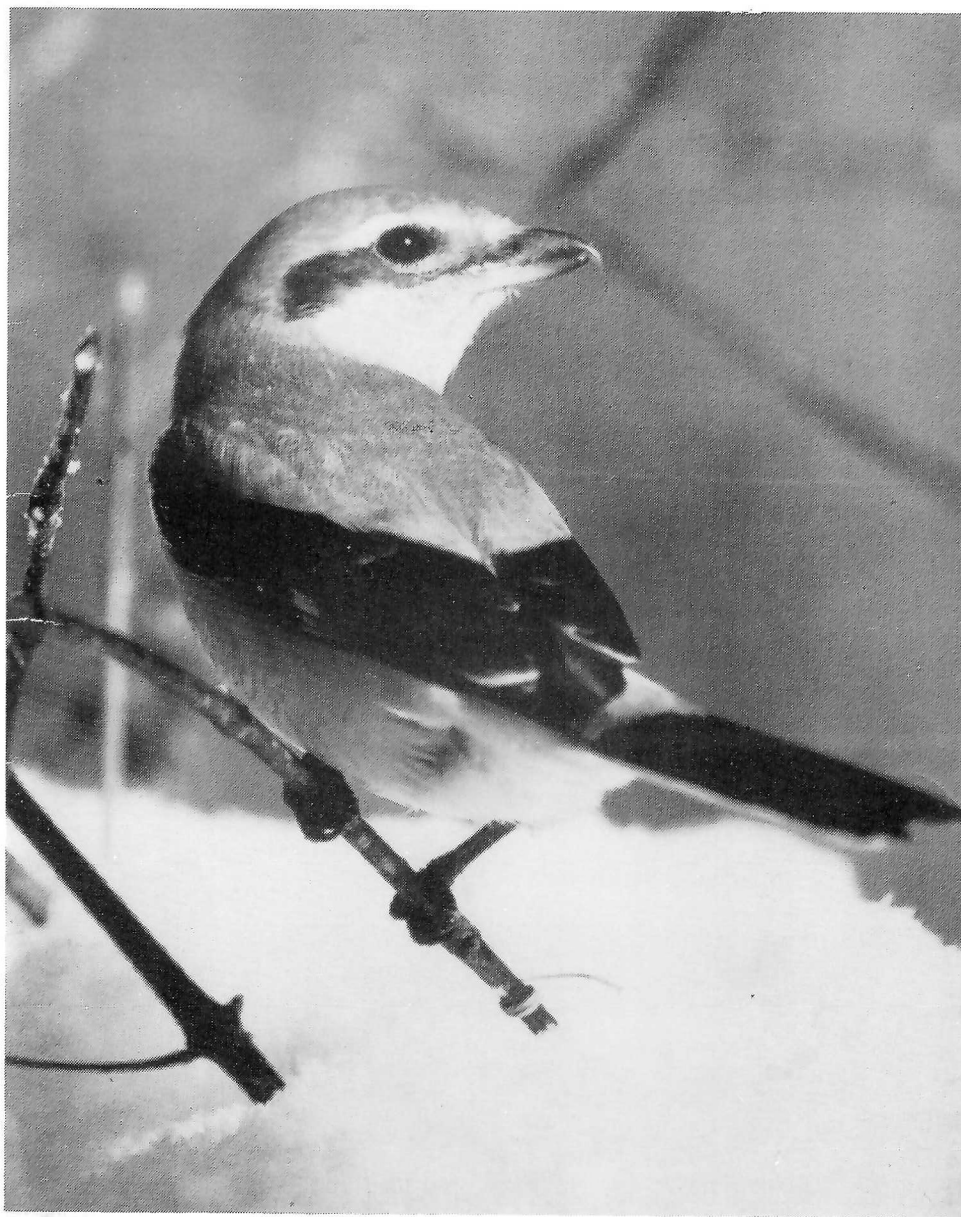


The Ohio



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Cover: Northern Shrike, CVNRA (Summit Co.), 11/8/96.
Photo by Gary Meszaros.

A Long-billed Murrelet (*Brachyramphus perdix*) in Ohio by Victor W. Fazio III and Dan Webb

Dan Webb, a Heidelberg College student in biological sciences, undertook a survey of waterbird usage at the local Seneca County upground reservoir (variously known as Clyde Reservoir or Beaver Creek Reservoir) during the autumn migration of 1996. In the course of his survey he recognized an alcid, likely a murrelet, around noon on November 12. He contacted Fazio shortly after and we subsequently observed the bird from 1:30 to 2:00 p.m. under worsening weather conditions, but allowing the identification of a "Marbled Murrelet". Discrepancies in field characters compared with those depicted in the available field guides were immediately evident, such that further literature study that evening suggested the "Asian" race *perdix*, subsequently elevated to species status, and now known as the Long-billed Murrelet (Friesen et al. 1996). The bird cooperated in further study by staying through the evening of November 18, entertaining more than 300 observers from Ohio and surrounding states. Over the ensuing days, diagnostic photos and behavioral notes were obtained by the principal observers (the authors and H. Thomas Bartlett), combining for approximately 60 field hours.

Identification

The murrelet presented itself as a small, buoyant waterbird less than half the length of the Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*) available for direct comparison. The distant black and white pattern and short-necked silhouette gave the quick impression of a short-necked Horned Grebe

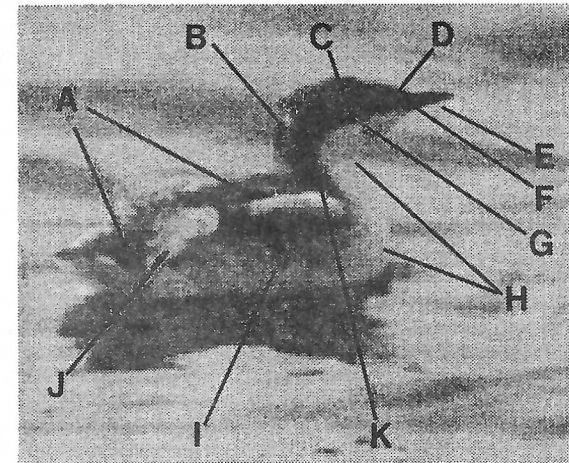


Long-billed Murrelet, Beaver Creek Res. (Seneca Co.), 11/13/96.
Photo by Victor Fazio.

(*Podiceps auritus*). Closer inspection revealed the slender, pointed, all dark bill, and a patterning of white (underparts) and black (upperparts) punctuated by broad white scapular lines unique to *Brachyramphus murrelets* in basic plumage.

[Editor's note: the following remarks pertain to the labeled image at the top of page 3].

A) The charcoal back could appear darker in direct sunlight, but was never as dark as the jet black wings. The back graded to sooty-gray on the rump, which was sometimes bluish in shadow/overcast conditions. The bird exhibited a contrasting browner hindneck and head which appeared as a dark chocolate color in shadow/overcast to a "coffee" color in warm low-angle sunlight. **B)** Pale nape patches were readily detected. Regarding this mark, Sibley (1993) notes that "at a distance this pale area combined with the straight border between dark and light on the sides of the neck creates a Pacific Loon-like (*Gavia pacifica*) appearance". This is a prominent field mark (in direct sunlight), notable in binoculars (8 x 42) from 100 meters (although cloudy conditions diminish this effect). There is a nice example photographed by T. Cardamone on Hallam Lake, Aspen, CO in September 1982 (Kingery 1983, p. 206). **C)** Eye-arcs were clearly evident in life, though proximity and the angle of viewing varied their appearance. They certainly did not hold the prominence seen in Lee Harper's photo of the Cornwall, Ontario bird (Di Labio 1996). An apparent Marbled Murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*) in Farrand (1988, p. 62) exhibits eye-arcs approximately equal to those of the Ohio bird, weakening this feature as a possible distinguishing character. Indeed, Erickson et al. (1995) observed among specimens that "there was complete overlap, with some *marmoratus* showing bold eye-arcs and some *perdix* showing indistinct eye-arcs". **D)** A structural bulge of the fore-skull could be clearly seen in life within 30 meters with binoculars (8 x 42). This was not rendered by Sibley in the Cornwall bird, nor is it evident in any *marmoratus* photo (n = 5) or drawing (n = 10) we have seen. This distinctive feature is noted in a drawing on p. 156 of Sealy et al. (1991) as a dichotomy between the two races (now species). However, in the photos I have seen (n = 4) of other *perdix* this feature is not in evidence, and while perhaps a real difference between the two species, it is still of dubious field value. **E)** The gonydeal process was readily seen at close distances (or Questar views at 40 meters), and was even remarked upon by some novice observers. Again, this feature is prominently distinguished in Sealy et al., but not elsewhere, to our knowledge. **F)** A completely dark loreal area on the Ohio bird is in keeping with Sibley's remarks noting "*perdix* being entirely dark above the gape". The Cornwall bird was intermediate in this character, while the December 1995 Humboldt Bay, CA *perdix* was "very limited" in this regard (Bailey and Singer 1996). However, that can also be said of the apparent *marmoratus* in Farrand (1983, p. 116 and 1988, p. 62). Indeed, this is simply not a *perdix* character; see Tim Zurowski's photo on p. 308 for apparent *marmoratus* in winter plumage-- dark-lored and white-lored individuals side-by-side. Also view the fledgling on p. 310 (all in Campbell et al. 1990). Furthermore, the 1982 immature *perdix* from Colorado exhibits an obvious pale loreal area (Kingery p. 206). Additionally, there is an example on the World Wide Web (<http://www.teleport.com/~sei/images/bird.jpg>) of a dark-lored *marmoratus*.



G) The Ohio bird exhibited little color below the eye in keeping with the Cornwall bird, the Humboldt Bay bird, and the Aspen, CO immature *perdix*, but in contrast with the Farrand *marmoratus* and that in Stokes and Stokes (p. 215) and both individuals in Campbell et al., where much of the cheek is dark. This is further supported as a *perdix* character by Erickson et al. and Di Labio. **H)** The immaculate white underparts showed no spur of color off the neck to the breast; the latter character appears highly variable. A spur may be prominent in *marmoratus* (Stokes and Stokes), barely evident (Farrand 1983), or absent (Farrand 1988). **I)** The well-marked sides of the Ohio bird contradicts comments made on the Cornwall bird (Sibley) and Humboldt Bay bird (Bailey and Singer) and those of Erickson et al. as a *perdix* character. **J)** The prominent white patches on either side of the rump were visible from great distances. Present in both the Long-billed and Marbled Murrelets, it is curious that this mark is not depicted in the various field guides, with one notable exception being Godfrey (1986, Plate 40). Peterson (1990), Scott (1987), Harrison (1983), Robbins (1983), Sonobe and Robinson (1982), & Tuck and Heinzel (1980) all fail to depict these wing patches, but this is perhaps understandable given the apparent confusion over the features of *perdix* and *marmoratus*; leading to artist renderings that are an amalgam of characters. It is not uncommon, for example, for N. American Marbled Murrelets to be depicted with the long, slender bills of their Asian counterparts.

In distinguishing the Long-billed Murrelet (*Brachyramphus perdix*) and Marbled Murrelet (*B. marmoratus*) in basic plumage, Erickson et al. give weight to the "entirely dark hindneck, a narrow band of black below the

eye, and limited black on the sides of the breast" of *perdix*, as contrasted to *marmoratus* exhibiting a "nearly complete white nuchal collar, more black below the eye, and extensive black on the sides of the breast. Other plumage characteristics are inconsistent or are average differences only." Di Labio erroneously gives credence to the prominent white eye-arcs, while supporting the thinner black line below the eye in *perdix* as well as the details of the hindneck. In our review of the various photographs of *perdix* and *marmoratus*, we were able to find a disconcerting degree of variation in the appearance of the eye-arcs and the black on the sides of the breast, such that we cannot endorse these as distinguishing field characters. Erickson et al. further note that "some juveniles of *marmoratus* lacked extensive dark sides of the breast". We further reiterate that features of the lores and color spurs off the shoulder are useless in making a distinction between the two species. Pale nape patches and the fore-skull bulge warrant further study, both as to their variability and field integrity. Erickson et al. found only two specimens of *perdix* with this feature, yet every published photo mentioned here (representing five birds, including that in Warner and Pranty, 1995) clearly exhibit this feature. Erickson et al. further caution that "juvinal and transitional plumages of *marmoratus* may show nape patches if incoming white feathers appear there first". We do not share this caution, as it is doubtful that such white feathering would duplicate the "loon effect" described above. The longer bill in *perdix* may be a useful field character only for observers with comparative experience with Marbled Murrelet. An identification of *perdix* in Iowa (Dinsmore 1993) was based largely on an apparently long bill, yet was contradicted by an extensive white neck collar, a feature of *marmoratus*. The Iowa bird may therefore represent a hybrid or a unique inland record of *marmoratus* (Di Labio). In summation, there remain two clear *perdix* characters for identification from *marmoratus*-- the broad pattern of color covering the hindneck, and the thin black line below the eye. Next to the white scapulars and the white rump patches, the broad color of the hindneck (K) provided one of the stronger impressions upon sighting this bird and could offer a good distance character for *perdix*. However, Erickson et al. give caution to this character insofar as "specimens showed that some juvenile and molting *marmoratus* can have hindneck patterns suggestive of *perdix*". The identification of the Ohio *perdix* is based upon the combination of a long, slender bill, broad color to the hindneck, and the thin line of black below the eye exhibited by a bird not in transitional plumage.

