

*The Ohio*



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Cover: Sandhill Cranes. Magee Marsh WA, Spring 1996.  
Photo by Gary Meszaros.

## A Spotted Towhee in Seneca Co. by H. Thomas Bartlett

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During the spring of 1996, the American Ornithologists' Union released its revised list of bird species for North America. On this list was a split of the Rufous-sided Towhee into two new and separate species. What was once known as the eastern race was now to be called the Eastern Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*). The male shows a black head, back, and tail, white belly, rufous sides and red eyes. This is the towhee which we expect in Ohio. The western race of the "Rufous-sided Towhee" is now a new species known as the Spotted Towhee (*P. maculatus*). It is very similar in appearance to the Eastern Towhee, except for the fact that it has rows of spots along the back, scapulars and coverts. The Spotted Towhee is normally expected to be found west of the Mississippi River. One feature that I have noted in Spotted Towhees is that the rufous of the sides does not meet cleanly with the black hood. There frequently appears to be a little white, which "leaks" in between the two.

On the morning of May 4, 1996, I was at my bird-banding station at Springville Marsh State Nature Preserve in southwestern Seneca County. Several Heidelberg College students were assisting my regular team. As daylight began, my regulars were setting up the nets, while I was explaining the research project to the students. The marsh was alive with birds singing like crazy.

Around 9:00 a.m., my wife Paula, my daughter Laura and several friends arrived. Laura and her friends raced off down the boardwalk. The rest of us talked and banded birds. We would end the day with 74 birds banded and 6 recaptures of 23 species. About 10:30 a.m., my daughter and her friends were moving back towards the parking lot when they flushed a bird down the boardwalk. I watched it fly into the net next to the parking lot. As I started to remove the bird, I couldn't believe my eyes.

The bird rolled in the net and I could see that it was a Spotted Towhee. The adrenaline began to flow. I yelled out that it was a Spotted Towhee. Holding the bird in my hands, I walked up to the group. Several people could see that it was a towhee, but thought it looked no different than usual. Then, I held the bird by its legs so they could see its back. Mouths dropped and then everyone went running for cameras.

The bird was measured, weighed and banded. Then, at least 100 photographs were taken. These included some by people who had never seen our normal towhee. The bird weighed 45.6 gm., had a wing chord of 87 mm., a culmen of 10.5 mm. and a fat measure of four (maximum on my scale). The underside was white and the

sides were rufous, but somewhat broken. The head, back and tail were black, but dusted in brownish-orange. White spots and lines ran down the scapulars and back. The eye was an orange-red color. Because of the eye color and the dusting of the plumage, the bird was determined to be a second-year male. It was banded with a size two band (#942-69921) and was finally released. The bird was heard and observed the following Sunday (May 12) by me and several others. What else could show up in Seneca County?

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[Editor's note: The above observation represents a new species for Ohio, being the first record accepted by the Ohio Bird Records Committee. This article first appeared in The Cleveland Bird Calendar 92(4):48-49.]



Spotted Towhee. Springville Marsh SNP (Seneca Co.), May 4, 1996.  
Photo by Vic Fazio.

## Breeding Red-breasted Nuthatches at Hinckley MP by Norman J. Kotesovec, Jr.

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The winter of 1995-96 had hosted an impressive number of Red-breasted Nuthatches (*Sitta canadensis*) across northern Ohio. Christmas Bird Counts in Cleveland and Cuyahoga Falls had tallied seven and 35 birds respectively (Keller 1996). So it is with little wonder that some Red-breasteds would find area conditions so suitable as to linger and nest locally. In addition to the nesting at Hinckley Metropark (Medina Co.) described forthwith, a pair at Lakeshore MP (Lake Co.) successfully bred (Pogacnik 1996), and summering Red-breasts were found at North Chagrin MP (Cuyahoga/Lake Cos.) as well (see cit. in Rosche 1996). An adult was seen at Horseshoe Pond in the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area (Summit Co.) on May 25, 1996, and adults with fledglings were seen July 7 at the same site (Ron Canterbury, pers. comm.). Given this sampling, there were likely others that, no doubt, escaped detection.

The status of the Red-breasted Nuthatch in Ohio is described as a "very rare but regular summer resident" with fewer than 10 breeding pairs in northern Ohio during most years (Peterjohn and Rice 1991). While the nesting record of Red-breasteds is well documented in Peterjohn and Rice (1991), their breeding chronology in Ohio is poorly understood and detailed accounts of individual nestings are scarce. One notable exception is a study of two nests in the Rocky River MP (Cuyahoga Co.) by Edward C. Bittner (1965) on 23 dates from May 10 to July 28, 1965. Given that scenario, I count it a blessing to be able to add to that which Mr. Bittner has already penned.

### The Excavation of the Nest Cavity

On six dates from Nov. 2, 1995 to April 12, 1996, I found an average of six Red-breasted Nuthatches per trip to the bridle path off Hinckley Hills Rd. Their nasal, tin-whistle-like jangle was heard each time I visited an appropriate stand of spruces, so it was with no surprise that I was treated to a similar fanfare on the morning of April 15, 1996. Still, I stopped and endeavored to locate the source of the call. Looking up and about, I soon spotted what I presumed then to be a female Red-breasted Nuthatch diligently at work, excavating a nest cavity. When I returned with a spotting scope, the increased optics revealed that the bird in question was a male instead. The chosen site of the potential nest was a diseased elm (*Ulmus* sp.), some 40 ft. from the ground, and excavated in a portion of wood in which the outer bark had been peeled away. The elm stood in a stand of Norway Spruce (*Picea abies*) which was the dominant tree in this area of the wood. During 12.5 hours of observation (all sightings were made between 9:15-14:00), the male Red-breast removed over 600 beakfuls of wood chips, releasing them outside the nest entrance.

On four dates from April 15 through April 22, the male nuthatch spent 3.3 hrs. (199.5 min.) during 7.25 hrs. of observation actively excavating the nest cavity, while 3.8 hrs. (229 min.) were spent elsewhere. During these inactive intervals the male was often seen foraging with the female. Of 15 periods of active excavation the male averaged 13.3 min. per visit, with a range of 5 to 29.5 min., while 11 inactive intervals averaged 20.8 min. and ranged from 8 to 65 min. April 22 proved to be the last day in which the male actively worked at the nest. Thereafter, on three dates from April 24 through April 26, only 13.5 min. of 5.25 hrs.

were spent in excavation. It seemed that this "passive renovation" of the nest cavity served only as a diversion while the male called plaintively to the female from the entrance of the hole, trying vainly to gain her approval of the proposed nest-site. During this period, on April 25, the female Red-breasted made the last of only five observed visits to the nest cavity. She had first called from nearby trees, then landed a short distance above the entrance. She crawled down the trunk and merely peered into the hole before flying off. The male poked his head out of the cavity and took pursuit.

On April 26, the male nuthatch made one final visit to the nest cavity, sitting within and inspecting the "roofing" with his beak and removing three beakfuls of wood chips. After 3.5 min. he flew off. Later, when relocated, he occupied another elm approximately 30 yds. down-trail from the first tree-- apparently excavating a second cavity. This new site was some 30 ft. high on the underside of a thick, heavily decayed branch rising at a 60 degree angle. The elm was rotted and diseased with fungi. He remained at his task for 10 min. when heavy rainfall frustrated both our efforts to remain at the site.

Neither nuthatch was seen at this site on subsequent visits, although a male and female, presumably the same pair, were located a short distance away in another stand of spruces from April 27 through August 27. No nesting material was ever seen carried to the cavity, nor was any pine pitch (see below) applied outside the entrance. As few overwintering Red-breasteds remain to reproduce, it may be that in a disjunct population where nuthatches (1-5 pairs) breed in localized areas, the male, not having to defend a territory in a crowded community, may displace sexual energy or aggression by initiating excavation. At higher latitudes the female may perform most of this task while the male defends against increased conspecifics.

### **Courtship and Related Behavior**

When not actively involved in nest excavation, the male Red-breast spent his time in pursuit of his would-be mate. Oftentimes, this was a "long-distance" relationship, as the male would interrupt his chores and take repeated flights to a branch some 20 ft. removed from the nesting-tree. His courtship involved both vocal and non-vocal displays. As avian vocalizations sound differently to each listener (as evidenced by the many colorful interpretations in the literature; see examples in Tyler 1948), descriptions of calls are matched with those referred to by Kilham (1973).

In the 12 instances wherein the male was seen to terminate excavation in lieu of courtship, he straddled a nearby branch crosswise, and swayed from side to side. His head was thrown back and the beak thrust upward, while feathers on his crown were raised. Less often he was seen to spread both wings and tail. Vocalizations at these times were rapid and of greater intensity than those heard when the bird foraged. Kilham (1973) has referred to this rendition as a series of plaintive and nasal "waa-aa-ns", from one to two min. in duration, and ended with the male flying off into the trees, presumably, in search of the female. On six occasions, the male deserted his chores in answer to the female's distant calls. At these times, the calling of the female elicited a different vocalization, which is rendered in my notes as "zrrr".

On April 18, between 12:24-12:33, the nuthatches were seen clinging to the cones of a Norway Spruce, high in the upper branches. They were also observed gamboling about the circumference of a Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*), calling softly, and at one point, touching bills. A similar act is described by Kilham (1973); however, I cannot say whether any food was passed from male to female as it was in the many instances noted by Kilham and set forth as courtship feeding. No doubt such courtship feeding did take place after the pair disappeared into the trees to forage out of sight. Still, as Kilham (1973) explains that one of the functions of courtship feeding is to strengthen the pair bond, the greater desire of the male to initiate nesting activities and the apparent lackluster response by the female may account for the "maintained distance" while foraging and the brevity of close contact. Foraging of the pair was accompanied by soft musical notes that Kilham (1973) refers to as "social, keep-in-touch songs" in the non-breeding season, that are similarly used, but at greater intensity, in late April when the male is feeding the female.

### A Successful Nest-- Nesting and Parental Care

On June 8, 1996, an active Red-breasted Nuthatch nest, well advanced in the nesting cycle, was found some distance from the previously described unsuccessful efforts. This active nest was found in a mixed stand of hardwoods and conifers adjacent to Hinckley Lake and off East Drive. The nesting cavity had been dug in the trunk of a living Boxelder (*Acer negundo*) which grew from the bank of a small creek that ran parallel to a footpath bordered by Red Pines (*Pinus resinosa*). The nest hole was located some 20 ft. from the ground, and beneath the entrance the bark was smeared with the requisite pine pitch noted in the literature (see references in Tyler 1948). Bittner (1965) described two nest-sites of the Red-breast in Rocky River MP. Both were in trunks of dead pines and were 18 ft. above the ground and two ft. below the tops of the trees. Hicks (1933) cited a nest at a height of 40 ft. in a living Red Maple (*A. rubrum*) that was found in the Pymatuning Bog (Ashtabula Co.) on June 13, 1931.

The Hinckley nest was discovered late in the evening, shortly before dusk, and (without the aid of a spotting scope to distinguish the sexes) adult nuthatches were seen carrying food to the nesting cavity 15 times from 19:34-19:55 (30 min. observation). On five subsequent dates from June 9 to June 15, when equipped with better optics, nestlings were seen fed by the female 54 times and 46 times by the male. Overall, a total of 8.5 hrs. of observation was spent at the nest-site with the greater part of the sightings (5.25 hrs.) made between 18:30-21:15. The feeding of the young nuthatches tapered off at 20:00 and gave way to a frenzied reapplication of pine pitch beneath the nest cavity until dusk.

