

THE



OHIO CARDINAL

DEVOTED TO THE STUDY AND APPRECIATION OF OHIO'S BIRDLIFE • VOL. 44, NO. 1, FALL 2020





Debbie Parker enjoyed great looks at a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher on 16 Sept at Magee.

On the cover:

A very cooperative first state record Brown Booby was photographed by Josh Vardous on 26 Aug at Nimisila Reservoir. The bird was enjoyed by many birders across the state over the course of several weeks.

THE  **OHIO CARDINAL**

Devoted to the Study and Appreciation of Ohio's Birdlife

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COMMENTS ON THE SEASON

By Craig Caldwell

As this issue was in preparation, we received word of Bill Whan's death. Bill passed on 14 Jan, closing the book on one of Ohio's, and especially *Franklin's*, most passionate birders. Bill was a founding member of the OOS, though regrettably that relationship later soured. He was the *Cardinal's* editor for a record 40 issues between 1997 and 2008 and remained a contributor to this journal until his health declined. His research into Ohio's ornithological history produced much that would otherwise not be available to a wide audience. I will miss him. R.I.P.

The weather keeps getting weirder. Aug rainfall showed no pattern: It was dry (less than two inches) near Toledo and at a few other scattered sites, and very wet (up to 10 inches) in other pockets. Overall, the month was a little wetter than average, ranking at number 78 with 126 being the wettest. The average temperature ranked at number 92, with number 126 being the hottest.

Similarly, in Sep the *Butler/Preble* area had less than an inch of rain while a band from *Mercer* to *Richland* and on to Cleveland and Youngstown got up to 10 inches. The overall rank was number 67. The average temperature was right in the middle of the historical range, coming in at number 61.

In Oct the far northwest and the southeastern third of the state were rather dry; those areas got between 75 and 90% of their usual amount of rain. But a wide band from *Mercer* to the northeast and a disjunct area north of Cincinnati received double to triple the norm. The overall average came in at number 109, meaning that the month was wetter than four-fifths of all Ocs. The average maximum temperature was quite low compared to other years and the average minimum was quite high. That fairly narrow range gave us an overall average only a little above the long-term norm with a rank of number 74.

But then came Nov, whose overall precipitation rank was only number 52. Only the Cincinnati-Dayton and Akron-Cleveland areas were wetter than average, getting as much as 150% of normal. Fairly large areas southwest of Toledo and east of Columbus got as little as 25% of their usual rain. Most of the rest of the state got 75 to 90% of the usual amount. The only significant snow came on 30 Nov when a major storm

system entered the state from the west. With the dryness came heat: Nov was the eighth hottest on record. Locally for me, stations in Akron and Cleveland set several daily high records.

Weather data are from the National Weather Service (<http://water.weather.gov/precip/>), the NOAA (<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/temp-and-precip/maps.php>), and the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*.

The season produced two state firsts, a Brown Booby in Aug-Sep and a Black-chinned Hummingbird in Nov. There is no doubt about their identities, thanks to numberless photos of the booby and Allen Chartier's banding of the hummingbird. We eagerly await formal confirmation by the OBRC to add them to the official list.

The hot Nov probably contributed to the very high number of migrants who lingered past their usual departure dates. Small songbirds were especially well represented, and several warblers in addition to the usual Yellow-rumped stayed long enough to appear on Christmas Counts. More shorebirds than usual dragged out their migrations as well. But most remarkable were the two Ruby-throated Hummingbirds which stayed past mid-Dec.

COVID-19 surely impacted many of you, either the disease itself or its disruption of your job and regular social activities. But birders got into the field and did a lot of feeder-watching. We produced 987,000 eBird entries for the season, a 62% increase over fall 2019's 611,000 reports.

This issue of the *Cardinal* contains reports of 321 species. Not only was that number the most in any fall season; it's also the highest count for any season ever. The previous record count of 317 species came from all the way back in fall 2012. Five hybrid entities are reported, and 13 entries at the genus or family level are also listed. Twenty-two species were reported in all 88 counties and seven more were seen in 87. Thirty were seen in between 80 and 86 counties.

Twenty-nine review species were reported during this season; their names are underlined. Thirteen of the species generated at least one report to the OBRC, and many of the posts have enough documentation to allow review. (As always, these numbers don't include Trumpeter Swans, whose establishment or not is under study.)

Data for the following Species Accounts come from reports submitted directly to *The Cardinal* and *The Bobolink* (the latter courtesy of its publisher, Robert Hershberger), eBird (<http://ebird>).

[org/content/ebird/](http://content/ebird/)), and the Ohio-birds listserv (<http://birding.aba.org/maillist/OH>). In the species accounts, “normal” departure and arrival dates are from Harlan *et al.*, *Ohio Bird Records Committee Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Ohio*, 2008.

Taxonomic order and nomenclature follow the *Check-List of North American Birds*, 7th Edition (1998) as updated through the 60th Supplement (2019). These documents are produced by the North American Classification Committee of the American Ornithological Society and are available at <http://www.checklist.aou.org/>.

County names are in bold italics. Locations whose counties are of the same name, for example Ashtabula (city) and Delaware Wildlife Area, usually do not have the counties repeated. County names for sites described in Cincinnati (*Hamilton*), Cleveland (*Cuyahoga*), Columbus (*Franklin*), Dayton (*Montgomery*), and Toledo (*Lucas*) are also omitted. Shortened names and a few sets of initials are used for locations and organizations that occur repeatedly; these abbreviations are listed here. The term “*fide*” is used in some citations; it means “in trust of” and is used where the reporter was not the observer.

Abbreviations:

Alum Creek = Alum Creek Reservoir, *Delaware*, unless otherwise noted
 Armleder Park = a Cincinnati city park on the Little Miami River, *Hamilton*
 Audubon = the National Audubon Society (<http://www.audubon.org>)
 Aullwood = Aullwood Audubon Farm and Sanctuary, *Montgomery*
 Bayshore = a fishing access site near a power plant a bit east of Toledo
 Barrow FS = James H. Barrow Field Station, *Portage*
 BBS = the North American Breeding Bird Survey, a joint project of the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and the Canadian Wildlife Service
 Berlin Lake = Berlin Lake (or Reservoir), *Ma-honing* and *Portage*
 Big Island = Big Island Wildlife Area, *Marion*
 Blendon Woods = Blendon Woods Metro Park, *Franklin*
 The Bowl = a limited-access area near the *Har-ri-son* airport
 BRAS = Black River Audubon Society
 BSBO = Black Swamp Bird Observatory, *Ottawa* (<http://www.bsbo.org>)
 Buck Creek = Buck Creek State Park, *Clark*
 Burke Airport = Cleveland Burke Lakefront Air-port, *Cuyahoga*

Caesar Creek = Caesar Creek State Park, *War-ren*, unless the lake itself is specified; a bit of the lake is also in *Clinton*
 CBC = Audubon’s Christmas Bird Count
 CCE = Crane Creek Estuary, *Lucas* and *Ottawa*, viewable from both ONWR and the CCE Trail that originates at Magee
 Clear Creek = Clear Creek Metro Park; the eastern 2/3 is in *Hocking*, the rest in *Fairfield*
 Clear Fork = Clear Fork Reservoir (or Lake), partly in *Morrow* but most of the birding is done in the larger *Richland* section
 CLNP = Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve (the former Dike 14), *Cuyahoga*
 CNC = Cincinnati Nature Center, a non-govern-mental entity whose Long Branch Farm and Rowe Woods units are in *Clermont*
 Conneaut = the mudflats to the west of Con-neaut Harbor, *Ashtabula*
 CP = County Park
 CPNWR = Cedar Point National Wildlife Ref-uge, *Lucas*
 CVNP = Cuyahoga Valley National Park, *Cuyahoga* and (mostly) *Summit*
 Darby Creek = Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park, almost entirely in *Franklin* but with bits in other counties as well. The Wet Prairie, Teal, and Harrier trails are the most often cited.
 Deer Creek = the State Park is in *Pickaway*, the Wildlife Area is in *Fayette*, and Deer Creek Lake is in both but mostly *Pickaway*
 EcOhio = EcOhio Farm and Wetland, *Warren*
 East Fork = East Fork State Park, *Clermont*
 East Harbor = East Harbor State Park, *Ottawa*
 Edge Preserve = The Nature Conservancy’s Edge of Appalachia Preserve, multiple parcels mostly in *Adams* and extending a bit into *Scioto*.
 Edgewater = the Edgewater unit of Cleveland Lakefront Metroparks, *Cuyahoga*
 Englewood = Englewood MetroPark, *Montgomery*
 Fernald = Fernald Preserve, *Butler* and *Hamilton*
 Findlay Reservoirs = several contiguous water bodies east of town in *Hancock*
 Funk = Funk Bottoms Wildlife Area, *Ashland* and (mostly) *Wayne*
 Gilmore = Gilmore MP, *Butler*
 Grand Lake = Grand Lake St. Marys. The State Park, the state fish hatchery, and the eastern 20% of the lake itself are in *Auglaize*. The rest of the lake is in *Mercer*.
 Great Miami WMB = Great Miami Wetlands Mitigation Bank, *Montgomery*
 Headlands = Headlands Dunes State Nature Preserve, Headlands Beach State Park, and adjoining waters, *Lake*

Holden = Holden Arboretum, **Lake**, except for its Stebbins Gulch unit in **Geauga**

Hoover NP = Hoover Nature Preserve, **Delaware**

Hoover Reservoir = the northern 80% is in **Delaware**, the rest and the dam in **Franklin**

Howard Marsh = Howard Marsh Metropark, a recently opened bird magnet in **Lucas**

Hueston Woods = Hueston Woods State Park, which contains Acton Lake, about half is in each of **Butler** and **Preble**.