Behavior

The bird seemed to enjoy good health throughout its stay, frequently diving, retrieving fish, and on one occasion, taking a brief flight across the reservoir (pers. comm. Ed Pierce). The bird's position in the reservoir was often coincident with that portion most exposed to wave action and along the northern (deeper) end. Waterfowl hunter activity along the southern edge may have provided further incentive for the bird to remain in the north basin; however, on at least one occasion the bird was seen swimming among the decoys set at the southern end. Dives appeared not only to function as foraging bouts, but served also to traverse great lengths of the reservoir. A systematic census of foraging bouts over several days revealed a mean of 18.4 seconds per bout (n = 30). The bird would resurface generally within 20 meters of the dive.

Traverses, however, would last approximately 50-55 seconds, with the bird resurfacing 200-250 meters from the dive point. In fishing, the bird brought up 3-5 cm. fish, swallowing them at the surface. It could be found fishing any time of the day but seemed to be most active toward evening. Most peculiar was the phalarope-like spinning occasionally exhibited. Usually counter-clockwise, the bird would make several rotations on the surface of the water, followed by an apparent foraging dive. It would be interesting to discover whether or not Marbled Murrelet engages in such behavior.

Appearance in Ohio

The Long-billed Murrelet normally winters at sea off Siberia's Kamchatka Peninsula south to the Sea of Okhotsk, off Hokkaido, Japan (Sonobe and Robinson). Yet the occurrence of the species, usually during late fall/early winter, in the central and eastern portions of the North American continent is not without precedent. There are approximately 15 other records away from the west coast (summarized in Di Labio), including recent records from Alberta (Moore 1995), Ontario (Sibley), N. Carolina (Davis 1995), Florida (four records since 1987, Warner and Pranty), and Colorado (two records, Traun and Percival 1997). This long-distance vagrancy has been examined by Sealy et al., who hypothesize that a weather scenario linked to the El Nino Southern Oscillation may be a causal factor. This involves an intense low pressure system over Alaska generating particularly strong westerly airflows. Although there was no El Nino event underway in 1996, a similar weather pattern was illustrated by televised radar maps in the three-four days preceding the discovery of the bird in Seneca Co., and was partially responsible for record lake-effect snows that buried much of the northeastern portion of Ohio. Unfortunately, we have no more than this suggestive information to offer as an explanation for the appearance of this species in Ohio. We can suggest from the proliferation of records in recent years that it is not likely the last appearance of Long-billed Murrelet in Ohio.

Acknowledgements

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Very Like A Whale: A Lesson by Bill Whan

Hamlet: Do you see yonder cloud that's almost in shape of a camel?
Polonius: By the mass, and 'tis like a camel, indeed.
Hamlet: Methinks it is like a weasel.
Polonius: It is backed like a weasel.
Hamlet: Or like a whale?
Polonius: Very like a whale.

Hamlet III.ii.392 ff

Birders who flocked to Seneca County in November 1996 to see a reported Marbled Murrelet had a good chance to contrast a real bird with its idealized version in the field guides. All of us had heard that the bird had been studied by experts, so there seemed no question about its identity; our simple mission was to find the bird, enjoy looking at it, and add it to our lists. This nine-day wonder seemed like easy pickings, floating and diving on an open, diked, public reservoir. As it was, I had a chance to talk with more than 20 observers on the banks of that reservoir, and learned that many found their mission more complicated than they had anticipated.

Some eager observers looked fairly uncritically at the bird. Hadn't it already been identified? It had to be one of the alcids-- a small, almost neckless black and white diving bird, whose shape and color, lack of extensive white behind or above the eye, and obvious white "racing-stripe" along the scapulars distinguished it, or so the field guides stated, from all others as a Marbled Murrelet in basic plumage. That was that. If a few things looked odd, well, they weren't odd enough to make it look like anything else. Check it off the list.

Others, myself included, had read that all of the score or so Marbled Murrelets recorded east of the Mississippi had proved to be of the Siberian race, acknowledged as distinguishable in the field, and moreover rumored soon to be recognized as a separate species. Photos and drawings of this race helped us to prepare for what to look for in the Seneca County bird, and these distinctions seemed borne out by our observations. The bird, we concluded, was not a Marbled Murrelet at all, but possibly a new species, far rarer in the US. While perhaps we knew more than others about what to look for, we also obediently scanned for what we'd been told to notice. Finding these marks, we were easily satisfied. Others perhaps hadn't done as much homework, but like them we followed the book.

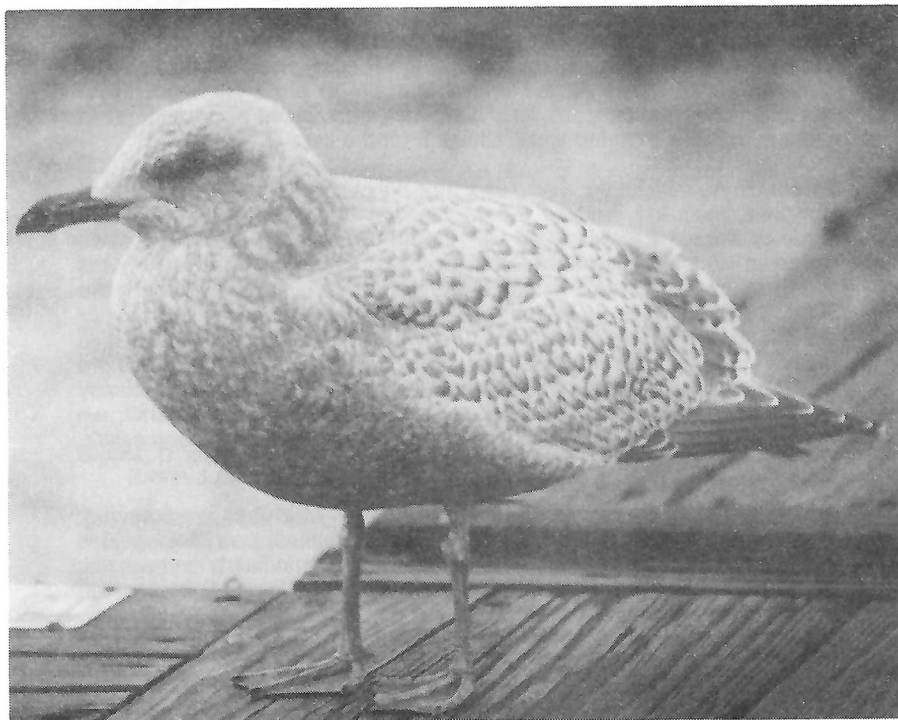
Among better birders, many looked puzzled by what they were seeing. They kept trying to get better looks, and consulted their field guides frowningly. These observers seemed less than immediately enthusiastic with the find, and they lingered to talk it over with others. They seemed to think the bird was anomalous: it had no partial white neck collar, no apparent area of white above and behind the bill, and hardly a hint of that sharp blackish extension of the upperparts' color from the shoulder onto the breast. It didn't look like the photos or paintings of the Marbled Murrelet; it didn't really look like anything in the guides. One wondered about the smooth and uninterrupted demarcation between black and white on the head, throat, and breast-- something like a Pacific Loon's,

and very unlike the illustrations. And how to explain the pale spot on its dark nape when the bird faced away, or the longish, almost murre-like bill?

Now of course everyone knows that the AOU has recognized the Siberian form as a separate species, *Brachyramphus perdix*, the Long-billed Murrelet. Seemingly this confirmed the well-informed expectations of those of us who had anticipated the find by studying the less-widely read ornithological publications. But what if the AOU had split *B. marmoratus* into THREE species? Would our notes-- had we bothered to take any-- have helped us to be sure which one we'd seen? I must confess I can't be certain in my own case. With my head full of book-learning and with the reports of others' observations, I might not have paid enough attention to what was before my eyes.

Even though I could have learned more about that bird by studying it more carefully, I hope I did learn something from better birders-- whether or not they were prejudiced by having read about the Siberian form-- who scrutinized the bird itself, and refused to accept received opinion that it was either a camel, a weasel, or a whale.

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Thayer's Gull. C.J. Brown Res. (Clark Co.), 11/9/96.
Photo by Yvonne M. Mohlman, M.D.

Birding the Home Front-- the Holmes Area by Robert D. Schlabach

[Editor's note: the following article appeared originally in *The Bobolink* 1(2):10-11, published by the Holmes Area Birding Society, and is reprinted here with permission. *The Bobolink* is a fine new publication, impressive in appearance and content, covering the following counties-- Richland, Ashland, Wayne, Stark, Knox, Holmes, Coshocton, Tuscarawas, Carroll, Harrison and Guernsey. One year subscriptions (four issues) are available for \$7.50, payable to *The Bobolink*, c/o Leroy E. Yoder, 4501 TR 606, Fredericksburg, OH 44627.]

A careful study of the birds that occur regularly in Ohio will reveal that only a very low percentage haven't been seen in our region of the state some time in the past, with most showing up annually. According to my research, of 288 species that are considered regular in Ohio, 276, or 96 percent, have been recorded here, including all 137 passerines. Our biggest deficit is, understandably, in the gull family, where we are missing eight species that are more or less regular in Ohio.

Of course many rarities that aren't regular in Ohio have been spotted here as well. There is a twofold reason for this plethora of bird sightings: diversity of habitat and an extensive network of field birders. In this article I will attempt to give an overview of some of our prime areas and habitats, and discuss a few of the birds that thrive here.

The hemlock gorges and extensive pines and mixed hardwoods of Mohican State Park and Forest are a unique feature in our area. Numerous rare breeding birds that generally nest farther north can be found here, such as Winter Wren, Hermit Thrush and Canada Warbler. There are also some species that are isolated from their breeding range farther south, like Pine and Worm-eating Warblers.

The Funk-Blachleyville area of southwest Wayne County was at one time probably the best inland shorebird location in the entire state during spring migration. Fall-plowed and stubble fields flooded in the spring, turning to mudflats which attracted hundreds of shorebirds, including such incredible records as 101 Whimbrels on May 26, 1984, and 60 Red Knots on May 19, 1983. Ruffs have appeared here on at least three different occasions. Vegetation has taken over much of this area in the last six to eight years, greatly reducing the prime habitat. However, when conditions are right, this area can still produce fairly impressive shorebird numbers. Birders who visited this area during its heyday in the 1970's and 1980's can only dream of how it used to be and hope that maybe someday it will revert back to its former attractiveness.

The Killbuck Marsh Wildlife Area is our region's answer to the western Lake Erie marshes, matching up almost species for species, and even harboring a breeding bird, the Sandhill Crane, that regularly nests nowhere else in the state. Ohio's largest population of Prothonotary Warblers currently resides in the extensive marshes bordering Killbuck Creek in portions of Wayne, Holmes and Coshocton Counties (*The Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas*, Peterjohn and Rice, 1991).

One of the predominant habitat-types in our area is the small family farm, with its own blend of mini-habitats such as brushy fencerows, small woodlots, cultivated fields, pastures, ponds and even the farmsteads themselves. A bird that has benefited from this Amish farm setting is the Cliff Swallow. Hanging on to a few farms in the Holmes-Wayne County area in the mid-1960's, and experiencing severe declines elsewhere in the state (Peterjohn and Rice 1991), Cliff Swallow numbers have rebounded, slowly at first, explosively the last few years. Now there are numerous thriving colonies, with small satellite colonies on many neighboring farms. [The top colony during 1997 was located at the Joe Miller farm near Apple Creek (Wayne Co.), which housed an astounding 503 nests. Perry A. Yoder's farm near Fredericksburg was a very close runner-up, with 474 nests-- see [The Bobolink](#) 1(2):5].

Another bird that seems to favor our farmlands is the Barn Owl. While it is hanging on by merely a toehold as a breeding bird in Ohio, most years Barn Owls will nest somewhere in our area, usually in someone's barn or silo, with eastern Holmes and western Tuscarawas Counties producing the most reports. Many older rural people, especially farmers, can remember when these "monkey-faced owls" were much more numerous than they are nowadays. A project for some energetic birder might be to try to detect Barn Owls and to find out where they have nested in the past. The area including Charm, New Bedford, Saltillo, Clark and Beck's Mills seems to be a good place to start. I have a feeling there are more of these endearing birds around than we think.

The brushy fencerow and weedy field is the domain of a wide variety of sparrows. Considered untidy by the landscape manicurist, birders don't seem to mind a bit, especially when such rarities as Clay-colored and Le Conte's Sparrows show up. The former was found by Lee and Steve Schlabach, practically in Lee's backyard, on May 1, 1989. There have been a few records of Le Conte's Sparrows over the years.

