Farm and Sanctuary, *Montgomery*
- Bayshore = a fishing access site near a power plant a bit east of Toledo
- BBS = the North American Breeding Bird Survey, a joint project of the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and the Canadian Wildlife Service
- Berlin Lake = Berlin Lake (or Reservoir), *Mahoning* and *Portage*
- Big Island = Big Island Wildlife Area, Marion
- Blendon Woods = Blendon Woods Metro Park, Franklin
- The Bowl = a limited-access area near the *Harrison* airport
- BRAS = Black River Audubon Society
- BSBO = Black Swamp Bird Observatory, **Otta***wa* (http://www.bsbo.org)
- Buck Creek = Buck Creek State Park, Clark
- Burke Airport = Cleveland Burke Lakefront Airport, *Cuyahoga*
- Caesar Creek = Caesar Creek State Park, *Warren*, unless the lake itself is specified; a bit of the lake is also in *Clinton*
- CBC = Audubon's Christmas Bird Count
- CCE = Crane Creek Estuary, *Lucas* and *Ottawa*, viewable from both ONWR and the CCE Trail which originates at Magee
- Clear Creek = Clear Creek Metro Park; the eastern 2/3 is in *Hocking*, the rest in *Fairfield*
- Clear Fork = Clear Fork Reservoir (or Lake), partly in *Morrow* but most of the birding is done in the larger *Richland* section
- CLNP = Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve (the former Dike 14), *Cuyahoga*

- CNC = Cincinnati Nature Center, a non-governmental entity whose Long Branch Farm and Rowe Woods units are in *Clermont*
- Conneaut = the mudflats to the west of Conneaut Harbor, *Ashtabula*
- CP = County Park
- CPNWR = Cedar Point National Wildlife Refuge, *Lucas*
- CVNP = Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Cuyahoga and (mostly) Summit
- Darby Creek = Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park, almost entirely in *Franklin* but with bits in other counties as well. The Wet Prairie, Teal, and Harrier trails are the most often cited.
- Deer Creek = the State Park is in *Pickaway*, the Wildlife Area is in *Fayette*, and Deer Creek Lake is in both but mostly *Pickaway*
- East Fork = East Fork State Park, Clermont
- East Harbor = East Harbor State Park, *Ottawa* Edge Preserve = The Nature Conservancy's Edge of Appalachia Preserve, multiple parcels mostly in *Adams* and extending a bit into *Scioto*.
- Edgewater = the Edgewater unit of Cleveland Lakefront Metroparks, *Cuyahoga*
- Englewood = Englewood MetroPark, Montgomery
- Fernald = Fernald Preserve, **Butler** and **Hamilton**
- Findlay Reservoirs = several contiguous water bodies east of town in *Hancock*
- Funk = Funk Bottoms Wildlife Area, Ashland
   and (mostly) Wayne
- Gilmore = Gilmore MP, *Butler*
- Grand Lake = Grand Lake St. Marys. The State Park, the state fish hatchery, and the eastern 20% of the lake itself are in *Auglaize*. The rest of the lake is in *Mercer*.
- Great Miami WMB = Great Miami Wetlands Mitigation Bank, *Montgomery*
- Headlands = Headlands Dunes State Nature Preserve, Headlands Beach State Park, and adjoining waters, *Lake*
- Holden = Holden Arboretum, *Lake*, except for its Stebbins Gulch unit in *Geauga*
- Hoover NP = Hoover Nature Preserve, *Delaware*
- Hoover Reservoir = the northern 80% is in *Delaware*, the rest and the dam in *Franklin*
- Howard Marsh = Howard Marsh Metropark, a recently opened bird magnet in *Lucas*
- Hueston Woods = Hueston Woods State Park, which contains Acton Lake, about half in each of *Butler* and *Preble*.
- Huron = the harbor, breakwalls, and old dredge spoil impoundment in that *Erie* city, unless noted otherwise

- Indian Lake = Indian Lake State Park, Logan
- Jones Preserve = Jones Preserve at Long Point, on Kelleys Island, *Erie*
- Kelleys Island = the island and adjoining waters, *Erie*
- Killbuck = Killbuck State Wildlife Area, *Holmes* and *Wayne*
- Killdeer = Killdeer Plains State Wildlife Area; a bit is in *Marion* but it's mostly in *Wyandot*
- Kiwanis Park = Kiwanis Riverway Park, on the Scioto River in Dublin, *Franklin*
- LaDue = LaDue Reservoir, Geauga
- Lake Erie Bluffs = a *Lake* Metroparks parcel overlooking the eponymous water body
- Lake Hope/Zaleski = Lake Hope State Park and surrounding Zaleski State Forest, *Vinton*
- Lake Loramie = Lake Loramie State Park, Shelby
- Lorain = the dredge spoil impoundment east of downtown in the city and county of the same name, unless otherwise noted
- Lost Bridge = a Great Miami River crossing on Lawrenceburg Road near Elizabethtown, *Hamilton*, where a covered bridge was lost to fire in 1903
- m. obs. = multiple observers
- Magee = the boardwalk and immediate vicinity in Magee Marsh Wildlife Area, *Lucas*, unless otherwise noted. The northern third of the causeway is also in *Lucas*, the rest in *Ottazva*.
- Mallard Club = Mallard Club Marsh Wildlife Area, *Lucas*
- Marblehead Light = Marblehead Lighthouse State Park, **Ottawa**
- Maumee Bay = Maumee Bay State Park, *Lucas*, unless otherwise noted
- Medusa = Medusa Marsh, *Erie*, an informally named and privately owned area between Sandusky and Bay View
- Mentor Lagoons = Mentor Lagoons Nature Preserve, *Lake*
- Mentor Marsh = Mentor Marsh State Nature Preserve, *Lake*
- Metzger = Metzger Marsh Wildlife Area, *Lucas*, not to be confused with Metzger Reservoir, *Allen*
- Mill Creek = Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary, a limited-access area in *Mahoning*
- Mohican = Mohican State Forest and State Park. Many trails cross the boundaries so some reports include sightings from both without distinction.
- Mohican SF = Mohican State Forest, Ashland
- Mohican SP = Mohican State Park, (mostly) *Ashland* and (slightly) *Richland*

- Mosquito Lake = Mosquito Lake State Park, formerly Mosquito Creek SP, and also called Mosquito Creek Reservoir, *Trumbull*. Mosquito (Creek) Wildlife Area adjoins it.
- Motus = a wildlife tracking system managed by Bird Studies Canada
- Nimisila = Nimisila Reservoir, Summit
- MP = Metro Park, MetroPark, or Metropark depending on the system
- NC = Nature Center
- NF = National Forest
- NP = Nature Preserve, except as part of CVNP
- OBBA II = the second Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas
- OBRC = Ohio Bird Records Committee
- Old Highland Stone = that company's water-filled gravel pits, *Highland*
- Old Woman Creek = Old Woman Creek National Estuarine Research Reserve, *Erie*
- OOPMP = Oak Openings Preserve MetroPark, *Lucas*
- ONWR = Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, *Lucas* and *Ottawa*
- ONWR Blausey, Boss, Koontz, and Navarre = units of ONWR separate from the main area, all in **Ottazwa**; of them Boss and Koontz are open to the public
- ONWR WD = Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge Wildlife Drive, the monthly opening of areas otherwise closed to vehicles, *Lucas* and *Ottawa*
- OSU = The Ohio State University, of course; sites are in *Franklin* unless noted otherwise
- Painesville TP = Painesville Township Park, overlooking Lake Erie in *Lake*
- Pearson MP = Pearson Metro Park, Lucas
- Pickerel Creek = Pickerel Creek Wildlife Area, Sandusky
- Pickerington Ponds = Pickerington Ponds Metro Park, *Fairfield* and *Franklin*
- Pipe Creek = Pipe Creek Wildlife Area, in the city of Sandusky, *Erie*
- Pleasant Hill Lake = an impoundment straddling the *Ashland*/*Richland* line
- Quail Hollow = Quail Hollow State Park, Stark
- Rocky Fork = Rocky Fork State Park, Highland
- Salt Fork = Salt Fork State Park, *Guernsey*
- Sandy Ridge = Sandy Ridge Reservation, *Lorain*
- Seneca Lake = most of the lake and the (nonstate) Park are in *Noble*, while the dam is in *Guernsey*
- SF = State Forest
- Shawnee = Shawnee State Forest, *Scioto*, unless otherwise noted
- Shawnee Lookout = Shawnee Lookout County Park, *Hamilton*

- Sheldon Marsh = Sheldon Marsh State Nature Preserve, *Erie*
- Sherod Park = a city park overlooking Lake Erie in Vermilion, *Erie*

SNP = State Nature Preserve

SP = State Park

- Springfield Lake = in Greater Akron, Summit
- Springville Marsh = Springville Marsh State Nature Preserve, *Seneca*
- Spring Valley = Spring Valley Wildlife Area, almost entirely in *Greene* but extending into *Warren*
- Stillfork = The Nature Conservancy's Stillfork Swamp Preserve, *Carroll*
- Sunset Park = a city park overlooking Lake Erie in Willoughby, *Lake*
- SWA = State Wildlife Area
- TNC = The Nature Conservancy (<u>http://www.</u> nature.org)
- TP = Township Park
- Vinton Furnace = Vinton Furnace Experimental Forest, *Vinton*
- Villa Angela = the Villa Angela unit of Cleveland's Lakefront Reservation
- WA = Wildlife Area
- Wake Robin = a trail and boardwalk in Mentor Marsh State Nature Preserve, *Lake*
- Wendy Park = a lakeshore Cleveland park, Cuyahoga
- Wilderness Road = a road which traverses Funk Bottoms Wildlife Area, *Wayne*, and adjoining farmland
- The Wilds = a limited-access big-mammal breeding and research facility in *Muskingum*, also used generically to include the surrounding reclaimed strip mines
- Willow Point = Willow Point Wildlife Area, Erie
- Winous Horseshoe = a limited-access part of Winous Point Shooting Club, **Ottawa**
- Winous Point = Winous Point Shooting Club, Ottawa
- Wintergarden Woods = Wintergarden Woods and Saint Johns Nature Preserve, *Wood*
- Woodman Fen = a natural area, part of Dayton's Five Rivers MetroParks system, *Montgomery*
- WRGBT = Western Reserve Greenway Bike Trail, *Trumbull*
- Wright Marsh = a hotspot in Killbuck WA north of Shreve, *Wayne*
- Zaleski = Zaleski State Forest, Vinton

# SPECIES ACCOUNTS

## By Craig Caldwell

## Black-bellied Whistling-Duck

Posts from *Lucas* had photos and/or descriptions, but no one filed a report with the OBRC.

## Snow Goose

Peter Wilson saw the first, at Guilford Lake SP, *Columbiana*, on 10 Sep. The next didn't show up until 07 Oct, when Julie Tyson found it at Fernald. Al Hayes counted 24 circling over Wayne Lakes Village, *Darke*, on 22 Nov (*fide* Cindy Ploch). Jay Gossett's eight passing East Fork on 14 Nov was the second largest number. (23 counties)

#### Ross's Goose

The reports are:

- Two at Belleview Reservoir No. 3, *Huron*, from 16 to 18 Nov (m. obs.)
- One at Adams Lake SP, *Adams*, from 17 to 19 Nov (Dale Bailey)
- One at Ohio Northern University, *Hardin*, on 26 Nov (Michael Crouse)

One near Conesville, *Coshocton*, on 28 Nov (Vernon E. Yoder) and 29 Nov (Aden M.

Yoder)

One at the Green Avenue gravel pits, *Stark*, on 30 Nov (Jon Cefus)



On 18 Nov, Ronnie Clark spotted this Ross's Goose in Hilliard, Franklin.

#### [Snow x Ross's Goose]

This hybrid stayed at a Hilliard farm pond, *Franklin*, from 17 to 18 Nov (m. obs.)

#### Brant

Single birds were seen:

- Daily from 10 to 15 Nov at the former Lorain (city) hot water site (m. obs.)
- Intermittently from 17 Nov into Dec at Friendship Park, *Jefferson* (m. obs.)
- At Perry Township Park, *Lake*, on 29 Nov (Cole DiFabio)

## **Greater White-fronted Goose**

Richard Payne noted the next and most, a flock of 38 that flew over East Fork on 08 Oct while giving their distinctive call. The second highest count was 15; Lisa Cancade Hackett and Peggy Rudman saw and heard them over Fernald on 16 Oct. (12 counties)



An apartment complex is not your typical birding spot, but Ronnie Clark did well finding these Greater White-fronted Geese at Alkire Run Apartments, **Franklin**, on 14 Nov.

#### **Cackling Goose**

Lots of folks got to see the first, at Mentor Lagoons on 18 Oct. Chuck Slusarczyk Jr. provided the high count of 11, off Cleveland's East 72<sup>nd</sup> Street pier on 12 Nov, and two counts of eight came from other sites. (18 counties)

#### Canada Goose

Greg Pasek saw about 2100 at Sandy Ridge on 30 Nov. The next most were Ron Sempier's 1150 at Upper Sandusky Reservoir #2, *Wyandot*, on 23 Nov. Only *Monroe* and *Scioto* didn't produce reports.

#### [Snow x Canada Goose]

Benjamin Miller identified this hybrid along the Kokosing Gap Trail, **Knox**, on 25 Nov.

## Mute Swan

The high count was nine; it was achieved on several Aug and Sep dates at Pickerington Ponds (m. obs.). (26 counties)

#### Trumpeter Swan

Birders reported 100 at ONWR on several dates between 17 and 30 Nov. (30 counties)

#### Tundra Swan

The first two reports were both of four birds, at Sandy Ridge on 20 Oct (Jassen and Laura Tawil) and at Howard Marsh on 25 Oct (JP Waldron). Douglas Vogus and his census team counted 1537 on 03 Nov at ONWR. Birders found about 1000 there on other dates. The most inland were about 500 at Bass Lake Preserve, *Geauga*, on 13 Nov (Chris Parker) and 482 at Killdeer on 29 Nov (Cam Lee). (44 counties)

## Egyptian Goose

*Athens* again hosted one of these exotics roaming free from 24 Nov into Dec.

## Wood Duck

An Amish Big Sit team counted 875 at Wright Marsh, *Wayne*, on 12 Oct. The next most were 180 at Sandy Ridge on 26 Sep (m. obs.). (79 counties)

## Blue-winged Teal

Josh Yoder saw the last of the season, at ONWR on 22 Nov, but sightings continued into Dec. Participants in a Lake Erie Wing Watch field trip saw about 400 along the ONWR WD on 14 Sep. The next most were 210 at Howard Marsh on 07 Sep (m. obs.) and the inland high count was 200, from the Osborn Road gravel pits, *Clark*, on 23 Sep (Lee Funderburg). (54 counties)

## Cinnamon Teal

A post from *Franklin* had photos.

## Northern Shoveler

Dan Kramer reported the season's first, from Wilderness Road on 02 Aug. Bob Lane's 110 at Pine Lake, *Mahoning*, on 04 Nov was the highest number. (45 counties)

#### Gadwall

Howard Marsh hosted the first of the season, for Jack Leow on 06 Aug. The next were Jessie St. Christopher's six at Sandy Ridge on 17 Aug. Brandon Brywczynski and Barry McEwen found about 1000 at CPNWR on 02 Nov and the next day Douglas Vogus . counted 959 at ONWR. Larry Richardson provided the inland high count of 375, at Mosquito Lake on 02 Nov. (58 counties)

#### American Wigeon

Jason Bojczyk saw the season's first, at Mallard Club Marsh on 15 Aug. The second was one that Larry Richardson found at Mosquito Lake on 30 Aug. Larry and Mosquito Lake also combined for the highest count, 350 on 01 Nov, and he saw up to 270 there on other dates. The most elsewhere were the 120 that Brandon Brywczynski and Barry McEwen found at CPNWR on 02 Nov. (41 counties)

## Mallard

Cole DiFabio and Julie Tyson estimated 1750 were in flocks that passed ONWR on 22 Nov. Douglas Vogus' census team had found 1300 there on 03 Nov. Patrick Robinson's 500 at Mosquito WA on 15 Nov was the inland high count. Only *Crawford*, *Jackson*, and *Pike* didn't have sightings.

## American Black Duck

ONWR hosted about 100 for Will Richardson on 17 Nov, while Mosquito WA held 60 for Patrick Robinson on 15 Nov. (54 counties)

## [Mallard x American Black Duck]

Peter Keefe counted 14 at Headlands on 24 Sep, and 10 other counties hosted them as well.

