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The Ohio



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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 Spring (Mar.-May) - June 25 Summer (June-July) - August 25 Autumn (Aug.-Nov.) - December 25	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
ODNR Division of Natural Areas and Preserves
1889 Fountain Square Court
Columbus, OH 43224
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On the Cover: Louisiana Waterthrush - Idlewood Park, Summit County, 29 December 2001. Photo by Judy Semroc.

Winter 2001-02 Overview

Bill Whan

223 East Tulane Road, Columbus, OH 43202
danielel@iwaynet.net

What we used to call the grip of winter has recently become a warm clasp more like a handshake. This time the variables most affecting birds—snow-cover and air temperatures (at least insofar as they produce ice or diminish food supplies)—seemed less wintry than ever. The nation's average November-January temperature has increased at a rate of 1.2°F per decade since 1976. In mid-state at Columbus, 8.4 inches of snow fell, compared to the historical average of 27.6 inches. The first three weeks of December here averaged an impressive 11.7°F above normal, and after the following two cold weeks averaged 5.1°F below, the next fifty days of winter averaged 8.0°F above normal.

Birds that winter south of the US can seldom take advantage of such mild conditions, but some who pass the season in the southern states, and more of those who do so even closer, showed marked increases both in numbers and in the length of time they spent farther north. Winter's nine reported rarities subject to review by the OBRC were northern gannet, Ross's goose, parasitic jaeger, two black-headed gulls, glaucous-winged gull (a first state record if accepted), California gull, *Selasphorus* hummingbird, vermilion flycatcher, and brown-headed nuthatch. Of these, perhaps the stays of the hummer and the flycatcher were prolonged by mild weather, but these are hardy birds in any event. The cumulative effect of recent clement winters led this time to record tallies of northern mockingbirds and Carolina wrens in northern counties. Higher temperatures this season must have been involved in a dearth of cold-weather ducks and a surplus of tenderer ones, no fewer than seven warbler and 12 shorebird species (for most of the latter, vital habitat was available only at the Crane Creek estuary) statewide, plus unusual numbers of sandhill cranes, snow geese, tundra swans, and pomarine jaegers. Add to these two Baltimore orioles, a Swainson's thrush, and an amazing summer tanager, and you get the picture of a mild winter that favored adaptable species, especially among those normally wintering not too far away. Perhaps most newsworthy of all was the addition of two southern species to the official Ohio list—brown-headed nuthatch and Eurasian collared-dove—bringing it to 410 species.

Turkey vultures clearly benefited from the weather, seen throughout the period in some unusual places and in excellent numbers. Among waterfowl, open water to our north kept concentrations of hardy diving ducks on Lake Erie down, but open water inland induced higher than normal numbers of puddle ducks and other divers to pass the winter here. Indeed, this winter one got the strong impression that these birds are perennially in a hurry; attaining nuptial plumage in fall, courting in the snow, they go not an inch further south than they have to, and restlessly await a chance to head north at the earliest possible moment. At sleepy Burke Lakefront Airport in Cleveland it seemed there were often more snowy owls than planes in flight, but another arctic species with similar food habits, the rough-legged hawk, seemed down somewhat in numbers around the state. Despite a shortage of the ice

that often concentrates them, white-winged gulls made a surprisingly good showing along the entire Lakefront, where lots of Bonaparte's gulls uncharacteristically spent the entire winter.

Autumn's promise of a winter finch irruption went unfulfilled. Evening grosbeaks, having touched down in good numbers during eight days in early November, utterly vanished thereafter. Common redpolls made a few brief appearances, nearly all in the northern tier of counties, but were faithless as to location, and went unreported in February. No red crossbills were reported, and only a handful of white-winged showed up, mostly singles at feeders. Pine grosbeaks? Merely a rumor. Only pine siskins spanned the entire period, with shrinking numbers of birds fairly devoted to scattered locations statewide.

We are pleased to present once again our comprehensive summary of Ohio's 60 Christmas Bird Counts, as ably compiled by Ned Keller. Because all its data are here for readers to study, we make relatively few references to the CBCs in the Reports, mentioning only the most interesting findings relevant to other sightings in the state.

The 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; acceptable documentation is needed to add reports of such species to official state records. When supplied, county names appear in *italics*. Unless numbers are specified, sightings refer to single birds. Abbreviations, conventions, and symbols used should be readily understood, with the possible exception of the following: BCSP=Buck Ck SP in *Clark*; BIWA=Big Island WA in *Marion*; CBC=Christmas Bird Count; CCE=Crane Creek estuary in *Ottawa NWR*; CPNWR=Cedar Pt NWR in *Lucas*; CVNP=Cuyahoga Valley National Park in *Cuyahoga* and *Summit*; EFSP=East Fork SP in *Clermont*; EHSP=East Harbor SP in *Ottawa*; *fide*—"in trust of," said of information conveyed on behalf of another; GRWA=Grand River WA in *Trumbull*; HBSP=Headlands Beach SP in *Lake*; Killdeer=Killdeer Plains WA in *Wyandot*; LMP=Lakeshore MP in *Lake*; m obs=many observers; MWW=Miami-Whitewater Wetlands in *Hamilton*; NWR=National Wildlife Refuge; OBRC=Ohio Bird Records Committee; ODOW=Ohio Division of Wildlife; ONWRC=monthly census at *Ottawa NWR*, reported 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; SVWA=Spring Valley WA in *Greene* and *Warren*; WA=Wildlife Area; ~≈approximately.

Corrigenda

In our Summer 2001 issue, Vol. 24(4), p. 205, the scientific name of mallard should read *Anas platyrhynchos*.

In our Autumn 2001 issue, Vol. 25(1), p. 47, the hoary redpoll record accepted by the OBRC dates from the year 2000.

In the same issue, the lower photo on p. 48 should be credited to Jim McCormac.

On p. 17 of the same issue, the Franklin's gull records should date the Clear Fork Res bird on 17-18 Oct, and place the 26 Oct bird at Pleasant Hill Lk.

For the Record

Significant records, from Autumn 2001 unless otherwise specified, that for one reason or another have not been published here previously appear below (here, **ES** means *fide E. Schlabach*).

Double-crested Cormorant: One sizeable inland movement occurred on 27 Oct in *Holmes*, with 1100+ in 40 min (**M. Hershberger**) and 805 over *Tuscarawas* (**J.P. Miller**) (**ES**).

Tundra Swan: Our earliest were three in *Tuscarawas* on 26 Oct (**J.P. Miller**). Also involved in the big movement of 20 Nov were 160 in *Wayne* (**J.E. Miller**) (**ES**).

Golden Eagle: An adult was in *Walnut Creek, Holmes*, on 27 Oct (**L. Miller**) (**ES**), and one over *Hocking* on 21 Nov (**J. Fry**).

Peregrine Falcon: A young bird of the *tundrius* race was found injured in the *Holmes* yard of **M. Weaver** on 28 Sept, and taken to a rehabilitation facility (**ES**).

Spotted Sandpiper: Quite belated was one at *Sims Pk, Euclid*, 3 Nov (**R. Hannikman**).

Wilson's Phalarope: Add to reports one in *Tuscarawas* on 10 Sept (**J.P. Miller**) (**ES**).

Red-necked Phalarope: **J.P. Miller** saw one in *Tuscarawas* on 20 Aug (**ES**).

Red Phalarope: **G. Meszaros** reported two at *Fairport Hbr* on 29 Oct.

Snowy Owl: One spent 16 Nov near *Sugarcreek, Tuscarawas* (**M&L Beachy**) (**ES**).

Cliff Swallow: One was late on 26 Sept at *HBSP* (**R. Hannikman**).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: **L. Brumbaugh** thought she'd stepped into an enchanted forest on 30 Nov in a *Carroll* pine grove when ~50 birds came to her calls.

Sedge Wren: **M.A. Weaver** reported one from *Holmes* on 7 Oct (**ES**).

Gray-cheeked Thrush: Up to three were at *HBSP* 3-30 Sept (**R. Hannikman**).

Wood Thrush: **J. Beechy** found autumn's last in *Holmes* on 15 Oct (**ES**).

Golden-winged Warbler: A male was at **P. Yoder's** farm in *Holmes* on 22 Sept (**ES**).

Tennessee Warbler: One in *Franklin* 3 Nov was closely observed by **P&A Rodewald**.

Nashville Warbler: The latest was in *Tuscarawas* on 10 Nov (**J.P. Miller**) (**ES**).

Yellow Warbler: Well-described was one from 19 Nov through the period at the home of **A.A. Troyer** near *Fredericksburg, Wayne* (m obs, **ES**).

Black-throated Blue Warbler: **J. Beechy** had one as late as 15 Oct in *Holmes* (**ES**).

Kentucky Warbler: **P. Yoder** found the latest on 17 Sept in *Holmes* (**ES**).

Mourning Warbler: The first was found 22 Aug in *Knox* (**J. Nisley**) (**ES**).


Hooded Warbler: The latest came from *Holmes* on 30 Sept (**J. Beechy**) (**ES**).

Canada Warbler: One at *HBSP* on 23 Sept was late (**R. Hannikman**).

White-crowned Sparrow: First to arrive was one on 26 Sept in *Knox* (**J. Nisley**) (**ES**).

Baltimore Oriole: Late was one in *Tuscarawas* on 14 Oct (**E. Schlabach**).

White-winged Crossbill: Very early were two in *Willoughby* 15-21 Oct (**R. Beuck**, ph).

Evening Grosbeak: Add to the 48 birds reported between 30 Oct and 5 Nov the following: a flock of 20 at **B. Jackson's** feeders in *Tuscarawas* 31 Oct (**ES**), and one in *Hocking* 4 Nov (**J. Fry**). 

Winter 2001-02 Reports

Bill Whan

223 East Tulane Road, Columbus, OH 43202

danielel@iwaynet.net

Red-throated Loon: A juv offshore at Rocky River Pk persisted from at least 4 Dec (**J. Hammond** et al.) through 16 Dec (**C. Spagnoli**). One was at BCSP on 9 (**D. Overacker**) through 10 Dec (**L. Gara**), and another at HBSP on 22 Dec (**L. Rosche**) and at Fairport Hbr on 24 Dec (**B. Kovalsky** et al.). A returning migrant consorted with a submarine in Cleveland on 16 (**M. England**, m obs) and 17 Feb (**P. Lozano** et al.).

Common Loon: Migration continued throughout Dec. Inland highs were 18 on 3 Dec at Caesar Ck SP (**S. Reeves**) and 26 over *Holmes* on the 7th (**L. Yoder**), while on the *Erie* shore **J. Pogacnik**'s LMP vigils tallied 84 on 9 Dec, 65 on 16 Dec, and 19 on the 30th. Making up the last hurrah were three on the Gypsum CBC of 1 Jan.

Pied-billed Grebe: Wintered in moderate numbers statewide, with high counts of 23 on the 21 Dec ONWRC and 17 at Fairport Hbr on 1 Jan (**L. Rosche**). In the Columbus area, as many as seven may have spent the season (**R. Thorn**), and seven at EFSP on 3 Jan (**B. Stanley**), four in Cleveland on 13 Jan (**B. Finkelstein**), one at the Independence Dam in *Defiance* 7-17 Jan (**J. Yochum**), five at LaDue Res 12 Jan (**A. Fondrk**), and one in *Clinton* 18-29 Jan (**L. Gara**) were unlikely to have been doing otherwise.

Horned Grebe: Unusually, statewide and winter-long. The high count was of 77 birds off LMP on 16 Dec (**J. Pogacnik**), and among mid-winter birds in the interior were one at Hoover Res in *Franklin* 22 Jan (**R. Thorn**), one at Wilmington Res 28 Jan (**E. Roush**), one at Wingfoot Lk, *Summit*, 30 Jan (**B. Morrison**), two at EFSP 31 Jan (**B. Stanley**), and three at Hoover 3 Feb (**Thorn**). A north-bounder was in Lk Kelson, *Geauga*, on 26 Feb (**J. Kolar**).

Red-necked Grebe: Three at Grand Lk St Marys on 10 Dec (**G. Miller**) were the last southbound migrants reported, but one at Caesar Ck SP on 9 Feb was more likely lost than heading north early (**S. Reeves**).

Northern Gannet: A juvenile that may well have been one that went rumored—but undocumented—but a week previous was seen on 28 Dec at Fairport Harbor and written up. Details are with the OBRC.

Double-crested Cormorant: Few showed up away from Lk Erie this season. Though as many as 860 occurred as late as 8 Dec at Bay View (**V. Fazio**), later only small Lakefront numbers were noted until the single most unusual sighting, 43 at Sandusky on 3 Feb (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**); no later evidence came to light to clarify if these were locals faithful to the roost during a mild winter.

Great Blue Heron: A concentration of 107 at EHSP on 4 Dec was notable (**V. Fazio**).

Great Egret: **E. Tramer** reported six remaining at CPNWR on 8 Dec, **J. Reyda** et al. had one at Firestone MP in Akron on 16 Dec, and one still hung on at Ottawa on the 24th (**J. Pogacnik**), the first day of the cold snap.

Green Heron: A very late bird remained on 15 Dec in *Holmes* to be documented by **A. Miller** et al. for the Millersburg CBC. December records are few and far between.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: The Toledo CBC tallied their traditional wintering birds, with 11 this time on 16 Dec. In Cleveland, 1-3 were along the Lakefront from 12 Jan (**A. Fondrk**) through at least 17 Feb (**P. Lozano**).

Black Vulture: Winter roosts seem established in the Cincinnati area (14 at EFSP 15 Dec by **R. Kolde**, 70 on the 30 Dec local CBC, 12 on 20 Jan at Miami Fort by **N. Keller**), in *Adams* (with 110 on its 15

Dec CBC), in *Athens* (21 on the 16 Dec CBC), in *Holmes* (27 on 15 Dec near Lk Buckhorn by **E. Schlabach**, and 65 on the 15 Dec Millersburg CBC), in *Muskingum* (38 near New Concord on 3 Feb by **J. Larson**), and in *Licking* (63 in Granville on 13 Feb by **T. Nickerson**).

Turkey Vulture: A strong showing season-long. First, migrants straggled along in a balmy Dec, with individuals in *Paulding* on the 4th (**D&M Dunakin**) and *Geauga* on the 7th (**B. Royse**). Second, a few odd mid-winter birds were sighted, such as in *Erie* on 4 Jan (**B. Phillips**) and on 25 Jan in *Summit* (**D&A Chasar**). Third, winter roosts boasted robust numbers: 110 at Lk Buckhorn in *Holmes* on 15 Dec (**E. Schlabach**), 236 on the Athens CBC on 16 Dec, 220 on the 15 Dec Millersburg CBC in *Holmes*, 212 at a newly-reported roost near New Concord, *Muskingum*, on 3 Feb (**J. Larson**), 150 in *Hamilton* on 8 Feb (**E. Lotz**), and 271 (then no doubt including some migrants) on 13 Feb in *Licking* (**T. Nickerson**). Finally, migration was underway in mid-Feb, with a bird in *Lucas* on 16 Feb (**E. Tramer**), 10 in *Greene* on the 17th (**D. Overacker**), and one at Bedford MP on the 15th and on the 23rd in S. Chagrin MP (both in *Cuyahoga* by **L. Deininger**).

Greater White-fronted Goose: Nice numbers. One in *Paulding* stayed 4 Nov-3 Dec for **D&M Dunakin**. Two were in *Preble* on 30 Dec (**B. Pratt**), and six at Ottawa on 24 Dec (**J. Pogacnik**). Oddly, six passed 1-12 Jan in a *Clinton* quarry (**L. Gara**, m obs). Most unusual was a lengthy presence at Killdeer, with six 2 Feb (**T. Archdeacon**), then 15 by 9 Feb (**B. Conlon**) through 15 Feb (**M. England**, m obs) and well into Mar (**T. Shively**).

Snow Goose: Over 2500 reported, perhaps involving only half that many individuals, from 29 counties, most often from Dec, but good numbers wintered, with reports from every week of the period. High counts of passersby included ~75 in *Darke* (**R. Schieltz**) and ~30 over Cleveland on 2 Dec (**M. Krejci**), and 300+ on 8 Dec in Findlay (**B. Sams fide B. Hardesty**). Small numbers appeared in mid-winter statewide. In Jan alone, one was at BCSP on the 1st (**D. Dister**), four in *Richland* 1st-6th (**T. Archdeacon**), three in *Clinton* (**L. Gara**) and 25 at Mosquito Ck WA 2nd-3rd (ODOW), one in *Fairfield* on the 5th (**J. Fry**), eight in *Summit* on the 7th (**B. Morrison**), two in *Lucas* on the 10th (**E. Tramer**), one in *Butler* on the 11th (**S. Reeves**), two in *Lorain* on the 12th (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**), three in *Portage* on the 14th (**L. Rosche**), three at Mosquito Ck WA on the 16th (**C. Babyak**), six at Wellington Res on the 26th (**S. Snyder**), six at Hueston Wds SP on the 27th (**D. Russell**), and four at Killdeer on the 28th (**B. Royse**). Wintered in the western Lk Erie marshes as has become customary, with ONWRC counts of 42 on 2 Dec and 123 on both 6 Jan and 3 Feb.