No analysis of our area's habitats would be complete without including the small to medium-sized woodlots that dot our landscape. On good days in spring and fall the woods from treetop through mid-canopy and understory to forest floor, can be alive with warblers and other passerine migrants. Add to this the wide variety of breeding birds and winter residents and there is good reason why area birders spend more time in "da bush" than anywhere else. An interesting phenomenon occurs amongst similar-appearing woodlots, where one woods always seems to have better birding during migration than others. Why is this? Woods selectively logged about 10 to 15 years prior are often best for birding, in my opinion. At this point they are starting to open up from the brushy, tangly stage and have about the right blend of canopy and second-growth to attract the greatest variety of species.

With the decline of farming and the migration of people from the country to the city during the 1960's and 1970's, a very productive birding habitat, the abandoned homestead, developed. The area surrounding a set of buildings that are no longer occupied eventually grows up in tall weeds, saplings and brush if left on its own, sometimes becoming an impenetrable thicket. Also there are usually ornamental plantings and berry-producing shrubs around, and often a spring that stays open all year, seeping out of the ground. With an abundant food supply, open

water, and protection from predators and the weather, these places are magnets for birds during winter, especially "half-hardy" species like Eastern Bluebirds, American Robins and Cedar Waxwings, with the occasional early winter Eastern Phoebe or Brown Thrasher. Ohio's only Mountain Bluebird turned up in a setting like this near Ragersville during the winter of 1989-90. Incidentally, this pattern has reversed itself, with people now moving back out into the country, with many fancy homes being built on both prime farmland and prime birding habitat, leaving land-use planners scratching their heads, and birders bemoaning the demise of their favored birding spots.

A humanly-altered habitat with good birding prospects is the open grassland of reclaimed stripmines. Formerly, when coal mining operations were completed, the surface was left as a wasteland of high walls, pits and spoilbanks. Now, stricter environmental laws mandate that the land be restored to a semblance of its former contours, and seeded to a mix of grasses and legumes. Grassland nesters such as Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows and Bobolinks waste no time moving in and establishing colonies if the fields are left unmowed.

I have two candidates for underbirded areas with excellent birding potential that lie at the periphery of our region. One is the southern half of Coshocton County, including Woodbury Wildlife Area with its large acreage of this grassland habitat. A study of this area during the nesting season would be sure to yield some surprises, both in numbers of expected species and in the occurrence of unusual ones. Northern Harriers have nested, and Short-eared Owls have summered there as well.

My other candidate is the string of seven Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD) lakes that stretch across the eastern edge of our region from Seneca Lake on the Guernsey-Noble County line, north to Atwood Lake, which lies across the border of Tuscarawas and Carroll Counties. Considering what has been seen at the smaller but more heavily birded reservoirs like Clearfork and Pleasant Hill (including first-rate rarities like Western Grebe and California Gull), there seems to be no reason why these more eastern lakes wouldn't have a lot to offer in the line of loons, grebes, waterfowl, gulls, terns, and other water-related birds. March through May and October until freeze-up would probably be the best times to visit these waters. Also, the extensive forests surrounding some of these lakes, much of it public land, should have a well-rounded list of woodland birds.

In conclusion, this is by no means an exhaustive perusal of the region's natural features, but enough, hopefully, to whet your appetite to go out and do some exploring.

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1996 Prothonotary Warbler Study by Andy Fondrk

During the summer of 1996, I spent most of my time working on the Geauga Park District's Prothonotary Warbler nest jar program with Geauga Park District naturalist Dan Best, the designer of the program (see The Ohio Cardinal 18(4):117-120).

Upon the advice of Lisa Petit, who has done considerable work with Prothonotary Warblers, we put up four more nesting jars this year (providing a total of 16 jars) in our project area on the upper Cuyahoga River in the vicinity of Eldon Russell Park in Troy Township, Geauga County. This led to eight jars being occupied, one more jar than in 1995.

A total of 44 eggs were laid in eight first brood nests (an average of 5.5 eggs per nest), of which 31 (70%) hatched, all of which were thought to ultimately fledge. Two successful second broods each contained 4 eggs, of which 5 young were believed to fledge. An aborted third second brood contained two more eggs, both of which were lost.

Dan thought that putting up larger jars might improve the hatching rate, so he put a large and small (our normal size) jar on each pole to compare results. Of the eight nests, six were in the small jars and two were in the large jars, plus second broods occupied one small and one large jar. The hatching rate was somewhat better for the large jars (76%) versus the smaller jars (57%), but the sample was too small to draw conclusions. One negative aspect of using the large jars was that one was occupied by Tree Swallows, which never happened when we had used only the small jars. In most cases, the warblers built partial nests in both jars on the same pole, but only used one for the final nest.

One of my personal goals was to pin down the days the eggs hatched and the young fledged. I accomplished this by visiting each nest every other day. For the first nesting period (eight nests), the time taken from the laying of the first egg to the last ranged from four to seven days, averaging 5.5 days. For the two second broods, this period ranged from three to four days, averaging 3.5 days. For the first nesting period, the time taken from the females' first nest-sitting to the first hatching ranged from 13 to 14 days, averaging 13.1 days. For the second broods, this period was 12 days for each brood. The first-brood young fledged in either 12 or 13 days, averaging 12.2 days. For the second broods, the young fledged in 13 days for each brood. So, this gives us a final nesting period (for the first broods) ranging from 29 to 32 days, averaging 30.8 days. For the second broods, the nesting period ranged from 28 to 29 days, averaging 28.5. These numbers are very consistent with data generated by other researchers elsewhere.

For the first broods, the first egg of each nest was laid between May 21 and May 27. The first egg hatched between June 8 and June 12, and the young fledged between June 19 and June 24. For the second broods, the first egg was laid between June 21 and June 24. The first egg hatched between July 5 and July 7, and the young fledged on July 19.

As mentioned above, while we had two pair that raised a second brood, we would have had three, if not for the apparent interference of House Wrens. The warblers had laid two eggs but wrens took them out of the nest. At least this seems very likely, as the eggs disappeared from the nest and a House Wren subsequently built a nest in the jar.

One of my goals for next year is to put thermometers on the jars to see if there is a correlation between temperature and hatching. I observed this summer that the females are frequently absent during the incubation period. Being mostly a southern bird I feel that cold temperatures might affect the hatching rate more than warm temperatures.

There was an interesting thing that occurred with one of the jars, a jar that contained six eggs. I noticed one day that the nest was disrupted. Some of the nesting material had been pulled up in the jar but the eggs were undisturbed. We cut down a nearby branch that could have given a predator access to the jar. Two days later I checked the jar again and found a completely new nest with one egg built on top of the old one. At the end of the nesting period we took out the nests and found that the bottom nest still contained the original six eggs. The top nest ended up with five eggs, of which four hatched and fledged.

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Sanderlings. Kelley's Island (Erie Co.), 9/28/96
Photo by Anna Kozlenko.

CVNRA/Ira Road Nesting Study
by Mary Anne Romito

Over the past few years a group of us (Guy and Mary Kay Newton, Marian and Howard Zehnder, Ian Adams, Nancy Howell, Mary Lou Hura and myself) have birded the Ira Road beaver marsh area of the lower Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area (Summit County). The towpath trail and boardwalk along the old Ohio & Erie Canal provides good access to the area. The habitats covered include swampy woodland, marshy wetland, small islands in the wetlands, second-growth fields and tall trees lining the canal. East of the canal and towpath, a large deciduous woodland borders the winding Cuyahoga River. During the summer of 1996 we decided to keep track of the nests we found in this area. Below is a complete list of the nests we discovered.

June 3:

- N. Flicker-- nest found in a tall dead tree. The nest hole was on the east side of the trunk approximately 8-10 feet from the top of the tree.
- E. Kingbird-- nest in a sycamore 150 feet up, south and west of the boardwalk.
- Tree Swallow-- nest 1.5 feet from the top of a 12 foot tall dead snag. Nest hole was on the north side. Snag was east of the boardwalk about 30 feet from the north end of the boardwalk.
- N. Rough-winged Swallow-- nest in a large root system of a big dead fallen tree in a bend of the Cuyahoga River east of the towpath.
- Warbling Vireo-- nest in a Virginia Creeper-hugged sycamore just west of the towpath. Nest was located on a horizontal branch on the northeast side of the tree. The nest branch hung 50 feet over the canal. No activity was noted at this nest on June 17.
- Yellow Warbler-- nest in a thick shrub of rose and honeysuckle. The bush was on the west side of the towpath along the path edge.
- Red-winged Blackbird-- nest being woven in new growth of Purple Loosetrife. Nest on a watery green island, north and west of the major observation deck on the boardwalk.
- Orchard Oriole-- nest in a sycamore on an island parallel to the towpath on the far side of the canal.
- Baltimore Oriole-- nest found in a small sycamore on the lowest northward facing branch hanging over the canal. The tree is west of the towpath at the edge of the canal. This nest was not found on July 1, and the branch may have fallen.
- Baltimore Oriole-- nest in a small sycamore located at the end of the island just south of the Orchard Oriole nest tree. Nest on the east side of the tree.
- Baltimore Oriole-- nest in a sycamore 10 yards south of the major beaver dam in the canal.
- Baltimore Oriole-- nest at the top of a thin dead snag covered with Virginia Creeper among a large group of dead trees west and south of the observation deck.
- Baltimore Oriole-- nest in the same sycamore as the kingbird. Nest hangs 30 feet above the canal.
- Baltimore Oriole-- nest in a sycamore north and west of the boardwalk, hanging 50 feet above the canal.

June 10:

- Downy Woodpecker-- adult feeding young in a walnut tree covered with Virginia Creeper, over 400 feet from the northern end of the boardwalk.
- Hairy Woodpecker-- nest hole in a dead snag leaning against a tree with Virginia Creeper. Nest tree is between the towpath and the river.

- Great Crested Flycatcher-- possible nest on the back side of a dead snag in the canal just north of a Shingle Oak.
- Cedar Waxwing-- nest in a Shingle Oak, west of the canal at the southern end of the boardwalk.
- Warbling Vireo-- nest in a big sycamore at the southern end of the boardwalk, in the same tree as the kingbird mentioned above. Nest about 20 feet down from the top.
- Baltimore Oriole-- nest in a big Silver Maple next to a house. Nest was on the west side of the tree approximately 100 feet from the entrance posts near the road.
- Baltimore Oriole-- nest in a small sycamore at the south end of the southern pond. Tree is between the towpath and the canal. Nest is on the west side of the tree, 10-15 feet from the top.

June 16:

- Flycatcher (Willow?)-- a flycatcher was noted landing on dead bushes on the southern end of the northern island; it then moved north on the island to a nest.
- Warbling Vireo-- nest in same tree as the second Baltimore Oriole nest as listed for June 3. Tree is 20 feet tall and about four inches around.

June 17:

- Tree Swallow-- nest hole in a dead snag between the towpath and the canal. The snag was just south of the northern end of the southernmost island.
- Gray Catbird-- nest in an elderberry bush at the northeastern end of the boardwalk.
- Yellow Warbler-- nest in a rose bush on the west side of the canal about 150 feet south of the boardwalk.
- N. Cardinal-- nest in the center of a grapevine at the bottom of a small ash tree near where the Indigo Lake feeder trail meets the towpath trail.
- Baltimore Oriole-- nest in a sycamore 50 feet north of the boardwalk. Nest on the southeast side of the tree.
- Baltimore Oriole-- nest in the same tree as the "unknown" described below. Nest at the top of the tree.
- Unknown-- possible Am. Robin nest in a sycamore 50 feet south of the boardwalk. Strings of grass hang from the nest.

July 1:

- Mourning Dove-- nest in a spruce north of Pancake Lock. Nest on the third branch from the bottom.
- House Sparrow-- nest cavity in a dead snag on the second island from the north. Nest in the third hole down from the top. On July 8, this sparrow was noted taking nesting material from the Tree Swallow nest found on June 17.

July 8:

- Tree Swallow-- nest in the "deadest" willow at the northwest corner of the boardwalk. Hole is the third down from the top.
- Am. Robin-- nest in an ash tree at the end of the iris pond trail. Nest is at the end of the lowest branch on the east side of the tree.
- Am. Goldfinch-- nest in a small maple at the river bend. Nest is on the east side of the tree.
- House Sparrow-- nest in a dead snag slightly north of the House Sparrow nest described on July 1.

July 22:

N. Cardinal-- nest 50 feet south of the boardwalk in a rose bush between the towpath and the canal.

July 29:

E. Bluebird-- nest cavity in a dead snag north of Pancake Lock. The nest snag leans to the south and has vines at the bottom.

