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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 Please send all reports to:

Winter (Dec.-Feb.) - March 25
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Summer (June-July) - August 25
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Bill Whan
223 E. Tulane Rd.
Columbus, OH 43202
danielel@iwaynet.net

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Bill Whan, Editor
Edwin C. Pierce, Publisher
Joseph W. Hammond, Design Manager
The Ohio Bird Records Committee: Jim McCormac, Secretary
Ohio Division of Natural Areas and Preserves
1889 Fountain Square, Bldg. F-1
Columbus, OH 43224

On the Cover: Snowy Owl - Conneaut Harbor, Ashtabula Co., 20 November 2000.
Photo by Gary Meszaros.

Autumn 2000 Overview

by Bill Whan

Autumn seems so long ago, much longer ago than it did this time last year, or the two before. Many of the birds that lingered so late into last fall hurried on their way, leaving us to accustom ourselves to normal seasonal conditions for a change. The first half of the season was somewhat wetter and cooler than usual, but without extremes, and things even grew a bit warmer until mid-November, when winter stepped in impatiently, with harsh winds and temperatures persistently well below normal. Nationwide, the year 2000's November-December period was the coldest on record, with an average daily temperature of 33.8°F. Among other things this meant that instead of dilatory swallows we got snowy owls, and in place of languid vireos we found early Iceland gulls—not patient gleaners of the insect hordes, but white phantoms out of the storm, ravenous for warm blood.

Few rarities showed up early in the season—none in August, in fact—but later reports of eight Review Species were made. Despite winter's early coming, we had as many as three new record late occurrences, to go with a couple of record early ones—an unusual coincidence. No fewer than thirteen *Plegadis* ibises were seen, three of them well away from Lake Erie, and much was learned about how the two species may and may not be separated in the field. A nice male rufous hummingbird presented no ID problems, but two or perhaps three *Selasphorus* hummers in less definitive plumage this fall gave us fits. Ohio was not alone in hosting an unusual number of western hummers; east of the Mississippi this fall and early winter the following were reported: buff-bellied, black-chinned, Anna's, broad-tailed, rufous, Allen's, and calliope hummingbirds, and an unprecedented green-breasted mango. A count of four Le Conte's sparrows was well above average, as were three photographs obtained; this species probably passes through in good numbers, but finding one is the trick. A western kingbird was briefly present near Cleveland in September. The region had some wanderers from the opposite direction too, as a Manx shearwater was found on a suburban driveway just up the road in Michigan on 19 August; we had, or at least noticed, nothing quite so exciting in Ohio, though a report of a dovekie here—a potential state first—came close.

The scarcer herons—cattle and snowy egrets, and little blue heron—were still scarcer than usual; at Ottawa, for example, there were reports of only two all season: a snowy egret in August, and a cattle egret in October, with no little blues. Waterfowl flights were unimpressive. Among geese, for example, for the second fall in a row no greater white-fronted geese were found. Nor were Ross's geese reported, and we heard reports of only 20-25 snow geese this fall. Brant, by contrast, staged their best come-back in the Great Lakes in years. Among raptors, merlins and golden eagles reprised last fall's excellent showing, but rough-legged hawks and peregrines were noticeably down in numbers, and harriers seemed inexplicably few. The crane flight seemed about average, but the big news was an apparent nesting at Killdeer Plains WA, a first. A whooping crane pair from the Florida introduction program, having eloped to spend the summer in Michigan, was tracked by telemetry to the

Sandusky area on their way back on 21 Nov, but only the female showed up—just as a blip on the screen—the following day, further south in *Meigs*.

As for the 34 species of shorebirds reported—none of the 13 recorded Review Species, but a full roster of the rest—the keepers of the western Lake Erie marshes maintained their impoundments full in anticipation of a drought that never materialized, so few showed up in these ancestral stopover sites this fall. The census of 20 August (prime time for many shorebirds) of the three-plus square miles of Magee Marsh WA, for example, produced exactly one migrant shorebird in 9.5 hours of counting—a very solitary solitary sandpiper—among 5018 birds of 76 species. Drought forecasts or not, such results are becoming too routine. Elsewhere, falling water in reservoirs benefited shorebirds—Hoover had 26 species, and Berlin staged a late rally—, as did rivers such as the Huron, and the Crane Creek estuary at Ottawa NWR (still undiked and thus more diverse in habitat), while a few other streams in the northwest had their moments at low water. Conneaut Harbor took the laurels for the season, with reliable shorebird presences through much of the season, and a total of 30 species—all this accompanied by—or perhaps despite—a full panoply of human activities, including firing guns, roaring around in ATVs, drinking beer, smoking crack, and shooting off fireworks, not to mention standing in ranks peering through telescopes for hours on end.

We have had many better autumns for jaegers in Ohio, but gulls of 14 species were found this season, and most terns were at least in good numbers. Snowy owls showed up after three starveling years; one of them, way down in Clinton County, seemed to tolerate any number of behaviors peculiar to—and diagnostic of—our species. Very few encouraging signs appeared of a sizeable winter finch irruption, with no reports of crossbills or evening grosbeaks during the period, and just a few of redpolls and siskins. Widespread snow late in the period didn't seem to encourage all that many of the namesake buntings, either, but time will tell. Unusual numbers of reports of waterfowl and larids on 11-12 Nov might have tempted us to observe that the full moon was contributory, but it was also a weekend in the middle of prime time for such species, so lots of observers were afield, too.

Finally, a reminder that a revised and updated edition of Bruce Peterjohn's *The Birds of Ohio* is scheduled to appear from the Wooster Book Company, perhaps as early as February. We are told plans are to ask \$21.95 for this 688-page volume with a sewn binding. The first edition of this work (1989) was in many ways among the finest of state bird monographs, and this new edition will update the earlier one, including maps from the *Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas* (1991). *The Ohio Cardinal* will offer comprehensive reviews of this important new work.

The following reports follow the taxonomic order of the 42nd Supplement (July 2000) to the 7th edition of the *AOU Check-list 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 to official state records, or to attributed records here. County names are supplied for certain locations, and appear *italicized*. Unless other numbers are supplied in the text, sightings cited refer to single birds of the species in question. Abbreviations, conventions, and symbols in

the text should be readily understood, with the possible exception of the following: BCSP=Buck Creek SP in *Clark*; BIWA=Big Island WA in *Marion*; CBC=Christmas Bird Count; CVNRA=Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area in *Cuyahoga*; EFSP=East Fork SP in *Clermont*; EHSP=East Harbor SP in *Ottawa*; *fide*="in trust of," said of data conveyed on behalf of another person; GPI=Gordon Park Impoundment; HBSP=Headlands Beach SP in *Lake*; Killbuck=Killbuck Marsh WA in *Wayne*; Killdeer=Killdeer Plains WA in *Wyandot*; Magee=Magee Marsh WA in *Ottawa*; Metzger=Metzger Marsh WA in *Lucas*; MP=Metropark; m obs=many observers; MWW=Miami-Whitewater Wetlands in *Hamilton*; NWR=National Wildlife Refuge; OBRC=Ohio Bird Records Committee; ONWRC=Ottawa NWR Census, conducted monthly and reported herein by E. Pierce; Ottawa=Ottawa NWR in *Lucas* and *Ottawa*; ph=photograph; Res=reservoir; Res'n=reservation; SF=State Forest; SNP=State Nature Preserve; SP=State Park; WA=Wildlife Area; ~≈approximately.



This peeping Tom/Tonya of an American bittern was found in the men's restroom at one of the Port of Cleveland, Cuyahoga Co., warehouses on 21 September 2000. Photo by Paula Lozano.

The Reports

Red-throated Loon: The first appeared off GPI on 22 Oct for **B. Winger** et al., with another in *Lake* on the 29th (**J. Pogacnik**). Nine others showed up between 17 Nov (**S. Reeves** at Caesar Ck SP) and 26 Nov (**D. Overacker** at BCSP).

Common Loon: A bird at Alum Ck SP on 24 Aug was probably a summering non-breeder (**B. Barrett**). Beyond an apparently wounded bird from last summer, which it seems did not expire as reported here in the last issue (ph 9 Sept by **P. Lozano** in Cleveland, in alternate plumage), the earliest migrant was a bird on 8 Oct off Lakewood, also by **Lozano**, then five on 22 Oct at Crooked Run Preserve, *Clermont*, by **S&C Clingman**. The bulk of the birds were reported in a six-day period from 11/18-11/23, with 2100+ birds statewide, over half of them inland, with the largest flight of 739 off *Lake* on 22 Nov (**J. Pogacnik**).

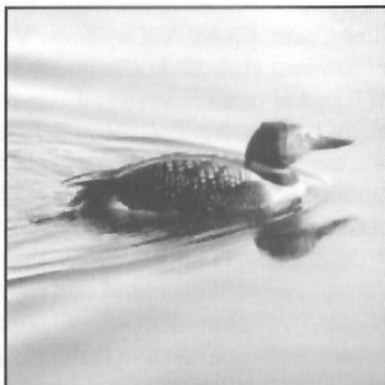
Pied-billed Grebe: Among reports of local breeders was one of 45 birds, including many young, at Killdeer on 13 Sept (**J. McCormac** et al.). The high count was of 48 at Akron Lakes on 22 Nov (**C. Holt**). Migrants persisted till colder weather closed in, as long as 26 Nov, when 10 were at BCSP (**D. Overacker**), and in smaller numbers still later.

Horned Grebe: Late and skimpily reported. The first was seen at Hueston Wds SP on 7 Oct (**D. Styer**); on 18 Nov, 20 were at Caesar Ck SP (**L. Gara**), three at Clear Fork Res (**S. Snyder**), and 75 (the high count) at Sheldon Marsh (**K. Johnson**). A partial albino bird closed out the season on the 19th on the Cleveland lakefront (**P. Lozano**, **B. Finkelstein**).

Red-necked Grebe: Only three reports, all in Nov: one in transitional plumage at GPI on the 8th (**S. Zadar**), one on the 19th off Cleveland (**P. Lozano**), and another in *Erie* the same day (**R. Harlan**, **S. Wagner**).

Eared Grebe: Two showed up in Nov, one on the 15th off HBSP (**H. Petruschke**) and another on the 27th in Fairport Hbr (**L. Rosche**, *vide Petruschke*).

American White Pelican: **A. Blank**'s bird of 23 Aug on the Crane Creek estuary stayed just long enough for **A. Osborn** to find it the following day.



This injured adult common loon spent much of the summer and part of the fall at the E. 55th St. Marina in Cleveland, Cuyahoga Co. Photo by Paula Lozano on 9 September 2000.



An interesting find this season was this partial albino horned grebe along the Cleveland lakefront, Cuyahoga Co., on 19 November 2000. Photo by Paula Lozano.

REPORTS

Double-crested Cormorant: Migrant numbers on Lake Erie were substantial, including 677 for a high count on the Cuyahoga River mouth on 22 Oct (**P. Lozano**), and 2799 on the Kelleys Isl. census of 21 Nov (**T. Bartlett**). Inland, good numbers included 175 at Walborn Res on 18 Sept (**B. Morrison**), 110 on Hoover Res on 7 Oct (**R. Thorn**), ~250 at BCSP on 29 Oct (**D. Overacker**), and 70 at Walnut Ck, *Holmes*, on 4 Nov (**J. Miller**), not to mention 132 on 22 Oct along the Ohio River in *Lawrence* (**H. Slack**). The CNVRA fall census had its second occurrence on 24 Sept (**D&A Chasar**).

American Bittern: Eleven reports, only three in the western L. Erie marshes. **P. Lozano** reported one in the men's bathroom of a Cleveland warehouse on 21 Sept; this bird was rescued and later relocated to the friendlier confines of Sheldon Marsh SNP.

Least Bittern: Only seven reports, the latest on 16 Sept at Ottawa (**K. Metcalf**).

Great Egret: Large numbers lingered as long as temperatures allowed, and a few later. 110 were at Ottawa on 1 Oct (**D. Sanders**); on 3 Nov, 80+ could be found along the Portage R. and Rte 2 in *Erie* (**V. Fazio**). Three were at Medusa Marsh on 19 Nov (**B&A Toneff**) and one was near Wooster on 23 Nov (**S. Snyder**).

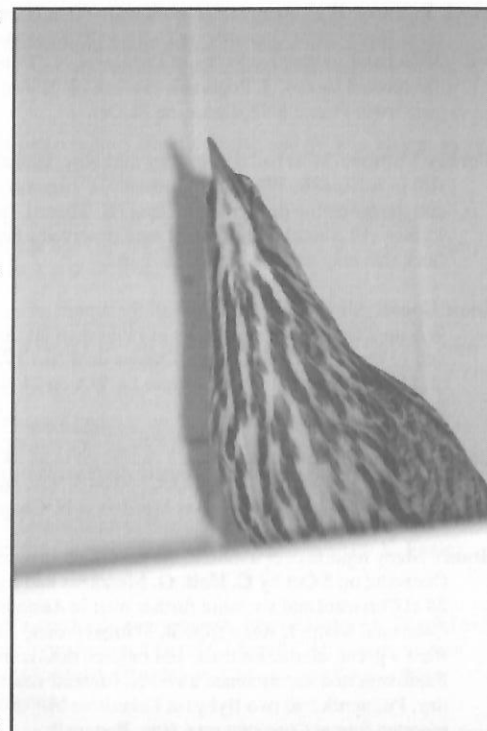
Snowy Egret: Not in the usual places in the usual numbers. Only one report from Ottawa, with a single bird on 23 Aug (**A. Osborn**). At Sheldon Marsh, nine were present on 12 Aug (**K. Mock**), seven on 13 Aug (**M. Busam**), and one on 7 Oct (**D. Linzell**). One was way over at Walnut Beach on 2-13 Aug (**J. Pogacnik**), and startling were two adults and two juveniles photographed at Killdeer by **V. Fazio** on 20 Aug.

Little Blue Heron: Only two: one imm on MWW on 7 Aug (**J. Nooker**), and another 28 Aug through 5 Sept at Walborn Res (**B. Morrison**).

Cattle Egret: Scarce this summer, scarcer still this fall. The ONWRC found one on 1 Oct, **V. Fazio** another near Oak Harbor on 8 Nov, and **C. Holt** a third in *Portage* on 10 Nov.

Green Heron: The high count of migrants was a healthy 38 at Killbuck on 19 Aug (**P. Jones**), and three other Aug reports were in the teens. Latest was one in *Holmes* on 4 Oct (**L. Yoder**).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: Reports of small numbers were made across the state in Sept and Oct, the largest only 32 on 17 Sept at Magee (**H&S Hiris**). Nov reports included two at Turning Pt Isl on the 5th (**R. Harlan**, **S. Wagner**), two at EHSP on the 26th, two at Cleveland's Merwin St roost on the 27th (**P. Lozano**), and one on the 29th on the Cleveland lakefront (**J. Hammond** et al.).



Here is a close-up view of the American bittern found in a Port of Cleveland, Cuyahoga Co., warehouse restroom. Photo by Paula Lozano on 21 September 2000.

Glossy Ibis: F. Renfrow reported one at MWW on 6 Sept, and m obs found it through the 10th. An adult was found near Jaite in the CVNRA on 5 Nov (D&A Chasar), and m obs found it through the 11th. Details for both are with the OBRC.

Plegadis sp.: A surprising 11 were reported, the earliest 30 Aug at BIWA (D. Sanders), and the (very) latest two flybys at Rocky River Pk on 24 Nov (G. Leidy). High count was six (probably one ad and 5 imm) passing by Lakeshore MP on 1 Oct (J. Pogacnik).

Black Vulture: High count in the south was ~50 in *Hamilton* on 29 Oct (J. Hays), and at other customary spots four were at *Granville* on 29 Sept (R. Thorn), and 10 in *Holmes* on 8 Sept (J. Miller); one on 20 Oct and another on 30 Oct in *Coshocton* (L. Deininger) were likely from the same roost. In unexpected locales, J. Pogacnik saw one on 21 Aug in *Lake*, and R. Nirschl saw one among TVs over Irwin Prairie SNP, *Lucas*, on 21 Oct.

Turkey Vulture: Most had departed by mid-Nov, including ~150 birds from the summer roost on North Hill in Athens (B. Whan). High counts of migrants included ~300 on 26 Oct in *Brown* (B. Lund), and the following day 265 in *Licking* (R. Thorn). In *Lawrence*, 153 southbound TVs were noted on 15 Nov (H. Slack). On 28 Nov Lund observed a flock of 150+ in *Clermont*, and in the distance a flock that may have been twice as large.

Snow Goose: Slim pickings, despite all the reports of a population explosion. All reports: one at Mercer WA on 7 Oct (J. Shrader), two in *Ottawa* on 30 Oct (J. Pogacnik), six there on 5 Nov by C. Holt and 15 by the ONWRC, two at *Ottawa* on 8 Nov (V. Fazio), one at Grand Lk St Marys on 13 Nov (J. Hammond), a bird at Mosquito Lk WA on 24 Nov (Holt), and four at *Conneaut* on 26 Nov (J. Brumfield).

Canada Goose: The *Ottawa* monthly census gives an idea of resident vs. migrant numbers: 542 on 6 Aug, 380 on 3 Sept, 575 on 1 Oct, 800 on 5 Nov, and 3075 on 3 Dec. K. Metcalf, however, noted the first arrivals of Hudson Bay breeders at N. Chagrin Res, *Cuyahoga*, as early as 15 Sept.

Brant: Many reports over a month, the best flight in at least seven years. The first report came from *Conneaut* on 8 Oct by C. Holt; G. Meszaros had five there on 12 Oct. On 28 Oct, J. Pogacnik saw 24 at *Conneaut* and six more further west in *Ashtabula*; later in the day all may have arrived at *Conneaut*, where I. Kern (fide B. Winger) found 24 alive and six shot by hunters (brants, like Ross's geese, cinnamon teals, and mottled ducks, are legal game in Ohio). On the following day, V. Fazio reported six remained alive. K. Metcalf saw two imm at *Conneaut* on 3 Nov. The following day, Pogacnik had two flybys at Lakeshore MP, then H. Petruschke two at HBSP. J. Lehman reported four at *Conneaut* on 6 Nov. Pogacnik saw four more on 11 Nov in *Lake*, and Petruschke seven the same day at HBSP. On the same date J. Miller and E. Schlabach counted 29 a few miles west of *Conneaut*. The last report was of two off *Cleveland* on Nov 16 (P. Lozano).

Mute Swan: J. Scott had one at Winton Wds, *Hamilton*, on 24 Sept, and D. Styer one at MWW on 8 Oct; either or both could have been feral birds or escapees in an increasing population of this introduced and established species. Among the established Lake Erie birds, nine were at *Ottawa* on 8 Nov (J. Hammond), where they have become regular, despite their status on the current *Ottawa* checklist as "seen on five or fewer visits since 1964." J. Pogacnik counted 29 at EHSP on 26 Nov.

Tundra Swan: Over a thousand birds reported, 620 of them at spots across the northern tier of counties on 4 Nov, including a high count of 172 for the season at *Ottawa* (B. Whan). Last fall the big push (750+ birds) came on 3 Nov. Earliest were 10 at GPI on 28 Oct (S. Zadar), and at the end of the period four tarried at *Killbuck* (S. Snyder).

Wood Duck: High count reported was only 182 at *Magee* on 17 Sept (H&S Hiris); 143 had been on the CVNRA census the previous day (fide D&A Chasar). A hardy trio was near *Wooster* on 21 Nov (S. Snyder).

Gadwall: Generally late. The ONWRC counted them in single digits only until 5 Nov, when ~500 were present. Three days later at *Ottawa*, V. Fazio had 1170. On 19 Nov the Hiris counted 446 at *Magee*. Numbers fell sharply by the last week of the period, the largest only 12 at BCSP on 26 Nov (D. Overacker).

American Wigeon: Also slow to arrive in any numbers. Only 23 counted at *Magee* on 17 Sept (H&S Hiris), by which time one had arrived at *Conneaut* (C. Holt), but 3244 were at *Magee* by 19 Nov (Hiris). The ONWRC of 5 Nov found 1175.

American Black Duck: No large numbers reported. One on 8 Sept at MWW was unusual (H. Armstrong). The ONWRC found them in single-digit numbers this season before tallying 110 on 5 Nov.

Mallard: Again, large flocks collected later, with 1400 on the 5 Nov ONWRC, and 5978 at *Magee* on 19 Nov (H&S Hiris).

Blue-winged Teal: High count was 944 on the rather late date of 15 Oct, at *Magee* (H&S Hiris); numbers otherwise were said to be low. N. Cade had one at *Camp Dennison*, *Hamilton*, on 24 Nov, and J. Pogacnik one on 26 Nov at *Old Woman Ck SNP*, *Erie*.

Northern Shoveler: A bird at *Cowan Lk SP* on 21 Aug was unusual (D. Styer). Remarkable were 489 counted on the *Magee* census of 19 Nov (H&S Hiris); the previous count there on 15 Oct had been of 18 birds.

Northern Pintail: Low numbers. C. Holt found two at *Conneaut* on 23 Aug. In the *Lk Erie* strongholds for migrants, the *Ottawa* census had a mere 20 on 1 Oct and 82 on 5 Nov; that for *Magee* had 19 on 15 Oct and 397 (easily the season's high) on 19 Nov (H&S Hiris).