Ross's Goose: A juv, found on 28 Dec near Newark, *Licking*, by **Jason Estep**, alternately evaded and satisfied others searching the area through at least 8 Jan (**B. Royse**).

Canada Goose: Doing quite well, thank you. Inland, 2150 were at Lk Rockwell, *Portage*, 9 Dec (**L. Rosche**), 2000+ south of Wooster, *Wayne*, 20 Jan (**S. Snyder**), and 1000+ at Hoover Res in *Franklin* 25 Jan (**J. Hammond**). Near the Lake, the Ottawa CBC of 6 Jan tallied a record 13,816 honkers, and the Cedar Pt Chaussee harbored 4600+ on 13 Jan (**V. Fazio**). ODOW aerial surveys of 2-3 Jan tallied 10,642 on Lk Erie and 8527 at seven inland sites.

Brant: **K. Miller** reported a small group passing by HBSP on 5 Dec (*fide G. Miller*), and **J. Hammond** two imm there on the 7th. **L. Rosche** had a bird at Fairport Hbr on 30 Dec. **J. Pogacnik** noted one off LMP in *Lake* on 24 Feb.

Mute Swan: Gathered in flocks for the winter. Nine were at Springfield Lk in *Summit* for **B. Morrison** on 3 Jan, and an equal number at Paulding Res for the **M&D Dunakin** on 5 Feb. On Lk Erie, **V. Fazio** counted 35 at EHSP on 4 Dec, and **R. Harlan** and **S. Wagner** 30 at Medusa Marsh on 3 Feb.

Tundra Swan: Arrived from the north two weeks late this fall, and stayed even later. Good numbers were 451 on 2 Dec's ONWRC and 127 at HBSP on 9 Dec (**L. Rosche**). Wintered as usual at western Lk Erie marshes, with 300 on the 6 Jan ONWRC; the 3 Feb census tallied 472 there, perhaps augmented by new arrivals. May well have wintered in small numbers elsewhere. **G. Leidy** had 35 in flight over Rocky River Res'n on 29 Dec., and **H. Hendrickson** 24 over *Geauga* on 7 Jan. ODOW aerial surveys 2-3 Jan found 88 swan spp. statewide, from 10 sites. Reports came from eight inland

counties during Jan, from one in *Defiance* through the 24th (**J. Yochum**), 32 on the 11th in *Portage* (**L. Rosche**), 3-8 through much of the period at Killbuck WA (**S. Snyder**), and two at Hoover Res on the 24th (**M. England**); at Killdeer 36 were present on 12 Jan (**R. Harlan**, **S. Wagner**), then 38 on 13 Feb (**J. Lehman**). **D. Ferris** found 18 at Mosquito Ck WA on 8 Feb, by which time migration was apparently underway; observers in Ontario reported thousands passing through from the first through third weeks of Feb this year (**J. Miles**).

Wood Duck: Scattered widely in small numbers through the period, with a high count of 21 birds in *Clark* on 26 Jan—most of which had persisted at the site since 15 Dec (**D. Overacker**)—and all the way north, witness five at Lk Rockwell, *Portage*, also on 26 Jan (**L. Rosche**).

Gadwall: Good numbers persisted through Dec, with 640 on the 2 Dec ONWRC, 300 on the 16th at CPNWR (**E. Tramer**), and ~250 at Killdeer on the 20th (**B. Whan**), while 206 were still to be found on the 12 Jan census of Kelleys Island (**T. Bartlett**). Small numbers wintered locally, but migration—or at least restlessness—began early apparently, with 12 at MWW on 5 Feb (**N. Cade**), 34 at Wingfoot Lk, *Summit*, on 6 Feb (**L. Rosche**), and 30+ at Killdeer on 15 Feb (**M. England**).

American Wigeon: Scant numbers, with 354 on the 2 Dec ONWRC the high count. Small numbers wintered, as 3-6 at Hoover Res, *Franklin* (**R. Thorn**), and perhaps a few at Killdeer (with 15 there on 2 Feb, **D. Overacker**), as well as in *Wayne* (with one near Wooster 4-5 Jan and four at Killbuck WA on 2 Feb by **S. Snyder**). Ten were counted on the 3 Feb ONWRC. Fifty-plus at Killdeer on 15 Feb (**M. England**) were likely migrants, after “several” had been seen there on 28 Jan (**B. Royse**).

American Black Duck: Numbers were down, with 240 at the CCE on 24 Dec (**J. Pogacnik**) and a mere 250+ at Castalia Pond on 30 Dec (**V. Fazio**) the high counts. Inland, **E. Roush** had 45 at Cowan Lk SP on 14 Jan, **D. Overacker** 40 at BCSP on 26 Jan, and **N. Cade** five at MWW on 5 Feb. **B&D Lane** saw three on 7 Jan, 20 on 19 Jan, and 80 on 23 Feb in *Columbiana*. ODOW aerial surveys on 2-3 Jan found 3734 in Lk Erie and 275 in seven inland spots.

Mallard: Numerous, ubiquitous. The 6 Jan Ottawa CBC accumulated 26,735 birds.

Blue-winged Teal: Two loiterers were detected in *Portage* on 4 Dec (**B. Bolton**), and another was at Killdeer on the 11th (**H. Nagy**).

Northern Shoveler: The 2 Dec ONWRC found 237, and at CPNWR 70 remained on 16 Dec (**E. Tramer**), with 286 that day for the Toledo CBC. At the CCE, 38 remained on 24 Dec (**J. Pogacnik**). For this and other species, Castalia’s warm waters did not concentrate customary numbers in this warm winter, with a high there of only ~80 on 13 Jan (**V. Fazio**). Seven were still at BCSP on 25 Jan (**D. Overacker**), and one at Ottawa for the 3 Feb census.

Northern Pintail: As with other species, seemingly persisted through the season. **V. Fazio** counted ~530 at Ottawa on 4 Dec and 155 on the 12th, where **J. Pogacnik** had 140 on the 24th. About 25 were at Killdeer on 28 Jan (**B. Royse**), and 50+ there on 2 Feb (**T. Archdeacon**) with 40 the same day at BCSP (**D. Overacker**) for some unusual records.

Green-winged Teal: As expected, larger numbers occurred early, with a high count of ~1100 at Ottawa on 4 Dec (**V. Fazio**), where 110 were more unusual on 24 Dec (**J. Pogacnik**). Still more unusual mid-winter reports included one at Mill Ck, *Hamilton* (**N. Keller**), another at Wildwood Pk, *Cuyahoga*, on 2 Jan (**D&J Hoffman**), one at Huron on 18 Jan (**B. Morrison**), two at Killbuck WA on 23 Jan and one on 2 Feb (**S. Snyder**), two on the 3 Feb ONWRC, and a male at LaDue Res on 8 Feb (**R. Rickard**). Eighteen at Magee Marsh WA on 17 Feb were likelier returning migrants (**H&S Hiris**).

Canvasback: Fewer than normal, with high counts of 700+ at CPNWR on 8 Dec (**E. Tramer**) and 200 on 30 Dec at Fairport Hbr (**L. Rosche**). Inland, high counts included 11 on 30 Dec at Wellington Res, *Lorain* (**V. Fazio**), and 13 at Fostoria Res on 19 Feb (**B. Hardesty**). ODOW aerial surveys 2-3 Jan found 2850 in Sandusky Bay, none elsewhere.

Redhead: Their numbers down with a warm Lk Erie (high count 400+ at Sheldon Marsh SNP on 13 Jan by **V. Fazio**), some persisted winter-long: **L. Rosche** had 75 at Fairport Hbr on 30 Jan. Inland, **R. Thorn** reported one at Alum Ck Res, *Delaware*, on 2 Jan and a pair 3 Feb at Hoover Res, *Franklin*; **S. Snyder** seven on 13 Jan, one on 22 Jan, two on 26 Jan, and 15 on 9 Feb at Wellington Res; **Snyder** also found three at Funk WA on 3 Feb and five on 16 Feb at Shreve, *Wayne*. **B&D Lane** had seven males in *Medina* on 18 Feb.

Ring-necked Duck: A remarkable season-long presence. 680 were at Wellington Res on 14 Dec, then 410+ on the 30th (both **V. Fazio**), but 288+ remained on 1 Feb (**B. Whan**). Both the Toledo CBC (16 Dec, with 424) and the Ottawa CBC (with 49 on 6 Jan) set all-time high records. Way over in *Muskingum*, 148 were at The Wilds on 21 Jan (**J. Larson**), and 13 were in Columbus on 5 Jan (**R. Thorn**), and at Killbuck WA in *Wayne* **S. Snyder** reported three on 27 Jan and 15 on 3 Feb. **D. Chasar** judged that several of a group of 3-12 wintered at Northfield, *Summit*. By 27 Feb migrants were passing through, with 1300 at Mogadore Res (**L. Rosche**).

Greater Scaup: Way down in numbers, with a high count of only 63 at Rocky River Pk on 10 Jan (**P. Lozano**), where 30 remained on 5 Jan (**G. Leidy**). Inland, one was at BCSP on 8 Dec (**D. Overacker**), and two at Killdeer on 15 Feb (**M. England**).

Lesser Scaup: Ditto, with a high count of 500+ at MBSP on 9 Dec (**T. Archdeacon**), and 165 at Port Clinton on the 12th (**V. Fazio**). Mid-winter counts topped out at 40 on 9 Feb at Wellington Res (**S. Snyder**).

Harlequin Duck: An imm male flew by LMP in *Lake* on 26 Dec (**J. Pogacnik**).

Surf Scoter: The season produced reports of 25+ birds, most in Lk Erie, but much farther inland were birds on 9 Dec: 5-6 at Clear Fork Res (**J. Herman**), and two at EFSP (**B. Stanley**). The latest came from Wellington Res on 23 Feb (**S. Snyder**).

White-winged Scoter: A plethora compared to fall, with a female at the Grand Lk St Marys hatchery on 9 Dec (**J. Perchalski**), a bird at LMP in *Lake* on 16 Dec (**J. Pogacnik**), another on the Gypsum CBC on 1 Jan, and two at Conneaut on 26 Jan (**Pogacnik**).

Black Scoter: Down from autumn, with one in *Clinton* on 28 Dec (**L. Gara**), two in Fairport Hbr on 1 Jan (**J. Pogacnik**), and a female at Lorain Harbor on 1 Feb (**B. Whan**).

Long-tailed Duck: **A. Fondrk** had two at LaDue Res on 7 Dec, and **J. Pogacnik** another duo at LMP in *Lake* on the 29th. The Gypsum CBC team found one on 1 Jan. **M. Anderson** found a male west of Toledo on 6 Jan, and **Pogacnik** another at LMP on 2 Feb.

Bufflehead: As usual, Kelleys and S. Bass Isl produced the largest rafts, with 1664 on the local CBC 14 Dec (**J. Pogacnik**) and 1122 on the 16th, 798 on 12 Jan, and 504 on 9 Feb (all Kelleys Isl, **T. Bartlett**). The inland high count was of 15 at EFSP, *Clermont*, on 19 Dec (**B. Stanley**). A handful appear to have wintered inland at Wilmington Res, with 1-5 present at each of eight visits spanning the period 3 Dec-25 Feb (**E. Roush**).

Common Goldeneye: High counts came in Jan, with 600+ off Catawba Isl on the 1st (**V. Fazio**) and a record high count of 1352 on the Ottawa CBC on the 6th. Harder to find in the Central Basin, with a high of only 79 at Rocky River Pk on 10 Jan (**P. Lozano**). Unusually scarce inland, and no notable numbers of Feb migrants reported.

Hooded Merganser: Seemingly hard to find on Lk Erie, small numbers were inland, as five in *Washington* 7 Jan (**B. Placier**), one in *Defiance* the 12th (**J. Yochum**), and 15 at LaDue 8 Feb (**R. Rickard**). At Hoover Res, however, 200+ on 2 Dec (**L. Powlick**) continued as ~100 25 Jan (**J. Hammond**), and **R. Thorn** estimated ~100 as present most of the winter there. At Pleasant Hill Lk on 19 Feb, 62 may have been returning migrants (**S. Snyder**).

Common Merganser: Among high counts, all on Lk Erie, 1328 were off LMP on 29 Dec (**J. Pogacnik**), 350 off Fairport Hbr on the following day (**L. Rosche**), and 3300 off Catawba Isl the day after that (**V. Fazio**), when 516 were off LMP (**Pogacnik**). Very few were noted inland until the start of northward movement on 23 and 24 Feb, when 10 were noted at BCSP (**D. Overacker**).

Red-breasted Merganser: No dramatic counts were reported from dry land, with **J. Pogacnik's** tally of 8485 on 16 Dec at LMP the highest, and the high count for the Western Basin was only 685 at CPNWR the same day (**E. Tramer**). **R. Thorn** reported the first birds at Hoover Res on 3 Feb, an early date.

Ruddy Duck: Some quite unusual winter inland concentrations were noted. At Wellington Res, **Lorain, V. Fazio** had 290+ on 30 Dec (as well as 153 on nearby Oberlin Res), then 32 on 4 Jan; **S. Snyder** found 14 there on 22 Jan, and 25 on 9 Feb. Along the Lake, **L. Rosche** noted 65 at Fairport Hbr on 30 Dec, where **D. Chasar** had 25 on 5 Jan.

Bald Eagle: Recovering well from poisoning prior to the 70s, eagles were reported across the state this winter. An informal January survey by ODOW reported 259 birds (vs. 204 last year) in 44 counties.

Northern Harrier: Local as always, but in good numbers this season, the biggest reports came from extensively-birded Killdeer, where **A. Fondrk** tallied 40 for the area on 27 Jan, and **E. Tramer** 15 in a single field on 16 Feb. Observers are urged to try to confirm breeding later in some of these areas of winter concentration. An out-of-place bird at Rocky River Pk on 29 Dec (**P. Lozano**) must have been a very late migrant.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: One at the **Gilberts'** place in *Geauga* noted by **K. Metcalf** on 22 Dec and by m obs thereafter may have had something to do with the subsequent disappearance of Ohio's first brown-headed nuthatch.

Cooper's Hawk: Eight on 6 Jan was a record for the Ottawa CBC.

Northern Goshawk: Nearly all the reliable reports came from the brief mid-winter cold snap: one on the 1 Jan Gypsum CBC, two in the Marblehead area 2 Jan (**V. Fazio**), a sub-adult at Killdeer 3 Jan (**H. Nagy** et al., ph), and an adult at the Cincinnati Nat Ctr 4 Jan (**W. Apgar**). Later, **J. Pogacnik** reported an imm from Mosquito Ck WA on 20 Feb.

Red-tailed Hawk: *Geauga's* albinistic birds persist, one "along Aquila Rd not far south of Rte 322 in Claridon Twp" (**D. Best**), and another, described by **H. Hendrickson** as "snow white all over except red tail and a few colored feathers on his head," seen by Rte 6 near Rte 86.

Red-shouldered Hawk: In expected numbers, and continuing a steady advance into certain urban areas: **R. Thorn** reported five birds wintered in Columbus, with other birds in Granville and east of Newark in *Licking*.

Rough-legged Hawk: Seemed down in some traditional haunts, such as Killdeer and the Funk area in *Wayne*. High counts were of nine (w/ one dark morph) at The Wilds on 21 Jan (**J. Larson**) and eight (w/ one dark morph) on 5 Jan in *Geauga* (**A. Fondrk**). Farthest south were two in *Ross* on 15 Feb (**J. McMahon** et al.). The CBCs' total this year was 106, vs. 148 last year and 153 the year previous.

Golden Eagle: A [sub]human shot one, later discovered in *Morrow* on 8 Dec; still alive, its left wing required amputation (*fide* ODOW). **D. Graham** et al. discovered one over the Cincinnati Nat Ctr on 15 Dec, and **B. Kovalsky** et al. another at HBSP on 24 Dec. No reports documented the wintering bird at The Wilds this season, but see next issue.

Merlin: Twelve reports emerged from the northern counties, all from the first week of Jan or earlier. Interesting was the return, for the third winter, of birds to Spring Grove Cem in Cincinnati, where one was noted on 14 Jan (**J. Hays**), then two (apparently not last year's birds) on 31 Jan (**L. Brumbaugh** et al.), which then stayed through the end of the period (m obs).

Peregrine Falcon: *Avis peregrina* is what the Romans called a bird of passage, and that is the status of wild birds in Ohio. Introduced birds, on the other hand, are often resident here in winter and summer, and young of these birds cruising for territory (such as that **S. Edinger** reported from *Athens* on 2 Dec) may be seen anywhere. It is likely that the peregrine seen in the Lorain Harbor area from 24 Dec (**J. Pogacnik**) through at least 16 Feb (**M. England**) was another pioneering urban bird.