August 12:

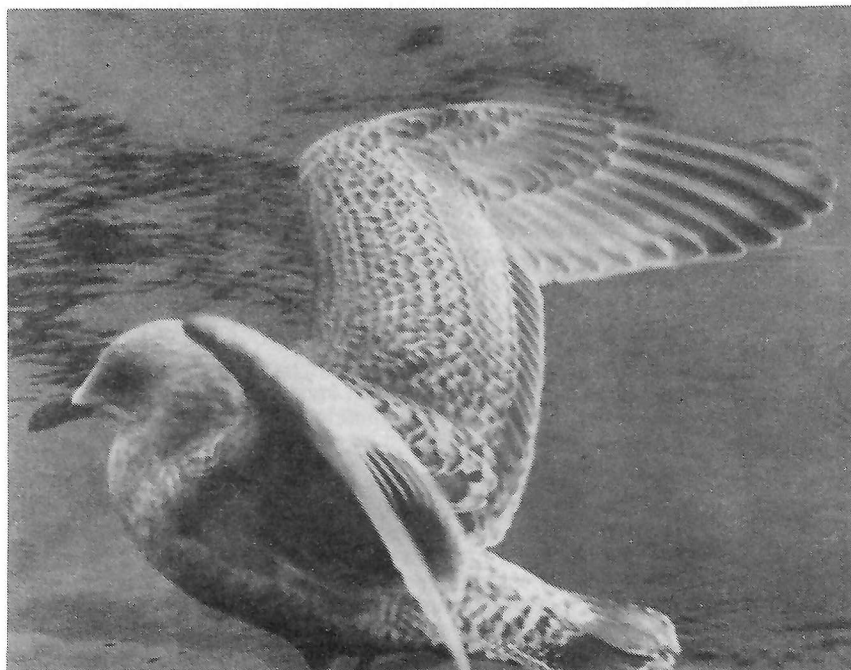
House Wren-- nest in a cavity of a dead snag just southeast of the bluebird nest found on July 29.

N. Cardinal-- nest in a bush just north of a Shingle Oak on an island in the middle of the beaver marsh. Bush has Virginia Creeper on it. Nest in a "Y" of the bush.

August 26:

N. Flicker-- nest cavity in a dead sycamore north of Pancake Lock. Hole is about 20 feet from the top.

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Thayer's Gull. C.J. Brown Res. (Clark Co.), 11/22/96.
Photo by David Brinkman.

Autumn 1996 Overview by Robert Harlan

"Alcid" is one word that I never figured on typing when I became Editor of this journal some six years ago, yet this issue features the word prominently. Unquestionably, the Long-billed Murrelet in Seneca County Nov. 12-18 was one of the premier Ohio rarities of recent years. This season also included many other highlights, such as a Pacific Loon at Caesar Creek Lk. Nov. 24-26 and two Rufous Hummingbirds, at Loudonville and Luckey. Except for good numbers at Headlands Beach State Park, a rather lackluster passerine movement was perhaps offset by an impressive influx of jaegers along Lake Erie. While "winter finches" were nowhere to be found, Metzger Marsh Wildlife Area provided shorebird enthusiasts with a fine array of August rarities. It was nice to receive a report of 120 Black Terns from Metzger this season-- the highest reported count for the entire state since 1991 was 35 birds!

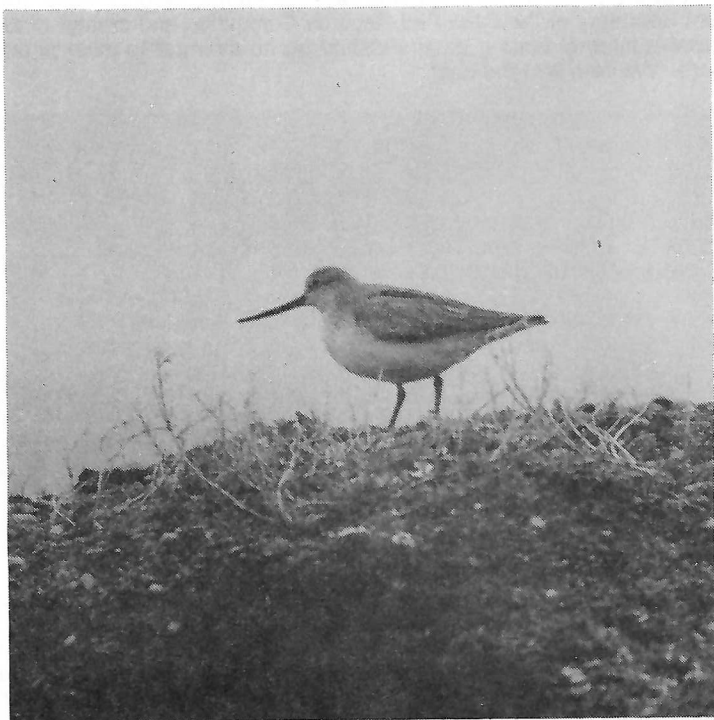
Perhaps you will forgive me as I muse a bit about my past six years as Editor. This issue will be my last as primary Editor, although I will stay on in a lesser role, at least for a time. Victor Fazio of Tiffin will begin to move into the Editor's role beginning with the Winter 1996-97 issue; the current Secretary of the Ohio Bird Records Committee and creator of an impressive internet birding empire should be no stranger to most of our readers. We wish him the best.

So what do six years and 23 issues reveal? During this time span, Ohio birders discovered six species for the first time ever within our boundaries: Snowy Plover (1993), Smooth-billed Ani (1993), N. Lapwing (1994), Royal Tern (1995), Spotted Towhee (1996), and Long-billed Murrelet (1997). Some other great birds include Gyrfalcon, White Ibis, Green-tailed Towhee, Bewick's Wren, Western Tanager, Lark Bunting and Fulvous Whistling-Duck, to name but a few.

Speaking of Ohio birders, I would like to thank everyone who subscribed, contributed bird reports and authored articles during my tenure. Ohio is not a particularly large or particularly small state, comparatively; but 88 counties is still a substantial area to cover well. Almost 275 Ohio birders contributed bird reports, ranging from one rarity to thousands of daily occurrence records, over the past 750 pages. Future Ohio birders will owe you all a debt of gratitude for this degree of statewide coverage. But perhaps our biggest debt of gratitude should go to Ed Pierce; without him, there would be no Ohio Cardinal, plain and simple. Thanks, Ed.

Back in the Spring 1991 issue, I wrote of "The Big Picture"...."Future bird students can make valid comparisons only if provided with both accurate and complete data. Without this type of information, a piece of the scientific puzzle is lost-- and since this puzzle is infinitely large, we need all the pieces we can get. Obviously, the puzzle will never be complete, but with more pieces available to us, the clearer the picture becomes." Hopefully, we have all helped to make that picture at least a little bit clearer.

"The Reports" section is intended to be read in phylogenetic order. Although the following accounts use the most current specific names as dictated by the American Ornithologists' Union, the order of species appearance does not yet reflect the most current changes. County names are sometimes abbreviated by using their first four letters-- "Trum" representing Trumbull County, for example. Other place name abbreviations found in this issue are: BuCr (Buck Creek State Park, a.k.a. C.J. Brown Reservoir, Clark Co.); CVNRA (Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area, Cuyahoga/Summit Cos.); EBSP (Euclid Beach State Park, Cuyahoga Co.); FRes (Findlay Reservoirs, Hancock Co.); GiPo (Gilmore Ponds Metropark, Butler Co.); GPI (Gordon Park Impoundment, Cuyahoga Co.); HBSP (Headlands Beach SP, Lake Co.); KPWA (Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area, Wyandot Co.); Lksh (Lakeshore MP, Lake Co.); Magee (Magee Marsh WA, Ottawa/Lucas Cos.); Metzger (Metzger Marsh WA, Lucas Co.); MqLk (Mosquito Lake and surrounding areas, Trumbull Co.); MWW (Miami-Whitewater Wetlands, Hamilton Co.); ONWR (Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, Ottawa/Lucas Cos.); & ONWRC (Ottawa NWR Count, Ottawa/Lucas Cos., as compiled by Ed Pierce).



We've never published a photograph from outside Ohio's boundaries-- until now, that is. We just couldn't pass up this shot of a Terek Sandpiper, taken by Stan Wulkowicz, at Gambell, Alaska, in 1996. Of course, Ohio has no records of this species, but at least we can hope!

THE REPORTS-- AUTUMN 1996
By Bob Conlon and Robert Harlan

Loons through Ibis

Red-throated Loon-- Two birds were reported in the period: one was at Caesar Creek SP (Warr) 10/29 (JD, ST, J. Vanderpoel, LG); the other, at Buck Creek SP [a.k.a. C.J. Brown Res., hereafter BuCr] (Clar) 11/11-13 (BC, D. Horn, RHR, SWa).

Pacific Loon-- Also at Caesar Creek SP was the only Pacific Loon of the season, discovered by N. Cade and others on 11/24 and seen by many through 11/26 (NC*, NKe*, HA*, LG*, BC*, DBrm*, m. obs.). Ohio has only a handful of records of this species.

Common Loon-- The highest count came from an inland location, namely 213 birds at Mosquito Lk. [hereafter MqLk] (Trum) 11/19 (DJH). Numbers along L. Erie were disappointing, with a max. of 47 at Lakeshore MP [hereafter Lksh] (Lake) 11/1 (JP). Although several birds remained from the summer into August, the first migrant was found at Headlands Beach State Park [hereafter HBSP] (Lake) 9/15 (KM).

Pied-billed Grebe-- The largest number was 67 birds from the Akron lakes (Summ) 11/10 (CH).

Horned Grebe-- The high count along the lakefront was a modest 35 birds at Geneva (Asht) 11/23 (JP). The most reported inland was 55 at MqLk 11/9 (DJH).

Red-necked Grebe-- Single birds were found at MqLk 11/12 (SC, CK, DJH) and at New London Res. (Huro) 11/20 (VF).

Eared Grebe-- Solitary birds were located at BuCr 11/3 (DO, JD, ST) and at Nimisila Res. (Summ) 11/10 (CH).

N. Gannet-- An imm. was reported from Lksh 11/13 (JP*).

Am. White Pelican-- 3 birds flew over Metzger Marsh WA [hereafter Metzger] (Luca) 8/18 (RHR, SWa). Presumably, these 3 were half of the 6 at Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge

[hereafter ONWR] (Otta/Luca) on 8/20 (BC). These 6 remained through at least 9/28 (DO). A bird was reported from downtown Cincinnati (Hami) 9/19 (J. Caminiti); this may likely be the same individual found at the nearby Oxbow (in Dearborn Co., IN) on 9/21 (FR).

Double-crested Cormorant--An estimated 10,000 were on the north side of Kelley's Island (Erie) 9/28 (PL, BF et al.). KA reported about 5000 at Huron (Erie) 10/14, and 2500 there 11/11. Inland, RHe counted 690 flying south over Berlin (Holm) in less than 30 minutes 11/11. 499 were reported from the Findlay Reservoirs [hereafter FRes] (Hanc) 10/29 (A. Scarbrough, S. Ross fide BH).

Am. Bittern-- Singles were at Oak Hill in the Summit Co. portion of the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area [hereafter CVNRA] (Cuya/Summ) 8/11-9/14 (NKO, SZ) and on the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge Count [hereafter ONWRC] (Otta/Luca) 9/1.

Least Bittern-- A very late injured bird was taken to the Lake Erie Nature and Science Center (Cuya) 11/12, but perished 11/17 (G. Fowler, fide DAC). JD & ST noted 6-8 birds at the Spring Valley WA (Gree/Warr) nesting site 8/4.

Great Blue Heron-- Max. 165 ONWRC 9/1.

Great Egret-- CH counted 125 at Metzger and 60 more at adjacent ONWR 8/18. The inland high was 24 at Gilmore Ponds MP [hereafter GiPo] (Butl) 8/24 & 9/14 (G. & D. Sadler, M. Busam). 3 late birds were at Sheldon Marsh SNP (Erie) 11/17 (RHR, SWa); 2 were at Magee Marsh WA [hereafter Magee] (Otta/Luca) the same day (HSH); as was another at Huron (CH).

Snowy Egret-- All reports were from Metzger and ONWR through 9/28, with the high being 12 birds on the ONWRC 8/4.

Little Blue Heron-- An adult was at ONWR 8/10-9/1 (LEY, ONWRC, m. obs.). An imm. was noteworthy at Duck Pond Marsh in the Lorain Co. Metroparks 10/3-5 (NKR).

Tricolored Heron-- One was documented at ONWR 8/10 (CH*, LEY).

Cattle Egret-- 52 birds foraged in a single field near Castalia (Erie) 8/21 (RHr, SWa). A late pair was at Berlin 11/3, where 1 remained 11/8 (RHe). 4 were late on the ONWRC 11/3.

Green Heron-- The high count was 10 at Killbuck WA (Wayn/Holm) 8/7 (TMR). A single bird was still at Magee 10/20 (HSH).

Black-crowned Night-Heron-- The Hiris' monthly survey at Magee turned up 33 birds 9/15. The inland max. was 26 birds at Winton Woods MP (Hami) 8/26 (JS). By 11/21, the winter roost at the foot of Merwin St. in the Cleveland Flats (Cuya) held 31 birds (PL).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron-- 3 imm. were still present at Greenlawn Dam in Columbus (Fran) 9/8 (AG).

Ibis species-- Reports of undifferentiated ibis were received from Killdeer Plains WA [hereafter KPWA] (Wyain) 11/7-10 (WS, DO) and from Ashtabula (Asht) 9/14 (JP). An undocumented "Glossy" Ibis at Big Island WA (Mari) 10/17 has also been included here until more details are secured (KA).

Waterfowl

Tundra Swan-- The number of Tundra Swans appeared to be down dramatically this season. The most reported were 68 from several Geauga Co. sites 10/31 (B. Faber, D. Ferris fide DBe) and 56 at Lksh 11/9 (JP).

