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THE OHIO CARDINAL
2338 HARRINGTON RD.
AKRON, OH 44319

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AKRON, OHIO

The Ohio



CARDINAL™

Vol. 23, No. 1
Autumn 1999



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

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 of the state. Report forms are not a necessity but will be supplied upon request. Unusual species should be documented, and forms to do so are available upon request from the Editor, Publisher, and Records Committee Secretary.

Seasonal Report Due Dates

Winter (Dec.-Feb.) - March 25
Spring (Mar.-May) - June 25
Summer (Jun.-Jul.) - August 25
Fall (Aug.-Nov.) - December 25

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Subscriptions

The subscription rate for one year (four issues) is \$15.00. Please send all subscription and change of address requests to:

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Akron, OH 44319

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On the Cover: Long-billed Curlew - Holmes Co., 1 October 1999. Photo by Bruce Glick.

Autumn 1999 Overview

by Bill Whan

The fall season hung around like a pumpkin neglected on the porch, fermenting, then puckering and falling in upon itself, till it had endured long past its prime and its appointed time. Once again the season was unusually warm and dry, bidding to establish a significantly lengthy trend, especially for temperatures. Here in the central part of the state, for example, in no month over the past two years has the average temperature failed to exceed historical averages by at least two—and as much as 11.1—degrees Fahrenheit. This fall, fewer storm systems grounded fewer southbound migrants, allowing more than usual to pass unnoticed, and fewer of the sought-after but generally regular strays (e.g., eared grebe, ibis spp., parasitic jaeger, Sabine's gull, etc.) were driven our way by the weather.

On the other hand, lower Lake Erie levels (September's level was 1.4 feet lower than that of September '98, and 2.3 feet lower than that of September '97) did attract more migrant shorebirds. Record numbers (see the BSBO report in this issue) showed up on undiked portions of the lakeshore, such as near Sheldon Marsh and Conneaut harbor, and reduced flow, due to drought in the interior, further transformed the estuaries of waterways like Crane Creek and the Huron River into spectacular wader habitat. Inland, many areas wet in spring were dry by mid-August, but large bodies of water shrank, with choice spots like Berlin Reservoir inviting numbers of shorebirds that rivaled the throngs at places like Crane Creek.

For passerines, experienced observers reported a rather thin but protracted fall migration. Few fallouts or big counts were noticed, and lower peaks than usual seemed to be balanced by a migration that lasted long enough to set some records and near-records for late occurrences. Encouraging or not—depending upon whether one roots for birds or for trees—were regional outbreaks of spruce budworms, leading to better numbers of the Cape May warblers so scarce in recent years. Banding data in West Virginia confirmed that they, along with fellow budworm-specialists Tennessee and bay-breasted warblers, were indeed more numerous than the most recent ten-year average, though still 30% below the long-term average.

Few of the predicted record tide of waterfowl appeared during the period, seemingly at least in part because unfrozen northern waters induced them to linger, and also because the prairie potholes of mid-continent produced the bulk of this year's increase. Eastern Canada—which produces most of the ducks and geese passing through Ohio—had a correspondingly less productive breeding season. Larid rarities were few, though a pomarine jaeger near Cincinnati was rare enough to suit anyone. Franklin's gulls, even if their numbers fell short of last fall's, made a good showing, and the beleaguered black tern undertook an excellent twelve-day statewide sweep—excellent, that is, by the meager standards of recent years.

The disadvantageous placement, for purposes of fall hawk-watching, of Lake Erie does not excuse the low numbers of raptors reported in the state of late. Compare our paltry numbers of broad-winged hawks with the staggering 501,000 counted on 17 Sept only 30 miles to our north at Lake Erie MP in Michigan. Where do these birds go, if not through Ohio? Reports to Southeast Michigan Raptor Research added up to 665,512 raptors this fall, with record numbers of sharp-shinned, broad-winged, and Swainson's hawks (14), golden eagles (245), and peregrine falcons (93). Much of

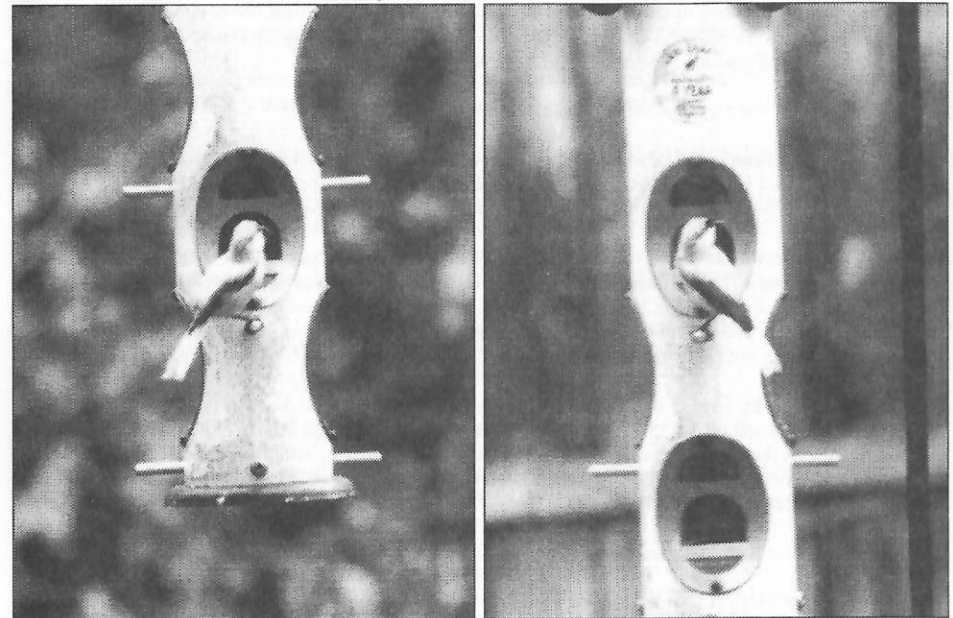
Ohio's overall deficit is doubtless a matter of geography, as most of our northern border is dominated by Lake Erie, where the concentrating effect of the lakefront on raptors unwilling to cross wide stretches of water is much less marked here in the fall because Ohio is then on the side opposite the birds' approach. Raptors less choosy about crossing lakes, such as accipiters and falcons, were seen in promising numbers by the few who systematically looked for them on the lakeshore.

Apparently it was shortfalls in certain seed crops in Canada that compelled a significant invasion—or at least a promising beginning for one—of boreal passerines: crossbills, some grosbeaks, and large numbers of siskins and redpolls, as well as shrikes. A massive movement of red-breasted nuthatches very early in the season may have presaged that of the “winter finches” later, even though it was not perhaps of record proportions locally; time will tell if 1989-90's counts of the species on CBCs (75 on that for Grand Rapids/Waterville, 68 on that for Mohican SP) will be equaled next season. Hawk Mountain in Pennsylvania reported the highest counts of purple finches in years, but their numbers seemed fairly normal in Ohio. The Cornell Lab observed a frequent correlation between numbers of northern shrikes and those of snowy owls, but the owls have yet to show up here, even though it should be a good shrike year. As for crossbills, reds are more widespread in our region, breeding in the mountains even well to our south, but this season white-wings took over, and were reported as far south as Fort Worth, Texas, to the west, and to the east in southeastern Virginia.

A decent number of rarities were found this fall. Eleven Review Species were reported, and for eight of them details were sent to the Ohio Bird Records Committee; those for whom the documentation was sufficiently diagnostic are included in the OBRC report later in this issue as accepted; others did not adequately verify the occurrences of the species in question, and still others are undergoing further examination or awaiting new information. Most would agree the season's best bird was a long-billed curlew, found by alert birders of Holmes County in October. A couple of occurrences of species—pomarine jaeger and Philadelphia vireo—which, while not on the Review list, were of considerable interest because the jaeger was seen so far from Lake Erie, and the vireo found so late in the year, were sent in for inclusion in the official record, and subsequently accepted.

A few irrepressible words about volunteers are added in closing. People who freely offer their time, their results from birding, and their expertise make everything this magazine covers possible. Here's one example: twelve separate observers went out in seven counties on 3 November this year, often in driving snow, and happened to report the number of tundra swans they'd seen. While perhaps not vitally important individually, in the aggregate their observations helped us to see a major movement of 725+ swans, accompanied by a storm front, across the state on that day. Curious birders are discovering fall hawk-watching sites, migrant traps for passerines, techniques for finding certain birds, old records we hadn't taken account of, and once in a while even a new species for the state list. If you are impressed with the bird reports we pass along from the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge census, or the Black Swamp Bird Observatory censuses, or the Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Counts, get in touch with these organizations to add your efforts. *The Ohio Cardinal*, like your local birding publication, depends on volunteer efforts: reports of birds seen, photographs and artwork, articles and notes. If you benefit from the information others share with you, consider adding to our shared knowledge some of your own.

The following reports follow the taxonomic order of the 7th edition of *The AOU Checklist of North American Birds* (1998). Underlined names of species indicate those on the OBRC Review List; adequate documentation is needed to add reports of these species to the official state records. County names are supplied for certain locations, and appear *italicized*. Other abbreviations should be readily understood, with the possible exceptions of the following: CBC=Christmas Bird Count; CVNRA=Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area; *vide*="in trust of," said of data conveyed on behalf of another; Killbuck=Killbuck Wildlife Area; Killdeer=Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area; Magee=Magee Marsh Wildlife Area; Metzger=Metzger Marsh Wildlife Area; MP=Metropark; m obs= many observers; MWF=Miami-Whitewater Forest; MWW=Miami-Whitewater Wetlands; NWR=National Wildlife Refuge; OBRC=Ohio Bird Records Committee; ONWRC=monthly census conducted at Ottawa, reported herein by E. Pierce; Ottawa=Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge; Res=reservoir; Res'n=reservation; RTLS=Ravenna Training and Logistics Site, referring herein to a Portage site surveyed by L. Rosche *et al.*; SF=State Forest; SNP=State Nature Preserve; SP=State Park; WA=Wildlife Area; ~≈approximately.



This odd-plumaged chickadee visited a Cincinnati feeder in November 1999. Photo by Hank Armstrong.

The Reports

Red-throated Loon: Better than average numbers, and during a narrow span: **J. Pogacnik** had the first at Lakeshore MP, *Lake*, on 3 Nov, then four there on 14 Nov, two on 15 Nov, and another on the 29th. Of 14 smaller loons seen on 7 Nov at Old Woman Ck, *Erie*, **V. Fazio** was confident at least four were of this species. Two significant inland records in the west were one on Paulding Res on 17 Nov (**M&D Dunakin**) and two on Bresler Res, *Allen*, on 22 Nov (**J. Ruedisueli**). One was a flyby over *Holmes* on 29 Nov (**E. Schlabach**).

Common Loon: One on Findlay Res on 2 Oct (**D. Linzell, G. Fluke**) may well have been one reported by **B. Hardesty** there on 3 Aug. Four arrived at Pymatuning Res, *Ashtabula*, on 10 Oct (**C. Holt**). The bulk of arriving birds appeared during the fourth week of Oct, with 83 birds reported Oct 23-25. One in alternate plumage was off Huron on 3 Nov (**J. Hammond, D. Sanders**). 83 were flying over *Holmes* on 15 Nov. High count was at least 760 birds in a dawn flight off Old Woman Ck, *Erie*, 7 Nov (**V. Fazio**).

Pied-billed Grebe: The first reported migrants were two at Findlay Res on 7 Sept (**B. Hardesty**), and four at East Fork SP on 9 Sept, where their numbers grew to 30 by 22 Oct (both **H. Armstrong**). No huge numbers reported: 21 were on the *Portage* lakes on 11 Oct (**L. Rosche**), 32 on the Magee census on 17 Oct (**H&S Hiris**), and 38 on the ONWR census on 7 Nov.

Horned Grebe: No one claimed its numbers as above average this season. 28 were at Wilmington Res on 2 Oct (**L. Gara**) for the earliest report, and the high count was 94 at Lakeshore MP on 12 Nov (**J. Pogacnik**).

Red-necked Grebe: Skimpy numbers, but not unusually so. The best find was one at Alum Ck Res, *Delaware*, on 20 Oct (**B. Shively**). A basic-plumaged bird was at E 55th St in Cleveland 24 Oct (**C. Rieker**), and **J. Pogacnik** had two at Lakeshore MP on 12 Nov.

Eared Grebe: Only one report—one at Pymatuning Res on 10 Oct (**C. Holt**).

American White Pelican: The Ottawa duo continued from July to at least 3 Oct (**T. Kemp, G. Links**). One was off East Harbor SP on 20 Nov (**J. Hammond et al.**), and three spent a couple of days in Dayton after being found by **R. Dennier** (*vide C. Mathena*) for a nice inland record.

Double-crested Cormorant: Four were at Buck Ck SP on 14 Aug, swelling to 100 the following day (**D. Overacker**), and 407 were censused on Kelley's Isl by 20 Aug (**T. Bartlett**). Inland high was 1775 at Miamitown, *Hamilton*, on 3 Oct (**P. Wharton**). On Lake Erie, the largest numbers were encountered during a two-day period, 1000+ at Headlands Beach SP (**B. Winger et al.**) and ~5000 off S. Bass Isl (**S. Wulkowicz**), both on 24 Oct, after 9000+ at East Harbor SP on 23 Oct (**J. Pogacnik**).

American Bittern: This species can be seen well past the end of the period, but this fall's few reports were early: one in Carroll on 14-15 Aug (**L&E Schlabach**), one at Sheldon Marsh SNP on 23 Aug (**P. Sherwood**), one on the dunes at Headlands Beach SP on 29 Aug (**R. Hannikman**), quite possibly the same bird at the same place the following day (**H. Petruschke**), and one at Paint Ck WA, *Highland*, on 13 Sept (**R. Kolde**).

Least Bittern: Three were reported on the Magee census of 19 Sept (**H&S Hiris**).

Great Blue Heron: High count was 194 on 1 Aug on the ONWR census. Inland, 49 were at Mosquito Lk WA on 28 Oct (**D. Ferris**). As late as 29 Nov 75 were at East Harbor SP (**R. Harlan, Sa. Wagner**).

Great Egret: Migrants showed up in Aug well inland, with seven on the 15th at Greenlawn Dam, Columbus (**R. Cressman**), three in *Tuscarawas* on the 21st (**E. Schlabach**), and one on the 26th at Alum Ck SP (**B. Shively**). High numbers were at ONWR, with census counts of 200 on 1 Aug diminishing only to 177 on 3 Oct. Six were at Indian Ck, *Brown*, on 1 Sept (**L. Gara**), ten at Berlin Res on 6 Sept (**C. Holt**), six at Mosquito Lk WA on 19 Sept (**C. Holt**), and 12 at Killdeer on 11 Oct (**B. Shively**). Latest report two at Ottawa on 28 Nov (**J. Pogacnik**).

Snowy Egret: Strangely few reports. The four Ottawa censuses found only one bird, on 5 Sept. **J. Pogacnik** had one at Medusa Marsh on 22 Aug, and two there on 19 Sept. Up to five were at Pipe Ck WA during the third week of Aug (**P. Sherwood**).

Little Blue Heron: An immature was at Hueston Wds SP on 11 Aug (**D. Russell, J. Dansard**), and another was at ONWR on 14 Aug (**B. Whan et al.**). **P. Sherwood** had three at Pipe Ck WA on 13 Aug.

Cattle Egret: Nine were seen on the ONWR census on 1 Aug. A bird in the cloverleaf of I-71 and I-76 in *Medina* (**J. Dunn**) persisted there till at least 26 Aug (**G. Emmert, S. Veres**). Three were near Medusa Marsh on 19 Sept (**J. Pogacnik**), and an immature was in Seneca on 30-31 Oct (**V. Fazio**).

Green Heron: Fifteen migrants were at Indian Ck, *Brown*, on 2 Aug (**L. Gara**). High count was 20 at Buckeye Lk (**S. Landes**) on 7 Sept. Latish was a bird in *Mahoning* on 29 Sept (**N. Brundage**), and decidedly so were one in *Hancock* on 12 Oct (**S. Ross, K. Noblet**), and one on 16 Oct at Gordon Pk, Cleveland (**S. Zadar**).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: Inland, **R. Cressman** had two ad and 2 juv at Greenlawn Dam in Columbus on 15 Aug, and 3 ad and 3 juv there on the 18th. Two ad and two juv were at Buckeye Lk on 26 Aug (**G. Buckey**). High count was 48 on the ONWR census on 1 Aug, and 47 were roosting at Turning Point Isl off Sandusky on 29 Nov (**R. Harlan, Sa. Wagner**); one immature was found on 30 Nov in Oliver Twp, *Adams*, (**C. Bedel**), consorting with exotic pinioned waterfowl. From 1-7 birds were at the traditional Merwin St location in Cleveland between 11 Sept and 26 Oct (**P. Lozano**).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: Not a good year, with very few reports from traditional haunts. An immature was reported at Greenlawn Dam on 18 Aug (**R. Cressman**).

Ibis sp.: The only *Plegadis* report was of one on 26 Sept in Lorain (**T. Gilliland**, m obs, *vide P. Lozano*).

Black Vulture: ~150 reported in the usual areas. Three were over Buckeye Lk on 26 Aug (**G. Buckey**). 35 in *Holmes* on 28 Nov may have been a record county high (**J. Beechy**).

Turkey Vulture: Nine were over Kelley's Isl on the 20 Aug census (**T. Bartlett**). High count was ~500 on 13 Oct at Acton Lk, the flock joined by a soaring short-eared owl (**D. Russell**). Nov reports for the northern counties included one on the 12th at the CVNRA (**M. Gallaway, C. Rieker**), one on the 25th at the Cleveland Zoo (**R. Harlan, Sa. Wagner**), and two on the CVNRA on the 28th (**D&A Chasar**).

Greater White-fronted Goose: Versus last fall's 150+ birds, no reports this year.

Snow Goose: 82 birds reported statewide, at seven locations. Earliest were one white and four blue morphs at Kelley's Isl on 25 Sept (**J. Pogacnik**).

Canada Goose: **K. Metcalf** noted neckbands of the first Hudson Bay migrants in *Cuyahoga* on 14 Sept. 1018 were counted at Magee on 19 Sept (**H&S Hiris**).

Mute Swan: Some signs of increase. **D. Conover** reported six south of Dayton on 25 Sept. Numbers were heftiest at East Harbor SP, where **R. Harlan** and **Sa. Wagner** had 30 on 29 Nov; earlier, **J. Pogacnik** noted no fewer than 70 on 2 Nov at the same locale.