## Northern Pintail

A female showed up at Howard Marsh on 03 Aug for Susan Evanoff and Su Snyder. Jim Link found the next, three along the ONWR WD on 17 Aug. Dan Gesualdo counted 173 off Sherod Park, *Erie*, on 17 Oct and Douglas Vogus *et al.* 153 at ONWR on 03 Nov. Larry Richardson noted the inland high count of 35, at Mosquito Lake on both 01 and 03 Nov. (26 counties)

## **Green-winged Teal**

Asher Warkentin saw the first of the season, at Cedar Point, *Erie*, on 05 Aug. (Up to 11 had been seen at Howard Marsh during the second half of Jul.) Larry Richardson's 160 at Mosquito Lake on 28 Oct was the largest number. (46 counties)

## Canvasback

Julie Tyson made the first two sightings, at Fernald on both 22 Aug and 07 Oct. (Were they the same bird?) Inga Schmidt found the first elsewhere, at LaDue on 17 Oct. Cole DiFabio and Julie Tyson counted 76 passing ONWR on 22 Nov. The next highest number, 15, was shared by David Smith at Williams Reservoir, *Allen*, on 25 Oct and Christina Stump at the Findlay Reservoirs on 17 Nov. (24 counties)

#### Redhead

Mosquito Lake hosted the first, on 05 Aug (Larry Richardson). The next was on the Cuyahoga River in Cleveland's Scranton Flats on 15 Aug (Andy Jones and Michelle Leighty). The high count of 55 came from the Findlay Reservoirs on 30 Nov (Shane Myers). (36 counties)

#### **Ring-necked Duck**

Two late-Jul sightings preceded this season's first, which was at Ackerman NP, *Knox*, on 26 Aug. (m. obs.). Susan Carpenter found the most, 310 at Summit Lake, *Summit*, on 30 Nov, and Gary Cowell found the second most, 215 at Lexington Community Park, *Richland*, on 14 Nov. (48 counties)

#### **Greater Scaup**

Debbie Parker saw the first, at Lakeside Landing Marina, *Lorain*, on 15 Oct. Spencer Vanderhoof found about 70 at East Harbor on 22 Nov. The second most were 24 at Fairport Harbor's Lakefront Park, *Lake*, on 24 Nov (Erin Allen and Andy Avram). Shane Myers' seven at the Findlay Reservoirs on 09 Nov was the inland high count. (22 counties)

## Lesser Scaup

The lower Cuyahoga River in Cleveland held the first; Ken Andrews saw it on 06 Aug. Paul Jacyk counted 2670 off Dry Tree Point, *Lucas*, on 23 Oct and up to 2600 at other western Lake Erie sites around that date. Paul Sherwood found 250 at the Findlay Reservoirs on 08 Nov; that was the highest count outside *Lucas*. (43 counties)

## Scaup sp.

Paul Jacyk saw a mixed flock of about 12,000 off Maumee Bay on 02 Nov.

## Harlequin Duck

Jenny Bowman watched one fly past Fairport Harbor, *Lake*, on 01 Nov.

## Surf Scoter

Curiously, the first sighting came from far inland, at East Fork on 13 Oct (m. obs.). The high count of six did come from Lake Erie, off Sims Park, *Cuyahoga*, on 26 Oct (Joshua Davidson). (15 counties)

## White-winged Scoter

Several birders saw the first, at Lorain on 19 Oct. The high count of seven was shared by Philip Chaon off Rocky River Park, *Cuyahoga*, on 28 Nov and Cole DiFabio off Perry Township Park, *Lake*, on the next day. (13 counties)

## Black Scoter

Tom Frankel saw the first, a flock of six off Lakefront Lodge, *Lake*, on 19 Oct. Several observers agreed that 36 were off Sims Park, *Cuyahoga*, on 16 Nov, and up to 16 were seen there on other dates. The most elsewhere were Jenny Bowman's 12 off Painesville Township Park, *Lake*, on 08 Nov. All of the inland sightings, from *Delaware*, *Hancock*, and *Seneca* were of single birds. *Erie*, *Huron*, *Lorain*, and *Lucas* also contributed reports.

## Long-tailed Duck

The first sightings were on 17 Oct. Dan Gesualdo saw two off Sherod Park, *Erie* and Inga Schmidt counted six at LaDue that day. The next sighting was Josh Hargrave's single bird at Fairport Harbor, *Lake*, on 06 Nov. The LaDue sextet provided the high count; the most elsewhere were three at Mosquito WA on 08 Nov (m. obs.). (10 counties)

## Bufflehead

The first was at Winous Point on 29 Sep for Gautam Apte. Several birders saw the next, at Sandy Ridge on 07 Oct. LaDue hosted the most, reported as 150 to 175 on 08 Nov (m. obs.). The most elsewhere were about 80 at Turkeyfoot Lake, *Summit*, on 20 and 23 Nov (m. obs.). (52 counties)

## **Common Goldeneye**

There were only two Oct reports, from Sherod Park, *Erie*, on 17 Oct (Dan Gesualdo) and CLNP on 27 Oct (Gautam Apte). About 400 were off Sims Park, *Cuyahoga*, on 16 Nov (Joshua Davidson) and up to 250 were reported there on other dates. The most elsewhere were Larry Richardson's careful count of 70 at Mosquito Lake on 08 Nov. (29 counties)

## Hooded Merganser

Inga Schmidt saw about 600 at LaDue on both 20 and 21 Nov, and up to 500 were reported there on other dates. The most elsewhere were 200 at Seneca Lake, **Noble**, on 15 Nov (m. obs.) and at Mosquito Lake on several dates (m. obs.). (64 counties)

## Common Merganser

John Kolar and Matthew Valencic separately reported about 110 at LaDue on 29 Nov. (44 counties)

## **Red-breasted Merganser**

Terry Bronson saw about 5000 from Mentor Lagoons on 18 Nov. The next most were 3500 that Joshua Davidson saw off Sims Park, *Cuyahoga*, on 16 Nov. Steven Albert provided the inland high count of 65, from the Findlay Reservoirs on 15 Nov. (36 counties)

## Ruddy Duck

The Wellington Upground Reservoir, *Lorain*, hosted 600 on 03 Nov for Helen and Ken Ostermiller. The next most were Eric Juterbock's 550 at Ferguson and Metzger Reservoirs, *Allen*, on 20 Nov. (63 counties)

#### Northern Bobwhite

Two sites at East Fork each had five, the Williamsburg Wetlands on 03 Aug (m. obs.) and Bantam Road (Robert Edelen and Ginny Fantetti). (11 counties)

#### **Ring-necked Pheasant**

Kevin Coffman saw 14 at a farm near Jeffersonville, *Fayette*, on 08 Nov. (31 counties)

## **Ruffed Grouse**

The reports are:

- One heard drumming at Strouds Run SP, *Athens*, on 20 Oct (Phil Cantino)
- One at Wills Creek WA, *Coshocton/Muskingum*, on 16 Nov (Benjamin H. Yoder)
- One elsewhere in *Coshocton*, also on 16 Nov (Aaron Nisley and Lucas Weaver)

## Wild Turkey

Aerin Doughty and Tyler McClain provided the high count of 33, from Blendon Woods on 23 Nov. (60 counties)

#### **Pied-billed Grebe**

Metzger hosted 280 when Terry Bronson was

there on 01 Oct. Harry and Rochelle Colestock "took great pains to individually count all these birds" to report the second highest number, 169, from ONWR on 21 Sep. All the other reports, from 76 counties total, were of 90 or fewer birds.

## Horned Grebe

Connie Gheer saw the first two, at Lorain on 17 Sep. The 86 off Sims Park, *Cuyahoga*, on 16 Nov were the most (m. obs.). Kelly Kozlowski's 24 at LaDue on 20 Nov were the most away from Lake Erie. (41 counties)

#### Red-necked Grebe

George Billman well described an early arrival at Pike Lake SP, *Pike*, on 30 Aug. The next, which Chad Pumpelly saw at Buck Creek on 05 Nov, was a bit later than the species' usual first arrival. The high count of two was shared by Julie Karlson and Doug Overacker at Buck Creek on 06 Nov and Spencer Vanderhoof at Huron harbor, *Erie*, on 22 Nov. Sightings also came from *Cuyahoga*, *Geauga*, *Knox*, *Lake*, and *Wyandot*.

## Eared Grebe

Eric Elvert saw the first, at a Barrett Paving gravel pit in *Montgomery* on 07 Nov. Two spent from 11 to 26 Nov on the lake in Winton Woods CP, *Hamilton* (m. obs.). *Butler*, *Huron*, *Medina*, *Preble*, and *Stark* also hosted the species.

## **Rock Pigeon**

Jarrett Dickey estimated that 500 were in Dayton's Veterans Park on 25 Oct. Robert Thorn saw about 360 at Northern Lights shopping center, *Franklin*, on 30 Oct. (81 counties)

#### **Eurasian Collared-Dove**

Josh King counted 14 in Celina, *Mercer*, on 17 Oct. The next highest number was four, seen in Wilmington, *Clinton*, on 23 Aug (Hana Gibson), in Celina on 28 Sep (Eric Juterbock), and again in Celina on 08 Oct (Josh King). Ten other counties also produced reports.

## Mourning Dove

Stefan Gleissberg found 310 at Lake Snowden, *Athens*, on 14 Nov. Robert Lacker and Charlie Saunders noted 250 at Gilmore on 29 Oct. (all 88 counties)

#### Yellow-billed Cuckoo

Sightings were fairly steady until the last reports on 25 Oct. On that date several birders saw one at Strouds Run SP, *Athens* and Duane Miller and Atlee Yoder saw another at Funk. Regina Schieltz counted eight while boating the lake at Caesar Creek on 01 Aug. (71 counties)

#### Black-billed Cuckoo

Rodney Crice reported the last, from Fernald on 20 Oct. Sarah Preston's there on 13 Oct was the

second last, and possibly the same bird. Duos were at the Ohio Power lands, *Morgan*, on 23 Aug (Terry Bronson) and the Kendall Lake area of CVNP on 04 Sep (George Novosel). (32 counties)

## **Common Nighthawk**

Allen Rand provided the last report, a single bird at the Big Creek Reservation, *Cuyahoga*, on 18 Oct. Adam Mitchell counted flocks by 10s as they passed Bergholz, *Carroll*, on 01 Sep, and noted 550. Marvin Yoder counted 235 near Fredericksburg, *Wayne*, on 11 Sep. (67 counties)

## Eastern Whip-poor-will

Ian Lynch and Sarah Preston found an injured bird in downtown Cleveland on 05 Oct and took it to rehab. It and one at Mentor Marsh on 03 Oct (Tom Frankel) were the last two reported, and the only ones that month. Renee Frederick found two near Logan, *Hocking*, on both 05 and 11 Aug; Wyatt Flood tied her at Zaleski on 13 Aug. Reports also came from *Hancock*, *Licking*, and *Muskingum*.

## **Chimney Swift**

The last reports were on 27 Oct; they were of three to six birds and came from four locations. (81 counties)

## Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Vern Bingman's feeder in Bowling Green, *Wood*, hosted a straggler on 10 Nov. Richard Gass saw the second last, at his Cincinnati feeder on 21 and 22 Oct. Nicky Rosner's 24 at Wooster Memorial Park, *Wayne*, was the high count, and Ken Davis' 18 at Blendon Woods on 24 Aug was the second highest. (79 counties)



Possibly the only person to photograph this bird, Jim Smallwood was lucky to document this albino Ruby-throated Humming bird at a private residence in Chardon Township, **Geauga**, on 03 Sep.

#### **Rufous Hummingbird**

An adult male spent from 23 Oct to 18 Dec at a Millersburg, *Holmes*, home. Allen Chartier banded it on 30 Oct; he had banded an adult female at the same home on 22 Oct 2011. A hatch-

year male was at a Bellbrook, *Greene*, feeder for only three days, 08 to 10 Oct. Allen was able to confirm its identity from photos. He noted that its molt into adult plumage appeared to be irregular – molt on its back was advanced and the tail had both adult and juvenile type feathers.

#### Hummingbird sp.

Amy Holloway had a too-brief look at one along the Marion Tallgrass Trail on 24 Nov. The date would say Rufous but its identity will never be known.

## Yellow Rail

One struck a downtown Cleveland window on the night of 16-17 Oct. It was rescued by a Lights Out Cleveland volunteer, restored to health at the Lake Erie Nature and Science Center, and released to continue its migration. The OBRC has details. A second report (a post with a description) came from **Butler**.



Tim Jasinski holds the rescued Yellow Rail during its treatment at LENSC.

## King Rail

They nested at Howard Marsh this year and up to six were seen there this season. The season's last was also there, one bird heard by Greg Cornett on 09 Oct. One was seen or heard intermittently at Conneaut from summer to 24 Aug (m. obs.). Another, perhaps one of the Howard Marsh birds, was at Metzger on 11 and 12 Aug (m. obs.). Douglas Vogus' ONWR census team found one on 01 Sep. Several birders reported one at Winous Point on 28 Sep.

## Virginia Rail

Singles were reported on the last date, 28 Oct, by a birding party at the CVNP Ira Road marsh and by Edward Ingold along Township Road 173, *Hancock*. The high count of four was also shared, again at the Ira Road marsh on 05 Aug (m. obs.) and at Winous Point on 28 Sep (Gautam Apte). (19 counties)

## Sora

Sally Isacco saw one at Wake Robin on 26 Oct, as did Anthony Popiel at Lorain. Andrea and

Brad Imhoff counted 12 at the Granville Schools Land Lab, *Licking*, on 15 Sep, and up to seven there on other dates. Gautam Apte found the most elsewhere, six at Winous Point on 29 Sep. (19 counties)

## Purple Gallinule

One spent several days in Oct at Lorain; it generated many photos but no report to the OBRC.

#### Common Gallinule

The only Nov sightings were of single birds on 03 Nov at Howard Marsh (Susan Brauning) and ONWR (Douglas Vogus *et al.*) and then at Mentor Lagoons on 15 Nov (Cam Lee). The high count of 30 came from Howard Marsh on both 05 Aug (Cam Lee and David Lehner) and 09 Aug (Rebecca Garonzik and Jelmer Poelstra). (16 counties)

## American Coot

About 1000 were noted twice at Nimisila Reservoir, by Duane Miller and Bennie Saylor on 17 Nov and Joe Sudomir on 25 Nov; up to 900 were reported there on other dates. The most elsewhere were the 650 that several birders reported from Mosquito Lake on 08 Nov. (55 counties)

## <u>Limpkin</u>

As many as three were here; photographs leave no doubt of their identity. One at ONWR in Nov prompted a report to the OBRC; a bird at Magee in Aug-Sep and one at Mentor, *Lake*, in Oct did not.



After a last-minute drive from Columbus, Alex Eberts had a close-up experience with his first Ohio Limpkin near BSBO on 05 Aug.

#### **Black-necked Stilt**

These nested at Howard and it was the only location with sightings. Several Aug dates produced reports of six birds which included young. The last sighting was of two birds on 21 Aug (m. obs.)

#### Sandhill Crane

Moses C. Miller reported that at least 350 were along Elyria Road, *Wayne*, on 02 Sep. About 180 were seen by Nicky Rosner at nearby Wilderness Road the same day and many more triple digit reports came from that area. The most elsewhere were Larry Richardson's 75 at Mosquito Lake on 08 Oct. (45 counties)



A surprise backyard visitor for Su Snyder, this Sandhill Crane stopped by her **Wayne** home on 20 Sep.

#### American Avocet

Two duos showed up on 07 Aug, at Headlands (Matthew Domer) and Charles Mill Lake, *Ashland* (m. obs.). Anthony Popiel saw the last, at Sandy Ridge on 05 Nov; it had been there since 28 Oct. The high count of 20 came from the Findlay Reservoirs on 22 Oct (m. obs.). (15 counties)



This American Avocet performed a flyby for Scott Zimmermann at Alum Creek on 27 Oct.

## Black-bellied Plover

Two Jul sightings preceded this season's first, which was of two birds at Funk on 05 Aug by Jelmer Poelstra. Corinna Honscheid and Beth Lenoble saw the last, at Hoover NP on 03 Nov. Nicky Rosner found 11 at Wilderness Road on 27 Aug and the second most were Ann Larson's six at Maumee Bay on 06 Oct. (20 counties)

## American Golden-Plover

Several birders saw one or two at both Metzger Marsh and Wilderness Road on 11 Aug, the first date. Several birders also saw the last one, at Darby Creek on 25 Oct. Greg Pasek saw the most, 22 at Howard Marsh on 20 Sep. (19 counties)



The Lorain Fishing Pier hosts many great birds, like it did with this American Golden-Plover for Janice Farral on 02 Sep.

## Killdeer

Kent Miller made an exact count of 531 at the Berlin Lake mudflats on 19 Sep, and up to 513 were reported there on other dates. Chris Followay noted about 400 at Funk on 17 Aug, the largest number elsewhere. Every county except *Jackson* and *Pike* had sightings.

#### Semipalmated Plover

The last date was 27 Oct; single birds were reported then in *Clark, Warren*, and *Wayne*. Jelmer Poelstra saw about 50 at Wilderness Road on 07 Aug. (39 counties)

## **Upland Sandpiper**

Single birds were reported at Fairport Nursery Road, *Lake*, on 21 Aug (Dave Chase), at the OSU Livestock Facility on 30 Aug (Irina Shulgina), and at The Bowl on 04 Sep (Scott Pendleton).

## Whimbrel

Jeff Harvey and Bob Lane saw the season's first, at Howard Marsh on 25 Aug, nearly a month later than Jul sightings at Conneaut. Gabriel Amrhein saw the last and most, six at Darby Creek on 02 Oct. Two at ONWR on 22 Sep were the second last (Gina Swindell) and another duo was at Fairport Nursery Road, *Lake*, on 29 Aug (Dave Chase). Reports of singles came from *Ashtabula*, *Cuyahoga*, and *Lorain*.

## Hudsonian Godwit

The reports are:

- Thirteen at Conneaut on 18 Aug; see Field Notes for more (Bob Krajeski)
- Twenty-five at East Fork on 27 Aug (Donald Morse Jr.)
- Seventeen at Darby Creek on 27 Aug (Ronnie Clark)
- One in the *Preble* section of Hueston Woods, also on 27 Aug (m. obs.)