Green-winged Teal: First reported migrants were two at *Hoover Res* on 27 Aug (R. Thorn), and the usual Nov counts included ~500 on the 5th for the ONWRC (and 870 there on the 8th by V. Fazio) and 483 at *Magee* on the 19th (H&S Hiris).

Canvasback: A drake was reported in the *Crane Ck* estuary in every month, from 23 Aug (A. Blank) to 5 Nov (ONWRC). Another drake was odd near *Columbus* on 9 Oct (D. Linzell). All counts were in single digits save for 120 at *Ottawa* on 29 Oct (C. Holt), 10 at *Medusa Marsh* on 19 Nov (B&A Toneff), and 88 seen 22 Nov in *Lake* (J. Pogacnik).

Redhead: On schedule, with the first on 8 Oct in *Lake* (J. Pogacnik). Reports were scanty, however, with most in Nov, and a high count of 178 in *Magee* on the 19th (H&S Hiris).

Ring-necked Duck: Numbers seemed down. Cold weather shooed the last 80 from *Hoover Res* soon after R. Thorn found them on 19 Nov. H. Hendrickson (fide D. Best) tracked numbers on *Best Lk* in *Geauga*: one on 1 Oct, 22 on the 8th, 54 on the 9th, 88 on the 14th, 90 on the 15th, 40 on the 18th, 11 on the 21st, 90 on the 22nd, five on the 30th, 157 on 4 Nov, and 12 on 12 Nov. High count only 175 at *Shalersville*, *Portage*, on 4 Nov (C. Holt).

Greater Scaup: Numbers weren't great—and one assumes they were merely slow to arrive—with an early report of one on an *Ashtabula* pond on 8 Oct (C. Holt). Inland, one was near *Killbuck* from 22-28 Nov (S. Snyder).

Lesser Scaup: Early birds were singles in *Lake* on 17 Sept (J. Pogacnik) and at GPI on 23 Sept (S. Zadar). Appreciable numbers arrived only in mid-Nov, with 252 on the 14th at a *Findlay Res* (B. Hardesty)—where only one remained a week later—and, on the 21st, 200+ on *Berlin Res* and 224 in *Portage* (both B&D Lane).

Harlequin Duck: An imm male was observed at HBSP on 11 Nov (**H. Petruschke, S. Zadar**); **J. Pogacnik** had a juv off *Lake* on 21 Nov, and **E. Pierce** one at HBSP on 25 Nov.

Surf Scoter: 121 reported. The only Oct report was of two at HBSP on the 22nd (**H. Petruschke**); the latest was of nine offshore in *Lake* on 23 Nov (**J. Pogacnik**). The high count off 72 was off *Lake* on 11 Nov (**Pogacnik**), when five others were seen along the *Lake*'s shore at spots further west. Only one bird reported inland: at Caesar Ck SP on 4 Nov (**S. Reeves**).

White-winged Scoter: Only ten birds reported. **D. Miles** had two off Old Woman Ck, *Erie*, on 5 Nov, and **J. Pogacnik** one off *Lake* on 23 Nov. All the others were seen with Nov's full moon on the 11th: four off *Ashtabula* (**E. Schlabach, J. Miller**), two in Clear Fk Res (**S. Snyder, L. Yoder**), and one off Vermilion (**J. Hammond et al.**).

Black Scoter: 71 reported. Earliest were on 28 Oct, one in *Lake* (**J. Pogacnik**) and 15 off Vermilion (**V. Fazio**); latest was one off *Lake* on 23 Nov (**Pogacnik**). The remainder were seen with the full moon on the 11 Nov: four at Clear Fk Res (**S. Snyder, L. Yoder**), 15 off Vermilion (**J. Hammond et al.**), six off *Lake* (**Pogacnik**), and six in *Ashtabula* (**E. Schlabach**).

Long-tailed Duck: At least 15 birds reported, beginning with one inland at Clear Fk Res on 11 Nov (**S. Snyder, L. Yoder**), and a bird off Rocky River Pk from 13 (**P. Lozano**) to 19 Nov (**S. Zadar**), as well as one at Huron the same day (**C. Holt**). High count was six passing Lakeshore MP on 12 Nov (**J. Pogacnik**). Four were off Vermilion on the 19th for **J. McCoy**. Latest was another inland bird, this one at The Wilds on 26 Nov (**B. Paxson, fide J. Hammond**).

Bufflehead: Numbers seemed down in general, and birds were later than normal. First was at Hoover Res on 4 Nov (**R. Thorn**). As has become traditional, the high count came from the Kelleys Isl census, this time 644 birds on 21 Nov (**T. Bartlett**). On the same day, **B. Hardesty** had a nice inland gathering of 115 at a Findlay Res.

Common Goldeneye: Not many. The first was seen at Findlay Res #2 on 7 Nov (**B. Hardesty**). Largest counts of the fall were five on 11 Nov off Vermilion (**J. Hammond et al.**) and 12 off Euclid on 19 Nov (**P. Lozano**).

Hooded Merganser: Seemed normal in numbers. At Hoover, 150 were tallied by **C. Bombaci** on 12 Nov, then 160 on the 25th by **R. Thorn**, for the high counts. **C. Holt** counted 130 on LaDue Res on 24 Nov.

Common Merganser: Earlyish was a good flight of 170 off Vermilion on 28 Oct (**V. Fazio**), by far the high count. On the Magee census of 19 Nov, 81 were seen (**H&S Hiris**).

Red-breasted Merganser: A female in Cleveland on 20 Aug (**B. Winger**) must have been a non-breeder. **C. Holt** noted the first returnee at Conneaut on 10 Sept. As usual, Nov flocks challenged enumeration: **S. Zadar** reported 24,277 from GPI on 12 Nov, and **J. Hammond** 20,000+ off Lorain on 8 Nov and 50,000+ off Vermilion on 11 Nov.

Ruddy Duck: Notable numbers were 300+ in *Geauga* on 21 Oct (**K. Metcalf**), and on the 28th ~500 at Wellington Res and ~200 at nearby Oberlin Res (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**). Fifty at Caesar Ck SP (**S. Reeves**) on 21 Nov may have been the last large flock before cold weather closed in.

Osprey: 103 reports, a fair number of which in August were probably migrants of introduced stock. **H. Slack** recorded 14 along the Ohio River in *Lawrence* from 28 Aug to 29 Sept. Several Nov reports, ending with two at Magee on the 19th (**H&S Hiris**).

Bald Eagle: Over sixty reported, with a high count of nine (two ad, seven imm) on the 6 Aug ONWRC. A dozen reports came from along the Ohio River, such as an adult in *Meigs* on 13 Aug (**S. Edinger**), and reports later in the period that suggested possible nest-building in *Scioto* and *Adams* (*fide P. Whan*); **H. Slack** saw five between 14 Sept and 15 Nov along the River in *Lawrence*; curiously, as with ospreys, he saw none there in Oct.

Northern Harrier: Down precipitously from last fall, with only 49 reported. August reports included two in *Ashtabula* on the 12th (**J. Pogacnik**), and one at Pickerel Ck WA on the 20th (**P. Jones**). Six or more were at Killdeer on 2 Oct (**M. England**), and later in the period four were over the Exchange Rd grasslands in *Huron* on 5 Nov (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**), and two near Funk on 26 Nov (**S. Snyder**).

Sharp-shinned Hawk: An average flight, with no notable observations.

Cooper's Hawk: In healthy numbers. Two stories illustrate their adaptability to urban settings. Urban birder **P. Lozano** identified one dismantling a pigeon atop a car in an underground parking garage at a Cleveland high school on 12 Nov, and **D. Horn** watched one drive another squab fatally into a window in an OSU parking garage before having it for lunch; at the latter location there was some evidence the bird may regularly hunt in the building.

Northern Goshawk: Three reports: one at Whitehouse, *Lucas*, on 23 Oct (**M. Anderson**), one on 26 Nov at EHSP (**J. Pogacnik**), and a juv at HBSP on 29 Nov (**J. Hammond et al.**).

Red-shouldered Hawk: A young bird at GPI seen from 13-18 Oct overstayed his welcome, ending as a corpse on the 23rd; finder **S. Zadar** suspected a local great horned owl. The high count was six, in flight over *Lucas* on 4 Nov (**J. Hammond et al.**). Rather unexpected as to time and place was one at EHSP on 26 Nov (**J. Pogacnik**).

Broad-winged Hawk: Two near Dublin, *Franklin*, on 6 Aug were probably local nesters (**P. Gottschling**). Good numbers of migrants were noted overhead in *Lucas* this fall: **M. Anderson** had 1260 on the 18th and 925 on the 25th of Sept at Whitehouse, and **T. Kemp** counted ~2300 there on the 23rd.

Red-tailed Hawk: Twenty-one were counted in a few hours of watching in *Lucas* on 4 Nov (**J. Hammond et al.**). One dark-plumaged bird was reported, by **N. Cade** at Caesar Ck SP on 24 Nov. An extremely rare form, the light morph of the "Harlan's" race, was reported from *Holmes* on 18 Nov, details from which are with the OBRC.

Rough-legged Hawk: Sparse this fall, with only 23 reported. Early were two separate sightings in *Holmes* on 20 Oct (**J. Miller, M. Weaver**), two more in *Holmes* on 26 Oct (**L. Yoder**), and one in *Lucas* on 30 Oct (**J. Pogacnik**). High count was of six birds at The Wilds by **D. St. John** on 7 Nov.

Golden Eagle: Numbers like last year's, which is to say quite good. The first passed Lk Erie MP in Michigan (*fide J. Schultz*) on 13 Sept (!), but **S. Stockford** saw our first, an immature bird, over Toledo on 19 Oct. **R. Nirschl** had another imm there on 21 Oct, and **G. Links** an adult over the Oak Openings on 29 Oct. One reached Tiffin on 1 Nov for **B. Barchus**, and an adult was seen at The Wilds on 26 Nov (**B. Paxson, fide J. Hammond**).

Merlin: Over thirty reports, likely of more than 20 birds, the first on 2 Sept (Kelleys Isl census, **T. Bartlett**) and the last in *Franklin* on 26 Nov (**J. Fry**). All were near Lk Erie save for the preceding, one on 20 Sept at LaDue Res (**R. Rickard**), and two others from the Columbus area: 6 Sept in Dublin by **M. England**, and 17 Sept at Hoover Res (**R. Thorn**).

Peregrine Falcon: The 39 reports were unremarkable for recent years, with many in the latter half of September. November sightings included one at Avon on the 12th (**D. Chasar**) and one in Lakewood on the 19th (**P. Lozano**).

Northern Bobwhite: **R. Kolde** jumped a covey of 24 at MWW on 12 Nov.

Virginia Rail: As usual their fall passage went largely unnoticed, at least by birders. Hunting season was 1 Sept-9 Nov, and the bag limit 25/hunter/day. **C. Rieker** had two calling in the CVNRA as late as 12 Nov.

Sora: Moderate numbers were detected during the migration. That some prefer drier weedy fields at this time is borne out by reports from overgrown dredge-disposal basins such as GPI, where numbers were seen last year, and singles were found on four occasions between mid-Sept and mid-Oct this fall (**S. Zadar**).

Common Moorhen: Reports spanned the period (13 on 6 Aug, including six young, on the ONWRC, and **H&S Hiris** found four at Magee on 19 Nov); all in all, though, the total number reported came to less than the number two hunters are allowed to take in a single day.

American Coot: ONWRC counts were 52 on 6 Aug, 425 on 3 Sept, 1500 on 1 Oct, and 1700 on 5 Nov. **S. Snyder** estimated 1000 at Killbuck on 14 Oct. Saturday birders inland noted ~750 at Caesar Ck SP (**S. Reeves**), ~400 at Hueston Wds SP (**N. Keller** et al.), and ~1500 at BCSP (**D. Overacker**), all on 4 Nov. High count 3260 at Magee on 19 Nov (**H&S Hiris**), when **A&B Toneff** estimated 2000+ at Medusa Marsh.

Sandhill Crane: Ideal weather allowed the big push on 20 and 21 Nov this year, with ~270 birds seen in six western counties and in *Lake*; the high count was ~100 in *Champaign* (**T. Shively**). The big news was an apparently successful nesting at Killdeer, a first: **L. Powlick** noted an adult there on 5 Aug, then **B. Rinehart** a juvenile on the 13th, and by the end of the month a family group of three was being seen (**R. Sempier**). Four flying over the CVNRA on 16 Sept were only the second record for the area (*fide* **D. Chasar**). Killbuck-area nesters may have contributed to a group of seven seen near Funk on 21 Oct and 14 there on 4 Nov (**S. Snyder**). Early migrants were two in *Ross* on 4 Nov (**D. Horn**) and 18 in *Fostoria* on 14 Nov (**S. Ross**, *fide* **B. Hardesty**). Latest reported were two near *Huron* on 19 (**B. Phillips**) and 26 Nov (**M. Busam**). For clarifications on the *Geauga* cranes, see **D. Best's** note elsewhere in this issue.

Black-bellied Plover: 150+ reported, 122 of them at the Crane Ck estuary in Ottawa. Migrants had begun appearing as early as 2 July this year, and the last was reported at Walnut Beach, *Ashtabula*, on 18 Nov (**J. Pogacnik**). High count 78 at Crane Ck on 1 Oct (**E. Pierce**).

American Golden-Plover: Disappointingly few were seen, with high counts of only four at Conneaut on 2 Sept (**J. Brumfield**) and in *Holmes* on 30 Sept (**E. Schlabach**). All reports came from September, except for three quite late birds on the 5 Nov ONWRC.

Semipalmated Plover: The first migrants had appeared by 13 July, but the flight was puny overall. High count was 30 at Conneaut on 30 Aug (**B. Winger** et al.). An extremely late bird was well seen at Hoover Res on 21 Nov by **D. Sanders**; this seems to be a new record late occurrence by five days among the eleven Nov records of the past 60 years.

Killdeer: Most left early this year, understandably. For example, around 450 at BCSP on 12 Nov (the state's high count) had dwindled to three by 25 Nov (**D. Overacker**), at which time **C. Holt** reported "small numbers remained at several NE lakes."

American Avocet: A veritable parade graced Conneaut Harbor in August: four on the 1st (**D. St. John**), one on the 6th (**B. Winger**), five on the 8th (**D. St. John**), and one on the 13th (**J. Pogacnik**); three were there on the 19th (**C. Holt**). One was found near the Ohio River in *Lawrence* on 11 Aug by **H. Slack**. Four were in Dayton on 9 Sept (*fide* **C. Mathena**), and three at Hoover Res the same day (**M. Baughman**). The last reported were from only 21 Sept—two at Sims Pk in Euclid by **T. Kellerman**, *fide* **P. Lozano**.

Greater Yellowlegs: Numbers seemed skimpy, especially for a shorebird not obligated to scarce mudflats. The high count of 25 was also the latest: 5 Nov by the ONWRC.

Lesser Yellowlegs: Also reported infrequently; after several 100+ counts last fall, the high count was only 31, at Conneaut on 6 Aug (**C. Holt**); the same observer found the inland high of 20 at Hoover Res on 3 Sept.

Solitary Sandpiper: Migrants having passed through since late June, three birds as late as 15 Oct were interesting: one at HBSP (**H. Petruschke**), one at Berlin Res (**B&D Lane**), and a flyover in Medina (**R. Harlan**).

Willet: Four reports: One was at Conneaut on 23 Aug (**C. Holt**), then one at the Crane Ck estuary on 2 Sept (**R. Harlan**, **S. Wagner**). Another spent about a week at ponds near Grand Lk St Marys through at least 13 Sept (**J. Ruediseuli**). Quite late was one at GPI on 2 Oct (**S. Zadar**).

Spotted Sandpiper: **B. Morrison's** 12 at Berlin Res on 5 Sept represented the high count. Two at Hueston Wds SP on 7 Oct were late (**D. Styer**).

Upland Sandpiper: **V. Fazio** saw eight birds, probably local nesters and their progeny, at BIWA on 5 Aug. **D&M Dunakin** had two birds in *Paulling* on 26 Aug.



Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area, Wyandot Co., played host to an apparent nesting pair of sandhill cranes this year. The adult and juvenile pictured above were photographed there on 20 August 2000 by Ron Sempier.

Whimbrel: Except for **S. Zadar's** bird on 2 Oct at GPI, all were seen at Conneaut: eight there on 1 Aug (**D. St. John**), three on the 7th (**Zadar, T. Gilliland**), one on 13 Aug (**B. Morrison**), then three on 9 Sept (**J. Pogacnik**).

Hudsonian Godwit: **J. Brumfield** reported a molting adult at Conneaut on 2 Sept, which remained through the 5th (**H. Petruschke**). On the latter date, **S. Reeves** found one at MWW. **C. Holt** had a juv at Berlin Res on 26 Sept. The ONWRC had three at the Crane Ck estuary on 1 Oct, and **Holt** the high count of 14 there on 5 Nov.

Marbled Godwit: Four joined Conneaut's conga-line of large shorebirds on 2 Aug (**V. Fazio**). Possibly a single bird accounted for multiple reports there in Sept, from the 6th (**B. Finkelstein**) to the 30th (**R. Rickard**).

Ruddy Turnstone: Scarce, seemingly, with less than twenty birds reported near Lk Erie, including the high count of seven at HBSP on 4 Sept (**K. Metcalf**). Elsewhere, **B. Morrison** saw two at Walborn Res on 28 Aug, **J. Hammond** two at Hoover Res on 6 Sept, and **J. Stenger** one at MWW on 10 Sept. No October reports.

Red Knot: Only a few. **C. Holt** found the first, an adult at Conneaut on 19 Aug; other reports from Conneaut (two on 3 Sept by **B. Winger**, one on 8 Sept by **J&D Hoffman**, and one on 9 Sept by **J. Pogacnik**) may well have involved only two individuals, at least one a juvenile. Another juvenile was found at Hoover Res on 26 Aug (**B. Whan**), and remained at least through 3 Sept (**R. Thorn**). **J. Lehman** and **E. Pierce** saw one at Sheldon Marsh on 23 Sept. Bringing up the rear was a bird at the Crane Ck estuary on 1 Oct for the ONWRC.

Sanderling: Close to 300 reported. Migrants appeared in July, and peaked at 82 birds at Sheldon Marsh on 7 Oct (**B. Whan**). No fewer than 36 appeared in Nov, the latest 27 at the Crane Ck estuary on the 8th (**V. Fazio**).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: As usual, the most numerous of the peeps. Migration continued from July to peaks of ~250 at Conneaut on 2 Sept (**J. Brumfield**) and 270+ at Hoover Res on 8 Sept (**V. Fazio**). Last report was of one at Berlin Res on 26 Sept by **C. Holt**.

Western Sandpiper: A juvenile found at Conneaut by **B&A Toneff** on 27 Aug was followed by two there on 2 Sept, then one on the 5th (**H. Petruschke**), and one on the 9th (**J. Pogacnik**). Found at Hoover Res 4 Sept (**B. Master, J. McCormac**) and on 14 Sept (**B. Conlon, B. Whan**). Latest were two birds at Ottawa, two on 29 Oct and one on 5 Nov (**C. Holt**).

Least Sandpiper: Having begun in late June this year, their migration featured no spectacular numbers, the highest 42 on 5 Sept at Walborn Res (**B. Morrison**). The last report, like last year's, came from **D. Overacker** at BCSP, this year on 18 Nov.

White-rumped Sandpiper: 54 reports, most along Lk Erie in September, with a high of eight at Conneaut on the 3rd (**B. Winger**). The first appeared inland at Hoover Res on 27 Aug (**G. Stauffer**), where there were two on 6 Sept (**J. Hammond**), and five on 9 Sept (**B. Master**). One was at MWW on 5 Sept (**S. Reeves**) and remained on 10 Sept (**J. Stenger**). Two were at Grand Lk St Marys on 3 Sept (**D. Dister**). A fairly hardy species, the last was on 11 Nov at HBSP (**K. Metcalf**).

Baird's Sandpiper: With no July reports, the first two were at Conneaut on 13 Aug (**J. Pogacnik, B. Finkelstein**). One was at Hoover Res on 26 Aug (**B. Whan**) through at least mid-Sept (**R. Thorn**). On 4 Sept one was at BCSP (**D. Overacker**) and another at BIWA (**B. Master**). One was at Berlin Res on 14 Sept (**C. Holt**) and two there on 28 Sept (**B. Morrison**). Latest reported were two north of Fremont on 3 Nov (**V. Fazio**).

Pectoral Sandpiper: Smaller than normal numbers reported. High count was only 70, on 15 Sept at Berlin Res (**B. Morrison**). They did linger: **R. Harlan** and **S. Wagner** had six at Sheldon Marsh on 5 Nov, **S. Snyder** one near Wooster on 7 Nov, and **T. Kemp** a real slowpoke on 24 Nov at Bayshore, **Lucas**.

Purple Sandpiper: Despite considerable searching, only one was detected during the period, on 28 Nov at HBSP (**H. Petruschke**).

