

*The Ohio*



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Cover: N. Saw-whet Owl, Headlands Beach SP, Nov. 19, 1995.  
Photo by Gary Meszaros.

## Smooth-billed Ani, A New Ohio Bird by E. Bruce McLean

On November 25, 1993, the family cat brought its own Thanksgiving bird to a home in Westlake (Cuyahoga Co.), Ohio. Its owner looked the body over and recognized that this was something he hadn't seen at his feeder, or anywhere else. Later, at dinner, he handed his biologist brother the corpse, asking for his opinion. Dr. Andy White looked it over and said it appeared to be an ani. Andy passed the bird on to me at John Carroll University a couple of days later with the same question. After comparison with standard field guides for U.S. birds and with those of several Neotropical countries, we tentatively identified it as a Smooth-billed Ani (SBA), *Crotophaga ani*. Daniel J. White deserves commendation for recognizing the value of the bird and bringing it to our attention.

I had seen all three anis-- Smooth-billed, Groove-billed (GBA) *C. sulcirostris*; and Greater, *C. major*-- in the tropics, but was no ani expert; and further checking brought out some interesting problems. This bird had some characters of both SBAs and GBAs, and several sources warn that immature, and even some adult, GBAs "have smooth bills." Conventional wisdom also states that GBAs wander widely (there are records for about 25 states and provinces, including 4 individuals from Ohio), while SBAs nearly always stay near home in Florida. A SBA from northern Ohio would be a new record for the state, the region, and to our knowledge, the interior United States. Substantiation of such a record would clearly be needed.

We contacted curators and registrars at regional zoos and at ISIS (International Species Inventory System), but found no records of captive anis that could have escaped. This fact and the bird's poor condition strengthened our opinion that it was a true vagrant.

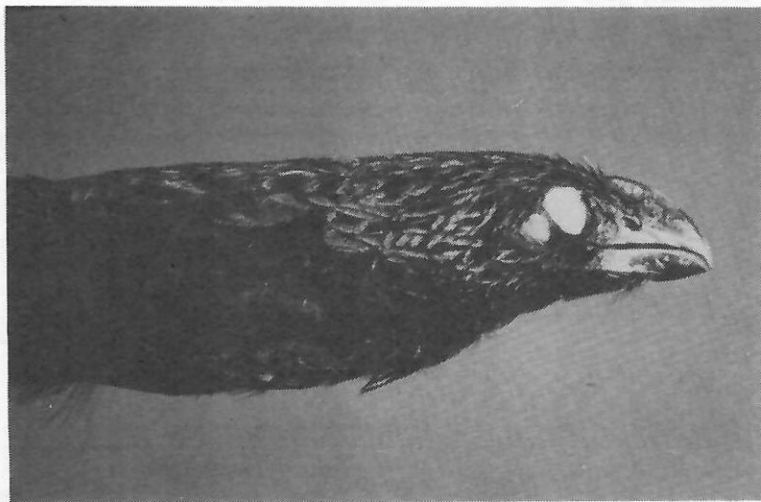


Figure 1. Smooth-billed Ani. Westlake (Cuyahoga Co.), Nov. 25, 1993.  
Photo by Dan Flocke.

We donated the bird to The Cleveland Museum of Natural History (CMNH) collection. This allowed additional study and comparison with other skins of SBA and GBA housed there, and facilitated consultation with other museums for confirming diagnoses.

Dr. Timothy Matson, Curator of Vertebrate Zoology at CMNH, examined the bird, compared it to references and the museum's collection of anis, and identified it as a Smooth-billed Ani. It was prepared, catalogued, and is now #68471 in the CMNH bird collection. Tim and I both noted its equivocal features. The culmen lacked the characteristic high, arched ridge intercepting the forehead with an obvious notch, as found in many SBAs, yet the bill was ungrooved (Figure 1). A pronounced gonydeal angle on the lower mandible was not obvious, and the bird was closer in length and weight to GBAs. These discrepancies from "typical" SBAs could be due to normal individual variation, or due to the bird's immaturity and severe emaciation (the cat may have even picked up a freshly dead bird). Comparison with larger series of ani specimens in other museums was needed to confirm our identification. I had cautiously mentioned a possible Ohio SBA to a few people; most agreed with National Audubon Society Field Notes Regional Editor Ken Brock that this record would be questioned, and confirming opinions would be a plus. Others simply dismissed the possibility out of hand. In Ohio, it must be a GBA.

I began calling the bird "Little Orphan Ani", since it spent nearly all of 1994 visiting at, or traveling between, museums. Ornithologists at the National Museum of Natural History (Smithsonian), the Field Museum (Chicago) and the Museum of Natural Science at Louisiana State University (LSUM) studied the skin, compared it to extensive series of anis in their collections, and all agreed that it was a Smooth-billed Ani. Some expressed reservations about atypical features, notably the bill, but pointed out that no single character distinguishes the species. Dr. David Willard, at the Field Museum, commented that this bird was a particularly good example of how similar some SBAs and GBAs could be.

Drs. Matson and White and I published a brief note on this record (McLean et al., 1995), and I submitted details and photographs to the Ohio Bird Records Committee, which accepted the record as a Smooth-billed Ani, Ohio's first.

### **Ani Identification**

The Westlake bird is clearly a Smooth-billed Ani. Perhaps equally as important is that this case strongly reminds us that species are quite variable. It also, incidentally, illustrates why we need many individuals of some variable species in at least some collections. As birding skills grow and expanded guides and "ID articles", such as Balch (1979) become available, the importance of weighing multiple field marks is apparent. Portability of field guides precludes showing more than a couple of field marks, and descriptions tend to be identical among them.

Obviously, if there are clearly visible multiple grooves on the bill, a GBA should be easily identified. But GBAs are said to sometimes have grooveless bills. Several guides and Balch's article point this out. Balch shows an "adult female GBA" with a "smooth bill" in his Photo II. This assumption about frequent smooth-billed GBAs, coupled with assumptions about GBAs higher probability of vagrancy, has been cited in rejection of reports of extralimital "SBAs". I am not sure how

common these smooth-billed Groove-billeds are, however. Dr. J.V. Remsen of LSUM says in a letter to Dr. Matson: "Although very young Groove-billeds may have indistinct grooves, we can find no specimen of Groove-billed in our series of about 125 specimens, including many first-fall birds, that does not have prominent grooves. Actually, even our 3 nestlings/fledglings show some grooves."

Many adult SBAs have a higher arch on the culmen and a more obvious angle between culmen and skull than GBAs. Most field guides show this, some poorly. One of the best illustrations of typical bill shape is in Peterson and Chalif's A Field Guide to Mexican Birds (1973). Interestingly, in A Guide to Field Identification: Birds of North America (the "Golden Guide") by Robbins, et al. (1966), the plate by Singer has the bill shapes reversed, as Balch pointed out in 1979. The revised edition of Robbins, et al. (1983) adds a description of the correct relationship and retouches the same plate! Compare the two side by side. Balch shows a low-arched young SBA, but perhaps slightly more arched than the Westlake bird, in his Photo 1, and cautions "...some Smooth-billed Anis have bill shapes too similar to the typical Groove-billed shape to allow identification by that feature alone." This is true of our bird, even in the hand.

May we at least assume that anis with a highly arched culmen and a pronounced angle of the culmen with the skull to be SBAs? This may be true most of the time. Yet GBA #6206 in the CMNH collection (Figure 2) has pretty close to that profile, but has grooves on the bill as well. Missing feathers emphasize the angle, certainly, but the culmen ridge is still moderately high. Remsen, writing of SBAs' high arch, says "...variability is so great that its usefulness is limited to extreme cases. Rest assured that your specimen matches many of our Smooth-billeds in its bill profile."

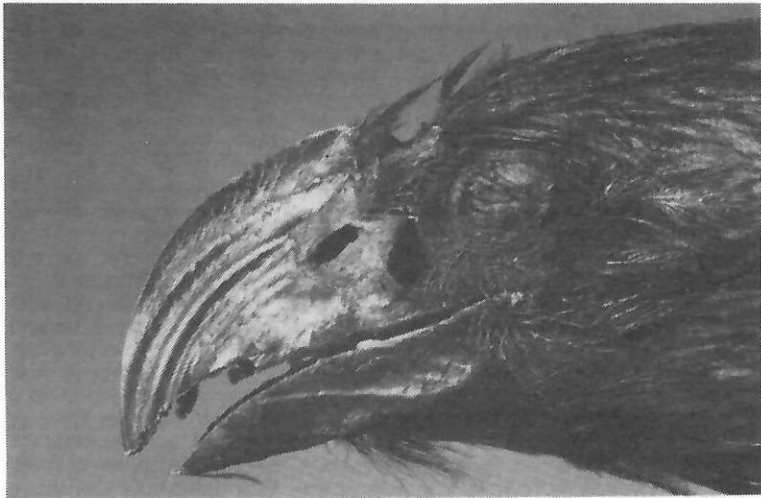


Figure 2. Groove-billed Ani, CMNH #6206.  
Photo by Dan Flocke.

Several authors, for example Kaufman (1983), say SBAs usually have a more pronounced angle on the lower mandible's edge. Others, such as Balch, say this angle is probably of little field value. In our bird, it appears so in the hand as well; the gonydeal angle is slight and inconspicuous.

Although it is a first-fall bird, the Ohio SBA is in adult plumage, and matches color descriptions of SBAs, which appear to have a bronzy iridescence on the head and nape in good light. GBAs appear to have greenish-blue iridescence in these same areas, and on the back and wings as well. Remsen points out that this may be due to the width and shape of the buffy feather edges. He writes, "the plumage pattern differs in a subtle way on the crown and nape. The streaking on Groove-billed is narrower and straighter, with the distal tips more pointed than that of the Smooth-billed, which has broader, blunter, more curved streaks. Perhaps only as a consequence of the wider streaks, the streaks of Smooth-billed look more bronze in color." He adds, "Your specimen matches our Smooth-billeds perfectly" in this regard. The best illustrations of this color difference I can find are in Dunning (1982).

SBA is consistently the larger of the two. Peterson (1980) curiously reverses this. There is probably overlap, especially in young SBAs. In any case, a centimeter or so in 32 is all but useless in the field.

Voice is one of the better field marks. Ridgely (1967) and others say the two are best distinguished by call. Remsen again: "Encourage observers to record call notes-- the two species can be distinguished as far away as they can be heard."

GBAs produce a variety of whistles and squeaks, including an almost flicker-like, repeated "kee-wik" or "peechip". A common call of SBA is a whiny, almost "wood ducky" querulous whistle, sometimes 2-3 noted, and rising on the last note. Verbal descriptions are seldom helpful to others, however. A previously rejected SBA report from another inland state includes described calls; even so I can find nothing definitive about the descriptions. Fortunately, good tapes are available, allowing us to compare descriptions of calls heard in the field with recorded calls, while memory and description are fresh. Voices of the New World Cuckoos and Trogons includes both species. Sounds of Florida's Birds and Bird Songs of Trinidad and Tobago include only SBA; the former is better. Songs of Mexican Birds and Field Guide to Western Bird Songs include only GBA; the former is again better.

A final message from Little Orphan Ani is to keep looking for the unexpected. We often do this in birding, and better optics, skills and references allow unprecedented identification precision. Yet we are subconsciously prejudiced by "typical" appearance and occurrence-- in vagrants, by "what ought to be there". More than one knowledgeable birder said to me, when I asked them to look at the specimen, "I don't have to see the bird. In northern Ohio, it's a Groove-billed." Where can this sort of "common knowledge" come from, if not from just such new sightings in the past? This Ohio record and observations related to it suggest that extralimital SBAs may not be as rare in the interior USA as assumed. Kaufman (1983) comments, "both species wander widely." Remsen says "all three Crotophaga species have shown a remarkable tendency towards extralimital vagrancy, given their seemingly ineffective flight and short rounded wings. The wide distribution of Smooth-billed in the West Indies with no phenotypic differentiation attests to its powers of dispersal. Observers should not assume that an out-of-range ani in the

eastern USA is a Groove-billed." Lying quietly in its museum tray, CMNH #68471 proves this point.

[Editor's note-- Most of this material appeared in slightly different form in The Cleveland Bird Calendar 91(3):30-32.]

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## A Kirtland's Warbler in Paulding County by Micki Dunakin

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Please let me provide a short narrative of the discovery of a Kirtland's Warbler in my backyard, or how I found a Kirtland's Warbler while drinking a cup of coffee and looking through the grocery ad....

Thursday, September 21, dawned drearily. There had been drizzle overnight and the sky was heavy with dark gray clouds. The weather forecast only promised more of the same. It was so frustrating! Plans had been made to meet my friend, Rita Shinnars, at the Black Swamp Nature Center in Paulding. I called Rita and we decided to postpone our morning of birding. I still wanted to search for birds, so I donned my raincoat and walked back to our woods. An hour and a half later I returned, contented to have found a small flock of warblers. It was time to plan the weekend grocery shopping, so I fixed a cup of coffee and settled on the sofa in our sun room. As I scanned the sale prices, a movement in the pine outside our window caught my eye. It was a warbler, so I picked up the binoculars. The first view was of the back. It appeared "different", and when the bird turned I was stunned. I have spent a number of years observing warblers, but never in my wildest imaginings did I believe that a Kirtland's Warbler would ever be in my backyard, in our sprawling Scotch Pine. But there it was, foraging alone among the branches!

Following the initial shock, I realized that the colored bands on both legs were important, so I hastily scribbled down their sequence. I observed the bird for several more minutes until it disappeared into the foliage, then I went to the phone. No one could be reached but Rita. She left her tomato canning immediately and headed over. I just hoped that the Kirtland's would remain for the 20 minutes it would take for Rita to arrive. Luckily it did and we both watched it for over a half hour. Suddenly, a Cooper's Hawk flew by the tree and landed on a nearby snag. The Kirtland's bolted from the pine. We searched for it without results. Jim Haw and Marisa Windell from the Fort Wayne (IN) Stockbridge Audubon Society came in the early afternoon, but our efforts were fruitless. I still look at the pine with a sense of incredulity, and without a doubt I will continue to regard it with awe for some time to come.

I later reported the colored band arrangement to the U.S. District Ranger office in Mio, MI. I also contacted Paul Sykes of the National Biological Survey. They have been conducting a Kirtland's Warbler research project since 1984. Mr. Sykes told me that the colored bands identified the Kirtland's as the one banded on June 5, 1995 six miles south of Luzerne, in Oscoda Co., MI. He added that it was "banded as an adult male singing on territory". The band number is #202063954. I had initially believed that the bird was a female. Although I had seen several male Kirtland's in breeding plumage, I had never seen one in autumn. Obviously, what I presumed to be a female was in fact a male in fall plumage!