Wild Turkey: It seems only triple-figure reports of this successfully reintroduced species are newsworthy these days: **L. Deininger** saw 100+ near two *Holmes* locations on 12 Jan, Stillwell and Glenmont. **B. Placier** had 20 ~daily at his place near *Athens*, and says they have "essentially eliminated the herbaceous level flora of the woods" there.

Virginia Rail: One was found at Magee Marsh WA on 17 Feb (*fide* **M. Warren**), whether having overwintered or arrived unusually early is anyone's guess. Two showed up as usual for Millersburg CBC on 15 Dec at a spring-fed wetland, and the Wooster CBC reported one on the 30th.

American Coot: **H&S Hiris** counted a whopping 3564 at Magee on 16 Dec, the same day the Toledo CBC totaled a local record 272. At Wellington Res, 780+ remained on 30 Dec (**V. Fazio**) when the Cincinnati CBC found 502, and small numbers remained along the Lake winter-long, such as four at Bayshore, *Lucas*, on 27 Jan (**E. Tramer**), but 43 on the Cleveland lakefront on 13 Jan (**P. Lozano**) took the cake. The ONWRC of 3 Feb produced 32.

Sandhill Crane: Reported from 23 counties, mostly in the west, and over 2000 reported, 480 (some redundant) from *Hamilton* alone. Most birds were flighty, but three homebodies spent 23 Nov-8 Dec at Cowan Lk SP (**E. Roush**). *Geauga's* "Troy Trio" lasted locally through 14 Dec, then reappeared in the spring (**D. Ferris**). The Oxford CBC of 21 Dec found 200, and that for Grand Rapids/Waterville found 141 on 29 Dec. Movement, if not migration, apparently continued into the cold spell of early Jan, with 25 in *Clark* on the 1st (**D. Overacker**), 75+ over Cincinnati on the 3rd (**J. Hays**), ~50 over *Warren* on the 4th (**F. Glandorf**), and 60 over *Darke* on the 7th and 12 on the 8th (**R. Schieltz**). Stragglers or perhaps wintering birds were three in *Union* on 1 Jan then nine near the same location 22 Jan (**J. Watts**), and on 5 Feb two at MWW (**N. Cade**) and 1-2 north of Massillon (**E. Snively**). Northbound migration had clearly begun after mid-month, with 12 at MWW on the 18th (**A. Oliver**), then 39 there on the 21st (**F. Frick**), as well as ~18 on the 18th in *Darke* (**Schieltz**) and four over Toledo on the 27th (**E. Tramer**).

Killdeer: Off to a good start with 180 at Cowan Lk SP on 7 Dec (**E. Roush**) and ~250 at Killdeer on the 20th (**B. Whan**), much smaller numbers were reported from 10 counties during Jan, with a high count of four on Kelleys Isl on the 28th (**V. Fazio**). Feb records included a high count of 10 at Funk WA on the 2nd (**S. Snyder**), seven at Cowan Lk SP on the 6th (**E. Roush**), three at Dillon Res in *Muskingum* on the 9th (**C. Dusthimer**), one in *Fairfield* on the 12th (**J. Watts**), one at the CPNWR on the 23rd (**E. Tramer**), and two at Gordon Pk in Cleveland on the 25th (**S. Zadar**).



Fairport Harbor in Lake County played host to this merlin during the winter season. The bird posed for Joe Hammond's digiscope outfit on 4 December 2001.

Black-bellied Plover: The CCE harbored five 2 Dec and three 4 Dec (V. Fazio).

Greater Yellowlegs: V. Fazio found five at Metzger Marsh WA 4 Dec, and J. Pogacnik another at Kelleys Isl 15 Dec.

Lesser Yellowlegs: Eighteen seen at Metzger Marsh WA, Lucas, 12 Dec by V. Fazio and 26 the same day at Ottawa by K. Miller were likely overlapping sightings. Later, J. Pogacnik was to find four at the CCE on 24 Dec for an even later record. The latest published report in Ohio comes from 1 Jan 1995.

Least Sandpiper: On 4 Dec, V. Fazio had three at the CCE and four near Marblehead, and four were at CCE for him 12 Dec, where one remained 24 Dec for J. Pogacnik. Two observed at BCSP by D. Overacker 16 Feb may well have wintered at this spot, with three on the 15 Dec Clark CBC, where this species has seemed almost regular in winter.

Pectoral Sandpiper: The ONWRC found two lingering birds 2 Dec, and B. Whan a juv at Killdeer 20 Dec. J. Pogacnik found what may have been the same two Ottawa birds 24 Dec. Ohio's latest published record comes from 1 Jan 1995.

Purple Sandpiper: Hard to find this winter. One at HBSP on 1 Dec (H. Petruschke) grew to two, which persisted through at least 8 Dec (J. Lehman), and they may have been among the four reported just across the inlet at Fairport Harbor on 2 Jan (B. Morrison). During the Lake Erie Isl CBC of 14 Dec, a record 11 birds were on S. Bass Isl; the previous record was 6, also from the area.

Dunlin: A hardy species one might have expected to overwinter this year. V. Fazio counted 327 at the CCE on 4 Dec, and 73 there on the 12th. One was on Kelleys Isl on 15 Dec (J. Pogacnik), and the same observer found 54 on the CCE on 24 Dec, as well as a singleton at Conneaut on 26 Jan, a date suggestive of successful wintering.

Long-billed Dowitcher: Nine were found on the 2 Dec ONWRC, and eight two days later by V. Fazio there at the CCE. Fazio found five remaining there on 12 Dec, and J. Pogacnik three on 24 Dec; the dates of both these sightings surpass the latest published record, which comes from 8 Dec 1985.

Common Snipe: D&J Hochadel reported 11 on their Trumbull property on 8 Dec, with four remaining the 16th. Probable wintering birds included one 13 Jan and three 30 Jan in Richmond Hts, Cuyahoga (P. Lozano), one each in Butler 19 Jan (M. Busam), in Stark 20 Jan (B. Morrison), and at BCSP 27 Jan (D. Overacker). Two in C. Anderson's backyard in Wood on 20 Feb were in the vanguard of northbound migrants.

American Woodcock: G. Miller et al. saw a late one at Killdeer on 11 Dec. R. Scheiltz saw the first returnee on 27 Jan in Darke, the same day another was reported nearby in Indiana. Two days later M. Busam heard four at Gilmore Ponds, when at least two were at EFSP (fide J. Lehman), and another detected at The Wilds (J. Larson). Last year the first birds appeared in three different spots on 7 Feb.



Headlands Beach State Park in Lake County once again provided purple sandpiper photo opportunities. These two obliging birds were photographed there on 8 December 2001 by Jay Lehman.

Red Phalarope: A bird at the Huron impoundment ended an apparent stay of over five weeks with a final reported appearance on 12 Dec (G. Miller).

Pomarine Jaeger: Demonstrating why it's no longer a review species, this season generated 29 reports from perhaps as many as a dozen individuals. Five remained at Rocky River Pk through at least 3 Dec (I. Kerns), and two—light juv and dark juv—remained the following day (J. Hammond). One dark morph juv showed up at nearby Avon Lk PP 8 Dec (P. Lozano), with perhaps the same bird there the 14th (Hammond), and two not far away at Huntington Res'n on the 16th (Lozano); all may well have been from the same cohort. J. Pogacnik noted the following from LMP in Lake: three on 9 Dec, one 11 Dec, one 16 Dec, one 26 Dec, and a dark juv 1 Jan. Birds reported just to the east at HBSP included one on 11 Dec (J. Fry), two 24 Dec (B. Kovalsky), and a probable dark-morph bird 26 Dec (K. Metcalf). The show was not over, as Pogacnik spotted two far to the west at Sherod Pk near Vermilion, Lorain, on 3 Feb.

Parasitic Jaeger: An imm was seen at Avon Lk PP on 1 Dec, with details to the OBRC.

Jaeger sp.: P. Lozano had one in Rocky River on 5 Dec, and V. Fazio a distant flyby at Huron on 15 Dec.

Franklin's Gull: Two very unusual mid-winter occurrences: a first-winter bird at Lorain on 24 Dec (J. Pogacnik et al.), and an adult at Rocky River on 10 Jan (P. Lozano et al.).

Little Gull: A poor showing by this species, with three brief sightings this winter. An imm was at Kelleys Isl on 16 Dec (T. Bartlett), an adult at Lorain on 24 Dec (J. Pogacnik et al.), and an imm at Eastlake on 5 Jan (Pogacnik).

Black-headed Gull: A basic-plumaged adult on 20 Dec at Lorain harbor (S. Zadar) may well have been one seen for the local CBC on 24 Dec and the following day (J. Pogacnik et al.). Details are with the OBRC. Details were also furnished for another bird found 30 Dec at Fairport Hbr (L. Rosche et al.).



This apparent ring-billed X laughing gull hybrid spent over two weeks at Kelleys Island in Erie County during January. Vic Fazio took this photo on 12 January 2002, the day the bird was discovered.

Bonaparte's Gull: Defied convention by spending the winter in good numbers. **K. Metcalf** reported two birds in alternate plumage as late as 24 Dec among flocks of thousands of basic-plumaged birds at Fairport Hbr. Mid-winter numbers included 400+ at Huron and ~175 at Lorain on 1 Feb (**B. Whan**) and 400+ along the Cleveland lakefront on 15 Feb (**S. Zadar**).

Ring-billed Gull: The most imposing count was 18,280 from **J. Pogacnik** as they passed LMP on 17 Feb. **G. Miller** reported an odd leucistic individual from the Cleveland lakefront on 21 Feb, with all bare parts yellow and all plumage white except for "faint tea-stained colored wash on outer primaries."

Ring-billed X Laughing Gull hybrid: An apparent hybrid involving these two species was repeatedly seen and photographed 12 Jan through at least 28 Jan at Kelleys Isl (**V. Fazio**, **T. Bartlett**, et al.).

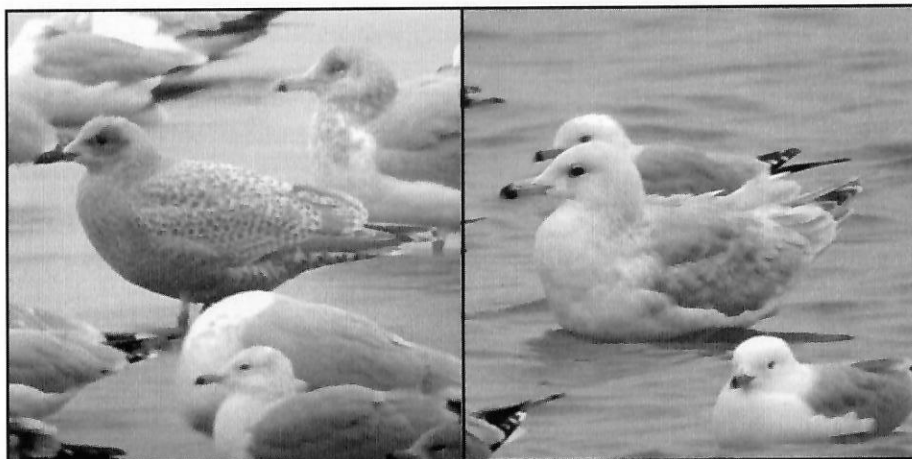
California Gull: An adult in basic plumage at the Avon Lk PP 20 Dec was written up for the record.

Thayer's Gull: Over thirty reports, involving perhaps half that number of individuals, most adults, with fewer first-year birds, and a couple of second-years. Spanning the period, all reports came from the Central Basin of Lk Erie from Huron east, with the exception of an adult at Kelleys Isl on 15 Dec (**J. Pogacnik**) and a first-winter bird near MBSP on the following day (**G. Links**).

Iceland Gull: Twelve reported, among perhaps 6-8 individuals, all in the Lake's Central Basin. **S. Zadar** found two (an adult and an imm) on two occasions, 15 Feb in Cleveland and 25 Feb in Avon Lk.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: About three dozen reports, of perhaps 20 birds. Nearly all came from the Central Basin of Lk Erie, with a high count of six at E. 72nd St in Cleveland on 15 Feb (**S. Zadar**). Two were found on the 16 Dec Toledo CBC, however, and **V. Fazio** had a third-winter bird as far inland as Oberlin Res on 30 Dec.

Glaucous-winged Gull: A bird thought to be of this species was found at Huron on 26 Jan (ph), and subsequently studied and written up by another party of observers on 29 Jan. Details are with the OBRC.



Numerous opportunities to study Thayer's gulls presented themselves at Huron Harbor in Erie County. The bird on the left, a first-winter, was photographed on 4 December 2001; the bird on the right, a second-winter, was photographed on 16 February 2002. Both photos were digiscoped by Joe Hammond.

Glaucous Gull: About thirty reports, with perhaps half that many individuals involved, about half and half adult and imm birds. All save a report from the 16 Dec Toledo CBC came from the shore of Lake Erie's Central Basin.

Great Black-backed Gull: Widespread, with open waters in the Lake. At Huron, 137 were around on 13 Jan, then 180 on the 20th (**V. Fazio**), and in Lake 207 were counted on 17 Feb (**J. Pogacnik**). The Gypsum CBC of 1 Jan tallied 258. Scarce inland, one flew over W. Ck Preserve in Parma on 24 Dec (**G. Leidy**), one was at the Independence Dam in Defiance on 13 Jan (**J. Yochum**), and on 30 Dec **Fazio** witnessed no fewer than 41 on Oberlin Res in Lorain, where he found 26 on 4 Jan, 12 mi south of the Lakefront.

Forster's Tern: A few were widely seen, with two between Port Clinton and Fremont on 2 Dec (**T. Manley**), one the same day for the ONWRC, then Port Clinton sightings of three on both 4 and 12 Dec (**V. Fazio**). Usually common terns are the late ones.

Barn Owl: ODOW reported 49 pairs producing 111 owlets during the breeding season, though the latter number must be enlarged to include the fledging close to Christmas of four owlets in *Tuscarawas*; the cold snap killed three of them within a week (**E. Schlabach**). Elsewhere, **R. Kolde** had one in *Adams* on 28 Dec, and **C. Clingman** another in adjacent *Clermont* on 28 Jan.

Snowy Owl: Twenty-five reported, nearly all in Dec, spanning the Lakefront from Toledo to Painesville. The most spectacular concentration was at Cleveland's Burke Lakefront Airport, where five were intermittently seen for a few days after the initial report of 5 Jan (*vide* **M. Hendrick**); **J. Minch** (*vide* **P. Lozano**), an airport employee, described having seen eight owls on one day during the period; **Lozano** reported the last owl there on 19 Feb. Inland reports came from *Medina* on 2 Dec (**M. Krejci**), *Licking* on 4 Dec (**G. Buckley**), *Auglaize* on 11 Dec (**D. Stanley**), and *Holmes* on 21 Feb (**D. Hershberger** *vide* **A. Burkholder**).

Long-eared Owl: Up to 21 spent the period at Killdeer, beginning with a single bird on 4 Dec (**T. Shively**). **S. Richards** found 13 there in four distinct locations on 10 Jan, and **R. Schieltz** et al. 13 in just one on 2 Feb. These long-suffering Killdeer owls help take birding pressure off others elsewhere. **B. Morrison** reported one in *Stark* 6 Dec through the end of the period.

Short-eared Owl: The Killdeer short-ears too performed rites of self-sacrifice on behalf of their kin: 20+ were seen on 1 Jan there (**R. Schieltz**), and on 16 Feb 18 carloads of birders, over 60 humans, were observed awaiting their evening arrival (**B. Whan**). Through the period the VOA property in *Butler* hosted as many as six, where its future as an undisturbed grassland seems assured for at least the next few years. Flocks of short-ears were reported from *Columbiana*, *Defiance*, *Tuscarawas*, and *Coshocton* as well, and one haunted the Lorain harbor on 24 Dec (**J. Pogacnik**).

Northern Saw-whet Owl: Only a few detected. Killdeer's showcased owls satisfied most seekers, and individuals were happened upon at Gilmore Ponds on 14 Dec (**M. Busam**), near Akron on 23 Dec (**D&A Chasar**), in *Mahoning* on 31 Jan (**L. Warren**, **N. Brundage**), and in *Fulton* on 12 Feb (**J. Hildreth**). **S. Zadar** reported wintering at Gordon Pk's Dike 14, with two on 5 Dec, two on 15 Dec, and one on 29 Jan.



Standing head-and-shoulders above the crowd, this first-winter glaucous gull made its presence known at Lorain Harbor in Lorain County on 5 January 2002. Digiscoped photo by Joe Hammond.

***Selasphorus* sp.:** A hummingbird of this genus was quite faithful to a Cincinnati feeder from the first week of Dec (**P. Hill**) through at least 22 Dec (*vide* **N. Keller**), and studied and photographed by m obs. Details are with the OBRC.