## Marbled Godwit

The reports are:

- Two at Buck Creek on 23 Aug (Lee Funderburg, Dan Kempf)
- One at the Findlay Reservoirs on 01 Sep (m. obs.)
- One at Maumee Bay on 19 Sep (Christina Stump)

## **Ruddy Turnstone**

These started arriving in Jul. The last sighting was a month or more later than usual; m. obs. photographed the bird at Maumee Bay on 17 and 18 Nov. Bill Ohlsen saw the second last, on the Lorain harbor breakwall on 24 Sep. The Lorain fishing pier hosted five on 02 Sep for m. obs. (11 counties)

## Red Knot

The reports are:

- One at Conneaut on 09 Aug (Gustino Lanese) and another there on 05 Sep (Karl Mechem)
- One at Wilderness Road between 11 and 18 Aug and two there from 01 to 07 Sep (m. obs.)
- One or two at Howard Marsh on 14 and 15 Sep (m. obs.)

Ruff

The OBRC has a report from *Wyandot*.

#### Sharp-tailed Sandpiper

One spent the second half of Oct at Killdeer; the OBRC has one report and a host of posts with photos.

#### Stilt Sandpiper

This species' arrivals began in mid-Jul. The last bird was at the Shreve fish pond, *Wayne*, from 23 Oct to 03 Nov (m. obs.). Anthony Schmitt saw the second last, at Slate Run MP, *Pickaway*, on 27 Oct. Josh King provided the high count of 15, from Grand Lake SP on 27 Aug. Funk hosted 10 for Jelmer Poelstra on 07 Aug. (25 counties)

#### Sanderling

These, too, began coming through in Jul. Their last sightings were on 11 Nov. Ed Wransky saw one at the Lorain fishing pier that day, while Ed Wransky and Erin Vardous saw two a little further west at that city's Lakeview Park. Tom Frankel counted 34 at Headlands on 31 Aug. (25 counties)



Janice loves Sanderlings, so she was excited to photograph them on 10 Sep at Lorain.

#### Dunlin

Though there were several Jul sightings, this season's first wasn't until 15 Aug, when Bill Ohlsen found a bird at Sandy Ridge. The next was Tammy Burgy's duo at Howard Marsh on 31 Aug. Tom Frankel saw the last of the season, at Perry Township Park, *Lake*, on 29 Nov, but sightings continued into Dec. Jen Brumfield counted 576 westbound past Lakewood Park, *Cuyahoga*, on 01 Nov. ONWR hosted about 250 on 03 Nov for Susan Brauning and Donna Kuhn. (33 counties)

## **Purple Sandpiper**

The reports are all from Cleveland:

- Two at Edgewater Marina on 12 Nov (Jen Brumfield)
- Up to four visible from the 9<sup>th</sup> Street Pier on 15 and 16 Nov (m. obs.)
- Two on the harbor's outer breakwall during a BSBO lake cruise on 23 Nov (m. obs.)

#### **Baird's Sandpiper**

One Jul sighting preceded this season's first, which was at Killdeer on 03 Aug (m. obs.). Killdeer also provided the last sighting, by Cam Lee on 19 Oct. Josh King and Ethan Rising found 10 at Grand Lake SP on 07 Sep. The second highest count of six was shared by three sites. (19 species)

#### Least Sandpiper

These started arriving in late Jun. The last of the season were singles on 17 Nov by the Hocking River in *Athens* (Cam Lee) and at Big Island on 25 Nov (Cam Lee). (One Dec sighting followed them.) Jelmer Poelstra counted 86 at Wilderness Road on 14 Aug, and several birders noted about 60 at Grand Lake SP on 19 Oct. (51 counties)

#### White-rumped Sandpiper

Two Jul sightings preceded this season's first, George Novosel's find at Metzger on 08 Aug. Several birders reported the last, at the Shreve fish pond, *Wayne*, on 25 Oct. Adam Yoder *et al.* saw five at Funk on 19 Aug. (16 counties)

#### **Buff-breasted Sandpiper**

The first date was 27 Aug, when two were seen at Lakeview Park, *Lorain* (Janice Farral) and singles were at the Findlay Reservoirs (Dave Smith), the Lorain fishing pier (m. obs.), and Grand Lake SP (Josh King). Wilderness Road hosted the last, on 26 Sep (Aaron Nisley) and the most, four on both 05 and 07 Sep (m. obs.). *Franklin* and *Lake* also provided reports.



Another great bird for Leslie Sours at the Lorain Fishing Pier this time it was a Buff-breasted Sandpiper on 29 Aug.

#### Pectoral Sandpiper

Their migration was well under way by Aug, and lasted until Robert Lacker saw one at Gilmore on 06 Nov. Counts of about 100 came from Funk on 08 Aug (Rebecca Garonzik and Jelmer Poelstra) and on 19 Aug (m. obs.). (40 counties)

#### Semipalmated Sandpiper

Randy Rowe saw the last, four birds at the Shreve fish pond, *Wayne*, on 27 Oct. Two had been reported at Darby Creek on 21 Oct (m. obs.). Josh King found about 70 at Grand Lake SP on 27 Aug. (43 counties)

## Western Sandpiper

Several birders saw the first, at Big Island on 20 Aug. Melanie Shuter saw the last, at Deer Creek WA on 13 Oct. The second last was Joe Baldwin's at Darby Creek on 02 Oct. Three spent from 28 Aug to 01 Sep at Wilderness Road for many to see. Sightings also came from *Hancock, Lorain*, *Mercer, Ottawa*, and *Richland*.

#### Short-billed Dowitcher

Barbara James saw the last, three at Berlin Lake on 02 Oct. Metzger hosted 22 for Joshua Davidson on 10 Aug, and David Lehner counted 17 at Big Island on 13 Aug. (19 counties)

## Long-billed Dowitcher

An arrival on 31 Jul was followed by the season's first; Paul Jacyk saw two birds at ONWR on 03 Aug. Next was a single bird at Wilderness Road

on 11 Aug (m. obs.). Anthony Popiel saw one at ONWR on 04 Nov, but the season's last were two that Susan Evanoff and Su Snyder saw along Overton Road, *Wayne*, on 26 Nov. (A straggler also showed up in mid-Dec.) Margaret and Roger Higbee counted 26 at Killdeer on 29 Oct and birders found up to 21 there on other dates. The most elsewhere were Terry Bronson's 10 at Howard Marsh on 01 Oct. (18 counties)

## American Woodcock

Grand River WA, *Trumbull*, provided the highest count and the last sightings. Larry Richardson found six there on 23 Oct and singles on both 20 and 30 Nov. The last otherwise was a single bird seen by Mark Shaver near Middlefield, *Geauga*, on 13 Nov. Three sites each hosted four. (30 counties)

## Wilson's Snipe

Jim McCormac found 45 at Darby Creek on 13 Oct; John Petruzzi counted 31 at Mill Creek on 02 Nov. (40 counties)

## Spotted Sandpiper

John Landon saw the last, at Cowan Lake, *Clinton*, on 19 Nov, a good two weeks after their historic departure date. But Amy Didion saw one on 18 Nov at East Sandusky Bay MP, *Erie*, and another was at Lake Logan SP, *Hocking*, from 06 to 08 Nov (m. obs.). The high count of 15 was shared by Jelmer Poelstra along Shwartzwalder Road, *Wayne*, on 03 Aug and Aaron Nisley at nearby Wilderness Road on 14 Aug. (59 counties)

## Solitary Sandpiper

These started arriving in Jun. Anthony Popiel provided the last sighting, from Sandy Ridge on 30 Oct, almost a month later than usual for that far north. Nicholas Parish saw 30 at Mill Creek on 17 Aug and up to 26 there on other dates. The most elsewhere were the 25 that John Kolar found at LaDue on 11 Aug. (53 counties)



A perfect photo comparison on 15 Sep was not missed by Jamie Cunningham when a Western Sandpiper and Semipalmated Sandpiper walked by together near Mercer WA.

## Lesser Yellowlegs

Jason and Neill Cade saw the last, at Caesar Creek on 11 Nov, a typical end-of-migration date. Cam Lee counted 93 at Killdeer on 23 Sep. (52 counties)

## Willet

Though this species is often seen almost to the end of Oct, this year's last sighting was on 19 Sep, by Kim Nordquest at Conneaut. Chad Pumpelly saw four fly past *Lorain* on 04 Aug. Bob Krajeski and Mark Shaver tied him at Conneaut on 18 Aug. Reports also came from *Clark*, *Cuyahoga*, *Erie*, *Lake*, *Lucas*, and *Trumbull*.

## Greater Yellowlegs

This species' southbound migration begins in Jun and usually lasts well into Dec. This year, however, the last two sightings were on 22 Nov, by Robert Thorn at O'Shaughnessy Reservoir, *Delaware*, and on 28 Nov, by John Kolar at LaDue. Loren Hintz saw 50 at Killdeer on 11 Oct. (50 counties)



A Greater Yellowlegs enjoys lunch with Debbie Parker at Sandy Ridge on 18 Oct.

## Wilson's Phalarope

Several birders saw the first, at Metzger on 10 Aug, and also the last, which spent 23 to 25 Sep at Hoover NP. Two at Wilderness Road on 03 and 04 Sep were the most (m. obs.). *Ashland*, *Franklin*, *Greene*, and *Wyandot* also had sightings.

#### Red-necked Phalarope

David Lehner found two at Big Island on 14 Aug. Josh King's four at Grand Lake on 21 Sep were the last. Dan Embers' two well offshore from *Lorain* on 14 Sep were the last. Jelmer Poelstra saw the most, five at Wilderness Road on 02 Sep. (11 counties)



This juvenile Wilson's Phalarope was seen by Sean Hollowell as it hunted along the small ponds of Oakes Quarry, Greene, on 23 Aug.

#### **Red Phalarope**

Singles were reported from Conneaut on 23 Oct (Philip Chaon) and at Cleveland's Edgewater Park on 27 Oct (Jen Brumfield).

#### Pomarine Jaeger

Dave Smith saw the first, from the Huron pier, *Erie*, on 25 Oct. Duane Miller saw the season's last while fishing off *Cuyahoga* on 20 Nov, though there was also a report from 01 Dec. Susan Evanoff and Su Snyder discovered one at Pleasant Hill Lake on 29 Oct; it stayed until 02 Nov. The bird spent time in both *Ashland* and *Richland* and provided the first record for both counties. Singles were also seen at other *Cuyahoga* sites and at two locations in *Lake*.



Kurt Wray got killer looks at this resting Pomarine Jaeger at Pleasant Hill Lake on 02 Nov.

## Parasitic Jaeger

Posts from one *Cuyahoga* site and one *Lake* site had descriptions; those from a second site in each county had no supporting information.

#### Long-tailed Jaeger

A post from *Cuyahoga* had no description or photo.

#### **Black-legged Kittiwake**

Atlee Yoder saw one from Sims Park, *Cuyahoga*, on 16 Nov.

#### Sabine's Gull

Several birders saw one off Perry Township Park, *Lake*, on 04 Oct. Tom Frankel and Josh Hargrave separately reported it or another off Fairport Harbor, *Lake*, on 27 Oct.

## Bonaparte's Gull

Gautam Apte saw about 1600 at Winous Point on 29 Sep. John Landon saw about 600 at East Fork on 16 Nov for the largest number away from Lake Erie. (57 counties)

#### Little Gull

Gautam Apte saw an adult from Willoughby's Sunset Park, *Lake*, on the morning of 27 Oct and later that day an immature bird off CLNP.

## Laughing Gull

Jon Cefus and Kent Miller saw the season's first, at the Bolivar Landfill, *Stark*, on 16 Aug. They

and others saw it there intermittently until 22 Nov. The last otherwise was off Huron, *Erie*, on 25 Oct (Dave Smith). Birders saw two at East Fork between 31 Aug and 02 Sep. (14 counties)

#### Franklin's Gull

John Herman found one at Pleasant Hill Lake, *Richland*, on 25 Sep, and others got to see it then and over the next two days. Margaret Bowman saw the last, at Buckeye Lake SP, *Licking*, on 05 Nov. The high count of five came from Dale Bailey at Rocky Fork on 30 Oct. (15 counties)

#### Laughing/Franklin's Gull

Louis Hoying saw an indeterminate bird at Lake Loramie SP, *Shelby*, on 17 Nov and two of them there on 21 Nov. Neither species was positively identified by other observers at that site.

## **Ring-billed Gull**

Jennifer Allison saw about 8000 on the Cuyahoga River at Cleveland's Scranton Flats on 03 Nov. Philip Chaon and Ashli Gorbet had seen about 7000 at the mouth of the Huron River, *Erie*, on 31 Oct. The most away from Lake Erie were 3000, at the Bolivar Landfill, *Stark*, on 22 Nov (Jon Cefus and Kent Miller). (61 counties)

## Herring Gull

Kent Miller found about 2000 at Meyers Lake, *Stark*, on 29 Nov and wrote, "Numbers building at this traditional pre-freeze late afternoon winter roost." Jen Brumfield provided the highest number from the Lake Erie shore, 1800 at Cleveland's Edgewater Park on 12 Nov. (57 counties all the way to the Ohio River)

#### [Herring x Glaucous-winged Gull]

Jon Cefus and Kent Miller photographed a bird at the Bolivar Landfill, **Stark**, on 01 Nov and after consultation with experts concluded it was this hybrid. It's interesting that Ohio doesn't have a record of a pure Glaucous-winged.

## Iceland Gull

Bill Ohlsen reported the first, from the Lorain fishing pier on 10 Nov. Debbie Parker saw two there on 13 Nov and Kent Miller saw two at the Bolivar Landfill, *Stark*, on 21 Nov. *Cuyahoga* and *Hancock* also had sightings.

## Lesser Black-backed Gull

Three Jul sightings preceded this season's first, which Sally Isacco made at Headlands on 04 Aug. The Findlay Reservoirs hosted 85 on 03 Nov for Shane Myers and up to 52 on other dates. Geoff Malosh counted 24 from the Ottawa River Interpretive Trail, *Lucas*, on 14 Nov for the highest count elsewhere. (21 counties)

## Glaucous Gull

Atlee Yoder saw the first, at Wendy Park on 16 Nov. It or other single birds were later seen at several other *Cuyahoga* sites as well. Janice Farral's find at Lorain on 26 Nov was the only one seen in another county.



While aboard the BSBO pelagic out of Cleveland on 23 Nov, Alex Eberts got lucky as this juvenile Glaucous Gull blasted by the boat at eye level.

## Great Black-backed Gull

Several birders saw 20 at the Lorain fishing pier on 30 Aug. A different party of birders found the inland high count of three at the Findlay Reservoirs on 31 Aug. (14 counties)

#### Black Tern

Irina Shulgina saw the first of the season, at Darby Creek on 13 Aug. One spent from 13 to 19 Aug at Wilderness Road (m. obs.). The second last were a little late to depart on 20 Sep; one was at Maumee Bay (David Amamoto) and 12 were passing Afton, *Clermont* (Rene', Andy, and Bill McGill). The last was a serious straggler, but several birders saw it at Great Egret Marsh, *Ottawa*, on 11 Oct. Robert Edelen and Ginny Fantetti provided the high count of 28, from East Fork on 27 Aug. The Afton 12 was the second highest number. (12 counties)



David Donahue was pleased to find this Black Tern at Wilderness Road on 27 Aug

#### **Caspian** Tern

Birders found three at Maumee Bay on 28 Oct and one was still there for Geoff Malosh on 10 Nov. Jason Bojczyk saw about 50 at Howard Marsh on 06 Aug and up to 46 were reported

there on other dates. LaDue hosted 37 on 07 Aug, the most elsewhere (m. obs.). (42 counties)

## Common Tern

Alexandria Horne saw the last two, at East Fork on 26 Nov. The second last had been at Conneaut on 17 Nov for Marc Parnell. Paul Jacyk found about 120 at Maumee Bay on 04 Sep and up to 115 were reported there on other dates. The most elsewhere were 50 at each of Cedar Point, *Erie*, on 05 Aug (Asher Warkentin) and the CCE Trail on 14 Sep (Tyler Ficker and Kevin Pero). Dan Kempf's seven at Buck Creek on 27 Sep was the largest count away from Lake Erie. (24 counties)



Debbie Parker spotted this Common Tern at the Lorain Fishing Pier on 14 Aug

## Forster's Tern

Chris Pierce saw the last one, at Wendy Park on 12 Nov. Maumee Bay hosted 160 for Paul Jacyk on 04 Sep and up to 135 on other dates. Brandon Brywczynski and Barry McEwen found 60 at CPNWR on 02 Nov, the most elsewhere. The inland high count of 49 came from Buckeye Lake, *Licking*, on 04 Sep (Andrea and Brad Imhoff). (29 counties)

#### Common Loon

Reports were sparse in Aug, less so in Sep, and numerous in Oct and Nov. Benjamin H. Yoder counted 240 passing over Fresno, *Coshocton*, on 08 Nov. Reuben S. Erb's 143 were the second most; they flew over him near Walnut Creek, *Holmes*, on 16 Nov. (53 counties)



Did Debbie Parker wave back at this Common Loon in Lorain Harbor on 05 Nov?