Mute Swan-- Max. 18 Hancock Co. 11/12 (BH).

Trumpeter Swan-- The Hiris' recorded 23 (including 7 imm.) at Magee 11/17. No mention was made of the number wearing neck collars. 2 adults and 1 juv. at Beaver Creek Res. (Sene) 11/13 had no noticeable bands (VF).

Greater White-fronted Goose-- 2 birds were present at KPWA from at least 10/28-11/19 (KA, DO, JH, m. obs.).

Snow Goose-- The

Dunakin's estimated 150 flying over their Paulding Co. property 11/2. Other significant counts were 80 in Erie Co. 10/14 (KA); 65 at Headlands Beach SP 11/3 (RHn, EB); and 45 at Lksh the same day (JP).

Brant-- A strong flight resulted in 69 being counted at Lksh 11/11 (JP) and 7 at Huron the same day (KA). 1 bird remained along the Cleveland lakefront at E. 72nd St. 11/15-17 (TLP, m. obs.).

Canada Goose-- Max. 2700 ONWRC 11/3.

Wood Duck-- The Hiris' monthly survey turned up 1074 at Magee 10/20.

Green-winged Teal-- 3365 were noted on the ONWRC 11/3. Inland, 150 were seen at KPWA 10/28 (KA).

Am. Black Duck-- 480 were on the ONWRC 11/3. 200 were inland at KPWA 11/12 (VF).

Mallard-- Highest inland report was from KPWA, where 1200 were found 11/22 (VF). 5200 were on the ONWRC 11/3.

N. Pintail-- The November ONWRC hosted 145 on 11/3. 58 at Lksh 11/13 was a good tally there (JP). The inland max. was 16 at KPWA 11/22 (VF).

Blue-winged Teal-- The highest inland report came from KPWA, where 120 were found 9/12 (KA). 150 were on the 9/1 ONWRC.

N. Shoveler-- The highest counts include 60 at KPWA 10/28 (KA); 46 at Magee 11/17 (HSH); and 40 at HBSP 11/2 (RHn).

Gadwall-- Maxima: 800 on the ONWRC 11/3 & 150 at KPWA 10/28 (KA).

Am. Wigeon-- High along the lakeshore was 1568 at Magee 10/20 (HSH). Inland high was 200 at KPWA 10/28 (KA).

Canvasback-- There were 129 at Lksh 11/27 (JP). The inland high was 10 birds at Wellington Res. (Lora) 11/9 (FG).

Redhead-- Maxima include 260 at Sheldon Marsh SNP 11/12 (KA); 120 at Magee 10/20 (HSH); & 88 at KPWA 10/28 (KA).

Ring-necked Duck-- Highs: 655 LaFarge Lk. (Port) 11/18 (V. Weingart) & 400 Best Lk. (Geau) 11/5-6 (H. Hendrickson, M. Meyer fide DBe).

Greater Scaup-- The high count was 62 at Lksh 11/27 (JP). Inland, 4 were at Paulding Res. (Paul) 10/28 (DMD).

Lesser Scaup-- 472 were counted at Lksh 11/11 (JP). Inland highs were 86 at FRes 10/29 (BH) and 56 at L. Rockwell (Port) 11/1 (LR).

Harlequin Duck-- Flybys were reported at Lksh on 11/13 (3 birds), 11/14 (1), and 11/27 (1) (all JP).

Oldsquaw-- It was a good season for this species, with at least 39 being reported 11/5+. Lakefront highs include 8 at Huron 11/30 (ES) and 5 at Lksh 11/27 (JP). Inland maxima were 7 at East Fork SP (Cler) 11/27 (FR) and 6 at Caesar Creek SP 11/27 (JD et al.).

Black Scoter-- Lakefront high was 41 at Lksh 11/11 (JP). Smaller numbers were also found in Erie & Cuyahoga Cos. The only inland bird was reported at Paulding Res. 11/22 (DMD).

Surf Scoter-- Seen along the lakeshore from Erie Co. to Lake Co., with a high count of 118 at Lksh 11/12 (JP). All inland reports: 1 FRes 10/15 (BH); 8 Oberlin Res. (Lora) 10/20-27 (TLP, CH); 1 Eastwood Lk. (Mont) 11/1 (JD, ST); 1 E. Branch Res. (Geau) 11/3 (D. Ferris fide DBe); 1 Paulding Res. 11/16 (DMD); & 2 Metzger Res. (Alle) 11/23 (DD).

White-winged Scoter-- 9 lakefront birds were reported from 5 sites 11/13-29. 2 were inland at BuCr 11/13 (RHr, SWa).

Scoter species-- 110 scoters, which were too far out to identify, were at Huron 11/19 (ES).

Common Goldeneye-- 55 were at MqLk 11/12 (CB).

Bufflehead-- Inland highs were 258 at Mosquito Lk. 11/9 (DJH) and 80 at Caesar Creek SP 11/26 (VF). 61 were at Lksh 11/11 (JP).

Hooded Merganser-- Highs were 440 at L. Rockwell 11/25 (V. Weingart) and 400 at MqLk 11/6 (DJH).

Common Merganser-- The inland high was 6 at Paulding Res. 11/9 (DMD); the lakeshore high was 53 at Lksh 11/29 (JP).

Red-breasted Merganser-- VF estimated 48,000 flying past Huron in 2 hours 11/20. Inland maximum was a paltry 50 at LaDue Res. (Geau) 11/24 (CH).

Ruddy Duck-- There were several impressive inland reports: 1000 at Metzger/Ferguson Res. 11/2 (DD); 900 at Oberlin Res. 10/27 (CH); & 608 at Mogadore Res. (Port) 11/3 (LR). Along L. Erie, JP counted 305 at Lksh 11/12. 1 remained from the summer at Miami-Whitewater Wetlands [hereafter MWW] (Hami) 9/3 (J. Bens).

Vultures through Cranes

Black Vulture-- Only report was of 2 birds in Adams Co. 11/20 (RHr, SWa).

Turkey Vulture-- 190 were noted throughout Hancock Co. 9/24 (BH et al.). 125 were at the Solon dump (Cuya) 8/30 (RHr, SWa). ES had 120 in Holmes Co. 10/1.

Osprey-- At least 42 individuals were reported from 22 counties through 11/2.

Bald Eagle-- The max. of 26 birds was at Metzger 8/18 (CH). Inland, 9 were at MqLk 10/5 (CB).

N. Harrier-- 7 were at KPWA 11/10 (DO), while 5 were in the vicinity of Spencer Lk. WA (Medi) 11/9 (FG).

Sharp-shinned Hawk-- 3 migrants were seen in Tuscarawas Co. 10/11 (ES).

Rough-legged Hawk-- An early bird was at KPWA 9/30 (KA). Additional reports were received from 7 other counties.

Golden Eagle-- 1 was in the Oak Openings (Luca) 10/20 (TK). Another Lucas Co. bird was at Holland 10/31 (RJ).

Am. Kestrel-- 20 were found across Hancock Co. 9/24 (BH et al.). 11 were in Seneca Co. 11/16 (DO).

Merlin-- 13 birds were reported statewide 8/31 + , including 1 returning to the Merlin roost in Bath Twp. (Summ) 11/26 (LR).

Peregrine Falcon-- At least 22 birds were found statewide, from about 8 counties.

Wild Turkey-- The largest number reported was 42 from MqLk 11/10 (SC, CK).

Virginia Rail-- Reported from only 3 sites, all on or before 9/1.

Sora-- Max. was 15 at Big Island WA 9/3 (KA). Found at 6 other sites, including a late bird at ONWR 11/15 (JP).

Common Moorhen-- The high of 10 was at Killbuck Marsh WA 8/7 (TMR). 4 more birds were found at 3 sites 8/11-9/15.

Am. Coot-- Some high counts: 2913 at Magee 10/20 (HSH); 770 at the Akron lakes 11/10 (CH); & 500 at BuCr 10/14 (DO).

Sandhill Crane-- The largest number seen was 70 at Mercer WA (Merc) 11/23 (DO). Also: 35 Caesar Creek SP 11/26 (VF); 22 Auglaize Co. 11/10 (DD et al.); 12 KPWA 11/5 (VF); 10 Cowan Lk. (Clin) 11/22 (LG); 4 Funk Bottoms WA (Wayn) 9/29 (LC); & 1 LaDue Res. 10/31 (RRI).

Shorebirds

Black-bellied Plover-- Highs include 25 at Metzger 8/31 (JD, ST); 16 at Burke Lakefront Airport (Cuya) 10/20 (CH); & 10 at FRes 10/15 (BH). Singles lingered at Conneaut (Asht) 11/24 (CH) & at FRes until 11/26 (BH).

Am. Golden-Plover-- Maxima were 20 birds at Metzger 9/1 (RHR, SWa) and 15 along Hancock Co. Road 54 10/8 (W. Seiler, fide BH). A laggard was

at Beaver Creek Res. 11/12 (VF).

Semipalmated Plover-- Max. 125 ONWRC 9/1.

Killdeer-- Highs were 220 KPWA 9/3 (KA) & 175 Berlin Res. (Maho/Port/Star) 9/22 (CH).

Am. Avocet-- At Lorain (Lora), 2 birds were found 8/7-8 (TLP). Possibly the same birds were there 8/15 (RRI). 2 more were there 9/28 (TLP). 3 were discovered at Metzger 8/13 (KA), and 1 remained through 8/24 (RHR, SWa). A single was more noteworthy at Middletown (Butl) 9/1 (T. Little, JD, ST). 4 very late birds flew by Lksh 10/31 (JP).

Greater Yellowlegs-- Maxima include 32 on the ONWRC 10/6 & 15 at Big Island WA 10/20 (RHR, SWa).

Lesser Yellowlegs-- Highs were 80 at Metzger 8/18 (CH) and 68 at KPWA 9/3 (KA).

Solitary Sandpiper-- Max. 7 KPWA 8/21 (KA). A bird in Perry Twp. (Lake) 10/17 was late (JP).

Willet-- Between 8/5 and 9/8, at least 20 birds were seen along the lakeshore from Metzger to HBSP, with the highs being 11 at Lorain 8/21 and 8 at Metzger 8/18 (both RHR, SWa). Only inland bird was at FRes 9/10 (S. Ross fide BH).

Spotted Sandpiper-- A late bird at Oberlin Res. 10/27 (CH) was surpassed by a very late bird on S. Bass Is. (Otta) 11/23 (SWu).

Upland Sandpiper-- Highest number was 5 near ONWR 8/3 (CH).

Whimbrel-- An imm. bird was at Metzger 8/25-31 (CH, JD, ST, DO). Another single was at Lorain 9/5 (RHR, SWa, TMR).

Hudsonian Godwit-- Single birds were at Metzger 8/21-24 (LG, RHR, SWa, JP) and at ONWR 9/7 (BC et al.). 2 were discovered at Lorain 10/15-16 (TLP).

Marbled Godwit-- The only Marbled Godwit consorted with the aforementioned Whimbrel at Lorain 9/5 (RHR, SWa, TMR).

Ruddy Turnstone-- Max. 8 at HBSP through most of September (RHn). Inland, 2 were at Ferguson Res. 10/12 (DD) and 2 more were at FRes 10/15 (BH). The latest report was from S. Bass Is. 11/15 (SWu).

Red Knot-- The max. was 3 imm. at ONWR 8/31-9/1 (JD, ST, LR, ONWRC). An adult was at Metzger 8/13 (JD, LR, ET), while other singles were at Lorain 8/25-31 (BF, PL, TLP) and HBSP 9/10 (KM). Inland, 1 was found at GiPo 9/6-8 (DD, LG m. obs.).

Sanderling-- High was 62 at HBSP 9/7 (RHn). 5 were quite late on S. Bass Is. 11/27 (SWu). Inland, 17 birds were found at 8 sites through 11/8.

Semipalmated Sandpiper-- Max. 160 Metzger 8/3 (CH). 7 were late at FRes 10/15 (BH).

Western Sandpiper-- Along the lakefront, 1-3 birds were reported from Lorain, Conneaut and Metzger 8/13-9/28. One was odd at Burke Lakefront Airport 10/20 (CH). Inland, 1 was in Paulding Co. 8/29 (DMD); 1 was at GiPo 9/8 (NKe, JS et al.); 2 were at KPWA 9/23 (KA); 3 were at MqLk 9/27 (NBr); & 1 was at BuCr 10/31-11/17 (JD, ST, DO).

Least Sandpiper-- Maxima were 140 on the 8/4 ONWRC and 42 at KPWA 9/3 (KA). 3 lingered at BuCr 11/2, and 1 was still there 11/15 (JD, ST).

White-rumped Sandpiper-- Single birds were at 5 inland sites 9/8-10/20. The only reports from along the lakeshore were from Lorain, with singles 8/26 (TLP), 9/29-10/2 (CH, RHR, SWa), and 10/18 (TLP).

Baird's Sandpiper-- Highest count was 10-11 juveniles at Metzger 8/27-9/3 (KM, JD, ST, LR, LEY). Inland, the high was 9 birds at KPWA 8/3 (VF). Single birds were also found in Butl, Clar, Hami, Paul, Port & Warr.