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## Birding in Egypt Valley by Greg E. Eddy

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The observations that form the basis of this study were made from February, 1990 to July, 1994 by the author and other members of the Brooks Bird Club [of Wheeling, West Virginia], especially James and Louise Casto and Carl and Juanita Slater.

Egypt Valley is part of a large reclaimed coal surface mine area in [Belmont Co.] eastern Ohio. It is named after the now defunct village of Egypt, but is famous for having been stripped by the huge Gem of Egypt surface mine shovel. The part covered by this report lies two miles west of Morristown, Ohio and north of Interstate 70 and along County Route 100. It can be accessed by exiting Interstate 70 at County Road 100 if eastbound. Westbound on Interstate 70, access is gained by exiting at Morristown and continuing west three miles on US 40.

Mining ended in the early 1970's and the area was reclaimed soon afterwards. Ownership of the area was transferred by the coal company to the Conservation Fund of America. In July, 1994 the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' Division of Wildlife announced that they were purchasing 14,300 acres from the Conservation Fund of America and planned to develop it for wildlife recreation including hunting, trapping and fishing. The area they purchased is bordered, apparently, on the east by County Road 100. Therefore, at least part of the area covered by this report is included in that purchase.

Reclamation consisted of back filling nearly all of the high walls, spreading out the overburden, and the construction of several ponds. This has resulted in nearly smooth slopes and rounded hills that are characteristic of reclaimed mine land in eastern Ohio. The nearly treeless slopes have been seeded to grasses and Crown Vetch. Because of the abundance of silt and clay washing off the slopes, the ponds are partly filled. These shallow areas are marshlands with very extensive vegetation. The most obvious marsh plants are cattails (*Typha* spp.). Not only are the ponds partly filled, but the entire valley from the ponds downstream two miles to the head of Piedmont Lake is nearly a continuous cattail-filled marshland.

In eastern Ohio, wetlands and treeless slopes this vast did not exist prior to mining. Therefore, some bird species can now be found that probably did not frequent the area, at least in large numbers, until sometime in the last 20 years.

Most of the interesting birds that have been found in the area are shorebirds, hawks, rails, owls, wrens and sparrows. Woodland birds are almost nonexistent because very little woodland has survived the surface mining and farming that occurred here. One noteworthy exception is the wooded swamp area at and near the end of Piedmont Lake (labeled "S" on the map). Prothonotary Warblers have been found in this wooded area.

### **Hérons and Shorebirds**

Of course, Great Blue Herons and Green Herons can often be seen, as they can be near any body of water in this part of the country. Egypt Valley is notable for the large number of American Woodcocks that are observed each spring. One of the best locations to see and hear

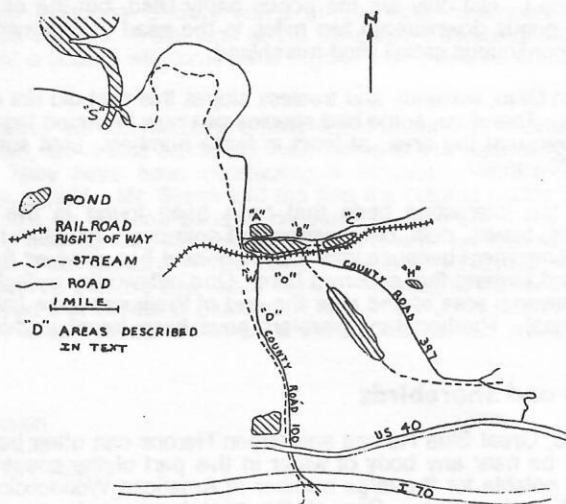
woodcocks doing their spring mating display is map location "W", but they can also be found at other locations. At dusk in the spring, several birds at a time can be observed. Common Snipe have been seen at location "W", and on March 20 and 26, 1994 they were observed doing their mating flight display there. Spotted Sandpipers are seen at a small pond on the north side of the road at site "H", and on May 19, 1994, a Willet was seen leaving the same pond.

## Waterfowl

Ducks seen on the various ponds include Wood Ducks, Green-winged Teal, Mallards, Ring-necked Ducks and Bufflehead. Canada Geese are often present. The ducks are most often seen at dusk as they enter the wooded wetland adjacent to pond "A". The only confirmed waterfowl breeders are Canada Geese and Mallards. Wood Ducks and Green-winged Teal are probable breeders.

## Rails

Pond "A" changed in early 1994 when the areas on the west and south sides of the pond were fenced and cattle were put into the area. This eliminated the shrubby vegetation next to the pond. Also, the water level in the pond raised by about a foot. This enlarged and possibly improved the adjacent areas frequented by the ducks, but flooded out the marsh plants in the main pond. This hurt one of the most interesting spots in the entire area. On April 30, 1993 a pair of Soras were seen on the edge of the pond, and at dusk on May 23, 1992 the author heard a Yellow Rail calling from the vegetation in the center of the pond [this record has not been reviewed by the Ohio Bird Records Committee]. Virginia Rails were confirmed in the area during the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas. We have heard and seen them at two locations: the cattails in the east end of pond "C" and the cattail-filled area "D". Our observations were made in 1992 and 1993 when the Virginia Rails readily answered and came to a tape recorder, but in 1994 several unsuccessful attempts were made to locate them.



Map of Egypt Valley, Belmont County, Ohio. Map drawn by the author.

## Hawks and Owls

Red-tailed Hawks can almost always be found, and American Kestrels are occasionally seen in Egypt Valley. During the winter months Rough-legged Hawks are almost always seen, Northern Harriers are usually seen, and Short-eared Owls have been found. Several Short-eared Owls have been seen in the winter at site "O". None have been located in the last two years, but a special effort was not made to locate them. Great Horned Owls and Eastern Screech-Owls have also been heard in the area.

## Songbirds

Marsh Wrens that once frequented the cattails and sedges in the center of pond "A" are now found across the road in the cattails and sedges in pond "B". Grasshopper Sparrows are common in all the grass-covered areas in the summer. We consistently find Horned Larks and Savannah Sparrows, but only along the road at location "H". The Horned Larks and present all year and can usually be seen in the road. In spring and summer the Savannah Sparrows perch on fence posts along the road. Vesper Sparrows have been seen, and on July 13, 1994, Carl Slater saw one carrying food. Swamp Sparrows are common in the cattail marshes. Henslow's Sparrows have also been reported in the area. Willow Flycatchers are very common in the small trees and brush on the edges of the streams and ponds.

## Conclusions

The numbers of some species (for example, the Virginia Rails and Short-eared Owls) vary from year to year. These variations may be due in part to the youthfulness of the habitat (so that the birds have not become well established), or in part to the fact that the area is changing from one year to the next. For example, a small change in water level can greatly affect the character of a marsh. A change as dramatic as that which affected pond "A" is probably not necessary to have an effect on rails.

Similar grass-covered reclaimed surface mine areas are found a few miles west of Steubenville, Ohio [notably along Jefferson Co. Road 45]. James and Louise Casto and others have reported seeing Short-eared Owls there when they could not be found at Egypt Valley, and Upland Sandpipers are confirmed breeders there. It is apparently a better area for hawks, owls and Upland Sandpipers than Egypt Valley.

It is the extensive wetlands that make Egypt Valley so interesting, unique, and important. We all hope the state of Ohio protects these wetlands now that it is managing the area.

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[Editor's note: This article was originally published in the journal of the Brooks Bird Club, The Redstart, Vol. 62(2), April 1995. It is reprinted here with permission. All bracketed material is supplemental. By the way...I briefly visited this site for the first time during June, 1996. The wetlands were outstanding, producing dozens of Swamps Sparrows, plus Common Moorhen, Virginia Rail and Marsh Wren. Two thumbs up.]

## Magnolia Warbler Distracts Advancing Chipmunk from her Fledgling by Norman J. Kotesovec, Jr.

Bent (1953) has reported the use of distraction displays, or similar "demonstrations of protest" in 24 species of American Wood Warblers. At least 10 additional species have been observed in like fashion and are documented elsewhere. Most displays, however, have been directed at the human observer; less often have demonstrative actions aimed at non-human intruders been noted. Some exceptions include a pair of Black-throated Green Warblers (*Dendroica virens*) that lured two Blue Jays (*Cyanocitta cristata*) from a fledgling by imitating a young bird barely able to fly (Morse 1969); and Prairie Warblers (*D. discolor*) that variously performed displays toward a Rat Snake (*Elaphe obsoleta*), a Racer (*Coluber constrictor*) and a Blue Jay (Nolan 1978:282). Given the rarity of such sightings, I was fortunate to witness a lengthy confrontation between an Eastern Chipmunk (*Tamias striatus*) and a female Magnolia Warbler (*D. magnolia*). The episode occurred on June 15, 1995 at Hinckley Metropark in Medina Co. at the same site where, on June 13, 1994, an active Magnolia Warbler nest was located (Kotesovec 1994b).

The female Magnolia Warbler was seen foraging in the shrubby understory and, upon procurement of food, flew across a gully and disappeared in the spruces on the opposite slope. Thinking that there might be nest I crawled through the undergrowth, sat down on a fallen tree trunk, and thus positioned myself so as to have a vantage of both the spruce stand and the shrub where the warbler had been foraging. Nearly ten minutes passed before the Magnolia returned, chipping faintly and moving from branch to branch while completely encircling me. She did not chip frantically, like a Blue-winged (*Vermivora pinus*) or Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia citrina*) would when near their nests; her chip-note apparently betrayed annoyance rather than fear, and was more deliberate and evenly-spaced-- not rapid and constant like the aforementioned warblers. At one point she landed but three feet from where I sat, traveled the length of the branch and came within inches of my face. She seemed to inspect me rather than make any attempt to lead me away. She performed no broken wing display and her reaction was reminiscent of the cautious, but inquisitive approach of female Blackburnian (*D. fusca*) and Black-throated Green Warblers I have similarly engaged (Kotesovec 1993; 1994a).

Upon obtaining a large caterpillar, the female began to chip faster, but softer, and while working her way down into the herbaceous vegetation, disclosed the location of a recently fledged Magnolia Warbler only five feet away from where I sat. I made no attempt to disturb or draw closer to the youngster which cryptically sat at the vertex of a grape vine and an elm sapling approximately three feet from the ground. The tiny sprite had a slate-colored back; a buffy breast lightly streaked with gray or dark brown; a yellowish vent; and two faint white wing bars.

Having been fed, the fledgling dropped from its perch and began to scale the side of a fallen tree trunk, while commencing to chirp loudly. All at once, an Eastern Chipmunk appeared on the opposite side of the trunk and paused to wipe its face with its forepaws. Immediately, the female Magnolia flew into a frenzy of agitated chip-notes, of which the tone and rapidity were appreciably different from those directed at me. She fell to the ground, vibrated her wings and tortuously dragged her

body over the earth several feet from where the chipmunk foraged. She fanned her tail to advantageously display her white tail markings, swung her yellow rump and attempted to draw the chipmunk off. The chipmunk turned in her direction, but was further distracted by the noisy youngster which had climbed to the top of the fallen tree a couple of feet ahead of the rodent. The female Magnolia promptly flew at the chipmunk, landed atop the tree trunk and continued to quiver her wings. She dropped directly in front of the chipmunk and, while feigning injury, successfully lured it off. When the chipmunk was approximately six feet away, the fledgling hopped down from the trunk and scrambled in the direction of its twittering mother, swiftly closing the distance between itself and the rodent. I was ready to intervene, when the female Magnolia quickly hurled herself between the chipmunk and her offspring. She spread her wings, held them raised at her sides, and charged the chipmunk while squealing harshly. She suddenly veered off to avoid collision, and was again successful in leading the chipmunk away. As if aware of the danger only narrowly averted, the fledgling stilled its voice while the female continued to approach and retreat from the rodent, continuously chipping and dragging her "broken" body across the landscape. The ordeal ended with the chipmunk apparently so far removed that the female Magnolia no longer considered it a threat. The entire episode had lasted a full 10 minutes and, when finished, the chipmunk had been lured some 20 feet away.

Allen (1938:77) has described the Eastern Chipmunk as "primarily vegetarian with only occasional carnivorous propensities." However, she does state that caged sparrows are often attacked by chipmunks, but if killed, are never eaten. Nolan (1978:415) thought the chipmunk an important predator of the Prairie Warbler and also reported that chipmunks killed passerines caught in traps. A chipmunk has been videotaped approaching the nest of a Black-throated Blue Warbler (*D. caerulescens*) which successfully drove it off (Holmes 1994), and another chipmunk was recorded removing a nestling from a Hooded Warbler's nest (Evans Ogden and Stutchberry 1994). Ginevan (1971) observed an Eastern Chipmunk enter a Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*) burrow and emerge with a dead adult female that had been bitten at the base of the skull.

Be that as it may, it should be noted that the chipmunk I observed had seemed as disinterested in the fledgling as the female Magnolia had been in me. It never seemed a real threat, except in the mind of the Magnolia, for the chipmunk would pause to nibble at plants and move on. It made no honest attempt to lunge at either the fledgling or female, but was simply lured further along by the displaying Magnolia. Despite the female's agitation, she enlisted no aid from her mate. This may not be so surprising as the female had, on three recent occasions, furiously attacked her mate. In each instance, the male was soundly beaten and driven off by the female.

It appeared that the young Magnolia Warbler had fledged earlier that morning as it was yet unable to fly, but it did scamper an estimated 15 feet from where it was initially located. Allowing as many as 13 days for incubation, and 10 days before fledging (see Bent 1953 & Hall 1994); counting back 23 days from June 15 gives May 24 as the approximate completion of egg-laying. The female Magnolia Warbler was first seen on May 16 gathering nesting material, and a male Magnolia was found on the study site on April 28. While the first Magnolia Warblers usually reach Lake Erie by May 3-7, occasional overflights during mid-April have been noted (Peterjohn 1989). Magnolia Warblers remained on the study

site until at least July 10, and two additional pairs were found along the  
bridle path off Hinckley Hills Road until August 4. Two immature  
Magnolia Warblers foraging with an immature Black-throated Green  
were seen along the bridle path on the late date of August 24, and may,  
or may not, have been migrants.

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[Editor's note: We hope you continue to enjoy Mr. Kotesovec's  
outstanding articles covering the nesting birds of Hinckley MP. This  
represents the fifth such article to appear in this journal. Inevitably,  
some errors have wormed their way into print. Mr. Kotesovec addressed  
these errors in a letter dated August 16, 1996, and we acknowledge  
them here:

"In 'Nesting Magnolia Warblers at Hinckley MP' and 'Further  
Observations of Summering Black-throated Green Warblers at Hinckley  
MP' the scientific name of the Magnolia Warbler has been incorrectly  
rendered as *Dendroica fusca*. It should read *Dendroica magnolia*.

