

*The Ohio*



# CARDINAL™

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Winter 1995-96



The Ohio Cardinal is devoted to the study and appreciation of Ohio's birdlife. The Ohio Cardinal is published quarterly.

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The Ohio Cardinal exists to provide a permanent and timely record of the abundance and distribution of birds in Ohio; to help document the occurrence of rare species in the state; to provide information on identification of birds; and to provide information on birding areas within Ohio.

The Ohio Cardinal invites readers to submit articles on unusual occurrences of birds, bird distribution within the state, birding areas in Ohio, identification tips, and other aspects of ornithology. Bird reports and photographs are welcome from any area in the state. Report forms are not a necessity but will be supplied on request. Unusual species should be documented--documentation forms are also available on request from the Editor, Publisher, and Records Committee Secretary.

In order to keep The Ohio Cardinal timely, seasonal reports are due by the following dates:

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

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Cover: Varied Thrush. Nathan Hale Pk., Winter 1995-96.  
Photo by Craig Rieker.

## The Winter of Paulding County's Gyrfalcon by Micki Dunakin

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My husband Doug arrived home from work on Friday, December 15th, 1995, just after dark. Following a brief greeting he went directly to our raptor reference books and started looking at the falcons. I've learned over the years not to interrupt him while he is in this stage of the identification process. He did mention that he saw a very unusual falcon on the top of a power pole near the Lafarge cement plant, two miles north of the town of Paulding. Unfortunately, it was nearly dark when he saw the bird; the brief look was not enough to identify it. We wouldn't be able to return to the cement plant until Sunday because of our Audubon chapter's Christmas Bird Count on Saturday.

As we were driving to the area on Sunday I thought that there was little hope of finding the falcon. Usually, rare birds pass through Paulding County on their way elsewhere. This area has lacked sightings of rare falcons. In 30 years I have seen a Merlin once in our county-- never a Peregrine and certainly not a Gyrfalcon!

We found our quarry along Road 97 about a mile and a half south of the cement plant. The bird looked large even though it was on top of one of the tall power poles. We got a look at the pale supercilium, yellow cere, dark mustache and pale cheek. The upper breast was white and unmarked. There were dark spots on the breast, and these spots became heavier on the belly. We knew it wasn't a Peregrine. If only we had more experience with Prairie Falcons and Gyrfalcons! Just then it took off, flying low, but very rapidly toward the cement plant. We attempted to follow it at 45 mph but couldn't catch it.

Our encounter Sunday afternoon only left us with misgivings. We thought that we had a Prairie Falcon but weren't ready to definitely call it that without a look under the wings. Sunday evening I talked to Jim Haw, a birder from Fort Wayne, Indiana, who was interested in searching for the falcon the next morning. On the way over Monday we met Jeff McCoy, another Indiana birder, who had just observed the bird and thought that it was a Gyrfalcon. The three of us then found it again and watched the falcon in the freezing rain eating a pigeon in the corn stubble field just south of the cement plant. After watching it for 45 minutes there was little doubt about the identification. Initially we had some question about what we perceived as a lack of contrast under the wings. That question was resolved later when Doug had an excellent view of the bird in good light.

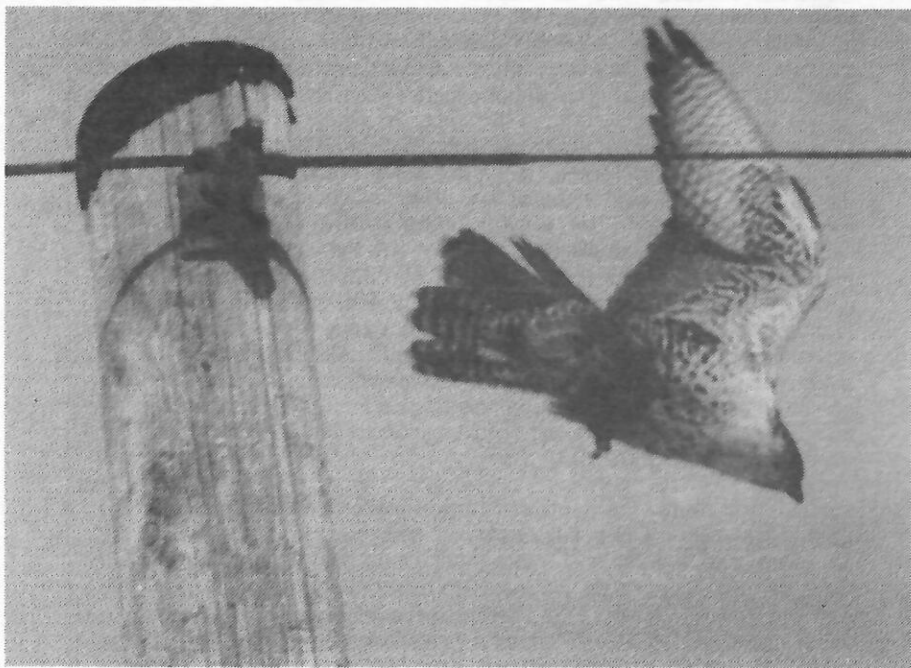
I called Tom Kemp, the northwest Ohio compiler for the Ohio Rare Bird Phone Network. Once the Gyrfalcon was on the Ohio hotline the response was tremendous, more than Doug and I ever anticipated. Over the next two months we talked to many birders from all over Ohio and surrounding states. After I reported the falcon to Duane Bailey, our local wildlife officer, ODNR issued a press release. There were several articles in various newspapers and even television coverage. Literally hundreds of people travelled to Paulding County to view the Gyrfalcon.

Many were fortunate to see it. The falcon seemed capricious though-- at times readily visible and at others very elusive. It would perch on the power poles or in trees; fly in and out of the quarry; occasionally go into the town of Paulding or just sit in the surrounding fields.

When the falcon remained in the area past the first of the year we hoped that it would stay all winter. The cement plant with its deep limestone quarry seemed very well suited to the Gyr. Besides, it had an abundant pigeon population for prey. Doug and I observed it eating pigeons; there was one report of it feeding on a crow. Towards the end of February our sightings increased as the falcon stayed longer outside the quarry. It had a habit of "flattening" itself in the wheat field adjacent to Road 97 for long periods of time. It didn't appear to have any prey or to be eating, but would simply sit there and look around periodically, once for over two hours.

Our last sighting of the Gyrfalcon was March 16th, 1996. It was just sitting in the wheat field not too far from the road. Perhaps he will return in the future and once again Paulding County will be graced with a rare arctic treasure.

Micki Dunakin  
16728 Road 275  
Antwerp, OH 45813



Gyrfalcon. Paulding County, 1/5/96.  
Photo by Jim Adair.

## Paulding County Birding Sites By Doug & Micki Dunakin

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### Paulding Area

**Black Swamp Nature Center** (formerly Paulding Ponds Wildlife Area)-- open to the public

This is a 55-acre preserve consisting mainly of deciduous woods bordering Flat Rock Creek. There is a 7-acre cattail marsh and a large shallow pond with many short snags. There are well developed walking paths throughout. This is a good location for sighting a variety of songbirds during spring and fall migrations. 175 species of birds have been recorded since the mid-1980's. The 32 species of warblers include Connecticut, Prairie, Hooded and Worm-eating.

Location: On C-107 at the southwest edge of Paulding. From the west side of the Court House on US 127 (S. Williams St.) in downtown Paulding, continue straight south on S. Williams St. which turns to the right as C-132 (Fairgrounds Dr.). Continue on C-132 to C-107. Turn left on C-107. Black Swamp Nature Center on left.

**Paulding Reservoir**-- open to the public from 7:30 am until dusk

This 70-acre reservoir is bordered on the north by Flat Rock Creek and deciduous woods. The reservoir has attracted good numbers of migrating waterfowl, especially in the spring. All three species of scoter have been seen here, as have loons, grebes, gulls, terns and cormorants.

Location: On C-107 immediately south of the Black Swamp Nature Center.

### Grizzly Wildlife Area and Stokely Treatment Ponds

The former site of the Grizzly asbestos plant was developed into a wildlife area by the Maremont Corporation. It consists of two large ponds surrounded by grassland. The entire area is fenced and not accessible to the public. One may park along the street for a view of the ponds. The treatment ponds, which are also surrounded by grassland, were developed by Stokely when the tomato processing plant was in operation. This area is also fenced, but one may walk up the stone driveways leading to the ponds. Waterfowl may be found in both areas during migration. In dry summers shorebirds may be present. Eastern Meadowlarks are common in the grassland. Western Meadowlark has been found but is rare.

Location: On C-142 at the northwest edge of Paulding. Go north one block from the Court House on US 127. Turn left on W. Caroline St. at the stoplight. Go six blocks. Grizzly Wildlife Area on right. W. Caroline St. curves north as C-142 passing between Grizzly pond on right and Stokely pond on left. Continue west on C-142. Another pond on left.

## **Paulding Sewage Lagoons**

There are two large sewage lagoons. The greatest number of ducks are almost always found on the north lagoon. A fence surrounds the lagoons. There is a wire gate on the north side which may be lifted up to gain access. Hunting is permitted here in the fall.

Location: On T-119 northeast of Paulding. At intersection of US 127 and T-144 on the north edge of Paulding (McDonald's), take T-144 east to C-115 (Emerald Rd.). Turn left on C-115; go north to T-154. Turn right on T-154. Go east; T-154 becomes a stone road and curves to the north as T-119. Sewage lagoons on the right.

**Commissioner's Woods**-- open to the public; hunting with permission

This deciduous woods borders Flat Rock Creek. There are good walking paths along the creek. Flocks of migrating songbirds may be found here spring and fall.

Location: Just south of south sewage lagoon. Entrance where T-154 ends and T-119 goes north.

## **Lafarge Cement Plant and Quarry**

The area around this large limestone quarry is good in winter for raptors. The Gyrfalcon was found here the Winter of 1995-96. Check the vicinity for flocks of Snow Buntings and Lapland Longspurs. Look along the length of T-97 south of the quarry for raptors perched on power poles.

Location: Northwest of Paulding on C-176. Take US 127 two miles north of Paulding to C-176. Turn left. The cement plant is easily visible from US 127.

## **East Paulding County**

**Six Mile Creek Backwater**-- open to the public

A stone canal viaduct crosses the backwater of the Auglaize River where the towpath trail begins. The woods are good for migrating songbirds. In dry summers, shorebirds may be found along edges of the backwater. It is a good location for Great Egrets also.

Location: Take OH 111 (north of Paulding) east to T-153. Turn north on T-153. Go 3/4 mile to the small parking area at the stone canal viaduct.

## **Auglaize River**

The drive on C-179 along the east side of the river is good in late February and March for migrating ducks.