Tundra Swan: Numbers overall were not exceptional. **J. Brumfield** reported the summering bird at Sheldon Marsh was still present on 21 Aug. First migrants were reported on 22 Oct—14 at Ladue (**A. Fondrk**) and 22 at Gordon Pk (**C. Rieker**). Extraordinary was a massive statewide movement on 3 Nov: **D. Best** reported big flights of 325+ during a snowstorm at five *Geauga* locations, the **Dunakins** 135 in *Paulding*, **W. Shively** 21 at Killdeer, the **Hochadels** 180 in Trumbull, **D. Ferris** 80 at Ladue, and **S. Wulkowicz** the arrival at S. Bass Isl of 13 birds which stayed the month.

Wood Duck: Customarily widespread, warm weather encouraged lingerers, as two on the CVNRA (**D&A Chasar**) and one in *Geauga* (**H. Hendrickson**), both on 28 Nov.

Gadwall: 28 birds reported in Aug included one in *Paulding* (**M&D Dunakin**), 3 at Ottawa (**J. Pogacnik**), and one at Sheldon Marsh SNP (**Z. Baker**). ~900 were counted by **V. Fazio** on 26 Oct at Ottawa, and

the much smaller Medusa Marsh hosted ~250 on 11 Nov (**M. Galloway, C. Rieker**) and ~150 on 29 Nov (**R. Harlan, Sa. Wagner**).

American Wigeon: Early on, one was at Big Island WA on 16 Aug (**Z. Baker, B. Barchus**) and two at Killbuck on the 30th (**S. Snyder**). High count was 4232 on the 17 Oct Magee census (**H&S Hiris**).

American Black Duck: Seven on the ONWR census on 5 Sept may have been local breeders; the provenance of one at Buck Ck SP (**D. Overacker**) the following day is more inscrutable. High count was ~600 at Ottawa on 26 Oct (**V. Fazio**).

Mallard: 825 were seen on the ONWR census of 5 Sept, then ~2500 on **V. Fazio**'s big waterfowl day there on 26 Oct. Magee Marsh censuses tallied 670 on 19 Sept, 1489 on 17 Oct, and 1217 on 21 Nov (**H&S Hiris**).

Blue-winged Teal: A bird was on the Paulding Sewage Lagoons from 28 Aug to 8 Oct (**D&M Dunakin**). Twenty were at Mosquito Lk WA on 4 Sept (**D&J Hochadel**), then 565 at Ottawa for the census the following day. Latest report was one at East Harbor SP on 20 Nov (**J. Hammond et al.**).

Northern Shoveler: Six were seen as early as 21 Aug at Berlin Res (**C. Holt**). High count was a healthy 778 on the Magee census of 17 Oct (**H&S Hiris**). A single male was seen on 23 Oct off S. Bass Isl. where the species is "extremely rare" according to veteran observer **S. Wulkowicz**.

Northern Pintail: High count was 305 birds at Ottawa on 31 Oct (**V. Fazio**). Inland numbers seemed unusually sparse.

Green-winged Teal: August birds included two at Ottawa on the 7th, probably some of the local breeders, and ten at Mosquito Lk WA on the 23rd (**J&D Hochadel**), and one at the Grand River WA on the 28th (**N. Barber**). High count was 1400 on 3 Oct's ONWR census. 65 were at Greenlawn Dam in Columbus on 3 Nov (**R. Cressman**). Late in the period on 28 Nov, two were on the CVNRA (**A&D Chasar**) and one in Lorain (**T. Gilliland, fide P. Lozano**).

Canvasback: Earliest reported was in *Mahoning* (**N. Brundage**) on 29 Sept, followed by one on 4 Oct in *Paulding* (**M&D Dunakin**). 59 was an excellent count in *Hancock* (**B. Hardesty**) on 26 Oct. State-wide high was 107 on 3 Nov at Lakeshore MP (**J. Pogacnik**).

Redhead: Scarce. Six passed Lakeshore MP on 30 Sept (**J. Pogacnik**), and 4 Oct brought a bird to *Paulding* (**D&M Dunakin**) and one to Mentor (**L. Rosche**). **Pogacnik** noted six on 14 Oct at Lakeshore, and **C. Holt** found 15 on Wellington Res, *Lorain*, on 22 Nov.

Ring-necked Duck: First noted were three at Mogadore Res on 27 Sept (**L. Rosche**). Numbers burgeoned later, as the same observer found the following in Shalersville Twp, *Portage*: 220 on 17 Oct, 1060 on 27 Oct, and 1200 on 13 Nov.

Greater Scaup: On 17 Oct, **J. Pogacnik** had two at Lakeshore MP, and the **Dunakins** two at Paulding Res. One was off Sherod Pk in Vermilion on 3 Nov (**J. Hammond**), two at Wellington Res on 13 Nov (**R. Harlan, Sa. Wagner**), and one at Buck Ck SP on 28 Nov (**D. Overacker**), with another near Dayton the same day (**K. Gaskill**). That's it.

Lesser Scaup: One was at Ottawa on 4 Sept (**A. Goloda**), and one on the ONWR census the following day; the census found only one there on 7 Nov. **J. Pogacnik** had 46 at Lakeshore MP 14 Oct, and **R. Harlan** and **Sa. Wagner** 600 at East Harbor SP 29 Nov.

Surf Scoter: 86 birds reported. High count, and earliest, was 29 adults passing Lakeshore MP on 7 Oct (**J. Pogacnik**). Latest of period was 2 off Headlands Beach SP on 28 Nov (**L. Rosche, R. Hannikman**). No inland reports.

White-winged Scoter: Down from last fall's 33 birds, a more normal 10 this year, all in November, the highest count five males and a female at Ottawa on the 6th (**V. Fazio**).

Black Scoter: 36 birds in 19 reports, beginning with five birds at Headlands Beach SP on 14 Oct (**K. Metcalf, C. Holt**) had ten birds at Conneaut on 3 Oct.

Oldsquaw: It seems the rising tide of nomenclatural insipidity will soon reduce this bird's name to "long-tailed duck," but we will retain the old one here until the last possible minute. Nine birds total: three on 24 Oct at Huron (**D. Sanders**), one at Lakeshore MP on 15 Nov (**J. Pogacnik**), four at Huron on 18 Nov (**D. Horn**), and a female at East Fork SP on 25 Nov (**D. Timberlake**).

Bufflehead: The first reported was far inland at Wilmington Res, with a significant 28 birds on 1 Oct (**L. Gara**). On 5 Oct the first was noted at the Lake, off S. Bass Isl, by **D. Sanders**; numbers there grew to ~500 by 18 Nov (**S. Wulkowicz**). That the islands are an important area for this species seemed further supported by discovery of a record 938 birds off Kelley's Isl on 20 Nov (**T. Bartlett**).

Common Goldeneye: Sparse in this warm fall. A few showed up during the third week of October—one at Lakeshore on the 14th (**J. Pogacnik**), 13 at Magee on the 17th (**H&S Hiris**), and one at Findlay on the 19th (**B. Hardesty**)—but by the end of the period the high count was only 30 on Mosquito Lk WA on 7 Nov (**C. Holt**).

Hooded Merganser: The first apparent migrant showed up 14 Oct at Lakeshore (**J. Pogacnik**); the high count was 290 birds at Lk Rockwell, *Portage* 25 Nov (**L. Rosche**).

Common Merganser: Characteristically small fall numbers, the first, six at Lakeshore on 14 Oct (**J. Pogacnik**). High count was only 40 females on 20 Nov at East Harbor SP (**J. Hammond et al.**).

Red-breasted Merganser: A bird was regularly seen off E 55th St in Cleveland from late July through Aug (**P. Lozano, m obs**). The first migrant was off Lakeshore MP on 23 Sept (**J. Pogacnik**). By Nov, numbers of passing birds tried the patience of counters: two who persisted were **V. Fazio**, who tallied ~42,000 off Old Woman Ck on 7 Nov in 40 minutes, and **J. Pogacnik**, who counted 23,670 off Lakeshore MP on 25 Nov.

Ruddy Duck: A probable summering bird was at Beach City Dam, *Tuscarawas*, on 12 Aug (**L. Yoder**), as may have been two seen on Sandusky Bay on 13 Sept (**J. Hammond, B. Conlon**). Big numbers as usual were at inland reservoirs: ~2000 at Mogadore on 29 Oct (**L. Rosche**), 750 at Bresler and 1000 at Metzger, both *Allen*, on 13 Nov (**D. Dister**), and 500 the same day at Wellington, *Lorain*, by **R. Harlan** and **Sa. Wagner**.

Osprey: 59 sightings reported. Holiday Beach MBO in MI reported the species down 40% from the average. August records here—the 2nd at Sheldon Marsh (**M. Zuilhof**), two on the 7th at Medusa Marsh (**N. Lindberg**), one at Findlay on the 10th (**B. Hardesty**), one on the 15th at Millstone Hills GC, Huron (**G. Emmert**), one at Berlin Res on the 16th (**C. Holt**), one at EFSP on the 27th (**H. Armstrong**)—may represent spillover from Wildlife's reintroduction program. The latest report was on a bird at Ottawa on 6 Nov (**V. Fazio**).

Bald Eagle: 73 sightings reported. High count was on the ONWR census of 5 Sept, with 20 imm and 2 adults noted.

Northern Harrier: 123 sightings reported. August birds make one wonder about Ohio breeding; much needs to be learned here. An adult male was in *Marion* on 7 Aug (**N. Lindberg**), an imm at MWW on the 11th (**P. Wharton**), one in *Hancock* on the 17th (**B. Hardesty**), and one in *Portage* on the 24th (**C. Holt**). High counts were 16 by the ONWR census on 7 Nov, and 16 at Killdeer on 30 Nov (**R. Sempier**).

Sharp-shinned Hawk: 137 sightings reported. One early migrant popped up at Mosquito Lk WA on 16 Aug (**D&J Hochadel**). High count was 39 on a hawk census at Kelley's Isl on 2 Oct (**K. Metcalf**), a spot excellent for accipiters and falcons this season.

Northern Goshawk: One report, an imm on 20 Nov on Kelley's Isl (**T. Bartlett**). Holiday Beach MBO reported this species' numbers were 50% below average this fall.

Red-shouldered Hawk: Migrants seem to have passed unnoticed here. High count was 8 on the CVNRA survey (*vide* D. Chasar) of 18 Sept.

Broad-winged Hawk: L. Rosche had one on the RTLS 8 Sept, J. Pogacnik five at Lakeshore MP 17 Sept, then one 27 Sept at Girdled Rd Res'n, Lake. Galling is the record 501,000 birds at Lake Erie MP in Michigan on 17 Sept, all or most of which probably passed unnoticed through Ohio. A good find was a pair of broadwings over Clermont on the very late date of 29 Oct, heard calling and satisfactorily described by D. Morse.

Red-tailed Hawk: High count was 15 at Oak Openings MP on 7 Nov (R. Harlan, Sa. Wagner). Two dark-morph birds were reported, one at Ottawa on 6 Nov (V. Fazio) and another in Toledo on 26 Nov (J. Grabmeier). Ken Brock estimates that one of every 200 redtails in the Middlewestern Prairie region is of the dark form. E. Young (*vide* D. Best), on the other hand, reported a very pale individual in Montville Twp, Geauga, through the period and for the second year in a row.

Rough-legged Hawk: Scarcer than last year. Migrants passing through SE Michigan were reportedly 43% below average numbers. Here, 42 sightings were reported. K. Metcalf reported the species made a good showing in the NE, but any good numbers in the grasslands south of there seem to have gone unnoticed; the coming season will tell.

Golden Eagle: A very good showing regionally. SE Michigan hawk-watchers reported the species at double the average numbers, with 245 sightings. C. Rieker described an imm over Parma 24 Oct, three days before hawk-watchers tallied a record 43 at Lk Erie MP in Michigan. R. Schlabach had an imm over his farm in Holmes 25 Oct. L. Rosche had an imm over the RTLS on 27 Oct, and M. Dunakin found another over Antwerp, Paulding, on 1 Nov, M. McAllister a subadult over West Union, Adams on 5 Nov, and D. Sanders, J. Hammond, and B. Whan a subadult over Oak Openings MP on 8 Nov.

American Kestrel: Numbers were below average at the SE Mich watch sites, but L. Rosche stated the species "seems to be improving" at the other end of the state in the NE. High count was 28 on 24 Aug in Hancock (*vide* B. Hardesty).

Merlin: Sighting by sighting, numbers added to an excellent 43 in Ohio. August sightings—on the 3rd at Findlay (B. Hardesty), the 25th in Clermont (D. Morse), and the 29th at The Wilds, Muskingum (R. Harlan, Sa. Wagner) encourage dreams the species will resume nesting in the state.

Peregrine Falcon: 41 birds sighted, from 6 Aug at MWW (J. Rakestraw) to the end of the period. The best show may have been along the old Cedar Pt Causeway on 25 Oct, where one was seen by R. Harlan and Sa. Wagner carrying a still-living male cardinal, itself chased by two adult bald eagles.

Wild Turkey: Maximum was 50 on 17 Nov in Perintown, Clermont, by K. Michels. Dry weather—and lots of seventeen-year cicadas—benefited poults, whose ratio relative to hens increased by 60% over last year. The fall turkey kill was 3071 birds in 25 counties, up 149% from last year. The first statewide spring hunting season will be 24 Apr-14 May.

Ruffed Grouse: Few reports. ODW censused 1829 turkey hunters, who in 5520 hours afield in Sept encountered only 150 grouse, down 17% from last year.

Yellow Rail: Two reports of this elusive species. One, on 14 Aug at Big Island WA, was documented for the OBRC, which is still considering the matter; the other, one on 30 Sept at Gordon Pk (D. Sanders, J. Hammond), was accepted by the OBRC.

King Rail: Three reports of this locally troubled species: one at Calvin's Pond, Mahoning, a nice find on 29 Sept (C. Keppler), as well as one on 22 Aug at Ottawa (J. Lehman), and one at Sheldon Marsh SNP on 12 Oct (L. Sediak).

Sora: Only 32 birds reported. One on 19 Aug on S. Bass Isl was a good find (S. Wulkowicz). High count 12-15 at Killbuck 25 Sept (J. Beechy).

Common Moorhen: 29 sightings reported, the latest on 8 Oct at Killbuck (S. Snyder); high count was 2 ad and 9 juv at Metzger Marsh WA on 5 Aug (D&J Hoffman).

American Coot: Magee had 1034 on 19 Sept, then 8204 on 17 Oct (H&S Hiris); Ottawa had 104 on 5 Sept and 1045 on 3 Oct on the census. 100+ were at Metzger Marsh WA on 16 Sept (B&A Toneff). Inland, ~600 were at Killbuck 27 Oct, diminishing to 9 at the end of the period (S. Snyder), and ~500 at Camp Dennison, Hamilton 26 Nov (B. Stanley).

Sandhill Crane: Numbers were down from last fall—less than 400—and many reports were early. One remained from the previous period at Lorain airport (P. Jones); the same observer noted the usual pair at Killbuck on 15 Aug. Two adults and one imm were extensively traced by Geauga birders through Auburn Twp from 27 Aug through the end of the period (D. Ferris, D. Best, B. Faber, L. Rosche, A. Fondrk, et al.). High count was of ~150 in Champaign east of Urbana (*vide* D. Daniel).

Black-bellied Plover: 271 sightings reported, nearly all at Ottawa, Sheldon Marsh, Berlin Res, and Conneaut. One appeared at Conneaut on 4 Aug (J&M McConnor), and the last reported were 18 at Ottawa on 13 Nov (V. Fazio). Maximum was 48 at Ottawa on 26 Oct, same observer.

American Golden-Plover: One distinctive individual moped around the far side of the Medusa Marsh mudflats from 14 Aug to at least 4 Sept for a long stay (D. Linzell, et al.). The latest reported was one at Sheldon Marsh SNP on 10 Nov (J. Hammond, D. Sanders). High count inland was of 38 at the Vanlue Sewage Ponds, Hancock (K. Noblet), and by Lake Erie 70 were found at Ottawa on 1 Nov (R. Harlan, Sa. Wagner).

Semipalmated Plover: Southbound migrants continued from the previous period, with peaks of 35+ at Sheldon Marsh SNP on 12 Sept (J. McCoy), and 55 on the Ottawa census of 3 Oct. The last laggard was at Ottawa on 1 Nov (R. Harlan, Sa. Wagner).

Piping Plover: Even a single report is precious these days, as was one from the Huron River flats on 5 Sept, a basic-plumaged bird; the record is now with the OBRC.

Killdeer: Good numbers at mudflats statewide. 560 were on the Ottawa census of 1 Aug, 502 at Berlin Res on 13 Aug (B. Morrison), and ~300 at Ottawa on 19 Aug (J. Hammond, D. Sanders). At the end of the period they were still going strong, with 130 at Buck Ck SP 21 Nov (D. Overacker) and 200+ at Lk Cowan the 28th (R. Sempier).

American Avocet: At least 22 birds reported. At Bombay Hook NWR in Delaware, a traditional staging-area, a record 1056 were recorded, versus 610 last fall (*vide* A. Hill). D. Overacker found four at Buck Ck SP on 15 Aug, but the high count was five at Sheldon Marsh SNP on 26 Aug (*vide* P. Sherwood). The last, a female, was reported on 3 Nov at Conneaut (J. Pogacnik).

Greater Yellowlegs: Thirty were at Medusa Marsh on 1 Aug (D&J Hoffman), and 47 on the Ottawa census the same day. The latest report was of eight birds at Killdeer on 16 Nov (H. Nagy, M. Lynd).

Lesser Yellowlegs: 160 were counted on the 1 Aug Ottawa census, and 135 on the Huron R flats on 29 Aug (C. Holt). Late, one was still at Killdeer on 14 Nov (V. Fazio), and the last hurrah was of 13 birds at Magee on the 21st (H&S Hiris).

Solitary Sandpiper: As with many shorebirds this season, Ottawa and Berlin Res vied for the high count, in this case with 11 on the 1 Aug Ottawa count and 12 at Berlin on the 7th (C. Holt). Quite late was one at Conneaut on 30 Oct (J. Pogacnik), but not long after a 21 Oct bird at Spring Valley WA (J. Rakestraw).

Willet: As many as 20 birds reported, none specified as adults. One inland report—1 Aug at MWW (*vide* N. Keller). None reported at Berlin Res. Many were significantly late, especially at Ottawa, with the following reports: one on 3 Oct (T. Kemp, G. Links), one on 16 Oct (J. Haw), one on 31 Oct (V. Fazio), two 3 Nov (J. Hammond), and one as late as 13 Nov (V. Fazio).

Spotted Sandpiper: Ottawa and Berlin Res contested for high counts, tying at 41—1 Aug on Ottawa's census and 8 Aug at Berlin (B. Morrison). One on 23 Oct at Buck Ck SP (D. Overacker) was latish, but one seen by S. Wulkowicz on S. Bass Isl on 1 Nov takes the cake.