Dunlin: Early were two at Magee on 22 Sept (**A&B Toneff**), five at Sheldon Marsh on 23 Sept (**E. Pierce**), and one at Hoover Res on 24 Sept (**B. Master**); shortly thereafter 15 showed up for the 1 Oct ONWRC. Numbers swelled in Nov, especially at the Crane Ck estuary, where there were ~950 on 5 Nov (**C. Holt**) and 880+ on the 8th (**V. Fazio**). Five late birds were at Lorain on 19 Nov (**Holt**)—at least they were late for this year.

Stilt Sandpiper: Migration began in late July locally. More than a hundred were reported this fall, the high of ~25 at Hoover Res on 9 Sept (**B. Whan** et al.). Birds in the southwest included two at MWW on 6 Aug (**J. Bens**), and another there on 8 Sept (**H. Armstrong**), two at Cowan Lk SP on 27 Aug (**L. Gara**), and one on 21 and 22 Oct at BCSP (**D. Overacker**). The preceding and four in *Williams* on the same date (**J. Grabmeier**) were the last.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: About twenty reported. By the first week of Aug the species had appeared in five states along its regular flyway, but our first was on the 20th, at BIWA (**V. Fazio**). By the 26th, one was at Hoover Res (**D. Linzell**), to be joined by two others on the 30th (**B. Royse**). Three also showed up at an Oxford golf course on 17 Sept (**C. Holliday**). The last bird, quite late, was reported from Conneaut on 21 Oct (**J. Pogacnik**).

Short-billed Dowitcher: Twenty-two birds on the ONWRC of 6 Aug were probably the last of the adults to pass through. But where were the young birds? One showed up at Conneaut on 20 Aug (**J. Pogacnik**), and up to 19 continued there through 10 Sept (**K. Metcalf**). One was at Caesar Ck SP on 26 Aug (**L. Gara**). High count was 40 at the Crane Ck estuary on 3 Sept (ONWRC).

Long-billed Dowitcher: Only two adults were reported this season, one at Conneaut from 28 Aug to 1 Sept by **C. Holt** and one at Sheldon Marsh on 23 Sept by **J. Lehman** and **E. Pierce**. Not long ago, large flocks of adults staged to molt each fall at Metzger Marsh (for example, in 1992, 130 were there on 21 Aug, 110 on 25 Aug, and 250 on 29 Aug), but it remains to be seen if this phenomenon, known only from here in the Midwest, will occur in Ohio again. The first report this fall of juveniles came from the Crane Ck estuary on 1 Oct, 22 birds on the ONWRC. Forty birds were there on 3 Nov (**B. Morrison**), and ~80 on the following day (**B. Whan** et al.). The latest report was of a lone bird at Walnut Beach on 18 Nov, by **J. Pogacnik**.

Common Snipe: A routine migration apparently, though one at Conneaut on 8 Oct was in a fairly unusual spot (**C. Holt**).

American Woodcock: Nine reports, the latest at Caesar Ck SP on 11 Nov (**S. Reeves**).

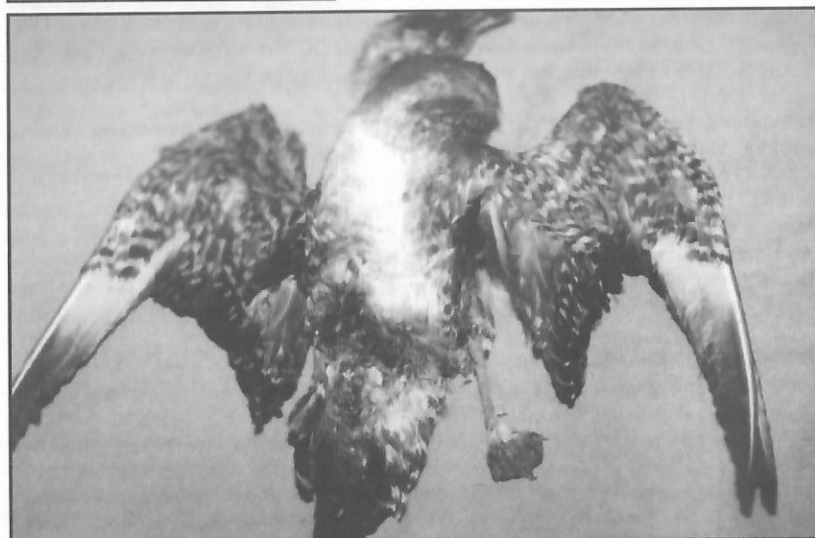
Wilson's Phalarope: Four birds, in a short span: one at MWW 9 (**N. Cade**) and 10 Sept (**J. Stenger**), then two there on 19 Sept (**B. Pratt**). **D. Sanders** found a juvenile on the Huron River flats on 20 Sept.

Red-necked Phalarope: Three were at Sheldon Marsh on 9 Sept (**K. Johnson**), one on the 13th (**J. Hammond** et al.), and no fewer than five on the 20th (**D. Sanders**), then three on the 23rd (**E. Pierce**). Another was at Hoover Res on 14 Sept (**R. Thorn**).

Red Phalarope: Unusually plentiful. **J. Pogacnik** picked them up like ticks on a summer's walk: in Ashtabula, one on 28 Oct and three on 18 Nov; in Conneaut, one on 18 and another on 25 Nov; at Walnut Beach, two on 18 Nov, and one each on 25 and 29 Nov; and one in Lorain on 26 Nov. The rest of us did fairly well, too: **P. Chad** found one in a pond at the Bowling Green State University golf course on 2 Oct, where it stayed until the 6th for **G. Links**. **J. Hammond** et al. found one at HBSP on 10 Nov, and **V. Fazio** two there on 12 Nov, while **C. Holt** found a bird at Lorain on 19 Nov.

Pomarine Jaeger: **J. Pogacnik** reported two from Conneaut on 12 Nov.

Long-tailed Jaeger: A dead and somewhat flattened bird was found by a roadside in *Lake* on 11 Oct (**D. Burton**, **D. Sanders**), and details are with the OBRC, as have those from a bird seen at HBSP, *Lake*, on 15 Sept.



Sometimes it pays to investigate roadkill. Dan Sanders and Don Burton did just that and scraped this juvenile long-tailed jaeger off a Lake Co. road on 11 October 2000. Head detail, top left; undertail detail, top right; whole bird (ventral view), bottom. Photos by Don Burton.

Laughing Gull: Three first-year birds were seen. **L. Yoder** found one at HBSP on 19 Aug. A bird was intermittently reported at Grand Lk St Marys from 9 Sept (**C. Mathena**) all the way through 31 Oct (**J. McCormac**, **B. Master**). Another was on the beach at Caesar Ck SP from 30 Sept through 1 Oct (**L. Gara**).

Franklin's Gull: As many as 16 reported, spanning the period. The first showed up at Greenlawn Dam on 13 Aug (**R. Cressman**), and an imm was at HBSP on 21 Aug (**H. Petruschke**). Singles were at BCSP on 23-24 Sept, 15 Oct, and 18 Nov. (**D. Overacker**). Two were at Caesar Ck SP on 8 Oct, then one off and on through 20 Oct, then another on 15 Nov (**L. Gara**). **R. Thorn** had a bird on 23 Oct and one on 4 Nov at Hoover Res. **B. Morrison** saw two at the Crane Ck estuary on 3 Nov, **V. Fazio** an adult at Huron on 11 Nov, and **J. Pogacnik** one in *Lake* on the same day. **C. Rieker** had one on 12 Nov at Lorain, and **Pogacnik** had the last sighting, at EHSP on 26 Nov.

Little Gull: Seven reports, all from Lk Erie. The first was from HBSP, a first-year bird on 19 Aug (**H. Petruschke**). Unusual were two sightings in the western basin, one of a juvenile at Kelleys Isl on 17 Nov (**T. Bartlett**) and another of an adult at EHSP on 26 Nov (**J. Pogacnik**).

Bonaparte's Gull: Seemed slow to arrive in any numbers. Forty were at the Crane Ck estuary on 6 Aug for the ONWRC, and one was at Conneaut the following day (**S. Zadar**). Except for 16 at Caesar Ck SP on the 10th and 100 at Conneaut on the 22nd (**C. Holt**), none were reported for October, but numbers took off in Nov. On 11 Nov, 115 were at Caesar CK (**L. Gara**), ~400 at Pleasant Hill Lk for **S. Snyder**, *Richland/Ashland*, and an estimated 3000 at Huron (**J. Hammond**). At Hoover on the 19th, ~800 were estimated by **R. Thorn** for a good inland count.

Ring-billed Gull: A normal season, except for one anomaly. **F. Renfrow** visited the Meldahl Dam in *Clermont* on 4, 10, and 22 Sept, and 17 Oct without seeing a single gull; by Nov 10, three ring-billeds had appeared. Upriver, **H. Slack** in *Lawrence* reported migrants from 15 Nov on, with 110 on 21 Nov.

California Gull: An adult basic-plumaged bird was reported for Grand Lk St Marys on 12 Nov (**D. Dister**, ph). Accepted by the OBRC.

Thayer's Gull: **T. Bartlett** reported one found on the Kelleys Isl census of 21 Nov, and **J. Pogacnik** a first-year bird the following day in *Lake*.

Iceland Gull: Not a fall bird under normal circumstances, but **J. Pogacnik** had a first-winter bird in *Lake* on 22 Nov, and **B. Winger** had an adult in *Euclid* the following day.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: As many as 10-12 birds reported. Two seemed fairly faithful to Huron: an adult first reported 3 Nov (**B. Morrison**), and a first-winter bird the following day (**J. Hammond** et al.), and both seen on 26 Nov (**J. Pogacnik**). An adult at Lorain on 8 Nov (**Hammond**) was joined by another for **S. Zadar** on the 19th. **Zadar** had another at Avon on 19 Nov, and **Pogacnik** one there on the 26th. At GPI **Zadar** noted a first-year bird on 9 Nov and an adult on the 23rd. Four other reports came from farther east along the Lake. An inland report of two adults came from Summit Lk on 22 Nov (**C. Holt**).

Glaucous Gull: Unlike last fall, we had some premonitory earlier sightings, the first an early one on 21 Oct at Huron (**E. Pierce**), then one at Avon on 12 Nov (**D. Chasar**), then an adult and a second-year bird in *Lake* on the 21st (**J. Pogacnik**), followed by a first-year bird at Huron on the 23rd (**J. Brumfield**) and later on the 25th (**M. Busam**). Another was at EHSP on the 26th (**Pogacnik**).

Great Black-backed Gull: A rarity inland, one was satisfactorily described by **B. Loebick** at Alum Ck SP on 24 Oct (*vide* **J. McCormac**). Sixty-six was a good number for 28 Oct off Vermilion (**V. Fazio**). Apparently 25 or so summered at Conneaut (**C. Holt**).

Sabine's Gull: Three birds, all immatures, all in October: one on the 8th at Lakeshore MP (J. Pogacnik), one on the 28th off Vermilion (V. Fazio), and another on the 30th off Pt Clinton (Pogacnik).

Black-legged Kittiwake: Quite early was a juvenile repeatedly passing Lakeshore MP on 18 Oct, where other young birds were seen on Nov 11th and the 21st (J. Pogacnik). In *Ashtabula* E. Schlabach and J. Miller saw another of the same age, as did Pogacnik et al. in Ashtabula Harbor on the 25th. In a very infrequent plumage, a second-winter bird floated in the river at Huron for D. Sanders and J. Hammond on 11 Nov. Earlier the same day V. Fazio had a juv bird at the same location.

Caspian Tern: No sizeable concentrations were reported, with the largest flock ~100 at Conneaut on 1 Sept (C. Holt). Migrants inland came mostly in August. On the Ohio River in *Lawrence*, five tardy birds appeared quite late on 11 Nov for H. Slack.

Common Tern: Staging flocks in Sept reached excellent numbers, such as ~200 on the ONWRC of the 3rd, then ~2500 at Sheldon Marsh on the 9th (B. Whan et al.). Later, an estimated 300 were at the Crane Ck estuary on 3 Nov (B. Morrison), and 97 there on the 8th (V. Fazio). The 9th of Nov furnished the last sightings: an adult at Lorain (R. Harlan, S. Wagner), two adults at GPI (S. Zadar), and one at LaDue Res (D. Ferris).

Forster's Tern: An estimated 1200 roosted with other terns at Sheldon on 9 Sept (B. Whan et al.), and ~200 were tallied by the 1 Oct ONWRC. November procrastinators included 11 at Pt Clinton on the 8th (V. Fazio), four in *Lawrence* on the 12th (H. Slack), one in Sandusky Bay the same day (J. Lehman), and one at Huron on the 23rd (J. Brumfield) through the 26th (M. Busam).

Black Tern: While smaller than 1999's, their numbers weren't too bad by recent standards. Through more than five weeks, over 50 birds were reported, the earliest four on 7 Aug at MWW (J. Nooker), the latest at Grand Lk St Marys on 17 Sept (D. Brinkman). High count was 16 at Hoover Res on 26 Aug (B. Whan), seven of which remained on 7 Sept (R. Thorn). Twelve of the 14 reports arose well away from Lk Erie, where only two individuals were found; this recent trend is not encouraging for hopes of Ohio nesting by this species.

Dovekie: On 31 Oct an experienced observer from out of state reported this diminutive alcid from Grand Lk St Marys, *Auglaize*. Extensive efforts the following day failed to relocate it. There are accepted records for seven Great Lakes states and provinces. Details of the sighting are with the OBRC.

Black-billed Cuckoo: Significantly late was one at Battelle-Darby Creek MP, *Franklin*, on 6 Oct (B. Master).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Far harder than its congener, a 12 Nov bird at GPI (S. Zadar) was the latest this year.

Snowy Owl: Returned to many sites this fall after a virtual absence of several years, and in numbers normal for decent flights over the past decade. A dozen or more birds appeared, most along the shore of Lk Erie. The first report came from Bayshore PP on 3 Nov (L. Garling, *vide* V. Fazio). One to two birds were continually reported from Conneaut through Nov. A bird near Lima on 10 Nov (H. Armstrong et al., *vide* B. Bell) was a one-day wonder, but another (differently-marked, Armstrong assures us) bird showed up south of Wilmington at least a week prior to the report of N. Compton, *vide* D. Russell, of 22 Nov, and stayed through the end of the period for m obs.

Short-eared Owl: A 12 Aug sighting in *Ashtabula* (J. Pogacnik) certainly makes one speculate about local nesting. Birds seen at GPI on 8 Oct (S. Zadar) and on 14 or 15 Oct over Marysville, *Union* (T. Taylor) were likely migrants. Owls began settling into familiar locales in Nov: the first at Killdeer was reported on the 16th (R. Goeke, *vide* M. Mispion), the first to *Geauga* on the 22nd (D. Ferris), and on the 24th P. Haskins saw 15-20 at The Wilds and B&D Lane at least eight in *Columbiana*.

Northern Saw-whet Owl: Three reports. This species is far more common as a fall migrant and a wintering bird than our efforts to find them, such as they are, suggest.

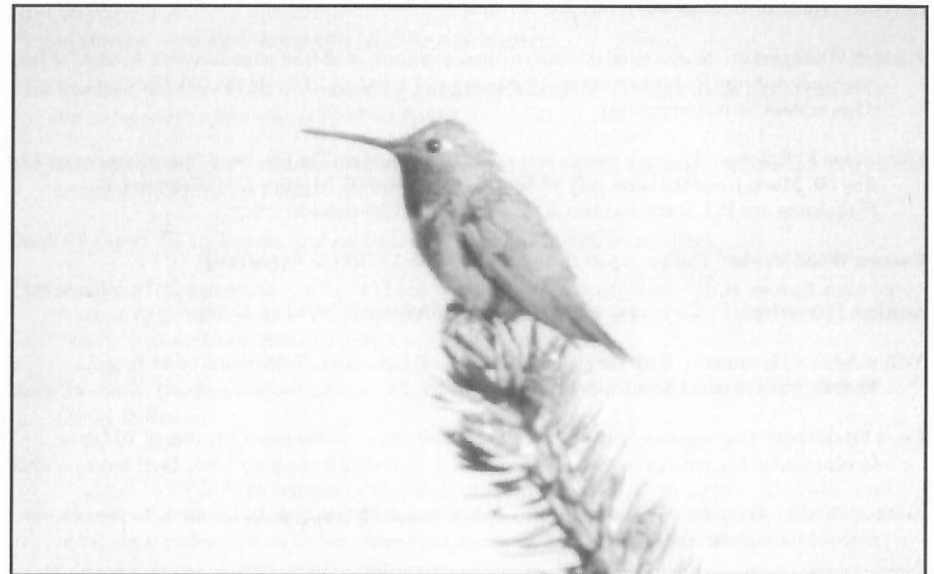
Common Nighthawk: A good flight, or at least well-observed, and on schedule statewide. Numbers began to peak in late Aug (with 100 in *Hamilton* on the 31st by W. Hull) through mid-Sept, as with 200+ in *Morgan* on the 11th (R. Placier). The high count was of "500 at least" in rural *Athens* on 9 Sept (L. Comeaux). Other big counts from the south included 285 on 27 Aug, 225 on 7 Sept, and 114 on 11 Sept in *Lawrence* (H. Slack). The latest birds were two in *Hamilton* on 11 Oct (J. Stenger) and two over Columbus the same day (M. Skinner). Someone needs to explain why so many large evening flocks of migrant nighthawks in autumn are seen flying north.

Whip-poor-will: Last noted on 6 Oct in *Adams* (B. Lund).

Chimney Swift: D. Sillick noted a premigratory roost of ~500 in a Columbus suburb on 20 Aug. Late Sept saw the largest movements, with 1000+ at Berlin Res on the 21st (B. Morrison), and ~1100 on the 23rd at GPI (S. Zadar). By Oct, 30 were in *Scioto* on the 8th (B. Lund), 18 in *Holmes* on the 12th (E. Schlabach), and on the 13th, 10 over the CVNRA (D&A Chasar), one in *Portage* (C. Holt), and one in *Chester*, *Meigs* (C. Skinner).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: M. Busam counted 20 or more migrants at Gilmore Ponds on 16 Sept. Late to leave were one in *Paulding* on 6 Oct (D&M Dunakin) and one in *Hamilton* on the 8th (N. Keller).

Rufous Hummingbird: An adult male came to a feeder in *Wayne* from 6 to 13 Sept, where it was photographed and written up by S. Snyder; the record was accepted by the OBRC.



This adult male rufous hummingbird graced a feeder in Wayne Co. from 6-13 September 2000. Su Snyder was able to obtain this documentary photo on 6 September by holding a camera up to the eyepiece of a spotting scope.

***Selasphorus* sp.:** A young bird, either a rufous or an Allen's hummingbird, visited an *Ashtabula* feeder in October, where it was photographed by **H. Petruschke** on the 5th, and seen as late as the 11th (**D. Sanders, D. Burton**). Accepted by the OBRC. Another bird was reported in *Hamilton* in early Nov (**M. McCarty, fide N. Keller**) and remained through the period; documentation has been submitted to the OBRC.



The two *Selasphorus* hummingbirds reported this season. The photo on the left was taken by Haans Petruschke in Ashtabula Co. on 5 October 2000. The photo on the right was taken by Millie McCarty in Hamilton Co. in early November 2000.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: A routine migration by all accounts. Three nesting pairs were discovered in *Geauga* this year, *fide D. Best*.

Pileated Woodpecker: Seems to be resorting to more marginal, or at least unaccustomed, habitats of late, one example being **G. Links's** unexpected sighting of a bird on 29 Oct in the Oak Openings, where it has seldom been seen recently.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Eighteen reports was an excellent number. The first came from *Clermont* on 13 Aug (**D. Morse**), and the latest only 17 Sept at Hoover Res (**B. Master, J. McCormac**). **B. Finkelstein** and **P. Lozano** had two in the same tree in *Cleveland* on 2 Sept.

Eastern Wood-Pewee: The last report came from EFSP on 14 Oct (**H. Armstrong**).

Acadian Flycatcher: **D. Styer** reported the latest from *Shawnee Lookout* on 23 Sept.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Both the earliest and the latest came from *Holmes*: one on 24 Aug (**L. Yoder**), and one on 24 Sept (**E. Schlabach**).

Least Flycatcher: One was carefully observed by **S. Zadar** et al. on the rather late date of 10 Oct at *Gordon Pk*.

Eastern Phoebe: Forty were tallied on the CVNRA census of 16 Sept (*fide D. Chasar*); the species was reported through the end of the period.

Great Crested Flycatcher: The latest report came from EFSP on 14 Oct (**H. Armstrong**).

Western Kingbird: One was found and photographed on 8 Sept at *Brecksville Res'n* by **J. Mizanin**; accepted by the OBRC.

Eastern Kingbird: 45 were counted on the 6 Aug ONWRC. The latest report came from BCSP (**D. Overacker**) on 15 Sept.

Loggerhead Shrike: **D. Graham** reported one near *Caesar Ck SP* on 9 Oct.

Northern Shrike: Thirteen reports. The earliest of four birds reported from Oct was on the 22nd at HBSP (**H. Petruschke**). No new frontiers were established as to locations, and several remained through the end of the period.