Belted Kingfisher: Twenty on the 15 Dec Cleveland CBC was an all-time high count.

Red-headed Woodpecker: **D. Chasar** reported 1-5 wintering at the CVNP, and ~15 at Killdeer on 11 Dec was a good winter number as well (**H. Nagy**).

Red-bellied Woodpecker: The Cleveland CBC amassed a record-high 89 on 15 Dec. Compare with Lou Campbell's observations (p. 52 of last issue) the following: all-time records were set by CBCs this winter also for Toledo (30) 16 Dec, Grand Rapids-Waterville (86) 29 Dec, and Ottawa (11) on 6 Jan.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Twenty-six reported. More numerous in the southern half of the state, with a one-day total of eight in Cincinnati on 2 Dec (**N. Cade**).

Further north, birds were in *Geauga* on 15 Dec (**A. Fondrk**), four in Columbus 22 Dec (**B. Master**), one in *Lucas* 24 Dec (**E. Tramer**), three in *Tuscarawas* 26 Dec (**E. Schlabbach**), one at Arcola MP in *Lake* 2 Jan (**J. Pogacnik**), one 9 Jan at Dawes Arb in *Licking* (**C. Dusthimer**), and one in *Coshocton* 29 Jan (**L. Deininger**).

Eastern Phoebe: Scantily reported, even in this warm season. One in *Hocking* 10 Feb (**D. Horn**) and one through the period as far north as *Licking* (**D. Balsler** *vide* **J. McCormac**) suggest at least a few wintered.

Vermilion Flycatcher: The Ottawa census team was astonished to find this bird on 2 Dec just where it had been found on 4 Nov, with its molt into adult plumage noticeably advanced. The area was not opened again to public access, but a few patient birders with spotting scopes were able to see this bird by standing outside the gate, the latest of them **K. Miller** on 12 Dec.

Loggerhead Shrike: Now rare at any season in Ohio. **T. Shively** alertly IDed one at Killdeer on 11 Dec, along with a northern shrike, and while it remained through at least 16 Dec (**Z. Baker**) observers were able to compare the species within a mile of one another.



Selasphorus hummingbirds almost always cause a stir wherever they appear. This one frequented a Cincinnati feeder in Hamilton County during December. Photo by Frank Renfrow on 19 December 2001.



This loggerhead shrike appeared at Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area in Wyandot County this season and was digiscoped on 12 December 2001 by Joe Hammond.

Northern Shrike: Over twenty reported, with birds discovered on fourteen days in December. As usual, most were in the northern counties, but two occurred south of Killdeer's latitude, a bird 7 Dec (and it or another on 11 Dec—**B. Shively**) and 3 Feb in Delaware WA (both **M. England**), and one near Xenia, *Greene*, 7 Jan (**K. Beal**).

Tree Swallow: One was found on the 2 Dec ONWRC.

Swallow sp.: **J. Games, R. Sempier**, et al. spotted a swallow at Castalia, *Erie*, on 12 Dec that was variously thought to be a tree swallow or a rough-winged. The former is slightly more likely, but either species is remarkable at the date.

American Crow: The western Hamilton CBC had a record 18,182 on 23 Dec, and the Mansfield CBC and Clark CBC both estimated 10,000 on 15 Dec, all at urban roosts.

Horned Lark: Normal numbers. The *Hancock* census of 8 Jan produced a local high count of 938. **K. Metcalf** noted the first migrants, at HBSP on 9 Feb.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Promising fall numbers led to a good winter presence, and many feeders supported birds through the period. **J. McCormac** and **E. Wolford** found 15 in *Jackson* on 15 Dec, remarking that "every fairly large stand of native pitch and Virginia pine that we worked had some individuals, and since this habitat is frequent throughout this region, there were undoubtedly many more in this and adjacent counties." CBC numbers were well up from last year with 433 statewide, but not significantly greater than those of the preceding winter's 395.

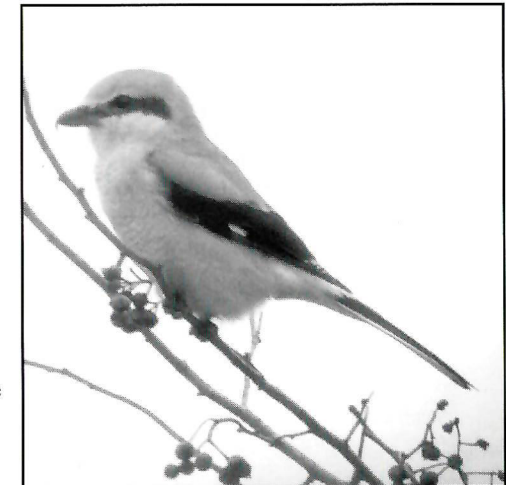
Brown-headed Nuthatch: The *avis mirabilis* of this season and last was not seen after 15 Jan in its S. Russell, *Geauga*, haunts (**L. Gilbert**). Let's hope it survived to set new records somewhere else.

Brown Creeper: Widely reported. **N. Cade** had one singing on 3 Dec in Spring Grove Cem in Cincinnati. High count was 7+ in one spot in *Columbiana* on 7 Jan (**B&D Lane**).

Carolina Wren: Remarkable for its continuing comeback in the north. In *Hancock*, 29 birds for the winter count of 15 Dec was good news, and the Cleveland CBC tallied 28 (breaking a record held since pre-blizzard 1975) on the same day. The Toledo CBC's 27 on 16 Dec was also a new record, as was the 22 of the Ottawa CBC of 6 Jan. Even further south, the Columbus CBC's 100 was their third-highest total ever. The overall tally for Ohio CBCs of 2649 was up significantly from last winter's 1793 and the previous year's 1250.

House Wren: A belated bird found at GRWA, *Trumbull*, on 16 Dec was well described by **D. Hochadel**.

Winter Wren: Widely reported south, but in the north others came from *Lucas*, with one on 3 Dec and one on 8 Dec (**E. Tramer**), three on the 15 Dec *Hancock* census (*vide* **B. Hardesty**), and one at North Chagrin MP in *Cuyahoga* on 15 Jan (**K. Metcalf**).



Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area in Wyandot County was shrike central this season. This northern shrike was present at the same time as a loggerhead and provided a nice comparison. It was digiscoped by Joe Hammond on 12 December 2001.

Marsh Wren: No mid-winter reports. Three at SVWA on 5 Dec were a good find (**E. Roush**), the marshes of western Lk Erie produced one on 8 Dec (**E. Tramer**), and **D. Kline** contributed one to the Millersburg CBC on 15 Dec.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: A mere 15 were at Spring Grove Cem on 2 Dec (**N. Cade**), and up in *Portage* **L. Rosche** called it a "very poor winter" for the species. **B. Winger** had one in the CVNP on 2 Jan, **D. Chasar** one there on 6 Jan, **T. Manley** a pair in *Ottawa* on 20 Jan, and **A. Fondrk** another in *Geauga* on 9 Feb in the northern counties. All the same, the Grand Rapids/Waterville CBC of 29 Dec had 44, and the high count of 142 came from the Millersburg CBC of 15 Dec.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Mid-winter reports came from EFSP (**J. Lehman**), with one on 12 Jan and two on 27 Jan. **B. Placier** found one in *Washington* on the latter date.

Eastern Bluebird: Flourished even in the north. **L. Rosche** cited "remarkable numbers in the *Portage* area," and **E. Tramer** reported small numbers wintering in the Oak Openings of *Lucas*. **D. Chasar** reported eight at the CVNP on 21 Dec, and even the 6 Jan Ottawa CBC found three. All-time high CBC records came from Columbus (50 birds) and Cleveland (85 birds).

Swainson's Thrush: A recently-expired bird was found on **B. Kaplan's** porch in Peninsula, *Summit*, on 25 Dec, and the remains deposited with the Cleveland Museum of Natural History (*vide M. Romito*, ph); there are three well-documented published December records of this species in the state; this is the only specimen.

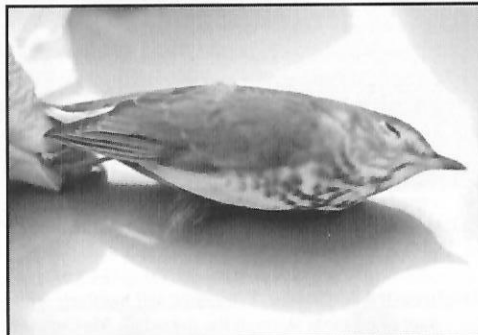
Hermit Thrush: Scattered reports spanned the period, most from the southern counties. In the north, **D. Chasar** had one in Sagamore Hills, *Summit*, on 4 Jan.

American Robin: Large numbers surprised observers here and as far away as California this winter. **L. Deininger** had 1000+ on 8 Dec in *Coshocton*, and **L. Rosche** reported "hundreds, if not thousands, roosted in Mentor Marsh/HBSP this winter." This winter's CBC numbers, on the other hand, were not much more than half those of 1999-2000's.

Gray Catbird: In the northernmost realms, **D. Linzell** had one in *Erie* on 8 Dec, **J. Reyda** one in *Summit* on 18 Dec, **S. Kaufman** et al. one near Painesville on 24 Dec, **D.&J Hoffman** one at Wildwood Pk, *Cuyahoga*, on 26 Dec, and **J. Pogacnik** another in Willoughby on 3 Jan. The Millersburg CBC of 15 Dec found three.

Northern Mockingbird: More or less parallel with Carolina wren, becoming so much more common in the north that only exceptional reports bear repeating. This winter one was reported at a feeder in inland Labrador at 53° north latitude on 7 Feb (*vide T. Boland*). The Cleveland CBC recorded a record-high 12 birds on 15 Dec. Males were in song as early as 28 Jan in Columbus (**B. Whan**) and Cincinnati (**S. Pelikan**).

Brown Thrasher: Surprisingly few reports this winter. Birds in the north included one at Willoughby on 3 Jan (**J. Pogacnik**) and another at Villa Angela in Cleveland on 13 Jan (**P. Lozano**).



Providing Ohio's first December specimen, Barb Kaplan scooped this deceased Swainson's thrush off her Summit County porch on 25 December 2001. Photo by Mary Anne Romito.

American Pipit: Reports spanned the period, with three at MBSP 24 Dec (**J. Pogacnik**), a flyby in *Tuscarawas* 27 Dec (**E. Schlabach**), 45 in *Paulding* for a second local Jan record on the 1st (**M&D Dunakin**), 23 at EFSP 6 Jan (**B. Stanley**), four in *Stark* 20 Jan (**B. Morrison**), and six+ in *Lake* 6 Feb (**J. McCormac**). The high count came from *Delaware* 11 Dec (**B. Shively**)—a nicely-described flock of 80+.

Cedar Waxwing: Scantly reported overall this season. The high count was 200+ at Arcola MP in *Lake* on 2 Jan (**J. Pogacnik**). CBC totals were about 12% of last winter's, and little more than a third of those of the previous winter.

Nashville Warbler: A new late record in the north, a bird was found during the Cleveland CBC of Dec 15 in N. Chagrin MP by **J. Talkington** and **R. Kish** (*vide T. LePage*). There is a 24 Dec 1964 record from *Hamilton*.

Yellow Warbler: The very late bird **A. Troyer** found gleaning insects from his eaves on 19 Nov amazingly persisted through 24 Dec for Ohio's latest record; seen throughout its stay by observers who documented yellow spots in the rectrices, pinkish legs, and diagnostic vocalizations (*vide E. Schlabach, L.E. Yoder*, et al.). Compounding the amazement was a well-described bird found during the Cuyahoga Falls CBC on 16 Dec (**M. Morgan**, et al.). Both birds postdate the "incredibly late" 7 Dec record cited by Peterjohn. Most yellow warblers are out of here by Sept. Go figure.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: Sizeable finds included 65 on the Kelleys Isl census of 16 Dec (**T. Bartlett**), and 10 at Oxbow Lk, *Defiance*, on 21 Jan (**J. Yochum**).

Pine Warbler: This, one of the more durable warblers, was found as late as 15 Dec in *Holmes* (**J. Miller**) and 22 Dec in *Franklin* (**J. Grabmeier** et al.). A male in song in *Adams* on 25 Feb (**B. Lund**) had arguably wintered there, and continued into the spring.

American Redstart: **B. Royse** found a female in his Columbus back yard on 22 Dec, establishing a new late record for the species in Ohio; one was in Cleveland on 8 Dec 1973.

Louisiana Waterthrush: Astonishing was one was found snowbound by **L. Rosche** in Idlewood Pk in Twinsburg, *Summit*, on 29 Dec (ph). There are only two other published Ohio reports for the winter season: 9 Dec 1961 in Cleveland, and 30 Dec 1956 in Portsmouth (CBC, including some documentation).

Common Yellowthroat: No reports established overwintering, with a young male at North Chagrin Res'n 3-28 Dec (**K. Metcalf**), another young bird at Gilmore Ponds 15 Dec (**M. Busam**), one in *Hamilton* on 23 Dec (*vide N. Keller*), and one in *Tuscarawas* on 26 Dec (**M. Gingerich**).

Summer Tanager: Continuing the out-of-season trend was one that spent 4-25 Jan at the North Ridgeville, *Lorain*, feeder of **R. Lang** (**L. Rosche**). This far surpasses last winter's record late stay of one through 23 Dec in *Butler*, itself over a month later than the previously published late record.

American Tree Sparrow: Robust numbers, with 1111 on the 6 Jan Ottawa CBC exemplary.



Setting a record late date for Ohio, this summer tanager lingered around Ron Lang's Lorain County feeder for three weeks in January. Photo by Larry Rosche on 8 January 2002.

Field Sparrow: Reports from the northern half of the state this season included one through the period at W. Ck Pres in Parma (**G. Leidy**), three at Hebron, *Licking*, on 9 Jan (**C. Dusthimer**), six at Jaite in the CVNRA on 26 Jan (**D. Chasar**), and a male in full song at Lk George, *Portage*, when temperatures reached the 50s on 26 Jan (**L. Rosche**).

Savannah Sparrow: The high count was 12 on 5 Feb at MWW (**N. Cade**). In *Marion* near Killdeer, **B. Shively** found four on 31 Dec, **C. Dusthimer** one on 4 Jan, **S. Snyder** three on 9 Jan, **R. Harlan** and **S. Wagner** three on 12 Jan, and **D. Overacker** four on 2 Feb, collectively presumptive evidence of overwintering there. Elsewhere, **B. Morrison** had three in *Stark* on the mid-winter date of 10 Jan.

Fox Sparrow: Close to 30 reported. Not unexpected were six in the south at Gilmore Ponds on 15 Dec, where one remained on 19 Jan (**M. Busam**), but the Cleveland CBC had a remarkable four on the same Dec date. Elsewhere in the north, four were tallied on the Gypsum CBC of 1 Jan, and one was in Lakeview Cem on 10 Feb (**J. Spendelow**). **D. Chasar** had birds at Jaite in the CNVP on 23 Dec, 6 and 26 Jan, and 17 Feb. The latter may have been an early migrant, as might two seen in *Darke* on the 16th (**R. Schieltz**).

Swamp Sparrow: In the north, Jaite in the CVNP harbored 10 on 6 Jan (**D. Chasar**) and four 25 Jan (**G. Leidy**). In a traditional spot, the Ottawa CBC tallied 100 on 6 Jan.

Dark-eyed Junco: Apparent migrant flocks of ~25 each were noted on 16 Feb both in Columbus (**B. Royse**) and in *Summit* (**K. Mock**).

Lapland Longspur: Excellent numbers, considering the lack of snow cover. **B. Winger** et al. had 175 in *Marion* 2 Jan, and the 51 total for the 6 Jan Ottawa CBC was a record high. **J. Yochum** had ~50 in *Defiance* on 20 Jan. By 11 Feb the *Marion* field near Killdeer produced ~200 for **B. Royse**, then 500+ for **K. Metcalf** on the 21st. A count of 152 on 26 Feb was good for *Hancock* (**S. Ross**).

Snow Bunting: The holiday cold spell concentrated good numbers in traditional areas with reports of 750 in *Paulding* on 4 Jan (**D&M Dunakin**) and 1000+ in *Fulton* on 8 Jan (**J. Yochum**). No three-figure reports or larger emerged from after mid-January.

Red-winged Blackbird: **L. Yoder** counted 1200 southbound birds in *Holmes* on 7 Dec, and many reports of newly-arrived migrants arose on 24 Feb statewide. In between, however, thousands wintered as usual in the western Lk Erie marshes, with 3000+ on 12 Dec at Ottawa (**V. Fazio**) and 13,987 on the 6 Jan Ottawa CBC. Elsewhere, 28 were in *Trumbull* on 17 Jan (**D&J Hochadel**), and singing males were noted on 3 Feb at both N. Chagrin MP in *Cuyahoga* (**K. Metcalf**) and at Hoover Res in *Delaware* (**R. Thorn**).