Huron = the harbor, breakwalls, and old dredge spoil impoundment in that **Erie** city, unless noted otherwise

Indian Lake = Indian Lake State Park, **Logan**

Jones Preserve = Jones Preserve at Long Point, on Kelleys Island, **Erie**

Kelleys Island = the island and adjoining waters, **Erie**

Killbuck = Killbuck State Wildlife Area, **Holmes** and **Wayne**

Killdeer = Killdeer Plains State Wildlife Area; a bit is in **Marion** but it's mostly in **Wyandot**

Kiwanis Park = Kiwanis Riverway Park, on the Scioto River in Dublin, **Franklin**

LaDue = LaDue Reservoir, **Geauga**

Lake Erie Bluffs = a **Lake** Metroparks parcel overlooking the eponymous water body

Lake Hope/Zaleski = Lake Hope State Park and surrounding Zaleski State Forest, **Vinton**

Lake Loramie = Lake Loramie State Park, **Shelby**

Lorain = the dredge spoil impoundment east of downtown in the city and county of the same name, unless otherwise noted

Lost Bridge = a Great Miami River crossing on Lawrenceburg Road near Elizabethtown, **Hamilton**, where a covered bridge was lost to fire in 1903

m. obs. = multiple observers

Magee = the boardwalk and immediate vicinity in Magee Marsh Wildlife Area, **Lucas**, unless otherwise noted. The northern third of the causeway is also in **Lucas**, the rest in **Ottawa**.

Mallard Club = Mallard Club Marsh Wildlife Area, **Lucas**

Marblehead Light = Marblehead Lighthouse State Park, **Ottawa**

Maumee Bay = Maumee Bay State Park, **Lucas**, unless otherwise noted

Medusa = Medusa Marsh, **Erie**, an informally named and privately owned area between Sandusky and Bay View

Mentor Lagoons = Mentor Lagoons Nature Preserve, **Lake**

Mentor Marsh = Mentor Marsh State Nature Preserve, **Lake**

Metzger = Metzger Marsh Wildlife Area, **Lucas**, not to be confused with Metzger Reservoir, **Allen**

Mill Creek = Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary, a limited-access area in **Mahoning**

Mohican = Mohican State Forest and State Park. Many trails cross the boundaries so some reports include sightings from both without distinction.

Mohican SF = Mohican State Forest, **Ashland**

Mohican SP = Mohican State Park, (mostly) **Ashland** and (slightly) **Richland**

Mosquito Lake = Mosquito Lake State Park, formerly Mosquito Creek SP, and also called Mosquito Creek Reservoir, **Trumbull**. Mosquito (Creek) Wildlife Area adjoins it.

Motus = a wildlife tracking system managed by Bird Studies Canada

Nimisila = Nimisila Reservoir, **Summit**

MP = Metro Park, MetroPark, or Metropark depending on the system

NC = Nature Center

NF = National Forest

NP = Nature Preserve, except as part of CVNP

OBBA II = the second Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas

OBRC = Ohio Bird Records Committee

Old Highland Stone = that company's water-filled gravel pits, **Highland**

Old Woman Creek = Old Woman Creek National Estuarine Research Reserve, **Erie**

OOPMP = Oak Openings Preserve MetroPark, **Lucas**

ONWR = Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, **Lucas** and **Ottawa**

ONWR Blausey, Boss, Koontz, and Navarre = units of ONWR separate from the main area, all in **Ottawa**; of them Boss and Koontz are open to the public

ONWR WD = Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge Wildlife Drive, the monthly opening of areas otherwise closed to vehicles, **Lucas** and **Ottawa**

OSU = The Ohio State University, of course; sites are in **Franklin** unless noted otherwise

Painesville TP = Painesville Township Park, overlooking Lake Erie in **Lake**

Pearson MP = Pearson Metro Park, **Lucas**

Pickrel Creek = Pickrel Creek Wildlife Area, **Sandusky**

Pickerington Ponds = Pickerington Ponds Metro Park, **Fairfield** and **Franklin**

Pipe Creek = Pipe Creek Wildlife Area, in the city of Sandusky, **Erie**

Pleasant Hill Lake = an impoundment straddling the **Ashland/Richland** line

Quail Hollow = Quail Hollow State Park, **Stark**

Rocky Fork = Rocky Fork State Park, **Highland**

Salt Fork = Salt Fork State Park, **Guernsey**
 Sandy Ridge = Sandy Ridge Reservation,
Lorain
 Seneca Lake = most of the lake and the (non-
 state) Park are in **Noble**, while the dam is in
Guernsey
 SF = State Forest
 Shawnee = Shawnee State Forest, **Scioto**, unless
 otherwise noted
 Shawnee Lookout = Shawnee Lookout County
 Park, **Hamilton**
 Sheldon Marsh = Sheldon Marsh State Nature
 Preserve, **Erie**
 Sherod Park = a city park overlooking Lake Erie
 in Vermilion, **Erie**
 SNP = State Nature Preserve
 SP = State Park
 Springfield Lake = in Greater Akron, **Summit**
 Springville Marsh = Springville Marsh State Na-
 ture Preserve, **Seneca**
 Spring Valley = Spring Valley Wildlife Area, al-
 most entirely in **Greene** but extending into
Warren
 Stillfork = The Nature Conservancy's Stillfork
 Swamp Preserve, **Carroll**
 Sunset Park = a city park overlooking Lake Erie
 in Willoughby, **Lake**
 SWA = State Wildlife Area
 TNC = The Nature Conservancy (<http://www.nature.org>)
 TP = Township Park
 Vinton Furnace = Vinton Furnace Experimental
 Forest, **Vinton**

Villa Angela = the Villa Angela unit of Cleve-
 land's Lakefront Reservation
 Volunteer Bay = a private neighborhood on Lake
 Erie in **Erie**
 WA = Wildlife Area
 Wake Robin = a trail and boardwalk in Mentor
 Marsh State Nature Preserve, **Lake**
 Wendy Park = a lakeshore Cleveland park,
Cuyahoga
 Wilderness Road = a road that traverses Funk
 Bottoms Wildlife Area, **Wayne**, and adjoining
 farmland
 The Wilds = a limited-access big-mammal breed-
 ing and research facility in **Muskingum**, also
 used generically to include the surrounding
 reclaimed strip mines
 Willow Point = Willow Point Wildlife Area, **Erie**
 Winous Horseshoe = a limited-access part of
 Winous Point Shooting Club, **Ottawa**
 Winous Point = Winous Point Shooting Club,
Ottawa
 Wintergarden Woods = Wintergarden Woods
 and Saint Johns Nature Preserve, **Wood**
 Woodman Fen = a natural area, part of Dayton's
 Five Rivers MetroParks system, **Montgomery**
 WRGBT = Western Reserve Greenway Bike
 Trail, **Trumbull**
 Wright Marsh = a hotspot in Killbuck WA north
 of Shreve, **Wayne**
 WWTP = Wastewater Treatment Plant
 Zaleski = Zaleski State Forest, **Vinton**

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

By Craig Caldwell

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck

Two spent three Aug days in *Ashtabula*; the OBRC has a report.

Snow Goose

Dan Gesualdo photographed the first, which arrived at Volunteer Bay about a week earlier than expected on 17 Sep. Jen Brumfield saw the next, in Independence, *Cuyahoga*, on 02 Oct. Jelmer Poelstra provided the high count of 115, from Rocky River Park, *Cuyahoga*, on 30 Oct, while about 100 flew over Edward Ingold's *Hancock* home on 21 Nov. These were the only numbers exceeding the 14 which m. obs. saw at Lost Bridge on 18 Nov. (36 counties)

Ross's Goose

The first was about three weeks earlier than usual; Ronnie Clark saw it at Dellinger Lake, *Franklin*, on 24 Oct. East Fork hosted two on 17 Nov for m. obs. (10 counties)



Traci Gentry was able to pick out a Ross's Goose near Clyde, Sandusky, on 21 Nov.

Snow/Ross's Goose

Indeterminate birds were reported in *Cuyahoga*, *Darke*, and *Delaware*.

Greater White-fronted Goose

Matt Mason saw the first, at Funk on 17 Oct, which is about a month ahead of schedule. Steve Jones and Andrew Lodge separately reported about 30 near La Rue, *Marion*, on 22 Oct; they were the second arrivals and the season's second most. Austin and Mollie Langdon counted 62 from their photographs of a flock passing Miller Ecological Park, *Warren*, on 19 Nov. (10 counties)

Brant

Duane Miller and Atlee Yoder saw the only one

as it passed Conneaut TP, *Ashtabula*, on 24 Oct.