Location: Take OH 111 (north of Paulding) east to OH 637 and cross the Auglaize River. Take C-179 north to Defiance County or south to C-138 which crosses the river at Charloe.

## Antwerp Area

**Black Swamp Audubon Society Sanctuary**-- private sanctuary but open to visitors with permission. Call Judi Snook (419) 258-4515 or Doug & Micki Dunakin (419) 258-4951

This 56-acre area consists of a 17-acre meadow, 13 acres of wooded ravines leading to the Maumee River and a 26-acre field being developed into prairie, wetland, pine plantation and butterfly garden. It is a good location for songbirds during migration. Prothonotary, "Brewster's", Kentucky, Hooded and Cerulean Warblers have all been found here.

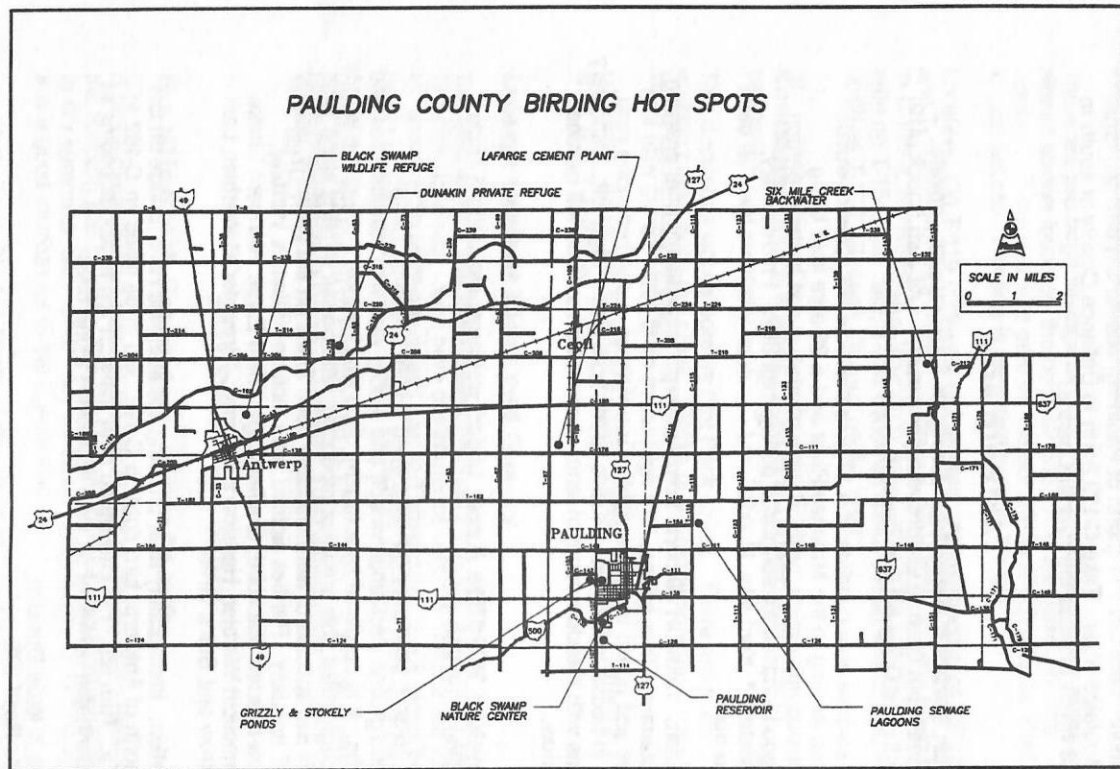
Location: Take OH 49 north from Antwerp. Immediately after crossing the Maumee River bridge, turn right (east) on C-192. Go 1/2 mile to a house and house trailer on right. Turn right on unmarked stone road next to house trailer. Go 1/4 mile to red pole barn. Turn left. Sanctuary begins with meadow south of lane. Access to woods on left beyond meadow.

**Dunakin Wildlife Area**-- birders welcome; call Doug & Micki Dunakin (419) 258-4951

This 16-acre sanctuary consists of an 8-acre meadow, 7-acre second-growth deciduous woods and 1-acre yard with various trees and shrubs. It is bordered by a brushy ditch which winds through the woods. Although small, this area has produced 170 species of birds since 1985. Thirty-two species of warblers have been found on the property, usually 25-27 annually. Rarities sighted here include Kirtland's Warbler, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Golden Eagle, Bald Eagle, Northern Shrike, Connecticut Warbler, Henslow's Sparrow, "Brewster's" Warbler, Lark Sparrow and Bell's Vireo.

Location: Immediately after crossing the Maumee River bridge on OH 49 north of Antwerp, turn right on C-192. Go three miles on C-192 to T-275. Turn left. First house on right (blue). Path to woods begins at the northeast corner of orchard and winds along ditch.

Doug & Micki Dunakin  
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Antwerp, OH 45813





## Winter 1995-96 Overview by Robert Harlan

What a way to start the birding year! With so many rare birds to be found in January, "big year" enthusiasts had much to hope for in 1996. While there are rare birds present during most winters, the fact that these rarities stuck around for extended periods of time set this season apart from the others.

Rarity-hunting was especially good in the northwestern counties. How many of us made the circuit from Woodlawn Cemetery in Toledo (both crossbills and both redpolls), to Paulding Co. (Gyr Falcon), to Henry Co. (Harris' Sparrow), to Sandusky Co. (Brewer's Blackbirds)? One adventurous group "ticked" the Paulding Co. Gyr Falcon, the owls at Killdeer Plains WA, the Brewer's Blackbirds and even the Parma Hts. Varied Thrush (on the opposite side of the state) in one day! Don't overlook the "other" Gyr Falcon, this one at Headlands Beach State Park, or the "other" Hoary Redpoll on the Cleveland Christmas Bird Count. The Ross' Goose at Killdeer Plains was another treat.

Winter finches, N. Shrike, Short-eared Owls and Rough-legged Hawks all put in impressive showings. Be sure to examine the CBC data on winter finches in "The Reports" section that follows for proof that the "alternating year" theory of finch invasion is still with us.

In order to conserve space, CBC data were sparingly used in the following accounts. All submitted CBC data are published in their entirety in the CBC tables elsewhere in this issue. In the following accounts, an asterisk (\*) signifies that a documentation has been submitted by the person(s) indicated, and that this record has been accepted by the Ohio Bird Records Committee. Look for a full Committee report in the next issue.

"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-- "Henr" representing Henry County, for example. Other place name abbreviations found in this issue are: BuCr (Buck Creek State Park, a.k.a. C. J. Brown Reservoir, Clark Co.); CVNRA (Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area, Cuyahoga/Summit Cos.); HBSP (Headlands Beach SP, Lake Co.); KPWA (Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area, Wyandot Co.); Lksh (Lakeshore Metropark, Lake Co.); MWW (Miami-Whitewater Wetlands, Hamilton Co.); ONWR (Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, Ottawa/Lucas Cos.); & ONWRC (Ottawa NWR Count, as compiled by Ed Pierce, Ottawa/Lucas Cos.).

### Christmas Bird Count Data-- a Cautionary Note

Due to our lateness in producing this issue, we had the opportunity to compare data submitted to us by CBC compilers with the data that appeared in the CBC issue of National Audubon Society Field Notes 50(4). You may wish to make the following corrections to NASFN (the correct data are listed below): Ashtabula CBC-- 6759 ind., Y-b Sapsucker 3; Burton-- 6270 ind.; Columbus-- 20034 ind.; Cuyahoga Falls-- 30002 ind., A. Goldfinch 1503; Grand Lake-St. Marys-- 7860 ind., M. Dove 242; L. Erie Is.-- 73 sp., 14127 ind., Gl. Gull 1, Pine Grosbeak 0, Purple Finch 6; Lakewood-- 20895 ind., S-s Hawk 1; Mansfield-- 29990 ind., Car. Wren 14; Mentor-- 78 sp., 8646 ind., Can. Goose 453, Gl. Gull 1, Ruddy Ground-Dove 0; Mohican-- 64 sp., 6770 ind., Eur. Tree Sparrow 0; Oxbow Lk.-- 2884 ind., A. Bittern 0, N. Harrier 6, S-s Hawk 1; Oxford-- 62 sp., 8641 ind., H. Lark 0; Portsmouth-- 10284 ind., Redhead 12, Ring-necked Duck 0, Evening Grosbeak 24; Quail Hollow-- 41 sp., 12728 ind., Yellow-rumped Warbler 5; Ragersville-- 17759 ind., House Sparrow 248. Also, it appears that the data published in NASFN for the Hamilton-Fairfield CBC are preliminary-- data submitted to us are, in many cases, significantly higher. ----R. Harlan

THE REPORTS-- WINTER 1995-96  
by Robert Harlan

**Loons through Herons**

Common Loon-- 4 singles were found on Christmas Bird Counts [hereafter CBCs].

Pied-billed Grebe-- Summit Lk. in Akron (Summ) regularly receives inflows of heated water from industrial sources, often keeping the lake relatively ice-free. This allowed at least 10 Pied-billeds to winter this season (RHr, CH).

Horned Grebe-- 10 spring migrants were at L. Logan (Hock) 2/26 (BSP).

Red-necked Grebe-- Perkins Beach in Cleveland (Cuya) held a bird 12/2-4 (Esc, J. & D. Hoffman, TLP, PL). An imm. was at Lakeshore MP [hereafter Lksh] (Lake) 12/6 (JP).

Double-crested Cormorant-- Ohio CBCs tallied 77 birds. Post-CBC reports include up to 5 wintering at the Eastlake Power Plant (Lake) (BAT, KM, CH); 1 at Maumee Bay SP (Luca) 2/19 (KM); & 1 at O'Shaughnessy Res. (Dela) 1/22 (KA).

Great Blue Heron-- 50+ roosted on the Scioto River ice about 1 mile south of Greenlawn Dam (Fran) 1/11 (AG). A bird returned to the upper Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area [hereafter CVNRA] (Cuya/Summ) heronry by 2/11 (DAC).

Great Egret-- A late bird was observed at Leith Run (Wash) 12/3 (BSP).

Black-crowned Night-Heron-- The stretch of the Cuyahoga River at the end of Merwin St. in the Cleveland Flats holds a mysterious attraction for this species. This winter, totals there ranged from 4 on 12/4, to 1 on 1/18, to 18 on 2/29. Both adults and imm. were present (PL). 3 adults were along the Great Miami River in Dayton (Mont) 1/14 (DD). 3 other CBCs reported 34 more birds, including 31 on the Toledo count 12/17.

**Waterfowl**

Tundra Swan-- Spillovers from the Autumn 1995 season include 32 Lksh 12/2 (JP) & 25 LaDue Res. (Geau) 12/8 (D. Ferris fide DB). 14 at Headlands Beach SP [hereafter HBSP] (Lake) 1/14 were curious (LR et al.).