"Also, in the aforementioned 'Black-throated Green' article there is a glaring mistake that, as printed, is in contradiction with statements made later in the manuscript. On page 113, paragraph 4, the second sentence should read: 'Male BTG #1's greatest single performance was 335 songs in one hour (9:42-10:42 a.m. on June 3), with 328 songs (98%) being UE.' In the original article the song type is mistakenly given as 'AE', contradicting the performance of two countersinging males as detailed on page 114.

"While this attention to 'song type' may be a 'dry read' for some, it is of such interest to me that I devoted a good deal of time this past season to collect data on which 'song type' is chiefly given at dusk, and at which hour song ceases and the Black-throated Green Warbler retires for the night. Collecting the data was not only great fun, but also afforded me the opportunity to hear the 'flight song' of the Ovenbird, which is commonly sung at dusk. Excuse me, I digress!"

We thank Mr. Kotesovec for his continued diligence in his studies. Much of the data we have been able to present is ground-breaking, not just in Ohio, but globally as well. Thanks Norm.]



Black Vultures. Paint Creek Lake Spillway, Nov. 19, 1995.  
Photo by Larry Gara.

## Ohio Bird Records Committee Report by Victor W. Fazio, III, Secretary

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Here we report recent actions taken on 29 records and the basis for four previous rulings. These rulings, like all those of the Ohio Bird Records Committee (OBRC) pertain to the documentation of the observation as it is reported to us. Readers are reminded that a copy of the bylaws by which the OBRC is governed is freely available upon request from the Secretary, Vic Fazio, 140 Mohawk St., Tiffin OH 44883. These bylaws were last revised April 1996.

### Recirculations

All nine records reached a decision vote after previously going through at least one round of review. Three resolved as Accepted (a minimum of nine of 11 members voting to accept), while six others were Not Accepted, failing to obtain even a majority of support which would see continuance of the review. The three Accepted records appear elsewhere in this issue. The difficulties with documentation for those records Not Accepted by the Committee appear below.

Kirtland's Warbler-- OBRC 670-95-03: 1, Magee Marsh WA (Lucas Co.), 5/20/95. This written documentation was initially Accepted by a 10-1 margin. However, after a called Recirculation, the documentation was considered inadequate by a 4-7 margin. Two concerns in particular were voiced upon calling for Recirculation. With respect to plumage, how did the written description eliminate a first-alternate female Magnolia Warbler (here we refer to those individuals expressing an unusual amount of "black in the lores, an eye-ring rather than a supercilium, and two whitish wing bars rather than a wing patch"), and why was there no mention of a key behavioral character, namely, tail bobbing. Most members agreed with these points and further had difficulty with a song description not unlike that of a Magnolia Warbler, nor was the tail pattern commented upon. The identification of a Kirtland's Warbler is possibly correct but it was not adequately corroborated by the information at hand.

Carolina Chickadee-- OBRC 736-95-01: 1, Lakeshore MP (Lake Co.), 5/6/95. Even though this is not a review species, the Committee reviewed this record as a service to The Ohio Cardinal. This written documentation was initially Accepted by a 8-3 margin, requiring automatic Recirculation of member comments. While the tail measurement appears definitive, the Committee was nonplussed by the overall lack of details. Some plumage details included, such as bib shape, have been shown to be erroneous in making a distinction between this species and the Black-capped Chickadee, and crucial details of wing coloration were left out of this in-hand study. Upon further review information came to light on the extent to which hybridization takes place between Carolina and Black-capped Chickadees in Ohio. Between the confusion over plumage characters and the inability to determine the purity of the species, the Committee could not be certain of the identification. It is quite possible that nothing short of a photographic series and a blood sample (or specimen) would prove adequate for identifying extralimital chickadees in Ohio. The documentation was Not Accepted by a 3-8 margin.



Ross' Goose-- OBRC 170-95-06: 1, Powell (Delaware Co.), 3/25/95. The written and photographic documentation was initially Accepted 10-1. The one dissenting opinion resulted in a called Recirculation of comments. One member had first-hand knowledge of the record, having seen the bird in question very shortly after it was first reported. This member contends that the photo supplied is clearly that of a Snow Goose; the species that he identified on-site. Although initially passed on the strength of the written documentation, several other members had expressed reservations over the photograph. The nearby Giant Canada Goose in the photograph should have dwarfed a Ross' Goose, yet this does not appear to be the case. Due to an unfortunate fuzziness in the photo, neither is the bill diagnostic. Subtle, somewhat subjective characters of proportionally shorter neck and legs could not be clearly discerned in the photo by most members. In light of these uncertainties the Committee could Not Accept the documentation as definitively that of a Ross' Goose by a margin of 4-7.

Glossy Ibis-- OBRC 186-95-05: 2, Pickerington Ponds MP (Franklin Co.), 4/16/95. The written documentation was initially Accepted 9-2. A called Recirculation of comments made clear certain inadequacies in the documentation that do not allow differentiation from White-faced Ibis. The description provided best suggests these are immature birds; in which case lack of white around the facial skin does not rule out White-faced Ibis. Additional details of the facial skin would have proved conclusive but these are lacking. The documentation was Not Accepted by a 2-9 margin.

### First Round Circulations

Of the 20 first round circulations voted upon, 15 were Accepted [the two Snowy Plover documentations (OBRC 275-95-04 and 275-95-05) were both Accepted unanimously; however a Recirculation has been called on the question of whether they should be treated as two separate records or one] and appear elsewhere. Three more were Not Accepted and two are in a second round of review.

Kirtland's Warbler-- OBRC 670-95-05: 1, The Wilderness Center (Stark Co.), 5/29/95. The written and audio tape documentation was Not Accepted 0-11. With no sight observation involved, the Committee's opinion rests on the recording provided and an analysis by Dr. S. Gaunt of the Borror Lab at the Ohio State University. That analysis apparently precluded the possibility of anything but Swainson's Warbler or Kirtland's Warbler. However, to the ear, none of the Committee could conclude that either species was involved. One candidate, not ruled out by the documentation, is Canada Warbler. Local breeding (Ohio) Canada Warblers are noted for their offbeat song and it is known that bioacoustic libraries are limited with regard to repertoire range. A less intuitive choice, but one that must be suspected is that of Northern Waterthrush. Both myself and Rob Harlan, independently, had the surreal experience of listening to individuals of this species in mid-May this spring that were dead-ringers for typical Kirtland's song. Mine in particular had drawn my attention because of its uncanny likeness to the bird in the above tape recording.

Trumpeter Swan-- OBRC 181-91-03: 1, Ottawa NWR (Ottawa/Lucas Cos.), 3/2/91. The written documentation was Not Accepted 1-10.

In recent years the Committee has taken receipt to several records of Trumpeter Swan. Although unacceptable due to uncertain origins, most documentations have been clearly attributable to Trumpeter Swan. In this instance, the record would have been an extension of a January 1991 record into February at the same location. This record is already published as such. However, a majority (7) held that this documentation does not support the identification of a Trumpeter Swan. Problems in identification include insufficient detail to rule out Tundra Swan, particularly "shape of the forehead where it meets the top of the bill, color of bill border, and width of facial black skin meeting the eye".

Audubon's Oriole-- OBRC 503-95-01: 1, Bluffton (Allen Co.), 12/20/95. The written documentation was Not Accepted 3-8. Most members had difficulty with the scant details provided on such an extreme extralimital record, lacking precedence with respect to vagrancy away from south Texas. Particularly helpful would have been commentary on tail length and color, more explicit detail of the wing, and leg coloration. Possibly a correct identification, the documentation is too sparse to support such an extraordinary observation. Were an Audubon's Oriole indeed present, one must seriously consider an unnatural origin. This part of Ohio (Putnam-Hancock Co.) has a high population of migrant farm workers from a variety of Central American countries. That they may bring along brightly plumaged birds common to the cagebird trade along with themselves is not farfetched. Brightly colored species from the southern US border area are not new in Ohio (e.g., specimens of Altamira Oriole from Greene Co. and Troupial from Franklin Co.) and reports of such should be received warily by birders.

### **In Recirculation (second round):**

Long-tailed Jaeger-- OBRC 38-95-03: 1, HBSP 9/16/95.

### **Previous Actions of the OBRC**

Golden Eagle-- OBRC 349-93-09: 1, Brimfield Twp. (Portage Co.), 5/17/93. Although not presently a review species, documentation was required at the time of observation. The documentation submitted consisted of brief notes and probably was not intended as a complete documentation. This brevity was the source of much consternation among the Committee, leading to a fourth and final round of review. On this vote the documentation was Not Accepted by a 6-5 margin [For Acceptance in Recirculation, records must receive 9 or more Accept votes]. The plumage described, that of a near adult, would be quite rare during the latter half of May, as most adults are through the Great Lakes by mid-April, and so requires a more informative description. Negative data such as "legs would have been seen if they were not booted" is of little help in making a convincing ID. The best feature mentioned is head projection, yet the matter of wing position while soaring is left out, leading one to wonder how well the bird was seen; information which cannot be garnered from the details provided. Further detail of body plumage may have resolved an apparent discrepancy in the combination of "whitish" base to the tail and "uniformly dark" underwings (an odd combination in an "adult"); the extent of which is not described.

Northern Shrike OBRC 621-93-01: 1, Green Twp. (Ross Co.), 1/6/93. Although not presently a review species, documentation was required at the time of observation. The written documentation provided difficulties for the Committee such that it was Recirculated a fourth and final round. With regard to the first documentation, there was some question of the validity of the identification due to the lack of positive information with respect to key features of the bill and mask. With respect to the second round documentation there is some question as to how much of the added identification material is provided from first hand observation (as opposed to memory). This record from southern Ohio may well have been, to the authors satisfaction, a Northern Shrike; however, they failed to convey this in the documentation provided to the Committee. The documentation was Not Accepted by a 4-7 margin.

In addition to the above normal circulations, the Committee addressed the Gray Flycatcher record from Magee Marsh WA in August 1988. Based on published information, the record was unanimously Accepted, 11-0. It becomes the 401st species on the OBRC list of Ohio species. Five would-be state firsts are pending before the Committee: Slaty-backed Gull, Bicknell's Thrush, Spotted Towhee, Golden-crowned Sparrow and Black Rosy Finch.

In May 1996 the OBRC published the first official state checklist in field checklist format. This publication was enthusiastically received at its debut at the Magee Marsh Bird Trail on International Migratory Bird Day. The OBRC anticipates copies to be made available through area organizations such as Audubon Societies and nature centers. Individual orders in lots of 20 are available for \$6.00 from the Secretary, Vic Fazio, 140 Mohawk St., Tiffin OH 44883. Make checks payable to the Ohio Bird Records Committee. Proceeds wholly fund the operation of the Ohio Bird Records Committee.

Since March 1994, the OBRC has been an institutional member of the Ohio Biological Survey; since 1912 Ohio's premier organization charged with disseminating information about Ohio's biota. Under the OBS Small Grants Program, this year the OBRC applied for and won an institutional grant for the "Electronic Archival of Ornithological Photographic Voucher Specimens". With these monies we will be placing the first lot of 100 rare photographic documentations on CD ROM.



Black-necked Stilt. Conneaut (Ashtabula Co.), 11/9/95.  
Photo by Henry Ogradnichek, via Paul E. Shellhammer II.

## Autumn 1995 Overview by Robert Harlan

Autumn is always an interesting season. Being a four-month reporting season (from August through November), plenty of time is available to find that elusive rarity, or perhaps fill in a long-open spot on a local checklist. I would venture to guess that many observers were able to find a nice variety of "winter finches" at their "local patch", or possibly even a Northern Shrike, all of which staged impressive invasions.

Speaking of impressive, the following rarities certainly qualify: at least 1 Snowy Plover at Metzger Marsh WA through 9/15; 2 Black-necked Stilts at Metzger 9/15, and another at Conneaut Harbor 11/7-13; a Royal Tern at Conneaut 8/17; a Rufous Hummingbird at Loudonville 9/11-14; and my personal favorite, a Kirtland's Warbler "in the middle of nowhere" (sorry, Doug & Micki) in Paulding Co. 9/21. Read on for more details on everything from loons through grosbeaks.

The "Reports" section is intended to be read in phylogenetic order. The specific county location of most sites is listed in the accounts the first time each site receives mention. County names are often abbreviated by using their first four letters-- "Paul" representing Paulding County, for instance. Other place name abbreviations found in this issue are: BuCr (Buck Creek State Park, a.k.a. C.J. Brown Reservoir, Clark County); CVNRA (Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area, Cuyahoga/Summit Cos.); DGG (Donald Gray Gardens, Cuyahoga Co.); FRes (Findlay Reservoirs, Hancock Co.); HBSP (Headlands Beach SP, Lake Co.); KPWA (Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area, Wyandot Co.); Lksh (Lakeshore Metro Park, Lake Co.); Magee (Magee Marsh WA, Ottawa/Lucas Cos.); Metzger (Metzger Marsh WA, Lucas Co.); OkOp (Oak Openings MP and vicinity, mostly Lucas Co.); ONWR (Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, Ottawa/Lucas Cos.); ONWRC (Ottawa NWR Count, Ottawa/Lucas Cos., as compiled by Ed Pierce); & SVWA (Spring Valley WA, Greene/Warren Cos.).



Greater White-fronted Geese. Castalia Pond (Erie Co.), 10/28/95.  
Photo by Vic Fazio.

**THE REPORTS-- AUTUMN 1995**  
by Robert Harlan

**Loons through Herons**

**Red-throated Loon--** Up to 7 singles were reported 10/21-11/29. Except for 1 at Huron (Erie) 11/8 (KA), all other reports came from Lake Co. (JP, LR, EB, RHn).

**Common Loon--** 209 birds at L. Rockwell (Port) 11/12 provided an excellent inland count for the northeastern counties (LR). Elsewhere inland: 86 Clearfork Res. (Rich/Morr) 11/16 (JH); 60 Mosquito Lk. (Trum) 11/17 (DJH); 44 over Berlin (Holm) 11/8 (RHe); & 41 Seneca Lk. (Nobl) 11/11 (ESc). Peak lakefront count was 150 birds at Huron 10/28 (EP, RHr). 8 were in Hancock Co. by 9/19 (BHa).

**Pied-billed Grebe--** Outstanding numbers include: 151 Magee Marsh WA [hereafter Magee] (Otta/Luca) 10/15 (HSH); 108 L. Rockwell 11/19 (LR); & 100 on Rocky Fork Lk. (High) and Paint Creek Lk. (High/Ross) 11/19 (SWa).