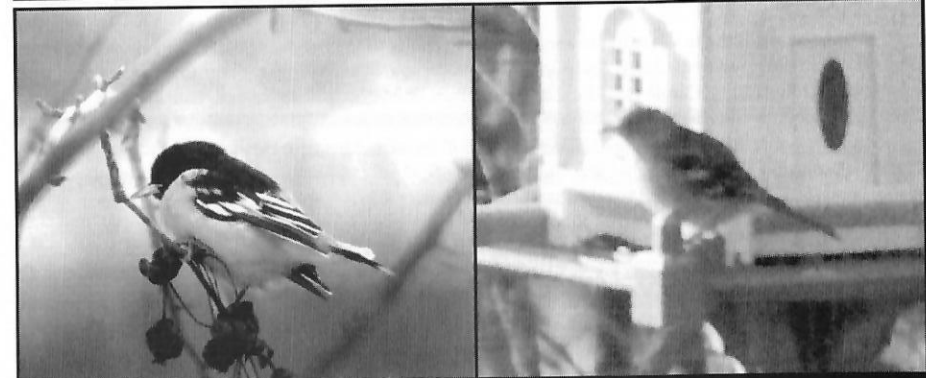
Eastern Meadowlark: The largest reports of flocks came from traditional areas during the cold snap: 40+ at Killdeer on 2 Jan (**B. Winger**), 13 at EFSP on 5 Jan (**D. Dister**), 32 at VOA in *Butler* on 6 Jan (**M. Busam**), and 10 in *Delaware* on 7 Jan (**J. Hammond**).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: Several were found at NW spots, with two near MBSP on 16 Dec (**G. Links**) and one in *Lucas* on 6 Jan (**V. Fazio**). More unusual was a female coming to a feeder in Cincinnati on 20 Jan (**D. Goodman**, ph).

Rusty Blackbird: Scattered records through the season. **V. Fazio** counted 300+ at Metzger Marsh WA on 4 Dec, then 850+ at Ottawa on the 12th, and **E. Tramer** 700+ at CPNWR on 16 Dec and then 300 on 23 Feb. Other apparent spring returnees included 20-25 at Mentor Marsh on 10 Feb (**K. Metcalf**) and 20 at Lk Rockwell, *Portage*, on 20 Feb (**L. Rosche**).

Common Grackle: **E. Tramer** made a conservative estimate of 6000 birds at CPNWR on 16 Dec, and an all-time record 7052 appeared for the 6 Jan Ottawa CBC, with only one on Ottawa proper.

Brown-headed Cowbird: Included on a big day for black birds were a record 10,770 on the 6 Jan Ottawa CBC.



Two Baltimore orioles were present in Ohio this winter. The first was an adult male (left) at a Cuyahoga County feeder on 25 December 2001 photographed by Lou Gardella. The second, an immature male (right), visited a Montgomery County feeder from 23-30 January 2002 and was photographed by Karen MacAulay.

Baltimore Oriole: This species has many late records, and **L. Gardella** photographed an adult male at his Cleveland-area feeder on 25 Dec. A Jan bird is more exceptional: a young male frequented a feeder in Centerville, *Montgomery*, from 23-30 Jan (**K&J MacAulay**, ph).

Purple Finch: Small numbers were noted at northern feeders during Dec, but with the exception of five at a *Hancock* feeder on 15 Jan (**W. McClanahan** *vide* **B. Hardesty**) the rest of the reports came from southern counties, with a high count of flocks numbering as many as 18-20 at a Nature Conservancy feeder in *Adams* from 5 Dec through the end of the period (**P. Whan**).

White-winged Crossbill: Perhaps more will pass through on a presumed northward return journey, as only isolated birds briefly showed up: a male in Oak Hbr 7 Dec (**L. Harder** *vide* **K. Mock**), two in Tiffin 8 Dec (*vide* **T. Bartlett**), a young bird in Peninsula 14-20 Dec (**K. Tanquist**), a female in *Paulding* 18 Dec (**D&M Dunakin**), a pair seen off and on at a *Wayne* feeder from 25 Dec through Feb (**T. Ross**), and one at N. Chagrin MP 28 Dec (**K. Metcalf**). Only three other birds reported in Jan or Feb: one at **S. Young's** feeder in Sandusky on 16 Jan, one in *Mahoning* on 20 Jan (**L. Warren**), and one at a feeder in *Holmes* on 8 Feb (*vide* **L. Miller**).

Common Redpoll: Fickle. Nearly all reports came from the Lakefront counties, and all were present but briefly. Most birds occurred in the coldest period, between 24 Dec and 5 Jan, tailing off quickly thereafter: five were at Fairport Hbr on 24 Dec (**B. Kovalsky**) where five had been found two days earlier (**L. Rosche**), up to 10 were at Lakewood Pk 1-4 Jan (**P. Lozano**, **S. Wright**), several flocks totaling 165+ made landfall at Arcola MP in *Lake* on 2 Jan (**J. Pogacnik**), one was at Woodlawn Cem in Toledo 6 Jan (**J. Larson**), six at Calamus Swamp in *Pickaway* on 8 Jan (**D. Horn**), and five at **A. Fondrk's** home in *Geauga* on the 9th. The Dec high count was 15 at HBSP on the 2nd (**L. Rosche**), and the latest report was of a single bird at **S. Young's** feeder in Sandusky on 21 Jan.

Pine Siskin: Faithful to some locations, their numbers winding down from fall. Most big numbers, therefore, came from Dec, with 20 remaining at **D. Morse's** feeders in *Clermont* on 2 Dec, 40 at LaDue on 8 Dec in alders (**G. Leidy**), 100+ at Oak Openings feeders 13 Dec (**B. Shively**), 20 in *Summit* feeders on 22 Dec (**D. Chasar**), 32 at Mohican SP on 29 Dec (**L. Deininger**); 40-60 appeared sporadically Dec-Jan at a *Geauga* MP feeding station (**D. Best**). Smaller numbers persisted at many of these sites through all or part of the period. Overwintering birds were noted in Orange, *Cuyahoga* (**R. Harlan**, **S. Wagner**) and in *Franklin* (**D. Linzell**). The Grand Rapids/Waterville CBC had the high count of 251 on 29 Dec.

House Sparrow: Last and perhaps least, the 6 Jan Ottawa CBC's count of 6199 was an all-time high.

Contributors

We are grateful to the following observers whose reports of their sightings during the winter season contributed to these reports: Chuck Anderson, Matt Anderson, Wanda Apgar, Thomas Archdeacon, Hank Armstrong, Bob Arthurs, Carole Babyak, Zac Baker, Dan Balsler, Dorothea Barker, Tom Bartlett, Marje Baughman, Leanna Beachy, Miriam Beachy, Kathy Beal, Jacob Beechy, Kyle Becker, Brad Bergstrom, Dan Best, Roger Beuck, Todd Boland, Brad Bolton, Bill Bosstic, Margaret Bowman, David Brinkman, Nancy Brundage, Lori Brumbaugh, Gina Buckey, Atlee Burkholder, Don Burlett, Mike Busam, Jason Cade, Neill Cade, Don Chalfant, Ann Chasar, Dwight Chasar, Chris Clingman, Suzanne Clingman, Tim Colborn, Bob Conlon, Rich Cressman, Sharon Cummings, Dave Dister, Kurk Dorsey, Doug Dunakin, Micki Dunakin, John Dunn, Eric Durbin, Curt Dusthimer, Steve Edinger, Marcus England, Jason Estep, Ben Fambrough, Vic Fazio, Duane Ferris, Bob Finkelstein, Andy Fondrk, Bob Foppe, Jim Fowler, Frank Frick, Jim Fry, Chris Gajewicz, Mike Gallaway, Larry Gara, Lou Gardella, Linda Gilbert, Ted Gilliland, Brett Gilmore, Matt Gingerich, Frank Glandorf, Donna Goodwin, Ed Groneman, Jeff Grabmeier, Darlena Graham, Brett Graves, Elayna Grody, Joe Hammond, Tim Haney, Christine Hanley, Ray Hannikam, Lois Harder, Betty Hardesty, Andrea Haslage, Becky Hatfield, Debra Hausvath, Jeff Hays, Stan Hedeon, Michele Hendrick, Helen Hendrickson, John Herman, Dan Hershberger, Michael Hershberger, Joe Hildreth, Price Hill, Hank Hiris, Sally Hiris, Dave Hochadel, Judy Hochadel, Dick Hoffman, Jean Hoffman, Chuck Holliday, Dave Horn, Bill Hull, Bill Jackson, Barb Kaplan, Stan Kaufman, Ned Keller, Tom Kellerman, Jack Kemp, Tom Kemp, Isaac Kerns, Ron Kish, Dennis Kline, John Kolar, Ron Kolde, Joe Komorowski, Brenda Kovalsky, Marian Kraus, Mary Krejci, Bob Lane, Ron Lang, Denise Lane, Jason Larson, Gabe Leidy, Jay Lehman, Greg Links, Doreene Linzell, Jean Long, Edie Lotz, Paula Lozano, Barb Lund, John MacAulay, Karen MacAulay, Trevor Manley, Bernard Master, Winnie McClanahan, Jim McCormac, Cal McCormick, Brian McGuire, Joe McMahon, Gary Meszaros, Kevin Metcalf, John Miles, Aaron Miller, Greg Miller, Jeremiah Miller, Kent Miller, Jonas E. Miller, Jonas P. Miller, Leon Miller, Jim Minch, Mary Misplon, Scott Moody, Marie Morgan, Ben Morrison, Donald Morse, Heather Nagy, Tami Nickerson, Junior Nisley, Ann Oliver, Doug Overacker, Karl Overman, Steve Pelikan, Jean Perchalski, John Perchalski, Haans Petruschke, Brad Phillips, Ed Pierce, John Pogacnik, Len Powlick, Bill Pratt, Hein Prinsen, Steve Rapien, Scott Reeves, Frank Renfrow, Jim Reyda, Steve Richards, Richard Rickard, Bill Rinehart, Paul Rodewald, Larry Rosche, Sue Ross, Thomas Ross, Ed Roush, Bob Royse, Dave Russell, Bob Sams, Dan Sanders, Regina Schieltz, Ed Schlabach, Leroy Schlabach, Wilma Seiler, Joe Sedransk, Judy Semroc, Bill Shively, Troy Shively, Elaine Snively, Su Snyder, Chris Spagnoli, Brad Sparks, Jacob Spendelow, Barb Sponseller, Terry Sponseller, Bill Stanley, Don Stanley, Gene Stauffer, Jerry Talkington, Karen Tanquist, Rob Thorn, Cheryl Tindira, Elliot Tramer, Andy A. Troyer, Tom Uhlman, Leslie Warren, Mary Warren, John Watts, Mark A. Weaver, Marlin Weaver, Bill Whan, Pete Whan, David Whiteley, Ben Winger, Edie Wolford, Scott Wright, Stan Wulkowicz, John Yochum, Leroy E. Yoder, Perry Yoder, Sheryl Young, Sean Zadar, Brian Zweibel. We also received valuable assistance and information from the editors of *The Bobolink* and internet resources managed by Vic Fazio, Ned Keller, and Chuck Anderson. 🐦

Further Afield

Rob Harlan

7072 Parma Park Boulevard, Cleveland, OH 44130

Prepare yourself for what awaits as we descend, step by step, into the forbidden realms of the politically incorrect. A new taboo has arisen: a pursuit formerly celebrated is now, at least in some circles, cast aside with only a supercilious backward glance as acknowledgment. It would seem that I have become something of a birding dinosaur, and perhaps you have too, for you see, I have always been, and always hope to be...please forgive me...a state lister. Yes, a lister of birds seen in Ohio! And horror of horrors, I enjoy it! I gain knowledge and satisfaction from it! The challenge drives me to broaden my birding horizons, and I offer no excuses for it. True, I may be a dinosaur, but at least I know I am not the only one surviving. So, for those nonconformist souls who remain, who have read thus far without running screaming into the night, in this column I hope to pass along some tips based on my 30 years of Ohio listing experience, so that others might build substantial state lists of their own. If they dare.

In truth, I fail to understand what I sense as a negative undercurrent about listing. This undercurrent is far from pervasive, but it does exist, and its existence baffles me. After all, listing is really nothing more than record keeping. Goal-oriented record keeping, perhaps, but still only an accounting of what has been accomplished. There is much to be gained from listing, but listing only for listing's sake seems a rather hollow pursuit to me. Seen for what it *can* be, as an impetus to furthering our knowledge and understanding, listing is truly a means to an end. But a fun one. I happen to like fun.

So what is entailed in a "good" Ohio list? A good list is whatever you have right now. A better list is what you will have after adding another species to it. And some more after that. I believe the best goal to have is always to resolve to want *more*. Be happy with whatever total you're at, but always acknowledge that it can be better. At the moment, the official Ohio Bird Records Committee list stands at 410 species, representing all wild bird species reliably known to have occurred in Ohio. At about three-quarters of that total, 300 species is a natural and traditional goal for many Ohio birders. To reach the 300 plateau shows a solid level of accomplishment; if you reach 300, and know how you did it, consider your dues paid. But to me, 300 should only be the first goal, not the primary goal. Some folks might reach 300 and then sit back and relax, propping their feet up on the purple sandpipers and Connecticut warblers that have already passed through their binocular fields. Any further enjoyment and challenge (and brown-headed nuthatches) might pass them by because they have already reached their goal of 300 species. But let us not stop there. Once past 300, how high might an Ohio list grow? I feel 325 is a better standard for the true veteran; and every five species thereafter get proportionally more difficult. 330? I would say at least 15 birders have lists of that magnitude. 340? The air is getting thin. 350? Yes, a few, but only a few, are out there. 360? Maybe someday.

If 300 sets a standard initial goal, how long might it take to reach this level? Of course, that would depend on how active, how determined, and how fortunate we might be. Five years of active birding, with this goal in mind, should be enough,

especially if enough trips to Lake Erie are made. But keep in mind that very active birders can expect to tally 250-270 birds every year within the state, and that certain maniacal listers can (and have) reached into the 290s in a given year. So it seems 300 does not necessarily have to be a long-term goal; with intensive effort it can be reached in two to three years.

The important thing to remember is to move at a comfortable pace, where you are challenged, but not overtaxed or easily discouraged. It's really not *that* important (yes, I am biting my tongue). Have fun, and the birds will come, along with the experience, and the knowledge.

So where to begin? Several basic tenets come to mind for those interested in Ohio state listing. The first is to start young. My parents started me very young. Some years ago my weird older brother (correction—my *weirdest* older brother) bestowed upon me as a gag gift a photograph of myself, taken at age two, as I peered through a pair of binoculars (no, not the same binoculars I use today). At the bottom of the photo, he placed a label "Young Robby sights a *Turdus migratorius* and a legend begins." I don't know about the legend part, but it does show how familial encouragement can go a long way. If at all possible, start young.

However, if it has come to your attention that you are no are no longer young, then start when you are old. Anywhere in between is also acceptable, given that the sooner you begin working earnestly on a state list, the more chances you will have to pin down any true rarities that might come along. And rarities—lots of them, if you can manage it—are the difference between a middling and a good list. Don't assume that any rarity will appear again sooner or later—in fact, they may never appear again in Ohio during your lifetime, or at least may never be "chaseable" in that span. If we look back over the past 50 years (an extremely venerable birding career, and one only a few can hope to attain) from January 1952 through December 2001, a quick review shows us that 16 species on the official OBRC Ohio list have not been seen during that period, but only prior to 1952. Of the 385 or so species seen in the past 50 years, 10 have not been seen in the most recent 25-year period of January 1977 through December 2001. The moral here is, if a true rarity appears as more than a mere fly-by, chase it. If you go, you might see it; if you don't go, you certainly won't. And you might not get another chance anytime soon.


The second basic tenet is to study, and not just by reading the latest "all-time greatest" field guide to appear. Be willing to bird your local area thoroughly—very often and year-round. Beat the bushes. It is very possible to learn your "local patch" better than anyone else on the planet. And don't always follow the crowds; be willing to go places where others haven't gone or won't go. The more familiar you are with what is to be expected, and when, and in what numbers, the more prepared you will be should something unexpected appear. Once your observations are recognized as something out of the ordinary, you will be better prepared to document, and if necessary defend, them to well-meaning but understandably skeptical peers.

The third tenet is to hit the hotspots, and hard. There is no better way to rack up a generous supply of rarities than at a really hot hotspot. The best of these are typically along Lake Erie, and often involve particularly productive mudflat habitat. Top-notch mudflats are a scarce commodity in Ohio, and tend to be relatively or very short-lived at peak productivity. If such an area develops (or—and here is a shocking thought—is developed) along Lake Erie, plan to spend as much time there

as humanly possible. The parade of migrants is constantly changing, and rarities are drawn to mudflats like Hinckley attracts buzzards. If such a habitat remains productive over the full course of a fall migration, determined and experienced mudflatters may expect as many as 25-30 species of shorebirds there, over one-third of which can be considered at least uncommon. Really creative birders can probably find even more species, whether the birds were actually there or not. And we haven't even mentioned the unusual gulls, terns, waterfowl, etc. that also tend to appear. Hotspots are also key because they are heavily birded; with more birders in the field, more rarities are discovered. Hopefully, some of those other birders will let you know when a rarity is about.