Mute Swan-- Continues to thrive at select locations. At Four Seasons Marina in Cincinnati (Hami), 2 Mute Swans wintered with 2 Black Swans (FR).

Snow Goose-- Now winters in good numbers at Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge [hereafter ONWR] (Ota/Luca), where 120 (60 white, 60 blue) were counted on the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge Count [hereafter ONWRC] (Ota/Luca) 2/4. Up to 20 spring migrants were at Killdeer Plains WA [hereafter KPWA] (Wyan) in late Feb. (m. obs.) and 12 more were at Big Island WA (Mari) 2/27 (KA).

Ross' Goose-- An adult was found with the Snow Geese noted above just south of KPWA along Washburn Rd. in Marion Co. 2/24 (RHr, EP, et al.). It was at KPWA in Wyandot Co. 2/25-28 (RHr, TB, JHe, LEY, m. obs.).

Brant-- Along the Ohio River, 2 appeared at Belpre (Wash) 12/2 and lingered into mid-January (WA ph., LB). The same 2 birds were listed on the Parkersburg, WV CBC.

Canada Goose-- 90,583 were tallied by the Ohio Division of Wildlife on their mid-winter waterfowl survey in mid-January. The ODOV's all-time record is 96,570 birds in Jan. 1994. A bird showing characteristics of the "Dusky" race was taken to the Lake Metroparks Rehab Center on 12/2. It was released at Eastlake in Feb. (fide A. & J. Fjeldstad). It was later seen at HBSP (RHn, E. Bacik).

Green-winged Teal-- 12 were at Rocky Fork Lk. (High) 2/25 (JD, ST). 8 were along Honey Creek Rd. in Perry Co. 2/26 (CD).

Am. Black Duck-- According to the ODOV, 23,441 birds were counted on the Division's mid-winter waterfowl survey in mid-January. 2000 birds

sardined into Castalia pond (Erie) 2/18 (RHr).

Mallard-- The ODOW recorded 60,054 birds in mid-January, a comparable number to the past 5 surveys. 5000 were at Castalia pond 1/20 (RHr), while 2000 were at Miami-Whitewater Wetlands [hereafter MWW] (Hami) 1/1 (PW).

N. Pintail-- 10 were on Castalia pond 1/20 (RHr). 15 birds at L. Logan 2/29 were northbound (BSP), as were 15 at KPWA 2/26 (JD, ST).

N. Shoveler-- 6 at Buck Creek SP [a.k.a. C.J. Brown Res., hereafter BuCr] (Clar) 1/29 were of interest (DO). The usual throng wintered at Castalia.

Gadwall-- The Akron lakes hosted 23 birds 12/10 (CH), while 20 spring migrants were at BuCr 2/18 (DO).

Am. Wigeon-- KA found 120 at Castalia 1/29 and 50 at Hoover Res. (Dela/Fran) 2/20.

Canvasback-- 105 mid-winter birds were on the Ohio River at Meldahl Dam (Clermont Co., OH/Bracken Co., KY) 1/14 (FR). February numbers were augmented by northbound migrants, including 15 at Hoover Res. 2/27 (KA) & 100 along the Lorain Co. lakefront from Avon Lake to Lorain 2/11 (CH).

Redhead-- Surprisingly, the inland high came from a southeastern site, namely, 15 birds at Hocking College (Athe) 2/26 (BSP). 40 were at Lorain (Lora) 1/19 (TMR).

Ring-necked Duck-- Two central Ohio sites, Delaware WA (Dela) and Big Island WA combined for 200 spring migrants 2/27 (KA).

Greater Scaup-- A total of 6 birds were reported from 4 inland sites 2/22-24. 200 were at the Avon Lake Power Plant (Lora) 2/4 (LR).

Lesser Scaup-- Cedar Point Amusement Park (Erie) proved a popular attraction for 250 birds 2/17 (RHr). 500 were found at HBSP 12/10 (RHn).

scaup, species-- The ODOW tallied

21,701 scaup in mid-January.

Harlequin Duck-- An imm. male graced the Great Miami River in Dayton 1/14 (CM et al.).

Oldsquaw-- Only 2 lakefront reports, plus the following inland reports: 2 males LaDue Res. 12/7 (AF); 1 at Lafarge Lk. in Shalersville Twp. (Port) 12/17 (V. Weingart); 1 female Cincinnati 12/29 (FR); & 2 Fairfield (Butl) 2/28 (T. Ellis).

Black Scoter-- Only Lake Co. could produce this species, a total of 4 birds at 2 sites 12/2-13 (RHn, JP).

Surf Scoter-- Inland singles at LaDue Res. 12/2 (AF, RRI) & at Four Seasons Marina in Cincinnati 12/23 (FR) were notable. Along L. Erie, 1-2 were at Avon Lake 1/20-2/19 (JHe, TLP), 2 were at Eastlake 12/14-2/16 (m. obs.), and 1-2 were at 3 other NE lakefront sites on single dates 12/2-2/24.

White-winged Scoter-- A bird remained at Eastlake through January (m. obs.). 3 were there 1/15 (Est). 2 at Lorain 1/30 (TLP) & 1 at Avon Lake 2/17 (RHe) represent the other lakefront sightings. Inland singles were at Columbus (Fran) 12/11 (FRo); at Cooper's Hollow on the Vermilion River (Lora) 2/17 & 2/25 (J. Blaser); & at the Newtown Gravel Pits (Hami) 2/23 (T. Ellis).

Common Goldeneye-- Here are some remarkable discrepancies: the ODOW's mid-winter waterfowl survey in mid-January reported 12,206 birds, almost entirely on L. Erie. Although JP reported a large movement of 5000+ birds passing Lksh 12/11, the highest "on the water" count our contributors could muster was 750 birds at Cedar Point Amusement Park 2/17 (RHr). Nice inland counts include 100 at Paint Creek Lk./Rocky Fork Lk. (High/Ross) 2/24 (St. Wagner et al.) & 52 at Independence Dam SP (Defl), also on 2/24 (DMD).

Bufflehead-- 100 were at Avon Lake 2/18 (CH). 25 were at Shawnee Lookout MP (Hami) the same day (FR). The L. Erie Islands CBC continues to report remarkable totals for this species, including 514 birds on 12/20.

Hooded Merganser-- Up to 30 spent 1/28-2/11 along the Scioto River in Columbus (RRo).

Common Merganser-- A movement of 4000 birds passed Lksh 12/11 (JP). Good numbers wintered along L. Erie, including: 3500 w. Cuyahoga Co. 12/30 (RHR); 2500 Avon Lake 2/4 (LR, RHn); & 1500 Eastlake 2/18 (LR). Inland sites had good numbers as well: 120 Independence Dam SP 2/24 (DMD); 86 Meldahl Dam 2/9 (FR); & 65 Rocky Fork Lk. 2/25 (JD, ST).

Red-breasted Merganser-- KM found 900 + at Eastlake 2/5. 750 were at Ashtabula (Asht) 2/4 (CH).

Ruddy Duck-- 200 fall migrants remained at Wellington Res. (Lora) 12/2 (N. Kraps). 10 were at Summit Lk. 1/26 (RHR).

### Vultures through Shorebirds

Black Vulture-- A flock of 154 over Higginsport (Brow) on an unspecified early winter date was clearly of note (fide BL). 82 were noted in Ross Co. in December (WB, JM). 4 other SW counties also reported, as did several CBCs.

Turkey Vulture-- Generally moved into the northern counties 2/24 + (m. obs.), although advance scouts reached Chapin Forest MP (Lake) 2/13 (KM) & Lodi (Medi) 2/17 (ESn). A dead bird found along a road near Antwerp (Paul) 2/6 was a bit too far advanced (DMD). BT & JZ report "TVs" to be "a regular wintering species, seemingly absent this winter in our area" of Washington Co. CD found 7 along Reynolds Rd. in Licking Co. 1/25.

Bald Eagle-- The ODOW's mid-winter eagle survey tallied 71 birds (41 adults, 30 imm.) during their annual 2-week January survey. This is down from 98 birds in 1995 and 76 birds in 1994. Our contributors found this species most readily in the NE, NW, & SE counties, as expected.

N. Harrier-- Some non-CBC highs were: 11 MWW 1/1 (PW); 8 Madison Co. 1/28 (JHe); & 7 Rocky Fork Lk./Paint Creek Lk. area 2/24 (St. Wagner et al.).

N. Goshawk-- An imm. wintered at Maumee Bay SP, providing many observers the chance to admire this species (BG ph., GM ph., m. obs.). An adult was noted in Perry Twp. (Lake) 12/12 (JP). 1 was described to DB from the Walter C. Best Preserve (Geau) 1/13 (H. & D. Hendrickson). An adult flew over Hinckley MP (Medi) 2/28 (RHR, SaW).

Red-shouldered Hawk-- Thought to be up. 6 were in the CVNRA 2/10 (DAC). Northeast of Marietta (Wash), BT & JZ noted the return of the first resident bird at their place 1/8. By 1/21, two pairs were present.

Red-tailed Hawk-- An albino at Burr Oak SP (Morg/Athe) 2/3 (LB) provided an interesting contrast to an imm. dark-phase bird in Wellington Twp. (Lora) 1/21 (CH).

Rough-legged Hawk-- An amazing 20 + spent January & February in a Columbiana Co. strip-mined area (WSt, CB). WSt examined 16 pellets from these birds, and found 8 pellets contained the remains of Meadow Voles. The remaining pellets contained unidentifiable remains. Smaller, but good numbers were found along Jefferson Co. Rd. 45 (MA) and in the Middlefield area of Geauga Co., where at least 6 birds were present (KM, D. Ferris fide DB). 6 were at KPWA 2/15 (JD, ST). 3 dark-phase and 1 light-phase birds headed north over Berlin (Holm) 2/24 (RHe). Many other widely scattered reports.

Merlin-- At least 2 wintered at their annual Bath Twp. (Summ) roost (m. obs.). To my knowledge, no one has ever discovered where these birds spend the daylight hours, but 1 found at Ira Rd. in the s. CVNRA 2/26 may provide a clue (MZ, TMR). Some other reports include: 1 at Berlin 12/16 (RHe); 1 at Cleveland's Lakeview Cem. 1/1 & 2/14 (J. & D. Hoffman); & 1 at Toledo's Woodlawn Cem. 1/6 (m. obs.).

Peregrine Falcon-- Singles at Avon Lake 1/31 (TLP) and Lorain 2/17 (JP) may represent non-residents. At this point, it's hard to tell.

Gyr Falcon-- This spectacular bird entertained many in Paulding Co.