## **Red-throated Loon**

The first was off Rocky River Park, *Cuyahoga*, for Bill Ohlsen on 29 Oct. Several birders counted 21 westbound past Perry Township Park, *Lake*, on 30 Nov, and Robert Hershberger had seen 18 there on 21 Nov. Jen Brumfield's nine off Huntington Reservation, *Cuyahoga*, on 20 Nov were the third most. (11 counties)

#### Pacific Loon

The OBRC has a report from *Lake*. Posts from *Clermont* have photos and descriptions.

## Neotropic Cormorant

Posts from *Wyandot* have descriptions and photos.

## Double-crested Cormorant

Daniel Stutzman estimated that 13,000 streamed past Sherod Park, *Erie*, on 02 Nov. Philip Chaon and Ashli Gorbet had seen about 10,000 passing the Huron River mouth, *Erie*, on 31 Oct. The most inland were about 2300 that Vernon E. Yoder watched fly over New Bedford, *Coshocton*, on 03 Nov. (80 counties)

## <u>Anhinga</u>

The OBRC has a report from *Hamilton*.

## American White Pelican

Four flocks totaling 359 birds passed Winous Point on 29 Sep (Tyler Ficker). The next most were 260 seen along the ONWR WD on 22 Sep (George Novosel). The inland high count was 209; Stefan Minnig tracked them on 08 Nov as they left Indian Lake SP, *Logan*, and crossed into *Shelby*. (21 counties)

#### American Bittern

The last spent from 19 to 21 Nov at the Canalway Center, *Cuyahoga* (m. obs.); that's late for so far north. Lots of birders saw three at Sandy Ridge on 17 Oct. (21 counties)



Debbie Parker sneaked up on this American Bittern while it was sneaking up on its lunch at Sandy Ridge on 28 Oct.

## Least Bittern

These are usually gone by mid-Sep, but James Muller heard one at Lorain on 20 Oct and birders had seen it there the day before. The second last was also straggling; several birders saw it at Wake Robin between 08 and 13 Oct. Joshua Davidson saw 13 at Howard Marsh on 10 Aug and up to nine were seen there on other dates. The most elsewhere were counts of three at three other locations. (15 counties)



Leslie Sours has the best luck with Least Bitterns, and captured this photo of one at Mentor Marsh on 11 Oct.

## **Great Blue Heron**

Jon Cefus saw about 125 at Funk on 02 Sep, Douglas Vogus *et al.* counted 123 during the 04 Aug ONWR census, and three other reports exceeded 100 birds. (all 88 counties)

#### Great Blue Heron (white morph)

Posts from *Montgomery* with photos and descriptions support this identification. It's normally found only in far southern Florida but vagrants are known. The form is under consideration to return it to the species status it enjoyed until 1973.

## Great Egret

Douglas Vogus and his ONWR census teams turned in the two highest counts, 385 on 04 Aug and 187 on 01 Sep. Andrew Simon saw about 150 from the Magee causeway on 29 Aug. The most away from *Lucas* and *Ottawa* were Charlie Saunders' 122 at Gilmore on 11 Oct. (71 counties)

## Cattle Egret

Geoff Malosh and Quentin Skrabec separately reported the last, at Maumee Bay on 10 Nov. A trio that Eric Juterbock photographed at the Coldwater Creek treatment plant, *Mercer*, on 06 Oct provided the only sighting of more than one bird. (9 counties)

## Snowy Egret

Susan Brauning and Donna Kuhn saw the last, two lingering at ONWR on 03 Nov. Don Niece also found a late-staying bird, at Indian Lake SP, Logan, on 01 Nov. The third last was one seen by Donna Kuhn and Jacob Raber at Howard Marsh on 05 Oct, a typical last date. Birders found 16 along the ONWR WD on three Sep dates and up to 14 on others. The most not in *Lucas* or *Ottawa* were duos at Old Woman Creek on 11 Aug (Ed Miller) and Pickerel Creek WA, *Sandusky*, on 14 Aug (Paul Sherwood). (11 counties)

## Little Blue Heron

Following scattered summer sightings, this season's last was at Funk on 16 Sep (m. obs.). Gilmore hosted two on 12 Aug for Irina Shulgina. *Clinton, Defiance, Fairfield, Franklin*, and *Morrow* also hosted singles.

## **Green Heron**

Jon Cefus and Susan Evanoff saw the last of the season, at ONWR on 29 Nov, but there were also a couple of Dec reports. Mill Creek hosted 45 for Bob Lane and John Petruzzi on 21 Aug, and up to 42 on other dates. Jenny Bowman's 35 at Darby Creek, also on 21 Aug, were the most elsewhere. (68 counties)

## Black-crowned Night-Heron

Several Dec sightings followed this season's last, which was at Lorain on 26 Nov (Debbie and Mark Raven). Gautam Apte saw 40 at Winous Point on 28 Sep. Not far away, Howard Marsh had the second highest count, 27 on 09 Aug (Robert Bochenek). David L. Erb saw 16 at Funk on 22 Sep for the largest number away from *Lucas* and *Ottawa*. (21 counties)

## Yellow-crowned Night-Heron

One was seen intermittently at Gilmore between 10 Aug and 03 Sep (m. obs.). Jason Bojczyk photographed one at Metzger on 15 Aug; see Field Notes for more.

## **Glossy Ibis**

A post from *Columbiana* has no details.

## Plegadis sp. Ibis

Posts from *Lucas* and *Summit* have descriptions. A post from *Lake* has no details.

#### Black Vulture

Eric Juterbock found about 135 at the dam in Paint Creek SP, *Highland*, on 22 Oct. Gary Cowell counted 78 at Charles Mill Lake, *Richland*, on 13 Oct. (51 counties including *Cuyahoga*, *Erie*, and *Lorain*)

## **Turkey Vulture**

Matt Anderson counted 1623 passing over southern Toledo on 05 Oct. Erin Allen and Andy Avram saw two kettles totaling about 300 birds over Killdeer on 20 Oct for the second highest number. (all 88 counties)

## Osprey

Sightings were steady until the last, which Doug Marcum made at Nimisila on 10 Nov; sometimes they're in Ohio until the end of that month. Don Niece counted nine at Indian Lake SP, *Logan*, on 20 Sep. (72 counties)

## Swallow-tailed Kite

Two were seen in *Knox* during the second half of Aug into Sep; the OBRC has one report plus a host of posted photographs. A post from *Montgomery* has a brief description.



Always a treat, this Swallow-tailed Kite was seen by many including David Donahue on 27 Aug - along Millersburg Road, Knox.

## Golden Eagle

Marvin Yoder saw one near Fredericksburg, *Wayne*, on 16 Nov. Several birders watched one overhead near Grand Rapids, *Lucas*, on 28 Nov.

## Northern Harrier

Jim McCormac found six at Killdeer on 13 Nov. (57 counties)

## Sharp-shinned Hawk

Tom Kemp watched 10 pass his Grand Rapids, *Lucas* home on 27 Sep and three on 06 Oct. They were the most, but there were many sightings of two birds. (61 counties)

## Cooper's Hawk

Duane Miller and Atlee Yoder counted five during a Big Sit at Killbuck on 12 Oct. (79 counties)

## Northern Goshawk

A post from *Montgomery* has a description.

## Bald Eagle

The high count was 30; it was shared by Bob Krajeski at Conneaut on 02 Aug, Jeff Harvey also at Conneaut on 11 Aug, and Benjamin H. Yoder near Funk on 06 Sep. The most elsewhere were the 19 that Brandon Brywczynski and Barry McEwen counted at CPNWR on 02 Nov. (79 counties)



A failed attempt at snatching dinner at Spring Lakes, **Greene**, led this Bald Eagle to circle back close in front of Sean Hollowell's lens on 24 Sep.

## Mississippi Kite

The OBRC has a report from *Lake*. Posts from *Coshocton*, *Greene*, *Hamilton*, *Harrison*, and *Knox* had one or both of photos and descriptions. Posts from *Clermont* and a second *Knox* location had no details.

## Red-shouldered Hawk

Elias Raber counted eight passing near Millersburg, *Holmes*, over the course of 12 Oct. Patrick Lewis found the second most, five at Mill Creek on 07 Aug. (69 counties)

## Red-tailed Hawk

Charles Bombaci spent about three hours cruising Killdeer on 25 Nov and counted 45 there. The 02 Nov CVNP census tallied 16 (Douglas Vogus *et al.*). Only *Monroe* didn't have a sighting.



While driving in **Franklin** on 16 Sep, Scott Zimmermann spotted this Red-tailed Hawk by the side of the road.

## Broad-winged Hawk

Matt Anderson counted 516 passing Whitehouse, *Lucas*, on 14 Sep. Matt Kemp noted 425 in a "Huge kettle over yard for 2-3 minutes" in *Lucas*  on 15 Sep. Philip Chaon saw the last, over Lorain on 19 Oct, a little late for the north coast. Carl Ball's at the Hunter Ridge development, *Richland*, on 12 Oct was also straggling a bit. (46 counties)

## Rough-legged Hawk

Sam Alac saw the first a bit earlier than usual, at Mentor Marsh on 10 Oct. Quentin Skrabec saw the next, at Maumee, *Lucas*, on 24 Oct. The most were trios at Lucas Weaver's home in *Holmes* on 12 Nov and Mark Shaver's along Hayes Road, *Geauga*, on 17 Nov. (17 counties)

## **Belted Kingfisher**

Marc Parnell found seven at Conneaut on 07 Nov. Only *Putnam* and *Van Wert* didn't have sightings



A Belted Kingfisher took a break to allow Debbie Parker to get this shot on 14 Oct at Lorain.

## Barn Owl

Larry Early saw and heard the last of the season, in Wilmington, *Greene*, on 08 Nov, though several Dec sightings followed. Several birders saw two near Millersburg, *Holmes*, on 08 Sep. One at Lorain on 02 Nov was far from their usual haunts (m. obs.). Sightings also came from *Clinton*, *Fairfield*, other *Holmes* sites, and *Wayne*.

#### Eastern Screech-Owl

Tyler McClain banded five at North Shore Alvar SNP (Kelleys Island) on 02 Nov. (55 counties)

#### Great Horned Owl

The high count of three was shared by six locations. (51 counties)

## Snowy Owl

Ken Carolus described a flyby bird in Silverton, *Hamilton*, on 14 Nov. Many birders saw one along the Mosquito Lake causeway on 24 Nov.

## Barred Owl

Larry Richardson found four at Grand River WA,

*Trumbull*, on 13 Oct and wrote, "calling from 3 different locations from parking lot. Two in one location calling back and forth." (51 counties)

#### Short-eared Owl

Peggy Rudman saw the first, at Fernald on 01 Nov. The next was near Kent Miller's home in *Stark* on 06 Nov. Chris Lotz found two at Darby Creek on 28 Nov. (13 counties)

#### Northern Saw-whet Owl

We usually see the first in mid-Oct, so Bryan Smith's find in *Lawrence* on 02 Oct was early. Tyler McClain banded three at North Shore Alvar SNP (Kelleys Island) on 02 Nov. Reports also came from *Erie, Seneca, Stark*, and *Tuscarawas*. See the Project Owlnet summary following the Species Accounts for more sightings.

## Red-headed Woodpecker

Robert Hershberger counted 24 along Messner Road in Killbuck on 03 Nov. The next most were the 21 that Dave Chase found at Mentor Marsh on 08 Sep. (76 counties)

## **Red-bellied Woodpecker**

Two high counts of 22 came from CVNP. Patrick Coy tallied them during the 14 Sep park-wide Fall Census, and Douglas Vogus *et al.* found them during the 05 Oct monthly towpath census. See the separate article for all of the Fall Census results. (all 88 counties)

## Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

The first date of the season was 31 Aug, when Joseph Keating saw one at Gilmore and Joli Reising found two at Howard Marsh. Neither location is a nesting site, so these were migrants. John Winebrenner *et al.* counted 12 at Maumee Bay on 05 Oct. (68 counties)

#### Downy Woodpecker

Douglas Vogus' ONWR census team found 25 on 06 Oct. A group of birders counted 24 at Quail Hollow on 21 Sep, and up to 22 were reported there on other dates. Only *Pike* didn't have a sighting.

## Hairy Woodpecker

The high count of six was shared by three observers: Kent Miller along the Hoover Park Connector Trail, *Stark*, on 07 Oct; Cole DiFabio in the *Preble* section of Hueston Woods on 01 Nov; and Jim and Keni Scherbinski at Salt Fork SP, *Guernsey*, on 12 Nov. (79 counties)

## Northern Flicker

A group of birders tallied 43 at CLNP on 26 Sep; up to 35 were seen there on other dates. The most elsewhere were the 37 that Douglas Vogus *et al.* counted at ONWR on 06 Oct. (all 88 counties)

## Pileated Woodpecker

Ann and Dwight Chasar counted 12 along two miles of the CVNP Towpath Trail on 16 Nov. Ryan Taylor found eight at Sugarcreek MP, *Greene*, on 21 Nov. (73 counties)

#### American Kestrel

The high count of 10 was shared by James Muller at the OSU Livestock Facility on 01 Aug and Jen Brumfield at Burke Airport on 29 Aug. (80 counties)

#### Merlin

Scattered summer sightings continued through fall and into winter. Kathy Mock found three at Greenlawn Memorial Park, *Summit*, on 29 Nov and there were many reports of two birds. (40 counties)



Kathy Mock captured this Merlin scanning for a meal at Greenlawn Memorial Park, Summit, on 09 Aug.

#### Peregrine Falcon

Three locations each hosted three: downtown Cincinnati on 08 Sep (Lucas Wilson), Cleveland's Erie Street Cemetery on 06 Oct (Mary Anne Romito), and Wake Robin on 13 Oct (m. obs.). (40 counties)



While searching for rarities on the 23 Nov BSBO pelagic, Cuyahoga, Alex Eberts captured this juvenile Peregrine Falcon as it delighted birders with a low flyover.

#### **Great Crested Flycatcher**

The last was a week or so tardy; Ryan Taylor saw it at Caesar Creek on 16 Oct. Inga Schmidt found five along Chagrin River Road, *Geauga*, on 03 Aug. (56 counties)

#### **Tropical Kingbird**

We believe the bird that spent several days of Nov in *Lake* will be confirmed as this species. The OBRC has one report and numerous posted photos.



After missing this (probable) Tropical Kingbird by 20 minutes the day before, Alex Eberts struck gold on 16 Nov on a second trip to Mentor Lagoons NP, Lake.

#### **Cassin's Kingbird**

The OBRC has a report from Marion.

#### Western Kingbird

There's little doubt of the identity of birds found in *Franklin*, *Holmes*, and *Lake*, though the OBRC has only posted descriptions and photos to work from.

#### Eastern Kingbird

The last sightings, on 05 Oct, were shared by Quentin Skrabec at Metzger and Jack Verdin at Spring Valley WA, *Warren*. Susan Brown saw one and Marianne Gorman saw two at Fernald on 28 Sep, the second last date. Alex Eberts photographed as many as he could of a flock of 48 at Lake Rupert, *Vinton*, on 24 Aug; additional scattered individuals gave him a total of 57 birds there. The next most were the 53 that the ONWR census team found on 04 Aug (Douglas Vogus *et al.*). (73 counties)

#### **Olive-sided Flycatcher**

Louis Hoying saw the first, at Lake Loramie SP, Shelby, on 11 Aug. Bennie Saylor saw the last, two birds in Canton, Stark, on 01 Oct. Matt Anderson found four in "Tornado Alley", part of OOPMP, on 18 Aug. The two in Canton and two at Kiwanis Riverway Park, Franklin, from 06 to 08 Sep (m. obs.) were the only other multiples. (33 counties)

## Eastern Wood-Pewee

Colby and Stan Plante found a straggler at La-Due on 01 Nov; usually they've left the state by mid-Oct. The second last was "on time"; Mike Hatfield saw it at Buck Creek on 17 Oct. Mill Creek hosted 22 for William L. Jones on 17 Aug. (81 counties)

#### Yellow-bellied Flycatcher

The first was at Darby Creek on 15 Aug (George Billman). The last was at least two weeks late at Funk on 13 Oct (Jelmer Poelstra). The most were four at CLNP on 01 Sep (Nancy Howell); three were seen there on other dates and twos were found at many locations. (38 counties)



On 22 Sep, David Donahue photographed this Yellow-bellied Flycatcher at Highbanks MP, Franklin.

#### Acadian Flycatcher

Debra Sweeney found the last, at CLNP on 01 Oct, about when they're usually crossing the Ohio River. David Factor counted 15 at the James H. Barrow Field Station, **Portage** (hereafter Barrow FS) on 01 Aug. Counts of 10 came from Findley SP, **Lorain**, on 03 Aug (Nancy O'Bryan) and the CVNP Ledges area on 04 Aug (Karen Zeleznik). (53 counties)

## Alder Flycatcher

The reports are:

- At Brukner NC, *Miami*, on 03 Aug (Alexandria Horne)
- Along the Hoover Park Connector Trail, *Stark*, on 05 Aug (Matt Courtman)
- In Southington, *Trumbull*, on 11 Aug (Larry Dutton)
- At Buck Creek on 28 Aug (Julie Karlson and Doug Overacker)
- At Mentor Marsh on 08 Sep (Nancy O'Bryan)
- At Hueston Woods while banding on 19 Sep (David Russell)

#### Willow Flycatcher

Dennis Mersky saw the last, at Quail Hollow on 24 Sep, rather late for so far north. Brad Imhoff provided the high count of nine, from the Granville Schools Land Lab, *Licking*, on 20 Aug, and there were two counts of six elsewhere on 12 Aug (54 counties)

## Alder/Willow "Traill's" Flycatcher

George Novosel saw an indeterminate bird at ONWR on 06 Oct; that's late for Willow but very late for Alder. Rebecca Garonzik and Jelmer Poelstra counted seven at CLNP on 01 Sep and wrote, "A few looked rather good for Alder and once thought I heard Alder calls."