Upland Sandpiper: The usual few fall reports included one 5 Aug in *Paulding* (M&D Dunakin), one 10 Aug in Painesville (J. Pogacnik), one 14 Aug at Big Island WA (D. St. John), and one there on 8 Sept (G. Kelley).

Whimbrel: An average showing except for Rosche's flock; all reports follow: four at Headlands Beach SP 14 Aug (R. Hannikman), one at Sheldon Marsh 19-21 Aug (D. Sanders, L. Yoder), 20 on the RTLS on 24 Aug (L. Rosche), one at Arcola Ck. Lake, 30 Aug (J. Pogacnik), one imm 1-3 Sept at Conneaut (G. Meszaros), one at Walnut Beach on 6 Sept (J. Pogacnik), and one at Conneaut on 9 Sept (B&A Toneff).

Long-billed Curlew: First verified record since 1983, a bird spent 1-2 Oct in *Holmes* (B. Glick ph, m obs). Accepted by the OBRC. As long ago as 1882, Wheaton regarded the species as a rare migrant and only possible as a breeder.

Hudsonian Godwit: Probably at least 26 individuals of this elegant species this fall. Birds were at Ottawa from 19 Aug (three seen by J. Hammond and D. Sanders) to 1 Nov (two seen by R. Harlan and Sa. Wagner), with a high of five on 3 Oct (Ottawa census). Birds at Sheldon Marsh SNP grew from four on 19 Aug (J. Hammond) to seven on the 24th (T&B Sponseller), to eight on the 26th (P. Sherwood), with seven seen on the 27th (D. St. John). On 28 Aug, four showed up at Hoover Res, *Delaware* (R. Thorn), reinforced to eight birds by the 29th (B. Royle), the number probably not coincidental. Elsewhere, one was at Walnut Beach, *Ashtabula*, for J. Pogacnik on 6 Sept, and a calling flock of 16 treated K. Miller to great looks at Berlin Res on 19 August (excellent details supplied); again, one wonders about the coincidence with the Ottawa and Sheldon sightings the same day, as the Berlin birds were not relocated.

Marbled Godwit: Marbleds followed their congeners to Ottawa, with one on 28 Aug (J. McCoy) and the latest on 31 Oct by V. Fazio, as well as to Sheldon Marsh, with two on 18 Aug (D. Sanders, R. Harlan, et al.), with one remaining until at least 14 Sept (Z. Baker). The only other bird was reported by P. Miller, who saw one in *Ottawa* while waiting for a ferry on 12 Sept.

Ruddy Turnstone: A paltry showing; all reports follow. One Clark Lk 24 Aug and one Buck Ck SP on 27 Aug (D. Overacker), one 2 Sept at Sheldon (J. McCoy), two Sheldon Marsh 4 Sept (B. Whan et al.), two at Conneaut on 5 Sept (C. Holt), one 7 Sept at Conneaut (B&A Toneff), three to five Headlands Beach SP on 14-16 Sept (R. Hannikman), one at Killdeer on 29 Sept (J. Hammond, D. Sanders), one 14 Oct at Headlands (K. Metcalf), and two 24 Oct S. Bass Isl (S. Wulkowicz).

Red Knot: All reports: one 1 Aug ONWR census and one same day at Medusa (J&D Hoffman), 5 ad at Conneaut on 8 Aug (C. Holt), and one Conneaut 15 Aug (J. Pogacnik), one at Sheldon 23 Aug (B. Conlon), two at Sheldon on 3 Sept (J. Lehman), four at Conneaut on 4 Sept (J. Pogacnik), a juv at Walnut Beach on 5 Sept (C. Holt), one on the Ottawa census on 5 Sept, one at Sheldon on 12 Sept (J. McCoy), and two on the Huron R flats on 20 Sept (J. McCoy).

Sanderling: A good season, beginning on 1 Aug at MWW (*vide* N. Keller) to the quite late date of 13 Nov at Conneaut (J. Pogacnik). Inland, one was at Caesar Ck SP on 19 Aug (L. Gara), birds were present at Buck Ck SP on nine visits between 27 Aug and 2 Oct, with a peak of 18 on 17 Sept (D. Overacker), and four were on the Findlay Res dikes on 24 Sept (B. Hardesty). Forty birds were at Headlands Beach SP on 14 Aug (R. Hannikman), where thirty still lingered on 18 Sept (L. Rosche, Hannikman); the high count was 46 at Sheldon Marsh SNP on 25 Sept (E. Pierce).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: With mudflats abundant, all the expected peeps were present in good numbers. This species occurred statewide in shorebird concentrations. High count was ~300 on the Crane Creek flats at Ottawa on 27 Aug (V. Fazio). A late bird, apparently injured, was at East Harbor SP on 16 Oct (V. Fazio).

Western Sandpiper: As many as 20 birds reported, but ID can be tricky after molt, though far more likely than the preceding species in Oct and Nov. High count was six on the Ottawa census of 1 Aug. The latest report was of one at Ottawa on 1 Nov (R. Harlan, Sa. Wagner).

Least Sandpiper: ~50 were at MWW at the beginning of the period on 1 Aug (P. Wharton). Good numbers statewide where habitat allowed, with a high of ~200 at Sheldon Marsh on 14 Aug (D. Linzell et al.). In a warm fall, birds lingered, with five at Killdeer on 1 Nov (R. Harlan, Sa. Wagner), eight at Toussaint WA on the 13th (V. Fazio), and three at Buck Ck SP on the 20th (D. Overacker).

White-rumped Sandpiper: Over sixty reported. One was at Ottawa on 19 Aug, then five by the 8th (J. Hammond, D. Sanders). Two to five were seen at Conneaut from 23 Aug (G. Meszaros) and 3 Oct (P. Lozano, C. Holt, m obs). At Berlin Res, five on 13 Sept (K. Miller) grew to 24 by 9 Sept and then to 27 on 15 Sept, some remaining through the 20th (B. Morrison). Seven were at Killdeer as soon as mud appearing on Pond 27 on 23 Sept (B. Conlon). Numbers at Sheldon grew from one on 29 Aug (J. Brumfield) to four on 13 Sept (J. Hammond). Latest report was five on 1 Nov at Ottawa (R. Harlan, S. Wagner).

Baird's Sandpiper: In good numbers and widespread. Three rarely-seen adults were at Conneaut on 4 Aug (N. Barber). One to two were reported at Winton Wds. *Hamilton*, on 6 Aug (J. Lehman, L. Gara). Birds were present from 20 Aug to 12 Sept at Buck Ck SP, peaking at two on 12 Sept (D. Overacker). High count was nine at Sheldon on 11 Sept (J. McCoy), and the latest report was from Killdeer on 13 Nov by D. Overacker.

Pectoral Sandpiper: Close to two thousand reported. Inland ~100 were at MWW on 1 Aug (P. Wharton). ~500 were at the Lake at Sheldon Marsh on 14 Aug (J. Hammond et al.). They stayed late as well: V. Fazio had six at Ottawa on 6 Nov, and four at Killdeer on the 14th; one was found by D. Overacker at Buck Ck SP on 20 Nov.

Purple Sandpiper: Large numbers of this species, it has recently been learned, pass the winter north of the Arctic Circle; hence, it is no surprise few showed up in our torrid clime. All reports: one at Conneaut on 3 Nov (J. Pogacnik), two at Kelley's Isl on 16 Nov (P. Hayes), one at Huron on 22-24 Nov (R. Harlan, Sa. Wagner, J. Hammond, et al.), and one on 28 Nov at Walnut Beach, *Ashtabula* (C. Holt).

Dunlin: Customarily plentiful. Over 25,000 counted on the BSBO surveys this fall. An early one was at Buck Ck SP on 11 Sept (D. Overacker), two were at Hoover Res, *Delaware*, on the 23rd (J. Hammond, S. Landes), and a juv was at Wooster on 25-26 Sept (S. Snyder). High count was 1600+ at Ottawa on 26 Oct (V. Fazio), and birds remained to the end of the period, with R. Cressman reporting five at Pickerington Ponds, *Franklin*, on 29 Nov.

Stilt Sandpiper: Hundreds reported. In the south, one was at MWW on 3 Aug (N. Cade), and groups of from two to five at Clark Lk between 23 Aug and 30 Aug (D. Overacker); there was one at Englewood MP in Dayton on 2 Oct (D. Dister). 20 were at Hoover Res on 28 Aug (R. Thorn), and the high count was 36 at Ottawa on 27 Aug (V. Fazio, who also reported the latest three birds on 25 Oct at Killdeer).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: An excellent flight, with over 40 birds reported. Two very early birds returned during the previous period, but the first in fall was one on 24 Aug at Buck Ck SP (D. Overacker), where two were noted 4 Sept. Conneaut had varying numbers (at least three—G. Meszaros) between 29 Aug and 18 Sept (B&A Toneff, D&J Hoffman, B. Barrett, m obs). At Berlin Res, one bird on 3 Sept (K. Miller) grew to three on 7 Sept, and one remained on the 12th (B. Morrison). As many as six were at Sheldon, as on 11 Sept (J. McCoy), and B. Hardesty had five on 4 Sept and two on 21 Sept at the Findlay Res. Last report was of two birds at Killdeer on 2 Oct (R. Harlan, Sa. Wagner).

Ruff: Three reports, one undocumented. Documentation of a bird on 5 Sept at Ottawa (C. Crofts) was accepted by the OBRC, as was one reported on 14 Aug at Sheldon Marsh SNP (B. Whan).

Short-billed Dowitcher: Decent numbers, after a good flight of adults in July. Ottawa claimed the high count with 160 birds on 27 Aug (V. Fazio), and 127 on 5 Sept during the census. The last noted was 1 Oct at Headlands Beach SP (R. Hannikman).

Long-billed Dowitcher: A few adults appeared in late July. The southernmost bird was seen 1 Aug at MWW (P. Wharton). High count was 125 juveniles on 17 Oct at Ottawa (C. Holt). J. Hammond and D. Sanders reported the last of them, 15 at Ottawa on 3 Nov.

Common Snipe: High count was 96+ at Killdeer on 14 Nov (V. Fazio). That the species is hardy is attested to by 17 birds at Cowan Lk on 28 Nov (L. Gara), and nine on the 30th at Killdeer (R. Sempier).

American Woodcock: Only six reports, the latest of a dead bird found on a downtown sidewalk in Columbus on 4 Nov (B. Royse).

Wilson's Phalarope: All reports follow. Single birds were at MWW (*fide* N. Keller) and at Ottawa on the census on 1 Aug, where a bird was reported on the 7th by J. Szanto. One was on the Huron R flats on the 25th (D. Sanders), and two at Ottawa on the 26th (V. Fazio), with at least one remaining until the 28th (G. DeMars, J. Haw). One was at Conneaut on 4 Sept (J. Pogacnik), and one at Mosquito Lk WA on 12 Sept (C. Holt).

Red-necked Phalarope: All reports follow. One was at Conneaut on 10 Aug (K. Metcalf). J. Hammond saw one at Ottawa on 18 Aug, and two there the following day. One at Sheldon Marsh (B. Conlon, T&B Sponseller) on 23 Aug had become two by the 26th (L. Feix). By the 26th, four were at Ottawa (V. Fazio), two remaining on the 29th at which date one showed up in *Delaware* at Hoover Res (B. Royse). Three were on the Huron R flats on 15 Sept (D. Sanders, D. Burton), one at Berlin Res on the 18th (C. Holt), one at Killbuck on the 22nd (S. Snyder), and one at Walnut Beach on the 23rd (J. Pogacnik). At Sheldon Marsh, the latter observer had five on 28 Aug, and five other phalarope sp. seen there on 12 Sept were thought to be this sp. (J. McCoy); only one remained on the 17th (J. Hammond, B. Whan).

Red Phalarope: All reports follow. A juv was seen by G. Meszaros at Conneaut on 1 Oct, where J. Pogacnik had the same or another bird on the 17th. D. Sanders reported an imm at Sheldon Marsh on 24 Oct, and two were found there the following day by R. Harlan and Sa. Wagner. Two were off Kelley's Isl on 4 Nov (P. Hayes), and a bird was seen off East Harbor SP on the 7th (J. Pogacnik).

Pomarine Jaeger: Over a dozen birds reported. H. Armstrong and J. Lehman discovered the best, a bird at East Fork SP, *Clermont*, on 30 Oct. The third verified inland record for the state, it performed for observers until a cold front on 15 Nov moved it on. The documentation for the report was accepted by the OBRC. The other reports spanned the whole of October, the last—and maximum—report of five birds, four dark and one light morph, off Huron on 28 Nov (J. Pogacnik).

Parasitic Jaeger: One report. Documentation of a bird off the *Lake* shoreline on 30 Sept is with the OBRC. Jon Dunn (pers. comm.) points out that pomarines predominate, as juveniles, here from late Oct on; parasitic and long-tailed sightings begin in late Aug, when too few birders are looking for larids over Lake Erie, hence perhaps a recent trend for poms to outnumber parasitic jaegers, despite the latter's historically higher numbers. Another factor for the current disparity may be recent advances in field ID of pomarines, which may be revealing their truer proportions in this very difficult group.

Long-tailed Jaeger: Documentation of an imm bird off the *Lake* shoreline on 22 Oct is with the OBRC.

Jaeger sp.: One 9 Nov at Eastlake (N. Barber), and four off Metzger Marsh on 11 Nov (M. Gallaway, C. Rieker, *fide* V. Fazio).

Laughing Gull: One juv at Conneaut on 15 Aug (J. Pogacnik, ph G. Meszaros), and a molting adult off Sheldon Marsh SNP on 23 Aug (B. Conlon) constituted all reports.

Franklin's Gull: 50+ birds reported. H. Armstrong reported the first eight on 1 Oct at East Fork SP, whereupon they disappeared. The same day L. Gara found 16 at Caesar Ck SP, a flock that dwindled to a single bird by 22 Oct. Not far away, D. Overacker noticed five at Buck Ck SP on the 3rd, one of which stayed around till the 30th. G. Buckley had 24 on Buckeye Lk on the 4th. One at Greenlawn Dam in Columbus stayed from 24 Oct (R. Cressman) to at least 8 Nov (C. Gambill). J. Pogacnik had the latest bird, one at Eastlake on 22 Nov.

Little Gull: A juv was at Sheldon Marsh on 18 Aug (D. Burton, D. Sanders); the next reported by D. Sanders and J. Hammond at Headlands Beach SP on 6 Oct. Five more birds were noted, all at the Lake, the last on 13 Nov at Lakeshore MP (J. Pogacnik).

Bonaparte's Gull: Undiminished in numbers through the end of the period. 100+ were at Sheldon Marsh on 3 Aug (M. Zuilhof). 9600 were off Lakeshore MP on 30 Sept (J. Pogacnik) and on 27 Nov M. Busam estimated 3000 off Huron.

Ring-billed Gull: Inland, 400 were at Berlin Res on 14 Aug (S. Snyder, L. Yoder), growing to ~1500 by 14 Sept (B. Morrison).

Herring Gull: E. Pierce estimated 4000 at Lorain and Avon Lk on 27 Oct. C. Holt reported the first juveniles at Conneaut on 8 Aug.

Thayer's Gull: An adult at Eastlake on 25 Nov was noticed by J. Pogacnik; on the 29th N. Barber refound it, as well as a second-winter bird.

Iceland Gull: No reports, unless lumpers want to count the preceding birds.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Probably more than a dozen birds along the Lakefront. Good numbers included four at Eastlake on 24 Nov (K. Metcalf) and three at Lorain from 27-29 Nov (K. Mock *et al.*).

Great Black-backed Gull: Maximum was 127 birds at Lorain on 27 Oct (V. Fazio). Inland, an imm at Greenlawn Dam in Columbus, where the species has occurred before, was discovered on 27 Oct by C. Gambill.

Sabine's Gull: One report, of a juv at Conneaut on 23 Sept (J. Pogacnik).

Black-legged Kittiwake: One report: a juv at Lakeshore MP on 2 Nov (J. Pogacnik).

Caspian Tern: Seemed normal, but maximum was disappointing: 37 at Kelley's Isl on 20 Aug (T. Bartlett). Latest reported were singles on 3 Nov at Huron (J. Hammond, D. Sanders) and at Conneaut (J. Pogacnik, R. Hannikman).

Common Tern: Nest sites protected by USF&WS and ODW had a record 61 nests at Ottawa, with 47 young, and a second-best 119, with no young surviving, at Pipe Ck WA. Maximum was 1270 at Pt Clinton on 19 Sept (V. Fazio). Latest report was 29 Nov, one at Lorain, by R. Harlan and Sa. Wagner.

Forster's Tern: ~300 were at Ottawa on 13 Sept (J. Hammond), and 420 at Pt Clinton on 19 Sept (V. Fazio). A single bird was at East Harbor SP on 20 Nov (J. Hammond).

Black Tern: Over 150 birds reported, from at least 20 locations. The first was seen on the Ottawa census on 1 Aug, but large numbers appeared statewide between 25 Aug and 5 Sept, with a maximum of 28 birds at Lake Logan (D. St. John); sightings during this interval came from Conneaut to Ottawa to the Cincinnati area. The last was reported from Ottawa on 20 Sept (J. McCoy). Here are only two reports from twenty years ago in *The Ohio Cardinal*: ~600 on 17 Aug at Cleveland, and ~150 at Ottawa on 5 Aug.

Common Ground-Dove: This species, which would be a first state record, was reported on the CVNRA on 5-6 Nov. Documentation, including photographs, was submitted to the OBRC, where a decision is pending.

Black-billed Cuckoo: Few reports, the latest from *Highland* on 25 Sept (D. Overacker).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Two very late sightings were noteworthy, both on 27 Oct by L. Grove at Rockbridge, *Hocking*, and N. Cade at Spring Grove Cemetery, *Hamilton*.

Barn Owl: 115 young fledged in 33 ODW-monitored nests, compared to the record 145 last year in 45 nests. Shortfall may be due to low meadow vole numbers during drought.

Snowy Owl: An imm was reported at Lorain on 25 Nov (J. Pogacnik) but not relocated.

Long-eared Owl: Two found on the Kelley's Isl census of 20 Nov (T. Bartlett).

Short-eared Owl: Over 40 birds reported, the first by E. Pierce in Gordon Pk on 9 Oct, where numbers grew to seven by the end of the month (B. Finkelstein *et al.*, *vide* P. Lozano), the maximum reported.

Northern Saw-whet Owl: J. Pogacnik had one at Lakeshore MP on 28 Oct. Three birds, two of them dead (presumably killed by predators), were found at Gordon Pk on 10 Nov (S. Zadar, *et al.*). A headless owl was found in Lima the same day by M. Busam. Ohioans might have missed a lot of live ones, as neighboring states reported record numbers; one station in Pennsylvania had banded 730 of this species by 18 Nov this fall (*vide* S. Wiedensaul).