And this is where tenet number four comes in handy. Make contact with other birders. Try as often as possible to go birding with friends; if you don't have any friends, obtain some. Share expenses, share experiences, share the love of the game. More sets of eyes and ears can only increase the odds of finding a rarity. As the Beatles once said, "I get high with a little help from my friends." I feel confident they were referring to state listing. Also, in a small group there always seems to be someone who has the uncanny knack of being in just the right spot when a rarity flies in; you will want to be around when that person walks right up and finds that black-headed gull that you've just spent hours looking for. Be *very good* friends with such a person. Another group that deserves more of our attention is the beginners. It should go without saying that if we can encourage budding birders, all of society benefits. But I hope I am preaching to the choir here. Actually, what I am referring to is something a bit less obvious, and is something that only beginners can have—beginner's luck. Whenever cosmic forces come together to bestow this blessing on the uninitiated, it can instill a lifelong appreciation in the bestowee, and also in you, if you happen to be standing nearby when that black-headed gull appears and lands on their tripod. Why this sort of thing happens I don't know, but I've seen it happen over and over again. It's real. Bird with beginners.

Tenet number five is one that I've dealt with in a previous column. *Listen* to the birds. They identify themselves with their vocalizations. A quick perusal of my personal state list reveals that I initially identified about ten species by sound before I saw them; a bit of subsequent searching then pinned them down. This illustrates how easily I might have walked right by without noting them at all. I also feel confident that several species not yet on the official OBRC list will eventually be initially identified by voice. Western wood-pewee, fish crow, and Cassin's sparrow all come to mind. I'd venture to guess they've all been here already, but have simply been overlooked (or overlistened). Whether in a woodlot near the Ohio/Indiana border, along the Ohio River, or in a weedy field two and three-quarters miles south of wherever, they just might be coming to a neighborhood near you.

You now know every secret of building a large Ohio list. Start now. Do your homework and do your home territory, while also hitting the hotspots. Listen while you work. And if you can find some like-minded folks to do it with, so much the better. I hope to have more specific tips for finding many of the tougher species in a future column, covering when, and where, and how. Now if someone will kindly tell me how to find a western kingbird, or yellow rail, or long-tailed jaeger...but then perhaps I just need to find some beginner to stand next to. Or maybe obtain some better friends. 

Radar Ornithology

David M. Larson

1921 Central Street, Stoughton, MA 02072

david@larsonweb.org

So, you have settled into your morning routine of checking the weather radar online to see if you are going to blow off work today and go birding. The radar shows rings, veritable donuts in the sky (Figure 1, arrows). How do you interpret donuts in the sky: tornados, hurricanes, donuts?

Relax, the donuts in Figure 1 are roost rings, seen in an image from the Tallahassee, Florida, weather radar site on 2 July 2001. Post-breeding purple martins assemble in the thousands at communal roosts at night. When they leave to feed in the morning, they fan out from the roost and reach altitudes high enough to be detected by weather radar units. Hence, donuts in the sky. If you were to follow the image loop of this phenomenon, you would see small rings that grow in size and then dissipate as the density of birds falls to below detection level. The diagonal spike to the right of this image is a sun strobe, caused when the radar points directly at the sun.

Alternatively, suppose you are in south Florida in March, checking on the weather radar in the evening. Beach day tomorrow or not—that is the question. You see this blob of stuff heading your way from Cuba (Figure 2). But it's not a storm, it's birds, lots of birds. Noel Wamer collected this series of images from the Key West radar on 14 March 2001, detecting clouds of migrants heading north during the course of the evening. Both the roost rings and the images of migration across the Straits of Florida are examples of the wonders of radar ornithology.

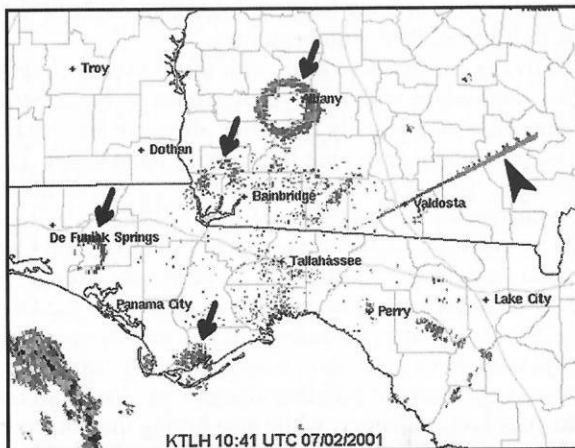


Figure 1. Roost rings—base reflectivity image from the WSR-88D in Tallahassee, FL, showing four roost rings (arrows) and a sun strobe (arrowhead). Image downloaded from the NOAA web site and processed by the author.

RADAR ORNITHOLOGY

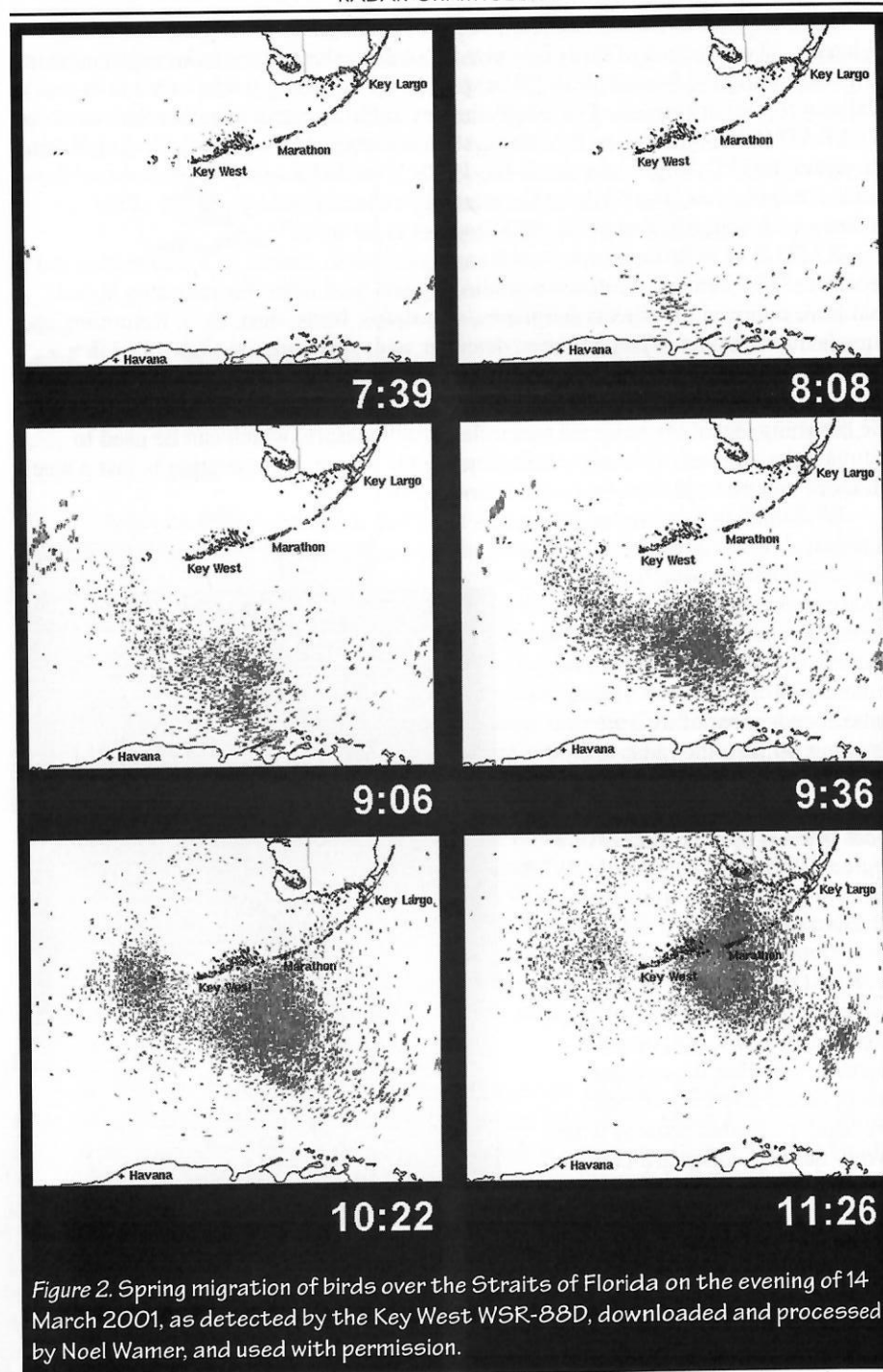


Figure 2. Spring migration of birds over the Straits of Florida on the evening of 14 March 2001, as detected by the Key West WSR-88D, downloaded and processed by Noel Wamer, and used with permission.

Here we look at the use of radar to study bird migration, movements, and behavior. The detection of birds by radar is not new: the earliest radar units, used in England during the Second World War, picked up incoming flocks of birds in addition to military targets. The establishment of the National Weather Service's NEXRAD (NEXT generation RADar) system coverage of the U.S. (including Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands) in the 1990s provided a vastly improved tool for radar ornithologists. The NEXRAD system gives nearly total coverage of the country with sophisticated WSR-88D Doppler radar units.

RADAR (Radio Detection And Ranging) systems consist of a transmitter and a receiver. They transmit microwave (radio) signals, and listen for returning signals that have bounced off objects (airplanes, rain drops, birds, dust, etc.). Returning signals mean that an object has been detected, and, since microwaves travel at a known velocity, the distance to the object can be calculated from the time elapsed between transmission and reception. In addition, the amount of energy detected in the returning signal is converted to a reflectivity measure, which can be used to estimate the number or density of the objects. Of course, the operation is just a wee bit more complicated than this explanation.

WSR-88D transmitter/receiver units are 28-foot diameter parabolic dish antennas, housed in fiberglass domes, and elevated on towers (Figure 3). In operation, the antennas usually rotate at three revolutions per minute.

Transmissions are very short (a few microseconds) and the pulse rate is around 1300 per second. Hence the radar spends most of its time listening. In fact, the radar is only transmitting for a total of seven seconds per hour. The width of the radar beam is approximately one degree. While the range of the WSR-88D is 124 nautical miles, the effective range for bird detection is approximately 60 nautical miles. The WSR-88D normally cycles from sweeps at 0.5 degrees elevation, to sweeps at 1.5, 2.5, 3.5, and 4.5 degrees. Note that these radars cannot detect anything directly overhead, and often returns within twenty nautical miles are contaminated by ground clutter. The basic displayed result—what you see on your screen—is the Base Reflectivity (reported in decibels of reflectivity or dBZ); Figures 1 and 2 are base reflectivity images.



Figure 3. The Wilmington WSR-88D radar in Wilmington, OH. Photo by Larry Gara.

The radar operates in two modes: Precipitation and Clear-Air. Precipitation Mode is triggered whenever storms are detected, since it results in faster generation of data (more data sets per hour). Clear-Air Mode is more sensitive, slower, and results in more detailed data sets. Base reflectivity usually ranges from 5 to 75 dBZ in the Precipitation Mode and from -64 to +64 in the Clear-Air Mode.

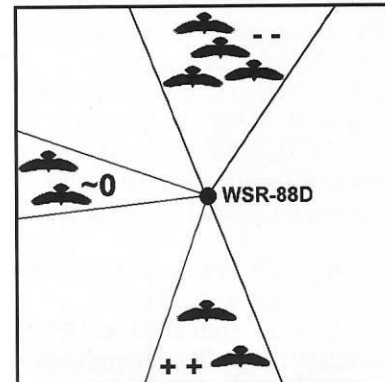


Figure 4. Doppler radar detection of radial velocity—objects approaching have negative velocities, objects going away have positive velocities, objects moving perpendicular to the radial beams are not well detected. Illustration by the author.

When viewing NEXRAD velocity scans, remember that negative numbers indicate objects moving directly toward the radar; positive numbers mean objects moving directly away. Objects moving perpendicular to the beam have near zero radial velocity (no matter how fast they may be moving relative to the ground). Background velocity information indicates wind speed (as detected by general returns from dust and other passive sources). Radial velocity images are reported in knots. Objects traveling faster than the wind, or across or upwind, tend to be biological (birds, insects, bats, etc.).

Birds on Radar

Like any airborne object, birds reflect microwaves and can be detected by radar, often using both the reflectivity and velocity scans. Of course, if the number of birds in a volume of airspace is low, then the likelihood of detection decreases. If the birds are flying very low (under the beam) or directly above the radar, they cannot be detected. Flocks of birds migrating at night are commonly most dense at around 1500 feet above ground, though some fly much higher. Diurnal migrants such as raptors commonly travel at up to 5000 feet. Based on the one-degree beam width, the 0.5-degree elevation of the beam gives optimal bird detection within the effective range of the beam, and often results in a donut-shaped pattern of detectable birds around the radar installation (none too close, none too far away). For a more detailed

description of this phenomenon, visit the Clemson University Radar Ornithology Laboratory (CUROL) web site <virtual.clemson.edu/groups/birdrad/>, which has an excellent tutorial on radar.

Raptor Migration and Radar

One of the more celebrated discoveries of weather radar ornithology is the mapping and display of raptor migration, particularly near choke points that tend to concentrate birds. For instance, the annual migration of broad-winged hawks between North America and Central and South America tends to funnel birds along the western coast of the Gulf of Mexico, since soaring birds do not like to cross water. Hence, the weather radars in Houston, Corpus Christi, and Brownsville are regularly the focus of attention as long skeins of migrating raptors show up. In the early 1990s, this NEXRAD phenomenon was noticed and publicized by Frank S. Peace <web.wt.net/~fspeace/>.

An example from the CUROL web site is shown in Figure 5 (these images were modified so they could be printed in black and white). They show the Base Reflectivity and Velocity images from Brownsville, TX, on 23 April 2000, at 19:17 UTC (1:17 p.m. CST). Note the long skeins (arrowheads) of high dBZ returns to the north and south of the radar in the base reflectivity image (top). In the velocity image (bottom), you can see that the objects detected are actually moving rapidly from the south toward the radar, and away to the north (arrows) under light north-westerly winds. Because of the date and the flight pattern, we know these are probably mostly Broad-winged Hawks, Swainson's Hawks, and Turkey Vultures. Raptors and other soaring birds ride thermals until they run out of lift, and then stream off at relatively high speed until they hit the next thermal. These images show birds streaming. Years of work by the CUROL researchers, led by Dr. Sidney Gauthreaux, many researchers from other institutions, and volunteers, using hawkwatches, moonwatches, and other techniques, have verified (ground-truthed) the interpretation of these and other radar-detected phenomena.

Finally, estimates of the numbers and density of birds can be made on the basis of these radar observations. A high for the BirdCast (see below) program in the spring of 2000 was about 2000 birds per cubic kilometer. A tutorial on the acquisition, interpretation, and display of migration patterns of raptors using weather radar has recently been published by Dr. Gauthreaux (Gauthreaux, S.A., Jr., C.G. Belsler, and A. Farnworth. 2001. How to use Doppler Weather Surveillance Radar to Study Hawk Migration. In *Hawkwatching in the Americas*, K.L. Bildstein and D. Klem, Jr., Eds., North Wales, PA: Hawk Migration Association of North America, pp. 149-160).