As the majority of the observations were recorded in the evening hours, the feeding rate of the adult birds (female=6.7/hr.; male=5.7/hr.) may not be truly representative. No substantial observations were made during the morning, and feeding trips counted at mid-day suggest a greater rate. For instance, over a period of 2.75 hrs. on June 10, adult nuthatches fed nestlings 23 times from 18:30-20:46; the last two visits were made by the male at 20:08 and 20:46, while the female last fed at 20:01. However, in 2.25 hrs. on June 9, the adults fed nestlings 48 times from 12:20-14:36.

The nestlings fledged on the morning of June 15; one youngster left the nest at 7:10 and was immediately followed by another at 7:11. The

fledging of the young was preceded by a bout of unprecedented aggression on the part of the male nuthatch that was wholly directed at his mate. The female had arrived at the nest cavity at 6:36 with the intent to feed the young, but was driven from the hole by the hostile male. Again, she attempted to deliver her meal at 6:36.5, but was once more frustrated in the attempt by her mate. The male then pursued the female in a rapid flight in which the pair sped between the nearby trees until both were lost from sight. I know not of either birds' whereabouts until 6:43, when the female finally succeeded in feeding her young at the nest hole. At this time, the male landed on a nearby branch, faced the female, vibrated his wings and "zrrr-ed" with aggression. The female cowered before flying off. She landed in, and foraged upon, a Black Cherry, followed by the male who perched a few branches away. After a pause she returned to the nest and fed unmolested at 6:44.5. Inexplicably, the male quickly mended his manners and commenced to feed the nestlings at 6:47.5. No further overt behavior was observed.

Kilham (1973) has described the close relationship between agonistic and courtship behavior in the Red-breasted Nuthatch, concluding that a short reproductive season in which to initiate and finalize nesting activities may dictate that a "wandering species" like the Red-breast may "have to operate at a high emotional level" that is best achieved "by mixing courtship and agonistic behavior." Why such agonistic behavior should surface so late in the nesting cycle is uncertain, however, Kilham (1973) cautions that "the rapid changes from courtship to agonistic behavior...can be confusing to the observer" and, with that caveat in mind, I confess confusion. However, as the nestlings were seen to fledge that morning, it may be that the male was of the mind to entice the youngsters from the nest cavity and to that end, tried to dissuade the female from feeding.

It was in fact the male who, resting upon a branch directly in front of the nest cavity, called so loudly that he greatly excited one nestling so that it was seen to rock back and forth upon the nest rim before fledging at 7:10. The second nestling filled the vacant entrance and repeated its siblings' motions, as both the male and female now joined in the chorus and urged this nestling to fledge at 7:11. It may be assumed that these two charges were left in the care of the male, as the female made two more trips to the nest cavity at 7:19 and 7:31. However, on one excursion she was seen to leave the site with food still in her bill. Perhaps it was a strong attachment to the nest-site rather than to any young that were still in the nest that drove her to the cavity.

Allowing for as many as 21 days of nest-life and 12 days for incubation (Tyler 1948), counting back from June 15 gives May 26 as the approximate hatch-date and May 14 as the estimated start of incubation. Bittner (1965) gives June 9 as the probable date that eggs hatched at the nest he had under observation at Rocky River MP. While I made no further attempts to trace the activities of the nuthatch family unit beyond the date of fledging, repeated trips to the nest-site would most likely have met with their company.

In 1994, on seven dates from June 26-August 10, I had the extreme good fortune to follow the travels of recently fledged Red-breasteds and the adults in attendance. In an earlier article (Kotesovec 1994) I failed to give a count of their exact number, nor commented on little more than their sociability. My unpublished notes refer to a pair of adults each with a fledgling in its care. On three instances, an adult was seen to repulse the unwanted advances of a petitioning fledgling not in its keep. As my



notes do not indicate the sex of either adult, it may be that the aggression of the adult bird was not directed at its own offspring. Although all four birds foraged in close proximity, they may not have belonged to the same family unit.

### **Nest Sanitation and Nest Maintenance**

Over the term of the 8.5 hr. study period during 1996, a total of 17 fecal sacs were seen disposed of, and 69 trips were made to the nesting-tree in which pine pitch was applied. As stated earlier, the continued reappportioning of pine pitch seemed to completely demand the attention of both adults following the 20th hour. From 20:02-20:57 on June 10, the adults carried pitch to the nesting tree 37 times, while on June 14, from 20:38-20:57, 23 globules of pitch were affixed. The female applied 21 and 19 beakfuls of pitch respectively, and the male 16 and four beakfuls. The male consistently plastered generous amounts of pitch along the rim of the nest cavity, while the female was more wide-reaching with her portions, repeatedly spreading pitch some 10 inches below the nest hole, and on four occasions, sweeping pitch several feet beyond the cavity; even dabbing resin to the sides of the tree. Four times she applied pitch to the tiny branch she used to dive into the hole.

While the pitch-plastering of the nest entrance may discourage predation or the trespass of mammalian nest hole competitors (Rand 1972; Kilham 1972) the resin may also be disadvantageous, in that the pitch can soil the nuthatches' feathers. Indeed, there is a record of a female nuthatch that became fatally entrapped by the pitch that she had spread (Kilham 1972). Interestingly-- as if to avert a similar catastrophe-- no significant accumulation of pitch had been smeared at the spot where the male commonly perched upon the nest rim.

### **Concluding Remarks**

In addition to the two pairs of Red-breasted Nuthatches described above, nuthatches were located at three other sites at Hinckley MP, raising the potential number of summering, if not breeding, pairs to five. At the time of this writing, the winter of 1996-97 had produced few scattered reports of wintering Red-breasted. In the absence of a full-scale invasion, the status of breeding Red-breasted Nuthatches at Hinckley in 1997 is conjectural. Winter lingers and spring beckons; it is difficult not to grow impatient. Still, good things come on the wings of spring-- all in God's own good time.

### **Acknowledgments**

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Yellow-billed Cuckoo. S. Bass Is. (Ottawa Co.), May 20, 1996  
Photo by Stan Wulkowicz.

## Spring 1996 Overview by Robert Harlan

It seems that every year we reinvent spring migration. How often have you heard a fellow birder (or maybe yourself) say "I don't ever remember it this slow" or perhaps "This is incredible- this has got to be the best migration in years". Actually, on any given spring day, you can be assured that somewhere in Ohio, both statements will be made. This is because migration, as well as our memories, are fickle things.

Many of our contributors (myself included) commented that the Spring of 1996 was outstanding, in fact, one of the best in years. When had we experienced a migration as impressive? As it turns out, in 1995! You may want to read the Spring 1995 Overview in The Ohio Cardinal 18(3):87. The first two paragraphs could quite easily be reused for this season, especially the following sentence: "Anyone fortunate enough to be at the Magee Marsh Bird Trail on May 10 can attest that this day was truly outstanding, although perhaps falling just short of legendary status." I happened to be present at Magee that day, but not May 10, 1996, when birding was apparently just as impressive. Let the reports in "The Grapevine" section also speak for the season-- a great one at that.

Many outstanding rarities were discovered this spring. These would include a male Cinnamon Teal at Spring Valley WA 4/26; a stunning King Eider at Headlands Beach SP 3/4-5; a Purple Gallinule at Spring Valley 4/20-5/7; a Kirtland's Warbler at Oak Openings MP 5/10; and a Spotted Towhee at Springville Marsh SNP 5/4-12. Several popular holdovers from the winter season, including the Paulding Co. Gyrfalcon, the Nathan Hale Pk. Varied Thrush, and the Henry Co. Harris's Sparrow, all remained into the spring season. In addition, several more interesting birds have yet to clear the Ohio Bird Records Committee. We'll just have to wait.

"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 sometimes abbreviated by using their first four letters-- "Nobl" representing Noble Co., for example. Other place name abbreviations found in this issue are: BWA (Big Island Wildlife Area, Marion Co.); BuCr (Buck Creek State Park, encompassing C.J. Brown Reservoir, Clark Co.); CVNRA (Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area, Cuyahoga/Summit Cos.); DGG (Donald Gray Gardens, Cuyahoga Co.); Eastlake (Eastlake Power Plant, Lake Co.); FRes (Findlay Reservoirs, Hancock Co.); GiPo (Gilmore Ponds MP, Butler Co.); GLC (Green Lawn Cemetery, Franklin Co.); GLD (Greenlawn Dam & vicinity, Franklin Co.); HBSP (Headlands Beach SP, Lake Co.); KPWA (Killdeer Plains WA, Wyandot Co.); LaDue (LaDue Res., Geauga Co.); Lksh (Lakeshore MP, Lake Co.); LPWA (Little Portage WA, Ottawa Co.); Magee (Magee Marsh WA, Ottawa/Lucas Cos.); MBSP (Maumee Bay SP, Lucas Co.); MCMWA (Mallard Club Marsh WA, Lucas Co.); Medusa (Medusa Marsh, Erie Co.); Metzger WA (Metzger Marsh WA, Lucas Co.); MWW (Miami-Whitewater Wetlands, Hamilton Co.); OkOp (Oak Openings MP, Lucas Co.); ONWRC (Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge Count, Ottawa/Lucas Cos., as compiled by Ed Pierce); PCWA (Pickerel Creek WA, Sandusky Co.); SBI (South Bass Island, Ottawa Co.); Springville (Springville Marsh State Nature Preserve, Seneca Co.); SVWA (Spring Valley WA, Greene/Warren Cos.); & WRes (Wellington Res., Lorain Co.).

### Loons through Herons

Red-throated Loon-- 2 birds were seen in early April: 1 at E. Fork Lk. (Cler) 4/2-6 (H. Armstrong, DBr, m. obs.); the other, at Newtown Gravel Pits (Hami) 4/6-7 (J. Decker, NKe).

Common Loon-- High counts include approx. 100 birds at LaDue Res. [hereafter LaDue] (Geau) 4/9 (JO); 57 birds at Ferguson and Metzger Reservoirs (Alle) 4/13 (DD); and 56 birds at Seneca Lk. (Guer/Nobl) 4/23 (SLH). 43 migrants passed over the Holm/Tusc Co. line area 4/8-20, including 23 on 4/10 (ESc). 11 laggards were found at 5 sites 5/27-31, with the latest bird remaining at Burr Oak SP (Morg/Athe) through 6/21 (LB).

Pied-billed Grebe-- The highs for the period were 44 birds at Magee Marsh WA [hereafter Magee] (Otta/Luca) 4/16 (HSH) & 25 at Wellington Res. [hereafter WRes] (Lora) 4/14 (FMG).

Horned Grebe--Peak counts occurred during the 3/23-31 period, including: 40 at the Akron lakes (Summ) 3/31 (CH); 38 at Buck Creek SP [including C.J. Brown Res., hereafter BuCr] (Clar) 3/23 (DO); & 33 at WRes 4/2 (VF). A late bird was at Metzger Res. 5/18 (DD).

Red-necked Grebe-- This was a good spring for Red-necked Grebes, with reports from 7 counties. 2 birds each were at Lakeshore MP [hereafter Lksh] (Lake) 4/4 (JP) & Headlands Beach SP [hereafter HBSP] (Lake) 4/5 (KM). 1-2 birds spent 3/16-4/6 at WRes (TLP, m. obs.) and at Eastlake Power Plant [hereafter Eastlake] (Lake) 3/10-13 (DJH, RRI, BF, EP, m. obs.). Singles were seen at BuCr (a breeding-plumaged bird) 3/20-24 (DO, JD); Springfield Lk. (Summ) 3/31 (CH); W. Branch SP (Port) 4/8 (LR); Griggs Res. (Fran) 4/16 (KA); & a breeding-plumaged bird at Paulding Res. (Paul) 5/8 (DMD).

Eared Grebe-- Single birds were reported from the Findlay Reservoirs [hereafter FRes] (Hanc) 3/28 (VF); Lksh 4/4 (JP); & L. Medina (Medi) 4/7-14 (RHr, SWa, m. obs.).