Cackling Goose

Lots of folks saw the first, off Mentor, *Lake*, on 19 Oct, a month ahead of their expected arrival. Debbie and Mark Raven saw the most, nine at New Russia Township Cemetery, *Lorain*, on 20 Nov. The next highest count of four was shared by two sites. (12 counties)

Canada Goose

Greg Pasek saw about 1400 at Sandy Ridge on 08 Nov, and about 1000 were still there on 28 Nov for Debbie and Robert Chadwick. The most elsewhere were about 800 seen at Old Highland Stone on several dates. (all 88 counties)

[Snow x Canada Goose]

James Griffin photographed one at React Memorial Park, *Coshocton*, on 14 Nov.

Cackling/Canada Goose

Five counties hosted indeterminate birds.

Mute Swan

The high count of 15 was shared by ONWR on 16 Oct (John Crouch) and Fernald on 23 Nov (Julie Tyson). (32 counties)

Trumpeter Swan

Douglas Vogus *et al.* counted 213 during the 02 Aug ONWR census and up to 183 were seen there on other dates. The most elsewhere were Thomas Stevenson's 100 at Killdeer on 08 Nov and Ethan Kistler's 35 along Dunkerton Road, *Trumbull*, on 13 Nov. (36 counties)

Tundra Swan

The first three were a week or more ahead of schedule; Brian O'Connor saw them at Lorain on 04 Oct. The next was about on time at Willow Point WA, *Erie*, on 16 Oct for Ned DeLamatre. ONWR hosted about 800 on 29 Oct (Trevor Zook) and up to 600 on other dates. Jeff Harvey saw the most elsewhere, 325 at Pine Lake, *Ma-honing*, on 29 Nov. (41 counties)

Wood Duck

Daniel A. Stutzman counted 876 strung along both sides of County Road 1 in Killbuck on 11 Sep. The next most were Jason Bojczyk's 250 at Metzger on 04 Aug. (83 counties)

Blue-winged Teal

Sightings came throughout the season but were scarce during the second half of Nov. Three locations each held about 300 on early Sep dates. (64 counties)

Northern Shoveler

Andrew O'Connor saw the first, at Howard Marsh on 07 Aug. Larry Richardson found about 80 at Mosquito Lake on 28 Nov. (54 counties)

Gadwall

Carl Winstead saw the first, at Alum Creek on 03 Aug. The next date was 09 Aug; that day Pete Johantgen found one at Delaware WA and Shawn Wolfe saw four at Waterville, **Lucas**. The high count of 2375 came during the 01 Nov ONWR census (Douglas Vogus *et al.*); up to 2000 were seen there on other dates. The most elsewhere were 850 along the Cedar Point Chausee, **Erie**, on 11 Nov (Paul Sherwood) and the inland high count was 500, along Mahan Denman Road, **Trumbull**, on 04 Nov (Meg Glines). (63 counties)

American Wigeon

The first arrived during Jul, but the first of this season weren't seen until 20 Aug, by Kent Miller at Berlin Lake. Mosquito Lake hosted about 300 on several Oct dates; the most elsewhere were about 100 seen by Joe Sudomir at Castalia, **Erie**, on 21 Nov. (52 counties)

Mallard

Douglas Vogus' ONWR census team counted 1421 on 01 Nov. Paul Sherwood counted 1162 from the Cedar Point Chausee, **Erie**, on 11 Nov. The most away from the western basin were the 550 that David English and Bill Grant found at Headlands on 06 Nov. Three inland sites each held about 300. (81 counties)

American Black Duck

Scattered summer sightings preceded this season's first, which were on 04 Aug. Cole DiFabio saw one at Mentor Marsh and Joseph Breeden saw 12 at Sandy Ridge that day. Gautam Apte and Gavin Nupp counted 55 at Darby Creek on 04 Nov. (50 counties)

[Mallard x American Black Duck]

Dan Best found 11 at LaDue on 26 Nov. (11 counties)

Northern Pintail

A single bird seen on 21 Jul was errant; this season's first were Jory Teltser's eight seen along I-80 in **Trumbull** on 27 Aug. The next were another eight at ONWR on 06 Sep (m. obs.). Jelmer Poelstra saw about 135 off Sherod Park on 24 Oct and Trevor Zook found about 100 at ONWR on 29 Oct. The most inland were Bob and Denise Lane's 45 at Mosquito Lake on 30 Oct. (48 counties)

Green-winged Teal

Two Jul sightings preceded this season's first, which came on 03 Aug. That day Alex Eberts re-sighted the 28 Jul Pickerington Ponds bird and

m. obs. saw another at Big Island. Peggy Page found 300 at Mentor Lagoons on 03 Nov; Jeff Harvey's 185 at Mill Creek on 21 Nov were the second most. (53 counties)

Canvasback

One spent most of the summer at Fernald; Julie Tyson and Kimberly Wagner separately saw it again on 04 Aug. Ned DeLamatre saw the first elsewhere, two at Kelleys Island on 14 Sep. Michael Hensley provided the high count of 50, from East Sandusky Bay MP, **Erie**, on 02 Nov. The next most were Mandy Roberts' 38 at Williams Reservoir, **Allen**, on 27 Oct. (28 counties)

Redhead

Howard Marsh hosted up to three all summer, but this season's first wasn't seen until 29 Aug, at ONWR (Paul Jacyk). The next was a month later, at Sandy Ridge on 26 Sep (Karyn Delaney). Cowan SP, **Clinton**, hosted about 330 on 23 Nov (Rick Asamoto) and East Fork an exact count of 243 on 22 Nov (Cassidy and Tyler Ficker). (46 counties)

Ring-necked Duck

One member of Douglas Vogus' ONWR census team photographed a very early arrival on 02 Aug. Even the next two were early; Josh Yoder saw one at Killbuck on 23 Aug and Cole DiFabio another at Mentor Marsh on 11 Sep. Henry Trimpe provided the high count of 300, from Lake Medina on 27 Nov. (61 counties)

Greater Scaup

Nate Koszycki saw the first, on both 11 and 12 Oct at Farnsworth MP, **Lucas**; that's about a week before their historical arrival date. The next date of 24 Oct was shared by two birds at Ferguson and Metzger Reservoirs, **Allen** (Mandy Roberts), and three at Mosquito Lake (Rick Nelson). Ethan Kistler found 14 at Arcola Creek Park, **Lake**, on 21 Nov. Jonathan Strassfeld saw the next most, nine off Cahoon Park, **Cuyahoga**, on 01 Nov, and Jacob Raber the most inland, seven at Chippewa Lake, **Medina**, on 22 Nov. (32 counties)

Lesser Scaup

These started arriving in Jul. The high count of 2100 came from East Harbor SP, **Ottawa**, on 23 Nov (Nancy Anderson). The most elsewhere were 740 off Toledo's 119th Street on 15 Nov (Paul Jacyk), while the inland high number of 200 came from the Wellington Uppground Reservoir, **Lorain**, on 01 Nov (Michael and Trevor Zook). (57 counties)

Scaup sp.

Warren Leow saw about 3000 off Maumee Bay on 03 Nov.

King Eider

A post from *Cuyahoga* had a description.

Eider sp.

A post from *Lake* has a minimalist description.

Harlequin Duck

The reports are:

One at Independence Dam SP, *Defiance*, from 29 Oct to 01 Nov (m. obs.)

One off Cahoon Park, *Cuyahoga*, on 05 Nov (m. obs.)

One off Sims Park, *Cuyahoga*, on 24 Nov (Jonathan Strassfeld)

Surf Scoter

The first were two which m. obs. saw off Lakewood Park, *Cuyahoga*, on 11 Sep, a month earlier than expected. The next was Dan Gesualdo's at Volunteer Bay on 11 Oct. Jen Brumfield counted 82 off Cahoon Park, *Cuyahoga*, 20 Nov, and Gautam Apte's 37 off Lakewood Park, *Cuyahoga*, on 30 Oct were the next most. Dan Kramer provided the inland high count of six, at Outhwaite Reservoir, *Crawford*, on 26 Oct. (26 counties all the way south to Clermont)

White-winged Scoter

These also arrived early; Brian O'Connor saw the first, two at Spring Lakes Park, *Greene*, on 19 Oct., and sightings were steady from that date. Lake Erie hosted 15 off Cahoon Park, *Cuyahoga*, on 27 Nov for Lisa Cellura. The inland high count of 10 was shared by Eric Elvert at Eastwood MP, *Montgomery*, on 25 Oct and Sandra Keller at Caesar Creek on 30 Oct. (30 counties)