#### Eastern Phoebe

Sightings continued well into Dec. Douglas Vogus *et al.* counted 16 in ONWR during the 01 Sep census. *Fulton, Putnam, Scioto*, and *Van Wert* didn't have sightings.



While doing a little backyard birding in Medina on 01 Oct, Debbie Parker was visited by this Eastern Phoebe.

#### Vermilion Flycatcher

Posts from *Licking* and *Wayne* had photos but no one filed a report with the OBRC.



After settling for distant looks of this Vermilion Flycatcher the first time around, Alex Eberts returned on 26 Oct and was greeted by a much more welcoming pose at the Prairie Lane wetlands, **Wayne**.

#### Least Flycatcher

Brian Barnabo and Emily Bingham gave a good

description of their find at French Park, *Hamilton*, on 06 Nov; that's a month after they've usually left. Even the second last, which Jordan West saw at Cincinnati's Burnet Woods on 10 Oct, was straggling. Joshua Davidson found 14 at Headlands on 08 Sep. The second highest count was nine, by Rebecca Garonzik and Jelmer Poelstra at CLNP on 01 Sep. (52 counties)

## Northern Shrike

Inga Schmidt found the first, at Chagrin River Road, *Geauga*, on 21 Oct. Duos were seen at CPNWR on 02 Nov (Brandon Brywczynski and Barry McEwen), again there on 03 Nov (Quentin Skrabec), and along the Magee causeway on 30 Nov (Paul Jacyk). (13 counties)

## White-eyed Vireo

Robert Hershberger saw the last of the season, north of Mt. Hope, *Holmes*, on both 29 and 30 Nov. Several other Nov sightings preceded it and a few Dec sightings elsewhere followed. Usually they're gone before the end of Oct. The Wilderness Center, *Stark*, hosted 15 on 05 Sep (m. obs.). (54 counties)

## Bell's Vireo

Lee Funderburg saw the last, at the Osborn Road gravel pits, *Clark*, quite late on 16 Sep. He saw three near Byron, *Greene*, on both 11 and 16 Aug, and Anthony Cannizzaro tied him at Voice of America MP, *Butler*, on 27 Aug. The rest of the sightings came from two other *Butler* locations, two other *Greene* locations, and *Union*.

## Yellow-throated Vireo

Daniel Lind discovered the last, at Delaware WA on 17 Oct, about a week late for mid-state. Singles were seen at two locations on 11 Oct. Ethan Kistler counted 11 at Mosquito WA on 25 Sep and up to nine were seen there on other dates. The most elsewhere were six, seen near Millersburg, *Holmes*, on 12 Sep (Elias Raber) and at the Barrow FS on 26 Aug (David Factor). (65 counties)

## Blue-headed Vireo

These nested in a few areas and individuals were seen at some of those locations in early Aug. The first definite migrant was at Magee on 11 Aug (Kathy Jakischa). The last was at Lake Erie Bluffs on 23 Nov, two weeks after they usually leave the state (Tom Frankel and Kari Warner Matsko). Even the second last, at Mentor Lagoons on 14 Nov, was lagging (m. obs.). David Ward and John Winebrenner counted seven at Maumee Bay on 05 Oct. (56 counties)

## Philadelphia Vireo

The first date was 25 Aug; Bill Deininger saw one at CLNP and Joshua Davidson another at Headlands that day. Gregory Allen's at the Hoover Reservoir dam on 15 Oct was the last. (48 counties)

## Warbling Vireo

Tom Frankel photographed a very late bird at Lake Erie Bluffs on 29 Nov. The second last, found by Kim Pastrick at CLNP on 14 Oct, was still about two weeks behind schedule. Headlands held 36 for Joshua Davidson on 08 Sep. The second highest count was 23, by Douglas Vogus' ONWR census team on 01 Sep. (59 counties)

## Red-eyed Vireo

These, too, stayed around beyond their usual departure date (or arrived late from Canada). Several birders saw one at Headlands on 01 Nov. Sightings came from *Ashland*, *Clark*, and *Lorain* on the second last date 19 Oct, still late for the northern counties. Jelmer Poelstra found about 25 at Wooster Memorial Park, *Wayne*, on 01 Sep. (77 counties)

## Blue Jay

Bill Grant provided the two highest counts, 95 from Acacia Reservation, *Cuyahoga*, on 25 Sep and then 75 there on 07 Oct. (all 88 counties)

## American Crow

Sam Greene estimated that the Zanesville, *Muskingum*, roost held 3000 on 21 Nov; Betsy Thomas had seen about 1500 there on 14 Nov. Devon Zimmerman found at least 1000 at a roost in Mansfield, *Richland*, on 29 Oct. Only *Mercer* and *Van Wert* didn't have sightings.

## Fish Crow

Posts from several *Cuyahoga* sites had descriptions or photos. A *Lorain* post had a brief description. Photos, descriptions, and audio recordings were in posts from *Summit*. But no one filed an OBRC report.

#### Common Raven

Andrea Anderson saw four in Wayne Township, Jefferson, on 29 Sep. Reports also came from other Jefferson sites, Harrison, Lake, Mahoning, Stark, and Washington.

## Horned Lark

Elizabeth McQuaid and Rayka Petkova found about 150 near Killdeer on 24 Nov, and Jim Mc-Cormac found 110 within Killdeer itself on 13 Nov. (61 counties)

#### Bank Swallow

Joe Brehm gave a good description of the two he found at Lake Logan SP, *Hocking*, on 08 Nov, about three weeks late for that latitude. The second last was Kimberly Roberts' at Sandy Ridge on 06 Oct, perhaps a bit late for near the north coast. Josh King saw about 700 near Montezuma, *Mercer*, on 03 Aug. (43 counties)

## Tree Swallow

Reports were steady to the last of the season on 30 Nov, a couple of weeks after their usual departure. That day, Jenny Bowman saw one at Indian Village Camp, *Franklin*, while Kori Gasaway and James Muller photographed four at ONWR. At least three Dec sightings followed. Marty Stutzman *et al.* saw about 1850 during a Big Sit at Wright Marsh, *Wayne*, on 12 Oct., and several birders noted about 1600 at Bucyrus, *Crawford*, on 27 Sep. (74 counties)

## Northern Rough-winged Swallow

Usually these are gone before the end of Oct, but Nicolás Campione gave a good description of a laggard at the Black Fork Wetlands Preserve, *Richland*, on 03 Nov. One at Buckeye Lake SP, *Licking*, on 26 Oct, was the second last (Andrea and Brad Imhoff). Flocks of 300 were noted at Grand Rapids, *Lucas*, on 20 Sep (Tom Kemp) and Old Reid Park, *Clark*, on 09 Oct (Julie Karlson and Doug Overacker). (59 counties)

#### **Purple Martin**

Joe Faulkner saw the last, two at Beechhaven, *Perry*, on 02 Oct, about when the last have usually crossed the Ohio River; a few had been there since 27 Sep. The Nimisila reed beds held about 25,000 when Mary Huey was there on 29 Aug. Susan Wynn had found about 10,000 there on 16 Aug. The most elsewhere were about 600 at ONWR on 10 Aug (Rebecca Garonzik and Jelmer Poelstra). (64 counties)

#### Barn Swallow

Jon Cefus photographed a straggler at Atwood Lake, *Tuscarawas*, on 30 Nov. Even the second last, reported separately by Nathan Mast and Benjamin Miller at Apple Valley Lake, *Knox*, on 11 Nov, was late in departing. Benjamin H. Yoder estimated that 7000 left a roost near Funk on 24 Aug. The next largest flocks were two of about 500, at Wilderness Road on 29 Aug (m. obs.) and Funk on 31 Aug (Rebecca Garonzik and Jelmer Poelstra). (82 counties)

#### Cliff Swallow

These are our least hardy swallow. Nevertheless, the five that Eric Juterbock found at the Grand Lake hatchery on 28 Sep were about two weeks behind schedule. The second last, seen by Brad Imhoff at Dawes Arboretum, *Licking*, on 24 Sep was also straggling. Gregory Allen saw about 65 at the Hoover dam on 08 Aug and up to 60 were reported there on other dates. Irina Shulgina's 30 at the Columbus Upground Reservoir, *Delaware*, on 16 Aug were the most elsewhere. (44 counties)

## Carolina Chickadee

Bryan Smith found about 50 along five miles of travel in Wayne NF, *Lawrence*, on 02 Sep. Michael Easley's 42 was the next highest count; he saw them from the Miami University Natural Areas blind, **Butler**. (62 counties)

## Black-capped Chickadee

Kent Miller counted 81 along 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> miles of trails in Quail Hollow on 20 Sep, and up to 72 there on other dates. He also provided the next highest number, 47 along the Hoover Park Connector Trail, *Stark*, on 30 Sep. (34 counties)

## Carolina/Black-capped Chickadee

Indeterminate birds were seen in 12 counties.

#### Tufted Titmouse

David Smith counted 44 around Tappan Lake, *Harrison*, on 11 Nov. Sightings came from all counties except *Fayette*, *Monroe*, *Sandusky*, and *Van Wert*.

## **Red-breasted Nuthatch**

The high count of three was achieved at three sites. (31 counties)

## White-breasted Nuthatch

A group of birders traveled about four miles through Quail Hollow on 21 Sep and tallied 39. The second largest number was 20, found at each of three locations. Only *Pike* didn't have a sighting.

#### Brown Creeper

David Myles found 10 at ONWR on 03 Nov. (62 counties)

#### House Wren

Jack Verdin saw the season's last, at Fernald on 09 Nov, though one was photographed in mid-Dec elsewhere. Gilmore hosted 24 on 03 Aug for Julie Tyson. (77 counties)

#### Winter Wren

The first two of the season were singles seen at Chagrin River Park, *Lake*, on 23 Aug (Jeanne Hrenko) and 31 Aug (Joan Scharf). The third was Matt Courtman's at Hampton Hills MP, *Summit*, on 14 Sep. The high count of 28 came from Magee on 29 Sep (m. obs.). (60 counties)

#### Sedge Wren

Lee Funderburg's at Huffman Prairie, *Greene*, on 06 Nov was straggling by a couple of weeks. The next last was at Lake Barber, *Hamilton*, on 03 Nov (m. obs.). Huffman Prairie held the most, eight on 11 Aug (David Nolin). Four were seen there on other dates and at two additional locations as well. (14 counties)

#### Marsh Wren

As usual, sightings continued into Dec. Douglas Vogus *et al.* counted 27 at ONWR on 04 Aug. Dave Chase saw the most elsewhere, nine at Mentor Marsh on 06 Aug. (30 counties)

## Carolina Wren

CVNP towpath censuses provided the two highest counts, 21 on 07 Sep and 27 on 02 Nov (Douglas Vogus *et al.*). The most elsewhere were Tom Bartlett's 17 at Crown City WA, *Gallia*, on 21 Aug. Only *Monroe* and *Van Wert* didn't have sightings.

## **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**

Tim Tanner photographed one at Nimisila on 18 Nov, almost a month after they've usually left the state. The second last was a single bird near Wilmington, *Clinton*, on 20 Oct (Jill Early). Ken Davis counted 17 at Blendon Woods on 24 Aug. (64 counties)

## **Golden-crowned Kinglet**

Kevin and Patty McKelvey saw the first, at Lorain on 17 Sep. James Tomko found two at Sheldon Marsh on 24 Sep. CLNP hosted as many as 70 for Jake Kudrna and Maureen MacIntyre on 18 Oct, and 50 were at the Great Miami WMB on 24 Oct (Jody Shireman). (74 counties)

## Ruby-crowned Kinglet

Micki Dunakin saw the first, at her **Paulding** home on 31 Aug. Jake Kudrna and Maureen MacIntyre reported about 150 at CLNP on 18 Oct, and David Myles had seen about 100 at ONWR on 06 Oct. (75 counties)

## Eastern Bluebird

Ann and Dwight Chasar found about 100 in the Jaite area of CVNP on 09 Nov. Cole DiFabio saw about 60 in **Butler** near Hueston Woods on 04 Nov. Only **Mercer** and **Van Wert** didn't have sightings.

## Veery

Sightings were fairly steady to the last, which was by Emily Keeler at Forked Run SP, *Meigs*, on 12 Oct, just a few days past their typical departure date. Garrett Konet found three at the University of Mount Union Research Reserve, *Columbiana*, on 09 Aug. (27 counties)

## Gray-cheeked Thrush

Helen and Ken Ostermiller saw the first, at Magee on 31 Aug. Tom Hissong saw the last, at Englewood MP on 24 Oct. Tony Gazso saw the second last, at Chagrin River Park, *Lake*, on 21 Oct. Matt Anderson heard 40 pass over Whitehouse, *Lucas*, in the predawn of 08 Sep. The second most were Sally Ingraham's 14 at ONWR Navarre on 25 Sep. The 40 and 12 were the only double-digit counts. (40 counties)

## Swainson's Thrush

The first two were seen a little early; they were singles along the Holmes County Trail on 09 Aug (Steve Mulhall) and in Hocking Hills SP on 18 Aug (Ruth Wittersgreen). The last was seen a little late, at Lake Hope SP, *Hocking*, on 08 Nov (Terry Bronson). Elias A. Raber heard 375 pass overhead in the dark of 06 Sep at Dillon SP, *Coshocton/Muskingum*. Atlee, Cristy, and David Miller heard at least 300 near Apple Creek, *Wayne*, early on 08 Sep. (61 counties)

## Hermit Thrush

Robert Sargent saw the season's first, at CVNP on 01 Aug; it might have summered there. Several *Hocking* sightings came between that one and the first sure migrants, which were Eileen Zimlich's three at CLNP on 07 Sep. Counts of 13 came from Cleveland's Erie Street Cemetery on 10 Oct (m. obs.) and Chagrin River Park, *Lake*, on 17 Oct (Josh Hargrave). (58 counties)

## Wood Thrush

Wyatt Flood photographed one for a group of friends at Lake Logan SP, *Hocking*, on 18 Nov, a month after they usually leave the state. One that Tyler McClain photographed at Jones Preserve on 03 Nov was almost as tardy given how far north it was. Even the third last, a duo seen by several birders at Strouds Run MP, *Athens*, on 25 Oct, was lagging. David Factor found nine at the Barrow FS on 29 Aug. (62 counties)

## American Robin

Gary Cowell tallied 1115 on the outskirts of Mansfield, *Richland*, not long after sunup on 22 Oct and wrote, "Counted in groups of 5 to 20 as they were departing to the north and northwest from a large night roost area just south of 4th Street, more were also departing to the south and west also but were not counted as they were too far away to accurately count." Nate Koszycki provided the second highest number, 1000, from Irwin Prairie SNP, *Lucas*, at about sunset on 19 Sep. Only *Pike* didn't have a sighting.

## Gray Catbird

Kent Miller counted 37 along the Hoover Park Connector Trail, *Stark*, on 30 Sep. (83 counties)

## Brown Thrasher

Jim Crumpler provided the high count of eight, at the Conrey Road Bird and Butterfly Sanctuary, *Hamilton*, on 24 Sep. (64 counties)

## Northern Mockingbird

The high count of 12 was shared by Anthony Cannizzaro at Voice of America MP, *Butler*, on 27 Aug and Mike Gibbons at Green Lawn Cemetery, Columbus, on 02 Oct. (70 counties)

## **European Starling**

Gary Cowell found 85,000 by Logan Road, Mansfield, **Richland**, on 14 Oct; he "Estimated by counting in groups of 1000 as they were departing from the wetland area night roost". Gary had noted about 41,000 there on 28 Sep. Elias Raber's 8000 at the Prairie Lane wetlands, *Wayne*, were the most elsewhere. Only *Monroe* didn't have a sighting.

## Cedar Waxwing

Benjamin H. Yoder found at least 350 near Fresno, *Coshocton*, on 11 Sep. George Billman counted 259 in two flocks at Kiwanis Riverway Park, *Franklin*, on 07 Nov. *Fayette*, *Fulton*, *Monroe*, and *Putnam* didn't have sightings.



Su Snyder perfectly captured this Cedar Waxwing while it looked for a snack along Prairie Lane, **Wayne**, on 14 Sep.

## House Sparrow

Billi Krochuk tallied about 250 in Newton Falls, *Trumbull*, on 02 Aug. Andrew Simon and Andriana Vetor doubled her at the Columbus Zoo on 28 Oct. Only *Adams* and *Scioto* didn't produce reports.

## American Pipit

Mark Shaver saw and heard one at Conneaut on 18 Aug, a couple of weeks early. The next was somewhat early for so far south; David Russell saw it at Hueston Woods on 03 Sep. Sightings continued well into Dec. Barb Lindenmuth and Kisa Weeman saw about 100 along Clay Plant Road, *Wayne*, on 09 Nov. Jim McCormac came in second with 75 at Killdeer on 13 Nov. (42 counties)



This American Pipit does its best to avoid the snow at Medusa while Kathy Mock takes a photo on 14 Nov.