White-eyed Vireo: Departed in good order, with the last reported from *Franklin* on 6 Oct (**B. Master**).

Yellow-throated Vireo: **B&A Toneff** found one on *Kelleys Island* on 30 Sept. The last departed *Spring Grove Cem* in *Cincinnati* on 7 Oct (**N. Cade**).

Blue-headed Vireo: Two were still in song on 14 Oct in the CVNRA (**D&A Chasar**). Late reports came from *Firestone MP, Summit*, on 26 Oct (**E. Pierce**) and from *Gilmore Ponds* on 29 Oct (**M. Busam**).

Warbling Vireo: Remarkable was one at HBSP on 21 Oct (**K. Metcalf**).

Philadelphia Vireo: One on the *Kelleys Isl* census was early on 20 Aug (*fide T. Bartlett*). High counts of four apiece came from *Highbanks MP, Delaware*, on 15 Sept (**J. Hammond**) and the following day at GPI (**S. Zadar**). **M. Busam** found one at *Gilmore Ponds* on 7 Oct for the final report.

Red-eyed Vireo: Six were counted on the 1 Oct ONWRC, and **E. Schlabach** had the latest, one in *Holmes* on 7 Oct.

American Crow: As in the past, *Eden Pk* in *Cincinnati* hosted a night roost estimated by **F. Renfrow** at in excess of 30,000 birds.

Purple Martin: Two were seen at GPI on 23 Sept (**S. Zadar**).

Tree Swallow: Around 4,000 were estimated at *Hueston Wds SP* on 7 Oct (**D. Styer**). **H. Armstrong** found the latest, a singleton at EFSP on 16 Oct.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: Five were at MWW on 11 Oct (**J. Lehman**), and the last bird passed over GPI on 14 Oct (**S. Zadar**).

Bank Swallow: By 16 Sept the final report came in, from BCSP (**D. Overacker**).

Cliff Swallow: The last migrants were on the move in numbers in early Sept. Highly unusual was a huge flock of 1200-1500 on roads, telephone wires, and perches on soybean plants near *Charlie's Pond* in *Pickaway* on the 7th (**B. Master, J. McCormac, P. King**).

Barn Swallow: Numbers seemed down to several observers. Last one was noted at *Hueston Wds SP* on 7 Oct by **D. Styer**.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Unlike last fall's irruption, numbers were close to normal. Earliest were two in *Trumbull* on 18 Sept (**C. Babyak**). Other than 30+ seen at *Findley SP* on 12 Nov (**C. Rieker**), all other reports were in single digits. Wintering in *Hamilton* seemed in the offing when **F. Renfrow** noted one at *Indian Hill* on 16 Nov, then three apiece on 19, 21, 23 and 30 Nov.

Brown Creeper: Early was one at Hoover Res on 9 Sept (**B. Whan** et al.).

Carolina Wren: Up north, four were counted in the *Kelleys Isl* census of 24 Sept (*fide T. Bartlett*), and **C. Babyak** reported five in *Niles, Trumbull*, at the end of the period.

REPORTS

- House Wren:** R. Thorn noted adults feeding fledglings at Hoover Res as late as 16 Sept. Given the temperatures, one at Killdeer on 11 Nov was remarkable (D. Overacker).
- Winter Wren:** Some regarded them as scarce, but M. Busam found them more numerous than usual at Gilmore Ponds, with nine individuals seen 22 Oct-9 Nov, then through the end of the period.
- Sedge Wren:** Twenty or more birds noted. D. Brinkman found two at MWW on 5 Aug, then the high count of six there on the 13th. A pair with young were at BCSP on 19 Aug (D. Overacker). One near Athens on 1 Oct must have been a migrant (B. Placier), as were two at MWW on 21 Oct (J. Lehman).
- Marsh Wren:** Seventeen were detected by the ONWRC on 6 Aug. Migrants were noted in diverse places in Oct: in the Dunakins' yard in Paulding on the 1st, in Guernsey on the 7th (L. Yoder), and at Tinker's Ck in Portage on the 15th (A&D Chasar).
- Golden-crowned Kinglet:** First reports along the Lake came in the last week of Sept, but very large numbers soon followed, for example ~300 at GPI on 9 Oct (S. Zadar).
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** Rather late to arrive, they grew numerous along with golden-crowns, with ~200 on 9 Oct at GPI (S. Zadar). One was in the Spring Grove Cem in Cincinnati on 24 Nov (N. Cade).
- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** S. Zadar observed the first and last migrants of the fall, the former at GPI on 21 Aug, the latter at Lorain on the late date of 22 Oct.
- Veery:** P. Lozano noted the last migrant at GPI on 24 Sept.
- Gray-cheeked Thrush:** High count was six in Holmes on 22 Sept (L. Yoder). Latest were five calling in Cuyahoga on 5 Oct (R. Harlan).
- Swainson's Thrush:** A southbound bird showed up on 1 Aug in Lake (J. Pogacnik). High count was 40 in Rocky River Pk on 13 Sept (R. Harlan, S. Wagner). The latest was noted in Cleveland on 17 Oct by P. Lozano.
- Hermit Thrush:** Two on 8 Aug in the CVNRA were probable breeders (D&S Chasar). Fifteen on the 21 Nov Kelleys Isl census hint at the numbers that winter there (fide T. Bartlett). R. Thorn had four in Granville on 30 Nov.
- Wood Thrush:** October reports included one on the 1st in Cincinnati (E. Lotz), one on the 5th in Hamilton (D. Styer), and one in Holmes on the 16th (T. Schrock).
- Gray Catbird:** GPI attracted late migrants, with one on 16 Oct (R. Harlan, S. Wagner) and another on 24 Oct (S. Zadar). C. Gambill found one in Columbus on 25 Nov.
- Northern Mockingbird:** In the north the high count was of five from the Gordon Park family on 21 Aug (S. Zadar). One was on the 3 Sept ONWRC, one in Trumbull on 30 Sept (C. Babyak), one in Columbiana on 21 Oct (D&B Lane), and a personal first for L. Deininger at Shaker Lks came on 5 Nov.
- American Pipit:** In two sightings of the flock, B. Stanley carefully observed nine in Clermont on the extremely early date of 5 Aug. Twelve on 19 Aug were the Dunakins' earliest by three days; other pipits showed up even earlier this year in southern Ontario and Delaware. The high count was ~150 on 18 Nov in Holmes (L. Yoder).

REPORTS

- Cedar Waxwing:** Big numbers included 143 on 24 Sept on Kelleys Isl (fide T. Bartlett), 108 on the 1 Oct ONWRC, and ~200 at Camp Dennison in Hamilton by N. Cade on 24 Nov. This year's extravagant fruiting by some populations of eastern red cedars presaged some bigger numbers in winter.
- Blue-winged Warbler:** The Dunakins noted a migrant in Paulding on 24 Aug. Later reports came from 18 Sept in the Oak Openings (G. Links), and another in Hamilton on the 20th (N. Keller).
- Golden-winged Warbler:** G. Links rejoiced in one in the Oak Openings on 11 Sept, and J. Pogacnik reported a very late bird, a male, in Lake on 11 Oct.
- Tennessee Warbler:** Paulding hosted the first migrant on 27 Aug (D&M Dunakin). In the third week of Sept they peaked, with 15 in Rocky River (R. Harlan, S. Wagner) on the 20th, 11 on the 22nd in Holmes (L. Yoder), 10 there on the next day (E. Schlabach), and the high count of 22 on the 23rd in Cincinnati (D. Brinkman). Late were two in Clermont on 21 Oct (D. Styer).
- Orange-crowned Warbler:** The first migrant showed up at HBSP on 18 Sept (K. Metcalf), the last in Franklin on 29 Oct (R. Thorn). Four were at HBSP on 23 Sept (B. Morrison), but 10 at GPI on 9 Oct (S. Zadar).
- Nashville Warbler:** T&M Romito found the first on 28 Aug in the CVNRA, and P. Lozano the latest on 21 Oct at Whiskey Isl in Cleveland. High count was 12 by Lozano at the GPI on 24 Sept.
- Northern Parula:** Not many. The earliest migrant was at Magee on 9 Sept (S. Wright), and the last passed through the Shaker Lks on 13 Oct (G. Leidy).
- Yellow Warbler:** Migration was well underway at the beginning of the period, with G. Leidy noting eight migrants at the Shaker Lks on 1 Aug. The ONWRC had 62 on 6 Aug, but only two on 3 Sept. Late birds were at North Chagrin Res'n on 24 Sept (K. Metcalf) and in Geauga on 29 Sept (H. Hendrickson).
- Chestnut-sided Warbler:** A bird on 5 Aug in the CVNRA may or may not have been a migrant, but one in Paulding on the 24th (M&D Dunakin) certainly was. High count was four in Holmes on 2 Sept (L. Yoder), and the latest were three at Mosquito Lk WA on 9 Oct (C. Babyak).
- Magnolia Warbler:** A bird on 16 Aug at GPI was the first migrant reported (S. Zadar). The high count was 52 on 8 Sept in Holmes (N. Yoder), and the last straggler was seen in Cleveland on 17 Oct (P. Lozano).
- Cape May Warbler:** No August reports, with the first on 7 Sept at Magee (S. Wright), but good numbers appeared later, such as 30+ at Grand Lk St Marys on 17 Sept (D. Brinkman) and 20+ the following day at HBSP (K. Metcalf). A number of Oct reports included one in the snow at North Chagrin Res'n on the 8th (Metcalf). On 24 Nov, B. Lund found an adult on her porch in Adams gleanings spiders.
- Black-throated Blue Warbler:** The first appeared on 26 Aug in Cuyahoga (G. Leidy), with 5+ on 15 Sept in Delaware the high count (J. Hammond). R. Harlan and S. Wagner found one on the ONWRC of 5 Nov, and T. Gilliland hosted another at his Rocky River feeder from 24 Nov through the end of the period for a rare Dec record.
- Yellow-rumped Warbler:** Our earliest came from Holmes on 8 Sept (L. Yoder). The high count of 70 was made at the MWW on 15 Oct by N. Cade.

REPORTS

Black-throated Green Warbler: The first migrant was noted in *Paulding* on 26 Aug (**D&M Dunakin**), and **A. Lavy** had the high count of 14 in *Coshocton* on 9 Sept. On 21 Oct, single birds were seen at BCSP (**D. Overacker**) and in *Holmes* (**E. Schlabach**).

Blackburnian Warbler: A bird in *Hocking* on 21 Aug (**G. Leidy**) could have been a local or a migrant. Five migrants in *Holmes* on 10, and five more on 22 Sept (**L. Yoder**) were the high counts. **P. Gottschling** found a late one at Sheldon Marsh on 7 Oct.

Yellow-throated Warbler: Scarce as usual in the fall. A bird in the MWW on 10 Sept (**J. Stenger**) was as likely a local nester as a migrant from elsewhere.

Pine Warbler: Not many reports, the earliest 8 Sept in *Holmes* (**N. Yoder**), the latest three photographed by **G. Leidy** in Lake Hope SP between 22 and 27 Oct.

Prairie Warbler: Few reports of migrants, but one on 30 Sept at HBSP (**H. Petruschke**) certainly was.

Palm Warbler: **J. Stenger** found the first at Shawnee Lookout on 4 Sept. Twenty-seven were counted at the GPI on 30 Sept (**S. Zadar**), and the last passed through the MWW on 28 Oct (**D. Graham**).

Bay-breasted Warbler: Eighteen were tallied in *Holmes* on 8 Sept (**N. Yoder**). As far as we know, a new late record was set by a bird in Whitehouse, *Lucas*, on 5 Nov (**M. Anderson**); the previous latest occurrence seems to be 30 Oct.

Blackpoll Warbler: An unremarkable passage, with the first at *Paulding* on 8 Sept (**M&D Dunakin**), a high count of 18 in Cleveland on 13 Sept (**P. Lozano**), and the latest report from Hoover Res on 14 Oct (**R. Thorn**).

Cerulean Warbler: An apparent migrant was in *Holmes* on 8 Sept (**N. Yoder**), and part of a nice find was one among 19 other species of warblers in the CVNRA on 16 Sept (*vide* **D. Chasar**).

Black-and-white Warbler: Four were in *Holmes* on 22 Sept (**L. Yoder**). The last was seen at Sheldon Marsh on 4 Oct (**D. Sanders, J. Hammond**).

American Redstart: Ten migrants were in *Holmes* on 14 Sept (**E. Schlabach**), and a male was seen at HBSP on 21 Oct by **K. Metcalf** for the last passerby.

Ovenbird: The high count of migrants was six on 22 Sept in *Holmes* (**L. Yoder**), and the latest was only on 1 Oct at Gilmore Ponds (**M. Busam**).

Northern Waterthrush: Not a star this fall, with a high count of only two in Columbus on 16 Sept (**R. Thorn**) and a late appearance on 1 Oct at Gilmore Ponds (**M. Busam**).

Kentucky Warbler: A migrant was at Shawnee Lookout, *Hamilton*, by 5 Sept (**L. Peyton**), another in *Paulding* on the 28th (**D&M Dunakin**), and a late one at Gilmore Ponds on 1 Oct (**M. Busam**).

Connecticut Warbler: Four reports: one in *Holmes* on 9 Sept (**M&M Weaver**), one in Cleveland 21 Sept (**B. Winger**), another there on 27 Sept (**P. Lozano**), and one in *Lake* on 1 Oct (**J. Pogacnik**).

Mourning Warbler: All reports came from near Lk Erie. A singing male was at Rocky River MP on 30 Aug (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**), and the last came from *Lake* on 11 Oct (**J. Pogacnik**).

Common Yellowthroat: Thirty-five on the 6 Aug ONWRC were probably locals. **N. Cade** had four migrants at MWW on 15 Oct, but taking the cake were three in *Lake* on 11 Nov (**J. Pogacnik**).

REPORTS

Hooded Warbler: Only singles reported. One was still in song in the Oak Openings on 11 Sept (**G. Links**), and **K. Metcalf** had a rare sight—one in the snow—for the last on 9 Oct in N Chagrin Res'n.

Wilson's Warbler: **G. Leidy** saw one at Rockbridge SNP, *Hocking*, on 20 Aug, and the **Dunakins** found one in *Paulding* on 27 Aug. Eighteen were in the GPI on 13 Sept (**S. Zadar**), where a late individual was found on 11 Oct (**B. Finkelstein**).

Canada Warbler: All singles. A bird in the CVNRA on 8 Aug was probably of local provenance (**D. Chasar**). The latest was found in *Holmes* on 24 Sept by **L. Yoder**.

Yellow-breasted Chat: **L. Peyton** noted three migrants at Shawnee Lookout on 29 Aug. Frequent lingerers in the eastern US, one was found at a *Lake* golf course by **J. Pogacnik** on 2 Nov.

Summer Tanager: Few reports, but the redoubtable Highbanks MP male was still in song as late as 28 Sept (**J. Hammond**).

Scarlet Tanager: A migrant was in HBSP on 3 Sept (**B. Winger**), and a late bird in *Holmes* on 11 Oct (**E. Schlabach**).

Western Tanager: Reported was an all-too-brief look at a male in Rocky River on 3 Oct. Details are with the OBRC.

American Tree Sparrow: Exceptionally early were two visiting a window feeder in Van Wert on 2 Oct (**J. Perchalski**). Elsewhere, one appeared 28 Oct at the GPI (**S. Zadar**); the following day, **C. Holt** had one at Ottawa.

Chipping Sparrow: 65 migrants on 7 Oct at Spring Grove Cem in Cincinnati were a good find for **N. Cade**. One was at GPI as late as 25 Nov (**S. Zadar**).

Clay-colored Sparrow: All reports: one on Kelleys Isl 24 Sept (*vide* **T. Bartlett**), one 4 Oct at GPI (**S. Zadar**), one 7 Oct in *Lake* (**J. Pogacnik**), one 8 Oct in Cleveland (**B. Winger**), and two at a *Geauga* feeder 8 Oct, one of them or another on the same day at a feeder nearby (**A. Fondrk, vide D. Best**), then one in *Holmes* on 18 Oct (**R. Schlabach**).

Field Sparrow: High count, at MWW, was 80 on 15 Oct (**N. Cade**). Late was one in *Paulding* on 15 Nov (**D&M Dunakin**), later still one at the GPI on 18 Nov (**S. Zadar**).

Vesper Sparrow: No appreciable numbers. Males were still singing on 6 Aug at Killdeer (**P. Gottschling**). Latest were two at MWW on 5 Nov (**S. Pelikan**).

Savannah Sparrow: In Oct, **E. Schlabach** counted 75 in soybean fields in *Holmes* on the 7th, 35 were at MWW on the 19th (**N. Keller**), 10 were there on 10 Nov (**J. Lippert**), and a single bird was found at GPI on 23 Nov (**S. Zadar**).

Grasshopper Sparrow: Customarily elusive in migration, but **E. Schlabach** found one in *Ashtabula* on the late date of 11 Nov.

Henslow's Sparrow: Difficult to find when silent, but singing was one at BIWA on 5 Aug (**V. Fazio**), a dozen at Tri-Valley WA on 7 Aug (**P. Gottschling**), and two in *Hocking* on 14 Aug (**L. Andrews**).

Le Conte's Sparrow: At GPI, a juvenile was found on 23 Sept, and an adult was found and photographed on 16 Oct. A bird was in *Holmes* 12-21 Oct (**E. Schlabach**), and another at Mentor on 28 Oct (**K. Metcalf, ph**); both accepted by the OBRC.

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow: At GPI, one was present 15 and 16 Sept, then two on 23 Sept through 14 Oct (S. Zadar et al., ph); if the same bird(s) was/ were continuously involved, it was a protracted stay. J. Pogacnik had one at Arcola Ck, Lake, on 2 Oct, and B. Morrison two there on the 6th. P. Wharton discovered one on 7 Oct at MWW, seen by m obs, as were four found there later on 5 Nov (S. Pelikan, C. Saunders).

Fox Sparrow: The first was reported by H. Petruschke at HBSP on 22 Sept. High counts were of three at MWW on 21 Oct (J. Lehman) and three at GPI on 23 Nov (S. Zadar). Latest was one at Sims Pk, Euclid, on 26 Nov (T&M Romito).

Song Sparrow: S. Zadar et al. had 78 at GPI on 21 Aug, then 117 on 13 Sept, and 152 on 4 Oct. N. Cade found ~150 at MWW on 15 Oct.

Lincoln's Sparrow: The first returnee was in Cleveland on 13 Sept (P. Lozano), and the last passed through Paulding on 12 Oct (M&D Dunakin). Good numbers in between were 20 on 4 Oct at GPI (S. Zadar) and 12 in Guernsey on 7 Oct (L. Yoder).

Swamp Sparrow: Many persisted past the end of the period. Big counts included 83 at GPI on 4 Oct (S. Zadar), ~75 at Arcola Ck on 6 Oct (B. Morrison), and 30 at the CVNRA on 26 Nov (A&D Chasar).

White-throated Sparrow: Two early birds were at HBSP on 30 Aug (B. Winger), and two days later one all the way to Gilmore Ponds (M. Busam). P. Lozano observed 75 crouching on a single residential lawn during severe weather in Cleveland on 8 Oct; on the following day, GPI had ~500 birds (S. Zadar).

White-crowned Sparrow: Five were the first to appear, at GPI on 30 Sept (S. Zadar), and the next day one was down at Gilmore Ponds (M. Busam). By 9 Oct, GPI had a count of ~600 (Zadar).

Dark-eyed Junco: The first reported was at Whiskey Isl in Cleveland on 27 Sept (P. Lozano). By 19 Oct Cleveland had ~500, at GPI (S. Zadar). The first arrived in Cincinnati on 1 Oct (E. Kitchen). There were several reports of "Oregon" juncos; these can be difficult to distinguish from the local junco, but we may have to learn how, as rumors of splits in this species have cropped up again.

Lapland Longspur: The first flyovers were noted at HBSP on 8 Oct (H. Petruschke), and on the same day 37 were further east in Lake (J. Pogacnik). Max was 400+ on 17 Nov at the traditional Washburn Rd. venue in Killdeer (S. Richards).



This adult Le Conte's sparrow at the Gordon Park impoundment, Cuyahoga Co., provided excellent looks on 16 October 2000. Photo by Sean Zadar.



Another adult Le Conte's sparrow was found in Mentor, Lake Co., on 28 October 2000. Photo by Kevin Metcalf.

Snow Bunting: In Greenland, the March arrival of the first snow buntings is eagerly awaited as the first sign of spring, as their coming here signals that of winter. The first appeared at GPI on 22 Oct (S. Zadar), along with another at Conneaut the same day (C. Holt). The largest numbers were at Conneaut Harbor, where K. Metcalf saw ~75 on 3 Nov, and J. Miller 55 on 11 Nov.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: High count was 10 at Big Ck Pk, Geauga, on 19 Sept (J. Kolar). One lingered at C. McCormick's feeder in rural Hancock until 21 Nov (fide B. Hardesty) for a nice late record.

Indigo Bunting: On 6 Aug the ONWRC counted 47. The latest report of the species came from H. Armstrong, who saw one at EFSP on 14 Oct.