BirdCast

In the spring of 2000, a unique partnership between the National Audubon Society, the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, CUROL, and Philadelphia's Academy of Natural Sciences, with the financial backing of the U.S. EPA, culminated in the pilot radar ornithology project called BirdCast. During that spring, unfiltered and filtered NEXRAD images from the Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Washington, D.C. areas, and commentary and predictions from CUROL, were posted at <www.birdcast.org>. Part of the rationale for this project was to provide a

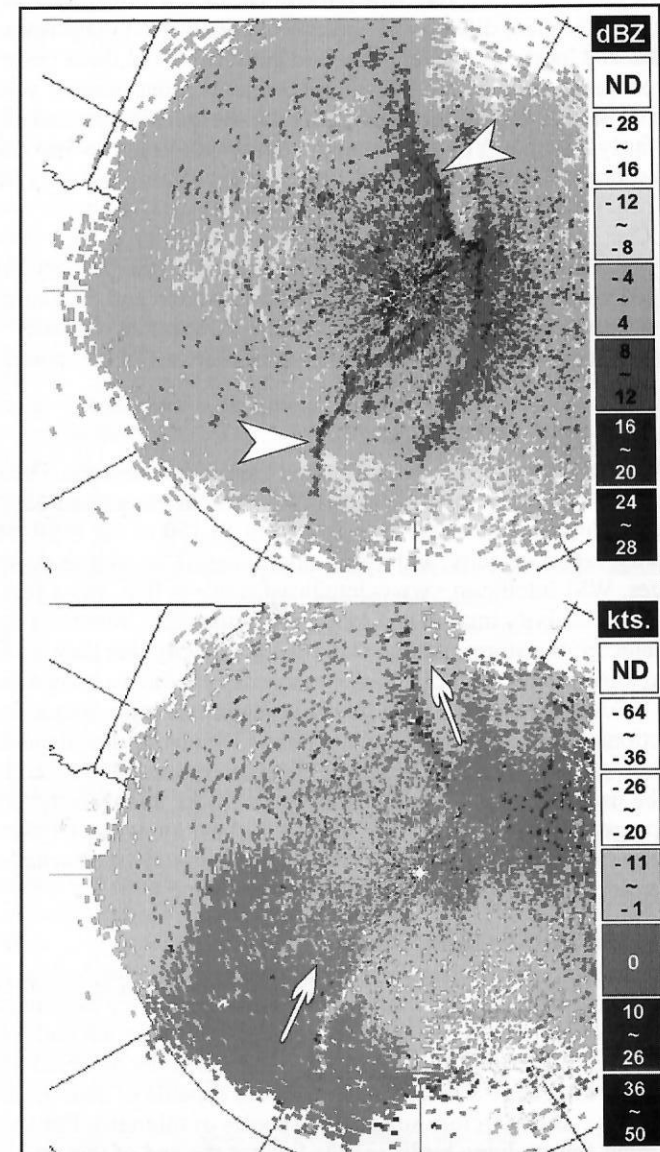


Figure 5. Heavy streaming of raptors over Brownsville, TX, in the spring of 2000—(Upper) Base Reflectivity in dBZ, (Lower) Radial Velocity in knots. These images were obtained from, and are used with the permission of, the Clemson University Radar Ornithology Laboratory's Director, Dr. Sidney A. Gauthreaux. See text for details.

mechanism for ground-truthing the radar data. For instance, if the radar suggested a major fall-out at a location, did ground observers actually see the birds there? Volunteers checked locations regularly for bird activity. All of these observations were compared online with the predictions based on the radar images. While not all of the data have been analyzed from that first year, the calculations and algorithms have proven fairly accurate. You can see some of the results at the web site <www.birdcast.org>. This site had over 3.2 million hits during the fall 2000 migration period.

The BirdCast project ran again this last spring (1 April to 31 May 2001). Unfortunately, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (the primary funding source) changed priorities with the change in administration and discontinued funding, thereby terminating the project. Check the BirdSource web site <www.birdsource.org> for updates on the status of BirdCast or any potential successors.

Do-it-yourself Radar Ornithology

WSR-88D data are available on the Internet from a few sources. The most complete source is a subscription to WeatherTAP.com (at press time: \$5.95/month or \$63.00/year), which includes real-time data from all 150 of the WSR-88D sites (base reflectivity, radial velocity, and many other images), as well as downloadable loops of images. WSI Intellicast <www.intellicast.com> is free, and a fine source of WSR-88D base reflectivity images and loops. Unfortunately, Intellicast does not show radial velocity; the storm relative mean radial velocity that they do show is not useful for bird movements. You can also obtain base reflectivity images and loops directly from NOAA at <weather.noaa.gov/radar/national.html>. Frank Peace has posted instructions on using a free program called Getradar to download National Weather Service radar images <web.wt.net/~fspeace/getradar_download.htm>. This program can be used to capture images from WeatherTAP and directly from NOAA. All of these images and loops are in GIF format, and the loops can be dissected into individual images (see Figure 4) using various computer software packages (I use Paint Shop Pro and Animation Shop by Jasc Software, Inc.).

Various Projects/Studies Using Radar

Weather radars have been used to study bird migration, distribution, and behavior in many other contexts. Weather radar has detected the fall-out of migrants on the Texas, Louisiana, and Alabama coasts and inland migration pathways. Portable radar units of different types have been used to count Marbled Murrelets in the Pacific Northwest. Some tracking radar units are capable of determining wingbeat frequency, and therefore suggesting species of migrants. For these and other uses of radar for studying birds, see the links at the end of this article.

Radar ornithology can have many practical applications for the birder. Certainly, the BirdCast information is useful for birders in the covered area, as well as generally interesting for all. Moreover, as described above, analysis and interpretation of WSR-88D data, while complicated, can be accomplished by anyone with Internet access and persistence. So, go explore the following web sites and see how you can have the National Weather Service help you find out about birds, instead of just weather.

Weather Radar and Radar Ornithology Web Sites

Clemson University Radar Ornithology	virtual.clemson.edu/groups/birdrad/
BirdCast	www.birdcast.org
BirdCast NEXRAD Interpretation	www.birdcast.org/interpret_nexrad.html
Radar Biota by Frank S. Peace	web.wt.net/~fspeace/
NOAA Radar Information	www.srh.noaa.gov/radar/radinfo/radinfo.html
NEXRAD Radar Operations Center	www.roc.noaa.gov/
Accuweather Doppler Radar FAQs	personal.accuweather.com/iwxpage/paws/dopplerfaq.htm
Birds of the Upper Texas Coast	texasbirding.simplenet.com/nexrad/
McGill University (J.S. Marshall Radar Observatory)	grappa.meteo.mcgill.ca/bird_migration.html
Weather Radar and its Application to Ornithology (meeting agenda and abstracts)	www.physics.brocku.ca/faculty/black/Galveston/agenda.html

Get Your Own Images

WeatherTAP	www.weathertap.com
Intellicast Base Reflectivity Images	www.intellicast.com/LocalWeather/World/UnitedStates/BaseReflectivity/
NOAA Weather Radar	weather.noaa.gov/radar/national.html
Getradar Program	web.wt.net/~fspeace/getradar_download.htm

Image Software


Jasc Software (Paint Shop Pro, Animation Shop)	www.jasc.com
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Other Types of Radar, Other Types of Bird Studies

Radar Studies of Marbled Murrelets	www.fs.fed.us/pnw/olympia/wet/1999/radar.htm
Wingbeat Frequency (commercial)	www.picotech.com/applications/signature.html
Center for Conservation Research and Technology	www.ccrt.org/home.html

If You Get Tired of Birds

Radar Entomology Web Site	www.ph.adfa.edu.au/a-drake/trews/
Entomological Radar Studies	scr.usda.gov/scr/apmru/imms/radar/
Dragonfly Migration Project Web Site	members.bellatlantic.net/~dbarber/migrant/mig.html
Bats by Radar	www.batcon.org/batsmag/v14n3-3.html

David M. Larson is the Production Editor of Bird Observer, the ornithological journal of record in Massachusetts. The Bird Observer website is at <massbird.org/birdobserver/>. This "Wired Birder" column originally appeared in Bird Observer 29(4):293 (August 2001). We are grateful to David Larson and Bird Observer for permission to reprint it. —Ed. 

A Wood Stork Record From 1966

We are indebted to Betty Hardesty of Findlay, who called this record to our attention, and to Chris Gajewicz and Susan Heslop, who consulted original material in the archives of the Jerome Library at Bowling Green State University and sent copies of seven photographs, the MS of an article for the *Wilson Ornithological Journal*, and a journal entry from Harding County naturalist and author Robert Stuart "Doc" Phillips (1913-1993). This record is currently under review by the OBRC. —Ed.

From Phillips's Miscellaneous Notes

Ibis, Wood (Wood Stork)


June 28, 1966. Hancock County, Ohio. On this date I received a telephone call from Mrs. Richard Hall, (Roberta Doxsey), County Road 94, west of Findlay, off State Route 224.

She reported that there were 7 "storks" in her swimming pool. Bob Wolford, C. R. 136, a neighbor of Halls also called me about some of these birds that were in a drainage ditch behind his house. When I got to Hall's house the birds were gone, but I found them at Wolford's. I found another in Don Alexander's farm pond, in the same area.

In the following days I saw several birds of this species, probably 7 in total. They left the area on July 12, 1966.



A Typescript with Handwritten Emendations, Labeled "Wilson Ornith. Journal"

Wood Ibis in Northwestern Ohio.—On 27 June 1966 Mrs. R. J. Hall of Township Road 94, 3 miles West of Findlay, Ohio, called to tell me that there had been 7 very large white birds standing in their swimming pool that morning and that she was unable to identify them. That afternoon I went out to the Hall's but the birds were gone. However, a quarter of a mile northeast of their home I found one immature Wood Ibis (*Mycteria americana*) fishing in a farm pond. Later the same evening I received a call from Robert E. Wolford of Township Road 136, stating that there was an unusual white bird walking around in his backyard. The next morning I visited the Wolford's and found an immature Wood Ibis fishing in a drainage ditch that circles the Wolford backyard. I observed 3 of these birds at one time but both the Hall's and Wolford's saw the entire group of 7 birds on a number of occasions. All of the birds that I saw were immature and the Hall's and Wolford's stated that each of the birds had gray-brown feathers covering head and neck indicating that they were immatures. All the birds were quite tame. I began to photograph them using a 400 millimeter lens, moving up with each exposure. At a distance of 28 feet, I switched to a 150 millimeter lens and proceeded as before moved up until I was within 7 feet of the birds. Some of the Wood Ibises could almost invariably [sic] be found at the Hall's swimming pool or in the Wolford's drainage ditch 1 mile away or in the farm pond a quarter mile from the Hall home. These birds were last observed on 11 July 1966. The only previous record of the species in Ohio is by H. E. Chubb who collected a specimen near Cleveland, Ohio in 1879 (*Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club*, 1, 43). 



Winter Surprise: A January Baltimore Oriole in Ohio

Karen MacAulay

6235 Wooden Shoe Drive, Centerville, OH 45459

My husband called me to the breakfast room window, "Karen, you should see this huge goldfinch." OK, OK, we have lots of goldfinches at our thistle feeder and it was probably just fluffed up keeping warm, I thought. But this bird was on our big feeder, the one with sunflower and safflower mix, and it didn't look quite right. The bill gave it away, certainly not a goldfinch's bill. But what was an oriole doing at our feeder in Dayton, Ohio, in the dead of winter—23 January, to be exact, even though it had been rather mild? And what was an oriole doing at a feeder, anyway? Aren't they insect and fruit eaters?

We have been observing the comings and goings of birds in our yard for many years, racking up an impressive 62 species either in or flying over our 3-4-acre wooded suburban yard. Among our more interesting visitors have been summer tanager, fox sparrow, yellow-billed cuckoo, pileated woodpecker, wood thrush, and a nice variety of migrant warblers. This winter we were very pleased to have the red-breasted nuthatch and brown creeper to chase away the season's doldrums, but we never expected an oriole. Nor had we ever seen one here even in summer.

We eventually called the Audubon rare bird alert number here in Dayton, left a message about our bird, and got out all our bird books to figure out what kind of oriole we had. My new Sibley guide, a Christmas gift, came in handy: either a female or first-year male Baltimore oriole. Jim Arnold from the hotline came out and decided it was a first-year male because of the deep yellow color and the dark back. And then more birders came. It was present for over a week, and he came every day, flying between our house and our neighbors' across the street who serve up safflower seed and peanuts. I tried stringing orange sections in strategic locations to enhance our offerings, but he seemed to prefer the seed. I know insects are his number one favorite, especially caterpillars, and I'm wondering if he heard me declare this past year as our "Year of the Butterfly," and somehow got wind of the black swallowtail chrysalis hanging on our porch, and is just biding his time. Or maybe he was after any of the other 13 varieties of butterflies we observed here last summer. Hopefully our wooly worms were well hidden under the leaf litter. But then again, maybe he just preferred seeds. At any rate, there was no need for us to go south this winter; we had a little bit of summer right here in our own backyard.

See page 71 in this issue for one of the author's photographs of this remarkable bird. —Ed. 🐦

The 2001-02 Christmas Bird Counts

Ned Keller

7899 Bridgetown Road, Cleves, OH 45002

keller@one.net

This year we present the results from 60 Christmas Counts conducted entirely or partially in Ohio, down from last year's 62. Most of the results were obtained directly from the Audubon web site at <<http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/>>. Audubon cautions that the data have not been reviewed yet. Readers of this report should also be aware that there may be some errors. Three counts—Athens, Clark County, and Gypsum—did not report their results to Audubon, but are included here. Finally, we include the results from Hancock County, which counts the entire county, rather than the standard 15-mile circle.

An asterisk next to an entry in the charts indicates that we received documentation of the sighting. Other reports of unexpected species may also be accurate. I have omitted reports of exotics, and have corrected a few obvious data entry errors. At least I hope they were errors. If your count really did see multiple Tufted Ducks, and no Ring-necked Ducks, then I apologize for taking them away from you in this report.

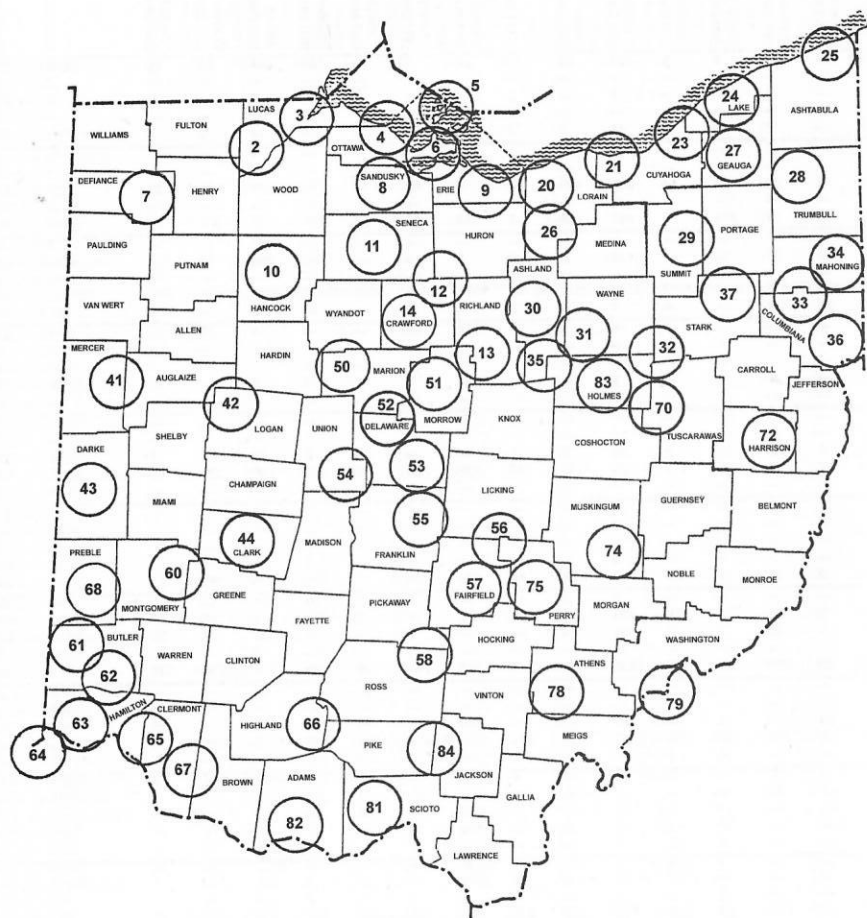
Unusually warm weather lasted until well into the count period, allowing quite a few unexpected species to linger. We usually get a combined species list of somewhere in the high 140s; this year the tally was 152, plus 5 additional during count week. The most amazing statistic for this year's count is that we found six warbler species. Besides the obvious yellow-rumped warblers, we usually find a couple of common yellowthroats, and even a pine warbler isn't out of the question. But this year we also had Nashville warbler, yellow warbler, and American redstart.


Building on Tom Kemp's article in last winter's issue ("All Time High Ohio Christmas Bird Counts", *The Ohio Cardinal* Vol. 24(2):94-98), this year's count added three new species to our list: brown-headed nuthatch (Burton, 1), yellow warbler (Cuyahoga Falls, 1) and American redstart (Columbus, 1). New high counts were set for mute swan (Gypsum, 43), bald eagle (Gypsum, 63), sandhill crane (Preble County, 200), least sandpiper (Clark County, 3), purple sandpiper (Lake Erie Islands, 11), hairy woodpecker (Millersburg, 148), and white-breasted nuthatch (Millersburg, 639). High counts were tied for red-throated loon (Mentor, 1), green heron (Millersburg, 1), northern shoveler (Ottawa NWR, 23), peregrine falcon (Cleveland, 2), black-headed gull (Elyria-Lorain, 1), and Nashville warbler (Cleveland, 1).

For those who enjoy the competitive aspect of Christmas Counts, Cincinnati and Toledo each found 88 species, followed by Millersburg with 84, Gypsum with 83, Cuyahoga Falls and Wilmot with 77, and Elyria-Lorain and Ragersville with 76. Cuyahoga Falls put 88 counters into the field, plus an additional 56 at feeders, Preble County had 89 in the field, and Toledo had only 31 field counters, but added 236 feeder watchers.