Common Nighthawk: High count was ~400 over Holmes on 6 Sept (E. Schlabach), and the latest was one over Lake George on 3 Oct (L. Rosche).

Chimney Swift: Maximum was ~1000 over Rocky River Res'n (S. Ranahan). Latest reported was 2 Nov at Port Clinton (J. Pogacnik).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: A good year, by all accounts; Rosche judged them "as numerous as I can recall." During Sept, D. Daniel had as many as 10 at a time at her feeders in Logan. Several Oct reports, but Pogacnik had one at Lakeshore on 1 Nov that he judged probably of this species.

Selasphorus sp.: B. Winger had a female at Horseshoe Lk, Cuyahoga, on 27 Aug sporting the distinctive tail markings, and M. Schurman reported one from Hilliard, Franklin, on 3 Aug (*vide* J. Hammond).

Red-headed Woodpecker: S. Wulkowicz had one on S. Bass Isl on 4 Sept and 13 Oct. Goll Woods SNP, Fulton, hosted over 20 on 7 Nov (E. Durbin).

Red-bellied Woodpecker: 29 were on the Hancock survey of 3 Aug (B. Hardesty *et al.*), and 60 on that for the CVNRA on 18 Sept (D. Chasar *et al.*).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Earliest migrant was reported at Euclid Beach on 11 Sept (R. Harlan, Sa. Wagner). A late bird was in Columbus on 24 Nov (J. Mills); a few winter.

Northern Flicker: Big numbers were 80 at Headlands on 18 Sept (L. Rosche, R. Hannikman) and 150+ at Killdeer on 26 Sept (R. Sempier).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: First report from Lakeshore MP on 8 Aug (J. Pogacnik), then one in Tuscarawas on 14 Aug (E. Schlabach). Singing birds were in Cuyahoga on 27 Aug (B. Winger) and Johnstown, Licking, on 12 Sept (M. Skinner), the latest on the following day in Massillon (W. Sarno). Total of thirteen birds reported.

Eastern Wood-Pewee: During October, L. Yoder had one the 9th in Holmes, O. Debre one the following day at the MWW, when F. Greenland found one in Cleveland.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Twelve reports for this tough fall ID, the first two birds at Mill Stream Run on 9 Aug (S. Zadar), the last 22 Sept at Gilmore Ponds by M. Busam.

Willow Flycatcher: Four reports of migrants, all late, the latest 17 and 19 Sept at Gilmore Ponds (M. Busam).

Least Flycatcher: Maximum eight at Johnson's Island 30 Aug (R. Harlan, Sa. Wagner); late was one at Headlands on 2 Oct (R. Harlan, Sa. Wagner).

Eastern Phoebe: Late at Lake Erie was one at Lakeshore MP on 19 Nov (J. Pogacnik).

Great-crested Flycatcher: Latest report: Concord Twp, Lake, 7 Oct (J. Pogacnik).

Western Kingbird: Documentation of two birds at The Wilds, Muskingum on 6 Aug is being recirculated by the OBRC.

Northern Shrike: A good fall, with as many as 25 birds. L. Rosche saw shrikes on 11 occasions, and at eight widely-separated sectors, at the RTLS during the period. Sightings ranged from 30 Oct at Headlands (K. Metcalf) to the end of the period. Southernmost were at least two at Killdeer on 28 Nov (G. Stauffer) and one on 3 Nov at the same Holmes site visited by the species for the fifth year (L. Yoder). One was banded in Sandusky on 14 Nov by T. Kashmer.

Shrike sp.: One seen at Spring Valley WA on 12 Nov (K. Beal), and another on the CVNRA on 22 Nov (J. Adams, *vide* M. Zehnder).

White-eyed Vireo: One at Sheldon continued to sing through at least 4 Sept (B. Whan). Rosche counted 23 on the RTLS on 8 Sept. Late in the north was an imm on 8-9 Oct at Headlands (L. Rosche) and one on the 19th in Hancock (S. Ross, *vide* B. Hardesty).

Bell's Vireo: One at Barkcamp SP, Belmont, on 10 Aug (M. Patten). See article herein.

Yellow-throated Vireo: Maximum 12 on the RTLS 8 Sept (L. Rosche). Late birds: one in Zaleski SF 10 Oct (D. St. John) and one in Adams on 12 Oct (B. Lund).

Blue-headed Vireo: 18 Oct reports, the latest on the 31st in Holmes (E. Schlabach).

Warbling Vireo: Maximum 20 at Headlands on 18 Sept (L. Rosche, R. Hannikman). Latest 6 Oct in the Zaleski SF (D. St. John).

Philadelphia Vireo: Several Aug reports: the 15th, 21st, and 29th at Headlands (R. Hannikman), 20 Aug at Kelley's Isl (T. Bartlett), and one banded at Navarre Marsh on the 31st (M. Shildecastle). K. Metcalf discovered a record late bird on 18 Nov, last seen by B. Winger on the 24th, at N. Chagrin Res'n; compare last Nov's bird at same location.

Red-eyed Vireo: Maximum migrants 12 on 12 Sept at Headlands (L. Rosche, R. Hannikman). Last reported 10 Oct in Zaleski SF (D. St. John).

American Crow: F. Renfrow reported a roost in Cincinnati numbering over 30,000 on 18 Nov. R. Harlan and Sa. Wagner saw 2200 going N to SW over Oak Openings MP on 7 Nov.

Purple Martin: Maximum 350 at S. Bass Isl 28 Aug (S. Wulkowicz), latest three on 10 Oct at Big Island WA (C. Gambill).

Tree Swallow: V. Fazio had 2200 at Killdeer on 1 Sept, and D. Overacker ~5000 at Big Island on the 18th. Last report 26 Oct at Ottawa (V. Fazio).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: For record late departure, see next period for birds of 3-4 Dec.

Bank Swallow: Maximum 770 over Metzger Marsh on 25 Aug (R. Harlan, Sa. Wagner), and latest were two birds on 25 Sept at MWW (J. Lehman).

Cliff Swallow: Buck Ck SP's first nest apparently fledged one young (D. Overacker). Latest report was of a bird on 18 Sept at Big Island WA (D. Overacker).

Barn Swallow: Latest reported were five on 12 Oct over Findlay Res (B. Hardesty).

Carolina Chickadee: N. Cade had 200+ in the Mitchell Mem. Forest, Hamilton, 27 Nov.

Black-capped Chickadee: E. Schlabach announced a "major invasion" in Holmes, with 12 on 30 Oct; L. Yoder reported two 5 Sept, another 16 Oct, then "many" in Holmes. A first-record bird for Kentucky stayed for weeks during the period (J. Dunn).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: A bird on 1 Aug at Lakeshore MP (J. Pogacnik) seemed early for a migrant. Elsewhere, nuthatches flooded south in late Aug along a broad front; by 5 Sept, 15 could be found at

the Cincinnati Nature Ctr (W. Hull), and by 2 Oct 30+ on Kelley's Isl (V. Fazio), then by the end of the period 40+ in Mitchell Mem. Forest, Hamilton (N. Cade). A. Goloda saw one on a pelagic trip 20 mi off Virginia on 12 Sept, and the species apparently reached oil-drilling platforms in the Gulf of Mexico in Nov.

Carolina Wren: Unchallenged by severe winters, slowly increasing. One was at Conneaut on 5 Sept (C. Holt), and 25 were on the CVNRA survey of 18 Sept (D. Chasar *et al.*). Rosche regards the species as "common in Portage County."

Winter Wren: First migrant reported on 14 Sept at Headlands Beach SP (L. Rosche, R. Hannikman).

Sedge Wren: Still singing on breeding grounds until at least 14 Aug (J. Hammond *et al.*) at Killdeer. Latest migrant report from 2 Oct at Headlands (R. Harlan, Sa. Wagner).

Marsh Wren: 22 on the Ottawa census of 1 Aug, only 3 there on that for 5 Sept. A late bird was at Geneva SP on 13 Nov (J. Pogacnik).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: A bird on 30 Aug at Johnson's Isl was pretty early (R. Harlan, Sa. Wagner). High count was 50 on 9 Oct at Headlands Beach SP (L. Rosche, R. Hannikman).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Remarkably early were four at Sheldon Marsh 19 Aug (J. Hammond, D. Sanders). 60 were at Headlands 9 Oct (L. Rosche, R. Hannikman). Bookending the Sheldon birds was a late departure at Buck Ck SP 20 Nov (D. Overacker).

Veery: Migrants were first noted on 22 Aug with two at Headlands (P. Lozano *et al.*). M. Shieldcastle banded one at Navarre Marsh on 30 Aug. The latest reported came from Lakeshore on 3 Oct (J. Pogacnik).

Gray-checked Thrush: First migrants reported at Headlands on 22 Aug by the Lozano party, and the latest came from Headlands as well, three on 9 Oct (L. Rosche, R. Hannikman).

Swainson's Thrush: First southbound report was from Shawnee Lookout on 31 Aug (L. Peyton). D. St. John found 49 birds in the Zaleski SF on 14 Sept. Late date was a remarkable 26 Oct bird at Big Creek Res'n, Cuyahoga, for S. Zadar.

Hermit Thrush: First migrant noted was on 18 Sept at Lakeshore MP (J. Pogacnik). As many as 12 were seen on 11 Nov at East Harbor SP (M. Galloway, C. Rieker). Six were seen and heard on 27 Nov in the Mitchell Memorial Forest (N. Cade).

American Robin: On a big thrush day, N. Cade saw 2500 on 27 Nov with the above sp.

Gray Catbird: ~10 showed up at Headlands on 20 Aug (N. Barber). 40 remained on the RTLS through 8 Sept (L. Rosche), and one was on the old Cedar Pt causeway on 29 Nov (R. Harlan, Sa. Wagner).

Northern Mockingbird: Up north, Harlan and Wagner had one on 2 Oct at Headlands, the Hoffmans the first Cleveland Hts record on 12 Oct, and M. Galloway and C. Rieker one in the CVNRA on 12 Nov. Gordon Pk's perennial pair persisted (m obs).

Brown Thrasher: First migrants at Conneaut on 26 Sept (C. Holt). L. Yoder reported one quite late in Holmes on 14 Nov.

American Pipit: First migrants were two on 2 Sept at Big Isl WA (C. Bombaci). High counts in Holmes, with ~100 on 24 Oct by E. Schlabach and 133 on 13 Nov by L. Yoder.

Blue-winged Warbler: D. St. John noted the last in Zaleski SF on 29 Sept, but one lingered till 11 Oct at Hell Hollow, Lake (J. Pogacnik).

Golden-winged Warbler: Fall reports, all of which follow, outnumbered spring's. One at MWF 31 Aug (L. Peyton), one in Cols 1 Sept (S. Landes), one on the RTLS 8 Sept (L. Rosche), a female at Euclid

Beach 11 Sept (R. Harlan, Sa. Wagner), one at Magee 15 Sept (D. Sanders), and there on the 17th (B. McGuire), same day at Rocky River MP (R. Harlan, Sa. Wagner), and on 20 Sept in Worthington (B. Master) and at Magee (J. McCoy).

Tennessee Warbler: A migrant was at Headlands 16 Aug (H. Petruschke). High count was 53 at Zaleski SF on 15 Sept (D. St. John). Latest 19 Oct, Geauga (K. Metcalf).

Orange-crowned Warbler: Over 40 reported, from 12 counties, the first 2 at the RTLS on 15 Sept (L. Rosche), the last on 23 Oct at MWW (N. Cade).

Nashville Warbler: Migrants arrived late Aug, the first at Lakeshore MP on the 27th (J. Pogacnik). Maxima six in Columbus (B. Royce) and six in Cleveland (P. Lozano), both on 14 Oct. Last report 27 Oct in N. Chagrin Res'n (K. Metcalf).

Northern Parula: An early migrant was at Sheldon Marsh on 15 Aug (P. Lozano), and the latest reported on 9 Oct at the same locale (G. Fluke, *et al.*).

Yellow Warbler: Already in passage by the beginning of the period, with 50 at Lakeshore MP on 1 Aug (J. Pogacnik), when 63 were counted on the Ottawa census; nevertheless, one lingered till 9 Oct at Headlands Beach SP (K. Metcalf).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: On 15 Aug, P. Lozano had six at Sheldon Marsh. High count was L. Rosche's and R. Hannikman's 15 at Headlands 18 Sept; last one Magee census 17 Oct (H&S Hiris).

Magnolia Warbler: First migrant on 15 Aug in Holmes (E. Schlabach). 14 were at Mentor Lagoons on 14 Sept (L. Rosche, R. Hannikman), and last on 26 Oct at Whiskey Isl (P. Lozano).

Cape May Warbler: Recovering somewhat. First bird: P. Lozano at Sheldon 15 Aug; last 17 Nov in Parma by C. Rieker. L. Rosche had 45 on the RTLS during the period.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: Two arrived Headlands 22 Aug (B. Winger); three were at Magee on 17 Oct (H&S Hiris). Max three at Rocky River 14 Sept (R. Harlan, Sa. Wagner).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: MA&T Romito had a very early bird 9 Aug on the CVNRA; we have only 21 other Aug records. 300 were counted in the same RTLS area on 9 Oct (L. Rosche), where they remained through the end of the period.

Black-throated Green Warbler: A bird arrived on 10 Aug at the MWF (L. Peyton). Highs of 10 were at Firestone MP 28 Sept (R. Harlan, Sa. Wagner), in Bexley, Franklin, 3 Oct (J. Grabmeier), and in the Zaleski SF 14 Oct (D. St. John).

Blackburnian Warbler: Earliest was on 10 Aug at the MWF (L. Peyton), and latest 30 Sept at Edgewater Pk, Cuyahoga (P. Lozano).

Yellow-throated Warbler: Latest report was of one in Columbus on 3 Oct. (B. Royce).

Pine Warbler: Migrants present from 1 Sept to 9 Oct, noted at both dates in Lakeshore MP (J. Pogacnik). One was still in song at Lk Rockwell on 18 Sept (L. Rosche).

Prairie Warbler: The latest report was of one in full song 27 Sept in Adams (P. Whan).

Palm Warbler: P. Lozano had an early one at Sheldon Marsh on 15 Aug. High count six at Whiskey Isl (T&MA Romito) on 2 Oct. E. Schlabach had the latest, of the eastern race *hypochrysea*, in Holmes on 28 Oct.

Bay-breasted Warbler: Vanguard was two at Kelley's Isl 20 Aug (T. Bartlett). High count 12 at Headlands & Mentor Lagoons on 14 Sept (L. Rosche, R. Hannikman). Latest were two birds at Magee on 17 Oct (H&S Hiris).

Blackpoll Warbler: Good numbers. First reported on 31 Aug at the MWF (L. Peyton), 30 to 40 were tallied at Headlands by 11 Sept by K. Metcalf, and the last were singles on 26 Oct at Whiskey Isl (P. Lozano) and at East Harbor SP (V. Fazio).

Cerulean Warbler: Several sang until at least 10 Aug at the MWF (L. Peyton). No later report than 10 Sept, when D. Styer had two at Shawnee Lookout, *Hamilton*.

Black-and-white Warbler: Passed mostly unnoticed, it seemed. Latest report was of one on 5 Oct at the Cincinnati Nature Ctr (W. Hull).

American Redstart: 42 were counted on 14 Sept at the Mentor Lagoons (L. Rosche, R. Hannikman). Latest bird was one in the Zaleski SF on 14 Oct (D. St. John).

Ovenbird: The last report came from Holmes for 16 Oct (L. Yoder).

Northern Waterthrush: On 5 Aug, the Dunakins recorded their earliest *Paulding* arrival, and M. Zehnder reported the tardiest at the CVNRA on 11 Oct.

Louisiana Waterthrush: A bird on the RTLS on 15 Sept was Rosche's latest ever there, but one was found on the 18th on the CVNRA survey (*fide* D. Chasar).

Kentucky Warbler: On 15 Aug, L. Yoder had a migrant in *Holmes*, and the last was noted in the Zaleski SF on 11 Sept (D. St. John).

Connecticut Warbler: Eight birds reported, the first banded at Navarre Marsh on 29 Aug (M. Shieldcastle), the last in Cleveland on 19 Sept (P. Lozano).

Mourning Warbler: 10 birds reported between 22 Aug at Headlands (R. Hannikman) and 4 Oct in Columbus (B. Royle). One banded at Navarre 19 Sept (M. Shieldcastle).

Common Yellowthroat: Highest 15 at the MWW on 25 Sept (J. Lehman). No unusual lingering birds, the latest on 13 Nov at Geneva SP (J. Pogacnik).

Hooded Warbler: 13 were on the CVNRA survey of 18 Sept (D. Chasar, *et al.*). A singing male was at Firestone MP, *Summit*, on 28 Sept, where the species is not known to nest (R. Harlan, Sa. Wagner). The last was at Zaleski SF on 11 Oct (D. St. John).

Wilson's Warbler: 15 were at Headlands on 13 Sept (H. Petruschke), and two stayed as late as 5 Oct in Cleveland (F. Greenland, *fide* P. Lozano).

Canada Warbler: First noted at Headlands on 14 Aug (R. Hannikman), the species was last reported on 18 Sept in *Holmes* by L. Yoder.

Yellow-breasted Chat: The latest report came from Edgewater Pk on 5 Oct (N. Barber).

Summer Tanager: The male of the *Delaware* pair was last seen 28 Sept (J. Hammond).

Scarlet Tanager: High count was five at East Fork SP 1 Oct (H. Armstrong), and last report 6 Oct in the Zaleski SF (D. St. John).

Tanager sp.: Unarmed with binoculars, A. Goloda nevertheless saw a female tanager in a small ornamental tree in downtown Columbus well enough to note an apparent brood-patch, on the very late date of 20 Nov. This date is actually best for western tanager, but Goloda eliminated this sp.

Eastern Towhee: 50 at the RTLS 8 Sept (L. Rosche).

American Tree Sparrow: 225 were counted in Magee's census on 17 Oct (H&S Hiris).

Chipping Sparrow: High count 35 in *Tuscarawas* on 9 Oct (E. Schlabach).

Clay-colored Sparrow: One 22 Sept at Huron (D. Sanders, J. Hammond), and another in *Holmes* 7 Oct (J.J. Miller, D. Kline).

Field Sparrow: High count 140 on the RTLS on 6 Oct (L. Rosche). Twelve birds reported in November, the latest at Magee 21 Nov (H&S Hiris); persisted into winter.

Vesper Sparrow: Most departed in Oct. but one was in *Holmes* 4 Nov (E. Schlabach).

Lark Sparrow: A bird remained at Oak Openings MP on 19 Sept (J. Pogacnik), and one was reported from Paint Ck WA on 13 Sept (R. Kolde *et al.*).

Savannah Sparrow: An early migrant was at Conneaut 5 Sept (C. Holt). Maximum was 40 in *Holmes* on 9 Oct (E. Schlabach). One remained at Big Isl WA 14 Nov (V. Fazio).