Pectoral Sandpiper-- About 75 birds were reported at Winton Woods MP 8/6 (DBm). 68 were at KPWA 9/3 (KA), where 65 remained 10/25 (WS). 22 juveniles dawdled at BuCr 11/2 (JD, ST).

Purple Sandpiper-- Single birds were reported from Eastlake (Lake), HBSP, Huron, and Lorain 11/3-29. 1 at S. Bass Is. 11/18 (SWu) was more unusual.

Dunlin-- November 2 and 3 were evidently the days to see this species, including the max. of 1617 on the ONWRC 11/3. 600 flew past HBSP 11/2 (RHn), while 317 did likewise at Lksh 11/3 (JP). A flock of 72 flew over Holmes Co. 11/2 (ES).

Silt Sandpiper-- The high was 60 birds on the ONWRC 9/1. 18 were inland at GiPo 9/8 (NKe, JS et al.). 2 were late on the ONWRC of 11/3.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper-- A good migration for this species: 2 at Metzger 8/17 grew to 8 birds 8/18-27 (RHR, SWa, KM); 2 Winton Woods MP 8/24 (JS); 1 juv. BuCr 8/24 (DO); 1 at Ferguson/Allen Res. 8/25 grew to 12 on 9/8 (DD); 3 juv. at Middletown 9/1-2 (JD, ST et al.); 1 Lorain 9/1-4 (TLP); 4 FRes 9/3 (BH); & 5 Burke Airport 9/10-11 (BF, PL).

Short-billed Dowitcher-- Max. 235 ONWRC 9/1.

Long-billed Dowitcher-- All lakefront reports were from the ONWR/Magee area, with a max. of 156 adults being seen at ONWR 8/13 (JD, LR). 24 remained for the 11/3 ONWRC. Inland, singles were at 4 sites 9/8-10/20.

Common Snipe-- Maxima include 25 at BuCr 11/2 (JD, ST) & 19 along Parsons Rd. near Oberlin Res. 10/27 (RHR, SWa).

Wilson's Phalarope-- All reports: 2 Metzger 8/6-13 (BC, KA); 2 ONWR 8/20-9/1 (KA, JD, ST, LR, ONWRC); 1 KPWA 9/3 (KA); 1 GiPo 9/6-8 (DD, LG, m. obs.); & 1 in an Avon Lake (Lora) flooded field 9/7 (JP).

Red-necked Phalarope-- Starting 8/10 this species could be seen on most days at Metzger, building to a peak of 21 birds on 9/3 (LEY, m. obs.). 1 was at HBSP 8/31 (KM, RHn, EB). 2-3 were at Lorain 8/30-9/18 (TLP, m. obs.). 9 were very good at MqLk 9/7 (SC, CK, m. obs.). Another inland bird was at Berlin Res. 9/15 (CH).

Red Phalarope-- 1 paused briefly at HBSP 11/2 (RHn, EB).

Jaegers through Terns

Pomarine Jaeger-- This was the best autumn for jaegers in recent memory. However, given that a typical Ohio observation consists of little more than a fleeting glimpse, specific identification is often treacherous. Since all jaegers are currently subject to review by the Ohio Bird Records Committee, and given the reluctance by most observers to document these species, it becomes difficult to publish specific details here. Nonetheless, 3 dark juv. at Huron 11/29 have been accepted by the OBRC (JD*, ST, LEY), while other documented birds are presently being recirculated through the OBRC. At least 11 more birds were reported (but not documented) as Pomarine Jaegers 9/8-11/29, ranging from Lake, Cuyahoga, Lorain and Erie Cos. I would tend to believe that the majority of these sightings are valid [R. Harlan].

Parasitic Jaeger-- Again, the caveats listed for Pomarine Jaeger apply here. At least 12 birds were reported 9/8-11/28, none of which have thus far been accepted by the OBRC. Reports range from Lksh to Huron. Again, at least some of these reports are likely correct; perhaps, however, a lower percentage than Pomarine Jaeger [R. Harlan].

Laughing Gull-- All reports: 1 juv. MqLk 9/7-26 (SC, CK, DJH); 1 juv. HBSP 9/8 & 21 (RHn, LR, KM, m. obs.); & 1 imm. Lksh 9/9 (JP).

Franklin's Gull-- Caesar Creek SP hosted 16 birds (8 basic-plumaged adults and 8 1st-winter birds) 10/25 (LG ph., JD, ST). 2 were at Clear Fork Res. (Rich) 10/25-27 (JH, RHr, SWa), and single birds were seen at at least 5 other locations 9/4-11/14.

Little Gull-- The first bird of the season was at HBSP 8/17-25 (KM, m. obs.). An adult was at the same site 11/30 (NBa). A juv. was at Lorain 8/25 (BF, PL) and an adult was there 9/7 (JP) and 11/29 (JD, ST, LEY). 1 was at Eastlake 11/23 (A. & J. Fjeldstad). JP reported birds on 7 dates at Lksh 11/1-24.

Bonaparte's Gull-- Impressive numbers were present this year. An estimated 40,000 were at Huron 11/28 (RHr, SWa), while LR estimated 20,000 at Eastlake 11/10-23 and 10,000 at HBSP during the same period. Additionally, JP estimated that 9800 passed by Lksh 11/1. The largest inland report (an incredible one, at that) was of 1340 birds at MqLk 11/9 (DJH).

Ring-billed Gull-- 10,000 were estimated at Huron 11/28 (RHr, SWa). 9950 passed Lksh 11/12 (JP).

Herring Gull-- 2000 were at Avon Lake 11/20 (VF). 1480 moved past Lksh 11/11 (JP). A melanistic bird was very unusual at Lorain 11/30 (ES).

Thayer's Gull-- Ohio's first truly inland bird (a 1st-winter individual) was found at the marina at BuCr from 11/9 to at least 11/22. According to local fishermen, it was present for a week or so prior to its discovery by birders. This very tame bird allowed close-up photos and was frequently fed by birders and anglers! (DO ph., DBr ph., YM ph., m. obs.). A single was at Lksh 11/12 and 2 were there 11/28 (JP).

Lesser Black-backed Gull-- 2 inland occurrences were quite unusual. A near-adult was at Clear Fork Res. (Rich) 10/20 (JH, R. Troutman). Another inland bird was at Oberlin Res. 11/3 (FG). 4 adults were reported at Lorain 11/30, and another adult was at Avon Lake the same day (ES). Eastlake attracted 4 birds 11/18 (KM). A bird at Bayshore (Luca) 10/10 (RJ, ET) was a good find. Birds were also at HBSP (a juv. 9/9-16 found by KM & LR) & at Lksh.

Glaucous Gull-- A 1st-winter bird was unexpected at Oberlin Res. 11/16 (RHr, SWa). 2 birds were at Lksh 11/11 (JP) and 1 was at HBSP 11/22 (RHn).

Great Black-backed Gull-- 350+ were estimated at Eastlake 11/25 (KM). 197 passed Lksh 11/11 (JP). The 190 at Conneaut 8/31 was a large number for the date (VF). The only inland report was of 2 birds at Willard Res. (Huro) 11/20 (VF).

Black-legged Kittiwake-- Single 1st-year birds were at Lksh on 4 dates between 10/31-11/16 (JP, JD, ST, LR); & at Huron 11/11-12 (KA) and 11/29-30 (LEY, ES, JD, ST).

Sabine's Gull-- A 1st-year bird was documented at Lorain 9/5-7 (RRI*, TLP*, JP*).

Caspian Tern-- The highest report was only 50 birds at Metzger 8/18 (CH). The inland max. was 29 at MqLk 9/8 (DJH).

Common Tern-- Max. was 2000 at ONWR 8/13 (JD, LR). LR estimated 700 at HBSP 9/8. Inland high was 19 at MqLk 9/8 (DJH). Latest bird was at Lksh 12/5 (JP).

Forster's Tern-- Peak counts were 450 at ONWR 8/10 (CH) and 300 at Metzger 8/10 & 27 (CH, BAT). Latest birds were at Oak Harbor (Otta) 11/10 (WS) and at HBSP the same date (LR, RHn).

Black Tern-- The peak, by far, was 120 birds tallied at Metzger 8/13 (JD, LR). Up to 10 were at HBSP 9/8-15 (RHn), and a very late bird was there 11/2 (RHn, EB). Inland singles were at 3 sites 8/20-9/8.

Alcids through Shrikes

Long-billed Murrelet-- The most unexpected bird of the period was discovered by D. Webb at Beaver Creek Res. (Sene) 11/12. It remained through 11/18, and was seen by many observers. This represents Ohio's first record of this asiatic stray (D. Webb, VF* ph., JD*, m. obs.). [See the articles elsewhere in this issue for complete details].

Black-billed Cuckoo-- A late bird was at ONWR 10/14 (KA).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo-- Max. 9 ONWRC 8/4.

Snowy Owl-- A good showing after 2 "off" years. Single birds were seen at Lorain 11/12+ (KA, MJK, m. obs.); at Fairport Harbor 11/16+, with 2 in the area 11/23 (LR, RHe, m. obs.); at ONWR 11/16 (JP); at Pipe Creek WA (Erie) 11/17 (RHr, SWa); at Conneaut 11/23+ (CH); and at Huron 11/29+ (JD, ST, LEY).

Short-eared Owl-- Lone birds were at Magee 10/20 (HSH) and 11/16 (JP) & at Oberlin 11/16 (FG). 2 were near the Paulding/Defiance Co. line 11/26 (DMD).

N. Saw-whet Owl-- Singles were at HBSP 11/9-10 (NBa, RHn); at Lksh 11/12 (JP); & at Donald Gray Gardens (Cuya) 11/16 (DAC).

Common Nighthawk-- The only counts of more than 50 birds were from Cincinnati, with 200 birds seen 9/6 (C. Avril) & 100 seen 9/1 (JS, J. Bens). A late bird was seen along the Cleveland Shoreway 10/13 (BF, PL).

Whip-poor-will-- TK reports 3-4 birds still calling in the Oak Openings (Luca) 8/31.

Chimney Swift-- The max. was 750 at Pine Lk. (Maho) 9/13 (DJH). 700 were at L. Rockwell 9/28 (LR). The last bird was seen in Perry Twp. (Lake) 10/17 (JP).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird-- Late singles were in BH's Findlay (Hanc) yard 10/17 and in Paulding Co. 10/13 (DMD).

Rufous Hummingbird-- An adult male turned up at the Luckey (Wood) feeders of R. Froelich and G. Schult on or about 9/18, remaining at least until 10/26 (JD*, VF*, m. obs.). Another adult male was at the same Loudonville (Ashl/Holm) feeders frequented by a bird during Autumn 1995, this time being found 10/26 through the end of the period, ultimately representing Ohio's first Christmas Count Rufous Hummingbird! (JH, m. obs.).

Belted Kingfisher-- 12 were at Magee 8/18 (HSH).

Red-headed Woodpecker-- 23 were counted in Hancock Co. on both 8/6 and 8/27 (BH et al.), and 14 (mostly imm.) were at KPWA 10/10 (WS).

Red-bellied Woodpecker-- 2 were unusual on S. Bass Is. 11/20 (SWu).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker-- Max. 6 HBSP 9/29 (LR).

N. Flicker-- A heavy concentration of 21 was at L. Medina 9/29 (C. Witt).

45 were recorded on the 10/6 ONWRC.

Olive-sided Flycatcher-- All reports: an early bird at Ashtabula 8/7 (JP); 1 Shaker Lakes (Cuya) 8/29 (RFI); 1 at the Black Swamp Nature Center (Paul) 8/31 (DMD); 1 at Lksh 8/31 (JP); 1 at Nathan Hale Pk. (Cuya) 9/25 (RHR); & a late bird at Antwerp (Paul) 10/3 (DMD).

E. Wood-Pewee-- 8 were observed at HBSP 9/29 (LR). A late bird was at Huron 10/12 (JD, ST).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher-- Widely scattered, including 11 banded at Lksh 8/7-9/24 (JP). 3 were at Chagrin River MP (Lake) 9/16 (TLP).

Acadian Flycatcher-- A late bird was at Lksh 10/2 (JP).

Alder Flycatcher-- For the second consecutive year, DO provided an August report (8/4) at BuCr; last year he found one 8/5. A late bird was identified at HBSP 9/29 (LR).

Least Flycatcher-- Someone must have found more than the highest count we received (2 birds!). Certainly fewer birds than normal were present.

E. Kingbird-- Peak count was 48 on the Magee survey 8/18 (HSH). A late bird was at Springville Marsh SNP (Sene) 10/13 (VF).

Horned Lark-- 384 were counted throughout Hancock Co. 11/12 (BH et al.).

Purple Martin-- 2000 gathered at Lorain 8/21 (RHR, SWa).

Tree Swallow-- Peak was 2954 at Magee 9/15 (HSH).

N. Rough-winged Swallow-- 2 very late birds were at Sheldon Marsh SNP 11/16 (JB, P. Raver).

Bank Swallow-- 10,000 congregated at Metzger 8/21 (RHR, SWa). A very late bird was reported at LaDue Res. 11/4 (KM).