Dickcissel: Not many reports, considering the numbers over the summer. One was at MWW on 5 Aug (D. Brinkman), then 2-5 there on 15 Oct (N. Cade). Two were elsewhere in Hamilton on 5 Aug (M. Busam). Eight were seen at Slate Run MP in Pickaway on 7 Sept (J. McCormac, J. Watts, et al.).

Bobolink: D. Bergland's farm in Licking had about 150 into the period (fide M. Skinner). Numbers at MWW ranged up to 18, from 9 Aug (J. Lehman) to the quite late date of 28 Oct (D. Graham). Late dates elsewhere were a more expected 4 Oct at GPI (S. Zadar); in Holmes, 125 were around on 6 Sept, but only one on 4 Oct (E. Schlabach).

Red-winged Blackbird: Exclusive of even larger nighttime roosts, a progression of daylight counts follows: ~1000 at Gilmore Ponds on 1 Oct (M. Busam), ~3000 at Killbuck on 11 Oct (S. Snyder), ~2000 at MWW on 19 Oct (N. Keller), and on the 3 Nov ONWRC, somewhere near 72,000.

Eastern Meadowlark: B. Stanley had more than 50 in Clermont on 5 Aug. Eight migrants were at Ottawa NWR on 5 Nov (R. Harlan, S. Wagner).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: While no reports emerged from likelier spots, one was found on 3 Nov down in Adams (P. Whan).

Rusty Blackbird: First arriving were three at Arcola Ck, Lake, on 2 Oct (J. Pogacnik); by 9 Oct, 32 were at Mosquito Lk (C. Babyak), and by the 15th ~50 were at MWW (N. Cade), where 25 remained on 19 Nov (M. Busam). No truly large flocks reported.

Brewer's Blackbird: R. Schlabach found a female in a Holmes barnyard on 10 Nov.

Orchard Oriole: The latest report came from Clermont on 13 Aug (D. Morse).

Purple Finch: Migration followed a normal schedule, though three in Findlay as late as 21 Nov (B. Hardesty) were worth noting in case their winter distribution takes an unaccustomed turn.

Red Crossbill: One report, of ten passing over Springville Marsh, Seneca, on 4 Nov (T. Bartlett). No sightings of white-winged crossbills came to light, and their numbers in areas north of Ohio were reportedly down.



A nice in-the-hand view of one of the Gordon Park impoundment, Cuyahoga Co., Nelson's sharp-tailed sparrows. Photo by Sean Zadar on 14 October 2000.

Common Redpoll: S. Zadar saw two at GPI on 4 Nov, and V. Fazio found 24 at HBSP on 12 Nov, but thus far it seems it will be a poor year for the species here.

Pine Siskin: Three on 18 Sept in *Trumbull* (C. Babyak) could have been earlyish migrants or from scarce local breeders. More obvious migrants appeared in the first week of Oct, with birds from GPI (S. Zadar) to Spring Grove Cem in Cincinnati (N. Cade), both on the 7th. Near the end of the period on 26 Nov, J. Pogacnik had ~100 at EHSP, but reports were not widespread.

American Goldfinch: Reports of flocks of ~200 came from *Franklin* on 29 Sept (B. Master) and *Scioto* on 7 Nov (B. Lund); in the latter case the birds were converging on hemlock seed, more wintry fare for the species.

CORRIGENDA: (1) In the Spring issue, we erroneously reported three red-breasted nuthatch nests in *Hocking* on 29 May; in fact, F. Renfrow discovered the species at three locations in that county, but did not confirm nesting, though at one of those locations a suspected nest hole was later discovered on a 3 July visit. (2) A scribal blunder in the Summer issue resulted in a serious error: the confirmed nesting of a mourning warbler in *Hocking* reported for 3 July was in fact that of a magnolia warbler. The total of 19 nesting warbler species in the area stands. (3) In the Index to *The Ohio Cardinal* in the Summer issue, the unknown author of "Characteristics of Two Species of Chickadees" in Vol 1, #3 has been found to be Milton Trautman; the article was reprinted with permission from Trautman, M. 1966. Characteristics used in the field identification of Black-capped and Carolina Chickadees. *Oh. St. Mus. Info. Series* Vol 1, #3. The Oh. Hist. Society, Columbus.

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Further Afield by Rob Harlan

Once you've squeezed through the narrow gift shop aisles, skirting the rubber snakes, plastic six-shooters, bags of rock candy, and fabulous "Collector's Edition" ceramic thimbles, only then may you pass through the outer door to encounter a genuine piece of history. This particular piece happens to be the original Boothill Graveyard in Tombstone, the southeastern Arizona frontier town where, in the late 1870s and early 1880s, you might have found the Earps and the Clantons and the infamous (if overrated) O.K. Corral.

You might think Boothill Graveyard could have little in common with the Ohio birding scene, and quite frankly, it is a bit of a stretch. Except that for me, history and birding go hand in hand. When traveling, I always try to partake of some aspect of the local historical scene. A visit to the Tombstone boneyard, for instance, might provide a welcome relief from southeastern Arizona drudgeries such as separating Bendire's and curve-billed thrashers, or spending hours watching the Ramsey Canyon feeders, sifting through the hummer hordes, waiting for that single berylline hummingbird to appear (oh, the pain). But as you meander up and down the rows at Boothill, carefully sidestepping the agave, cholla and their miscellaneous thorny brethren, you can't help but develop a sense of morbid wonder and curiosity as you read the epitaphs on the grave markers before you:

- Billy Clanton, Tom McLaury, Frank McLaury, Murdered on the streets of Tombstone, 1881
- Margarita, Stabbed by Gold Dollar
- Teamster, 1881, Killed by Apaches
- George Johnson, Hanged by Mistake

Who were these people? Yes, popular history reminds us that the McLaury brothers and Billy Clanton opposed the Earps, but I'm sure every one of the permanent residents of Boothill would have a fascinating story to tell. The epitaph of one Frank Bowles never fails to give me pause, with its simple poignancy and inherent spookiness:

As you pass by
Remember that as you are, so once was I
And as I am, you soon will be
Remember me

Well, Mr. Bowles, I do remember you. I have no knowledge of your life, only that you existed as an individual; this fact alone is worthy of remembrance, and of course the same can be said for all of us. History acknowledges the existence of Frank Bowles, if only as a name, in a place and a time. But there is another epitaph at Boothill, one repeated many times over, up and down the rows. This one is even simpler, and to me, infinitely sadder. It reads only:

—Unknown

Remember Me

All of this serves to bring us finally (insert “big sigh of relief” here) to our connection with Ohio birds. Because there is wild bird, now virtually unknown, that inhabited Ohio in the hundreds of thousands in the 1930s, and in smaller numbers as recently as the 1960s, but is nowhere to be found on the current official Ohio Bird Records Committee state checklist. Following the example of the American Birding Association’s Checklist Committee, a few years back the OBRC voted to remove this particular species from the state list, because it was a “failed introduction.” This is certainly true, at least in the long term. But how does one judge “failure”?

Even though I am a member of the OBRC, I must admit some misgivings about this decision; here we have a species present in our state for some 60 years, and plentiful enough that more than 42,000 were taken by hunters in 1940 alone. I will not argue the fact that the introductions, ultimately, were a failure. But somehow it just doesn’t seem fair to remove it from the state list. Perhaps I’m just an old romantic.

And so, it falls to us here to memorialize this non-canonical tidbit of Ohio birding history—none other than the rotund and chicken-like gray partridge *Perdix perdix*.

Now, I’ll be the first to admit that introduced birds generally hold little interest for me, ranking only somewhat above fabulous “Collector’s Edition” ceramic thimbles and a bit below rubber snakes. But at least hear me out. We all deserve to be remembered, yes?

According to the authoritative work on the Ohio history of the gray partridge (then known as the Hungarian partridge), Kaj Westerskov’s “History and Distribution of the Hungarian Partridge in Ohio, 1909-1948” (Ohio Journal of Science 56(2):65-70, 1956), this species was first introduced into our state in 1909. Between that time and 1916, nearly 2,000 birds were released into almost every Ohio county, even though some areas were obviously better suited than others to this Eurasian grassland, farmland, and hedgerow species. Although a little thing known as World War I temporarily halted introduction efforts, about 7,000 more were imported between 1924 and 1930, with birds ending up in all but 14 unsuitable un-glaciated counties in southeastern Ohio. Between 1932 and 1940, another 8,420 birds were released in northwestern and central-western Ohio, as recognition of suitable habitat continued to improve. Thus, some 17,420 gray partridges were imported here, mostly from Czechoslovakia, between 1909 and 1940, with Ohio taxpayers footing the approximately \$62,000 bill.

As expected, these introductions took hold more readily in areas consistent with the partridge’s habitat requirements, particularly the northwestern and central-western counties, or as Westerskov succinctly put it, “mainly on the lacustrine soils of former Lake Maumee, and in fairly good numbers on the glacial limestone soils of western Ohio, except in the southern part of this area.” These numbers grew until a peak population density was reached in the early 1930s. In the prime territory of Henry, Wood, Defiance, Paulding, Fulton, Van Wert, Allen, Hancock, Putnam and Lucas Counties, Dr. Lawrence E. Hicks of The Ohio State University’s Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit estimated an average of 25 or more birds per square mile until 1935, and considered the species common to very abundant in proper habitat. Even after declines began in the late 1930s, the statewide population was still estimated at 110,000+ birds in 1939, which hardly seems like a failure to me.

Hunting pressures were fierce, however, with the first season of legal hunting sanctioned in 1917. In 1938, 24,836 birds were taken statewide. In 1940, an estimated 42,250 were killed; in 1942, approximately 31,750 were taken; in 1944, nearly 21,250 bit the dust; and in 1946 an estimated 10,750 birds bought the farm. This very obvious decline mirrors its nearly identical downturn in similar habitats in Indiana during the same period (by the way, the Gray Partridge is also extirpated from Indiana, though it remains on their official state list).

Roadside surveys also clearly signified a rapid downward spiral, with averages of 27 birds seen per 1,000 suitable roadside miles in 1938, 15/1,000 miles in 1939, 6/1,000 miles in 1940, 1.3/1,000 miles in 1941, then 0/1,000 miles in 1947. Westerskov engaged in some serious footwork in 1947-48, looking specifically for this species, but located only 26 coveys statewide, determining that the partridge had “disappeared from most of its former range in northwestern Ohio and...most of the birds remaining in the state were found in the counties extending westward from Columbus toward the Indiana line, mainly in Madison, Fayette, Champaign, Clark, Miami and Darke. Scattered birds were found, however, here and there in the formerly inhabited range.” The daily bag limit, six birds per day from 1919 to 1930, was reduced to four per day from 1931 to 1945, then to two per day in 1946 (the species was granted protected status in 1947), but managers could only hope to slow this species’ inevitable fate. Its total statewide disappearance occurred imperceptibly sometime in the late 1960s or early 1970s, despite some additional small, local “last-gasp” introduction efforts in the intervening years.

This is not to say, however, that all other introduced North American populations came to the same end. Healthy numbers continue to thrive on the upper Great Plains of the northern U.S. and southern Canada, for instance, and even southern Ontario has a decent population awaiting nearby Ohio birders. Of course, you could always look for one in Eurasia, if you so desired.

Obviously, most *Ohio Cardinal* readers weren’t actively birding between 1920 and 1950 when the gray partridge was at its peak here, so we naturally have a difficult time relating to its importance as an Ohio bird. I suspect that the few readers who were active during the peak years might feel a more significant sense of loss, especially those who share strong hunting traditions. Even so, hunting pressures could only have exacerbated its population’s decline, and a myriad of misfits in ecological conditions surely played a major role in the decline as well. Deep down, though, I suppose it doesn’t much matter to me why the gray partridge declined and disappeared from Ohio. I’m satisfied to know that it was here and hope that it will be remembered, and that we’ll be able to replace the small grave marker labeled “Unknown” with one marked instead “*Perdix perdix*, Rest In Peace”.

7072 Parma Park Blvd.
Cleveland, OH 44130

Did Trumpeter Swans Ever Breed in Ohio?

by Bill Whan

The history of the American Swans has been but very slightly traced. Few records of the habits of these majestic, elegant, and useful birds exist, on which much reliance can be placed, their geographical range still remains an unsolved problem; one species has been mistaken for another, and this by ornithologists who are said to be of the first order.

—John James Audubon, *The Birds of America*

Very little seems to be known of it as an Ohio bird.

—Lynds Jones, *The Birds of Ohio: A Revised Catalog*

I

Orthodox opinion seems unanimous on the former status of the trumpeter swan *Cygnus buccinator* in Ohio. State authorities (Kirtland 1838, Wheaton 1882, Dawson 1903, Jones 1903, Campbell 1940, Trautman 1940 and 1968, Peterjohn 1989) nowhere regard it as an Ohio breeder at any time, but as a migrant of days gone by that during the nineteenth century was reduced to the status of a rare straggler. Peterjohn (1989) accepts the species as such to the Ohio list based on the cumulative evidence of certain historical accounts and its documented presence (via one of several specimens¹) quite close to Ohio in December of 1876. No known specimen exists of the species as a wild bird from Ohio proper; many identified as such have upon scrutiny proved to be tundra swans *C. columbianus*, some of them overstuffed (Trautman 1982-84).

In neighboring states, the authors of monographs on the birds of Kentucky (Mengel 1965, Monroe 1994), Pennsylvania (Todd 1940, McWilliams and Brauning 2000), Michigan (Cook 1894, Barrows 1912, Granlund et al. 1994), and West Virginia (Hall 1983) agree in treating it as a former transient at best. For Ontario, McIlwraith (1894) and Macoun (1900) regard it as a migrant only; Speirs (1985) is willing only to say the species was “not found in Ontario in this century, until the recent introductions.” James (1991), on the other hand, calls it a probable former breeder in Ontario (relying on Lumsden 1984), though he observes that it has not been adequately documented. As for Indiana, Butler (1890) calls it a rare migrant only, but Mumford and Keller (1984) rely upon nineteenth-century anecdotal reports of nesting in the Kankakee marshes in the northwest corner of the state to confirm it

¹ Wheaton (1882) mentions one specimen, shot in December of 1876 near Cincinnati on the Ohio River, and hence not in Ohio; this is said to be the undated CMNH 30391, originally No. 411 from the Cuvier Press Club, a female labeled “Wocher” and “Ohio,” in the collection of the Cincinnati Museum of Natural History. Another, CMNH 30392, No. 412 from the Cuvier Press Club, lacks an attribution or locality information; the label states it was mounted 9 January 1879 (R. Kennedy, pers. comm.). There is another specimen (CMNH 32310) in the Museum, which comes from the Great Miami River in Ohio and dates from 27 February 1882, a year in which introductions had only just started in nearby states and provinces. The bird was an adult, and unbanded (D. Styer, pers. comm.).

as an extirpated breeder; they state the only extant specimens are from Valparaiso in February 1894 and the Cincinnati-area bird.² Collectively, these and other sources plot out an ancestral breeding range of the trumpeter swan matching fairly closely maps and descriptions from the standard literature on North American birdlife (Baird et al. 1884, AOU 1957, Bent 1962, Bellrose 1976, Palmer 1976), and in Banko’s comprehensive monograph of 1960 devoted to the species.

Elsewhere at the nearer margins of this oft-delineated range, concrete evidence for the former breeding status of the trumpeter swan is hard to come by. In Missouri, for example, even though the species is accepted (Robbins and Easterlea 1992) as having bred across the northern half of the state into the 1850s, the last record was of a bird taken in 1900, and no specimen exists. In Illinois, important evidence of its occurrence (and the largest known of its kind) consists of approximately 375 bones recovered from the site of an immense pre-Columbian settlement in Cahokia (Parmalee 1958); Parmalee, it is worth noting, regarded these remains as those of migrants (Rogers & Hammer 1978). Bohlen (1989, p. 20) concludes that trumpeters “nested at least in northern and central Illinois,” based on a fair number of historical accounts (summarized in Schorger 1964), but apparently there is no specimen from the historical era. For Iowa, Kent and Dinsmore (1996) recognize but one definite nesting record, from 1883, and cite a single verified specimen for the state.

Ohio bird records committees have accepted no reports of trumpeter swans over nearly twenty years of reviews, chiefly because of questions of origin in view of numerous propagation projects, both public and private, here and in nearby states and provinces. Nor have previous reports been verified as far back as the last report of an Ohio specimen of a presumably wild bird, which dated from 1900 (Henninger 1919). Like all others in the literature for Ohio, this specimen has not been preserved. A few sight reports between 1900 and the recent introductions have made it into print, the most intriguing perhaps that by Randle in 1951 from Cincinnati (Kemsies and Randle 1953).³ All in all, despite the fact that swans are easily recognized as such at a great distance, and thus particularly likely to be noted by local historians, diarists, naturalists, and hunters, Ohio accounts of wild swans— from any time of year—whose descriptions suggest they might have been trumpeters are extremely few. Reports of either native swan in Ohio during the breeding season are nonexistent, save for sightings of the occasional demonstrably non-breeding tundra swan on Lake Erie.

On a continental scale, adequate evidence apparently exists that trumpeter swans once bred in a range that extended from strongholds in Alaska and the northwestern prairies of North America as far south as northern Missouri and as far east as James Bay and extreme northwestern Indiana. Their numbers in the southern and eastern

² The authors of the most recent state monographs for both Indiana and Kentucky claim this bird as their own, while a third—Peterjohn—makes use of it, in part, to confirm the species for Ohio. Documented specimens of trumpeter swans are scarce indeed in the region, and CMNH 30391 has served triple duty.

³ Interestingly, two or perhaps three specimens from the Cincinnati area, Randle’s report, and the bird Henninger describes from near Wellston—twenty-five miles from the Ohio River—make up the best-documented reports over the past century in or near the state. The southern part of Ohio, like adjacent areas in nearby states, lacked acceptable nesting habitat for swans, but the Ohio River and its larger tributaries may have served as a migratory resource or a corridor for strays, wild or otherwise.

parts of the former breeding range were not nearly as great as those closer to the core range in Alaska and western Canada, at least based on the scanty evidence we possess. The species is said to have wintered on the Atlantic, Pacific, and Gulf coasts⁴, and along the lower Mississippi River in the interior (Palmer 1976, Bellrose 1976), reportedly in considerable numbers. In California and Louisiana, wintering trumpeters outnumbered tundras, according to some accounts (Coale 1915, Burgess et al. 1997) from the era in which the two were known to be differentiable.⁵ Wheaton (1882) states that the trumpeter swan was a "rare...winter visitor" in Ohio.⁶ Audubon (1840-1844) calls *C. buccinator* "abundant at times" in winter along major rivers of the Mississippi Basin and in Texas⁷. Neither Louisiana nor Texas, however, possesses a specimen of a wild trumpeter swan (Oberholser 1974, Lowery 1974, Greg Lasley pers. comm.), nor does South Carolina or Georgia, where Sprunt & Chamberlain (1970) and Burleigh (1958), respectively, consider the species only hypothetical. We have a number of old reports of huge numbers of swans in these areas, but it seems local authorities have not been trusted them unquestioningly. Paltry and inconsistent data are unfortunately typical of the literature on our swans; the inconclusive nature of what is known about them allows for a variety of speculations. We do know that among today's populations, trumpeters in the southern portion of the present range are more or less non-migratory, moving only as far as frozen water compels them during winters. Whether this is a natural condition, a result of local extirpations, or related to artificial support involved in recent introductions is unclear.

Many historical sight records of this species are questionable. Only in 1831 did Richardson formally recognize it as distinct (primarily on anatomical grounds) from the tundra swan, and the quality of field optics during the era does not inspire confidence in early identifications by sight alone. Swans remain less than easy to distinguish in the field to the present day (Patten 1994). Earlier, only a few careful observers (e.g. Lawson 1709, Hearne 1795) left accounts demonstrating they were aware of differences between the two. Lewis and Clark distinguished two forms of swans only upon seeing them together on the Columbia River on 3 November 1805.

In the many narratives of travels through the interior of the United States during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, accounts of lengthy journeys that pass through the accepted U.S. breeding range of the trumpeter swan, it is notable

⁴ This despite its apparent preference for fresh water when nesting (Mitchell 1994, Hammer, pers. comm.).

⁵ Limpert and Earnst (1994) imply—while admitting "the literature on Tundra Swans in North America is surprisingly limited" (p.1)—that the species was never more than a rare and irregular stray to Louisiana or Texas. Audubon (1840-1844) states that the tundra swan was not to be found south of Carolina, and Lowery (1974) that it had been identified less than a dozen times in Louisiana. Some published accounts, however, apparently not known or regarded as trustworthy by the authors cited above, report that tundras—as well as trumpeters—were once abundant in Louisiana and Texas (e.g., Beyer et al. 1907, Nehrling 1882).

⁶ Wheaton cites no records for January or February. Jones (1903) states, also without citing evidence, that the species may have wintered in Ohio on occasion. There is, on the other hand, the 22 Feb. specimen from Valparaiso in northwestern Indiana to demonstrate the possibility of wintering birds elsewhere in or near the Great Lakes.