Grasshopper Sparrow: V. Fazio noted two adults 7 Oct and one 26 Oct at Big Island.

Henslow's Sparrow: A good find outside the breeding season was one at The Wilds, *Muskingum*, 29 Aug (R. Harlan, Sa. Wagner).

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow: One was at Headlands on 14 Sept (L. Rosche, R. Hannikman), another on 29 Sept in Cleveland (N. Barber), and J. Pogacnik had two at Arcola Ck, *Lake*, one on 18 Sept and one on 5 Oct.

Fox Sparrow: Arrived 30 Sept in *Erie* (D. Sanders), *Cuyahoga* (P. Lozano), and *Lake* (J. Pogacnik). Rosche had "remarkable numbers" in the period, with 46 at the RTLS.

Song Sparrow: Big numbers were 60 in *Holmes* on 9 Oct (E. Schlabach), 104 in Magee on 17 Oct (H&S Hiris), and 50 at Gilmore Ponds on 29 Oct (D. Styer).

Lincoln's Sparrow: An early one was singing late in *Clermont* on 18 Sept (D. Morse). Thirteen were in *Holmes* on 9 Oct (E. Schlabach), and a late bird was at Gordon Pk on 13 Nov (E. Pierce).

Swamp Sparrow: Over 200 reported after migrants arrived; 36 were at Magee on 4 Nov (H&S Hiris), and the species persisted widely into the next period (m obs).

White-throated Sparrow: One was early in *Hancock* on 7 Sept (B. Von Stein, *fide* B. Hardesty). P. Lozano counted 250+ in Cleveland on 5 Oct.

White-crowned Sparrow: Noted on 22 and 29 Aug at Headlands by R. Hannikman. ~100 were at Killdeer on 10 Oct (L. Powlick) and 21 Oct in *Paulding* (Dunakins).

Dark-eyed Junco: First reported 17 Sept at Lakeshore MP (J. Pogacnik), numbers reached 30+ at Headlands Beach SP on 11 Oct. (N. Barber).

Lapland Longspur: First reported 2 Oct at Conneaut (R. Harlan, Sa. Wagner), then 6 Oct at Big Isl WA (V. Fazio), and three at Headlands on 8 Oct (L. Rosche). Max 90+ in *Wood* 19 Nov (M. Anderson).

Snow Bunting: After one at Headlands on 14 Oct (K. Metcalf), 130+ birds appeared in the northern counties between 27 and 30 Oct, remaining through the period. High count was ~140 at Headlands on 17 Nov (J. Hammond).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 15 birds reported from six counties in Oct, most notably an imm that resorted to J. Pogacnik's feeder in *Lake* from 28 Oct to 9 Nov.

Indigo Bunting: Four Oct reports, the latest on the 23rd at MWW (N. Cade).

Dickcissel: Five reports from five counties in Oct. One was consorting with house sparrows in the NW at the Black Swamp Nature Ctr, *Paulding*, on the 30th (M&D Dunakin). Two Nov reports, on the 9th in *Holmes* (P. Soehnen), and on the 20th at Maumee Bay SP (B. Conlon), again with house sparrows.

Bobolink: Latest report 6 Oct at Lorain (**J. Hammond, D. Sanders**).

Red-winged Blackbird: Four reports of 5000 or more, the largest 15,000 at the Killbuck roost (**S. Snyder**).

Eastern Meadowlark: **H. Nagy** found ~200 in a field in Pataskala, *Licking*, on 14 Nov, an uncommonly large number of migrants these days.

Western Meadowlark: One report, from Genoa, *Ottawa*, on 19 Sept (**J. Pogacnik**).

Rusty Blackbird: Four males and a female, complete with satisfactory description, were reported by **N. Cade** at the MWF, *Hamilton*, on the extraordinary date of 15 August; there is another local record of the species on 11 Aug 1984 (**D. Styer et al.**, *vide N. Keller*), but only one other Aug record. The species is experiencing some stress, down about 90% over the past few decades in large portions of its breeding range (*Cons. Biol.* 13(3):533-559). Peak count was of 353 birds in three flocks at Mosquito Lk WA on the more expected date of 11 Oct (**C. Babyak**).

Orchard Oriole: Encompassing the entire span of the species' migration were reports from the Ottawa census: eight on 1 Aug, and one on 5 Sept.

Pine Grosbeak: In this apparently good year for winter finches, a bird was reported in Emerald Twp, *Paulding*, on 20 October. Documentation being recirculated by the OBRC.

Purple Finch: 80+ reports, all from the north in Sept, but 47 of the total from five SW counties. High count 20+ at East Fork SP 17 Oct (**H. Armstrong**). **Rosche** called it "widespread" in the RTLS.

Red Crossbill: One reported 1 Aug at Fairport Hbr (**L. Rosche, R. Hannikman**). A female was at a *Summit* feeder on 21 Sept (**K. Mock**). One was at Oak Openings MP on 31 Oct (**G. Links**), reported again 7 Nov (**R. Harlan, Sa. Wagner**). Eight were at the Mitchell Memorial Forest, *Hamilton*, on 7 Nov (**D. Styer**). Two young birds came to a *Holmes* feeder on 15 Nov. (**R. Miller**).

White-winged Crossbill: At least one was at Oak Openings MP on 7 Nov (**R. Harlan, Sa. Wagner**). A mixed crossbill flock of 12 was at Mitchell Mem. Forest on 24 Nov (**L. Peyton**). A flock of seven at Woodlawn Cem, Toledo, on 24 Nov (**D. Sanders**) grew to 18 on the 29th (**A. Osborn**) and some remained through the period (m obs). **R. Cressman** had up to three in Green Lawn Cem in Columbus 27 Nov through the period. On the 30th, **W. Shively** had one in Bellefontaine.

Common Redpoll: A poor fruit crop brought this species south over the US from coast to coast in good numbers. 150+ were reported by the end of the period, with many more during the following one. The first two birds were reported 18-20 Oct in *Holmes* (**L. Yoder**). Most subsequently appeared in the northern counties, but one was near Carey in *Wyandot* on 14 Nov (**K. Fredritz**), a female was at a feeder in *Clermont* Oct 18-26 (**D. Morse**), eight were in Sycamore, *Wyandot*, on Nov 17-18 (**R. Counts**), and an unstated number in birches—a favored tree—in *Champaign* Nov 26-27 (**R. Meyer**).

Pine Siskin: One seen in *Trumbull* on 8 Aug (**D&J Hochadel**) may have bred locally, for the big influx came in Oct elsewhere, beginning on the 3rd at Lakeshore MP (**J. Pogacnik**). Eventually the first appeared in *Adams* on the 12th (**B. Lund**), and between then and 8 Nov 30 birds were found in eight spots in *Clermont* and *Hamilton* (*vide N. Keller*). **J. Fry** got his first in *Hocking* on 15 Oct, and had 123 at his feeders by the 23rd.

Evening Grosbeak: 22 birds reported, hardly an invasion yet. Predictably unpredictable, the first was at Magee on 17 Sept (**J. Games**), the next in Columbus on the 22nd (**M. Skinner**), then eight in *Lake* (**J. Pogacnik**) on the 26th, five at Findley SP on the same day (**R. Harlan, Sa. Wagner**), one in *Clinton* on the 28th (**L. Gara**), one in Cincinnati on 2 Oct (**G. Carey**), three more the following day in *Lake* (**J. Pogacnik**), and finally birds found by **L. Rosche** on 9 Nov in the CVNRA and the following day on the RTLS.

House Sparrow: An uncomfortable 85 were at Magee Marsh on 19 Sept (**H&S Hiris**), belying the area's purpose for wildlife, but more expected were 150 at the Cleveland Botanical Gardens on the following day (**R. Harlan, Sa. Wagner**).

EXOTICS:

Black Swan: On 18 Nov. **F. Renfrow** reported six adult *Cygnus atratus* from the Ohio River off Covington, Kentucky. He remarks: "A small wintering population of free-flying Black Swans seems to be establishing itself along the Ohio River at Cincinnati/northern Kentucky. Started with one in Dec '96, joined by an imm bird in Feb '97, two adults returned in Nov '97, a pair with two imm Dec '98, and now there are six adults. It would be enlightening to find out where these Black Swans are summering and nesting." How many species of swans now nest in the state? How many are Ohio breeders historically?

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Further Afield

by Rob Harlan

Think of it as a long road trip. And I mean a *looooooong* road trip—exactly a hundred *years* from start to finish. None of us was along for the entire ride, but we all rode shotgun long enough to get a good impression of where we had been and where we were headed. And now that we've finally made it to the year 2000, I think we've all earned the right to pull over into a nice shady roadside rest to reflect on the past hundred years, the century from 1900 to 1999, and the good birds that have graced our state during this tumultuous era.

But when I say good birds, I do our birding history an injustice. I should say GREAT birds, astounding, incomprehensible, cosmic mind-numbing birds—seemingly impossible, but here nonetheless. The time has come to break down this past century decade by decade, plucking out our ten “best” birds, one per decade, to finally decide which was the greatest of the great, the—drum-roll, please—Bird of the Century.

But how to accomplish this laborious and possibly presumptuous mission? Surely, we each have our own “best” birds, quality experiences all. And we've all heard of other sightings made by other birders over the years, sightings that just couldn't be true, but were. How to sort it all out? How to be fair to those who discovered a rarity early in the century, but have no contemporaries to vouch for them today? How to define what makes a bird *truly* rare? How to gauge a single-observer record versus a bird verified by many? With such a daunting task at hand, I concluded that this project should be of an objective rather than a subjective nature, and devised the following ranking formula. *Beware: at this point, you may wish to skip ahead to the first decade, as the following two paragraphs contain material that some may find overly technical and clunky. Parental guidance is strongly suggested.*

First of all, and importantly, only birds with three or fewer accepted Ohio records (as determined by the Ohio Bird Records Committee, or OBRC) during the years 1900 to 1999 were considered eligible. I then developed four scales for ranking sightings, scores for which, when added together, would give each bird a total score objectively comparable to those of others. The bird with the highest total score wins, either in determining the bird of each decade, or—drum-roll, again—the Bird of the Century. Simple enough.

The **first ranking** is based on the total number of accepted Ohio records since 1900. A sighting is awarded 3 points if it represents our only state record, 2 points for being one of two state records, and 1 point for being one of three or more state records. The **second ranking** is based on a touchy, yet scientifically-grounded basis. How sure can we be that the bird was correctly identified? We can be surest if we have a specimen to examine and re-examine, if need be. So, according to OBRC guidelines, I awarded 3 points to a record if the bird in question exists as a museum specimen, 2 points if the identification can be verified using an existing diagnostic photograph, and 1 point if only written details are available. If I were a rarity, I'd probably opt for the 2 points rather than the 3, but we cannot deny that our documentation techniques have changed over the years. The **third ranking** is based on how widely viewed the bird was, with the reasoning that a single observer is more likely to be in error than an entire group. This ranking also takes into account our communal sharing of a bird re-

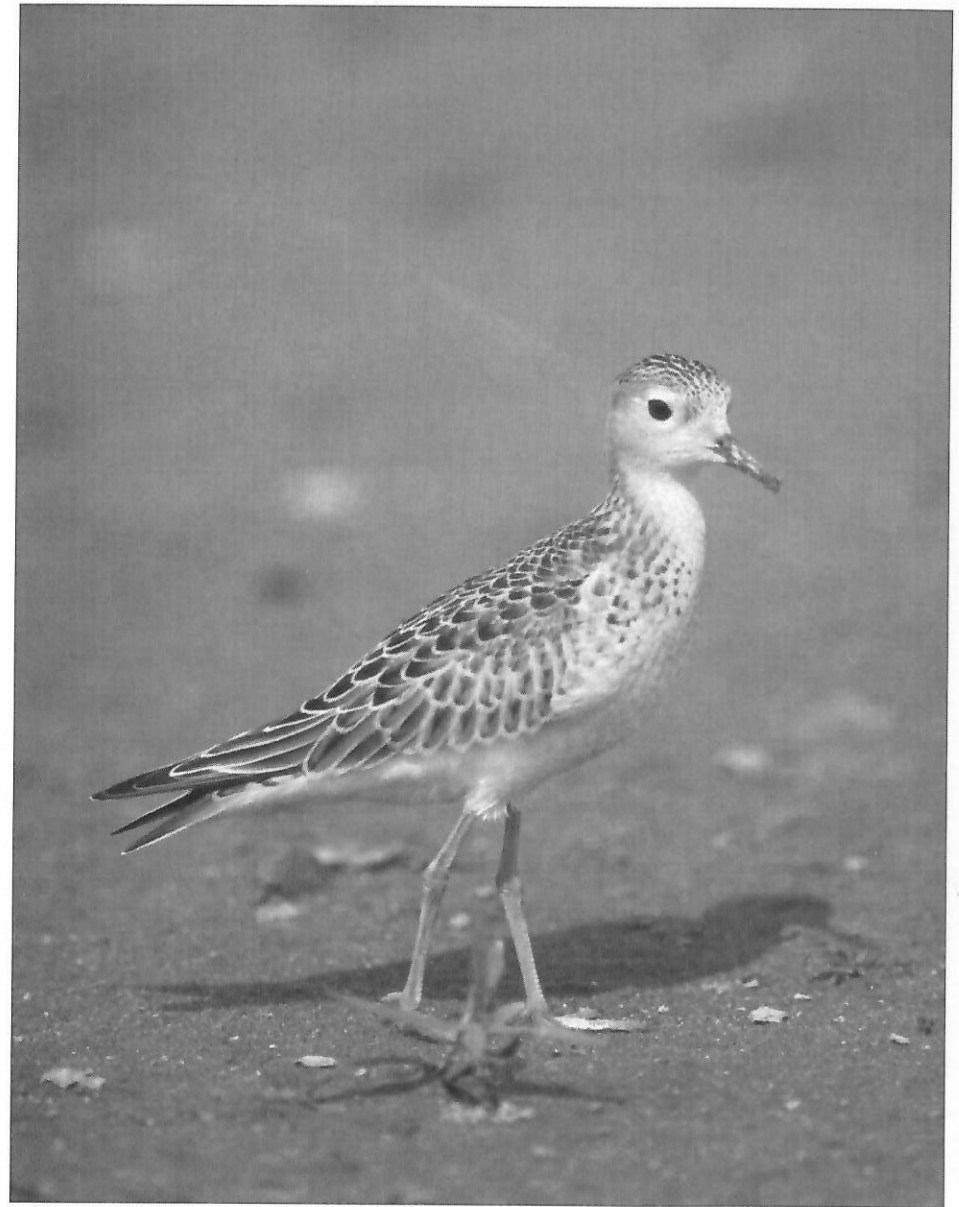
(Continued on page 27)



Buff-breasted Sandpipers made an excellent showing in Ohio this season. This one entertained numerous observers at Buck Creek State Park, Clark Co., from 24 August to 4 September 1999. Photo by Bob Royse (29 August 1999).



Although more at home chasing tourist-thrown bread pieces on a warm, sandy beach, this juvenile Laughing Gull was photographed while lounging on the mudflat at Conneaut Harbor, Ashtabula Co., on 13 August 1999. Photo by Gary Meszaros.



Another one of this season's Buff-breasted Sandpipers. This individual was photographed at Conneaut Harbor, Ashtabula Co., on 28 August 1999. Photo by Gary Meszaros.



The mudflat at Conneaut Harbor, Ashtabula Co., was a favored location for photographer Gary Meszaros this season. It was also favored by the birds, as evidenced by this Merlin which was photographed by Meszaros on 1 October 1999.

(Continued from page 22)

cord: if many are able to share the experience, the experience becomes richer. And so I awarded 1 point to a bird if seen alive in and in the wild by only one observer, 2 points to a bird seen only by the original group of observers, and 3 points to a bird that was widely viewed, that is, the original observer(s) were able to contact other birders who were subsequently able to observe it as well, preferably (but not necessarily) over a period of days. The **fourth ranking** is based on rarity on a larger scale. A bird might be rare in Ohio, but common a half-day's drive away. Accordingly, I chose to use the rarity scale adopted by the American Birding Association in their *ABA Checklist: Birds of the Continental United States and Canada* (1990). Their 6-point scale is devised thus: 6 points to an extinct species; 5 points to a species strictly accidental in the ABA Area; 4 points to species that occur more or less regularly in the Area, though there is no place where they can be expected to occur; 3 points to species that occur annually in the Area but are extremely local, difficult to see, or occur only for very short time periods; and 2 points and 1 point to species which occur routinely and are easily found in the Area, with 2 points awarded to those species which are a bit more difficult to find than "one-pointers." So, with all the technical mumbo-jumbo out of the way, I invite you to join me in a trip further afield, as we rediscover the best birds of the century just completed.

1900-1909

The year is 1900. According to Rand McNally, the world's population stands at 1.6 billion persons. William McKinley is our 25th President. The Union is 45 states strong. The largest cities in the US are New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, St. Louis, and Boston. Los Angeles is a distant 27th. In 1903, Lynds Jones published "The Birds of Ohio, a Revised Catalog," enumerating the roughly three hundred species identified in Ohio at the time; still waiting to be confirmed were such species as brant, surf scoter, red phalarope, 13 of our 19 gulls, and blue grosbeak. And, on 17 December 1903, the Wright brothers flew over Kitty Hawk, NC. But while one era of flight was just beginning, another came to an end on 24 March 1900. On this day a solitary passenger pigeon was shot by a small boy near Sargents in Pike County. This specimen, OSUM #2540, apparently represents the last authentic passenger pigeon taken in the wild anywhere on earth. We can only dream of the awe-inspiring colossal flights said to have been undertaken by this species across our area: here's a bird that no one is going to add to a life list any time soon. This then becomes the bird of the 1900-1909 decade, with a total score of 11 points (1 point for being one of three or fewer total state records, 3 points for being a museum specimen, 1 point for being a single-observer record, and 6 points on the ABA rarity code scale.