Am. White Pelican-- On 3/7, a bird with frozen feet was rescued by the Coast Guard at Lorain (Lora). It was still in rehab as of 3/27 (NKr). 1 was at Pickerington Ponds MP (Fran) 4/13 (KA). 2 were at BuCr 5/10 (B. Arnold, fide DO).

Double-crested Cormorant-- Maxima reported this spring were 1000+ at Cleveland (Cuya) 4/15 (PL); 700 in passage past Lake Point Pk. (Otta) in 2.5 hours on 4/20 (VF); and, inland, 350 at L. Rockwell (Port) 4/17 (LR).

Am. Bittern-- At least 25 birds were reported from across the state, only 6 of which were found along L. Erie. An impressive 6 were found at Miami-Whitewater Wetlands [hereafter MWW] (Hami) 5/5 (PW). Very unusual was a Holmes Co. flyby on 5/31, some 10 miles from the nearest marsh (LEY).

Least Bittern-- All reports: 2 Big Island WA [hereafter BIWA] (Mari) 5/16 (JH); 2 Spring Valley WA [hereafter SVWA] (Gree/Warr) 5/25 (JD, ST); and singles at MWW 4/28-5/26 (N. Cade, m. obs.); Gilmore Ponds [hereafter GiPo] (Butl) 5/5 (TE); Toussaint WA (Otta) 5/8-15 (RHr, m. obs.); HBSP 5/12 & 18 (RHn, KM, RRI); & Delaware WA (Dela) 5/24 (WS).

Great Blue Heron-- 400 nest structures were counted at Little Portage WA [hereafter LPWA] (Otta) 4/11, with 340 birds in attendance (VF). About 142 nests were at a new colony in Kent (Port) (B. Bolton). The Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area [hereafter CVNRA] (Cuya/Summ) census on 5/11 counted 79 birds (DAC et al.).

Great Egret-- The earliest bird reported was at Magee 3/25 (VF). The highest total was 68 birds at Magee 5/19 (HSH).

Snowy Egret-- 4 were reported at BuCr 4/12 (RSC, fide DO). All other reports were from along L. Erie, including: 18 on the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge Count [hereafter ONWRC] (Otta/Luca) of 5/5; 2 at Medusa Marsh [hereafter Medusa] (Erie) 5/12 (JP); 1 at Pickering Creek WA [hereafter PCWA] (Sand) 5/15 (VF); & 1 at Metzger Marsh WA

[hereafter Metzger WA] (Luca) 5/16 (ESC).

Little Blue Heron-- 3 were found on the ONWRC of 5/5. 2 were located at GiPo 5/13 (M. Busar). Singles were at Newtown 4/20 (K. Vonderheide); a mottled imm. at New Carlisle (Mont) 4/26 (J. Ritzenthaler, JD); SVWA 4/28-5/4 (LG, NW, BS, m. obs.); Medusa 5/12 (JP); & over Magee, heading towards W. Sister Is. with a Snowy Egret 5/21 (JD).

Tricolored Heron-- One fly by the Magee hawk tower 5/1 (VF\*).

Cattle Egret-- Relatively widespread throughout the state this spring. Max. was 29 birds at GiPo 5/13 (TE et al.). 3 were unusual in northwest Warren Co. 5/4 (MR). Reports from 1 to 13 birds were received from 9 other counties.

Green Heron-- The CVNRA census turned up 8 birds 5/11 (DAC et al.). The earliest report was of a bird at Holden Arboretum (Lake/Geau) 4/14 (CK).

Black-crowned Night-Heron-- The Merwin St. bend on the Cuyahoga River in Cleveland built up to 76 birds on 4/17 (PL). NKe reported nesting along Mill Creek near its junction with the Ohio River (Ham).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron-- An amazing 7 birds were reported from SVWA 5/5 (D. Graham). The traditional spot below the Greenlawn Avenue Dam [including the Lower Scioto River bike trail, hereafter GLD] (Fran) had its first returnee 3/31, with up to 5 there 5/6. Nesting failed, probably due to high water (AG). Additional reports of 1-2 birds were received from 5 other counties, including 2 at Streetsboro Bog (Port) 4/28-5/4 (CH, LR ph.) and 1 at Magee 5/18-19 (TLP, m. obs.).

## Waterfowl

Tundra Swan-- The majority passed through from 3/10-17. The largest number seen was 285 at HBSP 3/17 (LR et al.). The most seen inland was 80 at Nimisila Res. (Summ) 3/17 (CH). 2 late birds were at S. Bass Is. [hereafter SBI] (Otta) 5/17 (SWu).

Greater White-fronted Goose-- 5 were discovered at Killdeer Plains WA [hereafter KPWA] (Wyan) 3/11 (BAT, JH); another 5 were seen in Perry Twp. (Lake) 3/13 (JP); a single was photographed at Cowan Lk. (Clin) 3/10-15 (LG ph., FR, JD, ST).

Snow Goose-- The 3/3 ONWRC turned up a total of 21; the inland high was 11 birds at KPWA 3/1-2 (JH). A bird with an injured leg lingered at the Ira Rd. (Summ) portion of the CVNRA 5/23 (DAC).

Ross's Goose-- An adult was a good find at BuCr 3/16 (DO\*, CBU\*, RSC\*, ST\*). Another was at a Millersburg farm pond 3/27-28 (BM\*).

Brant-- 2 were very unusual on the Blanchard River north of Mt. Blanchard (Hanc) 3/16 (W. & J. McClanahan, fide BHa).

Canada Goose-- Max. 8600 on the ONWRC of 3/3.

Wood Duck-- Highs include 88 on the 4/7 ONWRC; and 50 each at Hueston Woods SP (Butl/Preb) 3/10 (NKe, K. McDonald) and at GiPo 4/14 (JS).

Green-winged Teal-- Maxima were 215 at PCWA 4/8 (VF); 164 Magee 4/16 (HSH); 155 KPWA 4/5 (VF); & 150 at MWW 4/15 (PW). 2 males remained at KPWA 5/31 (JH).

Am. Black Duck-- 400 were at PCWA 4/11 (VF). 200 were inland at BIWA 3/14 (KA).

Mallard-- 6500 were seen moving ahead of a storm front in 30 minutes at PCWA 4/11 (VF). The inland high was 1000 at BuCr 3/10 (DO).

N. Pintail-- The high count was 600 birds at PCWA 4/11 (VF); the inland high was 174 at KPWA 4/14 (JH). 31 at WRes 3/23 was unusual for that site (PL, BF, TLP).

Blue-winged Teal-- 300 were at GiPo 4/28 (TE); 200 were found on the 4/7 ONWRC.

Cinnamon Teal-- A beautiful male consorted with several Blue-winged Teal at SVWA 4/26. It was even seen to display to a female Blue-winged (J. Whitaker, ST\*, JD, CM).

N. Shoveler-- Max. 304 Magee 4/16 (HSH). Inland high was 20 birds each at KPWA 4/2 (RRO) and Mosquito Lk. (Trum) 4/9 (DJH).

Gadwall-- Max. 284 Magee 4/16 (HSH). Inland, 90 were at KPWA 4/25 (JH).

Am. Wigeon-- The high counts were 400 at PCWA 4/11 (VF) & 332 at Magee 4/16 (HSH). Inland, there were 165 birds at Delaware WA 3/18 (KA) and 125 at Pine Lk. (Maho) 3/17 (DJH).

Canvasback-- 3600 was an impressive number on Sandusky Bay (Otta/Erie) 3/25 (VF). The inland highs were 120 at Delaware WA 3/14 (KA) and 75 at BuCr 3/2 (DO).

Redhead-- 1800 were tallied in Lucas Co. 3/25 (VF). Inland, Hoover Res. (Dela/Fran) held 250 birds 3/10, and Delaware Res. (Dela) attracted 240 birds 3/14 (both KA). A late female was at LPWA 5/19 (RHR, SWa).

Ring-necked Duck-- Max. 3842 Magee 4/16 (HSH). 1000 were at Mogadore Res. (Port) 3/17 (CH) and 700 were at Delaware Res. 3/14 (KA).

Greater Scaup-- Inland birds were reported from 10 sites, topped by 10 in Paulding Co. 4/5 (DMD) and 6 at E. Branch Res. (Geau) 4/8 (DFe). A late adult male was observed at Metzger WA 5/11-23 (VF, JD, m. obs.).

Lesser Scaup-- A whopping 40,000 were estimated on Maumee Bay from Mallard Club Marsh WA [hereafter MCMWA] (Luca) 3/25 (RHR). Inland, 1200 scaup (presumably mostly this species) were noted at KPWA 3/24 (VF).

King Eider-- A stunning adult male graced HBSP 3/4-5 (KM\*, m. obs.). It reappeared at Eastlake 3/10 (CH\*, m. obs.).

Oldsquaw-- Of 16 inland birds at 4 sites, the max. was 12 at LaDue 3/28 (CH). 3 lakefront birds were at HBSP 4/27 (EB, RHN).

Black Scoter-- 2 males Ferguson Res. 4/6 (DD); 2 on Maumee Bay (Luca) 4/13 (EP); 4 HBSP 4/21 (EB, A. Missig); & 6 Seneca Lk. 4/24 (SLH).

Surf Scoter-- Inland, an incredible 23 birds, including adult males and females, and immatures, were at Eastwood Lk. (Mont) 4/25. 3 more were there 5/8 (both JD). 19 additional inland birds were at 5 sites 3/30-5/7, topped by 7 at Paulding Res. 5/7 (DMD). 6 flew by PCWA 4/11 (VF).

White-winged Scoter-- 6 birds were spotted at 5 locations along L. Erie 3/3-5/1. Inland, 2 were at Paulding Res. 4/6 (DMD) and 5 were at Sippo Lk. (Star) 4/29 (JES).

Common Goldeneye-- 766 were counted at Magee 3/21 (HSH). 50 were inland at Hoover Res. 3/12 (KA).

Bufflehead-- 102 were at Magee 4/16 (HSH). Inland highs were 52 at Hoover Res. 3/10 (KA) & 44 at Beaver Creek Res. (Sene) 4/14 (VF). A late bird was at Conneaut (Asht) 5/25 (JP).

Hooded Merganser-- The most seen was 100 on Hoover Res. 3/10 (KA).

Common Merganser-- "Hundreds" were off SBI 3/16 (SWu), and 250 were at Eastlake 3/10 (CH). Large inland concentrations include 75 at Hoover Res. 3/10 (KA) & 55 at FRes and environs 3/5 (m. obs., fide BHA).

Red-breasted Merganser-- 3000 were at Lorain 3/23 (EP). Largest inland totals were 335 at Mosquito Lk. 3/28 (DJH) & 300 each at LaDue 3/28-31 (AF) and Ferguson Res. 3/30 (DD). 270 lingered off Lksh 5/19 (JP).

Ruddy Duck-- 5000 on Maumee Bay 4/21 (RHR) was outstanding. The inland high of 500+ on Chippewa Lk. (Medi) 4/14 was also impressive (FMG). 6 late birds were at 3 sites 5/27-28.

## Vultures through Cranes

Black Vulture-- 1 flew over Marblehead (Otta) 5/19 (SWa, RHR). 2 were reported on unspecified dates in the w. L. Erie marsh region this season by the Black Swamp Bird Observatory ["Dendroica" 4:1(7)]. Near the edge of their expected range, 2 were seen at Mohican SF (Ash) 3/2 and at Millwood (Knox) 4/6 (both R. Troutman, fide JH). 2 more

flew over Esc's Holmes Co. place 4/20. 40 were more typical at Paint Creek Lk. (High/Ross) 3/31 (LG).