⁷ Rogers and Hammer (1978) cast doubt on Audubon's ability to distinguish between the native swans early in his career, suggesting further that even later he may have relied on erroneous early notes.

how seldom swans of either species are reported.⁸ Some of these travelers, like Bradley (1819), who traveled extensively north and west from St. Louis in 1809-11, were naturalists, easily using the scientific names of plants and animals, but one can read his and the diaries of other curious and educated explorers without hearing of these strikingly conspicuous birds. Other chroniclers, interested in animals only as food or a source of income, routinely made diary entries for the results of each day's hunt for provisions—deer, ducks, turtles' eggs, plovers, prairie-chickens, elk, geese, buffalo, and so on are typical—but no swans, even though a thirty-pound trumpeter would seem a prize worthy of mention. A reader of Lewis and Clark's journals is struck by the huge quantities of meat consumed by the party—as they, too, often record the results of each day's hunt—but it seems swans did not figure largely in their diet.⁹

Among the remarkably few reports we possess of swans seen by other explorers in much of the trumpeter's former U.S. range, still fewer involve birds in numbers during the breeding season. Houston (1997, p. 25) takes note of this, and suggests an explanation: "Why were these large swans rarely seen by explorers and traders passing through? One presumes they retreated to large marshes and small lakes for breeding and moulting, off the path of those traveling by river canoe routes, and bypassed by those traveling overland." But wouldn't those searching for beaver, the prime fur item of the era, have spent considerable time in those marshes and lakes? It is difficult to warm up to this and other arguments for a species' presence so often accompanied by rationalizations for skimpy evidence. Banko (1960, p. 23) may be facing facts—at least for the U.S.—more squarely in concluding: "The sparse and localized nesting population of trumpeters in the United States no doubt accounts for the comparative paucity of U.S. breeding records." That breeding trumpeters were few and far between in places much closer than Ohio to the core range should make us especially cautious about accepting claims that they nested here.

In recent years advocates for trumpeter swans, including several researchers, a few conservation organizations (prominently the Trumpeter Swan Society), and a number of state and provincial wildlife agencies, have advanced a case that the ancestral breeding range of this species was far more extensive in North America than has been supposed, and thus warrants much wider efforts at reintroduction than have previously been attempted. They argue that the species may once have bred as far south as central Florida, and as far east as Nova Scotia, and include Ohio in this

⁸ See, for example, the extensive Library of Western Fur Trade Historical Documents at <http://www.xmission.com/~drudy/amm.html>.

⁹ Lewis and Clark do mention swans on numerous occasions, mostly as migrants or wintering birds. A much smaller number of reports come between May to September, at least two among them mentioning large numbers of swans during this period. The first—and largest—sightings came from western Iowa and eastern Nebraska in July of 1804, and it was there Lewis attempted unsuccessfully to secure specimens of the species. They did finally shoot two flightless swans in Montana on 21 July 1805, saying, "These are the first we have seen on the [Missouri] river for a great distance, and as they had no young with them, we presume they do not breed in this neighborhood" (Coues, p. 430); molt migration has apparently not been described for the trumpeter swan (Banko 1960, Palmer 1976), and these likely were local breeders. Lewis and Clark's lengthy expedition took place almost entirely within the widely accepted breeding range of the trumpeter swan, but their reports of swans in any numbers in the heart of the nesting season come only from western Iowa/eastern Nebraska and from Montana (Moulton 1983).

proposed expanded range. The evidence they adduce consists primarily of published reports of fossils and archaeological remains of swans along with accounts of a handful of sightings, mostly by casual observers of North American wildlife, between the late seventeenth and mid-nineteenth centuries. This paper will attempt a review of the evidence presented for the former breeding status of *C. buccinator* in Ohio, and evaluate its adequacy to prove that the presently accepted status of the species must be changed.

II

One set of evidence advanced for the species' Ohio breeding status comes from Michigan. Louis Hennepin, a Belgian-born French cleric, accompanied Robert de La Salle on his first exploration of the Great Lakes, and chronicled this and other journeys in books that entertained Europe, going through forty-six editions in his lifetime. La Salle's party constructed a boat, the *Griffon*, above Niagara Falls and made history's first crossing by a large vessel of Lake Erie in 1679, turning up the Detroit River on 11 August. Hennepin had nothing to say of swans in Ohio, but of the area lying between Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair he wrote:

The Country between those two Lakes is very well situated, and the Soil very fertile. The Banks of the Streight are vast Meadows, and the Prospect is terminated with some Hills covered with Vineyards, Trees bearing good Fruit, Groves, and Forests, so well dispos'd, that one would think Nature alone could not have made, without the Help of Art, so charming a Prospect. That Country is stock'd with Stags, Wild-Goats, and Bears, which are good for Food, and not fierce as in other Countries; some think they are better than our Pork. Turkey-Cocks and Swans are there also very common; and our Men brought several other Beasts and Birds, whose Names are unknown to us, but they are extraordinarily relishing.

The Forests are chiefly made up of Walnut-trees, Chestnut-trees, Plum-trees, and Pear-trees, loaded with their own Fruit and Vines. There is also abundance of Timber fit for Building; so that those whose [sic] who shall be so happy as to inhabit that Noble Country, cannot but remember with Gratitude those who have discovered the way, by venturing to sail upon an unknown Lake for above one hundred Leagues. That charming Streight lies between 40 and 41 Degrees of Northern Latitude. (Hennepin 1697 in Thwaites 1903, p. 109)

Not long afterward, Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac arrived via an overland route from Quebec at the present site of Detroit in 1701. Here he founded Fort Pontchartrain, and describes its surroundings—in a letter to MM. Callière and Champigny, dated 8 October of that year—thus:

Its banks are so many broad meadows whose grass is kept forever green by the freshness of those lovely waters. These prairies are bordered with long, broad lanes of fruit trees which have never felt the careful hand of the vigilant gardener, and, thus, under the weight of their abundant fruit they give way, and bend their branches toward the fertile ground that produced them. It is in this fertile land that the

ambitious vine, never having wept under the knife of the industrious vintner, spreads a thick roof of broad leaves and heavy grape clusters, topping the woods to which it clings, often suffocating it in this tight embrace.

In these wide forest avenues gather hundreds of timid stags and nervous hinds, with the bounding roebuck picking up the apples and plums that pave the ground. Here the anxious turkey calls, and calls again, leading her large brood to eat the grapes. And here also are the tom turkeys filling their large and ravenous crops. Golden pheasants, quail, partridge, woodcock, and turtle dove abound in the woods and cover the fields that are mottled by the branches of lofty trees, making a lovely picture that soothes any feelings of melancholy loneliness of the solitude. The hand of the pitiless reaper has never mown here the succulent grasses that fatten the great and heavy herds.

There are ten varieties of trees, among which are walnut, red and white oak, ash, spruce or white wood, and cottonwood. They grow straight as arrows, without knots, almost without branches except at the top, and they are of prodigious size. From them the courageous eagle looks fixedly at the sun, while at his feet is sufficient to gratify his bold, armed claws. The fish are fed and bathed in the clear crystal waters; their great numbers make them no less delicious. Swans are in such profusion that they might be taken for the lily rushes in which they gather. The chattering goose, the duck, the teal, and the bustard are so numerous that I must use the expression of an Indian whom I asked, before coming here, if there was much feathered game. "There is so much," he said, "that they have to open a way in order for the canoes to pass."

Can one believe that such a place, where nature has given so much with such order, will not yield to the worker who caresses its fertile body all that is desired?

In a word, the climate is temperate; the air purified during the day is a gentle breeze at night; the sky is forever serene, spreading sweet and fresh influences that grant the gentle favor of tranquil sleep.

If the location is agreeable, it is none-the-less important, for it opens and closes on the passage to the most distant nations on the banks of the broad oceans of sweet water. Only the enemies of truth could be enemies of this establishment, so necessary to augment the glory of the King, the progress of religion, and the destruction of the throne of Baal. (Brown 1976, pp. 59-60, from Margry 1887)

Some details in these accounts are bound to raise a modern reader's eyebrow. No evidence exists that "vast meadows" bordered the Detroit River at the time (Goodrich 1940), though one imagines meadows would have sounded more attractive than impenetrable forests to prospective settlers who might advance French claims to the area. Local forests were hardly "chiefly made up of Walnut-trees, Chestnut-trees, Plum-trees and Pear-trees," though no doubt potential buyers would have been excited to read such extravagant claims. Bustards are not North American birds, but the name (French *outarde*) frequently appears in early accounts of the region; the *Oxford English Dictionary* supposes it was applied to the Canada goose, but that species' appearance and habits more closely resemble European geese rather than the terrestrial bustard, and of course Cadillac mentions "goose" and "bustard" in the same sentence. Europeans often called the ruffed grouse "pheasant,"

and the bobwhite “partridge”; all this makes it difficult to guess which species, if any, “bustard” and “quail” denote, given the forested habitat. And what local animals might Hennepin have mistaken for wild goats? Lewis and Clark initially called pronghorns goats, but range and habitat would seem to eliminate the species in this case. As for the swans, one would expect a large number of cygnets around breeding grounds at these times of year, gray birds not easily mistaken for water-lilies. It is perhaps understandable that explorers would pay close attention to the large tasty bird species, but not all the plant life present bore edible fruit, nor of course were vineyards and orchards present. Surely voyageurs living off the land would know better. Rather than precise reports from these observers, we read versions of reality that seem analogical and figurative. The scene as described was indeed, to use Hennepin’s words, one that “Nature alone could not have made, without the help of Art.”

A modern reader instantly recognizes the art of salesmanship here, the authors’ efforts to make the Detroit area—the nearest point of their journey to the west of existing French settlements, and a strategic choke-point for fending off British incursions in the region—sound like Paradise in New France, overflowing with plenty and nearly domesticated, where making a living would be as easy as plucking fruit from the nearest tree or vine. These accounts are full of rhetorical strategies aimed at Europeans who might pay for further explorations, or come to buy land and defend it for Louis XIV. And for readers wary of the wilderness, with its wolves, snakes, mosquitoes, and savages worshipping at the throne of Baal, what less threatening emblem of beauty and purity, of Edenic charms embodied, than the stately swan so familiar from Europe’s landscaped parklands and noble estates, even if it were no more present at the time than chattering geese or wild goats or golden pheasants or gentle bears?

Finally, it must be added that neither author had a reputation for scrupulous reportage. The historian Francis Parkman says of a later episode in Hennepin’s work from which the above passage is taken that “...this reverend father was the most impudent of liars, and the narrative of which he speaks is a rare monument of brazen mendacity...His books have their value, with all their enormous fabrications” (Parkman 1869, p. 84).¹⁰ Cadillac, for his part, arrived in New France with a spurious aristocratic name and coat of arms, and soon Vaudreuil, Governor of New France, was to say of him that he was “so much in the habit of stating what is untrue that it is almost impossible for him to write otherwise” (*Michigan Historical Collections* 33:283). The biological inconsistencies of these accounts, their obvious promotional intent, and the tendencies of their authors to distort the truth, combine to cast grave doubt on their reliability. These facts, and the absence of any documentation whatever that swans of either species were ever taken or even noticed again during the breeding season in the area, despite a continuous and rapidly growing number of observers in the area from 1701 on, probably relegate these swan reports to the realm of fable.

Rogers and Hammer (1978) do not resort to them, but Lumsden (1984, p. 418) gives credence to the aforementioned reports, saying that “After Cadillac there were no reports of swans for over 150 years, likely because of the scarcity of aware

¹⁰ See Dolle 1988, also online at <http://marauder.millersv.edu/~columbus/data/art/DOLLE-01.ART>.

settlers, preoccupation with survival on the frontier, a low literacy rate, and distraction caused by war and disturbances.” Given such a benighted citizenry—unaware, preoccupied, illiterate, and distracted—it is a wonder we know anything at all of that century and a half. Advocates of a larger breeding range say the swan was extirpated by hunting, but hunters in this area never mention it. Preoccupied with survival as they were, settlers would be expected to make use of large waterfowl present in such abundance, flightless during its molt, and by all accounts tasty as a young bird, then to mention them in a way that would have been recorded at least once.

Elsewhere outside the accepted breeding range, there are only a few credible reports of swans in the period May through September. Rogers and Hammer (1978) collect reports of this kind from the eastern U.S., including several new ones as yet unreported in the literature. The four cited (Cuming 1810, Hildreth 1842¹¹, Cooke 1887, and Peale in Weese 1947) come from May and June on or near the Mississippi River north of Memphis. Burgess et al. (1997) derive all such citations from Rogers and Hammer.¹² All four instances involve observations of swans of undetermined species, with no indication of breeding reported beyond their presence in May or June.

For Ohio, the first-hand accounts of Zeisberger (Zeisberger 1885, Mahr 1949, Hulbert and Schwarze 1910), Smith (1799), and Heckewelder (1819) of their lengthy experiences here during the eighteenth century do not mention breeding swans, or even swans encountered during the breeding season. Zeisberger’s careful natural history observations (Hulbert & Schwarze 1910) from years spent in the wilderness prior to 1780 feature only this in the section in which he describes over forty species of native birds of interest: “Wild swans are quite like the domestic birds, I have seen in Holland, quite white and of the same size. The Indians declare that their flesh tastes like that of the bear, of which they are particularly fond, and is often so fat that pieces may be cut from the flesh” (p. 65).

Still more authoritative are statements from Col. James Smith, who spent over four years living with Delaware Indians after they captured him then later adopted him, traveling the Lake Erie shore between the Cuyahoga and Maumee Rivers until his escape in 1759. While not a trained naturalist, he nevertheless lived intimately

¹¹ Samuel Hildreth was Jared P. Kirtland’s trusted correspondent on matters of natural history, and his testimony that swans were “common” along the Mississippi in southern Missouri is likely better informed than those of more casual observers.

¹² The cited papers of Burgess et al. feature some of the more heated sentiments expressed within the Trumpeter Swan Society, e.g. (p. 3): “It is evident that Trumpeters once wintered in great numbers in Texas and Louisiana. Both states have ignored these historical facts...some members of Texas Parks and Wildlife wish to ignore the benefits of Trumpeter Swans and do not want them because Trumpeters are not huntable...” (the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has since proposed permitting the hunting of trumpeter swans; for the Society’s position, see their website at http://www.taiga.net/swans/news_and_events.html). Burgess et al. summon up (p. 25) some of the salesmanship in which the Society occasionally indulges: “There is so little to lose and so much to gain for a state or an agency in restoring the magnificent Trumpeter Swan. It improves the state’s image for it to be concerned with all of its wildlife. It is good to increase the biodiversity and quality of life. It is good to promote wetlands, and you can promote quality wetlands with Trumpeters, as Nebraska and Iowa have done. It is good to promote outdoor recreation and tourism, both from within the state and out-of-state, with something as worthwhile to see as Trumpeter Swans.”

with native hunters in the small portion of Ohio with potential swan breeding habitat, and even dealt with fur traders in Detroit. As might be expected, his narrative of daily life often concerns hunting and its results. He mentions swans four times, each as a food item taken or observed during the migratory periods. Typical is this account (Smith 1799, p. 65): "In this manner we lived, until October, then the geese, swans, ducks, cranes, &c. came from the north, and alighted in this little Lake [Sandusky Bay], without number or innumerable. Sunyendeand [a Wyandot village there] is a remarkable place for fish, in the spring, and fowl both in the fall and spring." Perhaps these October swans were accustomed to stopping along the Detroit River on the way south toward Sandusky Bay.

III

Swan skins and quills were not recognized as potential items of commerce until the late eighteenth century (Hearne 1795). Even into the early nineteenth century, however, comprehensive contracts the trading posts signed with trappers and hunters in Michigan and Ontario did not offer prices for swan skins, and the only reported trade from birds in their records was of "bed feathers" (Wallace 1934), suggesting the swan trade was not important locally until after that time, if ever. Data from the archives of the dominant peltry trader of the era, the Hudson's Bay Company, however, suggest that once underway on the western frontier by 1810 or so the take of swans was considerable. The numbers of skins shipped plummeted in mid-century however, and by the 1890s only comparatively tiny numbers of skins and quills reached markets, though it is important to note that improved steel pen nibs had become popular by this time (Houston 1997), and demand for quills may have ebbed faster than supply. In any event the lion's share of swan items—and the impact on overall trumpeter swan populations—came from Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba (Houston, pers. comm.), demonstrably the heart of the species' breeding-grounds, at least the part easier of access to gunners of the time. Banko (1960), for example, reports that 5072 swan skins (of both swan species mixed) went to market through the Hudson's Bay Company in 1828, one of the peak years for the trade, and Houston (1997) reports that 4498 of these originated in those three Canadian provinces, a proportion amounting to 88%. Banko relates that in this same year only 18 swan skins (species undetermined) went to London from the Eastmain Fort and Moose River entrepôts, James Bay posts collecting furs from further east, where skins from Ohio destined for the Company would presumably have gone. His map (p.18) of trading posts of the Fur Country, with accompanying compendia of reports of numbers of swans involved, show that all but a quite small proportion of swans in the trade of the day came from western Canada.

Once armed with flintlocks, natives would no doubt have found it easier to kill swans (as well as other more desirable game much easier to shoot and retrieve), but written accounts (e.g., Hearne 1795) by experienced gunners make it clear that even flightless molting swans were difficult targets. Audubon (1840-1844) regarded trumpeters as hard to kill and, as adults, "dry and tough" to eat. An emerging demand for skins and quills would have made swans more sought after than earlier,

but Lumsden (1984) does not consider the swan trade, among European settlers and Indians alike, as the chief cause of the species' disappearance in Ontario. Matthiessen (1959, p. 75) regards MacFarlane's report of 17,671 skins of swans (again, of both species) taken to market between 1853 and 1877 as a number that "while not staggering, represented an unhealthy proportion of the population of North America's largest waterfowl." Banko (1960) dates the first reference to the swan trade in the United States to 1823 (Keating 1825) along the Minnesota/South Dakota border, and the second to Audubon's 1828 account (the incident itself may have occurred in 1810 or 1811) of the slaughter for sale of swans in Kentucky (which species remains in doubt, as at the time he may not have known how to distinguish them—see comments of Rogers and Hammer 1978). Banko then goes on to state "all other instances of this sort have a Canadian origin," implying he could not establish that swans were ever an important item of commerce in the United States. At any rate, the timing of the trade is almost certainly too late for any Ohio extirpation by this means to have been missed by chroniclers, and there is no evidence of any swan trade in Ohio. In the search for additional documentation of the use of swans by Ohio's original human inhabitants, we must next turn to archaeological remains.

IV

There seem to be five published accounts of identified archaeological remains of *C. buccinator* in Ohio. Mills documents "small numbers" of trumpeter swan bones in the gravesites and middens at the Gartner (1904) and Baum (1901) village sites in Ross County. Goslin (1955) excavated five Ohio rock shelters, finding a single trumpeter swan bone in a Fairfield County cave, and in the course of several excavations in Lake County found a single bone fragment of this species in a site occupied until the mid-seventeenth century by natives who apparently had little or no contact with Europeans (Goslin 1943). Mayfield (1972) found fifteen bones at a fourth pre-Columbian site, near Toledo.

Coale (1915, p. 89) quotes Mills, then curator of the Archaeological and Historical Society of Ohio, thus: "We have in our collection a great many bones of the Trumpeter Swan. It seems that this bird, although a very rare migrant at the present time, was here in great numbers in pre-historic time, and we find their bones in the villages of the old Indians." Unpublished records of these remains—and such there must have been to justify Mills's statement—are difficult of access, but there are certainly more trumpeter swan bones in Ohio museums than appear in the literature.¹³ Many large Ohio collections are organized by site rather than by species, and looking among their accession records is a task no researcher has yet undertaken for this bird. Further, narrower specialization and the proliferation of material mean that today there may be no Wm. C. Mills with the capacious institutional memory to offer an overview like that Coale quotes. In many collections faunal remains languish unidentified (B. Redmond, pers. comm.),

¹³ The online collection catalog of the Ohio Historical Society references only one: a radius from the Toepfner Mound in Franklin County; this seems to be the bone Banko cites as mentioned to him by E. S. Thomas (Banko 1960, p. 9).

presumably for the lack of available time, funds, and expertise. And, regrettably, the further we look back in time the more likely are misidentifications, as some earlier researchers demonstrated less concern with the identity of bone fragments in waste pits than with human artifacts and grave contents. And concern alone may not have sufficed. A standard work on avian osteology in North American archaeology (Gilbert 1981) does not treat the differentiation of swan species, and Parmalee (1961, p. 213) cautions that "extremely close similarities of anatomical features between the Trumpeter Swan and the Whistling Swan (*C. columbianus*) often make specific determination questionable."

In any event, interpreting the presence of a trumpeter swan bone, even once confidently identified, in an archaeological site is a complicated affair: is it a tool, a trade item, a payment in tribute, or a component of grave goods? If discarded from food, had it been fresh or did it derive from swan meat smoked or otherwise preserved and brought in from far away?¹⁴ Even if local, was the bone deposited during swans' migration season or during their breeding season? Was the swan in question wild or—as accounts from collectors attest to the ease with which trumpeters could be tamed¹⁵—otherwise? How should we interpret its context, especially its numbers' proportion among those of remains of other bird species? These are questions to which we can very seldom offer conclusive answers. Peterjohn (pers. comm.), in contrast with his treatment of ivory-billed woodpecker remains (of which several sets of remains discovered in Ohio consist at least in part of foot bones, extremely unlikely as food or trade items) as acceptably conclusive evidence, considers other sorts of documentation sufficient to verify the trumpeter swan for Ohio without resorting to the archaeological record, with all its potential problems.