12/15-2/29+ (DMD\*, JHa\*, ET\*, RC\*, JD\* ph., RHR\*, JA ph., CJ ph., DD ph., RRo ph., m. obs.). Incredibly, another gray-morph bird was seen flying and perched as close as 50 yards at HBSP 2/10 (RHn\*, E. Bacik, A. Missig).

N. Bobwhite-- Kemp's 15 in w. Lucas Co. 1/2 was a good count for the NW.

Virginia Rail-- A choice spot in Killbuck WA (Wayn/Holm) held 2 birds 12/16. One of these remained for the Millersburg CBC 12/29 and beyond to 1/6 (BG).

Am. Coot-- 40 were at Summit Lk. 1/28 (CH). Up to 30 wintered at Hoover Res. (KA).

Sandhill Crane-- All reports: 24 seen in December in Ross Co. (WB, JM); about 18 over Hancock Co. 12/17 (BHa); 15 over Winchester (Adam) 12/17 (R. Stevenson fide BL); 8 Newtown Gravel 2/23 (T. Ellis); 15 MWW 2/24 (PW); 15 Mariemont (Hami) 2/25 (R. Bushmeyer); 1 s. Lorain Co. 2/25 (N. Kraps); 1 KPWA 2/25-26 (S. McKee fide JHe, RRo); 3 Spring Valley WA (Warr/Gree) 2/27 (JD, ST, CM); & 18 Antwerp 2/27 (DMD).

Killdeer-- 1 arrived at Berlin 2/23 (RHe). An obvious push hit 2/24, as 6 observers reported arrivals that day.

Greater Yellowlegs-- 1 remained at Conneaut (Asht) 12/1 (JP).

Baird's Sandpiper-- A very late bird was at BuCr 12/3 (DO), a site peculiarly attractive for dawdling members of this species.

Purple Sandpiper-- HBSP held 1-2 birds through at least 12/11 (KM, m. obs.). Another was at Ashtabula 1/6 (JP).

Dunlin-- 3 were at Conneaut 12/1, where 1 remained 12/8 (JP).

Common Snipe-- 17 were reported on CBCs this season. Only post-CBC bird was in Tuscarawas Co. 1/6 (ESc).

Am. Woodcock-- Laggards include 1 described for the Athens CBC 12/16 (A. Barber); 1 on the BT/JZ farm in

Liberty Twp. (Wash) 12/26; & 1 in Washington Co. 1/23 (LB). Spring arrivals reached central Ohio in Licking Co. 2/22 (CD) and northern Ohio at Silver Creek MP (Summ) 2/24 (SaW).

## Gulls through Terns

Little Gull-- 2 were at Conneaut 12/1 (JP).

Ring-billed Gull-- 2500 were noted at Meldahl Dam on the Ohio River 1/14 (FR).

Herring Gull-- Greenlawn Dam attracted 40 birds 1/8-11 (AG).

Thayer's Gull-- Eastlake, Avon Lake and Lksh reported singles intermittently 12/11-2/11 (JP, LR, TLP). A 1st-year bird was unexpected at Farnsworth MP (Luca) 1/6 (ST).

Iceland Gull-- Reported from 7 NE lakefront sites 12/12-2/18, max. 3. Another was on the Toledo CBC 12/17 (TK).

Lesser Black-backed Gull-- Also reported from 7 NE lakefront sites 12/11-2/18, max. 3. The Toledo CBC recorded 3 birds 12/17, and the Grand Rapids-Waterville CBC found 2 birds 12/31.

Glaucous Gull-- Found at 5 NE lakefront sites through 2/18. Avon Lake was especially productive, with 10 there 2/4 (LR) and 18 there 2/16 (6 adults, 12 imm.) (TLP). KM also noted 1 heading south over N. Chagrin MP (some 4-5 miles inland in Cuyahoga Co.) 1/4. 5 lakefront birds were at Cedar Point Amusement Park 2/18 (RHR). Continuing west, 2 each were on the Toledo CBC 12/17 and the Grand Rapids-Waterville CBC 12/31.

Great Black-backed Gull-- 400 each were at Ashtabula 2/4 and Avon Lake 2/18 (both CH). 4 flew over N. Chagrin MP 1/4, and 3 more were inland at the Solon landfill (Cuya) 2/12 (both KM). An imm. at the Dublin Rd. quarry (Fran) 12/18 (T. Thomson) was even deeper inland.

Black-legged Kittiwake-- 2 were outstanding finds along the Ohio

River near Marietta 12/15 (LB). Single imm. were at Lksh 12/2-3 and 2/24 (JP) and at Eastlake 12/9 (AG). A very rare adult was identified at HBSP 2/3 (E. Bacik, RHn).

Common Tern-- One remained at Conneaut 12/1 (JP).

### Owls through Starlings

E. Screech-Owl-- Incredibly, a fledgling was found by school children in Eastlake and taken to the Lake MP Rehab Center. The size of the bird indicated that it was hatched the first week of January! (Lake County News Herald). On another interesting note, how high does this species range? A red-phase bird hit the window of a Lakewood (Cuya) highrise 12/12-- a 25th floor window! (J. Porter fide PL).

Snowy Owl-- Very scarce. 1 was at Conneaut 12/3 (CH) and 2/10 (JP). Only other report was of a bird west of Payne (Paul) near the OH/IN border 2/7-22 (DMD, JD, P. Lehman).

Barred Owl-- 3 at Camp Berry (Hanc) 12/12 seems like a good number for this site (m. obs. fide BHA).

Long-eared Owl-- Several reporters found up to 5 at KPWA, peaking in February. 4 were at Lk. LaSuAn WA in mid-Feb. (J. Diller). 2 Holmes Co. roosts were noted from mid-Feb. on, totalling 4 birds (ESc). 2-3 wintered in Adams Twp. (Sene) (TB). Singles were at Lksh 2/27 (JP), Carriage Hill Reserve (Mont) 1/1 (JD, ST), and at Cleveland's Donald Gray Gardens 12/3-20 (DAC, BF, PL, m. obs.). This bird was found dead 12/28 (A. Jakubowski fide PL).

Short-eared Owl-- What a winter for Short-eared Owls. 87 were found on CBCs. At least 16 were present at a Columbiana Co. strip-mined area through mid-winter, but most appeared to have left by Feb. 1. Sturgeon collected 63 owl pellets from this area, all but 3 of which contained remains of Meadow Voles. 3 pellets contained unidentifiable remains. One pellet, in addition to containing vole remains, also contained the remains of a Woodland Deer mouse, the only other species identified in the sample. Elsewhere:

about 15 in Madison Co. 1/15 (RRo); 15 in Holmes Co. from mid-Dec. through Feb. (LEY); 14 KPWA 1/29 (KA); 10 Tuscarawas Co. 12/16 (LEY); 8 Lunken Airport (Hami) 1/15 (D. Hadine); 6+ along Jefferson Co. Rd. 45 12/13 (MA), etc., etc., etc. Strangely, 1 was found roosting about 30 feet up in a pine with a Long-eared Owl at KPWA 2/15 (JD, ST).

N. Saw-whet Owl-- At KPWA, 1-2 were present all winter (KA), but up to 6 could be found 2/10-25 (RRI, BF, m. obs.). Singles were on the ONWR CBC 12/31, remaining through 1/21 (ST, CM, HSH); at the Cincinnati Nature Center (Cler) 12/9 (E. Bonkamp); & in a Lakewood yard 12/12-14 (M. Stasko, PL, BF et al.).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker-- Post-CBC northern reports: 1 Woodlawn Cem. 1/5-2/4 (JHe, BAT, RHr); 1 Hinckley MP 1/18 (RHr); 1 Lakewood Pk. Cem. (Cuya) 2/4, feeding on fallen apples (BF, PL); 1 in P. Dimling's Hancock Co. yard 2/6 & 2/27 (fide BHA); & 1 in the CVNRA 2/24 (DAC).

Pileated Woodpecker-- The Toneffs were treated to a pair at their Brecksville (Cuya) feeder almost daily 1/4-3/8.

E. Phoebe-- A staggering 33, including 7 on the Adams Co. CBC 12/16, were found on CBCs or CBC count weeks. In addition, 5 more singles were found in December, but not during CBC periods. A very hardy individual was at Camp Berry 2/6-13 (S. Baxter fide BHA).

Horned Lark-- About 1500 enjoyed a manured field n. of Johnstown (Lick) 12/28 & 1/3 (RRo). 500 were in the Marion/Wyandot Co. area 1/16 (KA).

Am. Crow-- Not many of us think much about crow migration, but it is an annual event. Heavy migration began 2/24 on S. Bass Is. (Otta), with flocks of 150+ heading north (SWu). Likewise, 950 birds headed east past HBSP 2/25 (fide LR).

Red-breasted Nuthatch-- A good representation, averaging 6.62 individuals per CBC this season. This compares to 1.30/CBC in 1994-95, 5.92/CBC in 1993-94, and 2.48/CBC in 1992-93.

Brown Creeper-- 8 were at Glen Helen (Gree) 12/2 (DO).

Carolina Wren-- Every winter we like to examine CBC data to detect trends for this weather-sensitive species. Statewide, CBCs averaged 24.49 individuals per count, up from 18.97/count on the 1994-95 CBCs, but still down from the 40.21/CBC for the 1993-94 CBCs. In the SE, where a population crash was noted following severe weather during January & February 1994, CBCs averaged 34.50/count, up from 17.17/count for the 1994-95 CBCs. In the SW, the Ohio stronghold for this species, numbers have been strong, averaging 88.5/count this season, as compared to 84.75/count for the 1994-95 CBCs, but down from 130.43/count for the 1993-94 CBCs and 142.88/count for the 1992-93 CBCs.

House Wren-- 1 at Eastwood was described for the Dayton CBC 12/17 (JD, ST).

Winter Wren-- 5 post-CBC reports through 2/24.

Marsh Wren-- LR found a male in a Kent (Port) cattail marsh 12/17 for the Cuyahoga Falls CBC, the second straight CBC he has found a bird at this location. Another was at MWW 12/5 (PW).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet-- Singles were unusual at Ira Rd. in the s. CVNRA 2/19 (TMR) & at Camp Berry 2/27 (W. McClanahan fide BHa).

Hermit Thrush-- Post-CBC reports include: 1 Columbus 1/8 & 2/22 (RRO); 1 HBSP through the period (LR, RHn); 1 Millersburg (Holm) 1/15 (BG); & up to 3, eating smilax berries at BT & JZ's Washington Co. farm 1/21 (BT, JZ, LB).

Am. Robin-- 700 were at Cincinnati's Spring Grove Cem. 1/25 (FR); 500 + were at Columbus 1/8 (RRO); 300 were at BuCr 2/18 (DO); & up to 200 roosted in a pine tree farm in Licking Co. Jan. through Mar. (CD).