Turkey Vulture-- Reported high was 311 in Ottawa Co. 4/12 (VF). A white bird with 1 black secondary in its right wing stood out at Burr Oak SP 4/13 (LB).

Osprey-- A new nesting was observed at Berlin Res. (Port) (ODOW). Migrants were widely observed, including 155 reported from the L. Erie marsh region by the Black Swamp Bird Observatory this season ["Dendroica" 4:1(7)]. VF alone counted 25 passing Magee 4/24. Away from this area, at least 42 other birds were found in at least 16 counties through 5/31.

Bald Eagle-- 7 birds deemed to be in passage were counted at Magee 4/18 (VF). The ODOW reported "38 Bald Eagle chicks being raised in 22 nests across the state."

N. Harrier-- 19 migrants passed the Magee tower 4/18 (VF). A pair remained in the Jefferson Co. Rd. 45 area 5/25-29 (MAr). A female performed a courtship display over Delaware WA for about 2 minutes on 5/7 (WS).

Sharp-shinned Hawk-- 201 birds were counted from the Magee tower 4/18 (VF). The same observer tallied a total of 650 birds in 4 days from the tower on 4/12, 4/18, 4/24, and 5/1, with mostly males seen the first two dates, about half males and half females on 4/24, and mostly females on 5/1.

Cooper's Hawk-- 8 migrated over the Magee tower 4/12 (VF). A hawk watch at Maumee Bay State Park [hereafter MBSP] (Luca) on 3/14 accounted for 5 migrants (Esc).

N. Goshawk-- The wintering imm. was still present at MBSP 3/3 (RHr, EP) and 3/14 (Esc). Other singles were reported at Miami-Whitewater Forest (Hami) 3/3 (JS); HBSP 3/31 (LR); & an adult near Perry (Lake) 4/3 (JP).

Red-shouldered Hawk-- The only large movement reported was of 65 birds at MBSP 3/14 (Esc, LEY).

Broad-winged Hawk-- Poorly reported, with a peak of 78 at Perkins Beach (Cuya) 4/19 (RHr, SWa).

Red-tailed Hawk-- A hawk-watch at MBSP produced 84 birds 3/14 (Esc, LEY). 134 were tallied a month later at the Magee tower 4/18 (VF).

Rough-legged Hawk-- The high count was 9 from the Magee tower 4/18 (VF). Several very late birds were found: 1 at Fremont (Sand) 5/15 (VF) and 2 along Jefferson Co. Rd. 45 5/18 (MAr).

Golden Eagle-- A "subadult" was described from HBSP 4/12 (KM, EST).

Am. Kestrel-- A mediocre flight for this species, with 8 at the Magee tower 4/18 (VF) being the largest movement reported.

Merlin-- The Black Swamp Bird Observatory reported 19 birds for the season ["Dendroica" 4(1):7]. Away from the L. Erie marshes, about 21 other birds were seen in 9 counties through 5/27.

Peregrine Falcon-- The ODOW reports 7 nests fledging 18 young. 19 were reported by the Black Swamp Bird Observatory in the western L. Erie marshes this season ["Dendroica" 4(1):7]. 6 other migrants were found elsewhere through 5/29.

Gyrfalcon-- The Paulding Co. "Gyr" was last observed 3/16 (DMD).

Wild Turkey-- A state record harvest was taken this spring, including 617 in Jackson Co., 551 in Gallia Co., and 529 in Vinton Co. (ODOW).

King Rail-- 3 birds were found at MCMWA and the adjacent Cedar Point NWR (Luca) 5/15 (KA). 1-2 were a popular attraction at MBSP through at least 5/19 (m. obs.). Singles were at Magee 5/11 (ST, CM) and BIWA 5/25-30 (JH).

Virginia Rail-- Maxima were 10 at BIWA 5/8 (JH) and 6 at MWW 4/28-30 (N. Cade, PW).

Sora-- There was an explosion of Soras, with highs of 96 at MWW 5/5 (PW); 65 at MCMWA and Magee 5/15

(KA); & 40 at BIWA 5/8 (JH).

**Purple Gallinule**-- An adult was discovered at SVWA 4/20 (CM\*, ST\* et al.). It lingered at least until 5/7, providing a "state bird" for many observers. A dead bird was found along a Fulton Co. driveway just north of Swanton on 4/23 by UPS driver Jim Phillips. The specimen was then preserved (ET\*, ph.).

**Common Moorhen**-- High count was 13 birds at Killbuck WA (Holm/Wayn) 5/4 (LEY).

**Am. Coot**-- Maxima included 4885 at Magee 4/21 (HSH); 2000 at E. Fork Lk. 4/2 (H. Armstrong); and 1000+ at Bresler Res. (Alle) 4/13 (DD). 3 late birds at The Wilds (Musk) 5/26 were of note (SLH).

**Sandhill Crane**-- At least 70 birds were found, including 45 in the northwest, 8 in the northeast, and 17 in the southwest. A late flock of 10 was seen at Sheldon Marsh SNP (Erie) in mid-May (GM). Nesting was again likely in the Funk Bottoms WA (Wayn) and Killbuck WA vicinity (MJK, RHe, m. obs.).

### Shorebirds

**Black-bellied Plover**-- The high was 30 reported in Lucas Co. both 5/12 (JD, ST) and 5/18 (VF).

**Am. Golden-Plover**-- Largest numbers were 90-100 in Lucas & Ottawa Cos. 5/12 (JD, DO), and 80 at KPWA 5/8 (JH).

**Semipalmated Plover**-- Maxima were 35 at ONWR 5/19 (CH) and 20 at Lorain 5/21 (TLP).

**Piping Plover**-- An unbanded bird was at Metzger WA 5/4-5 (TMR, CH\*, CW\*, J. Holzworth, BF). [A banded bird was there 4/21, but this individual was not documented (fide RHr)].

**Killdeer**-- The highest number reported was 144 at KPWA 3/25 (VF).

**Greater Yellowlegs**-- 129 were counted along the Ottawa Co. lakefront 4/18 (VF). MWW hosted 80 on 5/6 (FR).

**Lesser Yellowlegs**-- One reached BIWA by 3/14 (KA). Highs include 155 at PCWA 4/27 (VF), and 150 at MWW 4/30 (PW).

**Solitary Sandpiper**-- An early returnee was in Paulding Co. 3/30 (DMD), while a laggard was at Barnesville Pk. (Belm) 5/26 (SLH). The maximum was 20 birds at MWW 4/30 (PW).

**Willet**-- The high number was 7 at Pleasant Hill Res. (Rich) 5/4 (LEY, JH). 2 each were at Lorain 5/3 (TLP) and along Stange Rd. next to ONWR 5/12 (RHr et al.). Singles were at HBSP 5/11 (RHn, EB); at Caesar Creek Lk. (Warr) 5/18 (J. Decker); at Conneaut 5/25 (JP); & at Metzger WA 5/27 (ET).

**Spotted Sandpiper**-- The high count was 29 birds across Hancock Co. 5/11 (BHa et al.).

**Upland Sandpiper**-- The traditional location at Bolton Field Airport (Fran) held 4 birds 4/25 (KA). 6 additional birds were reported from 5 other spots.

**Whimbrel**-- 14 flew past HBSP 5/27 (EB, A. Missig).

**Marbled Godwit**-- 2 were seen at L. Rockwell 4/21 (V. Weingart), and another 2 were at Conneaut 5/8 (R. & S. Garrish).

**Ruddy Turnstone**-- 46 were on the beach at Magee 5/18 (VF). Metzger WA held 40 birds on both 5/19 (CH) and 5/27 (ET). 12 were inland at KPWA 5/19 (DD).

**Sanderling**-- 8 were on the Crane Creek SP beach (Luca) 5/11 (CD). Singles were also found in Asht, Hami, Lake, Lora & Wyan 4/27-5/27.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper**-- Did these birds go elsewhere this spring? Were they overlooked by all observers? The highest total submitted was of 4 birds in Ottawa Co. 5/10 (KA).

**Least Sandpiper**-- The highest number (55) were reported from PCWA 5/15 (VF).

**White-rumped Sandpiper**-- 4 PCWA 5/15 (VF); 6 KPWA 5/25 (JH); 1 Metzger WA 5/26 (RHr, SWa); 1



Arcola Creek (Lake/Asht) 5/29 (JP); & 3 at Four Seasons Marina (Hami) 5/30 (H. Armstrong).

Pectoral Sandpiper-- Maxima were 770 at KPWA 4/10 and 425 at Magee 4/12 (both VF). 1 reached Paulding Co. by 3/15 (DMD).

Dunlin-- An early bird was found at Metzger WA 3/31 (TK). Highest reports were 800 on Stange Rd. (Luca) 5/12 and 765 at Metzger WA 5/9 (both VF). 100 remained at the latter site 5/26 (RHR, SWa). 64 at KPWA on 5/14 was the inland maximum (JH).

Stilt Sandpiper-- A rare spring report was provided by a bird at MWW 5/5 (PW).

Short-billed Dowitcher-- The high number reported was 34 birds at Metzger WA & ONWR 5/10 (KA). Inland, 12 were at MWW 4/30 (PW).

Common Snipe-- 75 were at MWW 4/15 (PW). Other high counts were 50 at GiPo 4/14 (JS); 39 fly-bys at Magee 4/12 (VF); & 33 in Ashtabula Co. 4/21 (CH).

Am. Woodcock-- The high reported was 7 near L. Isaac (Cuya) 5/17 (RHR).

Wilson's Phalarope-- Single birds were at MWW 4/25-27 (PW, T. Uhlman) & KPWA 5/13 (LEY).

Red-necked Phalarope-- The highest count was of 3 birds at KPWA 5/30 (JH). 2 were at Metzger WA 5/17 (DJH).

### **Gulls through Terns**

Jaeger species-- An unidentified jaeger chased a Ring-billed Gull at Metzger WA on the very unusual date of 3/3 (TB).

Laughing Gull-- Singles were noted at Hueston Woods SP (Preb) 4/15-16 (DR, JWH); GLD 4/19 (AG); Cowan Lk. 5/5 (LG); Lorain 5/21 (TLP); & Conneaut 5/25 (JP).

Franklin's Gull-- 6 birds were sighted at Magee 5/19 (HSH). 2 were at Four Seasons Marina 5/28, with 1 remaining 5/30 (K. Maslowski, G.

Laycock). 1 was at Metzger WA 5/6 (BAT).

Little Gull-- An adult was at Conneaut 5/10 (JP).

Bonaparte's Gull-- The maximum numbers reported were 550 in Ottawa Co. fields 4/19 (VF) & 500 at HBSP in mid-April (LR). 82 birds at FRes 4/17 was the inland high (VF).

Ring-billed Gull-- On 5/20, the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture counted 6674 nesting pairs on Dock 20 at the Port of Cleveland (fide PL). 2500 were seen at Lorain 3/23 (EP).

Herring Gull-- 1000 birds were estimated at Lorain 3/23 (EP). The inland maximum was 150 at L. Rockwell 3/16 (CH).

Thayer's Gull-- Singles were seen at HBSP 3/3-10 (CH, LR); at Lorain 3/10 (JD, ST); & at Avon Lake 3/13 (BC et al.).

Iceland Gull-- Found at 4 lakefront sites through 4/3.

Lesser Black-backed Gull-- Reports of individual birds at 7 locations; amazingly, 2 adults were found inland: at L. Rockwell 3/16 (LR, CH), and at LaDue 3/28 (CH).

Glaucous Gull-- 4 birds each were noted at Lorain (TLP) and Avon Lake (BF, TLP, PL) on 3/9. Singles were at 7 locations along L. Erie through 5/3.