The fifteen bones identified by Mayfield (1972) deserve special attention, because they were found in potential trumpeter swan breeding habitat, and because of their numbers relative to only 210 identified bones of 33 other bird species found there. Mayfield, while admitting that the former status of trumpeter swan as a breeder in Ohio can at best be only hypothetical based on current evidence, regards the species as a highly probable year-round resident before settlement by Europeans (pers. comm.). He cites (1972, 1988) the presence nearby of seemingly appropriate habitat for resident trumpeters, including areas of open water during cold winters along the Maumee River and elsewhere nearby, and supposes Indians newly armed with muskets might well have wiped out a local breeding population before they could be documented. He does not, of course, implicate those who occupied the site in question, as radiocarbon dates of local samples fell in a range from 590 to 1210 A.D.—a span which additionally suggests an occupation lengthy enough to explain considerable quantities of faunal remains. The remains he identified, like all others in Ohio, offer no direct evidence of local breeding, however, and their relatively high proportion among the bones identified might be a matter of chance, as might be the relatively low proportions for other species of the surrounding marshland (for example, only two bones of Canada geese, and none of herons or egrets). Mayfield,

¹⁴ Five of the six sites with trumpeter swan bones in Ohio cited above are far from the hypothetical breeding grounds in the northwest corner of the state.

¹⁵ See accounts in Cole (1915). Audubon (1840-44) tamed a cob in his yard, which ate from the hand.

while acknowledging the speculative nature of his case, offers an explanation how a trove of *C. buccinator* remains found in this old village might be reconciled with the lack of historical accounts of trumpeter swans in the Toledo area. The explanation—especially as it involves breeding swans—nevertheless remains unsubstantiated by direct evidence.

V

During the past several hundred years, appreciable tracts of potential breeding habitat for trumpeter swans in Ohio must have been restricted to marshes near the western end of Lake Erie.¹⁶ However, no conclusive evidence emerges from eyewitness accounts, from specimens, from hunters' logs, or from archaeological remains that this species ever bred there or anywhere in the state. Advocates for introductions of the species here and elsewhere still farther east frequently cite Rogers and Hammer (1978) in support of a greatly enlarged version of the species' ancestral breeding range. Rogers and Hammer freely acknowledge the circumstantial and speculative nature of some of their arguments for breeding by the species well outside the generally accepted range. Repeatedly, they present this status in certain areas as "postulated," which the reader presumes to mean presented as an indemonstrable hypothesis for the sake of discussion. Their compilations of paleontological and archaeological evidence, along with the historical accounts they have uncovered—some apparently missed by other researchers—are valuable and of considerable interest, in particular those for the lower Mississippi Valley—the area on which their researches intentionally concentrated (Hammer, pers. comm.). In the case of Ohio, however, these authors, having chosen not to look into the local historical literature, summarize their case thus: "Coale (1915) in his compilation of reports on the status for *C. buccinator*, included collection reports from Ravenna, Cincinnati, and St. Mary's Lake [sic], Ohio, during the 1880's and Henninger (1919) reported collection of a specimen on April 18, 1900, near Wellston, Ohio. These reports and the archaeological and ecological evidence cited earlier support a minimal extension of the ancestral breeding range to include the northwestern half of Ohio" (p. 22). What must be added is that none of these reported specimens of swans—as well as other old published reports from Ohio of which Rogers and Hammer were apparently unaware—is known to exist today except for the "Cincinnati" specimen, actually shot in Kentucky in December of 1876 (Wheaton 1882). More importantly, none was reported as collected during the nesting season.¹⁷ Nor can any of Ohio's archaeological remains of trumpeter swans found to date conceivably establish breeding status for the species. Despite the former existence of some areas—probably far less extensive than Rogers and Hammer imply—of potential breeding habitat in northwestern Ohio, no observations—even

¹⁶ Marshlands immediately adjacent to Lake Erie, with their frequent and sometimes violent alterations in water levels, did not provide appropriate habitat (Mitchell 1994, Banko 1960) for breeding swans. Such habitat as may have existed would have been farther inland, as a remote extension of these marshes, or the easternmost vestiges of wet prairie habitats barely reaching the region from the west.

¹⁷ An 18 April swan was probably a late migrant. Schorger (1964, p. 332) asserts a 20 April specimen from Wisconsin "falls within the period of the spring migration," and does not support breeding status there. Bent (1962) offers later dates for the species' spring passage.

unacceptably vague ones—of trumpeter swans during the breeding season are on record for areas in Ohio, Michigan, or Ontario close to western Lake Erie for the past three hundred years.

In the nearest part of the accepted ancestral breeding range, the Indiana Bird Records Committee (1999) has accepted the species as a former breeder based on suspected, rather than confirmed, nesting. Farther east, the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee does not accept the species for its official state list, even as a migrant. The Michigan Bird Records Committee asserts there is no concrete evidence that trumpeter swans ever bred in the state. In fact, despite the inclusion of most of the state in his 1960 breeding range map, Banko told Granlund (senior author of *The Birds of Michigan* 1994) that he had no proof they ever bred in Michigan (Adam Byrne, pers. comm.).

Surely, one might say, the record would be firmer further west in Wisconsin, closer to the core range, but Robbins (1991) is able only to report the species was “formerly a probable breeder” there, and that there are no known specimens. Schorger (1964, p. 332), while regarding it as a highly probable breeder there, studied all the county histories of the state among other sources and concluded “there is no satisfactory record of the breeding of this swan in Wisconsin.” Rogers and Hammer sketch a map proposing a breeding range map for the species that among other areas includes all of Wisconsin, Michigan, and Ohio, and parts of Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, Mississippi and Louisiana (Rogers and Hammer 1978, p. 24), but evidently one could also make a case that the accepted range should be diminished rather than enlarged. Why are there so few specimens of such a splendid trophy, especially from areas where it was said to be abundant? Why does such a conspicuous bird go nearly unmentioned by so many visitors to its U.S. range—particularly those parts closer to Ohio—even before habitat destruction and hunting had presumably reduced its numbers?

Popular accounts routinely mention that the trumpeter’s U.S. population had been reduced to less than a hundred by the 1930s, but never from what number it had dwindled. Proof is lacking that the species was ever more than a scarce and local breeder anywhere south of the Canadian prairie provinces. Most plausible reports of trumpeters in substantial numbers here derive from migrant or wintering flocks. Most reported specimens have vanished or proved to have been misidentified, and most descriptions of swans in this country fail to rule out confusion with tundra swans. Proponents of expanding its range assume that all U.S. summer records of swans must be of trumpeters, but they fail to explain how ornithologists could have been so wrong about the breeding range of trumpeters, but so right about that of the tundra swan. Besides, Ohio has a number of records of summering non-breeding wild tundra swans, (most recently in 1999), and none for trumpeters; how many of the few extralimital summer reports of trumpeters farther south might be cases of mistaken identity?

In the 1950s and 60s substantial remnant numbers of several thousand trumpeter swans were discovered in Alaska, a population that through protection has fortunately more than quintupled in size since that time. By contrast, the population in the western Lower 48 declined from over 700 in 1968 to about 470 in 1998 (Shea 1998); some suggest that introduced (and frequently replenished) stocks in the

Midwest compensate for this loss in terms of raw numbers, but the latter are clearly of a different status from the wild birds—however artificially sustained—of Montana, Idaho, and Washington. Might the trumpeter swan’s population have rebounded so contrastingly well in Alaska because that is the heart of its range, rather than areas in the western Lower 48 that have always been marginal? At any rate, the trumpeter is not on the Federal lists of endangered or threatened species today.

The literature on the species’ ancestral status in the Lower 48 is scanty and often displays unacceptable inconsistencies and outright contradictions. Its former presence in generally recognized parts of its breeding range is the most skimpily documented in those areas closest to Ohio. The available evidence does not permit us to assume it ever bred in Ohio. As for the present and future status of the species as a wild bird here, regrettably it is, and will remain, obscured by numerous introduction projects here and in nearby states, which result in unmarked birds occurring haphazardly throughout the region. Whether this impressive species will prosper under existing conditions and one day genuinely become part of Ohio’s wild breeding avifauna is at best dubious, as is any assertion that it was such in days gone by.

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223 E. Tulane Rd.
Columbus, OH 43202
danielel@iwaynet.net

Birding Scioto Trail State Forest by Robert Royse

Scioto Trail State Forest covers 9,390 acres in Ross County. An additional 250 acres surrounded by the forest are designated as Scioto Trail State Park, with two small lakes and camping and picnic facilities. Located just south of Chillicothe, it is a convenient drive south from Columbus down US Rt. 23. In the DeLorme *Ohio Atlas and Gazetteer* it can be located on page 78 at C2. A paved road through the Forest's main valley, Stony Creek Road, is shown as a solid red line in the *Atlas*, and the well-maintained gravel roads along the surrounding ridges are shown in dotted lines. Detailed maps for the area are recommended, and are obtainable in a kiosk near the entry from Rt. 23. First-time visitors, however, are advised to request a map from the Ohio Division of Forestry first¹, since that kiosk is often empty. The location of Scioto Trail SF in the heart of the largest bend of the Scioto River (a significant migratory corridor), as well as at the northern edge of unglaciated Ohio, make it an ideal area for birders to explore its many resident and migrating species.

The summer nesting status of many species deserves further exploration, large numbers of fall migrant passerines undoubtedly pass silently through the still fully leafed forest, and winter birding would likely yield pleasant surprises. But it is during springtime when Scioto Trail takes on special interest to birders. The gradual awakening of spring in Ohio's forests with color and song is the highlight of many a birder's year, and that is what I will concentrate on here. It all starts in early April. The ridges in the forest will seem largely empty, but resident species such as the many pileated woodpeckers are at their most conspicuous at this time. By the end of the first week of April the first warblers (aside from wintering yellow-rumps) begin to arrive at Scioto Trail, and yellow-throated and pine warblers and Louisiana waterthrushes are the likely candidates. Eastern phoebes and the first of what will soon be hundreds of blue-gray gnatcatchers begin showing up at that time as well. The variety increases throughout the month, with most nesting species putting in an appearance by the first of May.

Annual fluctuations of arrival dates due to weather patterns are part of Ohio spring birding, and Scioto Trail is no exception, so predictions of exact dates for spring movements are usually inaccurate, and will not be attempted here. Eager birders with more time to spare during April might find a greater variety of species by heading to Shawnee State Forest, a 45-minute drive south along Rt. 23. At nearly 60,000 acres, Shawnee is Ohio's largest state forest, and is usually five or so days ahead of Scioto Trail's passerine arrivals. By the second week of May, however, Scioto Trail stands on its own as one of Ohio's prime birding locations. Then, species staying to nest will be actively singing on territory throughout much of the day, and large troupes or single scattered migrants are possible anywhere. After mid-May the leaves fill out and birding becomes more frustrating.

The Ridges The first landmark upon entering the Scioto Trail area from US Rt. 23 on Stony Creek Road (SR 372) is a fire tower with a small parking area. The pines surrounding it often hold the first migrant pine warblers of the spring amidst groups of golden-crowned kinglets. Staff at the State Forest headquarters here keep feeders stocked during most of April, luring in species such as tufted titmouse,

¹ Available online at <http://www.hcs.ohio-state.edu/ODNR/Forests/forestmaps/sciototrailmap1.jpeg>.

Carolina chickadee, northern cardinal, eastern towhee and large numbers of dark-eyed juncos. As the spring progresses, chipping sparrows gradually replace the juncos. Surrounding trees and brushy tangles deserve exploration. Additional species likely to be seen or heard here in early May include ubiquitous blue-gray gnatcatchers, Carolina wrens, red-eyed, blue-headed, and yellow-throated vireos, black-throated green, cerulean, black-and-white, and hooded warblers, American redstarts, and ovenbirds. Both scarlet and summer tanagers are possible, but the scarlets hold about a ten-to-one advantage at Scioto Trail. The long list of migrants encountered in thickets near the fire tower includes Philadelphia vireo and orange-crowned warbler.

After the fire tower, the first area deserving further exploration is the North Ridge Road, labeled as Road 2 on the Scioto Trail map. This road branches to the left beyond the fire tower. Of the three ridge roads (the others are Hatfield Road and the South Ridge Road), the North Ridge seems to feature more migrants and earlier territorial birds on average. Road 2 soon becomes one-way. About a quarter mile in is a trailhead for one of the bridle trails. This is often a reliable spot for the first arriving yellow-throated vireos, scarlet tanagers, and cerulean, black-and-white, and hooded warblers in April, and it is always worth checking. During May you will probably have already encountered these species in numbers by this point, though. Kentucky warblers, also common in this area, are less likely than the other nesting warblers until after the first of May. Migrating birds that can be abundant in the forest ridges in May include species such as Tennessee, bay-breasted, blackpoll, and Blackburnian warblers. From a distance, it is always surprising how much the song of the Blackburnian can resemble the cerulean's. Blue-gray gnatcatchers, ovenbirds, and red-eyed vireos seem to be everywhere. After a mile or so, the North Ridge Road branches, and a one-way road (Road 3) heads down the ridge to the state park. At the time of this writing, a sign for "Local Traffic Only" is posted for continuing on Road 2, but the road is maintained to its very end several miles later. Drive the entire length of Road 2, then reverse course at the end where the bridge crossing to Stony Creek Road is closed. Along this stretch worm-eating warblers are likely to be heard—and one can hope see—along the ridges. Scattered openings are always good spots to stop to check for species such as white-eyed vireos, blue-winged warblers, yellow-breasted chats, summer tanagers, indigo buntings, eastern towhees, and both yellow-billed and black-billed cuckoos. Ruffed grouse, though uncommon, is always a possibility, especially early in the morning. Since the area is a natural route for so many migrants, species surprising for a forest, such as swamp sparrow and palm warbler, have been found along the North Ridge. Migrant prairie warblers are possible in April in any open area, especially where conifer saplings exist; during years when suitable habitat is available, some may possibly remain to nest, but nowhere are they predictable in May.

Birding the ridges at Scioto Trail is largely a matter of proceeding slowly and stopping at regular intervals. Look, listen, and stop if anything catches your ear or eye. In early May you will be stopping a lot! Do not let seemingly bad weather deter your efforts. A light drizzle can often be the most productive weather for finding groups of migrants pausing on the ridges before they continue north along the Scioto River. The South Ridge Road (Road 6) and Hatfield Road (Road 5) are also worth your birding time, as the habitats of all three ridges are similar. Red-shouldered and broad-winged hawks are possible anywhere. Pine warblers probably nest in the pines

on the South Ridge Road. Migrant pine warblers are frequently found in April throughout the Scioto Trail area, even in flocks with other species in deciduous trees, but by the second week of May only residents remain, when the South Ridge alone is worth checking for that species. To cover all three ridges thoroughly along with the valley, plan on spending a whole day. When birding for passerines in spring, one usually encounters a lull of activity in mid-afternoon before singing resumes again full-throttle around 4 pm.

The Valley The low-lying area of Scioto Trail offers a different birding experience. Much of it is within the Scioto Trail State Park. If the bridge from North Ridge Road (Road 2) to Stony Creek Road (Road 1) remains closed, turn around and retrace your steps (keeping eyes and ears alert for anything you may have missed) and head down the otherwise unnamed Road 3. This quickly descends into the valley, where it crosses a small stream (where eastern phoebes usually will be found) and emerges into an opening. Here a small parking lot at the border of the state park is always worth a stop throughout the spring season. A long list of species can be found in the brushy tangles or woodland edges here. Once past the camping area, take a glance at the small Caldwell Lake, though it is generally not too productive aside from a variety of swallows, a few mallards, and occasional pied-billed grebes and ring-necked ducks. The next parking area is usually very productive for birding. A yellow-throated warbler will almost certainly be singing in the sycamores above you. By mid-April, Louisiana waterthrushes can usually be located here along the creek. The whole area from here to the intersection with Stony Creek Road (Road 1) is worth a careful search for migrants. Purple finches have been seen in this area during several recent springs.

Along Stony Creek Road, several areas are worth investigating. The road down from the fire tower to the west descends through some nice hemlock habitat to the Stewart Lake area of the Scioto Trail State Park. Small parking areas are present on both the north and south sides of the road, so use them and have a look around. While northern parulas can show up as migrants just about anywhere, this is the reliable spot to find nesters. Just listen for them. Other conspicuous breeders in this area include eastern phoebes, chipping sparrows, yellow-throated warblers, American redstarts, and Louisiana waterthrushes. Hiking a bit into the wooded area north of the road should turn up some migrants, and possibly more nesting species such as cerulean and Kentucky warblers, eastern wood-pewees, and wood thrushes. As May progresses, you can add Acadian flycatcher to the list as well.

Further east on Stony Creek Road, past the intersection with Road 5 (which continues up the ridge to the Hatfield Road) and Road 3, you pass some private residences before reaching the bridge at the North Ridge Road. The area near the bridge, and the bridle trail's crossing another quarter mile further east, offer the best birding along Stony Creek. Nesting birds include eastern phoebes, white-eyed vireo, house and Carolina wrens, blue-gray gnatcatchers, blue-winged and yellow-throated warblers, American redstarts, Louisiana waterthrushes, common yellowthroats, yellow-breasted chat, indigo buntings, song sparrows, and eastern towhees. In April, many hardy wintering species or early migrants such as winter wrens, hermit thrushes, brown thrashers, and fox and white-throated sparrows will likely be encountered. This area is a good place to find the first yellow-throated warblers and blue-gray gnatcatchers during the first week of April, with American redstarts often appearing by the third week of the month. Birders from further north are often

surprised to see how early redstarts appear on territory here; only a bit further north in Columbus they are not common until well into May. In April, barred owls are sometimes heard calling at mid-day. Mourning and Canada warblers are among migrants routinely found among Stony Creek's thickets in May.

A day of slow methodical birding at Scioto Trail State Forest during early May ranks among the most exhilarating birding experiences to be found anywhere. Period. With easy access from both the Columbus and Dayton areas, Scioto Trail deserves to be part of the annual ritual for central Ohio birders. Those from northern Ohio might gain a fuller understanding of the state's avifauna by coming down to check it out. Out-of-state visitors who come only to catch the scene at Magee in May should seriously consider first spending a day at Scioto Trail, and also another day for a complementary list of species at one of Ohio's reclaimed strip-mine wildlife areas.

A Sample List Here is a list of species found on 10 May 1999. This example offers a good idea of what can be found on a decent day at Scioto Trail SF in May. Not included are some of the permanent residents such as downy, hairy, red-bellied, and pileated woodpeckers, blue jay, American crow, Carolina wren, white-breasted nuthatch, Carolina chickadee, and tufted titmouse or common nesting residents of the area such as red-tailed hawk, turkey vulture, northern flicker, house wren, blue-gray gnatcatcher, eastern bluebird, American robin, northern cardinal, eastern towhee, chipping sparrow, and American goldfinch.