Varied Thrush-- A strikingly-plumaged female spent 1/23-2/29 + at Nathan Hale Pk. (Cuya). This bird was unusual in that it was not known to

frequent feeders. Instead it subsisted on ornamental fruit trees (RHR\*, JD\*, CR ph., m. obs.).

Gray Catbird-- 12 were reported on CBCs, a very substantial total. It is difficult to discern whether reports from our contributors duplicate these birds, but 1 at N. Chagrin MP 12/28 (PL, A. Kozlenko) was definitely not found on a CBC. A hardy bird spent 1/23-2/26 in the German Village section of Columbus (AG).

Brown Thrasher-- 7 CBC birds were tallied, plus singles were at Carlisle MP (Lora) through 12/9 (fide P. Johnson) and at Woodlawn Cem. 2/3 (LEY).

Cedar Waxwing-- Highs include: 200 Lucas Co. 2/17 (TK); 200 Findlay (Hanc) 2/26 (JD, ST); & 125 + Columbus 1/1 (RRO).

N. Shrike-- A banner season, including 22 found on CBCs. TK noted that that this was the largest invasion in the Toledo area in his experience, encompassing roughly 10 birds. We know of the following counties hosting at least 1 shrike: Asht, Cuya, Geau, Lake, Luca, Mari, Medi, Otta, Summ, Trum, & Wyan. Precise locations from CBC compilers would certainly add several more counties to this list. Up to 3 were at KPWA 1/29 (KA).

Loggerhead Shrike-- A representative of this rare species wintered at Paint Creek Lk. (m. obs.).

European Starling-- About 15,000 roosted in two White Pine tree farms in Licking Co. 12/1-2/29 with grackles and cowbirds. According to CD, "when they all took off in flight, it sounded like a small tornado."

### **Warblers through Finches**

Yellow-rumped Warbler-- 476 were found on CBCs this season.

Palm Warbler-- 1 was found in Ross Co. on an unspecified December date (WB, JM).

Common Yellowthroat-- Singles were at MWW 12/5 (PW) and Conneaut 12/8 (JP).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak-- A female was reported from an Amherst (Lora) feeder 12/4 (J. Blaser).

Indigo Bunting-- An injured imm. male was described from an Auglaize Co. ditch for the Grand Lake-St. Mary's CBC 12/16 (N. Moore et al.).

Eastern Towhee-- 358 were reported on CBCs; as expected, only 24 of which were found in the NW and NE regions.

Am. Tree Sparrow-- A whopping 800 were found at MWW 1/1 (PW). 225 were found on the ONWRC 2/4.

Chipping Sparrow-- An unbelievable 40 were reported on CBCs; however, we received details for only 6 of these birds. In addition, DO described a bird at his Springfield (Clar) feeder 12/23-1/7, and ESc described one from his Holmes Co. feeder 12/20-31.

Field Sparrow-- 3 at Chagrin River MP (Lake) 1/11 was a high concentration for the north (JP).

Savannah Sparrow-- A bird was described from Tuscarawas Co. 12/3-28 (ESc). Another was at Lee Miller's Wayne Co. feeder 2/1 (LEY).

Fox Sparrow-- Singles at LG's Wilmington (Clin) feeder 1/15-21, at Camp Berry 1/16 (S. Baxter, P. Dimling fide BHa), & at RRo's Columbus feeder 2/29 were unexpected.

Swamp Sparrow-- MWW must be an incredible place. 125 Swamp Sparrows were found there 12/5, with 100 remaining 1/1 (PW).

White-crowned Sparrow-- A huge 140+ were in Madison Co. 1/15 (KA). Southern Lorain Co. is peculiarly attractive to this species, where 18 were counted 1/14 (TLP).

Harris' Sparrow-- An adult male was fairly regular at the Mike & Kathy McGraw feeder near Napoleon (Henr) 12/12-1/21. It was absent from 1/22 to 2/14, then was seen again through 2/29+ (DMD\*, RHr\*, EP\*, T. Spillis ph., m. obs.).

Dark-eyed Junco-- Up to 3 "Oregon" race birds were at TB's Tiffin (Sene)

feeder this season.

Lapland Longspur-- The Washburn Rd. area of Marion Co., immediately south of KPWA, again attracted good numbers in Feb., with up to 150-200 there 2/28 (LEY). Up to 60 were in Paulding Co. during the period (DMD). Small post-CBC numbers were also found in Fair, Geau, & Sand Cos.

Snow Bunting-- Some highs: up to 250 Paulding Co. 12/17-2/29 (DMD, JHe); 150 near KPWA 1/16 (KA); 100+ Holmes Co. 1/4 (LEY); & 100 Williams Co. 1/6 (DD). 35 perched on a wire in Wyandot Co. 1/1, providing an interesting sight (JHe).

Red-winged Blackbird-- Territorial birds arrived in the south after 2/22 (BL). Although only a few could be found at KPWA 2/24, by the next day territorial males were common (RHR).

Brewer's Blackbird-- A sometimes cooperative flock of up to 17 birds spent 12/30-2/28 north of Fremont (Sand) (TB, m. obs.). Males and females were about equally represented.

Common Grackle-- An estimated 10,000 wintered with starlings in Licking Co. (CD).

Brown-headed Cowbird-- Add 5000 cowbirds to the wintering flock of starlings and grackles in Licking Co. (CD).

Baltimore Oriole-- One was reported from Embshoff Woods (Hami) 12/12 (K. Fulmer).

Purple Finch-- CBCs this season averaged 4.20 individuals per count. This compares to 2.30/CBC in 1994-95, 3.34/CBC in 1993-94, and 2.71/CBC in 1992-93.

Red Crossbill-- In early January, G. Links discovered a group of about 20 crossbills, about evenly divided between Red and White-winged, at Woodlawn Cem. in Toledo. Fortunately, 3 small-billed Reds (2 females and an imm. male) remained for many to see through at least 2/4. 1 to 2 birds spent late Dec. through early Feb. at Greenlawn Cem. in Columbus (KA). One of these birds



treated RRo to a bout of song on 2/5. 4 more were at Lksh 12/31-1/1 (JP).

**White-winged Crossbill**-- A brilliant male remained at Woodlawn Cem. from early Jan. through at least 2/4 (m. obs.). It often sang partial songs. 1 was at the Sherwood (Defi) feeder of J. Yochum in mid-Jan. Lksh attracted 7 birds 1/22 (JP).

**Common Redpoll**-- Ohio CBCs averaged 3.85 individuals per CBC this season (averaging 7.60 in the NW & NE regions). This compares to 0.10/CBC in 1994-95, 11.44/CBC in 1993-94, and 0.02/CBC in 1992-93. Some high non-CBC counts: 150 Big Creek MP (Geau) 2/9 (DB et al.); up to 60 wintering at Lksh (JP); 50 Woodlawn Cem. 1/6 (RHr); 40+ at FMG's Valley City (Medi) feeders 2/10; & 40+ at C. Hunt's Tiffin feeder in late January (fide TB).

**Hoary Redpoll**-- This rarity was represented by a bird at Hawken School (Cuya) 12/16 (RRI\*) and 12/17 (PL et al.), and by 2 males at Toledo's Woodlawn Cem. 1/28 (JD\*, ST), with 1 remaining there through 2/4 (BG, RHr et al.).

**Pine Siskin**-- CBCs this season averaged 8.57 individuals per count, as compared with 0.31/CBC in 1994-95, 7.25/CBC in 1993-94, and 1.10/CBC in 1992-93. 100+ were at Woodlawn Cem. in early January (G. Links) and a flock of 50 flew over Willoughby Hills (Cuya) 12/16 (RHr).

**Am. Goldfinch**-- The Greenland's hosted up to 50 at thier Valley City residence in mid-Feb., the same time frame when feeders at Big Creek MP attracted flocks of 2 or 3 dozen birds (DB).

**Evening Grosbeak**-- Averaged 3.82 individuals per CBC this season, although found only on NW, NE and SE CBCs. This compares to 0.10/CBC in 1994-95, 8.49/CBC in 1993-94, and 0.03/CBC in 1992-93. Large numbers wintered at JF's Rockbridge (Hock) feeders, where the species was found every day of the season. Monthly peaks there were 111 birds 12/17, 144 birds 1/29, and 181 birds 2/3. 80+ birds wintered at Mohican SP (Ash) (JHe).

## ADDENDUM

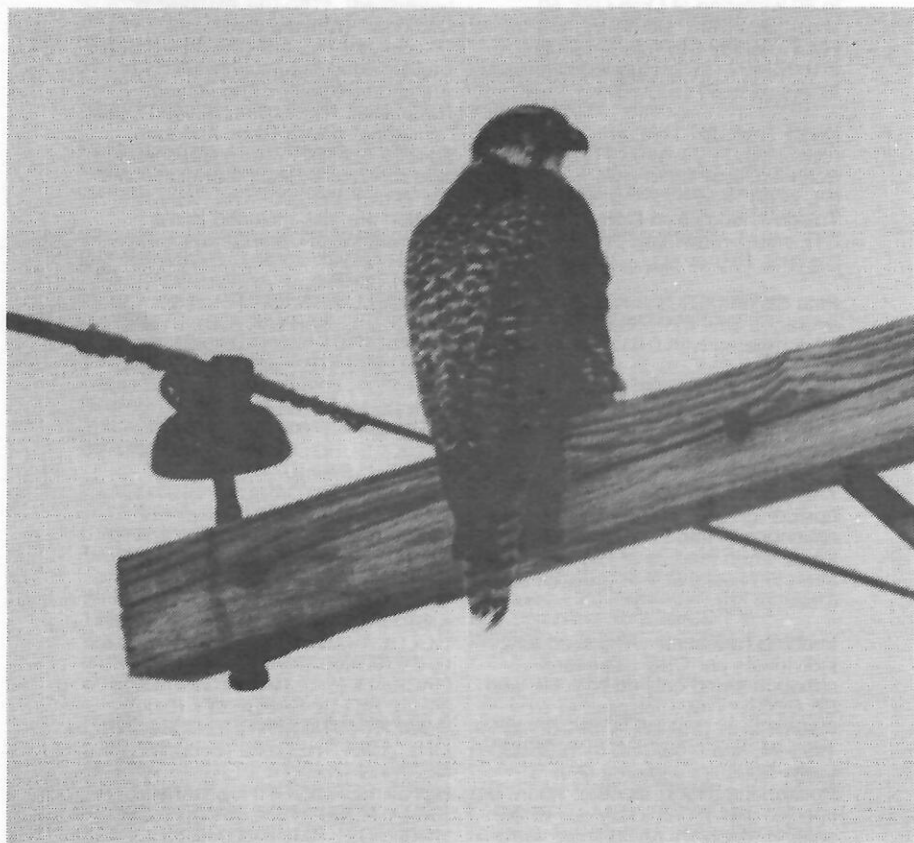
**Eurasian Wigeon**-- A male was at Pine Lk. (Maho) 10/30/95 (DJH\*, C. Keppler, NB, R. Ellway).