Great Black-backed Gull-- Max. 125 birds each at Eastlake 3/10 (CH) & Cleveland Harbor 3/13 (PL). 4 inland birds were of interest: Buckeye Lk. (Lick) 3/16 (GB, CD); L. Rockwell (a 2nd-winter bird) 3/16 (CH); Chippewa Lk. 3/28 (FMG); & L. Rockwell again (a 1st-summer bird) 5/27-28 (LR).

Caspian Tern-- Lorain held a whopping 586 birds 4/24 (TLP). Cleveland attracted a peak of 88 birds on 4/19 (PL). The inland high was 12 birds at L. Rockwell 4/19 (LR).

Common Tern-- TLP encountered a mixed flock of 726 Common and Forster's Terns at Lorain 5/15; he estimated 80% of them to be Common (about 580 birds).

Forster's Tern-- About 145 birds were at Lorain 5/15 (TLP, see above).

Black Tern-- At least 32 were sighted at 13 inland locations 5/4-29, with 8 being the most seen, at both Alum Creek SP (Dela) 5/13 (WS) and FRes 5/11 (BHa). 9 lakefront birds were reported, topped by 5 at ONWR 5/14 (BS).

### Cuckoos through Swallows

Cuckoos-- Both species appeared to be in expected numbers.

Barn Owl-- LEY unexpectedly flushed a bird from a Holmes Co. pine stand 5/11.

Long-eared Owl-- 4 birds remained from the winter at a roost in Holmes Co. 3/4 (Esc). At KPWA, up to 3 were present through at least 4/5 (m. obs.). 2 were at Alum Creek SP 3/11 (WS). Singles were at the recently bulldozed Donald Gray Gardens [hereafter DGG] (Cuya) 3/25 (FMG) and 4/19 (PL et al.) & at HBSP 4/20 (KM, LR et al.).

Short-eared Owl-- The largest number discovered at a single location was 7 near Beaver Creek Res. (Sene) 3/23 (VF). 6 were noted at both MBSP 3/23 (ET, MAn) and in Jefferson Co. 4/7 (MAr). Lesser numbers were seen in at least 6 other counties.

N. Saw-whet Owl-- 2 were discovered at DGG 4/22-24 (TLP et al.). Reported at Magee 3/30-4/21 (m. obs.). Other singles (at least 8 birds) were found in Cler, Fran, Geau, Hami, Lake, Lora, & Wyan Cos.

Common Nighthawk-- 22 were counted at Magee 5/19 (HSH).

Chuck-will's-widow-- A single bird returned to the same northeastern Ohio location where 2 birds appeared last year near the Holm/Tusc Co. line 5/3, remaining at least until 5/10 (Levi Miller, Esc).

Whip-poor-will-- 1-2 were reported at Magee on many dates between 4/21-5/18 (m. obs.); it is difficult to know just how many individuals were actually present. However, on 5/10, JD counted 5 birds (all females) at this site. Other northerly singles were

found in Cuya, Lake, Paul, & Summ Cos. (encompassing about 8 birds) 5/3-20.

Chimney Swift-- The first arrival was at the Findlay Clay Pits (Hanc) 4/15 (BHa). 300 were at MCMWA 5/15 (KA).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird-- First reported 4/25.

Belted Kingfisher-- 10 were counted at Magee 4/21 (HSH).

Red-headed Woodpecker-- Some migrational counts include 21 at Magee 5/10 (VF) & 15 at HBSP 5/10 (KM).

Red-bellied Woodpecker-- 1 at the Magee bird trail 5/9-12 (VF, RHR) was unusual for the site.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker-- Highest totals were 28 at Green Lawn Cemetery [hereafter GLC] (Fran) 4/13 (KA) and 26 at HBSP the same day (LR). Late migrants were at Magee 5/16 (MJK, MAn) and at GLD 5/17 (RRo). 2 were on territory along Cascade Rd. in Concord Twp. (Lake) 5/28 (JP).

N. Flicker-- Single site max. was 60 at HBSP 4/20 (LR).

Olive-sided Flycatcher-- About 17 birds were found 5/10-30, being noted in the following counties: Ashl, Cler, Cuya, Fran, Luca, Maho, Medi, Otta, & Summ.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher-- A maximum of 9 birds appeared at Magee 5/19 (HSH).

Acadian Flycatcher-- 2 reached GLD by 5/4 (RRo). A lakefront migrant was at Magee 5/23 (JD).

Alder Flycatcher-- 10 singing birds were at Magee 5/22 (VF, JD). At least 13 other birds were identified 5/7-27.

Willow Flycatcher-- 10 each were at Silver Creek MP (Medi/Summ) 5/22 (RHR, SWa) & at BuCr 5/25 (DO).

Least Flycatcher-- Nathan Hale Pk. (Cuya) seems peculiarly attractive to this species, producing the max. of 20

birds 5/14 (RHr). 20 were also at Magee 5/10 (JD et al.). 16 were at HBSP 5/18 (EB, RHn). An early arrival was spotted at GLC 4/20 (RRo).

E. Phoebe-- The earliest reported arrival was of a bird in Amherst Twp. (Lora) 3/13 (J. Blaser).

Great Crested Flycatcher-- 3 were at Magee by 4/24 (VF).

E. Kingbird-- A very early bird was at Turtle Creek Marsh (Otta) 4/12 (VF). 42 were at Magee 5/19 (HSH).

Purple Martin-- The earliest report was of a bird in Hancock Co. 4/3 (G. Heitt, fide BHa).

Tree Swallow-- A trail blazer foraged over a hole in the ice on the ONWRC of 3/3. 1760 were estimated at Magee 4/12 (VF).

N. Rough-winged Swallow-- An early returnee was at Cincinnati's Four Seasons Marina 3/31 (FR). 100 were at BuCr 4/27 (DO).

Bank Swallow-- The first migrant (a very early one) was seen at Ira Rd. in the s. CVNRA 4/8 (MZ). 900 birds were at Medusa 5/15 (VF).

Cliff Swallow-- 10 birds were at 17 nests at Meldahl Dam (Cler) 4/17 (FR). 8 were at Magee 5/19 (HSH).

Barn Swallow-- A bird in Montrose (Summ) 3/27 provided another early swallow record (RHr, SWa). Maxima include 450 at MCMWA 5/15 (KA) & 400 on the same date at Medusa (VF).

### Jays through Shrikes

Blue Jay-- A large movement pushed through Ottawa & Lucas Cos. 5/10 (m. obs.).

Am. Crow-- 700 lakefront migrants passed HBSP 3/3 (LR).

Tufted Titmouse-- A bird at SBI 5/12 was SWu's first record there.

Red-breasted Nuthatch-- Largest report was of 12 birds (6 banded) at Lksh 5/16 (JP). 8 were at Magee 5/10 (JD et al.).

Brown Creeper-- A good showing of 35 birds was noted at Magee 4/13 (JD, ST).

Carolina Wren-- 11 were reported from the Ira Rd. area of the CVNRA 4/22 (TMR). LR reported them to be "common" in Portage Co., but TLP found them "scarce" in his northeastern Ohio forays. Overall, they still seem widely scattered in this area.

House Wren-- One at Hinckley MP (Medi) 4/12 was earliest (NKO). 20 + were seen at HBSP 5/10 (KM).

Winter Wren-- The maximum was 20 birds at Magee 4/13 (JD, ST). About 6 late migrants lingered 5/12-19.

Sedge Wren-- About 10 birds were found in 6 counties 5/2-30.

Marsh Wren-- A maximum of 5 birds was reported from Delaware WA 5/13 (WS).

Golden-crowned Kinglet-- The Romito's report 50 at Magee 4/18. A late migrant was at L. Rockwell 5/12 (CH).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet-- The Romito's strike again, this time with 100 "Rickeys" at Magee 5/4. 50 were there 5/10 (JD et al.).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher-- 100 + were at Shawnee SF (Adam/Scio) 4/21 (RRo, CJ).

Veery-- A major movement of this species occurred in northern Ohio on 5/11. 75 birds were reported on the CVNRA census (DAC et al.); 70 were at HBSP (LR); and 21 were in Hancock Co. (BHa et al.).

Gray-cheeked Thrush-- Earliest birds were at GLC 4/26 (LG); at Brukner Nature Center (Miami) 4/27 (BHe); & at the Black Swamp Nature Center (Paul) 4/27 (DMD). 6 were banded at Lksh 5/25 (JP).

Swainson's Thrush-- Reports ranged from 30-75 birds at Magee 5/10 (JD et al., KA). 65 were at GLC 5/8 (KA). Several arrived early: 1 Eastwood Lk. 4/14 (JD, ST); 1 Paulding Co. 4/18 (DMD); & 1 Magee 4/19 (VF).

Hermit Thrush-- There were 2 reports of 50 birds; at Magee 4/18 (TMR) & at GLC 4/22 (KA). 3 late migrants were found 5/19-21.

Wood Thrush-- An eager bird arrived at Riverbend MP (Hanc) 4/9 (BH). Highs include 20 at HBSP 5/11 (LR) & 9 at SBI 5/7 (SWu).

Varied Thrush-- The wintering bird at Nathan Hale Pk. was last seen 4/6 (S. Sprengnether, fide RHR).

Gray Catbird-- The maximum was 120 birds at HBSP 5/11 (LR). A single bird found at the same location 3/10 probably had wintered nearby (KM, RHn, EB).

N. Mockingbird-- 3 migrants were at SBI 5/8 (SWu). 4-5 more passed HBSP 5/10 (KM).

Brown Thrasher-- The maximum for this mimid was also recorded at HBSP, with 20+ birds there 5/10 (KM).

Am. Pipit-- Some highs include: 60 at FRes 4/9 (BH) & about 50 at Charlie's Pond (Pick) 4/6 (RRo). An extremely late bird was at Lorain 5/31 (TLP).

Cedar Waxwing-- There was apparently no large March movement this year, but a major push occurred on May 18-19. On the 18th, 2200 birds were seen in Lucas Co. (VF). On the 19th, 1200+ were estimated passing Lksh (JP) & 450 were at HBSP (LR).

N. Shrike-- Remnants of the winter invasion of 1995-96, 10 individuals were noted in 5 northern counties through 4/7.

Loggerhead Shrike-- There was only one sighting of this species, which is becoming increasingly rare in Ohio: the wintering bird remained at Paint Creek Lk. (High) 3/29 (Y. Mohlman).

### **Vireos through Warblers**

White-eyed Vireo-- The first bird was reported from GiPo 4/17 (TE).

Bell's Vireo-- 1 was found at Mill Creek Pk. (Maho) 5/14 (RE, NB).

Solitary Vireo-- 8 were at Magee 5/10 (JD et al.). 5 at Brecksville MP 5/17 was a good total for the date (RHR).

Yellow-throated Vireo-- An early bird was at GLC 4/20 (BC). 15 were recorded in the Clear Creek Valley (Hock) 4/27 (RHR).

Warbling Vireo-- 1 at Magee 4/12 was very early (VF). 20 were at the same site 5/21 (TMR).

Philadelphia Vireo-- Maximum was 3 in Columbus (Fran) 5/11 (RRo) & the same number at Firestone MP (Summ) 5/18 (EP).

Red-eyed Vireo-- 50 were estimated at Magee 5/21 (TMR). 30 likely migrants were at GLD 5/16 (KA).

Blue-winged Warbler-- More migrants than normal, including: 11 banded at Lksh 5/5-19 (JP); 7 males at Magee 5/9 (VF); & 3 late movers at Columbus 5/17 (RRo).

"Brewster's" Warbler-- Singles include a male at Eastwood Pk. (Mont) 5/8 (JD); a female at Magee 5/10 (JD); Litzenburg Woods (Hanc) 5/13 (S. Baxter, fide BH) & GLC 5/16 (KA).