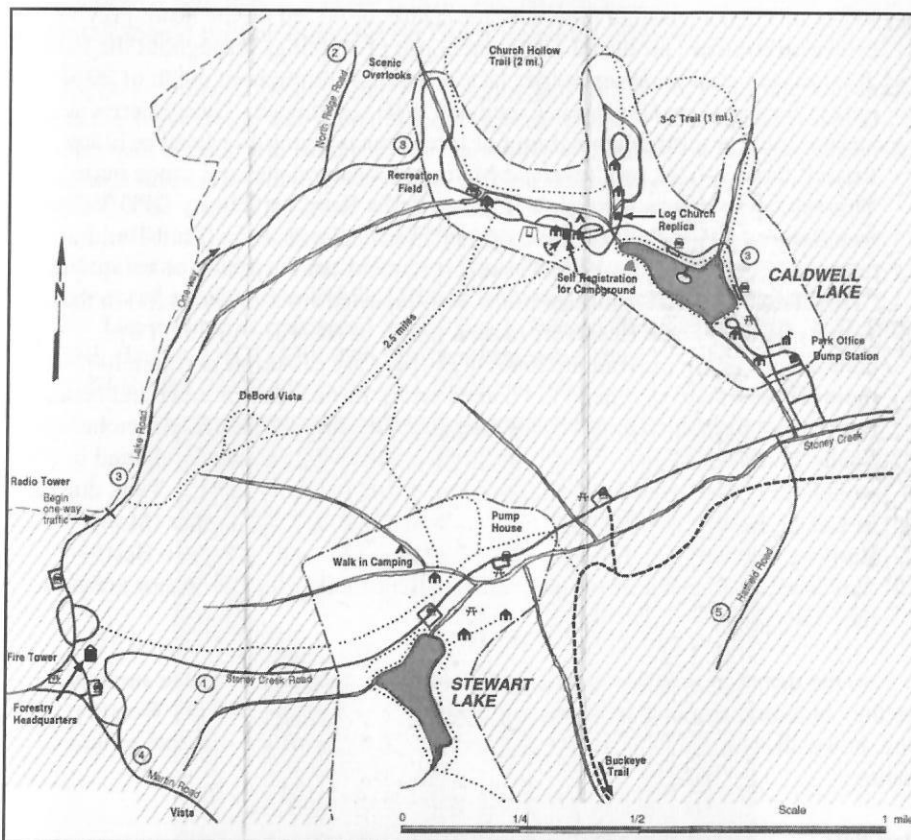
1 Broad-winged hawk	8 Yellow-rumped warblers
1 Yellow-billed cuckoo	4 Black-throated green warblers
1 Red-headed woodpecker	21 Blackburnian warblers
37 Eastern wood-pewees	19 Yellow-throated warblers
7 Acadian flycatchers	36 Bay-breasted warblers
5 Eastern phoebes	18 Blackpoll warblers
3 Great crested flycatchers	48 Cerulean warblers
1 Ruby-crowned kinglet	7 Black-and-white warblers
several gray catbirds	27 American redstarts
20 Swainson's thrushes	15 Worm-eating warblers
77 Wood thrushes	85 Ovenbirds
many Blue-gray gnatcatchers	4 Louisiana waterthrushes
10 White-eyed vireos	18 Kentucky warblers
23 Yellow-throated vireos	4 Common yellowthroats
1 Warbling vireo	57 Hooded warblers
1 Philadelphia vireo	5 Yellow-breasted chats
218 Red-eyed vireos	7 Summer tanagers
12 Blue-winged warblers	64 Scarlet tanagers
1 Golden-winged warbler	10 Rose-breasted grosbeaks
89 Tennessee warblers	80 Indigo buntings
2 Nashville warblers	many Eastern towhees
5 Northern parulas	2 White-throated sparrows
4 Yellow warblers	several Baltimore orioles
8 Chestnut-sided warblers	

Although I birded from 0830 h to 1730 h, most migrants were found before noon. I was surprised that I didn't find either Cape May or magnolia warblers, and

all eight chestnut-sided warblers were found within a 10-minute period. I also noted that since I usually find a similar number of ceruleans and hoodeds, I probably missed some ceruleans. The hoodeds sang all day and the ceruleans stopped between about 1300 h and 1600 h. No pine warblers? I probably passed by their haunts on the South Ridge at the time without hearing any.

If heading south down Rt. 23 towards Scioto Trail, other good birding areas along the way and worthy of your time are Stage's Pond State Nature Preserve in Pickaway County just north of Circleville and the Charlie's Pond/Pickaway County Airport loop (following Radcliffe, Westfall, and Jefferson Roads on page 68 at D2 in the *Ohio Atlas*).

1446 Cliff Ct., Apt A
Columbus, OH 43204
rroyse@sprynet.com



Map of the State Park area of Scioto Trail State Forest, Ross Co., as referred to in the preceding article. Reproduced from the Scioto Trail State Park Map published by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

Short Note: The Geauga County Cranes

The sandhill crane saga continues with Autumn 2000 episodes, of which there are two:

- 1) Concerning the "Claridon Pair," the Geauga Park District's spring and summer reports related sightings of these two from Claridon-Troy Road in northern Burton Twp to Aquilla Lake in Claridon Twp from mid-May through July. The last sighting of these birds was in the field across the road from (not in) Aquilla Lake State Wildlife Area on Labor Day weekend (Grace Butcher et al.; Duane Ferris confirmed on 9/1), and 9/10 (Helen Hendrickson). Nothing since. [Ed. note: see the Reports for a sighting in the township of two birds on 4 Nov]
- 2) The "Troy Trio" lingers. A group of cranes, invariably together, consisting of two adults and a possible immature bird (little or no red on the head, gray vs. brownish in color) produced a consistent run of sightings throughout the Fall 2000 season after an absence (per lack of reports) throughout much of 2000 except for the 1 Jan Christmas Count and 3/16 sightings by Duane Ferris at LaDue and a sole summer sighting of three cranes flying overhead at Eldon Russell Park on 7/22 by Cleveland Metroparks naturalists on a canoe outing. This fall, three cranes were sighted along Pekin Road on 9/14 by GPD Volunteer Naturalist Roy Podogil and again in a wetland near Judy Bradt-Barnhart's home off Pekin Road on 10/6. These three cranes are suspected of being the "Troy Trio." Regular sightings of the Trio reported from the island(s) in the vicinity of the LaDue Reservoir marina (north of Rt. 422, Auburn Twp) commenced again in Autumn 2000: 9/25 (per City of Akron personnel—"see them all the time," as related to Duane Ferris), throughout October and November (Duane Ferris), and on 11/15 here by GPD's John Oros. Since October (per Sandy Buckles to Duane Ferris) the three cranes were frequently sighted in corn stubble in fields in the Jug Street and Patch Road vicinity in Troy Twp, due east of LaDue Reservoir. Sightings here continued through November (Molly Bartlett, Bob and Eric Faber) into December—12/3 and 12/9 (Dan Best)—indicating LaDue Reservoir and the Jug Street field as the two major areas for the "Troy Trio."

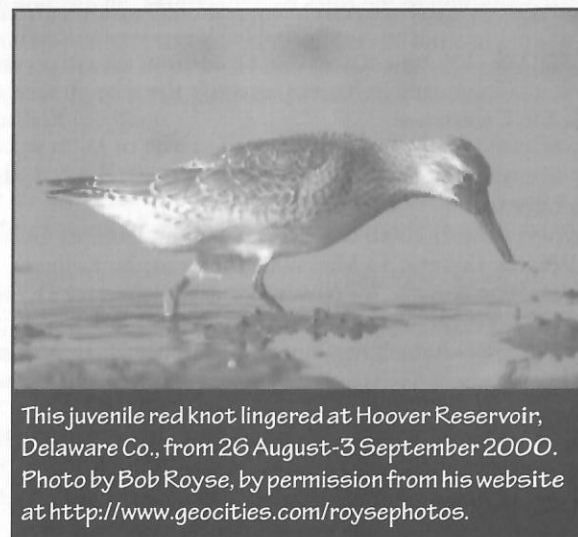
So the question remains: where do these cranes disappear to in the summer, and are they breeding somewhere in the wetlands of the Cuyahoga River? We are pretty sure, however, that the "Claridon Pair" and the "Troy Trio" are separate groups of cranes.

Dan Best
Gauga Park District
9160 Robinson Rd.
Chardon, OH 44024-9148

Upcoming Events

The first annual *Bird Watching Weekend*, jointly sponsored by *Bird Watcher's Digest* and the Longaberger Company, will take place Friday 27 April through Sunday 29 April 2001 in Newark, Ohio and a number of nearby birding spots. Featured speakers will be Julie Zickefoose of *Bird Watcher's Digest*, Danny Ingold of Muskingum College, John Watts of the Franklin County Metroparks, Darlene Sillick of the North American Bluebird Society, Jim McCormac of ODNR's Division of Natural Areas and Preserves, Bill Thompson, III, editor of *Bird Watcher's Digest*, and Steve Maslowski of Maslowski Wildlife Productions. Presentations cover grassland bird research, prairie restoration, Ohio birding hotspots, "bird watching for dummies," bluebird conservation, the spring birds of the region, landscaping for birdlife on residential properties, and more. Among field trip destinations will be Baughman Park, Black Hand Gorge SNP, Dillon WA, Hebron State Fish Hatchery, Dawes Arboretum, and The Wilds. The fee for participation in the weekend's activities is \$99 per person. For information and registration, persons interested should call the Longaberger Guest Relations office at 740-322-5588.

An *Ohio Sparrow Ecology and ID Seminar* will be held on Saturday, 30 June 2001 at the West Union Vocational School in West Union, OH (Adams County). Speakers will include Jim Rising of the University of Toronto (author of *A Guide to the Identification and Natural History of the Sparrows of the United States and Canada*, 1996), Danny Ingold of Muskingum College, Scott Hull of the Ohio Division of Wildlife, and Pete Whan of The Nature Conservancy. Presentations will feature the ecology and natural history of sparrows, field identification of sparrows, and aspects of sparrow research in Ohio. A field trip will seek these and other species. The seminar is sponsored by the Black Swamp Bird Observatory, P.O. Box 228, Oak Harbor, OH 43449, with whom reservations must be made to attend this event; the fee for attendance is \$25 for BSBO members, and \$30 for others.



This juvenile red knot lingered at Hoover Reservoir, Delaware Co., from 26 August-3 September 2000. Photo by Bob Royse, by permission from his website at <http://www.geocities.com/roysephotos>.

Recent Actions of the Ohio Bird Records Committee

The Ohio Bird Records Committee exists to increase knowledge of Ohio's birdlife. To do so, it validates records, maintains for the public archives of records of occurrences of rare birds in the state, and establishes the official list of Ohio's bird species. The OBRC depends on the help of field observers who supply complete details of their sightings of rare birds, i.e., those on the OBRC's Review List, which last appeared in *The Ohio Cardinal* in the Spring 2000 issue. Review List species require acceptable documentation (written details, photos, sound recordings, and/or specimens) to enter the official record. *The Ohio Cardinal*, as the bird journal of record for the state, will not treat reports of Review List rarities as established until accepted by the OBRC, and hence will not usually publish reports of these species unsupported by documentation submitted to the Committee.

The OBRC cannot review sightings, of course, only documentations of sightings. A rare bird might well be found, but if acceptable details of the observation are not submitted for the historical record, it will unfortunately remain in the realm of unsupported rumor. The Committee's task is not to decide if a given species was indeed seen, but only to decide if documentation from observers meets the criteria for inclusion in the historical record. All documentations, as well as the Committee votes and other actions thereon, are available to the public upon request to the Secretary, with the single exception of the identities of members voting. We offer here, as a general rule, only brief notations on OBRC actions, details of which are available from the Secretary. Current members and counties of residence are: Jim McCormac, Secretary (*Franklin*); Bob Conlon (*Franklin*), Dave Dister (*Montgomery*), Rob Harlan (*Cuyahoga*), Craig Holt (*Portage*), Tom Kemp (*Lucas*)*, Bernard Master (*Franklin*), Kevin Metcalf (*Geauga*)*, Larry Rosche (*Portage*), Jay Stenger (*Hamilton*)*, and Bill Whan (*Franklin*)*. An asterisk indicates a member whose term expires in March 2001; nominations for four new members to serve three-year terms beginning in March 2001 will be sent to all *Cardinal* subscribers. If other nominees are named according to the rules by subscribers, an election will be held.

ACCEPTED RECORDS: Documentations received from the observers specified for the following records were judged sufficient to verify them by at least nine of the eleven members of the Committee.

Mississippi Kite—Clermont County, 5-6 July 2000, observers B. Stanley, H. Armstrong, J. Lehman

Ruff—Ottawa County, 4 April 2000, observers Kent and Dolores Glauser

California Gull—Warren County, 13 May 2000, observer N. Keller

California Gull—Auglaize County, 12 November 2000, observer D. Dister

Rufous Hummingbird—Wayne County, 6-9 Sept 2000, observer S. Snyder

Selasphorus hummingbird—Ashtabula County, 5 October 2000, observer H. Petruschke

Western Kingbird—Cuyahoga County, 8 September 2000, observer J. Mizanin

Townsend's Solitaire—Medina County, Nov 1994, observers L. Rosche, R. Harlan

Le Conte's Sparrow—Holmes County, 12-21 October 2000, observer E. Schlabach

Le Conte's Sparrow—Lake County, 28 October 2000, observer K. Metcalf

OHIO BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

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

Glossy Ibis—Hamilton County, 10 September 2000

Long-tailed Jaeger—Lake County, 15 September 2000

Dovekie—Auglaize County, 31 October 2000

Western Tanager—Cuyahoga County, 3 October 2000

Hoary Redpoll—Cuyahoga County, 20-21 January and 16-18 February 2000

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

Eurasian Collared-Dove—Washington County, 26 March 2000

Magnificent Hummingbird—Hancock County, 11 September 2000

Lark Bunting—Hancock County, 18 July 2000

In addition, documentation has been or will be received for observations of the following species/genera/subspecies: several *Plegadis* ibises, "Harlan's" hawk in *Holmes*, long-tailed jaeger in *Lake*, adult black-legged kittiwake in *Clinton*, *Selasphorus* hummingbird in *Hamilton*, varied thrush in *Hancock*, varied thrush in *Lucas*, Le Conte's sparrow in *Cuyahoga*, and Harris's sparrow in *Wayne*. *Bill Whan*

Fall Raptors Report

Most of the region's migrant raptors are less than enthusiastic about crossing large bodies of water. Consequently, Lake Erie is a major barrier to southbound raptors in the fall. The mass movement of hawks, falcons, and eagles out of Canada at this time is easy to visualize by looking at a map of the Great Lakes: raptors follow the narrowing landform of Ontario and are funneled into southeastern Michigan and northwestern Ohio as they disperse toward various southern destinations. This fanning-out happens quickly; torrents of birds along the western Lake Erie shore become streams both wider and shallower; while we can see good numbers of migrant raptors, we will never match the concentrations seen just a few dozen miles north of the border.

Thus it makes sense to turn to the numbers recorded by hawkwatchers of the Southeastern Michigan Raptor Research organization for a truer picture of the regional raptor numbers for this fall. Here, courtesy of SMRR Director Jeff Schultz, are the final totals for fall of 2000.

Turkey Vulture: 33,183*

Osprey: 161

Bald Eagle: 110

Northern Harrier: 244

Sharp-shinned Hawk: 9,265

Cooper's Hawk: 592

Northern Goshawk: 61*

Red-shouldered Hawk: 1,098*

Broad-winged Hawk: 110,195

Swainson's Hawk: 12

Red-tailed Hawk: 8,219

Rough-legged Hawk: 79

Golden Eagle: 252*

American Kestrel: 1,087

Merlin: 58

Peregrine Falcon: 42

Unidentified: 44

Short-eared Owl: 2

Snowy Owl: 1

Grand Total: 164,705

Total hours of observation: 584.25

* new season high for this species.

The Ohio
CARDINAL



Retrospective: 20 Years Ago in the Cardinal

The 46 pages in the Autumn 1980 issue of *The Ohio Cardinal* (Vol. 3, No. 3) contained the autumn reports, no less than eight rare bird documentations, two identification aids, and anecdotal tributes to the 1980 birding year. As a result, there is only one statement that can be made about the Autumn 1980 birding season—it was fantastic!

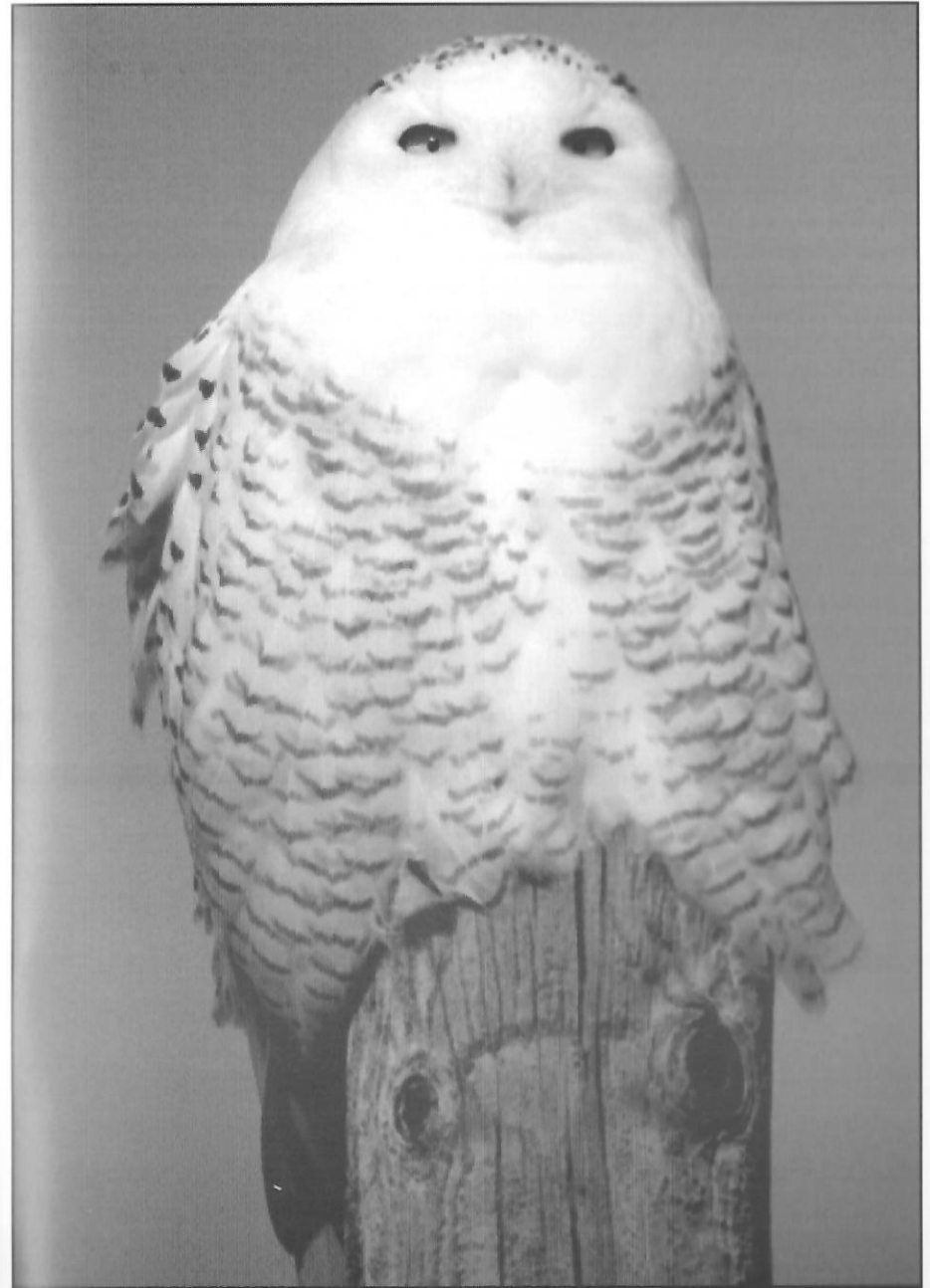
To shed some light on why the Autumn 1980 season was so birder-friendly, let us first examine the eight documentations provided in this issue. The magazine's cover immediately draws attention. Yes, that is a puffin.

This bird, Ohio's first and only Atlantic puffin, was found alive by Henry Kohler in his Oregon, Ohio driveway on 17 November. Lou Campbell was immediately called and was able to obtain photographs the following day. The ill puffin was then taken to the Toledo Zoo where it unfortunately died on 22 November. Ohio's third groove-billed ani was discovered by Bruce Peterjohn on 10 August along Alum Creek Reservoir and was well described in the documentary note. A Smith's longspur, now only a memory in Ohio, was discovered on 12 October at Little Cedar Point by Jack Ross and the same observer documented a pair of common eiders flying past the same location on 8 November. Adding fuel to the autumn fire was a well described adult male Kirtland's warbler found on 12 September near Waterford by Lynn Barnhart. In addition, three different least terns were discovered in or very near to Ohio. The first was on 6 August at the Oxbow (SE Indiana) by David & Myra Styer and Abdallah Lyzzaik, the second on 20 August at Huron by Tom LePage (ph.), and the third was found on 23 September at Alum Creek Reservoir by Bruce Peterjohn. A little less rare, but noteworthy nonetheless, were documentations for an eared grebe at Lorain on 9 November (Bruce Peterjohn) and a glossy ibis in Franklin Co. from 1-5 November found by Marjory & Lynn Thomas.

Other species which stand out while reading the Autumn 1980 reports include one red-throated loon, seven red-necked grebes, a second eared grebe, two more glossy ibises, two brant, one greater white-fronted goose, a cinnamon teal that was shot by a hunter on 5 November at Magee Marsh, one Eurasian wigeon, eight long-tailed ducks, one harlequin duck, two king eiders, two piping plovers, 15 whimbrels, a 19 October purple sandpiper, 22 American avocets, one pomarine jaeger, five parasitic jaegers, eight black-legged kittiwakes, one Sabine's gull, a ringed turtle-dove (escapee), two monk parakeets at a Cincinnati nest, 20 snowy owls, and a western kingbird. Please feel free to take a breath now; that was quite a list.

Continuing the tradition of printing identification aids, the Autumn 1980 issue contained one written by Ray Hannikman on Thayer's gulls and one written by Bruce Peterjohn on loggerhead vs. northern shrikes. Both of these contain very useful information and remain excellent resources today.

Finally, we come to the final piece of the *Cardinal* puzzle—the anecdotal tribute to 1980 entitled "Highs and Lows of 1980." Here readers submitted their most exciting and most disappointing birding tales of the year. Nine people's adventures were outlined here and they all told of two inevitable birding occurrences—getting really lucky and just missing birds. Oh how I can relate. *Joseph W. Hammond*



Drawing much attention was this snowy owl first discovered in mid-November 2000 near Wilmington, Clinton Co. It remained well into the winter season and was viewed by hundreds during its stay. Photo by David Russell on 23 November.