Cliff Swallow-- About 100 birds were estimated at Pine Lk. 9/13, an outstanding total (DJH). 12 were at

KPWA 9/3 (KA), and 9 were at FRes 9/10 (S. Ross, fide BH).

Barn Swallow-- 200 each were in Holmes Co. 8/11 (ES) and at Pine Lk. 9/13 (DJH). A late bird at LaDue Res. 11/4-5 (KM, RRI) was eclipsed by a bird at Rittman (Wayn) into early December (I. Beck, LR).

Blue Jay-- 200 migrants passed HBSP 9/29 (LR).

Am. Crow-- A solid white individual was reported to DBe from Munson Twp. (Geau) in November.

Red-breasted Nuthatch-- Quite scarce, with only 1 banded at Lksh this season (JP). 5 were noted across Hancock Co. 11/19 (BH et al.).

House Wren-- 3 late birds were at Euclid Beach SP [hereafter EBSP] (Cuya) 10/25 (TLP), while another was at Lorain 11/9 (RHR).

Winter Wren-- Highs were 8 at EBSP 10/11 (TLP) and 7 at HBSP 11/10 (LR).

Sedge Wren-- VF tallied 14 territories at KPWA 8/3. 4 remained there 8/25 (KA). Singles were at HBSP 10/12-13 (LR) and at Metzger 10/14 (KA).

Marsh Wren-- 10 were at Killbuck WA 8/7 (TMR). A late bird was at ONWR 11/16 (JP).

Golden-crowned Kinglet-- High reports were 45+ at Howland (Trum) 10/20 (CB) & 43 at Magee 10/20 (HSH). An adult was still at the Chapin Forest MP (Lake) nesting site 8/15 (JP).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet-- Over 100 birds arrived at HBSP 10/11, where 20 were seen in a single tree (KM).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher-- A laggard was at Magee 10/20 (HSH).

E. Bluebird-- 35 were counted in G. Hiett's Hancock Co. yard 10/2 (fide BH).

Veery-- About 30 nocturnal migrants were heard in the Oak Openings 8/24 (TK). 13 were banded at Lksh 9/10 (JP). A late bird remained in BH's Findlay yard 10/19.

Gray-cheeked Thrush-- Daytime max was 10+ at HBSP 9/15 (KM). 2 late birds were in Columbus 10/23 (RRO).

Swainson's Thrush-- Lower numbers than normal were detected, with the max. being 24 banded at Lksh 10/2 (JP). Southbound singles were banded at Lksh 7/30 and 8/4 (JP). On the other end of the spectrum, a late bird was reported from the FRes woods 10/29 (BH).

Hermit Thrush-- Maxima were 13 at Magee 10/20 (HSH) and 12 at EBSP 10/14 (TLP).

Wood Thrush-- 20 were found in the CVNRA 9/21 (DAC). A singing bird was at Riverbend MP (Hanc) 10/15 (BH), while an even later bird lingered in Howland 10/29 (CB).

Gray Catbird-- Latest report came from HBSP 11/10 (LR).

Am. Pipit-- The first migrant was reported at HBSP 9/9 (KM). One perched in a tree there 11/10 (LR et al.). Highs were 120 in Tuscarawas Co. 10/11 (LEY); 65 at FRes 10/15 (BH); & 50 at MqLk 11/10 (SC, CK).

Cedar Waxwing-- RRO reported a flock of 250-300 in Columbus during the first half of October. 150 were at MqLk 10/14 (DJH).

N. Shrike-- Singles were seen at different sites in the CVNRA 11/8 (GM ph.) and 11/30 (DAC); & at ONWR 11/16 (JP).

Loggerhead Shrike-- One was present in Adams Co. for about a week in mid-November (B. Lund, D. Burton et al., fide RHR).

Shrike species-- An unidentified shrike was in Hancock Co. on the unusual date of 10/19 (A. Scarbrough, fide BH).

Vireos through Warblers

White-eyed Vireo-- The latest bird was banded at Lksh 10/16 (JP).

Bell's Vireo-- 1 remained at the BuCr summering site 8/4 (DO).

Blue-headed Vireo-- A laggard was at Lksh 11/11-12, strangely enough,

coming to JP's suet, thistle and sunflower feeders.

Yellow-throated Vireo-- 3 were at Camp Berry (Hanc) 9/19 (m. obs., fide BH).

Warbling Vireo-- 12 were counted at HBSP 9/14 (LR).

Philadelphia Vireo-- 10 at HBSP 9/21 provided a good count (EB, RHn, LR). 5 at L. Isaac (Cuya) 9/14 was also of note (NKO, SZ). A somewhat late bird was at HBSP 10/10 (LR).

Red-eyed Vireo-- High was 15 at EBSP 9/15 (PL, BF).

Blue-winged Warbler-- A somewhat late bird was banded at Lksh 10/2 (JP).

"Brewster's" Warbler-- 2 of these hybrids were reported this season: 1 at Oak Hill Day Use Area in the s. CVNRA 8/25 (NKO, SZ); and 1 in Columbus 9/7-9 (RRO).

Golden-winged Warbler-- All reports: 1 in Columbus 9/8 (RRO); a male at L. Isaac 9/14 (NKO, SZ); & 1 in Highland Co. 9/15 (DO).

Tennessee Warbler-- Numbers were not as bad as last year, but still not up to snuff. Maxima were 18 at KPWA 9/23 (KA) and 12 at HBSP 9/14-15 (LR, RHn).

Orange-crowned Warbler-- At least 16 individuals were reported from 7 counties, mostly in October. A dawdler consorted with a flock of kinglets at Lksh 11/10 (JP).

Nashville Warbler-- Peak counts were 30 at HBSP 9/21 (RHn) and 8 at EBSP the same day (PL, BF). A laggard was spotted at ONWR 11/10 (J. Burt, WS et al.).

N. Parula-- At least 20 birds were reported from 8 counties through 10/6, including 4 at HBSP 9/14 (LR).

Yellow Warbler-- The high was 26 on the ONWRC 8/4.

Chestnut-sided Warbler-- Maxima were recorded at HBSP 9/14 and 9/21, with 10 and 18 birds found, respectively (LR). A tardy migrant

45 were recorded on the 10/6 ONWRC.

Olive-sided Flycatcher-- All reports: an early bird at Ashtabula 8/7 (JP); 1 Shaker Lakes (Cuya) 8/29 (RFI); 1 at the Black Swamp Nature Center (Paul) 8/31 (DMD); 1 at Lksh 8/31 (JP); 1 at Nathan Hale Pk. (Cuya) 9/25 (RHR); & a late bird at Antwerp (Paul) 10/3 (DMD).

E. Wood-Pewee-- 8 were observed at HBSP 9/29 (LR). A late bird was at Huron 10/12 (JD, ST).

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Philadelphia Vireo-- 10 at HBSP 9/21 provided a good count (EB, RHn, LR). 5 at L. Isaac (Cuya) 9/14 was also of note (NKO, SZ). A somewhat late bird was at HBSP 10/10 (LR).

Red-eyed Vireo-- High was 15 at EBSP 9/15 (PL, BF).

Blue-winged Warbler-- A somewhat late bird was banded at Lksh 10/2 (JP).

"Brewster's" Warbler-- 2 of these hybrids were reported this season: 1 at Oak Hill Day Use Area in the s. CVNRA 8/25 (NKO, SZ); and 1 in Columbus 9/7-9 (RRO).

Golden-winged Warbler-- All reports: 1 in Columbus 9/8 (RRO); a male at L. Isaac 9/14 (NKO, SZ); & 1 in Highland Co. 9/15 (DO).

Tennessee Warbler-- Numbers were not as bad as last year, but still not up to snuff. Maxima were 18 at KPWA 9/23 (KA) and 12 at HBSP 9/14-15 (LR, RHn).

Orange-crowned Warbler-- At least 16 individuals were reported from 7 counties, mostly in October. A dawdler consorted with a flock of kinglets at Lksh 11/10 (JP).

Nashville Warbler-- Peak counts were 30 at HBSP 9/21 (RHn) and 8 at EBSP the same day (PL, BF). A laggard was spotted at ONWR 11/10 (J. Burt, WS et al.).

N. Parula-- At least 20 birds were reported from 8 counties through 10/6, including 4 at HBSP 9/14 (LR).

Yellow Warbler-- The high was 26 on the ONWRC 8/4.

Chestnut-sided Warbler-- Maxima were recorded at HBSP 9/14 and 9/21, with 10 and 18 birds found, respectively (LR). A tardy migrant

was banded at Lksh 10/16 (JP).

Magnolia Warbler-- Migration produced the following high counts: 22, 28 and 33 at HBSP on 9/14, 21, and 29 (LR) & 22 and 25 at Columbus on 9/6 and 8 (RRo).

Cape May Warbler-- The high count was 26 at HBSP 9/14 (LR et al.). Laggards lingered in Paulding Co. 10/30 (DMD) and at Toledo's Bayshore Power Plant 11/10 (ET).

Black-throated Blue Warbler-- The max. was 7 at Rocky River MP (Cuya) 9/18 (RHR, SWa).

Yellow-rumped Warbler-- The only count of more than 100 birds was of 120 at HBSP 10/10 (LR).

Black-throated Green Warbler-- A late migrant was in Holmes Co. 10/27 (LEY). An even later bird was at GiPo 11/9 (M. Busam). The highs were 12 at HBSP 9/14 (LR) and 10 at Nathan Hale Pk. 9/24 (RHR).

Blackburnian Warbler-- 1 arrived at Lksh on 8/11 (JP). Max. was 10 at HBSP 9/14 (LR).

Yellow-throated Warbler-- Single birds remained in the CVNRA 9/1 (DAC) and at Mitchell Forest (Hami) 9/29 (NKe, JS).

Pine Warbler-- About 10 singles were found 8/25-10/15.

Prairie Warbler-- Single birds were found in Holmes Co. 9/14 (an imm.) and in Tuscarawas Co. 9/19 (an adult male, both ES). Other singles were at HBSP 9/14 (EB) and at L. Medina 9/22 (C. Witt).

Palm Warbler-- An early bird was at Rocky River MP 8/31 (TMR). A bird showing the characteristics of the yellow eastern race was identified in Holmes Co. 10/27 (LEY). The high was 25 at HBSP 9/29 (LR). Other counts were much lower. Another disappointing season for this species.

Bay-breasted Warbler-- The high was 20 at HBSP 9/21 (RHn).

Blackpoll Warbler-- Maxima were 32 at HBSP 9/29 (LR) & 30 in Tuscarawas Co. 9/28 (ES).

Cerulean Warbler-- The annual Indian Pt. MP (Lake) hanger-on was still present 9/4 (JP), but later singles were at Chapin Forest MP 9/18 (A. & J. Fjeldstad) and at HBSP 9/29 (LR).

Black-and-white Warbler-- Highs were 9 at Riverbend MP (Hanc) 9/10 (S. Ross, fide BH) and 8 at HBSP 9/21 (LR).

Am. Redstart-- An impressive 83 were tallied on the Hiris' Magee survey 9/15. Another good count was 42 birds at HBSP 9/29 (LR). A laggard was discovered at Sheldon Marsh SNP 10/26 (JD, LR, J. Vanderpoel).

Prothonotary Warbler-- 5 birds were noted at 4 sites 8/17-9/7.

Worm-eating Warbler-- 1 at HBSP 9/14 added to the handful of Cleveland area fall records (LR, EB).

N. Waterthrush-- The earliest arrival was banded at Lksh 8/7 (JP). A recently fledged bird was at Hell's Hollow MP (Lake) 8/2 (JP).

Louisiana Waterthrush-- RRo found a migrant in Columbus 8/24-27.

Connecticut Warbler-- All reports: singles banded at Lksh 9/10, 9/15, and 10/2 (JP); singles in Holmes Co. 9/15 and 9/25 (LEY); 1 at HBSP 9/21 (EB); & 1 at Columbus 10/3 (RRo).

Mourning Warbler-- Reported throughout the state from 8/19 to 10/7. 15 were banded at Lksh 8/31-10/5 (JP).

Common Yellowthroat-- Highs were 54 on the 8/4 ONWRC and 15 at HBSP 9/21 (LR). Only November report was of 1 at ONWR 11/15 (JP).

Hooded Warbler-- An impressive 11 migrants were banded at Lksh 9/20-10/6 (JP). 3 other migrants were noted elsewhere 9/3-10/2.

Wilson's Warbler-- High was 12 at HBSP 9/14 (LR).

Canada Warbler-- A fall migrant was banded at Lksh 7/27 (JP). A bird was on the late side at Columbus 10/2 (RRo), as was one on the ONWRC 10/6.

Yellow-breasted Chat-- Singles banded at Lksh 7/22 and 9/2 were likely headed south (JP).

Tanagers through Finches

Scarlet Tanager-- Max. 8 KPWA 8/31 (KA). A female was in the Oak Openings on the late date of 10/20 (ET).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak-- High count was 9 from the Ira Rd. section of the CVNRA 8/26 (TMR).