1910-1919

The year is 1910. William Howard Taft is our 27th President. Over 1500 lives are lost when the Titanic goes down in the north Atlantic on 15 April 1912. The assassination of Austria's Archduke Ferdinand on 28 June 1914 sets the stage for World War I. A young Babe Ruth hits the first of his 714 home runs on 16 May 1915. The US Army enters Mexico in 1916 in retaliation for attacks attributed to Mexican revolutionary

Pancho Villa. Could Pancho Villa somehow be indirectly related to Ohio's bird of this decade? Probably not, but it makes for interesting (if convoluted) conjecture. As detailed in my most recent "Further Afield" column (*The Ohio Cardinal* 22(4):122-124), Ohio's only Harris's hawk record comes from this decade, namely late December 1917. In brief, Thomas M. Earl, a Columbus taxidermist, received a parcel-post package from J.H. McKinley of Harrisburg, Ohio, on December 29. Although McKinley often sent taxidermy business Earl's way, the Harris's hawk was sent to Earl without written comment, which was uncustomary for McKinley. Due to these peculiar circumstances, Earl reflected, "I could not bring myself to think that [the hawk] had not been shipped in from the Texan border by a soldier friend perhaps" of McKinley (our Pancho Villa connection?). Several weeks later, however, Earl finally spoke with McKinley, who assured him that the hawk had instead been shot by a Harrisburg, Ohio farmer about 24 December, when the farmer caught this bird and another Harris's harassing his poultry. And so this specimen has ever since been an accepted Ohio record on the basis of the unnamed farmer's word. Make no mistake, this representative of the American desert southwest could certainly occur naturally in Ohio, and an article could likely be written persuasively advancing this premise. Even so, it still sounds funny (HAHA) to me. But back to our rankings: this Harris's hawk is awarded a total score of 8 points (3 for being our only state record, 3 for being preserved as a specimen, 1 for being a single-observer record, and 1 according to the ABA rarity code).

1920-1929

The year is 1920. Woodrow Wilson is our 28th President. The Union stands at 48 states strong. The 19th Amendment to the Constitution is ratified 26 August 1920, giving women the right to vote. In 1923, the New York Yankees win the first of their 25 World Series championships. Charles Lindbergh is the first to fly solo non-stop across the Atlantic on 20-21 May 1927. The US stock market crashes 29 October 1929. Just over five months earlier, Ohio's Leach's storm-petrel crash occurred. On 16 May 1929, a schoolboy picked up a dead bird on a Dayton city street and presented it to his teacher, who subsequently passed it to well-known Dayton naturalist Ben Blincoe. Blincoe identified the bird as a Leach's storm-petrel, and preserved the specimen for posterity. Although the bird's stomach was empty, it was not emaciated. Instead, Blincoe speculated that a bruise on the skull indicated the bird had been killed by crashing into an object while in flight. How this pelagic denizen of our Atlantic and Pacific coasts made it to Ohio is anyone's guess, and we have not had another of its kind since, although other records from New York, Vermont, and southern Ontario are at least in our general vicinity. So, according to our ranking system, this bird gets a total score of 9 points (3 for being our only state record, 3 for being preserved as a specimen, 1 for being a single-observer record, and 2 according to the ABA's rarity code).

1930-1939

The year is 1930. Herbert Hoover is our 31st President, with Franklin Delano Roosevelt soon to follow. The Great Depression is just beginning to make itself felt. Prohibition is repealed on 5 December 1933, providing some sort of relief for many. Jesse Owens wins four gold medals at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin. Germany invades Po-

*land in 1939. With FDR's New Deal in full swing, and food presumably scarce, perhaps we can forgive Cleveland sportsman George F. Dixon for eating one of Ohio's rarest birds ever. While woodcock-hunting along the wooded banks of a stream in Newbury Township in Geauga County on 6 November 1935, Dixon took a number of familiar American woodcocks, plus another very unfamiliar one. Dixon noted the latter bird was much larger and heavier, weighing 10 ounces before being dressed, versus 5-7 ounces for a typical American woodcock. At this point John W. Aldrich of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History became aware of Dixon's tale, and visited the hunter, who still had the carcass of the mystery bird, but by then had dressed and prepared it for cooking. At first examination Aldrich was impressed by the pale color of the flesh of the larger bird when compared to American woodcocks dressed in a similar way. After Dixon had consumed the rest of the bird, Aldrich was able to acquire its skeleton, minus the head, wings, and feet, for the Cleveland Museum. Enough bones remained "to show considerable difference in size from a normal American Woodcock skeleton." Enough difference, in fact, to allow both Aldrich and famed ornithologist Harry C. Oberholser to identify the bird as a Eurasian woodcock, our only state record. According to the *ABA Checklist*, this bird is a migratory species of Eurasian regions that was "formerly a casual visitor to eastern North America, with records from Newfoundland, Quebec, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Ohio, and Alabama, mostly in the 19th century. One 20th century record: one [specimen] e. [of] Cleveland, OH, 6 November 1935." A rare bird certainly, but by the time Mr. Dixon had finished preparing it, we might say it was also well-done. This bird earns one of our highest rankings, with a total score of 12 points (3 for being our only state record, 3 for being preserved as a museum specimen [but more on this later], 1 for being a single-observer record, and 5 according to the ABA rarity code).*

1940-1949

The year is 1940. FDR is still our 32nd President. Japan attacks Pearl Harbor on 7 December 1941. Allied forces invade Normandy on 6 June 1944. The US drops an atomic bomb on Hiroshima on 6 August 1945. Jackie Robinson breaks Major League Baseball's color barrier on 11 April 1947. In 1948 the north-south division of occupied Korea is made permanent due to tensions between the US and the USSR. It is not surprising that this decade offered limited birding opportunities stateside. Accordingly, our lowest-ranked Bird of the Decade comes from this troubled time. This said, I still suspect most of us would be satisfied to discover a great gray owl in Ohio, as Milton B. Trautman did on Starve Island, Ottawa County, on 30 October 1947. As Trautman approached tiny Starve Island in his boat at daybreak, he noticed a group of herring gulls harassing this huge and impressive boreal/montane species as it perched on a tree limb near the trunk. Although Trautman probably would have preferred to turn this bird into a specimen, he did not, but was nonetheless able to observe it carefully and describe all the salient field marks for this virtually unmistakable species. This observation thus earns a total score of 7 points (2 points for being one of two accepted Ohio records, 1 for being a sight record only, 1 for being a single-observer record, and 3 according to the ABA rarity code).

This concludes the first half of the century. The second half (and our winner) will follow in the next issue. Heck, you've already waited a hundred years...

Some Additional Thoughts on Dowitchers

by Jon L. Dunn

The two species of dowitchers have long been considered among the most difficult of our shorebirds to distinguish. Fortunately, much has been written over the last couple of decades that has led to major breakthroughs in making accurate identifications, which have in turn led to further elucidations of their complex distribution patterns. A seminal paper by Claudia Wilds and Mike Newlon (1983) was the first to set out in detail the field characters of the dowitchers, and it remains the single most important reference. Other important sources containing extensive identification information include Paulson (1993), Jaramillo *et al.* (1991), and Hayman *et al.* (1986). It is not the intention of this paper to rehash all the information in the above papers or in other uncited sources, but to focus instead on some additional aspects, especially concerning distribution and the timing of molt, that have not yet been focused on in the literature.

Both dowitcher species—short-billed dowitcher (*Limnodromus griseus*) and long-billed dowitcher (*Limnodromus scolopaceus*)—are regular visitors to Ohio, and their status is detailed by Peterjohn (1989). Briefly, in spring long-billed is rare, and occurs on average earlier than short-billed. Personally, I have only seen three spring long-bills in the Midwest, two in Ohio—a basic-plumaged bird in March and an alternate-plumaged bird at the end of the second week of May—plus another mid-May bird near Point Pelee. Short-bills usually arrive in Ohio in early May and can be fairly common to abundant around Lake Erie; they are much scarcer well inland (Peterjohn 1989). The great majority of sightings involve the more colorful interior race *L. g. hendersoni*, but I have seen more than a handful of birds showing characters of the nominate, more easterly race *L. g. griseus*, in the western basin of northwest Ohio, with additional birds in southeastern Michigan (Erie Marsh) and in the Point Pelee area. These sightings have been from late May, particularly after the 20th of the month.

In fall, adult short-bills arrive here by early July, often in force, while the first trickle of adult long-bills begins a couple of weeks later. Adult short-bills pass through Ohio primarily during July, with smaller numbers until about the middle of August. Adult long-bills build in number through the summer and reach maximum numbers during August and early September. Juvenile short-bills arrive by the first week of August, whereas juvenile long-bills are exceptional even by the end of the month. I have personally seen only three juvenile longbills in the last week of August south of Canada, only one of which was from eastern North America (in Ohio). They typically don't arrive until mid- or even late September, and peak during October. They are routinely found into November. The last juvenile short-bills depart during early October.

One under-appreciated fact about long-bills is that the adults in fall migrate to staging areas and then undergo a complete molt before continuing their migration. These birds will remain for a month or more, and the flocks at these locations number into the hundreds or even the thousands, especially at favored locations in western North America. In eastern North America the known staging areas are few. One location is at Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge in Delaware. Another is, or at least used to be, the Metzger Marsh/Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge area in the western basin of Lake Erie in northwest Ohio. I have seen nearly 500 adult long-bills there during August on several occasions in the early 1990s. It is, or was, the only known

staging area I know of for molting adult long-bills in the entire Midwest. As Ohio birders well know, Metzger Marsh has gone from one of the premier shorebird stopping points in the Midwest to a marsh choked with introduced *Phragmites* and purple loosestrife, along with saplings of native trees, with few if any shorebirds. Can anyone rationally argue that the four million-dollar scheme to dike off Metzger Marsh has been anything other than an environmental disaster?

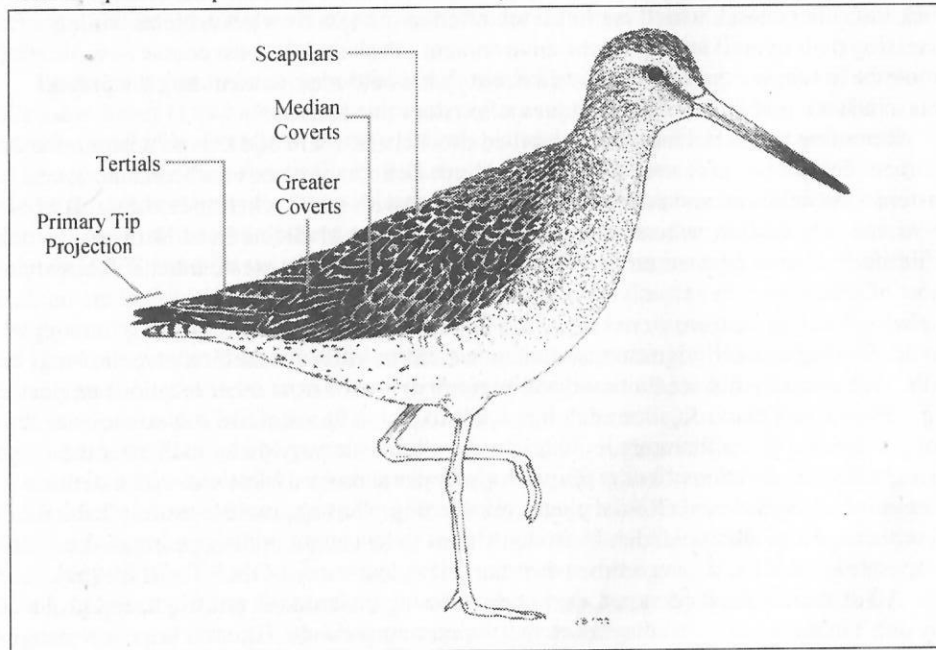
I offer a few more words on Metzger Marsh. In addition to hosting thousands of shorebirds during migration, Metzger apparently provided a thriving environment for thousands of native mussels, all of which were killed with the construction of the dike. Metzger Marsh was one of their few refugia on Lake Erie from zebra mussels, which kill these native bivalves. Apparently there was no proper environmental assessment performed before the dike was built, and the native mussels were found after the fact as skeletal remains. This entire sorry story should cause all to question the wisdom of the duck lobby in general, which seems all too often to push its own pet projects without assessing their overall impact on the environment. Probably the best course now would be to remove the entire stone dike, but that would require admitting the project was a mistake in the first place, and how often does this happen?

Returning to the fall molt of long-billed dowitchers, I will add that on a trip to the northern Great Plains (central and western North Dakota, northeastern Montana, southeastern Saskatchewan and southwestern Manitoba) with Sue Tackett in late August of 1996, the only location where we had any long-bills was Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge in northeastern Montana. There on 19 August we counted 300 birds, most of which were in extensive molt, including missing chunks of flight feathers on the wing. At that date we were simply too late for adult longbills just passing through on the first leg of their migration, and a few weeks too early for the first juvenile long-bills. We certainly did see thousands of migratory shorebirds at other locations on our trip. The factors that influence adult long-bills to pick a location and stay to molt are not yet detailed in the literature, but clearly these birds are very picky. I'll offer the thought that the locations I know of involve premier shorebird locations with extensive areas of shallow water, such as at playas, for feeding. Perhaps more transitory habitats in other locations are avoided as birds don't want to be caught in disappearing—i.e., evaporating—habitat during a time when they have lost many of their flight feathers.

Adult short-bills, by contrast, do not molt during their southward flight, and probably don't initiate molt until they reach their wintering grounds. The fall migrants seen in July and August are in alternate (breeding) plumage, though they appear more worn and faded from May on, especially the August adults. Therefore, adult dowitchers clearly in molt seen in the Midwest are almost certainly long-bills. I should add, though, that I've seen nearly full breeding-plumaged long-bills as late as mid-September, long after the last adult short-bills have passed through. Neither dowitcher species molts its flight feathers during the first year of life, but juveniles will molt body feathers, including mantle, scapular, and tertial feathers. Reflecting the pattern of adults, juvenile short-bills migrate through the Midwest in full juvenal plumage and even the latest migrants in early October haven't yet molted. Juvenile long-bills can arrive in full juvenal plumage, but careful checking will often reveal first-basic feathering, especially on the mantle and scapular regions. This patchy appearance is again a great character in separating juvenile long-billed from juvenile short-billed.

Clearly, correctly aging dowitchers in fall is a key in making a correct identifica-

tion. The various dowitcher plumages as well as their distinguishing characters are shown well by Jonathon Alderfer in the third edition of the National Geographic guide (National Geographic Society 1999). Without detailing all the differences, I would call attention to two features. First, on fresh alternate adults (i.e., in spring), the white-tipped scapulars on long-billed form the single best character on breeding-plumaged birds. Later in summer, when dowitchers' plumage is more worn, this feature is less useful. Secondly, on juveniles of both species the inner greater secondary coverts are extremely useful. They are patterned like the tertials, the tract of feathers that in classic fashion serves to separate the two species (extensive internal markings indicate short-billed), but since they are somewhat broader, the pattern is easier to discern. To find this tract of feathers, look at the group of feathers just up (toward the bill) from the three long narrow tertials. Note that in dowitchers, the projection of the uniformly blackish primaries past the tertials is extremely short, a few millimeters at most.



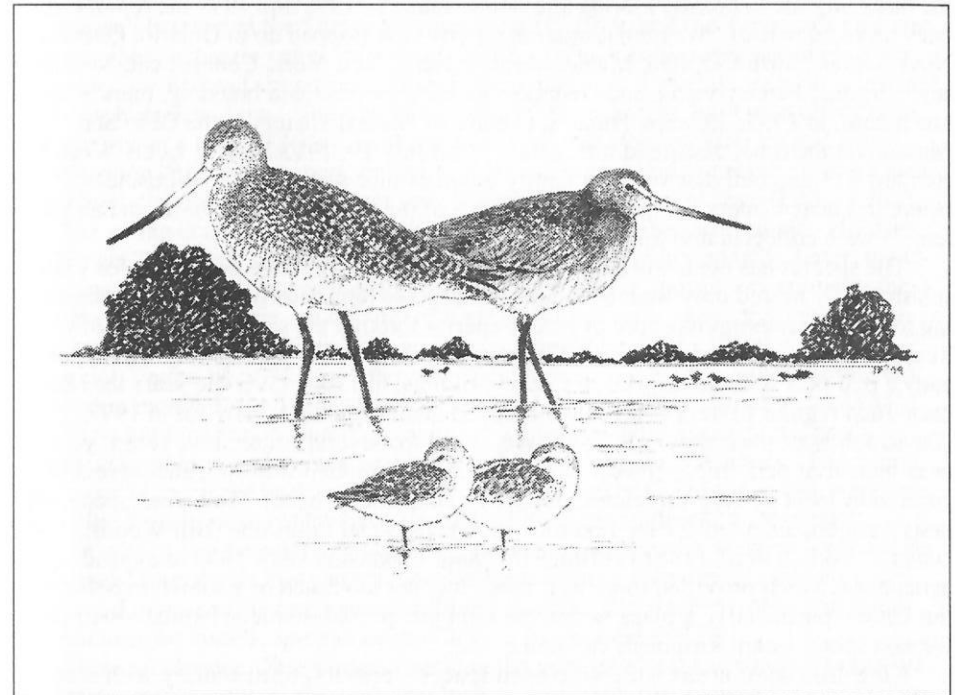
Juvenile Short-billed Dowitcher
by Jenny Brumfield

A couple of additional comments are in order. First, some short-bills do spend the brief summer period (June) on the wintering grounds, as close to Ohio as the Gulf Coast. These normally involve second calendar-year (i.e., one-year old) birds, normally in complete or nearly complete basic plumage. Long-bills are strictly casual from anywhere in North America south of Canada in June, and those few that are recorded appear to be transients in alternate plumage. When both dowitcher species are present, I have often noted that short-bills tend to stand in shallower water, or even on the shore. If both are on the shore, the longer legs of long-bills might be apparent, but when in the water the legs' length can be hard to assess, as the observer cannot easily discern the water's depth. Finally, I wish to reiterate that other than the "di di da doo" song, heard year-round and extremely similar in both species, the calls of each species

are completely diagnostic. The high-pitched "keek" call of long-billed is certainly distinctive. It is given in a rapid series when the bird is disturbed, as when flushed, and if hundreds are flushed at once the overall effect of these excited calls is impressive. On the whole, long-bills seem to be more talkative than short-bills, frequently calling even while feeding. The much lower "tu-tu-tu" call of short-bills is infrequently given when feeding, and isn't dependably uttered even in flight.

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An autumn shorebird scene at the old Cedar Point causeway showing Marbled Godwit, Hudsonian Godwit, and Semipalmated Sandpipers. Lake Erie is beyond the trees in the background. Artwork by Jenny Brumfield.

Western Kingbirds on the Move

by Heather Nagy

Whenever I turn off State Route 146 onto Zion Ridge Road at The Wilds, I get the feeling I'm in Montana. The map may say I'm in Muskingum County, Ohio, but as the wind whips the endless grasses into shifting waves and the horned larks twitter by, there's an overwhelming sense of being at a high altitude in a state with plenty of wide-open spaces. I always see something interesting when I drive the roads in that reclaimed strip-mine area. It is fast becoming one of my favorite birding sites in any season. Thus, when friends visited me for just one day in early August, we jumped into the Subaru and drove to The Wilds. We weren't disappointed.