## **Evening Grosbeak**

Marvin Yoder saw and heard five pass overhead at Fredericksburg, *Wayne*, on 29 Nov.

#### House Finch

Kevin Coffman found about 75 in his Olentangy Meadows neighborhood, **Delaware**, on 21 Nov. (82 counties)

## **Purple Finch**

Bill Deininger counted 18 at the Rocky River Reservation, *Cuyahoga*, on 02 Nov. The next most were Elias Raber's six along the Richland B&O Trail on 04 Oct. (29 counties)

## Common Redpoll

Matt Means saw two at Sandy Ridge on 03 Nov. Ed Foley found three at the intersection of Stange and Krause Roads, *Ottawa*, on 29 Nov.

## Pine Siskin

Katherine Noblet's home in *Knox* hosted one from Jul to 05 Aug. The next showed up at Louis Hoying's *Auglaize* feeder on 24 Sep. Eastwood MP, *Montgomery*, hosted five for David Ditmer on 24 Sep. (23 counties)

## American Goldfinch

Donna Rouster found about 180 near Milford, *Clermont*, on 20 Oct. Brad Imhoff counted 131 at the Granville Schools Land Lab, *Licking*, on both 11 Sep and 07 Oct. (all 88 counties)

#### Lapland Longspur

Elias Raber saw the first, at Sugarcreek, *Tuscarawas*, on 17 Oct. Joel Throckmorton saw and heard a flock of about 35 passing Wake Robin on 26 Nov. Kori Gasaway and James Muller counted 26 south of Defiance, *Paulding*, on 30 Nov. (19 counties)

#### Snow Bunting

Debbie Parker saw two at the Lorain fishing pier on 01 Nov and Janice Farral saw four there later in the day. Geoff Malosh provided the high count of 93, from Maumee Bay on 11 Nov. The next most were the 77 that Josh Hargrave and Kari Warner Matsko found at Fairport Harbor's Lakefront Park, *Lake*, on 09 Nov. (19 counties)

#### Grasshopper Sparrow

Jim Crumpler saw the last, at the Conrey Road Bird and Butterfly Sanctuary, *Hamilton*, on 29 Oct. Atlee Yoder saw the second last, two birds near his *Holmes* property on 09 Oct. Bill Ohlsen found seven at the Margaret Peak Preserve, *Lorain*, on 01 Aug. (18 counties)

#### Lark Sparrow

These are usually gone by the end of Jul. Nevertheless, the reports are:

One at Oaks Quarry Park, *Greene*, on 01 Aug (Lee Funderburg)

- One at the OSU Livestock Facility from 29 to 31 Aug (m. obs.)
- One in a flock of Savannah Sparrows in *Holmes* on 13 Oct (Robert Hershberger)

## **Chipping Sparrow**

Sightings continued well into Dec. Cole DiFabio's "accurate count of birds flying from tree line into field on Morning Sun Rd." totaled 85 near Hueston Woods on 29 Oct. The second highest count of 50 was shared by Irina Shulgina at OSU's Waterman Farms on 07 Oct and Ann Cramer at Burr Oak SP, *Morgan*, on 19 Oct. *Belmont*, *Jackson*, *Mercer*, and *Monroe* didn't have sightings.

## **Clay-colored Sparrow**

The first was seen at Cleveland's Erie Street Cemetery on 20 Sep (m. obs.) The last was at Lorain on 24 Oct (m. obs.). Singles were also seen on an earlier date at Lorain, at other *Cuyahoga* and *Lorain* sites, and in *Holmes* and *Wyandot*.

## Field Sparrow

Cole DiFabio found about 60 at Hueston Woods on 29 Oct. Next most were Kent Miller's 47 at the Fry Family Park, *Stark*, on 12 Oct. *Henry*, *Monroe*, *Scioto*, and *Van Wert* didn't have sightings.

## Fox Sparrow

Philip Chaon saw the first about when they're expected, at Wake Robin on 03 Oct. The next got all the way to Fernald on 08 Oct for Marianne Gorman. The only counts exceeding seven were 11 by Irina Shulgina at Killdeer on 25 Oct and 13 by Jen Brumfield at the Rocky River Reservation, *Cuyahoga*, on 14 Nov. (57 counties)

#### American Tree Sparrow

The first arrived when expected; Diana Steele found it at the Oberlin South Woods, *Lorain*, on 02 Oct. Tom Frankel saw about 60 at Lake Erie Bluffs on 20 Nov. (57 counties)

## Dark-eyed Junco

The one that Cory Chiappone saw at his *Cuyahoga* home on 05 Aug could have been the first migrant from out of state, though it might have wandered there from a nesting site. The first sighting far from the northeastern counties where they nest was Beverly Campbell's in Dayton on 16 Sep. Brian Tinker saw about 100 at CLNP on 19 Oct as did m. obs. at Grand Rapids, *Lucas*, on 28 Nov. (80 counties)

## White-crowned Sparrow

Bill Ohlsen saw the first, at CLNP on 20 Sep. CLNP also hosted the most, 78 on 18 Oct (Lori Brumbaugh) and up to 40 on other dates. The most elsewhere were 36 at Wendy Park on 27 Oct (Philip Chaon). (67 counties)

## Harris's Sparrow

A post from *Hamilton* has photos.

#### White-throated Sparrow

The first were very early; historically they arrive about 07 Sep. But Zebedee Muller saw one by the Alum Creek Trail, *Franklin*, on 21 Aug and Cole DiFabio and Kari Warner Matsko another at Headlands on 31 Aug. Cole DiFabio photographed some of the 180 he saw at Hueston Woods on 01 Nov. (81 counties)

#### Vesper Sparrow

Amy Downing saw the last, at the Findlay Reservoirs on 14 Nov, a week or more late for so far north. Joseph Lautenbach saw four along Lampe Road, *Fayette*, on 05 Aug. (31 counties)

## LeConte's Sparrow

Doug Whitman saw the first, at Winous Point on 28 Sep. One or two were seen at Mentor Marsh from 05 to 20 Oct. Usually they're gone by the end of Oct, but Duane Miller and Bennie Saylor saw one at Killbuck on 12 Nov; it had been there for four days. The only multiple sighting was of two at Mentor Marsh on each of 19 and 20 Oct (m. obs.). Sightings also came from *Hamilton*, *Preble*, *Tuscarawas*, and *Wyandot*.



Jim Smallwood was excited to find this LeConte's Sparrow on 10 Oct at Wake Robin.

## Nelson's Sparrow

John Petruzzi's at Mill Creek on 27 Sep was the first. The last was lagging by more than a week; Jory Teltser saw it at the Oberlin South Woods, *Lorain*, on 03 Nov. Counts of three came from Fernald on 07 Oct (Julie Tyson) and 20 Oct (m. obs.). (13 counties)

## Henslow's Sparrow

One spent from 06 to 10 Oct at the Ellis Lake wetlands, *Butler*; Marianne Gorman saw it last. Tracy Hammer found eight at Glacier Ridge MP, *Union*, on 19 Aug. (19 counties)

#### Savannah Sparrow

Robert Hershberger counted 69 along Township

Road 652, *Holmes*, on 13 Oct. The next most were Jim McCormac's 55 at Darby Creek, also on 13 Oct. (49 counties)



On 11 Oct, this Savannah Sparrow was quite cooperative for Debbie Parker at Chippewa Lake's Krabill Shelter, **Medina**.

## Song Sparrow

Philip Chaon reported 128 at Lorain on 19 Oct and wrote, "Flocks absolutely everywhere. Probably undercounted." Only *Monroe* and *Pike* didn't have sightings.

#### Lincoln's Sparrow

The first date of 05 Sep was a bit early for midstate. It was shared by George Billman at Kiwanis Riverway Park, *Franklin*, and Brad Imhoff at Kokosing Lake WA, *Knox*. Kevin and Patty McKelvey well described the last, in downtown Cleveland on 25 Nov; it was at least two weeks late for the north coast. Philip Chaon counted 22 in Cleveland's Erie Street Cemetery on 30 Sep. The second highest count of 12 was achieved at four sites. (56 counties)

#### Swamp Sparrow

Metzger hosted 78 on 20 Oct (m. obs.). Josh Yoder found 55 at Funk on 19 Oct. (67 counties)



A Swamp Sparrow put on a gymnastics routine at Sandy Ridge for Janice Farral on 01 Oct.

## Spotted Towhee

A post from *Geauga* has photos.

## Eastern Towhee

Tyler McClain counted 21 in Mohican SP on 14 Sep. (74 counties)

## Yellow-breasted Chat

Patrick McGuigan saw the last, in Wayne Township, *Monroe*, on 05 Oct. Duos were seen in five locations. (19 counties)

## Yellow-headed Blackbird

The reports are:

- Up to four at Howard Marsh from summer until 01 Oct (m. obs.)
- Up to three at next-door Metzger between 07 and 11 Aug (m. obs.)
- One that overflew ONWR on 18 Aug (Mary Huey)

One in a flock of Red-winged Blackbirds over Iris Court, *Cuyahoga*, on 25 Aug (Bill Ohlsen)

One at Lorain from 19 to 21 Oct (m. obs.)

## Bobolink

Several birders saw three at Wake Robin between 13 and 15 Oct, a little late for so far north. Jelmer Poelstra estimated 385 were in a single flock at The Wilds on 15 Sep. The next most were Scott Pendleton's 180 near Cadiz, *Harrison*, on 17 Aug. These two reports were the only triple-digit ones. (32 counties)

## Eastern Meadowlark

Scott Pendleton found 80 with the Bobolinks near Cadiz, *Harrison*, on 17 Aug. Kent Miller counted 37 in fields near his *Stark* home on 22 Oct. (62 counties)

#### **Orchard Oriole**

Bennie Saylor photographed one in Ravenna, *Portage*, on 02 Oct, a month after they usually leave the state. The last otherwise was found by Julie Karlson and Doug Overacker at Buck Creek on 06 Sep. Richard Kaskan found six at Walborn Reservoir, *Stark*, on 03 Aug. (29 counties)

## **Baltimore Oriole**

Though these are usually out of the state before the last week of Sep, several birders saw one at CLNP on 04 Oct and Nancy O'Bryan another at Sims Park, *Cuyahoga*, on 06 Oct. Larry Richardson counted 16 at Grand River WA, *Trumbull*, on 16 Aug and up to 13 on other dates. The most elsewhere were 11 at both the Barrow FS on 12 Aug (David Factor) and Pleasant Hill Lake on 21 Aug (Elias Raber). (60 counties)

#### **Red-winged Blackbird**

Flocks of about 20,000 were seen by Gary Cowell at the Logan Road marsh, *Richland*, on 14 Oct and by Duane Miller and Bennie Saylor at

Killdeer's Pond 27 on 20 Oct. Cam Lee and David Lehner had seen about 10,000 at Killdeer on 23 Aug and Tyler Ficker saw about that many pass Scioto Grove MP, *Franklin*, during two hours on 15 Sep. Only *Gallia*, *Monroe*, and *Pike* didn't have sightings.

## Brown-headed Cowbird

Lisa Combs and David J. Svetich found about 750 at Killdeer on 27 Oct. (69 counties)

## **Rusty Blackbird**

Lisa Barrow and Moses Michelsohn saw the first, two at Magee on 13 Sep. Next were two on the north side of Cleveland (Allen Rand) and two at Fernald (Jack Verdin) on 22 Sep. David Factor estimated that 700 were along the Headwaters Trail, *Portage*, on 25 Oct. Larry Richardson found about 200 at Mosquito Lake on 07 Nov. (49 counties)

## Brewer's Blackbird

Matt Anderson saw one in Monclova, *Lucas*, on 27 Nov.

## Common Grackle

Gary Cowell "estimated by counting in groups of 1-5 thousand" and came up with 60,000 leaving a Mansfield, **Summit** roost on 14 Oct. Ken Andrews watched at least 20,000 stream past him in Medina (city) on 30 Nov. (80 counties)

## Blackbird sp.

In addition to the details above, three mixed flocks of about 10,000 birds each were reported.

## Ovenbird

Kevin and Patty McKelvey photographed the last, at Ralph J. Perk Plaza, Cleveland, on 08 Nov; it or another had been seen in the area from 28 Oct. The second last was at Wendy Park on 26 Oct, still late for the north coast (Ken Andrews). The species has been seen well past its historical departure date of about 25 Oct for several years. Counts of seven came from The Wilderness Center, *Stark*, on 18 Sep (m. obs.) and Cleveland's Erie Street Cemetery on 30 Sep (Philip Chaon). (47 counties)

## Worm-eating Warbler

Susan Carpenter saw the last, at Silver Springs Lake, *Summit*, on 22 Sep, about when they have usually left the state. Reports also came from two *Athens* sites, two *Lawrence* sites, *Fairfield*, and *Hocking*.

## Louisiana Waterthrush

Joe Brehm saw the last, at Trimble Township Community Forest, *Athens*, about two weeks behind schedule on 05 Oct. The second last was much earlier; Michael Schramm found it in the *Washington* section of Wayne NF on 17 Sep. Several birders saw three in Holden's Stebbins Gulch on 03 Aug. (14 counties)

## Northern Waterthrush

The first showed up at Magee on 10 Aug (Rebecca Garonzik and Jelmer Poelstra) and the next in downtown Cleveland on 20 Aug (Kevin and Patty McKelvey). The last was in Cincinnati's Burnet Woods on the typical date of 14 Oct (Julia Botz). Duos were seen at Magee on 02 Sep (Eli Miller) and 03 Sep (Ron Avers) and at Wooster Memorial Park, *Wayne*, on 04 Sep (Elias Raber). (18 counties)

## Golden-winged Warbler

Often these arrive in mid-Aug, but this year's first sighting was on 31 Aug; Robert Thorn made it at Friendship Park, *Franklin*. The last was Sam Romeo's at Aullwood on 30 Sep. (12 counties)

## Blue-winged Warbler

Bob Helton saw the last, at CLNP on 07 Oct, about two weeks late for the north coast. Larry Richardson found six at Grand River WA, *Trumbull*, on several Aug dates and up to five there at other times. Lisa Phelps' three at Crown City WA, *Lawrence*, on 10 Aug were the most elsewhere. (35 counties)

## Black-and-white Warbler

Usually they've left the state by about 07 Oct, but Kevin and Patty McKelvey photographed one in downtown Cleveland on 24 Oct, and Tobias Morrison found one at CLNP on 19 Oct. Shane Myers counted seven at Oakwoods NP, *Hancock*, on 05 Sep. (56 counties)

## Prothonotary Warbler

Like Black-and-whites, these overstayed their historic last date of Aug 31: Jordan West photographed one at Burnet Woods, Cincinnati, on 13 Oct. Amy and Geoff Winningham saw one in the *Hocking* section of Clear Creek on 16 Sep. The high count of four was achieved at five locations. (25 counties)

## Tennessee Warbler

Kandace Glanville banded one at OOPMP on 01 Aug, a week or so before their expected arrival. The next date was 24 Aug, when Larry Richardson saw one at Grand River WA, *Trumbull*. The last was lagging about a week for mid-state; Robert Thorn saw it at Blendon Woods on 28 Oct. Buck Creek hosted 14 for Lee Funderburg on 22 Sep. (58 counties)

## Orange-crowned Warbler

Three sites each held one on the first date, 14 Sep: a *Geauga* home (Linda Gilbert and John Kolar), the CVNP Wetmore Trails (Henry Trimpe), and Hampton Hills MP, *Summit* (Matt Courtman). The last, and late, date of 17 Nov was also shared, by Josh King at the Grand Lake hatchery and Louise Acheson and Ken Vinciquerra at Forest Hills Park, *Cuyahoga*. Sally Isacco found three at Wake Robin on 08 Oct and there were many sightings of two. (31 counties)

#### Nashville Warbler

Peggy Rudman saw the first, at her *Hamilton* home on 19 Aug, early for so far south. Tim Tanner saw the last, at Nimisila on 18 Nov, late for so far north. The high count of 14 was shared by Jelmer Poelstra at CLNP on 17 Sep and by Duane Miller and Bennie Saylor there on 05 Oct. (64 counties)

## **Connecticut Warbler**

By contrast with many other warblers, this species' first arrival was later than usual and its last sighting was early. Peggy Wang's at Magee on 03 Sep was the first and Jordan West's at the Hauck Botanical Gardens, *Hamilton*, on 07 Oct was the last. (13 counties)

## Mourning Warbler

This species also arrived later than usual, by about two weeks. The first date of 02 Sep was shared by five locations in four counties. Philip Chaon saw the last, in downtown Cleveland on 15 Oct, about when those last are usually crossing the Ohio River. Duos were seen in three locations on five dates. (25 counties)

## Kentucky Warbler

Phil Cantino saw the first and most of the season, two at the Baker Tract, *Athens*, on 12 Aug, though of course they nested widely in the state. The last was Phil Cantino's find along the Lakeview Trail, *Athens*, on 08 Sep. (7 counties)

#### **Common Yellowthroat**

Gregory Allen provided the last sighting of the season, in Columbus on 27 Nov, but some were still here in Dec. Ethan Kistler counted 24 at Mosquito WA on 25 Sep and up to 23 were seen there on other dates. The most elsewhere were 17, found twice in *Licking* by Brad Imhoff, at the Granville Schools Land Lab on 17 Aug and then at Dawes Arboretum on 24 Sep. (75 counties)