**Horned Grebe--** Lakefront high was a paltry 18 birds in Erie Co. 11/8 (KA). Inland numbers were up, however: 92 Mosquito Lk. 11/17 (DJH); 61 Seneca Lk. 11/11 (ESc); & 30 Rocky Fork Lk./Paint Creek Lk. 11/19 (SWa). On 8/1, singles were at Findlay Res. [hereafter FRes] and Fostoria Res., both in Hancock Co (BHa).

**Red-necked Grebe--** 5 lakefront singles were noted in Asht, Cuya and Lake Cos. 11/4-30. The only inland bird was at Rocky Fork Lk. 11/19 (SWa).

**Eared Grebe--** The Newtown Gravel Pits (Hami) attracted this rarity 11/14-19 (FR, J. Decker, LG, m. obs.). Another was at Clifton Lagoons near the mouth of the Rocky River (Cuya) 11/11 (MJK).

**Am. White Pelican--** One was seen along the Ohio River adjacent to Brown Co. 8/6 (J. Ruthven).

**Double-crested Cormorant--** RHe witnessed 800+ heading south over Berlin 10/29 and at least 1208 more doing the same 11/8. Most of the

1009 birds in Hancock Co. 10/3 were also headed south (BHa). Along L. Erie, 5000 were at Huron 10/28 (RHr, EP), 2000 were on Sandusky Bay (Otta/Erie) 10/15 (CH), & 1500 were at Kelley's Is. (Erie) 9/9 (DC et al.). Reported from at least 20 counties.

**Am. Bittern--** One was found in a Lakewood (Cuya) tree 10/19 (W. & N. Klamm, fide PL). Another was picked up in downtown Cleveland (Cuya) 10/25 and taken to the N. Chagrin MP Nature Center (Cuya). It was subsequently taken to the Lake Metroparks Rehab Center (fide KM).

**Least Bittern--** Mirroring the above report, one received at N. Chagrin 10/17 eventually made it to the Lake Metroparks Rehab Center (fide KM). Another was at Mentor Veterans Pk. (Lake) 8/3 (JP).

**Great Blue Heron--** Highs: 184 Killdeer Plains WA [hereafter KPWA] (Wyan) 9/2 (JH) & 93 Magee 8/20 (HSH).

**Great Egret--** A flock of 64 proceeded south over Tuscarawas Co. 10/15, a very unusual sight inland (LS). 23 at Mosquito Lk. 9/18 (DJH) & 12 at Hebron Fish Hatchery (Lick) 8/27 (RRo) were the next highest inland tallies. 180 were recorded on the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge Count [hereafter ONWRC] (Otta/Luca) 10/1.

**Snowy Egret--** Many reports of 1-3 birds emanated from the w. L. Erie marshes through 10/14.

**Cattle Egret--** 3 singles were found in the w. L. Erie marshes 8/12-10/8 (RHr, EP, JP). 1 was inland at E. Fork Lk. (Cler) 9/19 (HA).

**Green Heron--** Max. 6 LaDue Res. (Geau) 8/20 (AF). 2 were somewhat late at Valley City (Medi) 10/23 (FMG).

**Black-crowned Night-Heron--** A peak of 32 congregated along the Cuyahoga River 11/20, as seen from Merwin St. in the Cleveland Flats (PL). 6 inland sites reported, including 12 at Gilmore Ponds (Butl) 9/6 (T. Ellis).

**Ibis species--** An immature dark ibis was seen at Kyger Creek Power Plant

(Gall) 10/5 (WA).

## Waterfowl

**Tundra Swan**-- Amazingly, only 1 report of 100+ birds was received, namely 820 birds at Lakeshore MP [hereafter Lksh] (Lake) 11/4 (JP). 70 were at LaDue Res. 10/30 (AF).

**Trumpeter Swan**-- [As the status of this species becomes more convoluted (due in part to introduction and reintroduction projects in Ohio and surrounding areas), we intend to report data in this format rather than under the "Exotics & Escapes" heading. A listing here does not necessarily indicate that the reports have been accepted as "wild" birds by the Ohio Bird Records Committee.] The Hancock Co. saga continues, with 4 birds raised in previous years remaining on Fox Lk. 11/14-24. 5 birds hatched there during Summer 1995 were shipped to Wisconsin to be released (fide BHa). 2 adults continued at Walborn Res. (Port/Star) through at least 8/19-25 (CH).

**Mute Swan**-- Max. 11 Mogadore Res. (Port) 11/24 (LR).

**Greater White-fronted Goose**-- 2 were photographed at Castalia Pond (Erie) 10/28 (VF). 4 remained at KPWA 11/12-21 (DO, JH).

**Snow Goose**-- Almost all reports emanated from 10/29-11/12, including: 94 (4 "Snow"/90 "Blue") FRes 10/31 (BHa); 90 (30 "Snow"/60 "Blue") ONWRC 11/5; 90 w. Lucas Co. 11/8 (TK); & 31 over Summit Co. 10/30 (J. Wert). A "Blue Goose", present at Dublin (Fran) since mid-July, remained 8/2 (KA).

**Brant**-- 19 were at Sherod Pk. (Erie) 11/8 (KA).

**Canada Goose**-- The ONWRC 11/5 recorded 5000 birds. 6 "Richardson's" geese were identified at Metzger Marsh WA [hereafter Metzger] (Luca) 10/15 (CH).

**Wood Duck**-- A colossal 5199 were reported at Magee on the Hiris' monthly survey 10/15 (HSH). The 337+ at Springville Marsh SNP (Sene) 10/23 (TB) and 242 at Funk

Bottoms WA (Wayn) 9/19 (RT) were also impressive.

**Green-winged Teal**-- Lakefront highs include: 877 Magee 11/19 (HSH); 625 ONWRC 10/1; 500 Sheldon Marsh WA (Erie) 10/21 (RHR, EP); & 66 Lksh 10/29 (JP). 45 at KPWA 11/9 was the inland high (JH).

**Am. Black Duck**-- Highs include: 600 ONWRC 11/5; 256 FRes 11/28 (BHa); & 100 in the L. Rockwell area 11/18 (LR).

**Mallard**-- Highs: 3575 Magee 10/15 (HSH); 3000 ONWRC 11/5; 2131 FRes 11/28 (BH); & 2000 KPWA 11/12 (DO).

**N. Pintail**-- Inland max. was 20 at KPWA 11/12 (DO). Along the Lake, 630 were at Magee 10/15 (HSH) & 167 were at Lksh 10/29 (JP).

**Blue-winged Teal**-- KPWA hosted 200 inland birds 9/7 (KA). Along L. Erie, the ONWRC of 9/3 tallied 1474 birds. 4 sites held individuals in November, including 1 at Newtown Gravel 11/19 (N. Cade).

**N. Shoveler**-- Highs: 40 KPWA 9/7 (KA); 40 Castalia 11/25 (EP, RHR); & 25 Caesar Creek Lk. (Warr) 8/23 (LG).

**Gadwall**-- 488 were found at Magee 10/15 (HSH) & 85 were at Medusa Marsh (Erie) 10/22 (CH). 92 birds at L. Rockwell 11/4 represented the inland high (LR).

**Am. Wigeon**-- Highs include: 1714 Magee 10/15 (HSH); 225 Castalia 11/5 (CH); & 36 Pine Lk. (Maho) 10/30 (DJH).

**Canvasback**-- Inland peak was 13 birds at Best Lk. at the W.C. Best Preserve (Geau) 11/17-18 (H. Hendrickson, fide DB). 50 were at S. Bass Is. (Otta) 11/20 (SWu).

**Redhead**-- Lakefront and inland highs were, respectively: 32 at Huron 11/25 (EP, RHR) and 15 Wilmington Res. (Clin) 11/29 (LG). 1 reached Sheldon Marsh SNP by 9/19 (NKR).

**Ring-necked Duck**-- Highs: 450 L. Rockwell area 11/12 (LR); 350 Crystal Lk. (Summ) 11/10 (LR); & 315 Best Lk. 10/21 (DB).

Greater Scaup-- 4 each were inland at Paulding Res. (Paul) 10/28 (DMD) and at Rocky Fork Lk. 10/29 (JS, JBe).

Lesser Scaup-- Along the Lake, 160 were at Sherod Pk. 11/8 (KA) and 100 were at Bay Village (Cuya) 11/5 (CH). 175 were at FRes 10/31 (BHa).

Oldsquaw-- 4 lakefront singles were found 11/3-24. The only inland bird was at FRes 10/31 (BHa).

Black Scoter-- Lakefront max. 12 Headlands Beach State Park [hereafter HBSP] (Lake) 11/24 (LR). Inland: 1 Grand Lk.-St. Mary's (Mercer Co. portion) 11/11 (DD et al.); 12 LaDue Res. 10/24 (AF), with 1 female there 11/24-25 (LR, CH); & 1 fem. at L. Logan (Hock) 11/16 (BSP).

Surf Scoter-- Seen in the 5 lakefront counties from Erie to Ashtabula 10/15 +, topped by 28 at HBSP 10/30 (KM). 5 inland reports: 5 Indian Creek WA (Brow) 10/29 (JS, JBe); 1 at a Columbus (Fran) quarry 11/4-13 (RRo); 1 Shalersville Twp. (Port) 11/6 + (CH, LR); 3 E. Fork Lk. 11/7 (HA); & 1 at 4 Seasons Marina (Hami) 11/21-22 (FR et al.).

White-winged Scoter-- 10 lakefront birds were reported from 3 sites 11/12-24. Singles were inland at Grand Lk.-St. Mary's (Auglaize Co. portion) 11/11 (DD et al.) & at Newtown Gravel Pits 11/17 (J. Decker).

Common Goldeneye-- 100 were at Huron 11/25 (RHR, EP). 5 at Springfield Lk. (Summ) 11/26 (CH) was a very disappointing inland high.

Bufflehead-- Inland highs include: 56 Mogadore Res. 11/24 (LR) & 25 Findley SP (Lora) 11/15 (NKr). 97 were at Magee 11/19 (HSH).

Hooded Merganser-- Good numbers were at and near L. Rockwell through Nov., including 610 birds 11/24 (V. Weingart). Other highs: 300 ONWRC 11/5; 265 Seneca Lk. 11/11 (ESc); & 150 Paint Creek Lk./Rocky Fork Lk. 11/19 (SWa).

Common Merganser-- 144 at Magee 11/19 (HSH) and 10 at L. Rockwell 11/30 (V. Weingart) were the lakefront

and inland highs.

Red-breasted Merganser-- Now here is an abundant species. 75,000 + flew east past Fairport Harbor (Lake) 11/5 (EB). 50,000 + were at Eastlake, also in Lake Co. 11/11 (LR), while 10,000 were in Cuyahoga Co. 11/5 (CH).

Ruddy Duck-- A spectacular 925 were at Mogadore Res. 11/25 (LR). Other highs include: 365 Metzger Res. (Alle) 10/28 (DD); 150 Sheldon Marsh SNP 10/15 (RHR); & 106 Pine Lk. 10/30 (DJH).

### Vultures through Cranes

Black Vulture-- The Rocky Fork Lk. roost was extremely impressive this year, peaking at 170 birds 11/5. 80 birds were at nearby Paint Creek Lk. 11/19 (both SWa). LG photographed 30 birds at the Paint Creek Lk. spillway 11/19. 3 were at Shawnee Lookout Pk. (Hami) 10/15 (JS) and 4 were at Miami-Whitewater Forest (Hami) the same day (NKe et al.).

Turkey Vulture-- In addition to the Black Vulture roost noted above, Rocky Fork Lk. held 300 Turkey Vultures 11/5 (SWa). 130 were at Pleasant Hill Res. (Rich/Ashl) 10/22 (JH). The single-day peak for the Oak Openings [hereafter OkOp] (Luca) hawk watch was 277 birds 10/22 (TK, MAN). Migrants remained in the north through late November.

Osprey-- Reported from at least 25 counties. At least 40 birds were reported statewide, plus 40 more were tallied on the OkOp hawk watch. 5 were counted there 10/15 (MAN, TK). Latest singles were at Buck Creek SP [a.k.a. C.J. Brown Res., hereafter BuCr] (Clar) 11/7 (CW, J. Holzworth) and at Hocking College (Athe) 11/30 (BSP). The nesting pair with 2 young remained at Rayland (Jeff) through at least 8/8 (MAR).

Bald Eagle-- Found in at least 17 counties, totalling at least 50 birds. In addition, at least 4 adults and 9 imm. were found on the ONWRCs 8/6-11/5.

N. Harrier-- 10 were at Rocky Fork Lk. 11/5 (SWa).

**Sharp-shinned Hawk--** Peaks for the OkOp hawk watch were 78 birds 10/8 and 77 birds 10/22 (TK, MAn). 4 migrants were at New Richmond (Cler) 10/14 (FR).

**Cooper's Hawk--** OkOp peak was 8 birds 10/29 (MAn, TK).

**N. Goshawk--** MAn identified one in the OkOp 11/23.

**Red-shouldered Hawk--** 31 passed the OkOp hawk watch 11/5 (TK, MAn).

**Broad-winged Hawk--** Of 3227 recorded for the season on the OkOp hawk watch, 1576 came on 9/18 alone (MAn, TK). About 100 birds flew over Findlay (Hanc) 8/28 (S. Baxter, fide BHA). A late imm. was at BuCr 11/4 (DO).

**Red-tailed Hawk--** 135 headed past OkOp hawk watchers 10/29 (MAn, TK).

**Rough-legged Hawk--** Reported from 10 counties, almost exclusively in November.

**Golden Eagle--** The OkOp hawk watch seems to be as likely a spot to find this species as any in Ohio. This season, 2 birds were recorded on both 11/5 and 11/11 (TK, MAn). An imm. was at Metzger 10/10 (HH, P. Harner).

**Am. Kestrel--** Of 91 tallied on the OkOp hawk watch this season, 57 were found on 10/15 alone (MAn, TK). 20 were scattered about Otta/Luca 11/25 (RHR, EP).

**Merlin--** 4 birds returned to the annual winter roost in Bath Twp. (Summ) about 10/15 (fide EP). 6 were counted on the OkOp hawk watch (TK, MAn). In addition, about 20 more birds were found statewide.

**Peregrine Falcon--** Reported from about 8 counties, not including residents. 3 were found on the ONWRC 10/1.

**Wild Turkey--** 52 were found at Lucas (Rich) 11/24 (JH). 20 were at Mosquito Lk. 10/7 (CB).

**N. Bobwhite--** 1 at Magee 8/20

was unexpected (HSH).

**Virginia Rail--** Reported at 5 sites through 10/3.

**Sora--** Max. 6 Arcola Creek (Lake) 10/3 (JP). Also found at 12 other sites, including a very late bird at Columbus 11/28 (RRO).

**Common Moorhen--** 3 at Spring Valley WA [hereafter SVWA] (Gree/Warr) 8/28 (D. Graham) and 1 at Holden Arboretum (Geau) 9/23 (RRI) were the only reports.