Golden-winged Warbler-- At least 41 birds were seen in 18 counties between 5/4-22, including 4 observed at Magee 5/10 (VF) & 3 in Valley City (Medi) 5/14 (FMG).

Tennessee Warbler-- Few reports were received of birds seen prior to 5/11; however, 2 were at Scioto Trail SF (Ross) 4/22 (KA). On 5/11, large numbers arrived. 32 were counted on the CVNRA census (DAC et al.), and 66 were seen in Hancock Co. (BH et al.), both 5/11. LR reported "too many to count" on 5/12 in the Kent area. 180 were estimated to be along the GLD bike trail 5/16 (KA), and 56 were reported along the Scioto River (Fran) the next day (RRo). 32 were in Howland (Trum) 5/20 (CBa), and 42 more were at Baldwin Lk. (Cuya) 5/23 (TMR).

Orange-crowned Warbler-- About 33 birds were reported 4/19-5/18, being found in at least 15 counties.

Nashville Warbler-- Large numbers

were found this spring, including 40 in Cuyahoga Co. 5/17 (RHr); 35 in Parma/Parma Hts. (Cuya) 5/16 (RHr); 10-30 at Magee 5/10 (JD et al., VF); & 21 in Paulding Co. 5/11 (DMD). A singing male and a female with a brood patch were banded at Hell's Hollow MP (Lake) 5/23-24, suggestive of nesting (JP).

N. Parula-- The earliest bird was at Englewood MP (Mont) 4/13 (DD). 5 were at Brecksville MP 5/17 (RHr).

Yellow Warbler-- The maximum was an amazing 220 birds at Magee 5/19 (HSH).

Chestnut-sided Warbler-- High numbers include: 40-80 at Magee 5/10 (JD et al., VF); 51 in Hancock Co. 5/11 (BH a et al.); 30 at Mill Creek Pk. 5/13 (NB); & 25 at Columbus 5/17 (RRo).

Magnolia Warbler-- Impressive totals were reported, including: 130 in Hancock Co. 5/11 (BH a et al.); 58 in Paulding Co. 5/11 (DMD); & about 40 in Columbus 5/17 (RRo).

Cape May Warbler-- Again, impressive totals were received, including 12-55 at Magee 5/10 (JD et al., VF) & 25 at the GLD bike path 5/16 (KA). An extremely early bird was reported from MBSP 4/13 (JP).

Black-throated Blue Warbler-- 18 were at Resthaven WA (Erie) 5/15 (VF); 16 were at Magee 5/10 (VF); & 10 were at the GLD bike path 5/16 (KA).

Yellow-rumped Warbler-- Magee was inundated with an estimated 1900 birds 5/10, mostly found between 5:40 and 7:40 a.m. (VF). 200+ were reported from Scioto Trail SF 4/28 (RRo). Many birds lingered, but 1 at SBI 5/31 was the latest (SWu).

Black-throated Green Warbler-- And more large numbers, including: 45 Holden Arboretum 5/5 (CK); 40 Magee 5/10 (JD et al.); 25 Spring Grove Cem. (Hami) 5/4 (NKe); & 20+ Valley City 5/8 (FMG). The earliest report was of a bird at Scioto Trail SF 4/13 (KA).

Blackburnian Warbler-- Highs were 35 birds on the GLD bike trail 5/16 (KA); 27 in Hancock Co. 5/11 (BH a et al.);

& 16 in Paulding Co. 5/11 (DMD).

Yellow-throated Warbler-- 1 arrived at Caesar Creek SP 4/13 (M. Mercer et al.). 3-5 migrants were in Columbus 4/19-30 (RRo, AG), and another was on Kelley's Is. (Erie) 5/4 or 5/5 (DBe). 22 were counted at Scioto Trail SF 4/22 (KA).

Pine Warbler-- Migrants were unusually numerous, including: 5-6 at N. Chagrin MP 4/21 (KM); 6 (possibly including some residents) at Holden Arboretum 4/21 (C. Klaus); & 4 at HBSP 4/27 (LR et al.). A migrant was at Columbus by 3/29 (RRo).

Kirtland's Warbler-- A male was an outstanding find in the Oak Openings MP [hereafter OkOp] (Luca) 5/10 (BC<sup>+</sup> et al.).

Prairie Warbler-- RRo & AG reported at least 5 migrants from various Columbus sites 4/20-5/5. 3 northerly migrants were found 4/28-5/24.

Palm Warbler-- Large counts of 75-200 birds were reported from Lucas & Ottawa Cos. 5/10 (JD et al., KA), while 40+ were observed at HBSP the same day (KM). 50 were seen at MWW 4/30 (PW). 6 at Magee 5/19 was a good count for the late date (HSH). An extremely yellow bird was at Shaker Lakes (Cuya) 4/19 (RHr, SWa).

Bay-breasted Warbler-- The maximum was 80 seen on the GLD bike trail 5/16 (KA). 32 were at Magee 5/19 (HSH). An early male was at Columbus 4/26 (RRo).

Blackpoll Warbler-- A male bathed in a puddle a short distance away from a surprised observer in Parma Hts. (Cuya) on the extremely early date of 4/17 (M. Harlan, fide RHr). 33 were at the GLD bike path 5/16 (KA), and 24 were counted at Magee 5/19 (HSH).

Cerulean Warbler-- At least 4 migrants were found in Columbus 4/29-5/9 (RRo). 1-2 migrants were good finds at Magee 5/4 (VF) and 5/18-19 (TLP, RHr, BF). Another transient was at Firestone MP 5/15 (EP).

Black-and-white Warbler-- Highs

include 20-33 at Magee 5/10 (JD et al., VF); 22 at HBSP 5/11 (LR); & 16 in Shawnee SF 4/21 (RRo, CJ). Early singles were at Magee 4/12 (VF) & at Barnesville Pk. 4/14 (SLH).

Am. Redstart-- Magee was flooded with 100-280 birds 5/19 (RHR, HSH). 100 were at GLD 5/16 (KA), and 50 were at Lksh 5/19 (JP).

Prothonotary Warbler-- 3 migrants were at Springville Marsh SNP [hereafter Springville] (Sene) 5/4 (VF). Residents returned to many expected sites, including the Eldon Russell Pk. area (Geau) (DBe, AF). Look for a complete report for this site in the summer issue.

Worm-eating Warbler-- At least 8 migrants appeared at northern locations through 5/19. 3 Columbus area migrants were noted 4/22-27 (RRo). 18 residents were located at Scioto Trail SF 5/6 (KA).

Ovenbird-- 46 were counted at HBSP 5/11 (LR). 25 were at Brecksville MP 5/11 (DAC). 22 were at Magee 5/9 (VF). In the south, 34 were discovered at Shawnee SF 4/21 (RRo, CJ).

N. Waterthrush-- A good count of 15 birds was reported from Lucas & Ottawa Cos. 5/10 (KA). The same day, 7 were seen at Magee (VF). It is likely that some double counting was involved.

Louisiana Waterthrush-- An early bird made an appearance at Caesar Creek SP 3/31 (DD). At least 4 northerly migrants were detected 4/18-5/9.

Kentucky Warbler-- At least 7 northerly migrants were reported 5/12-29. About 5 migrants passed through Columbus 4/30-5/17 (RRo).

Connecticut Warbler-- At least 17 birds were seen between 5/14-28 in 10 counties.

Mourning Warbler-- Away from the banding stations, there were several impressive single-day, single-site totals. These include: 9 at Magee 5/22 (VF); 7 at the GLD bike trail 5/16 (KA); 5 at HBSP 5/19 (LR); & 5 at SBI 5/20 (SWu).

Common Yellowthroat-- 71 were counted at Magee 5/19 (HSH). 30+ were at HBSP 5/19 (KM).

Hooded Warbler-- 1 at the Burton Wetlands (Geau) 4/21 was early (DFe). 7 at Firestone MP 5/4 were all migrants (RHR). 17 were banded at Lksh 5/10-6/1 (JP).

Wilson's Warbler-- 25 birds at Magee 5/21 provided a large tally (RHR). A single was found in Washington Co. 5/16 by BSP, who deemed it "Unusual at this location."

Canada Warbler-- 26 were at GLC 5/16 (KA).

Yellow-breasted Chat-- Scarce at Magee this season. 2 were good at HBSP 5/10 (KM).

### Tanagers through Finches

Summer Tanager-- At least 9 northerly migrants were found 5/1-19, including 1 in a Hancock Co. road with 3 Palm Warblers 5/11 (BH), and a male at LR's Kent feeder 5/12.

Scarlet Tanager-- Earliest appearance was at GiPo 4/19 (J. Black). The highest number (35) was reported from Scioto Trail SF 5/6 (KA), which probably represented a mix of migrants and residents. Noteworthy was the appearance of 16 birds on SBI 5/18 (SWu).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak-- Good numbers arrived 5/10-11, including 47 across Hancock Co. 5/11 (BH et al.) & 24 on the CVNRA census on the same date (DAC et al.). During cool weather prior to 5/10, an astonishing number of feeder birds were reported from across the state, presumably due to difficulties in locating natural food sources. For example, WS found 8 at a Delaware Co. feeder 5/9, & NKr reported a Lorain Co. feeder, also with 8 birds.

Blue Grosbeak-- An imm. male was an outstanding find along the Magee beach 5/19 (L. Richardson, RHR, TLP, CH, et al.). A bird in Adams Co. 5/11 (DBr) was as expected.

Indigo Bunting-- Similar to Rose-breasted Grosbeak, many birds were found at feeders statewide

during the cool pre-5/10 period. Earliest birds were at Shawnee Lookout MP (Hami) (JS) & in LG's Wilmington (Clin) yard, both 4/21.

Dickcissel-- High counts were 10 males in Holmes Co. 5/18+ (LEY); 8 at BuCr 5/22+ (DO); & 6 in Clermont Co. 5/24 (JD, ST). Unexpected singles were at Lksh 5/16 (JP) & at Newell's Run (Wash) 5/21 (LB).

Spotted Towhee-- An example of this recently split species was at Springville Marsh SNP 5/4-12 (TB, VF\* ph., B. Simpson, ph. et al.). This represents Ohio's first acceptable record of this "new" western species.

Eastern Towhee-- A good count of 21 migrants was recorded at HBSP 4/20 (LR). An early bird was reported from the same location 3/11 (BF).

Am. Tree Sparrow-- 150 were found on the 3/3 ONWRC. By virtue of the cool weather, an incredible number (at least 18 birds) lingered into May, being found at least through 5/11.

Chipping Sparrow-- The earliest bird was found at Shawnee Lookout MP 3/16 (D. Graham et al.). 200+ birds at Holden Arboretum 5/5 provided a very high count (CK). 120 were at GLC 4/22 (KA).

Clay-colored Sparrow-- A singing male graced the roadside across from MCMWA 5/11-12 (DO, VF\* ph., m. obs.).

Field Sparrow-- 36 were recorded on the 5/5 ONWRC.

Vesper Sparrow-- 6 birds at MWW on 3/30 (JS) and 6 more on the 4/7 ONWRC were the highest submitted totals.

Lark Sparrow-- On 5/1-2, SWu reported his first record for SBI. At the traditional OkOp site, the first bird was seen 4/24 (TK), and 7 were found there 5/12 (RHr, SWa).

Grasshopper Sparrow-- A migrant was at DGG 5/4 (BF).

Henslow's Sparrow-- One was good for HBSP 4/19 (KM). 3 migrants were unexpected on SBI 5/9 (SWu). 1-2 returned to their traditional spot along

Buena Vista Rd. (Hock) in late April (EP et al., RRo). The highest report was of 6 birds in Belmont Co. 5/21 (KA).