#### Hooded Warbler

Sightings were fairly steady until the last, by Matt Anderson in OOPMP on 14 Oct, a couple of weeks late for so far north. David Factor counted 14 at the Barrow FS on 01 Aug and there were two other double-digit counts as well. (38 counties)

#### American Redstart

These are usually gone by mid-Oct, but Barb Kuhns saw one at George Rogers Clark Park, *Champaign*, on 14 Nov, Meg Glines another at Berlin Lake on 06 Nov, and m. obs. one at Killdeer on 27 Oct. Jelmer Poelstra found 13 at CLNP on 17 Sep. (68 counties)

## Cape May Warbler

The first were a week or so late; Allen Rand saw two at Wendy Park on 22 Aug. Anthony Schmitt saw the last, at Christmas Rocks SNP, *Fairfield*, a month late on 03 Nov. The last one, seen by Julie Karlson and Doug Overacker at Buck Creek on 23 Oct, was still a straggler. The only double-digit counts were 11 at Headlands on 08 Sep (Joshua Davidson) and 15 on the CCET on 14 Sep (Tyler Ficker and Kevin Pero). (52 counties)

## Cerulean Warbler

The last date of 23 Sep was shared by Brandt Schurenberg at Shawnee Lookout and Ron Sempier at Killdeer; the latter bird was about a week behind schedule for the latitude. Brian Tinker's duo at the Ira Road area of CVNP on 26 Aug were the most. (10 counties)

## Northern Parula

Julie Karlson and Doug Overacker saw one at Old Reid Park, *Clark*, on 26 Nov, and there were two other sightings between the species' historic mid-Oct departure and that date. CLNP hosted 10 for James McCarty on 29 Sep; Cole DiFabio's six at Hueston Woods on 08 Oct were the second most. (44 counties)

## Magnolia Warbler

A few usually nest in the state, but the first sightings since 02 Jul were on 21 Aug, at Pleasant Hill Lake (Elias Raber) and Mosquito Lake (Larry Richardson). The last sighting, by David Russell at Hueston Woods on 22 Oct, was about a week later than usual. Kent Miller counted 26 at Quail Hollow on 20 Sep and up to 23 there on other dates. Joshua Davidson's 22 at Chagrin River Park, *Lake*, on 15 Sep were the most elsewhere. (65 counties)

## **Bay-breasted Warbler**

The first was about on time; Larry Richardson saw it at Grand River WA, *Trumbull*, on 17 Aug. The last was at least three weeks late; m. obs. saw it at Sims Park, *Cuyahoga*, on 01 Nov. Even the second last, at Lorain on 20 Oct, was straggling (m. obs.). A birding party counted 38 at Quail Hollow on 21 Sep, and up to 25 were reported there on other dates. Jelmer Poelstra saw the most elsewhere, 22 at CLNP on 17 Sep. (58 counties)

## Blackburnian Warbler

David Factor saw the first since early Jul, at the Barrow FS on 12 Aug. Michael Schramm saw the last, at Mound Cemetery, *Washington*, on 27 Oct, nearly three weeks later than usual. The

second last sighting, by Kirk Westendorf at Armleder Park on 19 Oct, was also late. The high count of 14 was shared by Ken Davis at Blendon Woods on 01 Sep and m. obs. at Quail Hollow on 21 Sep. (56 counties)

## Chestnut-sided Warbler

The last was quite late for the north coast; it was seen by Nancy Anderson at Marblehead Lighthouse SP, **Ottawa**, on 19 Oct. Jon Cefus and Kent Miller counted seven at Quail Hollow on 06 Sep. (50 counties)

## Blackpoll Warbler

Brad Imhoff saw the first, about on time at the Denison University Biological Reserve, *Licking*, on 23 Aug. Kenn Kaufman well described the last, along the CCET on 28 Oct, and wrote, "Starting to get late for this species." (It's about when the last usually cross the Ohio River.) Magee hosted 26 on 29 Sep for m. obs. (60 counties)



This ID challenge was no match for Jamie Cunningham at Maumee Bay on 28 Sep. The orange feet made it easy to tell this was a Blackpoll Warbler.

## Yellow Warbler

Claire Johnson described a seriously late individual at Villa Angela, *Cuyahoga*, on 23 Nov. The last sighting otherwise was at CLNP on 20 Oct (Lori Brumbaugh and Kim Pastrick), still at least a month later than expected for the north coast. Douglas Vogus *et al.* counted 48 at ONWR on 04 Aug and Josh Hargrave found 37 at Headlands on 02 Aug. (54 counties)

## Black-throated Blue Warbler

The first were seen about as expected, on 25 Aug at Headlands, one by Kari Warner Matsko, and two separately by Tom Frankel and Dave Chase. Dave Sherman made the last sightings, at Duranceau Park, *Franklin*, on both 27 and 29 Oct, about a week past their usual departure from the state. The high count of four was achieved at five locations on six dates. (45 counties)

#### Palm Warbler

Cam Lee saw the first, at Killdeer on 01 Sep, a

typical date for that latitude. Though they're typically gone by the end of Oct, Andy R. Troyer saw one north of Fredericksburg, *Wayne*, on 24 Nov, and there were two other Nov sightings as well. John Kolar found about 50 at Orchard Hills Park, *Geauga*, on 06 Oct. The next most were Ann and Dwight Chasar's 22 at Cleveland's Erie Street Cemetery on 09 Oct. (60 counties)

#### Pine Warbler

Terry Bronson saw the last, at Lake Hope SP, *Vinton*, on 08 Nov, a typical date for there. The second last were seen rather earlier, on 29 Oct at two locations. Bryan Smith tallied 13 total at several stops in the Five Forks part of Wayne NF, *Lawrence*, on 02 Sep, and also saw the season's second most, seven, at the NF's Anderson Meadows section on 21 Sep. (47 counties)

#### Yellow-rumped Warbler

Several birders saw the first, at the Findlay Reservoirs on the typical date of 25 Aug. Jake Kudrna and Maureen MacIntyre found about 80 at CLNP on 18 Oct. (81 counties)

## "Audubon's" Yellow-rumped Warbler

Elias Raber well described a sighting of this western form at Panther Hollow, *Holmes*, on 24 Sep.

## Yellow-throated Warbler

Cole DiFabio saw the last, at Hueston Woods on 12 Oct. That's about two weeks later than expected. Two *Hamilton* and one *Lawrence* site each provided counts of three. (32 counties)

#### Black-throated Green Warbler

There were early Aug sightings at nesting areas, but the first that were surely migrants were seen on 25 Aug. These were two at Sheldon Marsh (Gina Swindell) and one at Blendon Woods (Bob and Elaine McNulty). The last was at Wahkeena NP, *Fairfield*, on 09 Nov, a couple of weeks late for mid-state (Zebedee Muller). The most were 32 at Quail Hollow on 20 Sep (Kent Miller) and up to 21 were there on other dates. The most elsewhere were 18 at CLNP on 05 Oct (Joshua Davidson). (67 counties)



This Black-throated Green Warbler stopped by Lorain at the same time as Debbie Parker did on 08 Oct.

### Prairie Warbler

Phil Cantino saw the last, outside Athens (city) on 02 Oct, a week or so late even for that far south. The second last, and most, were Dewey Powers' nine at Wayne NF's Anderson Meadows, *Lawrence*, on 21 Sep. He also saw the second most, three at Crown City WA, *Lawrence*, on 15 Sep. (12 counties)

#### Canada Warbler

Kathy Jakischa saw the first migrants, two at Magee on 11 Aug. Andy R. Troyer said that his find at Dalton, *Wayne*, on 10 Nov was "Very late!" It was, by well over a month. The second last was also a straggler; Joe Woyma saw it near First Energy Stadium in Cleveland on 09 Oct. Gautam Apte and Kandace Glanville saw four at Mohican SP on 05 Aug. (34 counties)

#### Wilson's Warbler

Jim Link saw the first two, at ONWR on 17 Aug, a typical date. Several birders saw the last, at CLNP on 24 Oct, but that's two weeks late for the north coast. CLNP also produced the high count, nine by Jelmer Poelstra on 17 Sep. Joshua Davidson saw five at Headlands on 08 Sep. (40 counties)

#### Summer Tanager

Amy Didion photographed one at Sheldon Marsh on 02 Nov, at least a month after they're usually gone from the state. Wyatt Flood and Jacob Raber found the second last, two at the Hocking Woods NC, *Athens*, on 12 Oct, still a week or more late. Kirk Westendorf found three in Cincinnati's Ault Park on 21 Sep and four there on 27 Sep; many duos were seen. (23 counties)

#### Scarlet Tanager

Renee Frederick photographed the last, at Logan, *Hocking*, about a week later than usual on 18 Oct. Bryan Smith found eight in the Five Forks section of Wayne NF, *Lawrence*, on 02 Sep. (68 counties)

## Northern Cardinal

Elias Raber only had to travel a mile and a half to count 44 near Millersburg, *Holmes*, on 18 Oct. Only *Pike* didn't have a sighting.

#### **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**

Marc Schroeder saw the last, a female "parked on a backyard feeder...in Columbus, apparently resting while refueling" on 12 Nov. Though seemingly very late, that's only a week beyond what's expected for mid-state. Jordan West saw the second last, at Cincinnati's Spring Grove Cemetery on 24 Oct. Cole DiFabio found 32 at Hueston Woods on 26 Sep and wrote, "Approximate count. Everywhere you looked there were 2-3 and they were spread out a decent amount." Jelmer Poelstra's 14 at Wooster Memorial Park, *Wayne*, on 15 Sep were the second most. (65 counties)

## Black-headed Grosbeak

The OBRC has a report from *Lucas*, which if accepted would be only the second record in Ohio since 1968.

## Blue Grosbeak

Beverly Campbell's find on the outskirts of Dayton on 04 Oct was lagging by a month. Elias Raber's near Millersburg, *Holmes*, on 30 Sep was even later considering how far north it was. Jon Cefus and Kent Miller counted 16 at the Bolivar Landfill, *Stark*, on 16 Aug; up to 11 were seen there on other dates. The most elsewhere were six at East Fork on 02 Sep (m. obs.). (29 counties)

## Indigo Bunting

Irina Shulgina saw the last, at the OSU Livestock Facility on 27 Oct. Cole DiFabio saw about 40 at Hueston Woods on 03 Oct and up to 27 on other dates. Jelmer Poelstra found the most elsewhere, about 25 at The Wilderness Center, **Stark**, on 22 Sep. (78 counties)

## Dickcissel

Often these are seen well into Oct, but Irina Shulgina saw the last on 15 Sep, two at Killdeer. Ted Ossege saw the most, five at Huffman Prairie, *Greene*, on 18 Aug. (19 counties)

## Errata

## Black-bellied Whistling-Duck

In the summer issue I omitted mention of posts with photos from Stark.

#### Empidonax sp.

Due to a transcription error, the six and eight Alder Flycatchers attributed to Douglas Vogus *et al.* in the summer issue were actually Acadian Flycatchers, so four was the maximum number of Alders recorded.

# PROJECT OWLNET— OHIO 2019 Fall through December

Banding Station	County	Bander in charge	Nights	NSWO Banded	EASO Banded	Other Banded	Foreign Recaps	In-season Recaps
Little Fish	Athens	Bob Scott Placier	1	0	0	0	0	0
Hueston Woods	Butler	Dave Russell	1	1				
Lowe-Volk Park	Crawford	Bob Placier	1	0	0	1	0	0
Kelleys Island	Erie	Tom Bartlett	35	41	4	2	0	6
Lake Erie Bluffs	Lake	Ann Bugeda/Dan Donaldson	3	1				
Catawba Island	Ottawa	Bruce Buckingham	7	2	0	0	0	0
Lake Erie Island Nature & Wildlife Center	Ottawa	Tom Bartlett	3	0	2	0	0	0
Miller Farm	Seneca	Jim Coffman	20	10	1	0	0	1
Garlo Hertiage Preserve	Seneca	Jim Coffman	1	0	0	0	0	0
Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center	Stark	Al Eibel/Adam Zorn	8	0	0	0	0	0
Russell Drive, Bolivar	Tuscarawas	Dan Kramer	7	2	0	0	0	0
Palatial Estates	Vinton	Bob Placier	23	10	0	0	1	1
Caesar Creek	Warren	Rebecca Palmer/Steve Lee	31	22	3	3	1	8
TOTALS			138	88	10	5	2	16

"Foreign Recaps" are Saw-whets banded elsewhere and captured this year at the named station.

"In-season Recaps" are Saw-whets both banded and recaptured this year at the station.

"Other Banded" are species in addition to Saw-whets and Eastern Screech-Owls.

Details of foreign recaps and others follow.

#### Lowe-Volk Park, Crawford, station:

The "other banded" species was a red bat.

#### Kelleys Island, Erie, station:

The "other banded" species were a Hermit Thrush and a Northern Cardinal.

Caesar Creek, *Warren*, station (courtesy of Sylvia Hadley, Steven Lee, and Rebecca Palmer): The foreign recap was originally banded at Prince Edward Point on Lake Ontario in Ontario, Canada, on 23 Oct 2018, and determined to been hatched the year before. The Caesar Creek station captured it on both 05 and 10 Nov 2019.

An adult female Saw-whet banded at Caesar Creek on 19 Nov 2018 was recaptured on 25 Sep 2019 at Hilliardton Marsh in northeastern Ontario.

The "other banded" species are a hatch year Hermit Thrush, a hatch year Fox Sparrow, and an adult male Northern Cardinal.

Unless noted otherwise, these data were collated by Tom Bartlett from Project Owlnet entries by each station's lead bander and by Tom's direct correspondence with them. I thank them all.

# **CONTRIBUTORS**

Here we list all the birders who sent reports directly to the *Cardinal* or the *Bobolink*, and those whose posts to eBird or the Ohio-birds listserv we specifically cited. We also list everyone who contributed photographs, even if we weren't able to publish them. We regret that the available space doesn't allow us to list everyone who contributed to one of the e-venues, though those sightings provide the bulk of the county counts. The editors thank all of you.

Louise Acheson Sam Alac Steven Albert Erin Allen Gregory Allen Jennifer Allison David Amamoto Gabriel Amrhein Andrea Anderson Matt Anderson Nancy Anderson Ken Andrews Gautam Apte Ron Avers Andy Avram Dale Bailey Joe Baldwin Carl Ball Brian Barnabo Lisa Barrow Tom Bartlett Alan Beattey George Billman Emily Bingham Vern Bingman Robert Bochenek Jason Bojczyk Charles Bombaci Steve Borgwald Julia Botz Jenny Bowman Margaret Bowman Susan Brauning Joe Brehm Terry Bronson Susan Brown Lori Brumbaugh Jen Brumfield Brandon Brywczynski Tammy Burgy Tyler Butler Jason Cade Neill Cade Craig Caldwell Beverly Campbell Nicolás Campione

Anthony Cannizzaro Phil Cantino Susan Carpenter Ken Carolus Philip Chaon Allen Chartier Ann Chasar Dwight Chasar Dave Chase Cory Chiappone Ronnie Clark Kevin Coffman Harry Colestock Rochelle Colestock Christopher Collins Lisa Combs Joshua Corbett Greg Cornett Matt Courtman Gary Cowell Patrick Cov Ann Cramer Rodney Crice Michael Crouse Jim Crumpler Jamie Cunningham Joshua Davidson Ken Davis Bill Deininger Jarrett Dickey Amy Didion Cole DiFabio Don DiMuzio David Ditmer Matthew Domer David Donahue Aerin Doughty Amy Downing Micki Dunakin Larry Dutton Phyllis Dwyer Jill Early Larry Early Michael Easley Alex Eberts Robert Edelen

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## A POMARINE JAEGER at Pleasant Hill Lake

#### By Su Snyder

Sue Evanoff and I were out looking at fall leaves at Mohican and Malabar Farm on 29 Oct 2019. On the way home, we stopped at Pleasant Hill Lake to see if we could re-locate a Laughing Gull that had recently been seen there. We pulled up to the swimming beach and saw 3 gull species (herring, Ring-billed, and Bonaparte's). But no Laughing. Then we spotted something dark out in the water about 50 yards from the beach. We guessed it was a Common Loon. Sue set up the scope and quickly found the bird. She said "That isn't a loon, it might be a scoter. You better come look". I did and said something like "Believe it or not it looks like a jaeger". Jaegers are closely related to gulls and a jaeger in the inland Bobolink Area [see below] is almost unheard of - I knew of only two others ever, both Pomarine Jaegers.

Sue took a photo and sent it off to Kent Miller. Yep, he agreed, a jaeger. He also suspected like I did that it was a Pomarine Jaeger. But living in land-locked counties like we do, none of us are experts with jaegers that when seen in Ohio mostly show up around Lake Erie. At his suggestion, we sent some photos to Jen Brumfield. Then we posted our sighting to "Bobolink Area of Ohio" on Facebook. We also called some birders we thought would like to see a jaeger in **Richland**.



Soon we received phone calls from birding friends that were on their way. We kept an eye on the bird that would often get up and fly short distances. The first to arrive were Kisa Weeman, Barb Lindenmuth, and Jenny Bowman. There were several boats in the area of the jaeger, but they didn't seem to bother the bird. In fact, the jaeger approached very close to one boat – I wondered if it was looking for a food handout. Kisa asked the driver of another boat if he would take her camera and try to get close photos. We teased Kisa that he would probably abscond with her good camera. But he was nice and brought it back. And the pix weren't too bad.