Black Scoter

Gautam Apte gave a good description of five that passed overhead at CLNP on 17 Sep, a month earlier than usual. The next showed up at Stages Pond SNP, *Pickaway*, on 11 Oct for Marcia Brehmer and Melanie Shuter. Chad Wilson saw about 75 off Cahoon Park, *Cuyahoga*, on 31 Oct. The next most were the 43 that Sarah Preston and James Smallwood counted off Painesville TP, *Lake*, on 17 Nov. Susannah Hopkins found 21 at Deer Creek on 26 Oct for the inland high number. (25 counties)

Long-tailed Duck

Mandy Roberts saw the first, at Bresler Reservoir, *Allen*, on 30 Oct. The high count of five was shared by the Wellington Upground Reservoir, *Lorain*, on 18 Nov (Helen and Ken Ostermiller, Debbie and Mark Raven) and Upper Sandusky Reservoir #2, *Wyandot*, on 22 Nov (Amy Holloway and Cam Lee). (11 counties)

Bufflehead

Paul Jacyk photographed one at Maumee Bay on

05 Sep, almost six weeks earlier than usual. The next, two that Daniel Miranda found at Ferguson and Metzger Reservoirs, *Allen*, on 11 Oct, were also pioneers. LaDue hosted about 250 for David English and Inga Schmidt on 02 Nov. (53 counties)

Common Goldeneye

A trio of birders saw the first, about as expected at Lorain on 11 Oct. The high count of 250 came from Lake Erie at both Sims Park, *Cuyahoga*, on 25 Nov (Kim Pastrick) and Beulah Beach, *Erie*, on 27 Nov (Philip Steiner). The most inland were Larry Richardson's 60 at Mosquito Lake on 13 Nov. (36 counties)

Hooded Merganser

Matthew Valencic counted 409 at LaDue on 28 Nov. Kathy Mihm Dunning and Tony Leukering came in second with 296 at Hoover NP on 27 Nov. (68 counties)

Common Merganser

Tim Colborn and Beth Lenoble separately reported about 300 at Evans Lake, *Mahoning*, on 27 Nov. Mia Yeager counted 221 at Lake Rockwell, *Portage*, on 15 Nov for the second highest number. (42 counties)

Red-breasted Merganser

These historically have arrived in late Sep, but Tyler McClain saw one on a Kelleys Island pier on 13 Aug and Lenore Charnigo another at the Edgewater marina on 02 Sep. Joshua Davidson saw about 20,000 off Sims Park, *Cuyahoga*, on 24 Nov and wrote, "Massive raft that took off and circled way out over the lake". Gautam Apte saw about 13,000 off Lakewood Park, *Cuyahoga*, on 27 Nov. Donna Kuhn and James Smallwood provided the inland high count of 75, from Evans Lake, *Mahoning*, on 26 Nov. (44 counties)

Ruddy Duck

There were scattered sightings all summer. Mandy Roberts provided the high count of 650, from Ferguson and Metzger Reservoirs, *Allen*, on 17 Oct, and almost 600 were seen there on other days. Paul Jacyk saw 530 off Cullen Park, *Lucas*, on 27 Oct for the most elsewhere. (69 counties)

Northern Bobwhite

Jon Costanzo saw a possible family of six, fittingly at Quail Ridge Farm, *Preble*, on 24 Aug. Two birds near Sabina, *Clinton*, on 14 Oct (Larry Early) and three at Pickerel Creek on 26 Nov (David Wilkins) were the only sightings that month and there were none in Nov. (10 counties)

Wild Turkey

John Dreves and David Thorburn counted 33 at Blendon Woods on 27 Nov and wrote, "All big

Toms in [a] flock of 15. 18 hens (1 bearded) in [another] flock.” (77 counties)

Ruffed Grouse

Joshua Eastlake saw one at Shawnee on 05 Oct. Patrick McGuigan saw another, in Wayne Township, **Monroe**, on 10 Oct and wrote that it was a “common sighting on this property over the last 40 years”.

Ring-necked Pheasant

Will Babb and Doug Whitman counted 12 at the **Pickaway** airport on 20 Nov. (28 counties)

Pied-billed Grebe

Metzger hosted the most, 75 on 25 Sep for Jack Leow. A trio of birders saw the next most, about 60 at Mosquito Lake on 15 Oct. (77 counties)

Horned Grebe

These usually have arrived in mid-Sep, so Micki Dunakin’s at the Paulding Reservoir on 31 Aug was an early bird. Jennifer Suydam’s at Howard Marsh on 09 Sep was a week or so early. Lake Erie off Volunteer Bay held 130 on 24 Nov for Dan Gesualdo and Philip Steiner and up to 85 on other dates. The most elsewhere were Gautam Apte’s 52 off CLNP on 26 Nov, and 28 at Hoover NP on 27 Nov were the most inland (Kathy Mihm Dunning and Tony Leukering). (48 counties)

Red-necked Grebe

The first sightings, on 29 Oct, were shared by Adrian Smith (two birds at New London Reservoir, **Huron**) and m. obs. (three birds at Clear Fork). The high count of four also came from Clear Fork, by Gary Cowell on 02 Nov. Three were seen there on other dates and duos were at several locations. (11 counties)

Eared Grebe

Geoff Malosh saw the first, an early bird at Wauseon Reservoir, **Fulton**, on 28 Sep. The next, seen by m. obs. at Lorain harbor for several day beginning on 15 Oct, was still about two weeks ahead of schedule. Alum Creek hosted four on 22 Nov for Ayden Van Fossen; it was the only site with more than one bird. (9 counties)



Lorain Harbor hosted an Eared Grebe that Debbie Parker got great shots of on 19 Oct.

Western Grebe

One spent a few days at the end of Nov at Evans Lake, **Mahoning**; the OBRC has two reports and gleaned many photos from posts.

Rock Pigeon

Randy Morgan found 320 at a farm outside Hamilton, **Butler**, on 07 Aug. (82 counties)

Eurasian Collared-Dove

Mandy Roberts wrote this about the 36 she saw in Beaverdam, **Allen** on 30 Oct: “Wow! Feeding on corn on w. Pearl st. This is a minimum number as they spook easily. I had 36 on the ground at the same time.” The next most were Eric Juterbock’s eight in Celina, **Mercer**, on 27 Sep. (8 counties)

Eurasian/African Collared-Dove

Scott Van Valkenburg saw one on his **Medina** farm between 29 Oct and 01 Nov, but wasn’t comfortable narrowing the identification any further.

White-winged Dove

One spent a week in late Oct at a **Cuyahoga** home; the OBRC has two reports and many gleaned photos.

Mourning Dove

The high count of 300 was shared by Brian Wulker near New Holland, **Fayette**, on 16 Aug and the duo of Jacob Raber and James Stammen at Darby Creek on 11 Sep. (all 88 counties)

Yellow-billed Cuckoo

The last stayed north a week or two longer than usual; Alex Colucci described a series of notes at Hampton Hills MP, **Summit**, on 06 Nov and wrote that he was “[s]urprised to hear this singing so late in the season.” The second last was Ronnie Clark’s at Darby Creek on 21 Oct. Brad Imhoff found seven at the Franklin Miller Observatory, **Knox**, on 24 Sep. (78 counties)



A Yellow-billed Cuckoo posed nicely for Debbie Parker on 09 Sep at Lorain.

Black-billed Cuckoo

Ami Horowitz saw the last, at Old Woman

Creek, **Erie**, on 10 Oct. That's about when most are usually across the Ohio River, but sightings were widespread until then. Ami also saw the only duo, at the Nature Conservancy's Herrick Fen, **Portage**, on 16 Sep. (33 counties)

Common Nighthawk

David Rudemiller saw the last, over his Cincinnati yard on 14 Oct; sometimes they're seen for a week or more past that date. Four sites generated reports on 12 Oct. Jerald Reb provided the high count of 436, over Columbus on 02 Sep, and wrote, "Near exact count of large flocks moving south down High Street." The second most were Terry Bronson's 211 at Marietta, **Washington**, on 28 Aug. (72 counties)

Eastern Whip-poor-will

Sightings were steady to the last, which was at the Jones Preserve on 19 Sep; it was the day's first capture by bander Tyler McClain. Often sightings continue to about mid-Oct. Phil Cantino found three at the Bluebell Preserve, **Athens**, on 03 Sep, and three other Athens sites each hosted two birds. (9 counties)

Chimney Swift

Kim Nordquest saw the last, a flock of nine at Walnut Beach Park, **Ashtabula**, on 29 Oct. That's a typical date for the latitude. Gautam Apte counted 3150 from CLNP on 17 Sep; see Field Notes for how he did it. The most elsewhere were the 2300 that Jenny Bowman watched entering a chimney at Colonial Hills Elementary School, **Franklin**, on the evening of 18 Sep. Only **Crawford**, **Monroe**, and **Pike** didn't have a sighting.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Tom Morely photographed one which came to his **Cuyahoga** feeder from mid-Oct until 16 Nov; Jen Brumfield and Tim Jasinski saw it on the last day and confirmed the identification. Another showed up at Larry Imhoff's Wooster, **Wayne**, feeder on 11 Nov, disappeared, returned on 02 Dec, and stayed until 19 Dec. Yet another was west of Hamilton, **Butler**, from early Nov to 25 Dec (*vide* Allen Chartier). Sightings elsewhere continued until 30 Oct, still a late date for the species. Reanna Thomas saw 20 at Indian Creek WA, **Brown**, on 19 Aug and wrote, "An unusual abundance of hummers. None were marked with male coloration, just young birds or all females?" Ann Peterson's **Medina** feeder hosted a leucistic bird on 22 and 23 Aug. Only **Harrison** didn't have a sighting.