**Am. Coot--** Some highs: 3225 Magee 10/15 (HSH); 2000 Rocky Fork Lk. 10/29 (JS, JBe); & 591 FRes 10/24 (BHA).

**Sandhill Crane--** Up to 450 birds graced Deer Creek Res. (Pick/Faye) 11/20-22 (RRO, CW, J. Holzworth et al.). 199 birds were found at 5 southwestern sites 10/15-11/24. Up to 13 lingered at Funk Bottoms WA through 11/5 (SH, RT). 19 were in Mercer Co. 11/18 (DD). 10 more headed over the city of Delaware's water treatment plant (Dela) 11/19 (WS).

## Shorebirds

**Black-bellied Plover--** Some highs: 14 KPWA 9/18 (KA); 11 Burke Lakefront Airport (Cuya) 9/16 (TLP); & 7 juv. Berlin Res. (Port/Maho/Star) 9/9 (CH). 3 remained at Conneaut (Asht) through 11/19 (TB et al.).

**Am. Golden-Plover--** Paralleling the above species, highs include: 64 KPWA 9/18 (KA); 30 Burke Airport 9/22 (FMG); & 20 Berlin Res. 9/17 (CH). A laggard was at Conneaut 11/7 (JP).

**Semipalmated Plover--** Maxima: 50 Metzger 8/12 (RHR, EP); 48 KPWA 9/7 (KA); 30 Sheldon Marsh WA 10/1 (CH); & 25 Grand River WA (Trum) 8/22-24 (DJH).

**Piping Plover--** An adult was documented at Metzger 9/9 (ET\*). It remained 9/15 (TB). Another bird was documented there 10/15 (CH\*) and 10/21 (RHR\*, EP, JD\*, ST), and was still present through 11/5 (Sandy Wagner et al.).



**Snowy Plover**-- At least 1 bird frequented the w. L. Erie marshes this season, being documented at Maumee Bay SP (Luca) on 8/9 (BC\*, BW\*, E. Banks) and at Metzger on 8/12 (RHr\*, EP), 9/2 (JBU\*), and 9/3 (CH\*). It was seen through at least 9/15 (TB, m. obs.). The Ohio Bird Records Committee is presently attempting to discern if 1 or 2 birds were present, and if an adult at Metzger 7/15-18/95 might represent the same bird(s) seen this season. A confusing matter.

**Killdeer**-- 450 KPWA 9/15-18 (JH, KA); 400 Berlin Res. 9/17 (CH); & 230 Grand River WA 10/13 (DJH). 78 flew over Mt. Hope (Holm) 11/2 (LEY).

**Black-necked Stilt**-- 2 birds were an excellent find at Metzger 9/15 (TB\*). A very late bird was an unexpected discovery at Conneaut (Asht) 11/7-13 (JP\* ph., CH\*, PS ph., m. obs.).

**American Avocet**-- At Lorain (Lora), 2 birds present on 8/10 were augmented by 8 more the next day (TLP, MJK, PL et al.). A single was there 8/22 (TLP). From 1-3 birds were at Metzger 9/5-15 (KA, TMR, TB, RRo, BFi). Inland, 1 was at Rocky Fork Lk. 10/27 and 8 were there 11/2 (Y. Mohlman). 2 more were in Scott Twp. (Mari) 10/23-27 (JH, KA), and 1 was at KPWA 9/5 (KA). Kyger Creek Power Plant in Gallia Co. attracted at least 1 avocet this season (WA).

**Greater Yellowlegs**-- Highs were 43 ONWRC 9/3 & 40 KPWA 9/7 (KA). A laggard was at LaDue Res. 11/25 (CH).

**Lesser Yellowlegs**-- 200 were at KPWA on both 8/28 and 9/5 (KA). Metzger attracted 100 birds 8/12 (EP, RHr).

**Solitary Sandpiper**-- Max. 19 at Heidelberg College's Funk-Dewald Nature Reserve (Sene) 8/3 (HH).

**Willet**-- A juv. was at Conneaut 8/19-20 (JH, RHr, JP, CH).

**Spotted Sandpiper**-- Max. 21 FRes 8/15 (BHs).

**Upland Sandpiper**-- At least 1-2 were at or near Ottawa National Wildlife

Refuge [hereafter ONWR] (Otta/Luca) 8/6-21 (ONWRC, KA, JP).

**Whimbrel**-- 2 were noted at Conneaut 8/19-20 (JP, RHr, JH, CH). Another was there 9/10 (KM et al.). Singles were also at Lorain 8/29 (TLP) and Metzger 9/4 (TK).

**Hudsonian Godwit**-- Singles were found at Metzger 9/1 (JP), 9/27 (NKe, K. McDonald), and 10/18 (JP). One was at KPWA 9/2-12 (JH, KA).

**Marbled Godwit**-- 2 lingered at Sheldon Marsh SNP 9/6-20 (MJK, TLP). Lorain attracted a bird 8/22-26 (TLP, m. obs.), as did Conneaut 8/28 (KM).

**Ruddy Turnstone**-- Max. 5 Lorain 9/1 (TLP). 2 were inland at BuCr 8/5 (DO).

**Red Knot**-- Conneaut was consistently good for this species. At least 5 birds were present 8/13-11/4 (LR, CH, JP, m. obs.). 6 were at Metzger 9/16 (LEY, RHr, m. obs.). One was at Lorain 8/12 (NKr) and again 9/4-8 (TLP, MJK). 2 were inland at KPWA 9/5 (KA).

**Sanderling**-- Some highs include: 65 ONWRC 10/1; 25 HBSP 9/9 (RHn); & 25 Kelley's Is. 9/10 (DC et al.). Inland reports of 1-4 birds came from Berlin Res., BuCr, Cowan Lk. (Clin), E. Fork Lk., KPWA, Kyger Creek Power Plant, & Paulding Co. A juv. dawdled at Conneaut 11/12 (CH).

**Semipalmated Sandpiper**-- 2 late juv. remained at Metzger 10/21 (JD, ST), with 1 still present 10/28 (RHr, EP). 2 more juv. were late at Sheldon Marsh SNP 10/21 (JD, ST, EP, RHr). Some peak counts include: 500 Metzger 8/12 (EP, RHr), with 300 there the next day (JBU); 150 Lorain 8/25 (TLP); & 40 KPWA 9/14 (KA).

**Western Sandpiper**-- 3 inland sites reported: 2 KPWA 8/28 & 9/5, with 1 there 9/14 (KA); 1 juv. Berlin Res. 9/17 (CH); & 1 Rocky Fork Lk. 10/28 (JD, ST). Along L. Erie, 1-3 birds were detected at Metzger, Conneaut, and Lorain 8/6-10/21.

**Least Sandpiper**-- 200 at KPWA 8/28 (KA) and 100 at Metzger 8/13 (JBU) were by far the highest reports. Also

of interest: 25 Grand River WA 8/10 (DJH); 19 Beach City Dam (Tusc) 8/2 (LEY); & 10 on a floating peat mass at L. Kelso (Geau) 8/16 (J. O'Meara, fide DB). 1 remained at Metzger 10/28 (EP, RHr).

**White-rumped Sandpiper**-- 5 at Metzger 9/16-17 (RHr, DO), 3 at Conneaut 9/10 (KM, RHn, EB), and 3 at Lorain 9/26 (TLP) were the highs. Inland: 1 Mosquito Lk. 9/11 (DJH); 2 KPWA 9/8-18 (JH, KA); 2 LaDue Res. 9/30 (LR); & 1 Berlin Res. 10/8 (CH). An unspecified number appeared at Kyger Creek Power Plant during the season (WA).

**Baird's Sandpiper**-- Maxima: 6 + Metzger 9/15 (TB); 6 ONWRC 9/3; & 4 KPWA 9/14 (KA). From 1-2 were found in the following counties: Augl, Clar, Gall, Paul, Port/Star, Seneca, & Trum. 4 late birds were present statewide through 10/28, plus a very late bird was at BuCr 10/29-11/26 (DO).

**Pectoral Sandpiper**-- 200 at KPWA 9/21 (JH) and 100 at Sheldon Marsh SNP 10/1 (CH) served as the inland and lakelakefront highs. 1 at Deer Creek Res. 11/24 was very late (BSP).

**Purple Sandpiper**-- At Conneaut, 1 was noted 11/4 & 12 (JP, CH), while 4 were reported there 11/25 (CW, J. Holzworth). 2 were at HBSP 10/29 through the end of the period (KM, LR et al.). Huron hosted 2 birds 11/8 (KA).

**Dunlin**-- Single-site maxima were 500 at Sheldon Marsh SNP 10/28 and 330 at Metzger 10/21 (both EP, RHr). 153 were at KPWA 11/1 (JH). 2 remained at BuCr 11/26 (DO).

**Stilt Sandpiper**-- The inland high of 28 at KPWA 9/7 (KA) was barely eclipsed by the lakelakefront high of 30 at Metzger 8/13 (JBU). Other inland counties reporting were Gall, Paul, Port/Star, Trum, Tusc, & Warr. A laggard was at KPWA 11/2 (KA).

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper**-- Good numbers: 1 Walnut Beach (Asht) 8/19 (JP); 1 juv. Conneaut 8/27 (CH, RRI); 1 Lorain 8/29 (TLP); 1 FRes 8/29, with 2 there 9/5 & 12 (BHa); 1 BuCr 9/3-9 (DO); 1-2 KPWA 9/8-23 (JH, KA, ST, CM), with another there

10/19 (KA); 1 E. Fork Lk. 9/14-17 (HA); 1 Mosquito Lk. 9/18 (DJH); 1 Caesar Creek Lk. 9/29-10/2 (LG, PG); & 2 Cedar Pt. Amusement Pk. (Erie) 10/2 (KA). An unspecified number appeared at Kyger Creek Power Plant this season (WA).

**Short-billed Dowitcher**-- Max. 240 Metzger 8/12 (EP, RHr). 2 juv. at Lorain 10/1 were on the late side (CH). 6 at KPWA on both 8/2 (KA) and 9/1 (JH) served as the inland highs.

**Long-billed Dowitcher**-- Arrivals at Metzger progressed from 10 adults 8/12 (RHr, EP) to 125 adults 9/3 (CH), to 200-210 juv. 10/21-22 (JD, ST, RHr, EP, CH). No other lakelakefront reports were received away from the w. L. Erie marshes. Turning inland: 3 KPWA 9/7 (KA), with up to 11 there 10/23-11/2 (JH, KA); 2 juv. Berlin Res. 9/24 (CH); 1 Paulding Co. 10/19 (DMD); & 2-10 Rocky Fork Lk. 10/28-29 (JD, ST, JS, JBe). 2 dowitchers, presumably representing this species, were at Bayshore Power Plant (Luca) 11/13 (ET).

**Common Snipe**-- Max. 16 Grand River WA 9/7 (DJH).

**Am. Woodcock**-- 7 singles were noted statewide as late as 10/22-11/6.

**Wilson's Phalarope**-- Singles were at Metzger 8/13 (JBU, LG) and 8/21-28 (TK, ET); at Lorain 8/24 (TLP); at KPWA 8/8 (KA); and, more unexpectedly, at Beach City Dam (a juv.) 9/4 (LEY).

**Red-necked Phalarope**-- Up to 3 juv. could be found at Metzger on many dates from 8/26-9/15 (m. obs.). Elsewhere: 3 KPWA 9/12-15 (JH, KA); 2 Sheldon Marsh SNP 9/19-24 (NKr, PL, BFI); & 1 Lorain 9/22 (TLP).

**Red Phalarope**-- 1 flew by HBSP 10/15 (KM, RHn, EB).

## Gulls and Terns

**Jaeger species**-- 2 unidentified jaegers were at Lorain 9/8 (TLP), and another was a Perkins Beach (Cuya) 10/21 (JDH).

**Laughing Gull**-- Impressive numbers: a 1st-yr. bird on a small peat island at

the e. end of Cranberry Bog (Lick/Fair) 9/16 (GB, D. Linzell et al.); a juv. at Delaware SP (Dela) 9/4 (WS, ph.); a juv. picked up at E. Fork Lk. 9/8 and taken to RAPTOR, Inc. for rehab (fide NKe); a juv. at HBSP 9/14-15 (KM, RHn); 1 Sandusky Bay 10/8 (JP); a 1st-winter bird at Cleveland's E. 55th St. Marina 10/4-14 (JDH, TLP); & 1 Lksh 10/19 (JP).

**Franklin's Gull**-- Inland: 16 BuCr 10/14, and 1 there 10/21-22 (DO); 4 1st-winter birds at Rocky Fork Lk. 10/28 (JD, ST); up to 3 at E. Fork Lk. 10/25-11/8 (HA, T. Fitzpatrick, D. Brinkman); & 1 at the Cincinnati waterworks (Hami) 11/12-14 (FR). 1-2 birds were found at 6 lakfront sites 9/15-11/20.

**Little Gull**-- An adult was at Conneaut 8/13 (LR, CH). At least 1 bird was at HBSP 9/7-30 (RHn, LR, KM). Huron hosted an adult 11/15 (KA). Found at Lksh 3 times from 9/1-11/29 (JP).

**Bonaparte's Gull**-- Lorain harbored 1500 birds 11/4 (FMG). Inland: 300 Paint Creek Lk./Rocky Fork Lk. 11/19 (SWa); 200 BuCr 11/4 (DO); & 150 Tappan Lk. (Harr) 11/11 (ESc).

**Ring-billed Gull**-- 3000 were counted on Rocky Fork Lk./Paint Creek Lk. 11/19 (SWa).

**Herring Gull**-- Rocky Fork Lk./Paint Creek Lk. attracted 300 birds 10/29 (JS, JBe).

**Thayer's Gull**-- Singles were at Lksh 11/9 & 22 (JP).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull**-- An adult with a "very red bill" was an oddity at Eastlake 10/29+ (T. Kellerman, LR). Other adults were at E. 55th St. in Cleveland 11/11 and at Cedar Point Amusement Pk. 11/25 (both EP, RHr). Unspecified singles were at Lksh 10/15 (JP) & at Lorain 11/8 (KA).

**Glaucous Gull**-- 1 was at Lksh 10/29 (JP). A 1st-winter bird was easily observed at HBSP 11/24+ (LR, m. obs.).

**Great Black-backed Gull**-- 50 or more were counted at HBSP 9/8 (KM). 30 or more were at S. Bass Is. 9/12 (SWu).

**Black-legged Kittiwake**-- Single 1st-year birds were at Huron 11/8 (KA) and HBSP 11/23 (EB, RHn).

**Sabine's Gull**-- A juv. was documented at Lorain 9/2 (TLP\*, LR et al.). HBSP attracted a juv. 9/16 (KM\*) and 2 imm. flew side by side for several minutes there 10/15 (KM\*, EB, RHn).