## CONTRIBUTORS AND OBSERVERS

All individuals contributing bird reports (CBCs generally excepted) to "The Ohio Cardinal" for the Winter 1995-96 season (Dec. 1, 1995 through Feb. 29, 1996) 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), "Song Sparrow" (Columbus Audubon Society), "The Toledo Naturalists' Association Bulletin", and "Wingtips" (Black River Audubon Society, Lorain). Those Observers who received at least four citations in the Winter 1995-96 "The Reports" section are also included in the following list of Contributors: JIM ADAIR (JA); J. KIRK ALEXANDER (KA); MICHAEL J. ARABIA (MA); WENDELL ARGABRITE (WA); CAROLE L. BABYAK (CB); LYNN BARNHART (LB); H. THOMAS BARTLETT (TB); JIM BERRY (JB); DAN BEST (DB) for the Geauga Co. Park District; WILLIAM BOSSTIC (WB); NANCY BRUNDAGE (NB); BECKY BURGOON (BB); DWIGHT & ANN CHASAR (DAC); ROBERT CUTTER (RC); DAVID C. DISTER (DD); DOUG & MICKI DUNAKIN (DMD); JON L. DUNN (JD); CURTIS DUSTHIMER (CD); BOB FINKELSTEIN (BF); ANDY FONDRK (AF); JIM FRY (JF); LARRY GARA (LG); BRUCE D. GLICK (BG); ADAM GOLODA (AG); FRANK & MELINDA GREENLAND (FMG); SCOTT HACKETT (SH); RAY HANNIKMAN (RHn); BETTY HARDESTY (BHn); ROBERT HARLAN (RHr); JIM HAW (JHn); BERT HENSEL (BHe); JOHN HERMAN (JHe); ROBERT HERSHBERGER (RHe); HANK & SALLY HIRIS (HSH); DAVID & JUDY HOCHADEL (DJH); CRAIG HOLT (CH); CECELIA JOHNSTON (CJ); NED KELLER (NK); TOM KEMP (TK); DR. PAUL KITTLE (PK); MARIAN & JEFF KRAUS (MJK); ANDREW

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(SS); ED STOKES (EST); WALT  
STURGEON (WSt); SUE TACKETT  
(ST); BILL THOMPSON, III (BT); BILL  
& ANN TONEFF (BAT); ELLIOT  
TRAMER (ET); SANDY WAGNER  
(SaW); Paul Wharton (PW); STANLEY  
E. WULKOWICZ (SWu); LÉROY E.  
YODER (LEY); MARIAN ZEHNDER  
(MZ) & JULIE ZICKEFOOSE (JZ). In  
addition, many other Observers are  
cited for 1 to 3 records within the  
species accounts. My thanks to all.



Gyrfalcon. Paulding County, 1/5/96.  
Photo by Jim Adair.

## A Varied Thrush in Parma Hts. by Robert Harlan

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Nathan Hale Park (Cuyahoga Co.) is a nice little city park. With soccer fields, a playground and a woodlot, it is reminiscent of countless other municipal parks throughout the state. However, it so happens that Nathan Hale Park is located directly across the street from my residence; and so, I visit it often due to convenience and due to a nice variety of bird species that have shown up there over the years. This list includes about 30 species of warbler, Clay-colored Sparrow and Brewer's Blackbird. But these all were eclipsed on January 23, 1996. .

This winter, a flock of Am. Robins had opted to remain at Nathan Hale Park and at the adjacent Cuyahoga Community College Western Campus, feeding on an abundant crop of ornamental fruit. I had spent some considerable time on January 23rd searching through the robins, just in case. A thought in the back of my mind said "This would be a good place for a Varied Thrush." Then miraculously, just as I was about to move on, another "robin" popped into view atop a tiny crab apple. Shockingly, this bird had an orange eyebrow, orange wingbars, and a dark band across the breast. I watched the Varied Thrush very briefly before deciding that I needed to alert others as quickly as possible; one never knows how long a rarity will stick around. In retrospect, I didn't need to run back home to make those phone calls-- the thrush decided to stay until at least April 6!

During the initial rush to see the bird in late January, it was my privilege to help nearly 100 people look for (and usually find) the bird. For some, it took up to four trips, but success was usually forthcoming. Only a handful of observers were ultimately disappointed, except that is, for a sight-seeing tour group from Michigan who decided to stop and look on a whim, many tour members bedecked only in light coats and tennis shoes. They did not find the bird, and I suspect they won't be returning to Nathan Hale Park anytime soon.

Many observers were treated to excellent views of the Varied Thrush, and many others were able to hear its flute-like call note. Actually, this call-note would often betray the presence of the bird when visual searching had been fruitless. If one heard the call, soon thereafter the bird would usually pop up from the dense undergrowth to the top of a tree, at least for a moment.

This bird (a heavily-marked female) was unusual in that it was not a "feeder bird", as virtually all other Ohio Varied Thrushes have been, and I suspect that this fact made it more attractive to observers. Actually, I was surprised at the number of people that came to look, especially since there have been at least 15 other Varied Thrushes found previously in the state, all since December 1977.

While the thrush was regularly seen through late January, it then would disappear for weeks at a time as the winter progressed. It was very sporadic in February and March. My last sighting was April 2nd, and the last sighting to my knowledge was April 6th. Quietly, the excitement over the Varied Thrush faded into a pleasant memory, and Nathan Hale Park faded into anonymity once again.

## **The Grapevine**

### **A Gyrfalcon at Headlands Beach**

[Ed. note-- Lost in the excitement over the Paulding Co. Gyrfalcon, few observers were aware that a second "Gyr" was also found this winter. We adapt a portion of Ray Hannikman's documentation of this "second bird" here.] On Feb. 10, 1996, Emil Bacik, Ann Missig and I watched a gray-phase Gyrfalcon from 8:15 to 8:18 a.m. at Headlands Beach State Park (Lake Co.). The weather was sunny and mild, with southerly winds at about 10-15 mph. The three of us were sitting at the end of the breakwall, on the north base of the lighthouse, when we noticed a large bird being dive-bombed by Herring Gulls some 250 yards in front of us, out over L. Erie. After evading the gulls, the bird headed towards the end of the breakwall, ultimately coming within 50 yards of us before perching on the ice about 100 yards away. After about 30 seconds on the ice, it departed, heading westward.

Description: A very large, light gray falcon whose wing span was about 90% of the Herring Gulls initially chasing it. It had a direct, powerful and purposeful flight. The breast streaking was moderate and extended from below the throat (which was entirely white) to the belly. The gray cap was slightly lighter than the darker area around the eye. This darker area tapered downward from the eye to just below the chin. The wings were very wide and pointed, and light gray on the undersurface. As the bird flew away from us, I could see that the wing tips were darker than the rest of the upper surface of the wing. The chest was very prominent and gave the bird a robust, almost barrel-chested appearance. When the falcon perched on a crinkled pyramid of lake ice, the tail extended well beyond the wings. By Ray Hannikman, 440 E. 260th St., Euclid, OH 44132.

### **Brewer's Blackbirds in Sandusky Co.**

On Jan. 27th, 1996 Sue Tackett and I saw 15 of the stakeout Brewer's Blackbirds that had been found north of Fremont. We saw both males and females and had excellent close views of this nearly pure flock. I noted the purplish gloss to the heads of the males, and the uniformly gray-brown body of the females, with a slight greenish iridescence to the wings. There were no rusty edgings on the wings of any of the birds. The females all had dark eyes. All had bills more stout than the bills on Rusty Blackbirds. The tails were not wedge-shaped. This is the first time I have seen this species in Ohio; Sue had seen it once previously. By Jon Dunn, 153 Grange Hall Rd., Beavercreek, OH 45430.

### **The Story of a Sleepy Surf Scoter**

[Ed. note-- This is an adapted version of an article which originally appeared in the "Passenger Pigeon", journal of the Cincinnati Bird Club. Although most of the action below technically takes place in Kentucky waters, it is still of interest.] On Nov. 21, 1995, while scanning for birds on the Ohio River at the Rivertowne Marina, I spied what appeared to be a scoter sleeping out in the current. It had its head tucked back in typical duck fashion, and it was not until it put its head up to stretch and preen that I determined that it was a Surf Scoter, probably an imm. female. The next day I found the scoter again, and again it was sleeping out in the current of the river. The next week, I went back to the marina several times, but I could not locate the scoter.

We had moved to Bellevue, KY about three years ago, and had not seen much of note on the Ohio River. Imagine my surprise, on Dec. 17th, while driving along Eden Ave. I glanced at the river and saw a very suspicious and sleepy-looking duck floating by. I immediately parked and grabbed my scope. Sure enough, it proved to be a Surf Scoter of identical plumage to the bird in November, and sleeping as usual. It was near the shore, and although I approached it closely, it did not raise its head until a Mallard quacked from overhead. A moment later it was asleep again. Upon returning several hours later with my wife Veronica, we observed a most peculiar behavior performed by the scoter. Up until this point it had maintained its position in the river by paddling its powerful feet against the current. Now, the scoter was out in the swift current. While still sleeping, it allowed itself to be carried backwards downstream, apparently oblivious to where it was headed.

On Dec. 21, I came across the scoter again, this time about three miles upstream, and true to form, it was sound asleep. By this time it seemed to have perfected the technique of floating backwards down the river. By the time I had my scope set up it was almost out of sight. Taking a clue from the scoter's "modus operandi", I stationed myself a mile and a half downstream. Sure enough, after a 15 minute wait, the scoter floated by, head tucked under wing.

On Dec. 23 I found the scoter at full alert, and for good reason. A speed boat with two duck hunters was headed straight for the scoter at full throttle! I braced myself for the expected gunshot as the scoter took to flight. Fortunately, the hunters did not shoot, and the very lucky duck landed safely near Cincinnati's Four Seasons Marina. By Frank Renfrow, 611 South O'Fallon Ave., Bellevue, KY 41073.

### **Lake Erie Wing Watch Weekend**

Learn more about birds, and mingle with those who seek them. Lake Erie Wing Watch Weekend is scheduled for Bowling Green State University, Firelands College in Huron, OH, April 4-6, 1997. Enjoy a fun weekend of educational seminars, guided nature walks, vendor exhibits and wildlife displays. There is something for everyone, from beginning to advanced birders, as well as families. Seminar topics include Introduction to Birding, Waterfowl Identification, Bird Feeding, North Coast Birding and much more.