Black-chinned Hummingbird

A state first! Allen Chartier banded and confirmed the identity of the one that spent 14 to 28

Nov visiting a feeder in **Franklin**. The OBRC has a formal report and 143 eBird entries.



A first state record Black-chinned Hummingbird was documented by Alex Eberts in **Franklin** on 19 Nov.

Rufous and Rufous/Allen's Hummingbirds

See the table following the Species Accounts for the remarkable number of *Selasphorus* hummingbirds documented this season.

King Rail

One or two were seen intermittently at Howard Marsh until 01 Sep (m. obs.). David Wilkins saw one at Pickerel Creek on 25 Aug and Josh Yoder found it again on 29 Aug.

Virginia Rail

Though the last of the season was Gregory Bennett's at Mogadore Reservoir, **Portage**, on 29 Nov, sightings elsewhere resumed in Dec. (Overwintering birds are becoming more common.) Irina Shulgina found four at Darby Creek on 15 Aug. (21 counties)

Sora

Josh Hargrave saw the last, at Chagrin River Park, **Lake**, on 06 Nov, about three weeks later than usual for that far north. It had been seen there since 23 Oct. The last otherwise was at Mill Creek on 27 Oct (Bob Lane). Winous Point hosted the high count of 15, on 19 Sep (Jessica Schmit) and Fernald the second highest, 10, on 29 Sep (Julie Tyson). (32 counties)

Common Gallinule

These were reported almost daily at Howard Marsh until the last sighting, Jeff Sailer's on 08 Nov. That's at least three weeks past when they've usually departed the north coast. Janice Farral saw the last but for the Howard bird, at Lorain on 21 Oct. Josh Yoder found 45 at Killbuck's Wright Marsh on 16 Aug. The next most were the 36 that Corinna Honscheid and Beth Lenoble counted at Delaware WA on 15 Aug. (24 counties)

American Coot

Paul Sherwood saw almost 1200 from the Cedar Point Causeway, **Erie**, on 11 Nov. Old Highland Stone and Mosquito Lake each hosted about 1000 on several dates. (63 counties)

Yellow Rail

An observer posted an excellent description of one at Jackson Bog SNP, *Stark*.

Sandhill Crane

Adrian Smith provided the high count of 128, from Wilderness Road on 03 Sep. The most away from their Funk/Killbuck center of gravity were Larry Richardson's 80 at Mosquito Lake on 11 Oct. (42 counties)

Black-necked Stilt

Raphael Kopan saw the last, a flyover near ONWR on 19 Sep. Dana Bollin's at Howard Marsh on 09 Sep was the second last sighting. The high count of seven also came from Howard, on 04 Sep (Dawn and Travis Parker). Three other sites each held five birds. All of the reports came from *Lucas*, *Mercer*, and *Ottawa*.



While exploring Howard Marsh on 22 Aug, *Su Snyder* spied this gorgeous Black-necked Stilt.

American Avocet

Cam Lee saw the last, at Big Island on 23 Oct; often they're still passing through in early Nov. The second last, and second most, were the 17 at Cullen Park, *Lucas*, that Paul Jacyk and Gillian Wilke separately reported. The most were 18 that flew past a trio of birders at Headlands on 11 Aug. (19 counties)

Black-bellied Plover

Lots of birders saw the last, at Howard Marsh on 07 Nov. The second last sightings were on 02 Nov, by Tim Kleman at Maumee Bay and Douglas Vogus *et al.* at ONWR. Nine visited Burke Airport on 03 Sep for Jen Brumfield. (24 counties)

American Golden-Plover

Suzanne Dillman saw the last, two at Howard Marsh on 01 Nov. The most were 12 that a trio of birders saw near Beloit, *Mahoning*, on 30 Aug. (28 counties)

Killdeer

John Shrader counted 463 at Englewood on 16 Aug. (all 88 counties)

Semipalmated Plover

Lee Funderburg saw the last, at Caesar Creek on 27 Oct, about as expected. Willow Point hosted 30 for Dan Kramer on 14 Aug. (47 counties)

Piping Plover

One was photographed at Buck Creek.

Upland Sandpiper

The six eBird reports were of single birds; they were:

Just after midnight on 01 Aug, a flight call over Jen Brumfield's *Cuyahoga* apartment.

Flying over Howard Marsh on 16 Aug (Glenn Seeholzer and Ben Winger)

Heard over Cuyahoga Falls, *Summit*, at 11 pm on 18 Aug (Brian Tinker)

At Burke Airport on 31 Aug (Jen Brumfield and Lenore Charnigo)

On a private property in *Holmes* on 04 Sep (Eli Miller)

Flushed at Funk on 10 Sep (Lucas Weaver)

Whimbrel

One or two were seen from the Lorain fishing pier on 17 Sep (m. obs.) and one flew by Volunteer Bay that same day (Dan Gesualdo). They were the last, though often sightings continue into Nov. The high count was a fly-by flock of six at Maumee Bay on 12 Sep (Donna Kuhn and Lisa Phelps). A duo was seen at Headlands, on 02 Aug (Kari Warner Matsko). *Ashtabula* and *Cuyahoga* also had sightings.



Traci Gentry was thrilled to see this Whimbrel at Howard Marsh on 02 Aug

Marbled Godwit

Josh King saw one at Grand Lake SP on 25 Aug, 27 Aug, and 08 Sep; Ethan Rising shared the last sighting. The only other sighting was by Joshua Vardous and Ed Wransky, one which flew past the Lorain fishing pier on 04 Sep.

Hudsonian Godwit

David Wilkins saw the last, at Pickerel Creek on

08 Nov, a date when the last are usually crossing the Ohio River. The only two double-digit counts were of 20 flying over Darby Creek on 28 Aug (Gautam Apte and Kandace Glanville) and of 21 passing Volunteer Bay on 07 Sep (Dan Gesualdo). (9 counties)



Gautam Apte was at the right place at the right time as he captured a large flock of Hudsonian Godwits passing Darby Creek on 28 Aug.

Ruddy Turnstone

These are often seen past mid-Oct, but this season there were only three reports after Sep. James Smallwood saw two at Fairport Harbor, **Lake**, on 11 Oct; Philip Steiner one at Beulah Beach, **Erie**, on 03 Nov; and Dan Gesualdo one at Volunteer Bay on both 13 and 15 Nov. A trio of birders found 12 at Buck Creek on 02 Aug and the second most were seven that Anthony Popiel saw on the Lorain harbor breakwall on 25 Sep. (13 counties)



A morning beach walk at East Fork produced a Ruddy Turnstone for Tyler Ficker on 10 Aug.

Red Knot

The last spent 14 and 15 Sep at Buck Creek for m. obs. The most were four, at Maumee Bay on 10 Sep, also for m. obs. (7 counties)

Stilt Sandpiper

Dave Smith saw the last, at Beaver Creek Reservoir, **Seneca**, on 31 Oct. Willow Point hosted the high count, 41 on 11 Oct for Allen Rand. (32 counties)

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper

A one-day wonder in **Medina** generated an OBRC report and many posts with photos.



James Smallwood scored a shot of a rare Sharp-tailed Sandpiper near Seville, **Medina**, on 09 Sep.

Sanderling

The last date was 03 Nov. That day Paul Jacyk saw five at Maumee Bay and Kathryn Clark six at Port Clinton Lakefront Preserve, **Ottawa**. Paul Jacyk also saw the most, 88 on the Maumee Bay beach on 11 Sep; birders saw up to 80 there on other dates. The most elsewhere were the 45 that Tom Frankel saw at Headlands on 25 Sep. (30 counties)

Dunlin

Brian Tinker saw the season's last, at Nimisila on 30 Nov, but there were sightings elsewhere in Dec. Maumee Bay hosted 81 on 10 Oct for Janet Hinshaw and Kathy Telfer, and the most inland were Benjamin Miller's 69 at Knox Lake on 29 Oct. (46 counties)

Purple Sandpiper

Several birders saw and photographed the first; it was very early at Headlands on 19 Sep. Jen Brumfield *et al.* spotted four along Cleveland harbor's outer breakwall during a birding cruise on 25 Nov. They were the last of the season and the only sighting of more than one bird, though sightings continued in the Cleveland area well into Dec. Two other **Cuyahoga** sites, one in **Erie**, and a second **Lake** site produced the rest of the reports.