**Caspian Tern**-- The peak at Lorain came 8/9, when 47 were counted (TLP). The only double-digit inland count was 24 birds at Walborn Res. 8/19 (CH).

**Royal Tern**-- One was an exceptional find at Conneaut 8/17 (CK\*, NB\*, RE\*). Rather than being deemed a second state record, the Ohio Bird Records Committee felt that this individual was likely the same individual that was found at Lorain earlier in the summer (7/8-21/95).

**Common Tern**-- Maxima: 1600+ heading past HBSP 9/16, with another 400 doing likewise the next day (LR et al.); 300 ONWRC 9/3; & 230 Lorain 8/31 (TLP). 20 were inland at Caesar Creek Lk. 10/6 (JD, ST). 15 November birds were found at 4 sites through 11/6.

**Forster's Tern**-- Highs: 230 ONWRC 10/1; 100 Metzger 9/16 (RHr, EP); & 75 Maumee Bay SP 8/12 (RHr, EP). 5 inland sites combined for 10 birds through 10/2. 1 remained at Conneaut 11/12 (CH, RHr).

**Black Tern**-- Not so good. A total of 5 singles were found along L. Erie 8/20-10/15. Other than 17 at Caesar Creek Lk. 8/6 (LG), only 3 other inland singles could be found.

### **Doves through Starlings**

**Mourning Dove**-- The fifth clutch of the year hatched at a Streetsboro (Port) site 10/1 (CH).

**Black-billed Cuckoo**-- Young were photographed at a Wyandot Co. nest as late as 9/5 (TB). A bird in Paulding Co. 10/2 was somewhat late (DMD).

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo**-- Max. 6+ at the ONWR parking lot 8/25 (RRo). A very late bird was found at Miamitown

(Hami) 10/31 (P. Wharton).

Barn Owl-- A bird was in ESc's backyard woods 8/22.

Long-eared Owl-- JP reported singles at Lksh 11/14 & 30.

Short-eared Owl-- Good totals include: 10 along Jefferson Co. Rd. 45 10/26 (MAR); 8 Dundee (Tusc) 11/19 (SH); & 8 HBSP 11/2 (JDH), where several more were present on other dates as well. In addition, a total of 12 birds were reported from other sites in Alle, Cuya, Hami, Holm, Lake, Otta, Rich, Warr, & Wyan.

N. Saw-whet Owl-- Above average, with singles at Lksh 10/7 & 11/19 (JP); Middletown (Butl) 11/10 (fide NKe); E. 12th St. in Cleveland 11/13-16 (S. Wright, m. obs.); Donald Gray Gardens [hereafter DGG] (Cuya) 11/17 (Bfi, PL); HBSP 11/19 (EB, LR, GM); & Gorman Nature Center (Rich) 11/29+ (JH).

Common Nighthawk-- Only 5 counts of 50+ birds were received, topped by 200 at College Hill (Hami) 9/7 (J. Hays). Next highest report was of 70 birds in Holmes Co. 8/31 (ESc).

Whip-poor-will-- A calling bird was a surprise at Springville Marsh SNP 9/3 (TB). A bird "cruising the fields" at Fairport Harbor 10/1 was also unexpected (LR).

Chimney Swift-- Max. 500 Girard (Trum) 9/22 (DJH).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird-- 15 zipped past the observation tower at Springville Marsh SNP between 7:00 and 7:45 a.m. on 9/15 (TB). Very late hummers, potentially of this species, were at Westwood (Hami) 10/13-20 (C. Avril) and in Anderson Twp. (Hami) 11/7 (HA).

Rufous Hummingbird-- An adult male graced the Loudonville feeder (near the Ash/Holm Co. line) of Donald\* & Diane Plant 9/11-14. It was photographed by BG, and was also seen by Mary Ellen McKinley.

Belted Kingfisher-- Counts of 9 at Magee 8/20 and 8 there 9/17 seem good for that area (HSH).

Red-headed Woodpecker-- 8 were at KPWA 8/12 (JBU, C. Johnston).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker-- Max. 4 Columbus 10/4 (RRo). An early arrival was at Springville Marsh SNP 9/3 (TB).

N. Flicker-- Max. 32 ONWRC 10/1. A flicker at HBSP 8/29 had a black moustache and salmon underwings and tail (RRi).

Olive-sided Flycatcher-- A notably early bird was at Hunting Valley (Cuya) 8/4 (RRi), while late singles were at Oak Hill in the s. Cuyhoga Valley National Recreation Area [hereafter CVNRA] (Cuya/Summ) 10/1 (ESp, AL) and at Nathan Hale Pk. (Cuya) 10/3 (RHr). 3 were at Springville Marsh SNP 9/3 (TB). 7 others were found statewide 8/13-9/24.

E. Wood-Pewee-- A group of 6 together at Howland (Trum) 9/9 was of interest (CB). Singles were found as late as 10/8 at Columbus (RRo) and in Paulding Co. (DMD).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher-- Found in at least 7 counties, including 1 at Nathan Hale Pk. 8/8 (RHr) & 1 at Springville Marsh SNP 10/8 (TB).

Acadian Flycatcher-- Reported at S. Bass Is. 8/30-31 and again 9/12 (SWu).

Alder Flycatcher-- Overacker identified 1 at BuCr 8/5.

Least Flycatcher-- Max. 7 Kelley's Is. 9/9 (DC et al.). Both the earliest and latest migrants were at Nathan Hale Pk., on 8/8 and 10/23 (RHr).

E. Phoebe-- Maxima 11 ONWRC 8/6 and 9 Eldon Russell MP (Geau) 9/29 (AF). 7 birds were reported after 11/15, including 3 at HBSP 11/26 (EB, RHn). A very resourceful bird picked at zebra mussel shells at Rocky River Pk. (Cuya) 11/9 (JDH).

E. Kingbird-- Highs include: 39 ONWRC 8/6; 26 KPWA 8/28 (KA); & a flock of 14 at OkOp MP 8/25 (ET). An extremely late bird was at Springville Marsh SNP 10/28 (TB).

Horned Lark-- 200 were along

Dunkerton Rd. in Trumbull Co. 11/21 (DJH).

Purple Martin-- 1800 congregated at S. Bass. Is. 8/21 (KA). 1500 were at Lorain 8/13 (TLP).

Tree Swallow-- 3 at the Newtown Gravel Pits 11/19 were the latest reported (N. Cade). Highs include: 4000 ONWRC 9/3; 1000 KPWA 9/7 (KA); & 900 L. Rockwell 10/11 (LR).

N. Rough-winged Swallow-- From 375 to 400 were at Farnsworth MP (Luca/Wood) along the Maumee River rapids 9/23 (MAN, ET).

Bank Swallow-- 2000 amassed at Metzger 8/21. 1000 were at S. Bass Is. the same day (both KA).

Cliff Swallow-- 30 in n. Marion Co. 8/28 provided an exceptional count (KA). About 6-10 other birds were reported statewide.

Barn Swallow-- S. Bass Is. attracted 500 birds 8/21 (KA). 300 feasted at FRes 9/5 (BHa). 5 November singles were noted, including the latest bird at Newtown 11/16 (JD, CM et al.).

Blue Jay-- Max. 144 Magee 9/17 (HSH).

Am. Crow-- A roost in w. Lucas Co. held 17,000 birds 11/5, which TK reports as the largest local roost since 1956.

Black-capped Chickadee-- 434 were banded at Lksh 10/7-12/2, including 68 birds on 11/19 alone (JP). Migrants were also in evidence at Gordon Pk. (Cuya) and in Tuscarawas Co.

Tufted Titmouse-- 75 were banded at Lksh 8/13-11/1 (JP).

Red-breasted Nuthatch-- A good movement, generally detected by early September. 10-11 birds were found at Hinckley MP (Medi) on 4 dates between 9/16-11/17 (NKO).

White-breasted Nuthatch-- Lksh banding nets captured 46 birds 9/23-11/24 (JP).

Brown Creeper-- From 15-25 were reported at DGG 10/11 (FMG, DAC).

One at Eldon Russell MP 8/1 was a local (DB).

House Wren-- 50 at Magee 9/17 far surpassed any other report (HSH). HBSP sheltered a laggard 11/12 (LR, EB).

Winter Wren-- HBSP is a favored site for this species, attracting 31 birds 10/20 (KM). 22 were banded at Lksh 10/19 (JP).

Sedge Wren-- Up to 4 remained at KPWA from the summer, being found through 8/25 (JH, LG, RRo, KA). 4 along Penniman Rd. (Trum) 8/9 were also summer holdovers (DJH). A bird in KM's Munson (Geau) yard 9/19 was found in the same bush as a N. Parula. 4 other singles were reported 9/11-10/21.

Marsh Wren-- Max. 9 ONWRC 8/6. A notably late bird was at BuCr 11/26 (DO). Columbus, Gordon Pk. and DGG all hosted definite migrants 9/17-10/7.

Golden-crowned Kinglet-- Widely scattered highs were: 60+ Scioto Trail SP (Ross) 10/21 (RRO); 60 HBSP 10/20 (KM); & 56 Magee 10/15 (HSH). 1 at Hinckley MP 8/24 was very likely a local (NKO).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet-- Early singles reached Rocky River MP (Cuya) 8/27 (TMR) and Caesar Creek Lk. 8/28 (D. Graham). 85 were at HBSP 10/21 (LR). November sightings were reported from 8 counties.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher-- Extremely late singles were observed along Hancock Co. Rd. 89 on 11/21 (W. McClanahan) and banded at Lksh 11/26 (JP).

Veery-- Max. 5 OkOp 9/9 (MAN) & 10 banded at Lksh 9/2 (JP).

Gray-cheeked Thrush-- Max. 9 banded at Lksh 9/23 (JP) & 6 found at Nathan Hale Pk. 9/24 (RHr). A very late bird ate dogwood berries with Hermit Thrushes at Big Creek MP 10/25 (DB, T. Locher).

Swainson's Thrush-- Daytime highs include: 60 Navarre Marsh (Ota) 9/18 (TMR); 30 Rocky River MP 9/17 (RHr); 30 Nathan Hale Pk. 9/18 (RHr);

& 20 E. Fork Lk. 9/22 (Y. Mohlman). Singles dawdled at Howland 10/28 (CB) and at Lksh 11/5 (JP).

Hermit Thrush-- Max. 23 HBSP 10/21 (LR).

Wood Thrush-- A bird found in Holmes Co. 10/11 was certainly late (LEY), but an extremely late bird remained in the carefully landscaped yard of R. Kowalski in Cleveland Hts. (Cuya) into late November (fide JE).

Am. Robin-- A Cincinnati roost held 3000 birds 11/12 (BS). About 2500 were at Columbus 11/13 (RRo).

Gray Catbird-- Max. 32 L. Isaac (Cuya) 8/9 (RHr). 5 November reports were received through 11/13.

Brown Thrasher-- A good count of 20 was made at HBSP 9/16 (LR). 1 lingered at Carlisle MP (Lora) through the end of the period (NKr, m. obs.).

Am. Pipit-- Maxima 110 Holmes Co. 11/4 (LEY) & 62 on the FRes dikes 10/17 (BHa).

Cedar Waxwing-- Approx. 250 were at Columbus 11/13 (RRo). 4 reports of 100 birds were received from widely scattered sites 9/6-9 and 11/1.

N. Shrike-- 11 singles represent a strong movement. Beginning with an adult at Grand River WA 10/25-11/21 (DJH), birds were also noted in in Geau, Hanc, Holm, Lake, Luca, & Magee.

Loggerhead Shrike-- Paint Creek Lk. attracted a bird 11/25+ (SWa, m. obs.).

Eur. Starling-- Max. 31,532 Magee 9/17 (HSH).

### Vireos through Warblers

White-eyed Vireo-- One banded at Lksh 11/5 (JP) was topped by an even later individual in Tuscarawas Co. 11/17 (LS, fide Esc).

Solitary Vireo-- Max. 6 at The Wilderness Center (Star) 10/7 (SH). 1 at Burr Oak SP (Morg/Athe) 9/3 was interesting (LB). An unusually high number of 10 late birds were found 10/23-11/4, including: 1 s. of Newark

(Lick) 10/23 (CD); 3 Nathan Hale Pk. 10/23 (RHr); & 1 in Holmes Co. 11/14 (Ben Miller, fide LEY).

Warbling Vireo-- About 30 were at Magee 9/11 (RRo). Tramer counted 16 during a half-mile walk at Waterville (Luca) 9/5.

Philadelphia Vireo-- Max. 4 Kelley's Is. 9/10 (DC et al.).

Red-eyed Vireo-- Max. 19 Waterville 9/5 (ET). An imm. lingered at HBSP 10/29-11/2 (KM, JDH).

Blue-winged Warbler-- Always fairly scarce in fall migration, the latest of 8 reports came from Lksh 10/2 (JP).

"Brewster's" Warbler-- A female was an unexpected find at L. Isaac. 8/2 (RHr).

Golden-winged Warbler-- At least 10 were reported 9/2-21, being noted in Cler, Cuya, Fran, Hami, Holm, Otta, Paul, & Sugarcreek MP.

Tennessee Warbler-- 6 at Columbus 9/14 (RRo) was the highest total we received. If this truly represents the highest count for the season, then numbers were alarmingly low. A bird in w. Lucas Co. 11/12 was quite late (TK).

Orange-crowned Warbler-- At least 12 birds were found in at least 11 counties, almost exclusively between 9/29-10/26. Exceptions include a very early bird at HBSP 9/6 (RRi), and late singles at Lksh 11/19 (banded, JP) and at Columbus through 11/25 (RRo).

Nashville Warbler-- Highs include 10 at Columbus 9/20 (RRo) & 8 at HBSP 10/1 (LR). 3 late birds found 10/26-29 were superseded by an extremely late bird in Mayfield Hts. (Cuya) 11/26 (N. Barber).

N. Parula-- About 25 birds were noted from 10 counties 8/21-10/2, including 3 at tiny DGG 9/26 (PL, FMG).

Yellow Warbler-- Fall migrants were conspicuous along the Scioto River in Columbus 7/13 & 7/19 (RRo). Being an early departing migrant, 17 birds at Magee 9/17 seems like an excellent count for the date (HSH).

The latest 2 birds were at HBSP through 10/6 (LR et al.).

Chestnut-sided Warbler-- From 8-10 birds were at Columbus on 3 dates between 9/1-22 (RRo). A notably late bird was at HBSP 10/18 (KM).

Magnolia Warbler-- Highs include: 35 Columbus 9/4 and 22 there 9/25 (RRo); 16 Holmes Co. 9/17 (LEY); & 18 ONWRC 9/3. A bird at L. Isaac 10/29 was surprisingly late (TMR).