"Bird Watchers are an important segment of our marketing mix," said Melinda Huntley, representative of Lake Erie Wing Watch, a cooperative group of tourism professionals and wildlife managers in Erie, Lorain and Ottawa Counties. "A recent study revealed a \$5.6 million annual impact on our local economy by those visiting our Magee Marsh/Crane Creek wildlife areas." The area will also host the Midwest Birding Symposium, sponsored by Bird Watcher's Digest, in September.

Headlining the fourth annual weekend is Stephen Kress. An authority on ways to landscape to attract birds, Kress received his Bachelor of Science in Zoology and a Masters of Science in Wildlife Management from The Ohio State University, and he holds a Ph.D. in Environmental Education from Cornell University. He is the author of many scientific papers on seabird restoration and is author of The Audubon Society Handbook for Birders, The Audubon Society Guide to Attracting Birds, the Golden Guide titled Birdlife and The Audubon Society Bird Garden. For more information, call the Ottawa County Visitors Bureau at (419) 734-4386 or (800) 441-1271.



	Northwest Region														Northeast Region																
	Firelands 12/16/95 (9)	Fremont 12/30/95 (6)	Gall Woods 12/16/95 (1)	Grand Rapids-Waterville 12/31/95 (2)	Gypsum 12/26/95 (6)	Hancock Co. 12/16/95 (10)	Lake Erie Islands (ON-OH) 12/20/95 (5)	Mansfield 12/16/95 (13)	Ottawa N.W.R. 12/31/95 (4)	Oxbow Lake 12/30/95 (7)	Plymouth 12/27/95 (12)	Tiffin 12/16/95 (11)	Toledo 12/17/95 (3)		Ashland 12/23/95 (30)	Ashtabula 12/23/95 (25)	Beaver Creek 12/30/95 (36)	Burton 1/1/96 (27)	Cleveland 12/16/95 (23)	Cuyahoga Falls 12/17/95 (29)	Elyria-Lorain 12/16/95 (20)	Lakewood 12/30/95 (21)	Mentor 12/23/95 (24)	Mohican State Forest 12/30/95 (35)	Quail Hollow-Hartville 12/17/95 (37)	Salern 12/23/95 (33)	Trumbull Co. 12/17/95 (28)	Wellington 12/27/95 (26)	Willmot 12/16/95 (32)	Wooster 12/16/95 (31)	Youngstown 12/16/95 (34)
Bald Eagle	16	5	-	-	6	-	-	12	-	-	-	9	6	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	7	1	-	-	3	
Northern Harrier	-	2	4	-	1	3	2	1	8	6	-	17	3	4	-	5	3	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	4	2	4	7	16	CW	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	3	-	3	1	1	3	-	2	1	1	3	3	-	2	3	2	2	8	2	1	2	3	-	-	1	2	1	-	-	
Cooper's Hawk	6	2	3	4	-	5	4	8	3	3	3	6	11	3	1	7	6	2	21	6	6	6	5	7	2	11	4	4	10	7	3
Accipiter, sp.	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	-	-	4	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	CW	1	-	1	22	2	15	-	1	9	4	1	4	7	-	-	-	1	
Red-tailed Hawk	25	28	18	43	7	28	16	52	62	12	14	68	33	26	11	48	54	19	98	35	12	12	44	17	55	38	36	133	63	18	
Rough-legged Hawk	-	1	-	-	-	-	6	2	3	-	-	-	1	2	-	12*	1	-	-	2	-	1	15	-	-	-	6	3	6	CW	
Buteo, sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
American Kestrel	10	10	28	14	6	46	3	15	33	17	3	65	14	6	4	10	6	1	10	24	-	1	16	19	34	18	30	57	44	3	
Merlin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1*	
Peregrine Falcon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	CW	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Ring-necked Pheasant	-	-	5	-	-	1	15	3	-	-	-	1	3	-	3	2	3	-	2	-	-	-	3	-	8	3	-	3	-	2	
Ruffed Grouse	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	
Wild Turkey	-	-	-	-	-	-	182	-	-	14	2	-	8	21	71	20	-	-	CW-37	-	8	87	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	
Northern Bobwhite	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	
American Coot	8	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	7	-	-	-	5	-	1	-	-	1	65	13	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	1	-	-	
Sandhill Crane	-	-	-	-	-	CW-18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Killdeer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	
Common Snipe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	
Bonaparte's Gull	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	31	-	-	2	-	-	7	-	71	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Ring-billed Gull	50060	930	-	2887	13	331	380	25	196	55	-	6	10057	-	2060	890	8	526	1836	7477	3202	1156	-	12	2	42	5	177	7	73	
Herring Gull	4093	108	-	8292	158	5	439	2	209	95	-	1	2754	-	882	-	-	264	37	500	8542	1876	-	1	-	1	-	20	-	1	
Thayer's Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Iceland Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Lesser Black-backed Gull	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Glaucous Gull	-	-	-	2	-	-	1†	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Great Black-backed Gull	272	-	-	2	4	-	167	-	2	-	-	16	-	89	-	-	70	-	157	550	369	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
gull, sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	58	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	
Rock Dove	536	132	154	137	330	389	1	402	99	301	38	238	1478	47	188	274	98	583	1030	527	784	154	224	339	415	272	189	1282	242	274	
Mourning Dove	172	538	48	425	84	205	43	314	728	201	51	308	269	203	156	513	513	205	1204	489	144	214	369	297	510	372	554	1123	383	256	
Eastern Screech-Owl	13	1	-	21	-	4	7	22	32	1	3	26	1	-	-	5	2	1	8	-	1	3	17	-	4	1	-	-	5	-	
Great Horned Owl	8	2	2	7	-	2	4	4	16	1	1	12	6	2	-	4	1	1	12	-	2	4	3	-	2	6	2	5	4	-	
Snowy Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Barred Owl	1	-	2	2	-	CW-3	-	1	-	-	-	6	-	1	-	7	7	-	4	2	-	1	1	-	4	-	-	2	1	2	
Long-eared Owl	-	CW	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Short-eared Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	1	1	-	1	15	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	1	11	14	-	-	
Northern Saw-whet Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Belted Kingfisher	1	2	-	10	-	2	-	8	2	1	1	2	4	4	2	6	2	11	20	6	3	3	8	-	3	-	-	10	5	3	
Red-headed Woodpecker	-	-	-	CW	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	16	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	-	7	-	-	-	9	-	2	4	-	-	





## Northwest Region

## Northeast Region

	Firelands 12/16/95 (9)	Fremont 12/30/95 (8)	Golf Woods 12/16/95 (1)	Grand Rapids-Waterville 12/31/95 (2)	Gypsum 12/26/95 (6)	Hancock Co. 12/16/95 (10)	Lake Erie Islands (ON-OH) 12/20/95 (5)	Mansfield 12/16/95 (13)	Ottawa N.W.R. 12/31/95 (4)	Oxbow Lake 12/30/95 (7)	Plymouth 12/27/95 (12)	Tiffin 12/16/95 (11)	Toledo 12/17/95 (3)	Ashland 12/23/95 (30)	Ashtabula 12/23/95 (25)	Beaver Creek 12/30/95 (36)	Burton 1/1/96 (27)	Cleveland 12/16/95 (23)	Cuyahoga Falls 12/17/95 (29)	Elyria-Lorain 12/16/95 (20)	Lakewood 12/30/95 (21)	Mentor 12/23/95 (24)	Mohican State Forest 12/30/95 (35)	Quail Hollow-Hartville 12/17/95 (37)	Salem 12/23/95 (33)	Trumbull Co. 12/17/95 (28)	Wellington 12/27/95 (26)	Wilmet 12/16/95 (32)	Wooster 12/16/95 (31)	Youngstown 12/16/95 (34)
Song Sparrow	34	106	5	96	10	50	8	109	302	9	10	95	29	49	27	96	53	31	295	41	23	27	153	21	161	28	31	304	208	22
Swamp Sparrow	6	6	-	3	2	-	1	1	103	1	2	5	20	-	1	-	-	3	21	3	4	1	-	-	3	1	-	6	21	-
White-throated Sparrow	13	-	-	4	5	9	20	8	-	-	-	-	4	19	5	6	11	21	118	6	54	27	16	3	15	2	4	38	25	5
White-crowned Sparrow sparrow, sp.	6	11	-	3	-	1	2	26	-	-	9	74	-	25	-	10	-	-	21	1	-	-	39	1	21	-	19	212	49	1
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	234	-	-
Dark-eyed Junco	156	108	33	247	33	94	127	453	57	55	35	288	286	213	103	392	157	186	805	226	130	241	459	64	383	222	98	171	138	172
Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lapland Longspur	-	3	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Snow Bunting	-	14	-	2	-	29	171	-	384	200	-	-	-	-	-	1	23	18	-	15	2	-	1	-	15	-	-	-	-	CW
Red-winged Blackbird	44	-	-	CW	7	CW-1	-	-	7	-	-	2	72	7	CW	20	2	8	5	-	-	74	2	-	89	85	-	51	112	-
Eastern Meadowlark	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	6	-	3	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	6	-	-	-
Rusty Blackbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	2†	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	21	-
Brewer's Blackbird	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Grackle	10	-	-	-	34	1	CW	-	-	-	-	1	53	3	-	-	1	40	324	-	-	3	-	5166	-	-	CW-1	46	3	-
Brown-headed Cowbird	27	-	-	-	61	21	2	-	-	-	-	1	131	-	-	10	11	60	100	-	-	11	-	-	12	-	CW-1	315	21	-
blackbird, sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	5	-
Purple Finch	-	-	8	14	-	4	6	10	-	-	-	-	-	13	20	10	4	-	18	-	-	9	3	-	4	5	4	-	-	-
House Finch	76	54	65	346	64	204	136	500	229	83	59	232	389	346	139	230	140	293	1730	304	205	275	248	125	408	92	89	385	86	201
Red Crossbill	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Redpoll	-	1	-	13	-	CW-2	27	-	6	-	-	2	7	13	1	CW	-	97	1	-	6	CW	-	-	15	35	4	-	-	-
Hoary Redpoll	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine Siskin	-	3	-	49	-	4	3	35	-	-	-	18	62	-	-	1	3	50	3	2	-	14	73	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Goldfinch	61	78	14	113	4	84	106	237	54	16	54	187	93	163	11	107	190	129	1503	127	66	114	331	51	156	278	120	260	134	83
Evening Grosbeak	-	-	-	17	-	-	8	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	141	-	6	CW	-	-	-	-
House Sparrow	527	3000	510	382	817	465	647	661	4211	683	108	1749	798	272	427	504	605	404	3066	781	191	522	421	581	876	514	603	1704	704	288
total species	73	46	39	64	49	62	73	60	66	40	37	63	84	53	62	62	60	70	83	67	62	78	64	41	62	55	43	66	60	48
total individuals	83092	8386	1947	17438	20871	5094	14127	29990	29336	2884	1327	7732	32306	3310	6759	7801	6270	8473	30002	16814	20895	8646	6770	12728	7731	13856	4707	13947	7318	6778
observers	38	7	14	26	??	28	9	18	22	10	4	35	20	17	14	23	16	47	100	36	35	23	12	13	14	12	13	32	16	15
party hours	48.25	22.00	31.00	63.50	5.00	??	47.00	69.50	30.00	25.00	12.00	37.00	42.75	35.50	32.50	64.50	57.50	86.50	236.25	79.50	32.50	83.50	63.25	46.75	60.75	59.25	39.00	101.00	56.00	43.00