Among the expected birds, redwings and meadowlarks, we saw two kingbirds. Western kingbirds. Gray-birds-with-white-outer-tail-feathers western kingbirds (*Tyrannus verticalis*). And we couldn't believe it. The adult, with its bright yellow belly, was unmistakable. The one we believed to be an immature was a little tougher—though we had all seen plenty of adult birds, none of us had ever studied a young one. The decision on whether the records will be accepted is still pending with the Ohio Bird Records Committee, but the possibility of having western kingbirds nesting as far east as Ohio intrigued me. I researched their historical range, and started checking the Internet listservs of other areas. It appears this is a species on the move. If they aren't nesting here yet, they may well be within a couple of years.

While reports of single birds always show up along the eastern seaboard in fall as the birds migrate to coastal Florida and points south, in 1998 and 1999 the reports have been more numerous. Western kingbirds reports have popped up in Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, North Carolina, Maine, Massachusetts, New York, Connecticut, New Jersey, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Georgia. As for previous Ohio breeding, there's just one record, in 1933. Edward Thomas, Curator of Natural History at the Ohio State Museum at the time, described it this way: "...on July 29, 1933 Messrs. Louis W. and Bernard R. Campbell discovered a family group of four Arkansas Kingbirds near Bono, in Lucas County" (Thomas 1933). Two of the three immature birds and an adult female were collected and the skins were presented to the museum.

The species has been working on an eastward breeding range expansion for years. It historically nested only west of roughly 95 degrees longitude (or along a line extending from the westernmost shore of Lake Superior through the southernmost tip of Texas). The first pair to cross the Mississippi River and nest successfully was apparently a pair near Kilbourne, Mason County, Illinois, in 1965. Over the years they became such regular nesters that Illinois dropped them from the review list in 1997 (David Johnson, pers. comm.). They have nested for several consecutive recent years at an industrial park in Northwest Indiana (Indiana Audubon website), and were discovered in 1998 nesting in Tennessee (U. of Tennessee website). This year, successful nests were documented for the first time in Arkansas and Louisiana (Bill Woods, pers. comm.). Ehrlich *et al.* (1988) attribute the range expansion since 1900 to expanding agriculture, which provided more nest sites. It is not too much of a stretch to believe that Ohio—particularly a place within the state that provides unique habitat—will be the next spot western kingbirds call home.

Kingbirds favor areas with wide-open spaces—prairies, open country with scattered trees, urban farms and ranches, grasslands, brushland, and pastures, especially those near orchards and shelterbelts (Bailey and Neidrach 1965, Ohlendorf 1974, Johnsgard 1979, Verner 1980, Ehrlich *et al.* 1988). In the arid west, they frequently nest in cottonwoods that occur where desert streams provide sufficient moisture for a

narrow band of trees and shrubs along their margins (USFS 1982). In the absence of appropriate cottonwood or ash trees, some 40 percent of western kingbirds nest on manmade structures, usually utility poles (USFS 1991). It is interesting that the pairs nesting this year near Shreveport, Louisiana and Memphis, Tennessee both used cross-bars of utility poles. Another nest near Shreveport (probably the same pair that later found success on the utility pole) was blown out of a large sycamore tree (Bill Wood, pers. comm.). Sites selected for nesting are always immediately adjacent to open expanses of habitat.

The Wilds provides all of this—9,000 acres of grasslands and ponds with patches of forests. The open meadowlands and quiet ponds provide a plethora of insects that make up the majority of western kingbird's diet, and provide the small vertebrates and seeds it less commonly utilizes.

Western Kingbirds build their nests 8-40 feet high, usually from 15 to 30 feet (Ehrlich *et al.* 1988). The nest itself is about 6 inches across and 3 inches high on the outside, the inner bowl 3 inches wide and 1 3/4 inches deep (Harrison 1978). It is constructed of hair and feathers, rootlets, twigs, plant fibers, cocoons, milkweed, and man-made items such as string or paper when available. It is lined with hair and plant down (Harrison 1978). When the kingbirds nest in trees, they prefer to place the nest against the trunk, in a crotch, or on a horizontal branch. However, there are records of western kingbirds utilizing abandoned robin and oriole nests, and nesting in barns (Harrison 1978, Johnsgard 1979, Verner 1980). They usually have one brood per year, with a clutch size of three to five, commonly four (Harrison 1978, Terres 1980, USFS 1982). In the southwest US, the breeding season is May and early June (USFS 1982). Nestlings were observed in the Shreveport nest June 12, 1999, and the Tennessee pair was photographed incubating eggs on June 20, 1988. Though early references indicate a preference for isolated sites, in recent years there has been a gradual trend to using nest sites near human activity. The pair in Shreveport, for example, built on a utility pole crossbar above a busy highway, between a convenience store parking lot and a golf driving range (Bill Woods, pers. comm.). A pair in New Mexico nested on an elementary school playground. They seem very tolerant of ecological change (USFS 1982).

The spring courtship display by the male is often described as frenetic. He darts into the air, fluttering, vibrating feathers, and giving a high-pitched trill. Later, the female nearly always incubates the eggs and tends the young, though occasionally the male may help. The eggs are creamy or pinkish, with brown, gray, or lavender mottling, often concentrated at the large end. Incubation takes 18 to 19 days, and the young will fledge 16 or 17 days after that, though they stay in the vicinity of the nest for another month or until migration (Terres 1980, USFS 1982, Ehrlich *et al.* 1988).

The adult kingbird is identified by its ashy gray head and upper parts, bright lemon-yellow belly, dark wings, and black tail with white outer feathers. The young have more olive on the back, a pale yellowish belly, and buffy edges on the wing coverts. Like the adults, they also have obvious white outer feathers on their black, squared tails. Like the eastern kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*), the western kingbird has a relatively large head. Both perch along telephone lines, wire fences, and atop lone shrubs and trees, and fly out to snap up flying insects. The western more commonly also pounces on insects, spiders, caterpillars, or frogs (Bent 1942).

Come this spring, Ohio birders checking the perches along the roads through old strip mines might want to give a second look to birds with that classic kingbird silhouette. Humans have created a new class of habitat that welcomes new species. That common-looking bird just might be a Western Kingbird!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author is indebted to David B. Johnson, Secretary, Illinois Ornithological Records Committee, Jim McCormac, Secretary, Ohio Bird Records Committee, and Mr. Bill Woods of Shreveport, Louisiana, for information important to this article.

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Several web pages:

- Indiana Audubon Society (bird hotlines)
<http://www.indianaaudubon.org/hotline>
- VGI Vision Foundation
<http://www.visionfoundation.org>
- The University of Arizona Center for Computing and Information Technology
<http://listserv.arizona.edu>
- Birding on the Web (Louisiana listserv)
<http://www-stat.wharton.upenn.edu/~siler/LOUI.html>
- The University of Tennessee (Tennessee Bird Records Committee)
<http://www.utm.edu/departments/artsci/biology/tbrc/wkingb.htm>
- Great Lakes Birding (The Arkansas Kingbird in Ohio (1933))
<http://www.greatlakesbirding.com/arkngbrdinohio.htm>

A Bell's Vireo in Far Eastern Ohio, with a Summary of its Status in Eastern North America

by Michael A. Patten

On 10 August 1999 I discovered a Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*) at Barkcamp State Park, Belmont County, Ohio. This park is situated in the foothills of the Appalachians near the border of West Virginia (~25 km due west of Wheeling), a state in which this species has never been recorded (Hall 1983). I observed the bird at close range (4-5 m) for several minutes through Bausch & Lomb Elite 10x42 binoculars. It was with a small flock of Carolina chickadees (*Poecile carolinensis*) that had responded to my "pishing." The vireo was silent during my observation. I noted the following:

The bird was larger and of heavier build than a chickadee, and larger than a typical warbler (Parulidae). Most noticeable was the thick, rather heavy bill, which had a distinct hook at the tip of the maxilla. The bill was mostly grayish in color. The feet and sturdy legs were bluish. The eyes were dark, with no distinct paling in the irides. It foraged rather slowly, but actively jerked about its long tail in a manner reminiscent of a gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila* spp.). Its plumage was somewhat worn; thus, it looked less like a first fall bird than an adult. It was basically grayish-olive above and whitish below. Olive color on the upperparts was brightest on the back and rump, and extended into the nape. Even though the crown was slightly grayer, it did not contrast with the mantle but rather blended into it. The chin and throat were white, and neither was sharply set off from the gray auriculars (i.e., it lacked a clean division such as shown by a blue-headed vireo *V. solitarius*). The flanks were strongly washed with bright yellow; this color extended across the undertail coverts (at least distally) and expanded laterally at the sides of the breast. The wing coverts were olive-gray, contrasting with blackish-gray remiges. Small whitish tips to the greater coverts formed a single somewhat narrow wing-bar; there was no appreciable upper wing-bar. The innermost secondaries (including the "tertials") were narrowly edged with whitish.

Aside from the bird's behavior, its facial pattern was its most distinctive feature. It had neither a bold supercilium nor bold spectacles. Instead, it exhibited a thin whitish supercilium not much wider than the dusky-gray transocular line. The supercilium extended anteriorly to the bill, stopping at a narrow point just above the dark lores, and thus not connecting across the fore-head. The posterior end of the supercilium arced down a bit at the back edge of the eye, but did not encircle the rear edge because it was broken by the ragged terminus to the transocular line. A blurry whitish arc bordered the lower one-fourth of the eye, but it, too, was stopped at either end by the transocular line.

Geographic variation in the Bell's vireo follows a simple, nearly clinal pattern. Nominate birds in the eastern part of the range are fairly bright olive above with bright yellow flanks, whereas birds in the far West are essentially all gray in spring, with little to no trace of olive or yellow. The two described subspecies in the middle are intermediate. Based on the olive upperparts and bright yellow flanks, the Ohio bird, quite expectedly, showed the characters of the nominate subspecies. A bright example of *V. b. medius* of western Texas is perhaps not eliminated, but that subspecies would be extremely unlikely to reach Ohio and it tends to be grayer on the upperparts with less extensive yellow on the breast (pers. obs.). Both *V. b. arizonae* of the Southwest and, especially, the Endangered *V. b. pusillus* of coastal southern California are much

grayer birds, especially in spring and summer. Neither shows extensive olive in the upperparts nor extensive bright yellow on the flanks, although the latter can be somewhat bright on a small percentage of fresh fall *V. b. arizonae* (pers. obs.).

Status in the Eastern United States and Canada

The Bell's vireo is a species of the western and central United States, with some breeders in northern Mexico. At the eastern limit of its breeding range (Figure 1) this species occurs from the Indiana Dunes area of northwestern Indiana (Brock 1997) and adjacent southwestern Michigan (Payne 1983) southward through west-central Ohio (Peterjohn 1989) to extreme western Kentucky (Monroe 1994). There are six records for western Tennessee (Robinson 1990), one of which involved a pair that unsuccessfully bred in Memphis in June 1935 (Coffey 1935).

It is a vagrant further east, except in Florida, where it is a rare but regular transient and winter visitor, with records from mid-September through May (Robertson and Woolfenden 1992). This vireo is a rare to casual, but somewhat regular, migrant (especially in fall) through the Gulf States (DeSante and Pyle 1986, AOU 1998). Lastly, there is some tendency for birds to "overshoot" the northeastern limits of their breeding range during spring migration, with almost all such records from 6 May to 27 May. Birds have been observed in Michigan north to Houghton in the Upper Peninsula on 17 May 1973 (Payne 1983) and east to Detroit on 26 May 1885 and Macomb 6-20 May 1982 (Payne 1983). There are also a few records for southern Ontario in May (Godfrey 1986, *Am. Birds* 46:419), east to Presqu'île Provincial Park. An outlier in this temporal pattern is of a bird collected at Point Pelee on 23 June 1970 (Godfrey 1986).

Well-documented records of vagrants in the East include three from Cape May, New Jersey, where birds were photographed 30 October-3 November 1994 and 4 December 1996-3 January 1997 (Sibley 1997), and well seen on 15 September 1998 (*N. Am. Birds* 53:37). There are three records for New York, where singles were photographed in-hand at East Quogue on 25 September 1959 (Buckley and Post 1970), collected at Robert Moses SP on 26 September 1970 (Quinlan and Fritz 1998), and observed in Central Park, New York City, on 18 September 1996 (New York State Avian Records Committee 1999). Rounding out the well-documented records for the East are specimens from Durham, New Hampshire, on 19 November 1897 (Brewster 1901) and Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, on 14 October 1985 (*Am. Birds* 40:99), and one carefully studied at South Harpswell, Maine, on 23 October 1998 (*N. Am. Birds* 53:33). Fall vagrants have also occurred at Whitefish Point, Michigan (Evers and Granlund 1991), and twice in Ontario, with singles at Rondeau Provincial Park on 7 October 1985 (*Am. Birds* 40:108) and at Fifty Pt. on 18 October 1994 (*Field Notes* 49:43).

There are a number of hypothetical or provisional records for the East. The species has not definitely been recorded in Pennsylvania (Wood 1979), although there are reports from Erie on 14 July 1957 and Presque Isle on 17 May 1959 (Stull *et al.* 1985). One reported at Southampton, New York, on 26 October 1996 was not accepted by the New York State Avian Records Committee (1999). A sight record from Redding, Connecticut, on 11 May 1947 (Ross *et al.* 1948) was treated as hypothetical by Zeran-ski and Baptist (1990), but the species was accepted onto the state list by the Avian Records Committee of Connecticut. There are additional sight records from Roches-

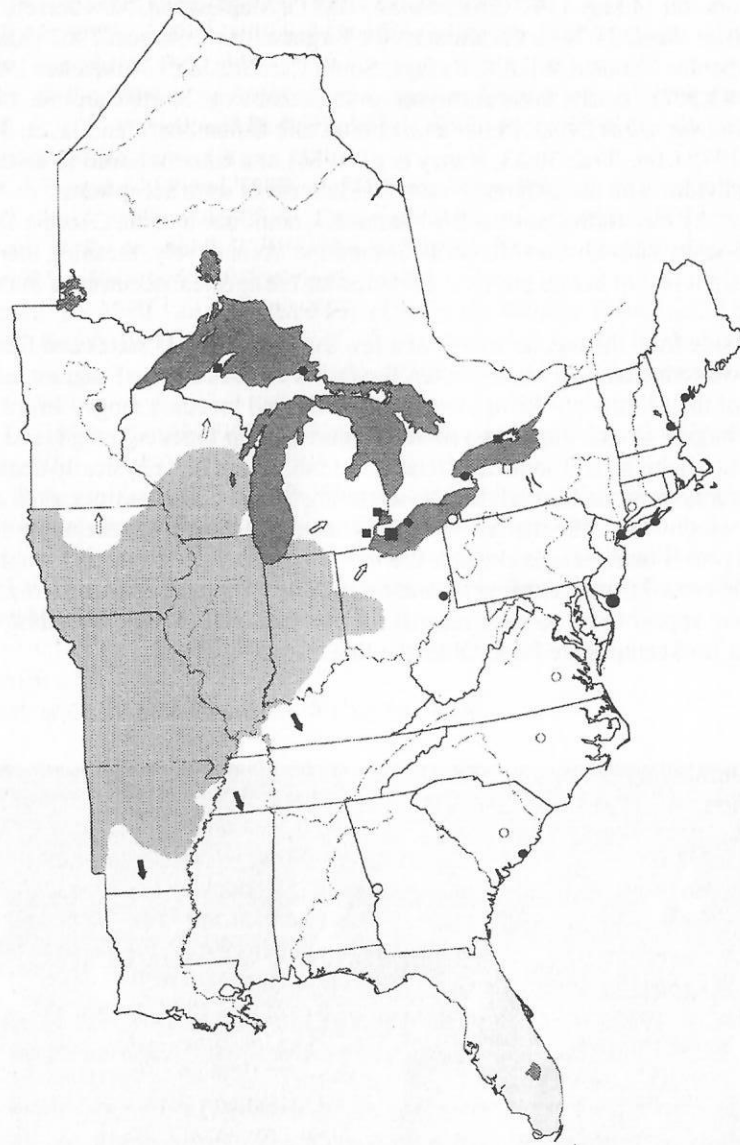


Figure 1. Range map of the Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii*) in the eastern United States and Canada. The shaded area represents the approximate eastern extent of its breeding range. Arrows show directions of somewhat regular movement, even if only in small numbers, with open arrows being spring overshoots and solid arrows being fall migrants through the Gulf States. It regularly winters in Florida (hence the light shading). Squares represent spring records (6 May to 23 June); circles represent records from fall (3 August to 19 November) and winter. Small symbols indicate one record, mid-sized two, and large three or more. Open symbols indicate hypothetical or provisional records (but records judged unacceptable are not included).

ter, New York, on 14 May 1997 (*Field Notes* 51:851), Maplewood, New Jersey, on 13 May 1980 (*Am. Birds* 34:761), Pocahontas SP, Virginia, on 12 August 1962 (Kain 1987), and Santee National Wildlife Refuge, South Carolina, on 1 November 1988 (*Am. Birds* 43:302). Lastly, there are sightings from Zebulon, North Carolina, on 10 August 1974 (*Am. Birds* 29:42, Potter *et al.* 1980), and Columbus, Georgia, on 3 and 24 August 1975 (*Am. Birds* 30:53, Haney *et al.* 1986), the latter believed to involve different individuals on the different dates. These records were accepted as "Provisional" by the North Carolina Bird Records Committee and the Georgia Ornithological Society Checklist and Records Committee, respectively, meaning there is an acceptable sight record but no physical evidence for the species' occurrence in the state.

Thus, aside from the regular transit of a few through the Gulf States and Florida, with a few wintering annually in the latter, the Bell's vireo is a casual vagrant anywhere east of the Mississippi River away from its limited breeding range. In spring, records are largely of overshoots just north and east of their breeding range, and thus principally to Michigan and southern Ontario. In fall, of the few physically documented vagrants from the East, all but the wintering bird at Cape May occurred in the two-month window of 25 September to 19 November. Inclusion of acceptable sight records and provisional records expands the front edge of this window to 3 August, adds a spring record from Connecticut, and extends records southward to Georgia. Even so, there appear to be no prior records for the Appalachian region, making the individual at Barkcamp State Park, Ohio, the first.

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Demonstrating their affinity to beaches at inland reservoirs, these Franklin's Gulls (foreground) were some of a group of 16 visiting the beach at Caesar Creek State Park, Warren Co., on 1 October 1999. Photo by Larry Gara.

Book Review

Louis W. Campbell, with Clair Gavin. *The Marshes of Southwestern Lake Erie*. Foreword by Harold Mayfield. Ohio University Press. 1995. 247 pp., color/b&w illus., notes, bibliog., app., index. Cloth \$45; paper \$24.95.

Ohio birders will relish a work devoted to the extensive wetlands between Toledo and Port Clinton, the scene of fondly remembered adventures for so many of us. In *The Marshes of Southwestern Lake Erie*, the late Lou Campbell, for many decades the dean of Toledo naturalists, examines the wildlife of the area with a particular emphasis on its birds. Especially interesting is his story of how their marshland habitats have fared since passing into the care of humans during the past two hundred years.