Cape May Warbler-- Highs: 25 Kelley's Is. 9/9 (DC et al.); 20 Magee 9/2 (TB); & 12 Tuscarwas Co. 9/30 (ESe).

Black-throated Blue Warbler-- Max. 8 HBSP 10/1 (LR). A laggard was banded at Lksh 11/5 (JP).

Yellow-rumped Warbler-- The Hiris' survey at Magee 10/15 totalled 447 birds. 155 were in Paulding Co. 10/9 (DMD). 4 sites reported 100 birds each 10/2-15. An eager arrival was at HBSP 9/4 (KM).

Black-throated Green Warbler-- 25 at HBSP 9/24 represents a very good count (KM). 13 were at Columbus 10/2 (RRo). One was banded at Lksh on the late date of 10/28 (JP).

Blackburnian Warbler-- 3 arrived in Holmes Co. by 8/19 (LEY). Max. 8 Euclid Beach SP (Cuya) 9/23 (FMG).

Yellow-throated Warbler-- A bird remained at Winton Woods MP (Hami) 10/1 (JS).

Pine Warbler-- Found in 9 counties, with at least 23 birds reported. Definite migrants were present by 9/6. An adult male was at Gordon Pk. 11/1 (JDH), while an even later bird was at Lksh 11/25 (JP).

Kirtland's Warbler-- See "The Grapevine" section elsewhere in this issue for details on this outstanding record, found at the Dunakin's place in Paulding Co. 9/21 (DMD\*, R. Shinnars).

Prairie Warbler-- 3 fall reports from the northeast were more than expected: 1 HBSP 9/11 (AF); an imm. female at N. Chagrin MP 10/21-22 (KM et al.); & 1 banded at

Lksh 10/29 (JP).

Palm Warbler-- Another sub-par season, with highs of 12 in Columbus 9/14 & 10/2 (RRo) & 10 at Miami-Whitewater Forest MP 10/21 (FR). 2 early birds were in s. Toledo 9/2 (MAN), while a late bird was at Camp Berry (Hanc) 11/14 (W. McClanahan, fide BHa).

Bay-breasted Warbler-- Highs: 19 Columbus 9/22 & 15 Tuscarawas Co. 9/30 (ESe).

Blackpoll Warbler-- Highs: 20 Kelley's Is. 9/9 (DC et al.); 15 Nathan Hale Pk. 9/14 (RHR); & 13 Columbus 9/22 (RRo).

Cerulean Warbler-- The regular Indian Pt. MP (Lake) dawdler was still present 9/8 (JP). A female-plumaged bird was at Waterville 9/25 (ET).

Black-and-white Warbler-- Max. 5 Columbus 8/9 (RRo).

Am. Redstart-- Highs: 45 Columbus 9/14 (RRo); 25 ONWRC 9/3; & 16 Sheldon Marsh SNP 9/2 (BS). A late bird was at HBSP 10/21 (LR, KM).

Prothonotary Warbler-- A bird at Magee 9/2 was presumably a migrant (JBU).

Worm-eating Warbler-- One at ONWR 10/14 was very unusual (BFR, J. Kohler).

Ovenbird-- Max. 5 banded at Lksh 10/1 (JP). One attended a Mahoning Co. feeder 10/6-18 (DJH). Even later was a bird at a tiny park in downtown Cleveland through at least 11/14 (S. Wright, RHR, et al.).

N. Waterthrush-- This species has a penchant for early arrivals. This year, 1 was at DGG by 8/8 (PL, T. Leiden). Several lingering birds were also noted, including 2 at Sheldon Marsh SNP 10/14 (BFR, J. Kohler).

Louisiana Waterthrush-- A migrant was at Columbus 7/30 (RRo). A bird at N. Chagrin MP 8/14 may have been a resident (KM).

Kentucky Warbler-- Definite migrants include an imm. in ST & JD's Beaver creek (Gree) yard 9/5 and a

male at HBSP 9/6 (RRi). A bird near Mt. Hope 9/24 was thought to be a local (AH).

Connecticut Warbler-- Singles were banded at Lksh 9/10 & 9/19 (JP) and at Springville Marsh SNP 9/17 (TB). Singles were observed at Nathan Hale Pk. 9/2 (RHR); at HBSP 9/16 (LR); & at Columbus 10/4 (RRo).

Mourning Warbler-- At least 36 birds were reported statewide. 21 of these were banded at Lksh 8/13-10/1 (JP). The earliest bird (an imm.) hit the BP Building in downtown Cleveland 8/9 (MJK), while the latest was found at HBSP 10/23 (KM).

Common Yellowthroat-- Max. 51 Magee 9/17 (HSH). Of 3 November reports, 1 at HBSP 11/24 was latest (JBu).

Hooded Warbler-- Single migrants were at S. Bass Is. 8/21 (KA); Lake View Cemetery (Cuya) 9/1 (JDH); & L. Isaac 9/27 (RHR). 4 migrants were banded at Lksh 9/23-10/1 (JP). A bird at Hinckley MP 10/7 was likely a lingering resident (RHR).

Wilson's Warbler-- An adult male was at Shaker Lakes on the late date of 10/19 (RRi). Max. 9 HBSP 9/23 (LR).

Canada Warbler-- 3 were at DGG 9/25, a somewhat late date for that high a number (FMG, PL). One arrived for the ONWRC of 8/6.

Yellow-breasted Chat-- A definite migrant was banded at Lksh 9/30 (JP). A bird at the Ira Rd. beaver marsh in the s. CVNRA 8/28 was possibly also in transit (MZ, TMR).

### Tanagers through Finches

Summer Tanager-- One was at Shawnee Lookout MP 9/24 (JS).

Scarlet Tanager-- A female ate sunflower seeds at DJH's Trumbull Co. feeder 10/7. Late singles were at Cleveland (JDH) and at Rocky Fork Lk. (Y. Mohlman), both on 10/19.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak-- An Amherst (Lora) feeder attracted a female 11/27-29 (J. Blaser). 11 were banded at Lksh 8/20, as were 10 more 9/2 (JP).

Indigo Bunting-- 11 were at L. Rockwell 9/24 (LR). The latest bird was at DGG 10/26 (FMG).

Dickcissel-- Summer residents remained at KPWA, Seneca Co., ONWR, & Paulding Co. through 9/1. 16 residents were noted on the ONWRC of 8/6.

Am. Tree Sparrow-- Max. 218 Magee 11/19 (HSH).

Chipping Sparrow-- It must have been a banner year for nesting Chipping Sparrows. Numbers were excellent overall, including: 85 Magee 8/20 (HSH); 75 OkOp 10/8 (MA); 43 N. Royalton (Cuya) 9/3 (J. Tisdale); 42 Columbus 11/1 (RRo); & 38 Howland 8/16 (CB). 25 in Lakewood Park Cemetery (Cuya) 11/12 was a very large flock for the late date (PL, BFi). At least 28 other birds were found in November at 18 sites, truly a remarkable total.

Clay-colored Sparrow-- An imm. was discovered at HBSP 9/16 (LR\*).

Field Sparrow-- About 50 were at Columbus 10/31 (RRo).

Vesper Sparrow-- Singles were at 4 sites through 11/7, but were outlasted by 1 in Mayfield Hts. 11/26 (N. Barber).

Savannah Sparrow-- A Holmes Co. field sheltered 50+ birds 9/30 (ESc). 20 were at KPWA 9/25 (KA).

Grasshopper Sparrow-- August reports from Hanc, Paul, and Warr probably represent locals, but a juv. at Nathan Hale Pk. 8/8 was certainly a migrant (RHR). Single migrants were at 3 Lake Co. lakefront sites 9/26-10/3.

Henslow's Sparrow-- A resident remained along Jefferson Co. Rd. 45 through 8/15 (MAr).

Sharp-tailed Sparrow-- At least 9 were reported, all during the period of 9/26-10/7. Specifically: 3 Arcola Creek MP 9/26 (JP); 1 DGG 9/27 (BFI, PL, FMG, TMR); 1 HBSP 10/1 (N. Barber); 1 Huron 10/2 (KA); 1 Lksh 10/7 (JP); & 2 Gordon Pk. 10/7 (ESc).

Fox Sparrow-- Max. 6 L. Isaac 10/31



(RHr) & 6 Columbus 11/12 (RRo).

Song Sparrow-- Highs: 196 Magee 10/15 (HSH); 135 Columbus 10/31 (RRo); & 100 Euclid Beach SP 10/22 (TMR).

Lincoln's Sparrow-- 15 were at Miami-Whitewater Forest MP 10/7-8 (JS, P. Wharton). 4 at DGG 11/1 was a good number for the late date (PL).

Swamp Sparrow-- Magee is often good for this species, as evidenced by 44 there 11/19 (HSH). 20 migrants were inland at Columbus 10/29 (RRo).

White-throated Sparrow-- Up from last autumn, including: 500 Erie Co. 10/2 (KA); 401 Magee 10/15 (HSH); 300 Columbus 10/29, and many days of 200+ there (RRo); 200 ONWRC 10/1; & 81 banded at Lksh 9/30 (JP).

White-crowned Sparrow-- Max. 200 Gordon Pk. 10/10 (RHr, B. Morrison). 5 counts of 20-25 birds were received.

Dark-eyed Junco-- 2 at AF's Chesterland (Geau) feeder 8/7 were of interest. 3 remained at Big Creek MP (Geau) 8/24, where nesting had occurred (DB). 51 were banded at Lksh 11/24 (JP). A male "Oregon" junco was at Marblehead (Otta) 11/27 (VF).

Lapland Longspur-- Found in 8 counties 9/24+, topped by 9 in Lucas Co. 11/1 (TK).

Snow Bunting-- Highs include: 250 Conneaut 11/12 (RHr, J. Heflich); 200 HBSP 11/5 (A. & J. Fjeldstad); & 200 Burke Lakefront Airport 11/24 (FMG). 1 reached as far south as Rocky Fork Lk. 10/29 (JS, JBe).

Bobolink-- 45 migrants passed over ONWRC volunteers 9/3.

Red-winged Blackbird-- A flock of about 12,000 was in a Hancock Co. cornfield 11/7 (BHs).

E. Meadowlark-- Max. 48 Berlin 10/13 (RHs).

W. Meadowlark-- 1 was seen and heard with the E. Meadowlarks at Berlin 10/3-13 (RHs). 1 was still at

Genoa (Otta) 10/8, where the species had summered (JP).

Yellow-headed Blackbird-- 2 imm. females and 1 imm. male brightened Springville Marsh SNP 10/23 (TB).

Rusty Blackbird-- 60 birds at Mosquito Lk. 9/25 provided the peak count (DJH).

Common Grackle-- Anderson estimated 10,000 birds in the OkOp 10/8. While 2500 were found at Columbus 9/21, all were gone the next day (RRo).

Orchard Oriole-- Max. 5 ONWRC 8/6.

N. Oriole-- Max. 29 ONWRC 8/6.

Purple Finch-- As many as 7 per day could be found in Paulding Co. 9/9-10/18 (DMD).

House Finch-- About 10-20% of the House Finches at ET's Waterville feeder suffered from conjunctivitis this season.

Red Crossbill-- 1 was in the OkOp 11/4 (MAN).

White-winged Crossbill-- A male arrived at a Wilmington feeder 11/26, remaining through 11/30 (LG, JD, ST). Another male was found at the McGraw feeder in Henry Co. 11/17-18, the same feeder that was soon to attract a Harris' Sparrow during the winter season (fide RHr).

Common Redpoll-- Began to arrive in the lakefront counties as early as 11/5. Up to 17 birds were reported from 4 northern sites by the end of the period.

Pine Siskin-- 66 were banded at Lksh 10/7-12/2 (JP). Certainly up from last autumn, with sightings in 17 counties.

Am. Goldfinch-- 200 were at KPWA 10/16 (JH).

Evening Grosbeak-- Reported from 13 counties, including the southern tier, in November. Some highs include 40 at HBSP 11/26 (EB, RHn) & 25 at Mohican SP (Ashl) 11/8-30 (JH). At JF's Hocking Co. feeder, 9 birds appeared on 11/3. None were seen again until 11/27, but then numbers

began to build, including 36 seen on 11/30. Amazingly, grosbeaks would then be seen at his feeders every day through May 30, 1996!

#### **ADDENDA**

**Long-eared Owl**-- A rare nesting was confirmed in Wyandot Co. on 5/28/93, when a nest, 2 young, and an adult were found by John Watts and Jim Stahl. On 5/30, the birds were photographed.

**Rufous Hummingbird**-- An adult male spent 4/29-5/1/95 at a Mentor (Lake) feeder (A. Steadman, D. & R. Powell ph.). This record represents Ohio's first spring record.

**Smooth-billed Ani**-- November 25, 1993 was certainly a day for Thanksgiving for Daniel J. White, as this was the day the family cat brought home this supreme rarity to White's Westlake (Cuya) residence. See the article elsewhere in this issue for details regarding this first Ohio record.

#### **CORRIGENDA**

**Mute Swan**-- The 8 Mute Swans at KPWA 4/2/95 [OC 18(3):89] should be deleted.

**Black Tern**-- The correct date for 11 birds at KPWA [published as 5/30/95 in OC 18(3):94] should be 5/20/95.

#### **CONTRIBUTORS & OBSERVERS**

All individuals contributing bird reports to "The Ohio Cardinal" for the Autumn 1995 season (August 1 to November 30, 1995) are listed below in CAPITAL LETTERS. In addition, many other Observers submitted sightings to other birding-related publications. For this issue, reports from the following publications have been used: "The Cleveland Bird Calendar" (Kirtland Bird Club), "Passenger Pigeon" (Cincinnati Bird Club), "The Redstart" (Brooks Bird Club, Wheeling, WV), "The Toledo Naturalists' Association Bulletin", "Wingtips" (Black River Audubon Society), and "The Yellow Warbler"



First-year Laughing Gull, Delaware SP. September 4, 1995.  
Photo by William Shively.