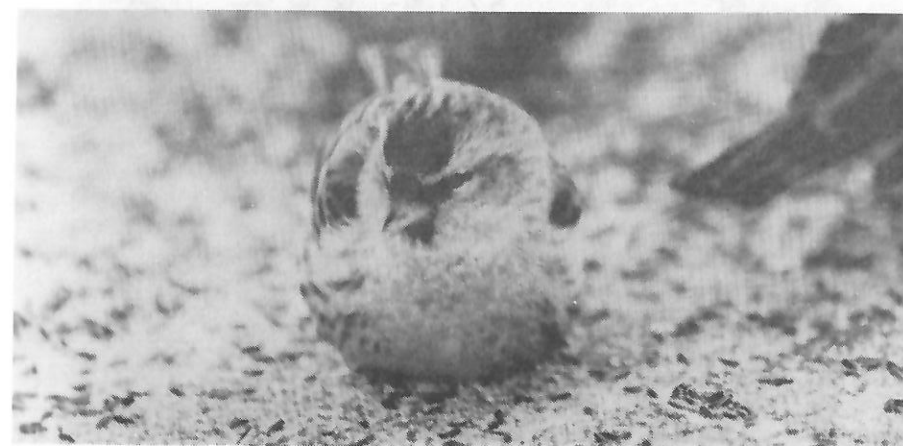




	W. Central Region				Central Region										South-		west Region					Unglaciated Region											
	Clark Co. 12/16/95 (44)	Grand Lake St. Marys 12/16/95 (41)	Greenville 12/17/95 (43)	Indian Lake 12/30/95 (42)	Buckeye Lake 12/16/95 (56)	Columbus 12/17/95 (55)	Delaware Reservoir 12/17/95 (52)	Hoover Reservoir 12/30/95 (53)	Killdeer Plains 12/31/95(50)	Kingston 12/31/95 (58)	Lancaster 12/31/95 (57)	Mt. Gilead 12/16/95 (51)	O'Shaughnessy Reservoir 12/16/95 (54)	Cincinnati 12/30/95 (65)	Dayton 12/17/95 (60)	East Fork Lake S.P. 12/31/95 (67)	Hamilton-Fairfield 12/16/95 (62)	Ohio River (IN-OH-KY) 12/17/95 (64)	Oxford 12/16/95 (61)	Paint Creek Area 12/23/95(66)	Western Hamilton Co. 12/23/95(63)	Adams Co. 12/16/95 (62)	Athens 12/16/95 (78)	Beaver Valley 12/16/95 (84)	Cadiz 12/31/95 (72)	Millersburg 12/29/95 (83)	New Lexington 12/17/95 (75)	Parkersburg (WV-OH) 12/30/95 (79)	Portsmouth 12/30/95 (81)	Ragersville 12/27/95 (70)	Steubenville 12/16/95 (71)		
Lapland Longspur	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Snow Bunting	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-winged Blackbird	3	-	-	-	110	-	-	-	-	55	4	26	-	2201	-	29	8	445	-	1	-	30	4	626	1	85	-	7	101	58	-	-	
Eastern Meadowlark	-	-	-	5	-	-	1*	1	19	51	-	-	-	-	-	9	9	22	22	50	3	12	29	60	-	7	-	1	1	35	-	-	
Rusty Blackbird	-	1*	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	2	5	-	-	-	1	-	10	5	-	18	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Brewer's Blackbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	200	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Grackle	-	1	4	-	260	9	1*	3	3	150	16	-	-	14380	5	11	305	5	12	-	2	2	-	1992	-	19	-	14	263	193	-	-	
Brown-headed Cowbird	-	-	4	-	42	1	4	-	-	122	-	-	-	45	152	30	22	159	-	-	32	7	-	565	CW	45	8	37	1	26	-	-	
blackbird, sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	-	-	-	19	-	-	-	
Purple Finch	3	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	6	9	2	2	-	-	5	69	-	-	15	-	-	4	7	-	-	-	
House Finch	109	65	206	25	229	950	349	173	168	117	134	86	142	487	368	267	370	130	94	63	427	350	228	56	36	590	46	355	347	500	1		
Common Redpoll	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW-1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	1	-	-	
Pine Siskin	8	21	-	-	-	10	-	16	-	-	10	-	-	25	5	43	-	4	CW	-	6	-	15	3	-	-	16	2	19	-	-	-	
American Goldfinch	38	24	131	61	80	339	116	148	192	108	56	62	115	412	119	191	119	248	47	82	172	162	170	29	42	748	69	214	201	330	30		
Evening Grosbeak	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	2	-	3	-	13	24	-	-	
House Sparrow	251	342	500	1019	828	2278	975	529	604	1189	375	222	853	747	323	73	380	184	259	287	841	299	146	63	81	2671	315	457	279	248	44		
total species	67	59	44	42	59	73	55	55	53	66	58	41	53	83	78	68	68	70	62	68	70	79	72	69	41	82	51	71	75	73	33		
total individuals	1077	7860	4151	4334	10358	20034	11187	5612	5851	18624	4644	2535	7339	55628	22854	9846	25518	10471	8461	7797	135562	7421	6549	15391	1052	22202	3096	12996	10284	17759	748		
observers	15	20	20	11	25	57	22	19	15	34	25	6	10	91	54	10	15	13	36	8	22	25	18	14	9	66	9	55	24	47	4		
party hours	36.00	39.00	31.00	35.50	54.00	144.75	66.00	46.50	45.25	80.50	63.24	21.00	32.50	203.25	101.25	33.50	46.00	29.25	55.00	36.00	65.25	85.50	55.00	39.00	21.50	268.00	32.75	126.75	68.00	185.00	17.00		



E. Screech-Owls (red & gray). Lakewood Pk. Cem., (Cuyahoga Co.), 2/22/96.  
Photo by Susan Sprengnether.



Common Redpoll. Parma (Cuyahoga Co.), Winter 1995-96.  
Photo by Craig Rieker.

## Ohio Christmas Bird Counts, 1995-96 by Ned Keller

As always, the results from the 1995-1996 Ohio Christmas Bird Counts are reported as received from the compilers. Each CBC is numbered; these numbers apply to the count circle map in this issue. We have eliminated a few reports of domestic or exotic species, and corrected some arithmetic errors, but with the exception of Swainson's Thrush and Hoary Redpoll (documented rarities which were sent to the Ohio Bird Records Committee—denoted by 2 asterisks), we have made no effort to screen out undocumented, suspicious reports. However, totals marked with a single asterisk (\*) denotes that acceptable details have been submitted to us. Lack of an asterisk denotes that no details have been submitted. While this is to be expected for common or regular species, submitted notes help to substantiate the unusual for future reference. Sightings marked by a cross (+) indicates that these bird occurred outside of Ohio boundaries.

We want to sincerely thank the compilers of the 61 counts that are included in this summary. As a compiler of one of those counts, I know that there is enough to do without sending off an additional report. But because the compilers took the extra time, the results are available to all our readers.

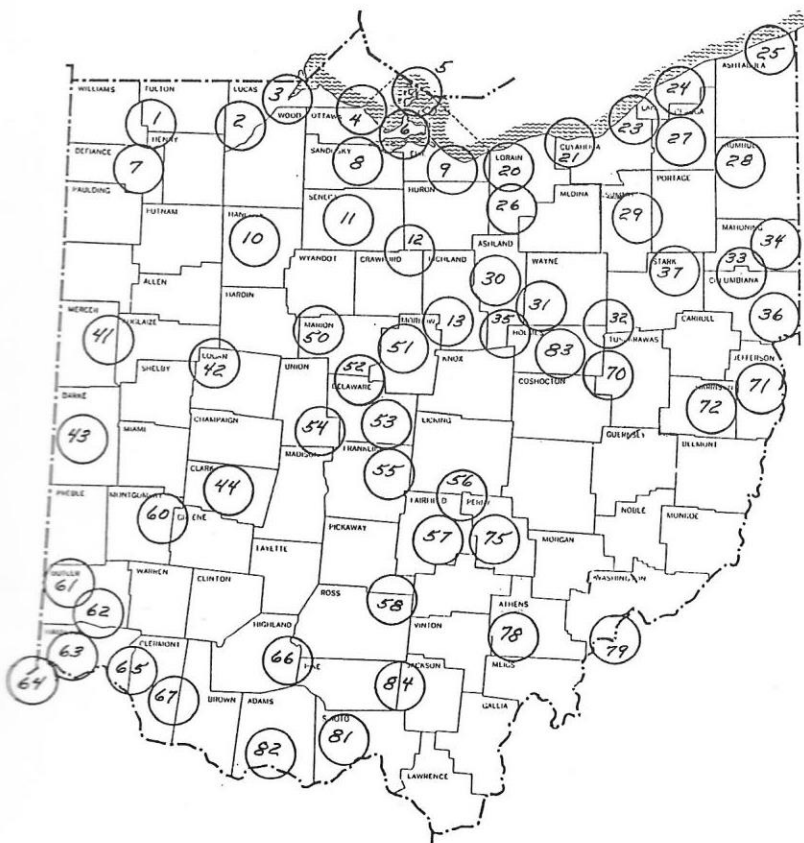
The overall totals were 924,456 individuals of 139 species, plus an additional 4 species seen count week only, as compared to 793,451 individuals and 149 species last year. Only one individual of nine species was reported, and in another four cases multiple individuals were reported, but on only one count.

Toledo led the state with 84 species seen, followed closely by Cincinnati (83), Cuyahoga Falls (83) and Millersburg (82). Western Hamilton County had the dubious honor of reporting the most individuals (135,562), of which 113,446 were European Starlings. Cuyahoga Falls apparently made the greatest effort, with 100 counters in the field, trailed by Cincinnati (91). We can only say "apparently", since numerous counts did not report the number of observers or party hours according to standard CBC protocol. Watch for this!

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Cleveland, OH 45002



N. Goshawk. Maumee Bay SP (Lucas Co.), 1/20/96.  
Photo by Bruce Glick.



Ohio Christmas Bird Count Map

**IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR SUBSCRIPTION**  
**if this line is checked \_\_\_\_\_**

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