Baird's Sandpiper

Often these are seen as late as mid-Nov, but Ryan Gniewiecki saw this season's last on 27 Sep, two birds at Berlin Lake. Three sites each produced reports of five birds. (27 counties)

Least Sandpiper

Two early Dec sightings followed this season's last, which was at Fernald on 29 Nov (Marianne Gorman). Alum Creek hosted the second last, on 21 Nov (Jacob Raber and Trevor Zook). Kevin Pero "[i]ndividually counted as many as [I] could while in flight and while on the mudflat" and ar-

rived at 108 at Burke Airport on 05 Aug. Luke Schrader's 77 at Hoover NP on 22 Aug was the second highest count. (55 counties)

White-rumped Sandpiper

Gary Cowell saw the last, a little late at Pleasant Hill Lake on 10 Nov. Gautam Apte and Kevin Pero saw the second last, even further north at CLNP, on 29 Oct. John Shrader found seven at Englewood on 22 Aug. (19 counties)

Buff-breasted Sandpiper

Brian O'Connor and Greg Pasek weren't together, but both saw the first, at Bay Point, **Ottawa**, on 21 Aug. Two sites hosted one on the last date of 21 Sep, Howard Marsh (Robert Bobel, Mary Sue Ostafi) and Hoover NP (Ben Warner). Several birders saw 10 at Darby Creek on 27 and 28 Aug, while the most elsewhere were six at Medusa on 29 Aug (Paul Hillman and Holly Lynn). (17 counties)



Cassidy Ficker got incredibly close looks at a friendly Buff-breasted Sandpiper at Paint Creek SP, Highland, on 29 Aug.

Pectoral Sandpiper

The last were Ami Horowitz's two at ONWR on 19 Nov, two weeks late for the north coast. The second last was one at Pickerington Ponds on 08 Nov (m. obs.). Gautam Apte and Kandace Glanville found 80 at Deer Creek WA on 13 Sep. (53 counties)

Western Sandpiper

The last sighting was by Andrew Lodge and Irina Shulgina, at Darby Creek on 18 Sep, though they're often still passing through two months later. All of the sightings, from eight counties, were of single birds.

Semipalmated Sandpiper

Rachael Kaiser and Doug Whitman saw the last, at Darby Creek on 06 Nov. Trevor Zook saw the

second last, at ONWR on 28 Oct. (They're usually gone by mid-Oct.) Knox Lake hosted the high count of 125 on 19 Aug for Howard Gratz. (48 counties)



Janice Farral took advantage of nice morning light on 18 Aug to capture some great shots of this Semipalmated Sandpiper at Baypoint, Ottawa.

Semipalmated/Western Sandpiper

Sarah Milliron saw an indeterminate bird at Maumee Bay on 16 Nov, late for Western and very late for Semipalmated.

Short-billed Dowitcher

Eric Elvert photographed the last, at the Osborn Road gravel pits, **Clark**, only a little late on 11 Oct. Paul Jacyk counted 26 along the ONWR WD on 30 Aug and up to 22 were there on other dates. The most elsewhere were the 22 that Joe Sudomir found at Pickerel Creek on 08 Aug. Darby Creek hosted the inland high count of 19, on 28 Aug for m. obs. (24 counties)



Patience secured a great shot of a Short-billed Dowitcher for James Smallwood at Conneaut on 29 Aug.

Long-billed Dowitcher

Randy Rowe saw the first, six at Killdeer on 06 Aug. Several birders saw the last, at Prairie Lane, **Wayne**, on 21 Nov. Jan Hansen and Jelmer Poelstra saw 31 during the ONWR WD on 29 Aug. The next most were 12 that Paul Sherwood found at Killdeer on 17 Oct. (22 counties)

American Woodcock

The last live birds were seen on 28 Nov, at Fer-

nald (Derek and Levi Parker) and Hidden Lake MP, **Lake** (Joan Scharf), but one was found dead in early Dec. Larry Richardson counted nine at Grand River WA, **Trumbull**, on 15 Oct. (36 counties)

Wilson's Snipe

David H. Yoder found at least 60 throughout Killbuck on 12 Nov. Amy Holloway and Cam Lee counted 25 at Killdeer on 07 Sep. (49 counties)

Spotted Sandpiper

Usually these have left by the end of Oct, but Meg Glines saw one at Lake Milton SP, **Mahoning**, on 07 Nov and it or another there on 28 Nov. Terry Bronson saw the second last, at Seneca Lake, **Noble**, on 05 Nov. About 25 were along Wilderness Road on 04 Aug for Jelmer Poelstra. (73 counties)



Janice Farral enjoyed close views of a Spotted Sandpiper on 01 Aug at Lakeview Park, **Lorain**.

Solitary Sandpiper

On 28 Oct Pickerington Ponds held one (Anthony Schmitt) and Darby Creek five (Matt Bystrom). That date is three weeks later than they are usually seen in mid-state, but sightings were widespread up to then. Michael and Trevor Zook found 45 at Knox Lake on 16 Aug. Rick Asamoto's 31 at Englewood on 05 Aug were the second most. (66 counties)

Lesser Yellowlegs

The last was a couple of weeks late for mid-state; Brian O'Connor found it at Darby Creek on 20 Nov. Two duos on 12 Nov were the second last sightings: Bennie Saylor's were at the Zoar Wetland Arboretum, **Tuscarawas**, and David Smith and Deb Weston's were in Greensburg Township, **Putnam**. Knox Lake hosted 70 for Michael and Trevor Zook on 16 Aug and up to 65 were seen there on other dates. David Wilkins saw the most elsewhere, 61 near Pickerel Creek on 27 Sep. (60 counties)

Willet

The only sightings after 28 Sep were of single birds at Howard Marsh on 06 Oct (Jon Jenkins)

and Willow Point on 12 Oct (Paul Sherwood). Debbie Parker counted 17 passing the Lorain (city) shore on 09 Aug. Several birders got to see 10 at Buck Creek on 02 Sep. (12 counties)

Greater Yellowlegs



A flyby Willet near Arsonia, **Darke**, was captured by Chad Arment on 02 Aug

Often these are still around in Dec, but John Besser saw the last, at Metzger on 27 Nov. Josh Yoder found 80 at Pickerel Creek on 29 Aug. The next most were the 42 that Ben Kerstetter counted along the ONWR WD on 30 Aug, and the inland high count was Josh Yoder's 35 at Deer Creek WA on 13 Sep. (63 counties)

Wilson's Phalarope

Martha Burrows saw the first, three at Howard Marsh on 17 Aug. Josh King and Ethan Rising saw the last, at the Prairie Creek Treatment Train, **Mercer**, on 03 Oct. Cam Lee saw the last, at Killdeer on 18 Sep. Pickerel Creek provided the high count of five, for Paul Sherwood on 30 Aug. (9 counties)

Red-necked Phalarope

The first was at Pickerel Creek on 10 Aug (David Wilkins). The last were three westbound past Lakewood Park, **Cuyahoga**, on 02 Nov (Gautam Apte and Kevin Pero). The high count of nine was shared by Pickerel Creek on 31 Aug (Sandra Blease) and the Findlay Reservoirs on 12 Sep (David and Julia Smith). (11 counties)

Red Phalarope

At least 75 eBirders saw the first, off Rocky River Park, **Cuyahoga**, on 31 Oct and 01 Nov. Only Joel Throckmorton saw the last, off Perkins Beach, **Cuyahoga**, on 26 Nov. One site in **Erie** and three in **Lorain** also provided reports.

Pomarine Jaeger

Jen Brumfield saw one eastbound past Cahoon Park on 30 Oct and soon after that it passed Bill Ohlsen off Columbia Park (both **Cuyahoga**). Gautam Apte and Anthony Rodgers separately reported the season's last, from Perkins Beach, **Cuyahoga**, on 30 Nov, though one made a brief appearance inland in Dec. Dan Gesualdo saw the only duo, from Volunteer Bay on 17 Nov. All of the reports came from **Cuyahoga** and **Erie**.

Parasitic Jaeger

One spent more than a week at Caesar Creek, up to five were reported from **Erie** locations, one or two were reported from several **Cuyahoga** vantage points, and one report came from each of **Lake** and **Lorain**. Posts from most sites had photos, but no formal reports went to the OBRC.

Black-legged Kittiwake

A “beautiful immature” spent 15 to 17 Nov cruising the Cleveland lakefront (m. obs.). Randy Morgan saw another at Acton Lake in Hueston Woods SP, **Butler/Preble**, on both 27 and 28 Nov.

Sabine’s Gull

Volunteer Bay was the place to see these. At that location Dan Gesualdo saw the first, on 10 Sep, the last of the season, on 24 and 25 Nov, and the most, four on 11 Sep. James Muller made the only inland sighting, one at Deer Creek SP on 13 Sep. Single birds were also seen in **Cuyahoga** and **Lake**, each on several dates.

Bonaparte’s Gull

Gautam Apte saw about 12,000 off Edgewater on 17 Nov and wrote, “Insane push west, birds streaming 40-60/min with pushes up to 200/min, 3,000-5,000 loading the harbor waters.” The most elsewhere were 5000 at Painesville TP, **Lake**, on 15 Nov (Erin Allen and Andy Avram) and the inland high count of 627 came from East Fork on 11 Nov (Sandra Keller). (60 counties)



A scan of the Alum Creek shoreline netted Gautam Apte great views of this Bonaparte’s Gull on 17 Oct.