Le Conte's Sparrow-- A marshy bottomland pasture attracted a bird to northeastern Holmes Co. 5/6 (MW\*).

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow-- 1 bird was found at Euclid Beach SP (Cuya) 5/23 (TLP). Another recently split species, all Ohio records are expected to represent this interior nesting form.

Fox Sparrow-- High counts include 18 Magee 4/12 (VF); 12 Springville 4/16 (VF); & 11 banded at Lksh 4/21 (JP). A late bird was seen at Magee 5/10 (JD, ST).

Song Sparrow-- Maxima include: 110+ Lksh 3/30 (JP); 100 DGG 3/25 (PL); & 80 Magee 3/21 (HSH).

Lincoln's Sparrow-- An early bird was at Spencer Lk. WA (Medi) (J. Smith et al.). 11 were banded at Lksh 5/10 (JP).

Swamp Sparrow-- A good showing, with 45 at Magee 4/21 (HSH); 25 at HBSP 5/11 (LR); & 20 banded at Lksh 5/10 (JP).

White-throated Sparrow-- Highs include: 500-800 Magee 5/10 (JD et al., VF); 150 at GLC 4/22 (KA); & 130 at Springville 5/4 (VF).

White-crowned Sparrow-- Maxima was 75 birds at HBSP 5/11 (LR). A laggard was at DGG 5/31 (TMR). Individuals apparently representing the pale-grayish lored Gambel's race were found at a Holmes Co. feeder 4/30-5/1 (ESc) and at Magee 5/10 & 15 (JD et al.).

Harris's Sparrow-- The bird that wintered at the McGraw residence in Henry Co. was last seen on 5/8 (fide DMD).

Dark-eyed Junco-- 200+ were estimated to be at Lksh 4/21, of which 90 were banded (JP). Latest migrants were at SBI 5/16 (SWu) and Shaker Lakes 5/17 (RHr). A nest with 3 young was a first for Brecksville MP 5/22. 2 other birds were found there 5/24 (DAC). "Oregon" juncos were

coming to JO's Burton Twp. (Geau) feeder 3/20, to VF's Tiffin (Sene) feeder 4/7-10, and to JD/ST's Beaver Creek (Gree) feeder 4/12-14.

Lapland Longspur-- KPWA again played host to a flock 3/11-5/12. About 100 birds were there 4/25 (JH, m. obs.), while VF estimated 1800 passing overhead from southeast to northwest in 90 minutes there 4/11. 250 more flew by MBSP 3/14 (ESc).

Snow Bunting-- The highest count was 40 at LPWA 3/30 (VF). 33 were seen on SBI 3/7 (SWu).

Bobolink-- Maximum reports included 55 at Magee 5/10 (VF) and 40 at Funk Bottoms WA (Wayn) 5/4 (TLP, MJK).

Red-winged Blackbird-- An estimated 21,000 were at Springville 4/12 (VF).

W. Meadowlark-- The Darsch Rd. (Otta) male was back on territory for the second year, being seen starting about 4/21 (RHR, m. obs.). VF also reported a singing bird near the intersection of OH Rts. 2 and 590 (Otta) 5/17. A possible E. x W. Meadowlark hybrid was also found by VF at KPWA 5/14. It sported "Eastern" plumage, but the middle 5 notes of its song were distinctly "Western".

Yellow-headed Blackbird-- All reports: 1 Genoa (Otta) 3/11 (JP); 1 at the Sportsmen's Center feeder at Magee 4/23-30 (Magee personnel, fide VF & RHR); 1 MWW 4/27 (T. Uhlman); 1 on Decant Rd. (Luca) 5/3 (CD); & 1 ONWR 5/7 (KM).

Rusty Blackbird-- High was an estimated 1200 at Springville 3/31 (VF).

Common Grackle-- 12,000 were estimated in Sandusky & Ottawa Cos. 3/13 (VF).

Brown-headed Cowbird-- On 3/13, VF estimated 28,000 birds, a huge number, in Ottawa Co.

Orchard Oriole-- 15 were seen in Hancock Co. 5/28 (BHa et al.).

Baltimore Oriole-- 72 were recorded on the CVNRA census 5/11 (DAC et

al.). Larger than normal numbers attended feeders across the state prior to 5/10, awaiting warm weather.

Purple Finch-- A very large movement was detected at Magee 5/10, with counts ranging from 58 (KA), to 75 (JD et al.), to 225 (VF). 30 were seen earlier at Caesar Creek SP 3/17 (DO).

Red Crossbill-- A single bird was located at GLC 4/13 & 5/4 (KA).

White-winged Crossbill-- 6 were at Lksh 3/3 (JP).

Common Redpoll-- Winter residents pushed northward in good numbers. At Lksh, 259 were banded 3/17-4/28, and another was captured there as late as 5/10 (JP).

Hoary Redpoll-- At Lksh, 1-2 AHY/U birds were identified 3/3-4/6. One of these was banded 3/24. Another bird, an ASY male, was seen there 4/4 (JP\*, EP).

Pine Siskin-- Maxima were 115 at Magee 5/10 (VF), and 60 (23 banded) at Lksh 5/19 (JP).

Am. Goldfinch-- Large numbers passed through Magee 5/10 (VF, JD et al.).

Evening Grosbeak-- Present through 5/30 at JF's Rockbridge (Hock) residence. Peak monthly counts there were 205 birds 3/15, 310 birds 4/12, and 169 birds 5/1. 11 remained 5/16, and 1 was still there through 5/30. A female was again present, for the last time, on 6/1. Additional May reports were received from about 7 more counties through 5/16.

## CONTRIBUTORS & OBSERVERS

All individuals contributing bird reports to "The Ohio Cardinal" for the Spring 1996 season (March 1 to May 31, 1996) are listed below in CAPITAL LETTERS. In addition, many other Observers submitted sightings to other birding-related publications. Those Observers who received at least four citations in the Spring 1996 "The Reports" section are also included in the following list of Contributors: J. KIRK ALEXANDER (KA); MATT ANDERSON (MA); MICHAEL J. ARABIA (MAR); CAROLE



L. BABYAK (CBa); Emil Bacik (EB); LYNN BARNHART (LB); TOM BARTLETT (TB); DAN BEST (DBe); DAVID BRINKMAN (DBr); NANCY D. BRUNDAGE (NB); GINA BUCKEY (GB); CHARLES L. BUECHELE (CBu); DWIGHT & ANN CHASAR (DAC); BOB CONLON (BC); DAVID C. DISTER (DD); DOUG & MICKI DUNAKIN (DMD); JON L. DUNN (JD); CURT DUSTHIMER (CD); Ted Ellis (TE); ROBERT ELLWAY (RE); VIC FAZIO (VF); DUANE FERRIS (DFe); BOB FINKELSTEIN (BF); ANDY FONDRK (AF); DARLENE FRIEDMAN (DFr); JIM FRY (JF); LARRY GARA (LG); ADAM GOLODA (AG); FRANK & MELINDA GREENLAND (FMG); JOSEPH W. HAMMOND (JWH); Ray Hannikman (RHn); ROBERT HARLAN (RHR); SHARON LEE HANSE (SLH); BETTY HARDESTY (BHs); BERT HENSEL (BHe); JOHN HERMAN (JH); ROBERT HERSHBARGER (RHe); HANK & SALLY HIRIS (HSH); DAVID & JUDY HOCHADEL (DJH); CRAIG HOLT (CH); CECE JOHNSTON (CJ); NED KELLER (NKe); TOM KEMP (TK); Charles Klaus (CK); NORMAN J. KOTESOVEC, JR. (NkO); NORMA KRAPS (NKr); MARIAN & JEFF KRAUS (MJK); ANDREW LEEDS

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Yellow-crowned Night-Herons. Streetsboro Bog (Portage Co.),  
April 30, 1996.  
Photo by Larry Rosche.

## **The Grapevine**

### **Some Thoughts on Spring Migration**

There was only one word for spring migration 1996, and that was "outstanding". In most aspects it was a spring to remember, especially for neotropical migrants. Not in many years had there been so many quality fallouts, groundings and classic movements. Things got started early with an excellent waterfowl movement in mid-March. Hoover Res. had its largest totals of divers in many years. During this same period Delaware WA and Big Island WA had excellent duck totals also. The first widespread passerine movement occurred in central and southern Ohio on April 22, with mostly low numbers of birds. There was no noticeable over-flight this spring. On May 10 a huge migration developed along western L. Erie-- one of the best in many years. Migration then slowed down until May 16-17, when a stationary front over central Ohio grounded hundreds of warblers. May 16 was the best day in central Ohio since the early 1980's, as the Lower Scioto Bikeway was loaded with migrants for four miles. Good numbers of birds were around until May 23 when a cold front arrived. The end of the month was slow with northeast winds. The only drawback to Spring 1996 was the shorebird migration. It started out good in April at Killdeer Plains WA, but May was poor and even common species were hard to find. By Kirk Alexander, 5329 Drumcally Lane, Dublin, OH 43017.

### **Another Perspective**

An excellent flight of migrant songbirds was grounded in Trumbull Co. on May 10. These birds were held in place by cool rainy weather through May 17. As feeding in the treetops was difficult, the birds were often seen on or near the ground. A group of 8 Chestnut-sided Warblers picking through leaf-litter on May 13 was almost as interesting as the 5 male Scarlet Tanagers together on the ground on May 12. Our property hosted up to 10 Swainson's Thrushes daily through this period. Other major components of this fallout were Black-throated Green and Blackburnian Warblers. Lesser numbers of all expected migrants were present. Every woodland in Trumbull and Mahoning Counties seemed to have their share of birds. Of course, local birders were remarking that it was the best spring they could remember in many years, and the local Audubon Hotline was buzzing with calls from people inquiring about the strange beautiful birds they were seeing. All good things must end however, and when May 18 dawned crisp and clear, the spectacle was over and migration returned to a more normal pace (slow). By David & Judy Hochadel, 2150 Tibbetts-Wick Rd., Girard, OH 44420.

### **Bird Banding at Lakeshore MP, Spring 1996**

For a total of 165 hours (1717 net hours) on 27 days between March 17 and June 9, I banded birds at Lakeshore MP (Lake Co.). My final tally was 3479 individuals banded, representing 103 species. Peak movements per month were March 30 (182 individuals banded), April 19 (319 indiv. banded), May 10 (420 indiv. banded, the "best spring day in

years"), and June 1 (118 indiv. banded). My top numbers banded were: White-throated Sparrow-- 554; Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco-- 509; Song Sparrow-- 456; Am. Goldfinch-- 352; Common Redpoll-- 260; Blue Jay-- 129; House Finch-- 124; Black-capped Chickadee-- 121; Gray Catbird-- 108; & Chipping Sparrow-- 108. Data by John Pogacnik, 4765 Lockwood Rd., Perry, OH 44081.

### **Spring 1996 Passerine Banding at Navarre Marsh**

Once again, the Black Swamp Bird Observatory operated a bird banding site at the Navarre Unit of Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge (Ottawa Co.), behind the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station. This site was manned every day, weather permitting, from mid-April to early June. Strong movements were noted April 25, May 3, May 8-10 (a single-day capture record occurred May 10 with 1260 individuals banded), May 18-23, and May 31-June 1. A total of 9255 individuals representing 105 species were banded at Navarre. The top 10 species banded were as follows: Magnolia Warbler-- 942; Common Yellowthroat-- 518; Am. Redstart-- 517; Swainson's Thrush-- 476; White-throated Sparrow-- 423; Yellow Warbler-- 420; Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler-- 379; Gray Catbird-- 318; "Traill's" Flycatcher-- 302; & Red-eyed Vireo-- 278. This data was reported in Dendroica 4(1):12, a publication of the Black Swamp Bird Observatory. BSBO, P.O. Box 228, Oak Harbor, OH 43449.