Other local birders arrived, and then birders from Columbus. We all had fun watching the bird and taking photos. At one point, it flew east into the *Ashland* portion of the lake so we got it in both counties!! We received a message from Jen Brumfield that she thought it was a Parasitic Jaeger from flight photos she saw. This was good news for Sue and me. A Parasitic Jaeger had never been seen in the Bobolink Area and it would be a life bird for both of us. But right from the start, there was controversy about the ID, as several others thought it was a Pomarine Jaeger. Jaegers come in a variety of color morphs and patterns, often making identification difficult.

The next day, lots of people were researching the ID of this jaeger. Photos were sent to "Skuas and Jaegers of the World" on Facebook. I studied my field guides and looked at photos on-line. I must admit, it made me dizzy - jaegers look so much alike. Kent Miller found a boat driver to take him out to photograph and videotape the bird. After reviewing all this new evidence, it was deemed by Jen Brumfield and others to be a Pomarine Jaeger, apparently a light morph adult in winter plumage. Not a life bird, but still a great bird - only the third ever seen in the Bobolink Area and a first county record for both Richland and Ashland. Thanks to all who helped solve this ID, with special thanks to Jen Brumfield and Kent Miller.

Jaegers obtain much of their food from piracy, forcing other birds to give up the fish they have caught. During its five-day stay, quite a few birders watched the jaeger harass gulls and at least two people even watched it take down a gull and eat it. It was last reported on 02 Nov and I would guess that about 150 birders were able to see the bird, which for many was their Ohio life Pomarine Jaeger.

Editor's note: The Bobolink Area is the 12-county east-central spread from which Robert Hershberger draws data for his magazine, *The Bobolink*.

Su Snyder is a founding board member of the Ohio Ornithological Society, has served two terms on the Ohio Bird Records Committee, and is a past independent editor for The Bobolink. She resides in Wooster with her husband, Dave.

# TOWERS FOR CHIMNEY SWIFT NESTING

### By Amanda Sebrosky

If you have ever watched Chimney Swifts going to roost in the fall when they gather for their migration to South America, you would have been treated to a free show of breath-taking aerial acrobatics as the swifts caught bugs and prepared to enter their roost for a well-deserved night's rest.

Swifts are unique birds. They cannot stand or perch but are uniquely adapted for grasping the inside of old hollow trees and masonry chimneys. They catch all their food while in flight and can eat a third of their body weight in mosquito-sized insects daily, making them a great friend to humans.

Chimney Swifts are migratory, arriving in the US in early spring and then flying several thousand miles back to South America in the fall. They will raise a clutch of 3-5 babies if they are able to find a suitable nesting site.



All bird populations are suffering due to pesticide use, the climate crisis, collisions with buildings and towers, feral cats, and habitat loss. Chimney Swifts' habitat is shrinking as chimneys are capped, torn down, or no longer needed in new construction, and forests in the US and South America shrink. Because of these factors, chimney swifts populations have fallen rapidly, decreasing by over 70% since 1966 according to Audubon Society.

One way humans can help Chimney Swifts is by building artificial chimneys called towers, giving them more places to nest and roost. Georgean and Paul Kyle, wildlife rehabilitation specialists living in Texas, have researched chimney swifts for nearly 30 years and have developed a relatively inexpensive tower that is accepted by Chimney Swifts for nesting and roosting. The towers are 8 to 12 feet tall, constructed with readily available materials, and require minimal carpentry expertise and maintenance. Detailed instructions can be found in the book Chimney Swift Towers: New Habitat for America's Mysterious Birds by Paul Kyle. A naturalist in Pennsylvania has recently found that he can greatly improve occupancy rate (historically low in the northern US) by increasing the size of the opening to 15" and centering it. He has made other modifications as well but found the opening size was most important

The Northeast Ohio Chimney Swift Conservation Society was started to help educate people about bird conservation, track nesting and roosting locations, and provide funds for materials to build towers in parks and school grounds.

Through a fundraiser on FaceBook, Northeast Ohio Chimney Swift Conservation was able to connect with other concerned people and raise enough money for the first tower, which is being built at Royal Oaks section of Indian Hollow Reservation, *Lorain*. Fundraising continues through grants, sponsorships, and donations. If you are interested in donating, please give to Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society with a note that the donation is for Chimney Swift towers.

Our efforts started in Northeast Ohio but we will fund towers anywhere in the state that meets our criteria for being in a suitable, permanent, public area. Additionally, because education is an important part of the project, an educational plaque must be on the tower. You may contact us at <u>ChimneySwiftConservation@gmail.com</u>.



Amanda Sebrosky, Director-at-Large for Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society, is a life-long resident of Northeast Ohio. Ms. Sebrosky obtained a MS from Cleveland State University College of Urban Affairs, Environmental Track, and an RN from Cuyahoga Community College. Since retiring from University Hospitals IT department in 2017, she has concentrated on volunteerism and currently is active at Cleveland Metroparks and Lake Erie Nature & Science Center in the Lights Out program. It was through helping to care for chimney swift orphans at the Nature Center that she learned of the decline in the chimney swift population, leading to the founding of Northeast Ohio Chimney Swift Conservation Society.

## CUYAHOGA VALLEY NATIONAL PARK FALL CENSUS, 2019

### By Dwight Chasar and Craig Caldwell

This year's Fall Census in CVNP was conducted on 14 Sep. Eighteen teams with a total of 46 observers tallied7645 individuals of 112 species. Like the last two years, the weather was mild; temperatures ranged from 65 to 75° under sunny skies though there was rain during the night before the census. The species count included an unusual concentration of European Starlings; deleting those more than 2600 birds puts the count of individuals on the low side compared to previous years. The number of species was tied for the third highest with 2009 and 2017, narrowly following 2006's 115 and the counts of 113 from 2008 and 2015. This was the 37th fall census and the 22nd in which counts of individuals were made.

The one each Common Merganser, Pine Siskin, and LeConte's Sparrow were their first sightings during a fall census. The counts of Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Turkey Vulture, American Kestrel, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Least Flycatcher, Red-eyed Vireo, White-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, European Starling, Chestnut-sided Warbler, and American Redstart were the highest ever for the season. The Double-crested Cormorant, Red-tailed Hawk, and Carolina Wren counts were their second-highest, and that of American Goldfinch was, like last year, very high but not a record. By contrast, the Canada Goose count was the lowest ever and those of Wood Duck, Mallard, American Crow, and Black-capped Chickadee were also on the low side.

Species	Number
Canada Goose	108
Wood Duck	28
Mallard	25
Common Merganser	27
Wild Turkey	7
Rock Pigeon	51
Mourning Dove	97
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	2
Common Nighthawk	1
Chimney Swift	269
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	11
Sora	1
Killdeer	18
Solitary Sandpiper	2
Double-crested Cormorant	44
Great Blue Heron	21
Green Heron	5
Turkey Vulture	87
Bald Eagle	4
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1
Cooper's Hawk	9
Red-shouldered Hawk	12
Red-tailed Hawk	24
Barred Owl	2
Belted Kingfisher	17
Red-headed woodpecker	24

Species	Number
Red-bellied Woodpecker	146
Downy Woodpecker	103
Hairy Woodpecker	25
Northern Flicker	68
Pileated Woodpecker	28
American Kestrel	5
Peregrine Falcon	1
Olive-sided Flycatcher	1
Eastern Wood-Pewee	74
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	3
Acadian Flycatcher	2
Least Flycatcher	6
Eastern Phoebe	46
Great-crested Flycatcher	2
White-eyed Vireo	5
Yellow-throated Vireo	11
Warbling Vireo	21
Philadelphia Vireo	3
Red-eyed Vireo	45
Blue Jay	377
American Crow	133
Purple Martin	3
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	3
Barn Swallow	4
Black-capped Chickadee	181
Tufted Titmouse	106

### Vol. 43 No. 1

Species	Number	Species	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	5	Eastern Towhee	
White-breasted Nuthatch	123	Eastern Meadowlark	
Carolina Wren	80	Red-winged Blackbird	
louse Wren	25	Brown-headed Cowbird	
Vinter Wren	1	Common Grackle	
1arsh Wren	1	Blue-winged Warbler	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	3	Tennessee Warbler	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	3	Orange-crowned Warbler	
Eastern Bluebird	45	Nashville Warbler	
/eery	1	Yellow Warbler	
Swainson's Thrush	5	Chestnut-sided Warbler	
lermit Thrush	1	Magnolia Warbler	
Vood Thrush	6	Black-throated Blue Warbler	
American Robin	429	Yellow-rumped Warbler	T
Gray Catbird	169	Black-throated Green Warbler	T
Northern Mockingbird	1	Blackburnian Warbler	T
Brown Thrasher	2	Yellow-throated Warbler	
European Starling	2656	Pine Warbler	I
Cedar Waxwing	189	Bay-breasted Warbler	
louse Sparrow	50	Blackpoll Warbler	
louse Finch	45	Black-and-white Warbler	
Pine Siskin	1	American Redstart	
American Goldfinch	261	Ovenbird	
Chipping Sparrow	4	Common Yellowthroat	
Field Sparrow	12	Hooded Warbler	
White-throated Sparrow	1	Wilson's Warbler	
eConte's Sparrow	1	Scarlet Tanager	
Savannah Sparrow	1	Northern Cardinal	
Song Sparrow	68	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	
Swamp Sparrow	2	Indigo Bunting	

# **BSBO FALL 2019 BANDING SUMMARY**

#### By Ryan Jacob, Ashli Gorbet, and Mark Shieldcastle

[Editor's note: This article was originally published in the BSBO quarterly newsletter. It is here reproduced by permission, lightly edited for clarity and to conform to The Cardinal's style sheet]

Following an incredibly wet spring, a combination of summer heat and intense pumping brought water levels in the [ONWR Navarre] marsh to more "normal" conditions. However, despite beautiful fall weather, migrant numbers through the marsh were noticeably low, at about 20% below the seasonal average.

Accounting for some of this discrepancy were our major-movement neotropical migrants – specifically Blackpoll, Myrtle, and Magnolia Warbler – which (from initial reports) may have been pushed farther east this fall. While these were the most notable lows, other major-movement migrants including Hermit Thrush, White-throated Sparrow, and Golden and Ruby-crowned Kinglet were also low, but not far from average. A possible explanation for these latter migrants (which are short-distance migrants) could be the prolonged warmth during Oct and the delayed leaf drop, extending their migration beyond our banding season.

While overall numbers may have been lackluster, there were multiple species that were well represented this season. For the second fall in a row, Prothonotary Warbler set a new high record, with 36 banded, shattering last year's 26 and going way beyond the average of eight. As a whole, thrushes had a good year (particularly Gray-cheeked Thrush) as did Gray Catbird. Wrens also were well above average (including the seldom caught Marsh Wren) with Carolina showing some recovery after last winter's harsh conditions. Flycatchers were exceptional as well this fall, with Eastern Wood-Pewee and Olive-sided Flycatcher setting new high records (26 and two respectively).

Although numbers were mostly low this fall, it is only one season and does not necessarily represent any particular trend. Seasons such as this only stress the importance of long-term monitoring, set protocols, and region-wide collaborations such as the Midwest Migration Network.

We would like to thank our dedicated corps of volunteers and seasonal techs that put all their effort into ensuring a successful banding operation; for both data quality and bird safety. We couldn't do it without all your support! We would also like to thank ONWR for their continued support of this project (both in research and housing for techs) and Davis–Besse Nuclear Power Station and FirstEnergy for preserving and allowing access to this incredible habitat.

Species		Banded	1990- 2018
Swainson's Thrush		391	480
Gray Catbird		320	283
White-throated Sparrow		308	344
Blackpoll Warbler		263	558
Golden-crowned Kinglet		196	251
Gray-cheeked Thrush		183	179
Hermit Thrush		135	185
Ruby-crowned Kinglet		133	207
Yellow-rumped Warbler		131	301
American Robin		127	62
Total birds banded: 3781	Total species banded: 86		

# FIELD NOTES

(Lightly edited to correct obvious misspellings and to conform to the Cardinal's style sheet.)

#### From Jason Bojczyk:

Regarding a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron sighting] Two immature Night-Herons flew over the southwest corner of Metzger, headed northeast, from the direction of Howard Marsh. Both Night-Herons were only seen in flight in a spotting scope and then through the camera. The first was clearly an immature Black-crowned Night-Heron, while the second seemed not as thick-necked/bulky, having feet that went noticeably past the tail, and, despite the evening light, noticeably contrasting/two-toned upper wings. After that brief view in the scope, the rest of the view was through the camera taking pictures to confirm the suspicion. In the photos with both Night-Herons, the Yellow-crowned Night-Heron is always on the left. Additional features seen in the photos (but not in the field) include thinner, longer, and more pointed wings, pale margins on the greater coverts, and a different bill shape.

#### From Bob Krajeski:

[Regarding 13 Hudsonian Godwits at Conneaut on 18 Aug] Single flock. Arrived approximately 8:15am during a steady light rain. Circled for several minutes and seemed very hesitant to land. Finally did land on northwest corner of sandspit. On the ground no more than 15 minutes. Once the rain ended they were back in the air and out of sight. Did not return. Large Shorebird with long, upturned bill, dark at tip, light at base. Body color grayish overall with plain breast and belly. Very dark appearance while in flight. Blackish wings with narrow stripe. White rump and black tail. Dark legs. Constantly calling while in flight.

#### From Daniel Stutzman:

Double-crested Cormorant 13,000 [02 Nov] Sherod Park, Vermilion, *Erie*. Believed to be a conservative estimate. We counted by 10s then 100s as large groups and long lines passed by; all were flying east. These were counted in about 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> hours. I had never seen anything like it before.

#### From Eli M. Miller:

[Regarding three Northern Harriers near Baltic, *Holmes*] Not migrants. Possibly nested, female & juvenile identified in flight. Had seen male & female on 02 Jun.

#### From Jeffrey A. Miller:

[Regarding a Blue Grosbeak outside Sugarcreek, *Tuscarawas*, on 01 Sep] The bird that hung around for the summer was last heard on this date. This was the fifth year in a row that Blue Grosbeak spent the summer around my property. (I wouldn't be surprised if there was a female and a nest around somewhere, although I don't have any evidence.)

#### From Andy R. Troyer:

[Regarding a 10 Nov sighting in *Wayne*] Field marks noted on the late Canada Warbler were eye ring, all gray wings and upper body, all yellow under side with very faint necklace, white under tail coverts, and pink legs. This might be Ohio's latest record! Aaron [Miller] and I watched it for a good <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> hour.

#### From Aden M. Yoder:

Regarding the Pomarine Jaeger at [Pleasant Hill Lake on 02 Nov]. We observed it attack and kill a juvenile Ring-billed Gull. It then looked as if it wanted to eat it as it tore feathers off the gull's belly and proceeded to eat flesh from a hole in the gull's belly. A very interesting experience.

# YEARS AGO

### By Craig Caldwell

**10 years ago**, the Fall 2009 *Ohio Cardinal*, Vol. 33 No. 1 (Andy Jones, Editor-in-Chief; Craig Caldwell, Seasonal Editor) contained these items:

The number was published as a double issue with that of Winter 2009-10.

A large grebe, either Western or Clark's, visited Portage.

A Mississippi Kite was well described during a *Lucas* overflight.

Eight Golden Eagle reports were spread among five locations.

A Yellow Rail was documented in *Holmes*.

The state's first Allen's Hummingbird spent from mid-Oct to late Dec in Holmes.

25 years ago, the Fall 1994 Ohio Cardinal, Vol. 18 No. 1 (Rob Harlan, Editor) contained these items: Allen provided Ohio's fourth inland sighting of Purple Sandpiper.

An article detailed the installation and success of a floating nesting platform for Common Terns at ONWR.

A field note described the capture of a frog or toad by an Eastern Screech-Owl; it happened so fast the observer never got a good look at the victim.

Buckeye Lake, Licking/Portage, hosted a migratory flock of at least 35 Black Terns on 14 Aug.

35 years ago, the Ohio Cardinal did not publish an issue.

**50 years ago**, *The Cleveland Bird Calendar* 65:3 (Aug) and 65:4 (Sep through Nov), Annette B. Flanigan, Editor, included these items. (A reminder—the Calendar area is a circle of radius 30 miles centered at Cleveland's Public Square)

"Southbound Canada Geese were in evidence by September 26..."

Several flocks each of at least 30 Common Nighthawks were seen during Aug.

Two Piping Plovers, the Calendar area's first American Avocet in five years, and its first Laughing Gull ever were seen.

The Cleveland lakefront hosted 3300 Common Terns on 21 Sep and 307 Horned Grebes on 16 Nov.

Three immature Bald Eagles were sighted over Painesville, Lake, on 14 Sep.

Two House Finches at a feeder warranted special notice.

100 years ago, The Cleveland Bird Calendar did not publish an issue.

# **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.





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The Counties of Ohio



This delicate Northern Parula posed nicely for Jamie Cunningham at Maumee Bay State Park on 28 Sep.

### 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, essays, artwork, and photographs related to Ohio and its birdlife.

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

### Craig Caldwell, 1270 W. Melrose Dr., Westlake, OH 44145 Cardinal@ohiobirds.org

Send digital photo files or links to Christopher Collins: *chris.collins@ohiobirds.org* 

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



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