Franklin’s Gull

David Wilkins saw the first, at Pickerel Creek on both 20 and 22 Aug. Ed Wransky saw the next, at Headlands on 27 Sep. Jon Cefus and Kent Miller saw the last, at Meyers Lake, **Stark**, on 13 Nov. The high count of 47 came from East Fork on 11 Nov for m. obs., and Clark Lake, **Clark**, held 40 that same day for Dan Kempf. (21 counties)

Laughing/Franklin’s Gull

Louis Hoying’s find at Lake Loramie SP, **Shelby**, was too distant to refine the identification.

Laughing Gull

Don Keffer saw the first since Jun, at Mosquito

Lake on 01 Aug. The last spent 30 Sep and 01 Oct on the east side of Cleveland’s lakefront (m. obs.). Several birders saw two at each of Deer Creek SP between 20 and 26 Aug and at Buckeye Lake SP, **Licking**, on 31 Aug. (9 counties)



A stroll on the Deer Creek SP beach helped Leslie Sours discover a pair of Laughing Gulls on 25 Aug.

Little Gull

One spent from 23 to 25 Aug at Berlin Lake (m. obs.). Another was at Paint Creek SP, **Highland**, on 29 Aug (m. obs.). Both of these birds were juveniles and most likely different ones. An adult and a second-year bird were off Edgewater on 17 Nov (Jen Brumfield) and the latter wandered the Cleveland shore from then to 28 Nov (m. obs.). Other duos were at Fairport Harbor, **Lake**, on 15 Nov (m. obs.) and at nearby Painesville TP the next day (Erin Allen). The last of the season was at Volunteer Bay on 29 Nov (Dan Gesualdo) and sightings there and elsewhere continued into Dec.



*A county first Little Gull was enjoyed by Gautam Apte on 29 Aug at Paint Creek SP, **Highland**.*

Ring-billed Gull

Josh Yoder estimated that 15,000 were visible from Wendy Park on 23 Nov, and up to 14,000 were reported in the Cleveland area on other dates. The most elsewhere were the 10,000 that

Helen and Ken Ostermiller found at Lorain harbor on 18 Nov. The inland high count of 3000 was shared by two **Mahoning** sites, Pine Lake on 23 Nov (Jeff Harvey and John Petruzzi) and Evans Lake on 25 Nov (Cynthia Norris and Bennie Saylor). (72 counties)

[Laughing x Ring-billed Gull]

Debbie Parker documented this hybrid at the Lorain marina on 27 Oct.

Herring Gull

Jen Brumfield saw about 4500 at Edgewater on 17 Nov; up to 3500 were at other Cleveland-area sites on other dates. Jon Cefus and Kent Miller's 2500 on 27 Nov at the Republic landfill outside Bolivar, **Stark** (hereafter, the Bolivar landfill) were the most inland. (56 counties)

Iceland Gull

A very, very early "Thayer's" type spent from 11 to 21 Aug at Lakeview Park, **Lorain**, for m. obs. The next date was 02 Nov, when Jonathan Wilhelms saw one at CLNP and m. obs. another at that same Lakeview Park. The high count of four came from the Bolivar landfill on 27 Nov, when Jon Cefus and Kent Miller identified one belonging to the scarcer nominate subspecies among them. All of the reports came from **Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain**, and **Stark**.

Lesser Black-backed Gull

Many Jul sightings preceded this season's. Gautam Apte and Jerald Reb "each took a complete scan counting by ones" and tallied a remarkable 212 at the Findlay Reservoirs on 17 Oct. Up to 41 were seen there both earlier and later. The most elsewhere were Jon Cefus and Kent Miller's 17 at Meyers Lake, **Stark**, on 13 Nov. (27 counties)

[Herring x Lesser Black-backed Gull]

Jon Cefus and Kent Miller identified one at Meyers Lake and two at the Bolivar landfill (both **Stark**) on 27 Nov.

Glaucous Gull

The reports are:

One at Pine Lake, Mahoning, on 23 Nov (Jeff Harvey, John Petruzzi)

One at Meyers Lake, **Stark**, on 26 Nov (Gavin Nupp) and 27 Nov (Jon Cefus and Kent Miller)

Two at the Bolivar landfill also on 27 Nov (Jon Cefus and Kent Miller)

One at Cleveland's East 55th Street Marina on 30 Nov (Gautam Apte)

Great Black-backed Gull

Jen Brumfield provided the high count of 20, from Edgewater on 17 Nov. Smaller numbers were seen at other Lake Erie vantage points, but

all of the inland sightings were of single birds. (10 counties)

Caspian Tern

Sandy Ridge and Maumee Bay shared sightings, by Thomas Winczek and Karl Overman respectively, on the last date of 28 Oct. Pickerel Creek hosted 335 on 30 Aug for Adrian Smith and up to 320 on other dates. The most elsewhere were Greg Pasek's 75 off Bay Point, **Ottawa**, on 21 Aug. Gary Cowell's 21 at Charles Mill Lake was the inland high count. (47 counties)



A stroll at Hoover Reservoir let Alex Eberts shoot this cooperative Caspian Tern on 26 Aug

Black Tern

Tracy and Tyler Ficker saw the last, at East Fork on 28 Sep. The most were also there, 15 for Megan Massa and Reanna Thomas on 11 Aug. The second most, nine, were at each of Rocky River Park, **Cuyahoga**, on 10 Sep (Jen Brumfield, Bill Ohlsen) and Sherod Park on 17 Sep (Leslie Sours). (19 counties)

Common Tern

Alan Barnes saw the last two, at Cleveland's East 72nd Street on 27 Nov. About 600 were off Maumee Bay on 02 Sep for Warren Leow and up to 500 were reported there on other dates. Dan Gesualdo saw about 500 at Volunteer Bay on 17 Sep for the most elsewhere. The inland high count of 10 was by Josh King at Grand Lake SP on 25 Aug. (32 counties)

Forster's Tern

The last lingered at Caesar Creek from 03 to 15

Nov (m. obs.). Multiple birders saw 300 off Maumee Bay on both 06 and 09 Sep, while the most elsewhere were 180 off Bay View Park, **Lucas**, on 01 Oct (Paul Jacyk). Carole Babyak's nine at Mosquito Lake on 12 Aug was the inland high count. (36 counties)

Red-throated Loon

The first showed up at Guilford Lake SP, **Columbiana**, on 29 Oct for Tyler Ficker and Mollie Langdon. Three sites each hosted one on 26 Nov, the last date of the season. Gautam Apte counted seven off Lakewood Park, **Cuyahoga**, on 17 Nov. The most inland were duos at Hueston Woods SP, **Butler/Preble**, on 02 Nov (Cole DiFabio) and one from a **Holmes** farm on 17 Nov (Lucas Weaver). (12 counties)

Pacific Loon

One was well described in a post from **Erie**.

Common Loon

Theo Bockhorst saw about 400 from Lakewood Park, **Cuyahoga**, on 17 Nov. The inland high count of 273 came that same day as they passed over the Time & Optics shop in **Holmes** (John Mark and Robert Hershberger). (49 counties)

Wood Stork

Many photos accompanied posts of a two-day Aug visit to **Mercer**.



Mercer WA hosted a rare Wood Stork which gave Mandy Roberts great looks on 08 Aug

Magnificent Frigatebird

The OBRC has a report with photos from **Franklin**.

Brown Booby

The OBRC has three formal reports and 511 eBird records to formalize this bird as the state's first. It spent from 25 Aug to 03 Sep at Nimisila.

Double-crested Cormorant

About 4500 were at Willow Point WA, **Erie**, on 08 Sep for Tom Denbow. The next most were the 3000 that Phillip Steiner saw moving westbound past Huron harbor, **Erie**, on 21 Oct. The inland high count of 1250 came from Bryan Smith at Gallipolis, **Gallia**, on 25 Oct. (81 counties)

Neotropic Cormorant

Posts from **Franklin** and **Licking** had photos and one from **Holmes** a description, but one from **Cuyahoga** had neither.

American White Pelican

The first of the season were 11 off Metzger on 03 Aug (m. obs.) and the last were 40 at ONWR on 28 Nov (Carrie Lingle). Trevor Zook saw about 200 at Cedar Point NWR, **Lucas**, on both 18 and 21 Sep. Eric Juterbock's 161 at Grand Lake SP on 27 Sep were the most at an inland site. (15 counties)

Brown Pelican

One spent from 16 Aug to 09 Oct in Cleveland harbor; most of the posts with their many photos came from Wendy Park. Another crossed the Ohio River from West Virginia to be photographed in **Washington** on 12 Sep.