Blue Grosbeak-- A singing male was an unexpected find at the Toledo Express Airport (Luca) 8/24-31 (TK, ET).

Indigo Bunting-- A very late bird was banded and photographed in Parma Hts. (Cuya) 11/29 (Nko, SZ).

Dickcissel-- A number of late appearances: 1 at the Gordon Park Impoundment [hereafter GPI] (Cuya) 10/5 (ES); another banded in Morrow Co. 10/26 (WS, J. Burt); & a 2 at MWW on the notably late date of 11/28 (NC).

Am. Tree Sparrow-- Max. 100 MqLk 11/25 (DJH).

Chipping Sparrow-- Numbers were down from last year's excellent showing, but 50+ in Tuscarawas Co. 10/11 was still a good count (ES). One at RJ's Holland feeder 12/9 was undoubtedly a fall migrant.

Field Sparrow-- Max. 22 ONWRC 8/4.

Clay-colored Sparrow-- At least 3 were spotted: 1 at HBSP 9/18 (RRi*); 1 in Mayfield Hts. (Cuya) 9/29 (NBa*); & 1 at GPI 10/5 (ES*, JK, J. Miller, T. Hochstetler).

Savannah Sparrow-- ES reported 40 in Holmes Co. 9/19. 10 at Metzger 8/31 were interesting, as this is not a nesting site (DO). 1 was singing at Beaver Creek Res. 11/18 (VF), while 1 at MWW 11/28 was likely attempting to winter (NC).

Grasshopper Sparrow-- Only reports of likely migrants were singles in Holmes Co. 9/21 (ES) and at GPI 10/6 (RHR, SWa et al.).

Le Conte's Sparrow-- One was documented from GPI 10/5 (JK*, ES*).

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow-- Very good numbers were located, especially at Lorain and GPI. An early bird was at Lorain 9/7 (JP), while 2 were there 10/1 (BC, B. Whan), 1 was present 10/6 (RHR, SWa, CH et al.), and a very sickly bird still remained 11/17 (SWa, RHR et al.). 3 were kicked up at GPI 10/5 (JK, ES), while singles were at Huron 10/3 (KA), at HBSP 10/4 & 12 (BAT, EB), & at Metzger 10/14 (KA).

Fox Sparrow-- The most from a single site was 9 found at Magee on 10/20 (HSH).

Song Sparrow-- The only count of 100 or more was 150 at GPI 10/5 (ES).

Lincoln's Sparrow-- 25 were found at GPI 10/5 (ES).

Swamp Sparrow-- High counts include 96 at Magee 10/20 (HSH) and 40 at GPI 10/5 (ES).

White-throated Sparrow-- Maxima include 300 at GPI 10/5 (ES); 300 at Columbus 10/15 (RRo); 200+ at HBSP 10/11 (KM); and 200+ at Donald Gray Gardens 10/14 (PL, FG). A bird present at the Lksh feeders during the summer was still present 8/1-11 (JP).

White-crowned Sparrow-- Highs reported were 300 at GPI 10/5 (ES) and 200 at HBSP 10/10 (LR). An imm., apparently of the "Gambel's" race, was at ST's Beaver Creek (Gree) feeder 11/8.

Dark-eyed Junco-- An early arrival was at Lksh 9/10 (JP), although this species was still present at nesting sites in August. An enormous 600 were found at HBSP 11/10 (LR).

Lapland Longspur-- Highest count was 8 at Huron 10/3 (KA).

Snow Bunting-- Maxima include 200+ at Ashtabula 11/9 (JP) and "hundreds" at Fairport Harbor 11/23 (NBa). Up to 150 could be found around the famous cement plant in Paulding Co. 11/24-30 (DMD).

Bobolink-- 80 were at ONWR 8/25 (KA). 35 were in Holmes Co. 8/11, and a very late bird remained there 11/3 (ES).

Red-winged Blackbird-- The 10/6 ONWRC estimated 50,000 birds.

E. Meadowlark-- Max. was a concentration of 48 in Holmes Co. 8/17 (ES).

W. Meadowlark-- The Darsch Rd. (Otta) bird was still present 11/16 (JP).

Yellow-headed Blackbird-- TLP discovered a female at Lorain 8/21.

Rusty Blackbird-- A flock of about 1000 birds was at KPWA 11/5 (VF).

Brown-headed Cowbird-- A flock of about 1000 birds was in Ottawa Co. 9/1 (RHr, SWa).

Brewer's Blackbird-- 2 reports were received from MWW: 5 on 11/5 (P. Wharton) and 11 on 11/28 (NC).

Orchard Oriole-- Max. 4 at Magee/ONWR 8/31 (LR).

Baltimore Oriole-- Max. 24 ONWRC 8/4.

Purple Finch-- Various sites reported from 4 to 6 birds 10/29-11/10.

House Finch-- JP reports a hefty decrease in numbers banded at Lksh, and provides the following totals: 1993-- 763; 1994-- 958; 1995-- 684 (when conjunctivitis was first noted); 1996-- 356.

Red Crossbill-- One was located at Springville Marsh SNP 8/25 (VF). A yellowish bird was at a Mt. Blanchard (Hanc) feeder 11/25-12/5 (L. & Y. Walker, fide BH).

Common Redpoll-- JP saw 1 coming to his thistle feeders at Lksh 11/10-11. Our only report.

Pine Siskin-- Not an invasion year, but JP had small numbers at his Lksh feeders 8/1-17. Max. was 8 on S. Bass Is. 11/18 (SWu).

Am. Goldfinch-- 200 were estimated at KPWA 9/23 (KA) and again 10/20

(RHr, SWa).

Evening Grosbeak-- A dramatic turnaround from last year. Only report was of a single bird at the Findlay Clay Pits (Hanc) 11/5 (D. Kohl, M. Dailey, fide BH).

EXOTICS AND ESCAPES

Tufted Duck-- An imm. male was carefully and critically observed on Shipman Pond at Mentor Marsh SNP (Lake) 10/28 (KM et al.). Although the date of the sighting and the fact that the bird was an immature were both suggestive of possible wild origins, a silver band on one leg and short primaries on one wing suggested otherwise.

ADDENDA

Harlequin Duck-- 2 imm. males were shot by K. Kraus and his hunting party at W. Branch Res. (Port) 11/8/95 (fide LR). Ohio sports only a handful of inland records, although these two will not be making a return performance.

Pomarine Jaeger-- An adult was documented at Conneaut on the unseasonal date of 8/18/95 (J. Emery*, J. Rider).

CONTRIBUTORS AND OBSERVERS

All individuals contributing bird reports to "The Ohio Cardinal" for the Autumn 1996 season (August 1 to November 30, 1996) are listed below in CAPITAL LETTERS. In addition, many other Observers submitted sightings to other birding-related publications. Those Observers who received at least four citations in the Autumn 1996 "The Reports" section are also listed in the following list of Contributors: J. KIRK ALEXANDER (KA); HENRY L. ARMSTRONG (HA); CAROLE BABYAK (CB); Emil Bacik (EB); NICK BARBER (NBa); LYNN BARNHART (LB); DAN BEST (DBe) for the Geauga Co. Park District; NANCY BRUNDAGE (NBr); JEFF BUECKING (JB); DAVID BRIMLER (DBrm); DAVID BRINKMAN (DBrm); NEILL CADE (NC); DWIGHT & ANN CHASAR (DAC); BOB CONLON (BC); SCOTT CRAWFORD (SC); LeROY CURTIS (LC); ROBERT CUTTER

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Another 1996 record from Gambell, Alaska-- a breeding-plumaged Red-necked Stint, photo by Stan Wulkowicz. Remarkably, there is one Ohio record for this species, also a breeding-plumaged bird, in Ashtabula Co. 7/21-22/62. It can happen!

The Grapevine

Pomarine Jaegers at Huron

On Nov. 29, 1996, Sue Tackett and I were very pleased to see three juvenile Pomarine Jaegers from the end of the breakwall at Huron, Erie Co. They were present much of the time we were there. Most of the time they sat on the water, perhaps a 1/4 mile offshore, but when they were flying and often chasing Ring-billed Gulls (ignoring the Bonaparte's Gulls), they often approached quite closely. I was able to get some distant photos of one bird. These were our first jaegers in Ohio and we were particularly fortunate to see these birds so well. These were all juveniles and looked quite dark. One was slightly paler, particularly on the belly where there was much barring, and it was a little buffier overall, rather than blackish-brown. This individual had been called a possible Parasitic Jaeger by some of the observers present.

These birds were about the size of a Ring-billed Gull in direct comparison. They were longer and slimmer-winged, and of course were very dark. From above in flight there was a small white primary flash visible, but from below there was a bold double white flash, and we noted this feature repeatedly. This was caused by the white bases to the primary coverts and the primaries. The other feature we looked at carefully was the shape of the central rectrices. They were very short and rounded, almost flat ended, and often it was even hard to detect the shape of these short feathers. On the water, and particularly when close in flight, I was able to see that the bills were rather thick and were bluish at the bases (basal 3/4) and blackish at the tip. On no part of the plumage was I able to detect any rufous tinting to the tips of the feathers, a characteristic feature of juvenile Parasitic Jaegers.

I have long been suspicious of early fall reports of juvenile Pomarine Jaegers and feel that most, if not all, of these reports are in error. November is clearly the month that they appear. One wonders also how late Parasitic Jaegers move through the interior of North America. Perhaps many of the late November Parasitic reports, are in fact Pomarines. I did photograph a sub-adult Parasitic Jaeger once at the north end of the Salton Sea in mid-December. Clearly, there is still much to learn about the movement of jaegers, especially of juveniles through the interior of North America. By Jon L. Dunn, 153 Grange Hall Rd., Beavercreek, OH 45430.

Bird Banding at Lakeshore MP, Autumn 1996

For a total of 169 hours (1920 net hours) on 32 days between July 13 and October 27, 1996, I banded birds at Lakeshore MP (Lake Co.). My final tally was 2922 individuals banded, representing 94 species. Peak movements per month were July 22 (116 individuals banded), August 3 (103 ind.), September 25 (123 ind.), and October 12 (161 ind.). My top ten species banded were: House Finch-- 356; White-throated Sparrow-- 332; Gray Catbird-- 145; Swainson's Thrush-- 118; Am. Goldfinch-- 113; Black-capped Chickadee-- 111; Yellow Warbler-- 106; Baltimore Oriole-- 100; Mourning Dove-- 87; & Hermit Thrush-- 80. Data by John Pogacnik, 4765 Lockwood Rd., Perry, OH 44081.

Autumn 1996 Passerine Banding at Navarre Marsh

Once again, the Black Swamp Bird Observatory operated bird banding sites at the Navarre Unit of Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge (Ottawa Co.), behind the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station. The main Navarre site was manned daily from August 1 to November 1, 1996. A total of 3267 individuals were banded at the main Navarre site, with the top ten species being: Swainson's Thrush-- 394; White-throated Sparrow-- 217; Hermit Thrush-- 208; Yellow-rumped "Myrtle" Warbler-- 169; Ruby-crowned Kinglet-- 163; Golden-crowned Kinglet-- 157; Gray Catbird-- 134; Magnolia Warbler-- 128; Gray-cheeked Thrush-- 110; & Common Yellowthroat-- 107. This data was reported in the Black Swamp Bird Observatory Annual Report 1996, pp. 12-15. BSBO, P.O. Box 228, Oak Harbor, OH 43449.

More notes on the Long-billed Murrelet

On November 14, 1996 I observed the Long-billed Murrelet at Beaver Creek Res. in northern Seneca County. This bird was obviously the star of the fall and was widely enjoyed by many, many observers. Thankfully it stayed a week and was easy to locate most of the time. This individual was clearly of the Asian Long-billed Murrelet.

The bird was a small black (or dark) and white alcid. Above, it was slaty-colored with fine grayish edges on the back and especially on the rump. The lores were blackish (darkest part of the upperparts). There was a conspicuous white eye ring that appeared complete. There was a small and diffuse whitish or pale-grayish patch in the rear of the auriculars that was well within the dark of the head. The division of dark and white on the sides of the neck was very even, much more so than on the North American Marbled Murrelet. There was the slightest indentation of white at the bottom of the lores and the dark dipped down slightly under the eye. The white scapulars formed a conspicuous white patch. There was a thin strip of dark brown down the rump and there was white coming well up the sides of the rump, sort of in a pattern like an Olive-sided Flycatcher. These white patches came fairly close to connecting. The tail was short and blackish. The underparts, including the front of the neck were pure white, except for some fairly conspicuous darker scaling on the sides. The blackish bill appeared long. The culmen appeared to curve slightly over the lower mandible. The wings, including the wing linings, were black. On Nov. 15, Sue Tackett and I noted a slight forehead bump. The head was slightly raised as it swam, bill pointing slightly up. When it dove, the wings were spread.

The most striking difference between the Long-billed Murrelet and the Marbled Murrelet is the hooded look of the Long-billed, with no white coming up around the back of the head, which is characteristic of Marbled. This is the first time I have seen this species, but there are some 20 records or so for North America, nearly all away from the west coast. It is a first record for Ohio. By Jon L. Dunn, 153 Grange Hall Rd., Beavercreek, OH 45430.



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