(Dayton Audubon Society). Those Observers who received at least four citations in the Autumn 1995 "The Reports" section are also included in the following list of Contributors: J. KIRK ALEXANDER (KA); MATT ANDERSON (MAN); MICHAEL J. ARABIA (MAR); Wendell Argabrite (WA); Hank Armstrong (HA); CAROLE L. BABYAK (CB); Emil Bacik (EB); LYNN BARNHART (LB); H. THOMAS BARTLETT (TB); Joe Bens (JBe); DAN BEST (DB) for the Geauga County Park District; NANCY BRUNDAGE (NB); GINA BUCKEY (GB); JEFF BUECKING (JBU); DWIGHT & ANN CHASAR (DAC); DELORES COLE (DC); BOB CONLON (BC); DAVID C. DISTER (DD); DOUG & MICKI DUNAKIN (DMD); JON L. DUNN (JD); CURTIS DUSTHIMER (CD); ROBERT ELLWAY (RE); JOE EMERY (JE); VICTOR W. FAZIO, III (VF); BOB FINKELSTEIN (BFi); ANDY FONDRK (AF); JIM FRY (JF); BARBARA FRYE (BFr); PEG GATCH (PG); LARRY GARA (LG); BRUCE D. GLICK (BG); FRANK & MELINDA GREENLAND (FMG); SCOTT HACKETT (SH); Ray Hannikman (RHr); BETTY HARDESTY (BH); ROBERT HARLAN (RHr); BERT HENSEL (BHe); JOHN HERMAN (JH); AARON HERSHBERGER (AH); ROBERT HERSHBERGER (RHe); HOWARD W. HINTZ (HH); HANK & SALLY HIRIS (HSH); DAVID & JUDY

HOCHADEL (DJH); Jean & Dick Hoffman (JDH); CRAIG HOLT (CH); NED KELLER (NKe); CAL KEPPLER (CK); TOM KEMP (TK); NORMAN J. KOTESOVEC, JR. (NKo); Norma Kraps (NKR); MARIAN & JEFF KRAUS (MJK); ANDREW LEEDS (AL); TOM LePAGE (TLp); PAULA J. LOZANO (PL); CHARLOTTE MATHENA (CM); GARY MESZAROS (GM); KEVIN METCALF (KM); OHIO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE (ODOW); DOUG OVERACKER (DO); EDWIN C. PIERCE (EP); BOB SCOTT PLACIER (BSP); DONALD PLANT (DP); JOHN POGACNIK (JP); FRANK RENFROW (FR); RICHARD D.S. RICKARD (RRi); CRAIG RIEKER (CR); TOM & MARY ANNE ROMITO (TMR); LARRY ROSCHE (LR); ROBERT ROYSE (RRo); ED SCHLABACH (ESc); LEROY SCHLABACH (LS); PAUL SHELLHAMMER (PS); WILLIAM SHIVELY (WS); EMILY SPRAGUE (Esp); BRUCE STEHLING (BS); Jay Stenger (JS); SUE TACKETT (ST); ELLIOT TRAMER (ET); K. ROGER TROUTMAN (RT); Steve Wagner (SWa); BILL WHAN (BW) CONNIE WOLCOTT (CW); STANLEY E. WULKOWICZ (SWu); LEROY E. YODER (LEY); & MARIAN ZEHNDER (MZ). In addition, many other Observers are cited for 1 to 3 records within the species accounts. My thanks to all.



Chipping Sparrows.

By Carole Jonson Babyak.

## **The Grapevine**

### **Cleveland Gull Nestings**

This is to update and correct the information published in The Ohio Cardinal 18(3):94 concerning gulls nesting at Cleveland (Cuyahoga Co.) during May 1995. After this information was published, I telephoned Mr. Richard Dolbeer, at the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, to clarify last spring's activities on Dock 20 at the Port of Cleveland.

The nests at Burke Lakefront Airport were physically removed because of the hazard they posed to airport traffic. However, the colony on Dock 20 was not harmed in any way. Using dabs of different colors of spray paint placed next to each nest, USDA personnel monitored the number of gull nests on Dock 20 on four different occasions. The highest numbers recorded were 10 Herring Gull nests and 4502 Ring-billed Gull nests. An additional 40 Herring Gull nests were recorded along the Cleveland breakwaters in almost every spot not vulnerable to wave action.

Besides counting nests, another project was undertaken in Cuyahoga Co. to analyze food (human-processed vs. natural) consumed by gulls. This was done by picking up particles regurgitated by the birds, and Mr. Dolbeer was truly impressed with the variety noted. On one occasion Herring Gulls were observed returning to their chicks in a nest on the roof of a Brookpark Road warehouse. In their beaks were two 8-ounce sirloin steaks-- complete with fresh grill marks! By Paula J. Lozano, 1291 Granger Ave., Lakewood, OH 44107-2218.

### **A Sparrow Encounter**

On August 23, 1995, I saw approximately 50 birds on the ground at a condo construction site near my home in Trumbull Co. As I approached, they flushed to the tree tops chasing one another, and then flew into the woods. While looking at them, a warm feeling of disorientation or adrenalin jetted through me. Even in Florida I never felt like that because I knew all birds I had expected to see. The birds appeared to be mostly streak-breasted sparrows. I kept looking, and identified a female Purple Finch, several Field Sparrows, some Song Sparrows and 6-8 adult Chipping Sparrows. All the other streak-breasted birds were immature Chipping Sparrows, totalling about 48-50 birds overall. I could breathe again. They flew into the trees and eventually made it back to the ground, all in unison. I walked closer, and this time they flew off for good. Perhaps the weeds, the weather, the construction and the birds were all in sync. Next time, maybe I will be too. By Carole Babyak, 879 Howland-Wilson Rd. SE, Warren, OH 44484.

### **Oak Openings Hawk Watch**

We again monitored the fall hawk flight over the Oak Openings and adjacent areas in Lucas Co. Each year's flight is a little different from previous years. Weather conditions vary, particularly wind direction, and that influences numbers of birds seen. For example, winds from the south and west dominated October. This apparently affected the Turkey Vulture flight, as numbers are substantially down from the past two years (vultures prefer east winds). However, many other species experienced record high totals this fall. Details are presented in the table that follows. By Tom Kemp, 7021 Manore Rd., Whitehouse, OH 43571 and Matt Anderson, 12005 Oak River Rd, Whitehouse, OH 43571.

# 1995 Western Lucas County Fall Raptor Watch

Tom Kemp/Matt Anderson

02/09/96

file: raptor95

	1995			1995 TOTAL	1994 TOTAL	1993 TOTAL	1992 TOTAL
	SEP	OCT	NOV				
TURKEY VULTURE	144	1051	75	1270	2229	2010	884
OSPREY	22	17	1	40	33	31	4
BALD EAGLE	2	2	0	4	2	5	1
NORTHERN HARRIER	1	6	4	11	7	13	5
SHARP-SHINNED HAWK	163	450	50	663	253	412	210
COOPER'S HAWK	23	27	11	61	45	46	25
NORTHERN GOSHAWK	0	0	1	1	0	3	0
RED-SHOULDERED HAWK	3	40	57	100	58	82	77
BROAD-WINGED HAWK	3227	0	0	3227	1567	1811	2198
RED-TAILED HAWK	25	362	370	757	632	334	262
ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK	0	3	4	7	4	3	2
GOLDEN EAGLE	0	0	4	4	3	1	1
AMERICAN KESTREL	9	81	1	91	18	32	14
MERLIN	2	4	0	6	4	3	4
PEREGRINE FALCON	0	4	0	4	0	4	1
HAWK (SP?)	10	4	3	17	16	9	0
ACCIPITER (SP?)	7	5	1	13	14	10	6
BUTEO (SP?)	16	38	49	103	77	69	29
EAGLE (SP?)	0	0	0	0	0	4	1
SMALL FALCON (SP?)	2	8	0	10	4	4	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3656</b>	<b>2102</b>	<b>631</b>	<b>6389</b>	<b>4966</b>	<b>4886</b>	<b>3729</b>
<b>HOURS (EST)</b>	<b>55.75</b>	<b>73.75</b>	<b>37.00</b>	<b>166.50</b>	<b>128.0</b>	<b>141.8</b>	
<b>BIRDS/HOUR</b>	<b>65.6</b>	<b>28.5</b>	<b>17.1</b>	<b>38.4</b>	<b>38.8</b>	<b>34.6</b>	

SINGLE-DAY MAXIMUM COUNTS					
1995			1991-95		
#	DATE	WIND	#	DATE	WIND
277	10/22	sw	450	10/13/93	ne/e
5	10/15	w/nw	6	10/09/94	nw
1	4 dates		2	11/2/91	sw
3	10/22	sw	3	10/22/95	sw
78	10/8	w	78	10/8/95	e
8	10/29	w	8	10/29/95	sw
1	11/23	s/sw	1	various	
31	11/5	w	33	10/31/92	e/ne
1576	9/18	e/ne	1590	9/12/92	e/se
135	10/29	w	273	11/13/94	sw
2	10/22, 11/4	sw,w	3	11/15/94	n/e
2	11/5, 11/11	w,s/nw	2	3 dates	sw
57	10/15	w,nw	57	10/15/95	nw
1	6 dates		1	various	
1	4 dates		2	9/28/93	w

## Fall Shorebird Census

From June through November this year, I attempted to age all returning shorebirds that I encountered. Where possible, I separated arriving birds into two categories, adults (AD) and juveniles (JV). The following dates represent my earliest recorded dates for selected fall migrant shorebirds this year: Black-bellied Plover-- AD 7/30, JV 9/9; Am. Golden-Plover-- AD 7/30, JV 9/9; Semipalmated Plover-- AD 7/9, JV 8/6; Greater Yellowlegs-- AD 7/15, JV 8/19; Lesser Yellowlegs-- AD 6/25, JV 8/6; Solitary Sandpiper-- AD 7/15, JV 8/19; Willet-- AD 7/19, JV 8/20; Whimbrel-- AD 7/9, JV not found; Ruddy Turnstone-- AD 7/2, JV 8/20; Red Knot-- AD 8/13, JV 8/13; Sanderling-- AD 7/26, JV 8/20; Semipalmated Sandpiper-- AD 6/25, JV 8/6; Western Sandpiper-- AD 7/30, JV 9/17; Least Sandpiper-- AD 6/25, JV 8/6; White-rumped Sandpiper-- AD 8/6, JV 9/3; Baird's Sandpiper-- AD not found, JV 8/13; Pectoral Sandpiper-- AD 7/15, JV 8/13; Dunlin-- AD 10/1, JV 10/15; Stilt Sandpiper-- AD 7/23, JV 8/6; Buff-breasted Sandpiper-- AD not found, JV 8/27; Short-billed Dowitcher-- AD 7/2, JV 8/6; Long-billed Dowitcher-- AD 7/23, JV 9/24; Wilson's Phalarope-- AD 7/23, JV not found; Red-necked Phalarope-- AD not found, JV 9/3. Data by Craig Holt, 1325 Gaynelle Ave., Streetsboro, OH 44241.

## Bird Banding at Lakeshore MP, Autumn 1995

For a total of 257.5 hours (3307 net hours) on 44 days between July 3 and December 2, I banded birds at Lakeshore MP (Lake Co.). My final tally was 5187 individuals banded, representing 99 species. Peak movements per month were July 15 (190 individuals banded), August 25 (100 indiv. banded), September 30 (192 indiv. banded), October 19 (207 indiv. banded), and November 5 (220 indiv. banded). My top numbers banded were: White-throated Sparrow-- 741; House Finch-- 683; Black-capped Chickadee-- 481; Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco-- 329; Am. Goldfinch-- 306; Golden-crowned Kinglet-- 159; Swainson's Thrush-- 140; Ruby-crowned Kinglet-- 130; N. Cardinal-- 128; & Yellow Warbler-- 107. Data by John Pogacnik, 4765 Lockwood Rd., Perry, OH 44081.

## Fall Passerine Migration at Navarre Marsh

Two sites at the Navarre Marsh (Ottawa Co.) research station were monitored daily by Black Swamp Bird Observatory personnel from mid-August through mid-October this season, weather permitting. A total of 6252 individuals representing 86 species were banded. 304 previously banded birds, including 108 Yellow Warblers, returned to the Navarre site in 1995. The top 10 species banded were as follows: Swainson's Thrush-- 723; Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler-- 636; White-throated Sparrow-- 634; Golden-crowned Kinglet-- 379; Hermit Thrush-- 274; Ruby-crowned Kinglet-- 260; Gray-cheeked Thrush-- 260; Blackpoll Warbler-- 246; Gray Catbird-- 217; and Yellow Warbler-- 207. This data was reported in *Dendroica*, a publication of the Black Swamp Bird Observatory 3(2):18. BSBO, P.O. Box 228, Oak Harbor, OH 43449.

## Greenlawn Dam Checklist

A site guide/checklist is now available for Columbus' Greenlawn Dam area, a place definitely worth visiting. With 202 species recorded in the last 3 years, this may just be the best urban birding spot in Ohio. To receive this informative pamphlet, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Adam Goloda, 269 E. Blenkner St., Columbus, OH 43206.

## **Metzger Marsh Dike Completion**

[The following is the greater portion of a press release, issued by the Ohio Division of Wildlife, on December 11, 1995. It is reprinted here to address ODOW actions undertaken there during the past several months (Summer and Autumn 1996), and to elucidate the ODOW's long-range plans for Metzger Marsh WA.]

Dike construction at the Metzger Marsh Wildlife Area in eastern Lucas County was completed recently, according to the Ohio Division of Wildlife. The new 7,700-foot dike represents the first phase of a long-term project to restore the lakeshore marsh to provide habitat for wetland wildlife and recreational opportunities for the public.

"This long-awaited wetlands restoration project will provide a wealth of benefits for a wide variety of wildlife, as well as tremendous recreational opportunities for the public," said Michael J. Budzik, chief of the Division of Wildlife.

The project site includes the 558-acre Metzger Marsh Wildlife Area managed by the Division of Wildlife, and the adjacent 350-acre unit of the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

High lake levels destroyed a beach and lakefront dike in the late 1950s, exposing the marsh to the open waters of the lake and the subsequent deterioration of vegetation.

The current project, which began last June [June 1995], includes restoring and intensively managing the 908-acre open coastal wetland. The unique design of the new dike includes structures that will allow water, sediments, nutrients, fish and other aquatic life to move in and out between the marsh and the lake. The marsh will be diked off completely only to restore vegetation and at critical times to control the influx of spawning carp, which destroys important vegetation.

"Reestablishing a healthy vegetative community is the whole key to the project, because plants are the foundation to fish, birds, furbearers and other wildlife in coastal wetlands," said Budzik.

The second phase of the project will involve controlling water levels in the marsh over the next two to three years to promote the growth of vegetation and installing fish/water passage structures in the dike. Once healthy vegetation is established, the fish/water passage structures will be opened to the lake.

All other state and federal wetland restoration projects along the lakeshore to date have involved totally diking wetland areas to prevent damage to vegetation from spawning carp and natural lake effects, such as high lake levels and storm surges.

The Metzger Marsh project also includes research studies to monitor vegetative communities and marsh use by fish, birds, invertebrates and other wildlife before, during and after restoration.

"Metzger Marsh is the first project in the state's history of wetlands management and research to restore and maintain a coastal marsh open to the lake," said Budzik. "It is also the largest wetlands project to date undertaken jointly by the Division, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ducks Unlimited and a long list of private conservation organizations and local interests."

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