Campbell is certainly correct in calling these marshes, changed as they have been by human interventions, the "most primitive lands in Ohio," and few will argue with his assertion that they still "shelter more birds, more mammals, more snakes...., and more amphibians per acre than anywhere in Ohio." The first third of the work, "A Wetlands Almanac," portrays a calendar year in the life of the marshes as told by a sensitive and experienced naturalist, with evocations of the changing scene through four seasons in the lives of marsh creatures.

The almanac offers fascinating stories and voluminous natural history detail, but much of what makes these marshes unique must wait for the book's second part. Here, anyone who has spent enough time afield in the legendary venues of the area—Ottawa, Magee, Cedar Point, Metzger, etc.—will find engrossing the story of the interactions of humans and wild animals and their habitats in a setting only fairly recently altered from its unspoiled primeval state. Only fifty years ago, all the marshlands between Toledo and Sandusky were in the hands of private gun clubs, many of their members millionaire industrialists, who jealously guarded entry for fear of poaching. Then, as Campbell tells the tale, over a span of only fifteen years the larger marshes were acquired by the State and Federal governments, mostly because the costs of providing good hunting and trapping while keeping Lake Erie at bay—expensive dredging, pumping, dike construction, repairs after floods and storm damage—had finally grown too much for private owners to bear. This transition in ownership occurred at a critical juncture, as it happened, just as profit-hungry developers were able for the first time to dream realistically of converting the marshes to human habitats. The establishment of Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge in 1961, for example, narrowly missed foundering on the planned "Holiday Shores" development—an ill-advised project of 778 homes, a bathing beach, marinas, and an airport—just then being envisioned for what is now the heart of the Refuge.

In the early nineteenth century, long before the gun clubs and the developers, French fur-traders settled near where the Davis-Besse nuclear power plant stands today, at a time when thousands of acres of wild rice swayed in the currents of Maumee and Sandusky Bays. The beaches of the area—and beaches there were, as in 1915 sand from 50 to 250 feet in width extended well along the shoreline east of Little Cedar Point—and the mouths of the creeks (Cedar, Crane, Turtle, Toussaint, Rusha, and La Carpe) were where pioneers and entrepreneurs gathered, as nearly all transportation was by water. Inland, the terrain was less friendly, with dense swamp forests and trackless wildernesses of marshland. In the Toussaint Marsh, an early explorer de-

scribed prairie grass "about seven feet high and so thick that it would easily sustain one's hat—in some places a cat could have walked on its surface." Fishing camps formed near the estuaries early on, and in years to come logging communities further inland had lumbered nearly all of the Black Swamp forest by 1875, building canals connecting to the Lake—Cooley and Ward, for example—which still exist to this day. Metzger Marsh, for example, was diked and drained for onion fields early in this century. In 1929 the lake ruptured the wall and flooded Metzger Farms, and only in the present decade was a new dike constructed. Some of this history is told in a series of maps that show the land and waters as they looked over thousands of years past. Here and in the text the reader learns to recall the historical personages of the region in the names of its marshes, tiny villages, and back roads, names like Bono, Reno, Howard, Navarre, Lamb, and Magee.

The book is worth reading for the story of Little Cedar Point alone. During the War of 1812, refugees walked here across the ice from Monroe, Michigan, and their descendants live in the vicinity to this day. The Point, visible to the east from Metzger Marsh WA, is now a part of Ottawa NWR pretty much off-limits to the public, but in the 1830s it hosted a lighthouse, and then in the 1880s a tavern and a fifteen-room clubhouse for a shooting club, eventually vandalized and burned by boaters in 1972. Smugglers carrying Canadian whiskey made landfall here during the Prohibition era. During the early 1940s, the large sandbar offshore hosted 5000 nesting common terns, along with the last verified nests of piping plovers in Ohio. President Eisenhower came here to hunt pheasants during the 1950s, and gun club administrators, anxious to ensure his success, stationed hidden employees out in the grass to toss captive birds up when he passed by. It was in this marsh, so the story is told—though Campbell is too modest to mention it in this book—that in one day he found over 130 species of birds while walking along a single row of cottonwoods.

The story of the marshes is in an important sense the story of the long struggle Ohioans—settlers, hunters and trappers, developers, and managers of public lands alike—have carried on with Lake Erie. With time, human priorities grew so important that total containment of the unpredictable Lake, with all its violent storms, seiches, and changing long-term water levels, became paramount. Controlling water—in the interests of fostering maximal numbers of waterfowl and/or muskrats, keeping Route 2 dry, straightening and deepening channels of the creeks, protecting nuclear plants, draining lands for agriculture, building canals to ship produce and lumber, etc.—remains the major theme of the region's recent history. Campbell gives mixed reviews to most such projects, at least in terms of their effects on wildlife, but concludes in the end that hunters and trappers have been, at least by default, the salvation of the marshes.

The book closes in its final third with an examination of recent trends in the abundance and distribution of some of the area's birds, specifically bald eagles, herons, cormorants, gulls and terns, waterfowl, and shorebirds. Many of the species examined have been the subjects of studies or management interventions by wildlife specialists attached to public lands. Interestingly, its final two paragraphs relate how it was the *failure* of modern measures to contain Lake Erie—specifically the breaching of dikes by the storms of 1973, which flooded areas near Veler Road in the Ottawa NWR—that resulted in observations of extraordinary numbers of shorebirds when two square miles of mudflat persisted for six years in this usually carefully-controlled area. Extensive

appendices close the book, enumerating the species of mammals, reptiles and amphibians, plants, and birds—twenty pages devoted to the latter—now encountered in the southwest Lake Erie marshes.

The marshes are no longer wholly wild, of course. Many species present two hundred years ago do not appear in these compendia, and too many of the species that do appear are less-than-welcome exotics transplanted from other continents. In many ways the birdlife has suffered less than the vegetation—wild rice and eelgrass, for example, have disappeared in the first case and nearly so in the second—or the fishes, whose diversity in the marshes is but a tiny fraction of what it used to be. Purple loosestrife and carp impoverish the marshes far more than starlings or house sparrows. Finally, there is, a reviewer is obliged to note, the occasional small imperfection in the accounts of wildlife of the marshes: in the case of birds, May is not the best time of year here for long-billed dowitchers, or Baird's or western sandpipers, and there is as yet no accepted record of MacGillivray's warbler in Ohio—but with small exceptions the science and the field expertise are solid, far more so than in any comparable work.

Lou Campbell, over six decades of field work and data collection and analysis, helped develop the bird references and records we all use. He acted as mentor to more than one generation of Ohio's best birders. He is part of the history of the marshes he describes, having been the first birder to visit many of them, beginning in the 1920s. All birders who have spent time in these marshes, as well as those who hope one day to do so, will enjoy and profit from this intriguing work. *Bill Whan*

Recent Actions of the Ohio Bird Records Committee

The Ohio Bird Records Committee exists to increase knowledge of Ohio's birdlife by validating records of birds, maintaining for the public archival records of occurrences of rare birds in Ohio, and establishing the official state list of species. The OBRC relies vitally upon the voluntary participation of the birding community in sending in records of their sightings. *The Ohio Cardinal*, as a journal of record, does not treat reports of OBRC Review Species as established until accepted by the Committee, and hence will not normally pass along to the public reports of rarities not supported by documentation submitted to the OBRC. The Review List, which includes all species sufficiently infrequent in Ohio as to require documentation (specimen, photograph, tape recording, full written description) for their inclusion in the official historical record, was last published in this journal this spring, in Vol. 22, No. 3, p 99.

Volunteers for this effort come not only from the ranks of reporters in the field; others agree to serve three-year terms on the OBRC, subject to election by the subscribers to *The Ohio Cardinal*. They are your representatives in establishing official bird records for all of us. Current members of the eleven-member Ohio Bird Records Committee, and their counties of residence, are:

Jim McCormac (Franklin), Secretary
Craig Holt (Portage)
Rob Harlan (Cuyahoga)
Bob Conlon (Franklin)
Jay Stenger (Hamilton)
Kevin Metcalf (Geauga)

Tom Kemp (Lucas)
Jon Dunn (Montgomery)
David Dister (Montgomery)
Dave Hochadel (Trumbull)
Bill Whan (Franklin)

Retiring members, whose terms expire with the March 2000 annual meeting, are Dave Hochadel, Jon Dunn, and David Dister (as serving out Tom Bartlett's unexpired term). The Committee is grateful to these individuals for their service, and appreciative of their contributions. Members taking their places on the Committee at the annual meeting are: Bernard Master (Franklin), Larry Rosche (Portage), and David Dister (Montgomery). The Committee welcomes these new members.

We are grateful to OBRC Secretary Jim McCormac for the following update of actions taken by the Committee since our report in the previous issue.

ACCEPTED RECORDS: Documentation received from the observers specified for the following species on the indicated date(s) was judged sufficient to verify the record by at least nine members of the committee.

Long-billed Curlew—Holmes County, 1 Oct 1999, observer Bruce Glick
Pomarine Jaeger—Clermont County, 30-31 Oct 1999, observers Jay Lehman, David Brinkman
Philadelphia Vireo—Cuyahoga County, 18 Nov 1999, observer Haans Petruschke
Ruff—Lucas County, 5 Sep 1999, observer Chris Crofts
Ruff—Erie County, 14 Aug 1999, observer Bill Whan
Yellow Rail—Cuyahoga County, 30 Sep 1999, observers Joe Hammond, Dan Sanders

RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED: Documentation received for the following species received fewer than six votes to accept; such votes, it is important to note, do not reflect upon the sighting itself, but on the adequacy of the documentation to validate it for the permanent record.

White Ibis—Pickaway County, 2-5 Sep 1998
California Gull—Lake County, 1 Jan 1999
Long-billed Curlew—Lucas County, 25 May 1999
White-winged Dove—Lorain County, 24 May-3 Jun 1999
Wilson's Storm-Petrel—Ottawa County, 9 Aug 1997
Ruff—Lake County, 29 Jun 1999

RECORDS IN RECIRCULATION: These records are currently being recirculated among members of the committee, the documentation for which having received between six and eight votes to accept.

Pine Grosbeak—Paulding County, 20 Oct 1999
Yellow Rail—Marion County, 15 Aug 1999
Harris's Sparrow—Holmes County, 22 Dec-25 Mar 1999
Mississippi Kite—Summit County, 4 Jul 1999
Western Kingbird—Muskingum County, 6 Aug 1999
Common Ground-Dove—Cuyahoga County, 5-6 Nov 1999

In addition two species—MacGillivray's warbler (Stark County, Jan 1999) and Glaucous-winged gull (Cuyahoga County, Jan 1989)—will receive final consideration at the annual meeting, having failed in three recirculations to meet criteria for acceptance or non-acceptance. *Bill Whan*

Fall Shorebirds: Census Results from BSBO

Good habitats for shorebirds were widespread enough in Ohio this fall, at least in the north, to give us a much better idea of the true number of migrants passing through the state. Birders tend to concentrate on rare species in the field, rather than scrupulously counting and reporting all the commoner ones, so for estimating the real magnitude of the migration systematic censuses are more useful. We are fortunate that the Black Swamp Bird Observatory* censuses shorebirds in the area it covers, and willingly shared with us their results (said to be "probably final") for the fall 1999 season. No active birder will be surprised that the BSBO tallied record numbers; here they are, with this spring's results for comparison.

Species	Spring	Fall	Total
Black-bellied Plover	9	1,009	1,018
American Golden-Plover	4,952	356	5,308
Semipalmated Plover	253	1,038	1,291
Piping Plover	0	1	1
Killdeer	904	18,168	19,072
American Avocet	0	26	26
Greater Yellowlegs	382	1,161	1,543
Lesser Yellowlegs	462	9,604	10,066
Solitary Sandpiper	26	61	87
Willet	3	20	23
Spotted Sandpiper	120	306	426
Whimbrel	0	6	6
Hudsonian Godwit	0	56	56
Marbled Godwit	1	38	39
Ruddy Turnstone	208	6	214
Red Knot	83	9	92
Sanderling	0	367	367
Semipalmated Sandpiper	364	4,974	5,338
Western Sandpiper	0	18	18
Least Sandpiper	176	4,591	4,767
White-rumped Sandpiper	6	44	50
Baird's Sandpiper	0	108	108
"Peep" sp.	0	42	42
Pectoral Sandpiper	2,092	6,465	8,557
Dunlin	9,732	26,456	36,188
Stilt Sandpiper	1	304	305
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	0	25	25
Ruff	0	5	5
Short-billed Dowitcher	71	6,688	6,759
Long-billed Dowitcher	0	591	591
Dowitcher sp.	3	531	534
Common Snipe	430	34	464
American Woodcock	0	6	6
Wilson's Phalarope	1	16	17
Red-necked Phalarope	1	33	34
Red Phalarope	0	1	1
TOTAL	20,280	83,164	103,444

Readers should be aware that the census methods used here require a complete count by species on each visit to a site, and that this can result in multiple counts of an unknown number of individual birds. Without capturing and marking each bird, however, such misrepresentations of the actual number of birds are inevitable.

The fall 1999 census surpassed by well over one-third the previous high number of birds, as well as surpassing by an eighth the previous high number of species, both set in fall of 1994. Shorebirders will remember 1994 as the year in which dike work at Turtle Creek in Magee Marsh WA incidentally created a big mudflat where one had not existed for decades. This year's total of over a hundred thousand shorebirds censused surpasses one of the thresholds set by the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network for an International Site. Such a designation, if granted, would bring considerable attention to the marshes of western Lake Erie and to local efforts to protect their migratory habitats.

We are aware of no evidence that significantly more shorebirds than usual survived or hatched this year, but it is clear that more normal Lake Erie water levels exposed a lot of mudflat in the censused region. Mudflats also extended farther than usual up drought-diminished creeks and rivers. Birders' traditional belly-aching about the lack of management on behalf of shorebirds in the public wild lands of the region fell silent as larger forces had their way, and shorebirds dropped down out of the sky outside the diked impoundments of Ottawa, Metzger, Toussaint, and Magee. It was as if the Lake had regained its natural edge habitats after decades of being itself a sort of diked impoundment, and life abounded.

That things were returning to normal was also evident in the BSBO findings: for only the second time in seven years the fall shorebird census numbers exceeded those of spring, a seemingly natural result since more species appear in fall (see the Table), and their numbers are considerably augmented by young-of-the-year. This difference has in recent years been masked by high Lake levels, which made mudflat-loving species more reliant upon human-influenced areas. These influences included agricultural fields which in spring have little vegetation to hide flooded areas, and management regimes on public wildlife lands that require draw-downs in spring to encourage summer growth of forage plants, coupled with flooding in the fall to invite waterfowl.

But shorebirds this fall were less confined by these human manipulations, because of the return to normal of Lake Erie levels, a factor thus far beyond human intervention. In August, during the official count at the heavily-managed Magee Marsh WA, a full-day census yielded 114 migrant shorebirds of 10 species; 99 of the total were of only three species. At much smaller areas at Berlin Reservoir, by contrast, a single observer found 219 birds of 19 species in August. On the 17 October census of Magee, 57 migrant shorebirds of only five species were found, but only a mile away birders walked past the usual shorebird-unfriendly impoundments to find, on 3 Oct, 287 birds of no fewer than 18 migrant species on the comparatively unmanaged estuary of Crane Creek in Ottawa NWR. It seems that lessons are here for those willing to look for them. *Bill Whan*

* Black Swamp Bird Observatory, P.O. Box 228, Oak Harbor, OH 43449, tel. (419) 898-4070, is always interested in the help of volunteers confident of their shorebird ID abilities to help with these censuses, as well as assistance with its other projects.



Retrospective: 20 Years Ago in the Cardinal

Autumn 1979 differed markedly from Autumn 1999. With contrastingly above normal precipitation and below normal temperatures, 1979 produced numerous documentation species, several regional records, and no fewer than two state records.

Late October and November produced four red-throated loons, three of them at inland reservoirs. Two red-necked grebes showed up in Cleveland during the same period. Little blue herons were still scarcer than they are these days, with only one report: an immature bird at West Branch Reservoir in Portage Co. A *Plegadis* ibis turned up at Celotex Marsh in October.

Waterfowl were reported in good numbers. Among less common species, reported were three brant in November, a male Eurasian wigeon which lingered for over a month at Lake Rockwell in September and October, 13 oldsquaws, 33 white-winged scoters (including the first Shaker Lakes record), 15 surf scoters, and 10 black scoters (including Seneca Co.'s first record).

Two yellow rails were found, including one seen at a distance of 3 feet on 11 Nov at Lake LaDue in Geauga Co. The decline of Great Lakes piping plovers was evident, with only two reports, both in August. Only two purple sandpipers were seen—one on 4 Nov at Headlands and one on 28 Nov in the Cedar Point parking lot. The big news for shorebirds, however, was the discovery of a breeding-plumaged spotted redshank on 28 Aug at Huron by Larry Rosche and Elinor Elder. This was the first, and thus far the only, record for Ohio. Paling in comparison but noteworthy nonetheless were two reports of ruffs in September. Five red phalaropes added to 1979's great shorebird season.

Larids also provided some excitement. Two adult lesser black-backed gulls were found along the lakeshore, foreshadowing their imminent advance into the Great Lakes region. The season's other first state record came with an adult California gull found at Huron by Bruce Peterjohn and Evelyn Gordon on 24 Nov. It remained until the next day. Other notable species reported included an immature black-legged kittiwake at Wildwood Park on 30 Nov, and a Sabine's gull found on Lake Erie on 2 Nov. Common and black terns were well represented, with a peak of 4,000 commons on 2 Sept at Ottawa and 600 blacks in Cleveland on 17 Aug.

As for notable passerines, one western kingbird was found on 2 Sept in Holmes Co., and a Bewick's wren was identified as it ventured *inside* a Lancaster factory at 5:00 AM on 10/29. Two reports of loggerhead shrikes came in, with two young birds in Seneca Co., and a single adult at the Kent State University Stadium. A worm-eating warbler on 9 Sept became Cleveland's first autumn record. Two other regional records came from pine warblers, with one in Tiffin and one at Springville Marsh providing the second and third Seneca Co. records respectively. Sparrows were reported in normal numbers, with two notable species—one sharp-tailed sparrow at Port Clinton on 25-27 Aug and one Harris's sparrow on 3 Oct at Huron. Unlike the current season, winter finches were reported in very low numbers twenty years ago with nary a common redpoll. *Joseph W. Hammond*



A large number of Black Terns were reported statewide from 25 August - 5 September 1999. The two individuals pictured above were part of the fallout at Buckeye Lake as witnessed by Gina Buckey when she took these photographs on 26 August. Interestingly, Buckey also photographed an American Avocet on that date at Buckeye Lake (not shown).