Great Egret. S. Bass Is. (Ottawa Co.), April 18, 1996  
Photo by Stan Wulkowicz.

## Birding Northern Trumbull County by Dave Hochadel

With three State Wildlife Areas and Mosquito Lake to choose from, deciding where to bird in northern Trumbull Co. is not always an easy task, even for those of us familiar with the area. For the benefit of visiting birders and those new to the region, the following guide should eliminate a lot of guesswork and fruitless searching. The region's ponds, marshes and swamp forests are the main focus of this guide. Maps of the State Wildlife Areas would be helpful and can be obtained either in person or through the mail at the addresses provided below.

### **Grand River Wildlife Area**

6686 SR 534  
West Farmington, OH 44491

GRWA includes 6277 acres which lie south of SR 87 between SR 45 and SR 534. One of its many outstanding birding areas is described below.

**Norton Lane Ponds:** Go south from SR 87 on SR 45 approx. two miles to Norton Lane. Go west on Norton Lane until it dead-ends at the parking area. Formerly a fish hatchery, the area is composed of a number of interconnected ponds criss-crossed by mowed dikes that are perfect for hiking. Barren and windswept in the winter except for the occasional N. Shrike, early spring brings a rush of waterfowl. Look for Green-winged Teal, N. Pintail, N. Shoveler, Am. Wigeon and Ring-necked Duck among others. Nesting species found here include Pied-billed Grebe, Least Bittern, Blue-winged Teal, Spotted Sandpiper, Common Snipe, Virginia Rail, Sora, Marsh Wren and Swamp Sparrow. Migrant shorebirds are common in spring and fall on exposed mudflats in the drawn-down ponds. Great Egrets are common in late summer and N. Harriers and Bald Eagles are found throughout the year.

### **Mosquito Wildlife Area** and

8303 N. Park Ave. Ext.  
N. Bloomfield, OH 44450

### **Mosquito Lake**

Army Corps of Engineers  
2961 Warren-Meadville Rd.  
Cortland, OH 44410

Much of MWA's 8525 acres are off-limits and must be birded from the roads.

**Dunkerton/Penniman Rds.:** Turn east on Dunkerton Rd. from SR 45 about 1.25 miles south of SR 87. The first half mile along Dunkerton is good for grassland species. In winter and in migration look for Lapland Longspur and Snow Bunting. Horned Larks and N. Harriers are resident throughout the year. Summer residents include Savannah and Grasshopper Sparrows, Bobolink and E. Meadowlark. After you cross an old railroad bed you will be in MWA. From here to Penniman Rd. and south on Penniman for about a half-mile is an extensive area of marsh and wet meadow. Nesting species include Virginia Rail, Sedge Wren and Marsh Wren. Listen for Alder Flycatcher in brushy areas and Least Flycatcher along the woodland edges.

**N. Park Ave. Ext. (a.k.a. Townline Rd.):** About a mile south of SR 87 on N. Park is a large beaver pond, long a well-known hotspot. Unusual breeding species include Hooded Merganser and Common Moorhen. Common Snipe perform their springtime rituals in the wet meadow north of the pond. In late summer, Great Egrets and Green- and Blue-winged Teal favor the pond edges. A Bald Eagle nest was visible from here for years, but fell in 1995. One-half mile south, situated northeast of the intersection with Mahan-Denman Rd., is Pintail Pond, which can hold large numbers of migrating waterfowl of many species.

**Refuge Ponds and nearby hotspots:** Please refer to the accompanying map for the following sites. Access to this area can be had by

going south on Chaffee-Dodgeville Rd. from SR 87 or by going north on Hoagland-Blackstub Rd. from SR 88 just west of the Mosquito Lake causeway.

Ponds A, B, C and E are shallow man-made impoundments and all are attractive to waterfowl. Redhead Pond (C), built in Autumn 1996, held incredible numbers of waterfowl in Spring 1997. Some 500 N. Pintail were there in late Feb., as were hundreds of Redheads and Ring-necked Ducks. Other species regularly seen on these ponds include Green-winged Teal, Am. Black Duck, Blue-winged Teal, N. Shoveler, Gadwall, Am. Wigeon, Bufflehead and Hooded Merganser. The numerous tall snags at Mallard Pond (E) attract roosting Double-crested Cormorants in late summer and Bald Eagles throughout the year. One autumn day several years ago four Ospreys rested here together. In winter and in migration the surrounding fields attract Rough-legged Hawk, Common Snipe, Am. Pipit and N. Shrike, among many others. Nesting species include Pied-billed Grebe, N. Harrier, Horned Lark, Sedge Wren (not annual) and Savannah and Grasshopper Sparrows. Rarities occurring in the last decade include Eurasian Wigeon and Sandhill Crane.

The stretch of woodland swamp/moist woodland along Hoagland-Blackstub Rd. (D) hosts an interesting array of nesting species, including Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Least Flycatcher, Brown Creeper, Veery, Yellow-throated Vireo and Cerulean and Prothonotary Warblers. Just south of the woods where the lake comes up to the road can be good for shorebirds in dry years. Unusual species seen in the past few years include Sanderling, White-rumped Sandpiper and Red-necked Phalarope.

The north end of Mosquito Lake can be viewed from parking lot (F) where Mahan-Denman Rd. dead-ends at the lake. In the fall an exposed sand bar to the north attracts many shorebirds, gulls and terns. Exposed mudflats along the shore attract every expected shorebird. A Buff-breasted Sandpiper spend a week here a few autumns ago.

**Mosquito Lake:** The SR 88 causeway is ideally situated for birding the lake. Caspian, Common and Forster's Terns patrol the length of the lake in spring and fall. Migrating flocks of Common Loons, Horned Grebes and several species of duck regularly total in the hundreds. Cliff and Barn Swallows nest under the bridge. Large flocks of Common Goldeneye, Hooded Merganser and Bonaparte's Gull usually develop in late fall. Unusual species seen in recent years include Red-necked Grebe, Am. White Pelican, Brant, Surf and White-winged Scoters, Laughing Gull and Black Tern. Other locations from which to scan the lake include Mosquito State Park, accessible from SR 305 just west of the dam, and from the large parking lot on the east shore at the end of W. Main St. in Cortland.

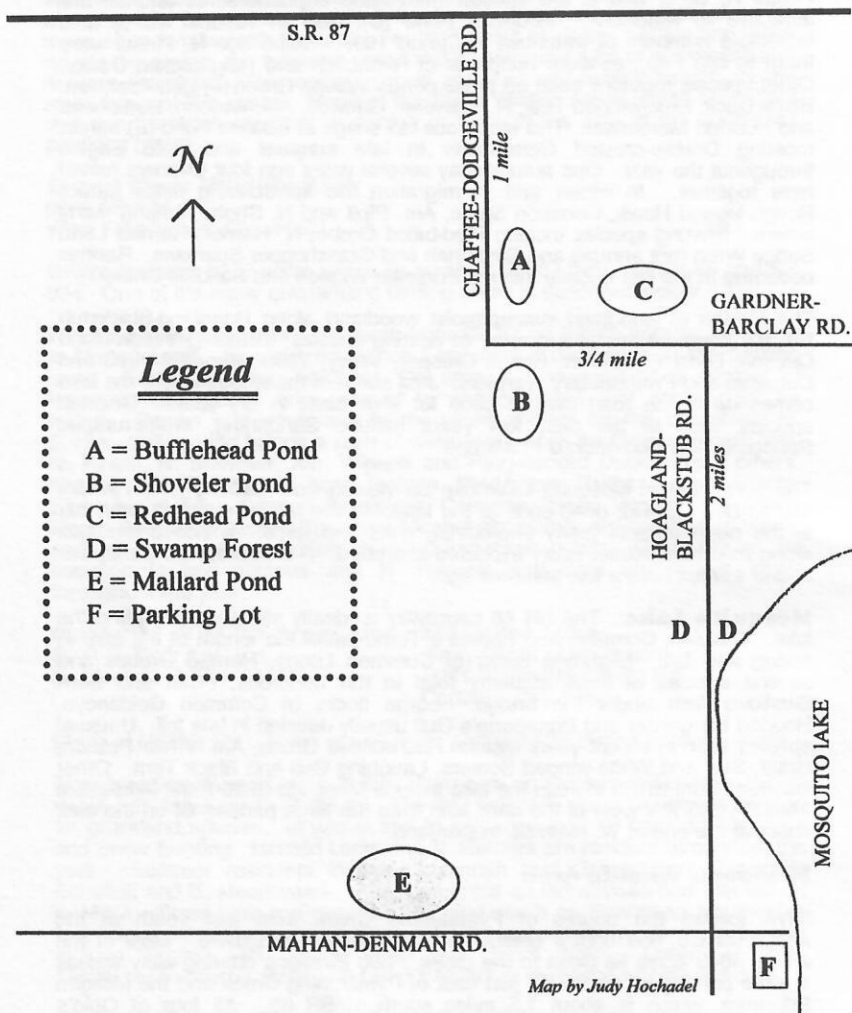
### **Shenango Wildlife Area**

SWA follows the course of Pymatuning Creek from just south of the Ashtabula Co. line until it enters Pennsylvania in Orangeville. Most of the area's 4845 acres lie close to the creek. Two locations offering easy access are the parking lot on SR 87 just east of Pymatuning Creek and the Milligan Rd. area, which is about 1.5 miles south of SR 88. All four of Ohio's breeding Empidonax flycatchers nest along Milligan Rd. Maps are available at refuge headquarters at 8070 SR 7, just south of Kinsman.

There is still much to be learned about the current status of many northern Trumbull County birds. Your visit could add to our knowledge. Former or rare nesting species to be looked for include Am. Bittern, Upland Sandpiper, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and N. Waterthrush. Good Birding!

Dave Hochadel  
2150 Tibbets-Wick Rd.  
Girard, OH 44420

# Mosquito Wildlife Area



SELECTED ARRIVAL DATES, BY REGION--South, Central, North

SPECIES	DATE	COUNTY	OBSV.
R-t Hummingbird	4/25	Cler	MMercer
	4/25	Hock	CD
	5/2	Medi	FMG
Acadian Flycatcher	5/2	Hami	JKuenzli
	5/4	Fran	RRo
	5/13	Lake	JP
Swainson's Thrush	4/14	Mont	JD, ST
	4/18	Holm	LEY
	4/18	Paul, Luca	var. obs.
Red-eyed Vireo	4/22	Ross	KA
	4/25	Fran	BC
	5/4	Sene	VF
Blue-winged Warbler	4/19	Adam	DBr
	4/20	Fran	RRo
	4/21	Sene	VF
Tennessee Warbler	4/22	Ross	KA
	5/1	Fran	RRo
	4/25	Hanc	S. Baxter
Yellow Warbler	4/19	Adam	DBr
	4/19	Lick	CD
	4/20	Cuya	BF, PL
Cape May Warbler	5/7	Cler	DBr
	5/4	Clar, Fran	DO, RRo
	4/13	Luca	JP
Blackburnian Warbler	4/28	Ross	RRo
	4/27	Miam	BHe
	4/25	Summ	J. Reyda
Blackpoll Warbler	4/28	Butl	TE
	5/1	Fran	RRo
	4/17	Cuya	M. Harlan
Scarlet Tanager	4/19	Butl	J. Black
	4/22	Fran	KA
	4/22	Lora	French
Indigo Bunting	4/21	Clin, Hami	LG, JS
	4/30	Fran	BC
	4/27	Hanc	BHa
Baltimore Oriole	4/25	Hami	Armstrng
	4/25	Fran	KA
	4/25	Summ	RHr

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

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