Table with columns for bird species and 19 survey dates/locations. Rows include Peregrine Falcon, Hawk sp., Ring-necked Pheasant, Ruffed Grouse, Wild Turkey, Northern Bobwhite, Virginia Rail, American Coot, Sandhill Crane, Killdeer, Least Sandpiper, Purple Sandpiper, Common Snipe, American Woodcock, Pomarine Jaeger, Franklin's Gull, Little Gull, Black-headed Gull, Bonaparte's Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Thayer's Gull, Iceland Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Glaucous Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Barn Owl, Eastern Screech-Owl, Great Horned Owl, Snowy Owl, Barred Owl, Long-eared Owl, Short-eared Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Phoebe, Northern Shrike, Blue Jay, American Crow, Horned Lark, Bank Swallow, Carolina Chickadee, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Brown Creeper.

Table with columns for bird species and 26 survey dates/locations. Rows include Peregrine Falcon, Hawk sp., Ring-necked Pheasant, Ruffed Grouse, Wild Turkey, Northern Bobwhite, Virginia Rail, American Coot, Sandhill Crane, Killdeer, Least Sandpiper, Purple Sandpiper, Common Snipe, American Woodcock, Pomarine Jaeger, Franklin's Gull, Little Gull, Black-headed Gull, Bonaparte's Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Thayer's Gull, Iceland Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Glaucous Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Barn Owl, Eastern Screech-Owl, Great Horned Owl, Snowy Owl, Barred Owl, Long-eared Owl, Short-eared Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Phoebe, Northern Shrike, Blue Jay, American Crow, Horned Lark, Bank Swallow, Carolina Chickadee, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Brown Creeper.



The 2001-02 Christmas Bird Count areas. Numbers within circles correspond to count numbers in the preceding article. 

Recent Actions of the Ohio Bird Records Committee

Bill Whan

223 East Tulane Road, Columbus, OH 43202
danielel@iwaynet.net

The Ohio Bird Records Committee exists to increase knowledge of Ohio's birdlife by validating records, maintaining public records of occurrences of rare birds in the state, and establishing the official state list of species. Observers are asked to send in documentation of sightings of birds on the OBRC Review List, published here each spring, and indicated on OBRC checklists and on its website at <http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/dnap/OhioBirding/ohiobirding2.htm>; reports of these species are not published in *The Ohio Cardinal* in the absence of such documentation. In its reviews, the OBRC does not judge sightings, but documentations of sightings; the issue at stake is not whether the bird in question was actually present, but whether the record as documented serves to verify the species. The current membership of the Committee, with counties of residence, follows: Dave Dister (Montgomery), Micki Dunakin (Paulding), Ned Keller (Hamilton), Cal Keppler (Mahoning), Jay Lehman (Hamilton), Greg Links (Monroe, MI), Bernard Master (Franklin), Secretary Jim McCormac (Franklin), Kevin Metcalf (Geauga), Larry Rosche (Portage), and Sean Zadar (Cuyahoga). Members serve three-year terms. Each year replacement members are nominated by the Editor and Publisher of *The Ohio Cardinal*. In addition, any other person may be nominated, having given his or her permission, by any subscriber of *The Ohio Cardinal* by submitting a timely nomination in writing to the Editor; in such a case an election is held among the subscribers. We are indebted to OBRC Secretary Jim McCormac for extensive material used in the following report.

Accepted Records

***Plegadis ibis* sp.**—Van Wert County, 28 October 2001, observer J. Perchalski. This record of the glossy/white-faced type was of course in non-breeding plumage, and separation of these two species in this plumage is one of the most vexing problems the Committee—and birders in general—consistently face. Ultimately, both the observers and the OBRC felt that this bird was best left identified only to genus, although several members did suspect it may have actually been the rarer—for Ohio—white-faced ibis *P. chihi*, based in part on the apparent lack of pale lines around the base of the bill.

Long-tailed Jaeger *Stercorarius longicaudis*—Lake County, 27 October 2001, observer K. Metcalf. There are Ohio records of this species from the third week of October, but this is the first from the fourth week. While the bird was a juvenile, and great care must be taken in separating this species from subadult parasitic jaeger *S. parasiticus*, it was well seen and impeccably documented, including supporting field sketches.

Eurasian Collared-Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*—Crawford County, 1 September 2001, specimen OSU Museum of Biological Diversity. **First state record.** Hunters reportedly shot two birds, and one was saved and sent to the OBRC Secretary. The specimen was in very poor condition, having had the breast meat removed, and then left in a field during warm weather for several days. Consequently, definitive photos were difficult to obtain, and the carcass itself was examined by the Committee at the annual meeting on 24 March 2002. At that time, after noting critical plumage details such as the dark outer webs beneath the outer rectrices, dark undertail coverts, etc., differentiation from other species in *Streptopelia* was agreed upon. Questions of captive origin were satisfactorily resolved after discussion of nearby records, known habits, lack of marks indicative of such origin, etc. This acceptance brings the total Ohio list to 410 species.

Rufous Hummingbird *Selasphorus rufus*—Adams County, 6 November 2001, observer C. Bedel. Exact dates of this occurrence are uncertain, as the owners of the property and feeder the bird frequented did not want visitors, and directly contributed no details. Bedel was allowed to observe and photograph the bird in question. Property owners apparently told Bedel that as many as three birds were present earlier, but no evidence was presented to document this assertion. The record reviewed, of a subadult male, was unanimously judged to be in the genus *Selasphorus*, but two members did not feel it could be identified as to species. Nine members felt that considerable rufous feathering emerging on the upper back eliminated Allen's hummingbird *S. sasin* and broad-tailed hummingbird *S. platycercus*, which always show a green upper back.

Vermilion Flycatcher *Pyrocephalus rubinus*—Lucas and Ottawa Counties, 4 November 2001-12 December 2001, observers S. Cummings and B. Zwiebel. A third state record.

Brown-headed Nuthatch *Sitta pusilla*—Geauga County, 21 November 2001-15 January 2002, observer Linda Gilbert, m obs. **First state record;** see account by Gilbert in *The Ohio Cardinal* 25(1):42.

Oporornis warbler sp.—Lucas County, 21 May 2001, observer I. Karafiath. Accepted only to genus. The sole evidence is a single photo (see previous OBRC report), which the observer proposed might show a Macgillivray's warbler *O. tolmei* on the basis of what appear to be prominent white eye-arcs. Though remarkably good considering the skulking habits of the genus, the photo does not show all characters, and there was no supporting written description. Advice was sought from Jon Dunn and Kimball Garrett, who along with the entire committee felt the available evidence would not support positive identification. The bird may well have been an atypical first-year female mourning warbler *O. philadelphia*.

Le Conte's Sparrow *Ammodramus lecontei*—Cuyahoga County, 18 October 2001, observer S. Zadar.

Le Conte's Sparrow *Ammodramus lecontei*—Butler County, 20 October 2001, observer M. Busam.

Le Conte's Sparrow *Ammodramus lecontei*—Cuyahoga County, 24 October 2001, observer S. Zadar.

Records Not Accepted

Bewick's Wren *Thryomanes bewickii*—Hocking County, 16 June 2001. The OBRC holds records of Bewick's wren to a very high standard, as the local Appalachian subspecies *T. b. altus* seems to be plummeting towards extinction. There are very few left in our region, and the Ohio population is, if not gone, below detectable numbers. Although the two observers are experienced, looks at the bird were somewhat fleeting and obscured, as if often the case with wrens. Some diagnostic characters, like the chronic tail-wagging of Bewick's, and the gray hindneck area, apparently could not be seen. After two rounds of voting, the majority of members felt that the details provided just were not conclusive enough to support a record of a subspecies that may quickly become extinct.

Shiny Cowbird *Molothrus bonariensis*—Lucas County, 5 May 2001. This intriguing report from four very skilled birders took three circulations through the committee before a resolution could be reached. If accepted, it would have been a first state record, and one far from its known range at present. The OBRC has a very high standard for acceptance of new state records, and state birds must be supported by evidence that conclusively establishes their identification both now and to future ornithologists via photos or sound recordings, unequivocal written descriptions, or specimens. This bird was photographed through a telescope at a distance of approximately 100 yards, but the images are not diagnostic, only suggestive. Also, the distance involved did not permit critical study of all diagnostic field marks, and while the written descriptions were as thorough as could be expected under the circumstances, certain details apparently could not be seen. This record was sent to cowbird expert Bill Pranty for an opinion. Pranty felt that while the bird was intriguing and perhaps suggestive of a *Molothrus* cowbird other than brown-headed, the available evidence just was not conclusive to establish a first state record. The majority of the OBRC members ultimately came to the same conclusion. Of course, like all non-accepted records, this decision does not mean the identification was incorrect, only that the level of documentary evidence fell short of being unequivocal. Like all other records, all information pertinent to this sighting is archived in the OBRC database and is available for researchers to study.

Record in Recirculation

Bicknell's Thrush *Catharus bicknelli*—Ottawa County, 28 October 2001.

New Circulations

Northern Gannet *Morus bassanus*—Lake County, 28 December 2001.

Wood Stork *Mycteria americana*—Hancock County, 27 June-11 July 1966.

Ross's Goose *Chen rossii*—Licking County, 28 December 2001-7 January 2002.

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*—Lorain County, 20 & 22 December 2001.

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*—Lake County, 30 December 2001.

California Gull *Larus californicus*—Lorain County, 20 December 2001.

Glaucous-winged Gull *Larus glaucescens*—Erie County, 26 & 29 January 2002.

Selasphorus hummingbird sp.—Hamilton County, December 2001.

Louisiana Waterthrush *Seiurus motacilla*—Summit County, 29 December 2001.


Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra*—Lorain County, 8 January 2002.

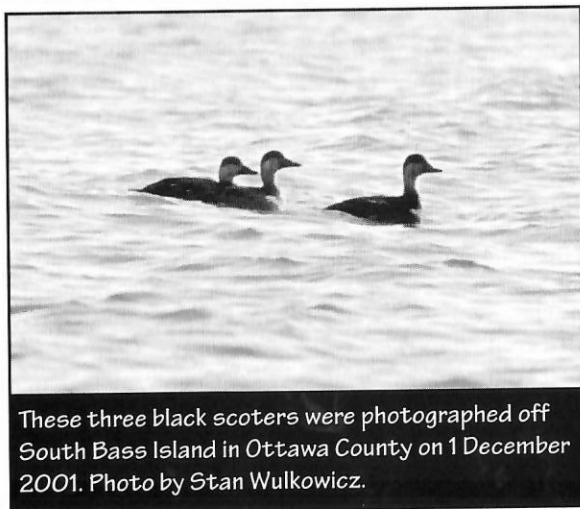
While not Review Species, the tanager and waterthrush are being reviewed to document their occurrence well out of season.

Other Information

At the OBRC Annual Meeting on 24 March, retiring members Bob Conlon, Rob Harlan, and Craig Holt were thanked for valued service, and new members Micki Dunakin, Kevin Metcalf, and Sean Zadar were welcomed. OBRC Secretary Jim McCormac reported that during 2001 the Committee reviewed 47 records, accepting 32, not accepting 13, and continuing to circulate two more. One new state record—brown-headed nuthatch—was accepted, and three were not: dovekie, chestnut-collared longspur, and shiny cowbird. Two potential new state records—Eurasian collared-dove and Bicknell's thrush—remained in recirculation at the end of the year.

Two changes were made in the Review List. Le Conte's sparrow *Ammodramus lecontei* was removed from the Review List. This elusive species, while probably often overlooked, has a well-established migratory pattern through Ohio, particularly in the fall, and in recent years there are sufficient records to pass the threshold for removal from the list. Loggerhead shrike *Lanius ludovicianus*, however, has become increasingly scarce in Ohio, and having fallen below the numerical threshold for reliable records, was added to the Review List.

The new OBRC publication, assisted in the costs of production by a grant from the Master Family Fund, is scheduled for release by 11 May, and will undergo final editing following member comments. This durable booklet of 36 pages will feature seasonal bar-graphs or records notes, and annotations for all 410 species on the Ohio list. 



These three black scoters were photographed off South Bass Island in Ottawa County on 1 December 2001. Photo by Stan Wulkowicz.

Records Not Accepted

Bewick's Wren *Thryomanes bewickii*—Hocking County, 16 June 2001. The OBRC holds records of Bewick's wren to a very high standard, as the local Appalachian subspecies *T. b. altus* seems to be plummeting towards extinction. There are very few left in our region, and the Ohio population is, if not gone, below detectable numbers. Although the two observers are experienced, looks at the bird were somewhat fleeting and obscured, as if often the case with wrens. Some diagnostic characters, like the chronic tail-wagging of Bewick's, and the gray hindneck area, apparently could not be seen. After two rounds of voting, the majority of members felt that the details provided just were not conclusive enough to support a record of a subspecies that may quickly become extinct.

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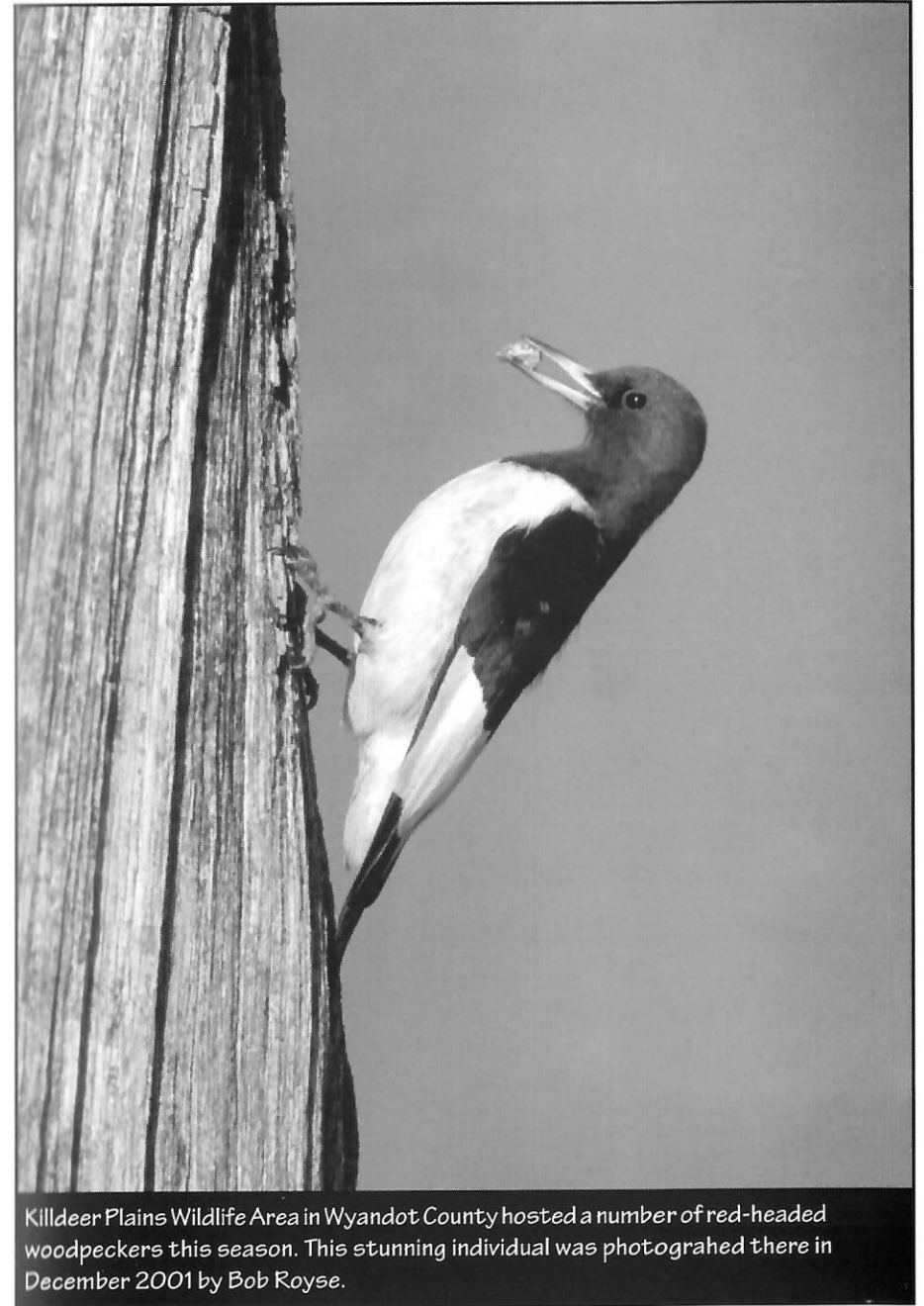
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Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area in Wyandot County hosted a number of red-headed woodpeckers this season. This stunning individual was photographed there in December 2001 by Bob Royse.