American Bittern

One mid-Dec appearance followed this season's last, which were single birds in **Hamilton, Lake**, and **Summit** on 14 Nov. Kevin Soncrant found five at ONWR on 16 Aug. Ken Walker's three at Killbuck Lakes Park, **Medina**, on 29 Aug made the inland high count. (19 counties)

Least Bittern

David Wilkins saw the last, at Pickerel Creek on 13 Oct; usually they're gone by mid-Sep. Joel Throckmorton's at Mentor Lagoons on 23 Sep was the second last. Numbers at Howard Marsh peaked at six on 09 Aug (Joe Kwasniewski). The most elsewhere were trios at Fernald on 05 Aug (Julie Tyson) and Pickerel Creek on 18 Aug (David Wilkins). (14 counties)

Great Blue Heron

Kelsie Chambers provided the high count of 150, at Englewood on 09 Aug. (all 88 counties)

Great Egret

A trio of birders found about 230 at Maumee Bay on 27 Sep. Douglas Vogus' ONWR census team counted 218 on 02 Aug. The third most were Julie Tyson's 208 at Gilmore on 09 Sep. (70 counties)

Snowy Egret

Scioto Audubon MP, **Franklin**, hosted the last on 23 Oct for Karl Mechem. Robert Thorn saw the second last, at Lou Berliner Park, **Franklin**,

on 18 Oct. David English and Paul Jacyk separately found 20 along the ONWR WD on 29 Aug. The next highest number of six was shared by Dan Gesualdo at Medusa on 14 Aug and Rene', Andy, and Bill McGill at Metzger on 17 Aug. The rest of the reports came from two other **Franklin** sites and one site in each of **Erie** and **Sandusky**.

Little Blue Heron

All of the reports were of single birds in Aug, starting at Mill Creek Park, **Mahoning**, on 02 through 07 Aug (m. obs.) and ending at Knox Lake from 16 to 24 Aug (m. obs.). In between came sightings in **Ashland**, **Guernsey**, two other **Knox** sites, and **Ottawa**.

Cattle Egret

The last, on a **Trumbull** property, was reported separately by Jerry Friedman and Ethan Kistler on 28 Oct. Birders saw five at ONWR on several dates and up to four in that general area. The most not in **Lucas** or **Ottawa** were two that David Wilkins found at Fremont Reservoir, **Sandusky**, on 17 Oct. (12 counties)

Green Heron

Dan Barda saw the last, at Manhattan Marsh Preserve MP, **Lucas**, on 08 Nov, a good three weeks later than usual for the north coast. The second last was also a lingerer; Michael Hensley saw it at East Sandusky Bay MP, **Erie**, on 28 Oct. Brad Imhoff saw the most, 62 at Buckeye Lake, **Licking**, on 18 Aug. (74 counties)

Black-crowned Night-Heron

A trio of birders counted 24 in a roost at Maumee Bay on 27 Sep, and up to 20 were there and at other **Lucas** sites on other dates. The most away from that county were eight that another trio of birders found at Lorain on 02 Oct. (22 counties)



Su Snyder enjoyed this juvenile Black-crowned Night-Heron on 19 Sept in **Ottawa**..

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron

Up to three, including a youngster, were seen at

Gilmore between 02 and 08 Aug, continuing the string of summer sightings there.

Plegadis sp. Ibis

A **Jefferson** sighting prompted a report to the OBRC. Posts from **Franklin** and **Hamilton** had descriptions and those from **Sandusky** had photos. Unfortunately, the post from **Ottawa** had no supporting information.

Black Vulture

Michael Lamont and Chad Pumpelly counted 116 over Lexington, **Richland**, on 06 Nov. Rick Dunning saw about 100 at Miamiville, **Clermont**, on 29 Oct. (64 counties including **Cuyahoga**, **Erie**, and **Lorain**)

Turkey Vulture

Paul Jacyk counted 1035 as they streamed over his **Lucas** home on 13 Oct. Two days earlier, Matt Anderson had 481 pass his house, also in **Lucas**. (all 88 counties)

Osprey

Rachel Gurnish saw the last, at Trail Lake Park, **Portage**, on 19 Nov. Counts of 12 came from the nesting areas at Hoover NP on 17 Aug (Summer Hawkins) and Nimisila on 28 Aug (George Novosel). (75 counties)

Swallow-tailed Kite

Posts from **Crawford** and **Licking** had photos

Golden Eagle

The reports, all of single birds, are:
Over Whitehouse, **Lucas**, on 09 Oct and 01 Nov (Matt Anderson)
At Lafarge, **Paulding**, on 31 Oct (Micki Dunakin)
At Continental, **Putnam**, on 08 Nov (Scott Myers)
Along the Wabash Cannonball Trail, **Henry**, on 14 Nov (Tom Kemp)
Near Stryker, **Williams**, on 17 Nov (Jon Diller)
In **Hamilton** on 22 Nov (Steve Imhoff)
At Lake Medina on 27 Nov (Henry Trimpe)

Northern Harrier

Joe Faulkner found 22 at the Rehobeth Reclamation Loop, **Perry**, on 23 Nov. The next highest count was 12, at that site and two others. (74 counties)

Sharp-shinned Hawk

Matt Anderson counted 38 passing his Whitehouse, **Lucas**, home on 11 Oct. The next most were the six that Geoff Malosh saw at his **Lucas** home on 02 Oct. (70 counties)

Northern Goshawk

The OBRC has a report from **Holmes**. Posts from **Lucas** and **Portage** had descriptions.

Cooper's Hawk

David Factor provided the high count of six, on 18 Oct from the James H. Barrow Field Station, **Portage** (hereafter Barrow FS). (80 counties)



A Cooper's Hawk made an appearance on 12 Aug at Leslie Sours' feeders in **Franklin**.

Bald Eagle

Conneaut hosted 41 on 02 Sep for Kim Nordquest and up to 36 on other dates. Cam Lee saw the most elsewhere, 28 at Killdeer on 29 Nov. (83 counties)

Mississippi Kite

The OBRC has a report from **Medina**, posts from **Clermont** and **Scioto** with descriptions, and posts from **Hocking** and **Ross** with photos.

Red-tailed Hawk

Alvin E. Miller *et al.* counted 26 passing north of Walnut Creek, **Holmes**, on 24 Oct. Jen Brumfield came in second with 19 over Brecksville, **Cuyahoga**, on 14 Aug. (all 88 counties)



This Red-tailed Hawk paused for Traci Gentry at the Blue Heron Reserve, **Sandusky**, on 27 Sep.

Red-shouldered Hawk

Martyn Drabik-Hamshare saw six at Put-in-Bay, **Ottawa**, on 18 Nov. Dave and Nancy Reinhart tied him at the Honda Wetlands, **Union**, on 19 Nov. (74 counties)

Broad-winged Hawk

The last date was 17 Oct; Ami Horowitz saw one at Metzger that day as did Craig DeCrane over Toledo's Woodlawn Cemetery. Matt Anderson watched more than 1100 pass over his **Lucas** home on 14 Sep. About 1000 passed near Greenville, **Darke**, on 17 Sep (*vide* Regina Schieltz). (54 counties)

Swainson's Hawk

The OBRC has a report from **Montgomery**.

Rough-legged Hawk

Brad Imhoff saw the first, at Granville, **Licking**, on 14 Oct. Fred Losi was next with one at Bath NP, **Summit**, on 25 Oct. Killdeer hosted seven for Cam Lee on 29 Nov. (27 counties)

Barn Owl

Paul Moser saw two near Fredericksburg, **Holmes**, on 01 Aug. Single birds were seen at two **Wayne** locations and at one in each of **Clin-ton** and **Summit**.

Eastern Screech-Owl

Eli Miller found four at his **Holmes** property on 05 Aug. (58 counties)

Great Horned Owl

Tony Dornbusch heard two pairs calling near his **Clermont** home on 21 Nov. (69 counties)

Snowy Owl

Lots of birders got to see the first, in Oberlin, **Lorain**, on 08 Nov. Single birds were also in **Allen**, **Ashtabula**, **Delaware**, **Hancock**, and **Sandusky**.



A Snowy Owl made a surprise stop in Oberlin, **Lorain**, on 08 Nov where Chad Wilson snapped a shot.

Barred Owl

The high count of five was shared by Kim Pease at Frohring Meadows, **Geauga**, on 12 Sep and Larry

Richardson at Grand River WA, **Trumbull**, on each of 30 Aug, 19 Sep, and 26 Sep. (63 counties)

Long-eared Owl

One showed up at Burke Airport on 24 Oct (m. obs.). **Lorain**, **Medina**, **Sandusky**, and **Seneca** also hosted single birds.

Short-eared Owl

The first was seen at an unusual location for this open-field predator: The Nature Center at Shaker Lakes, **Cuyahoga**. But several folks got to see it there. Five sites each hosted seven birds. (26 counties)

Northern Saw-whet Owl

Tom Frankel saw the first, at Kelleys Island on 11 Oct and wrote, “Flushed by Kinglets and Chickadees”. The most were the seven that Tyler McClain banded at the Jones Preserve there on 31 Oct. Next most were four that were seen by m. obs. at Walnut Woods MP, **Franklin**, on 17 and 18 Nov. See the summary of banding results at the end of the Species Accounts. (14 counties)

Belted Kingfisher

Dan Wilson counted 17 in about five miles of travel starting at Old Woman Creek, **Erie**, on 26 Aug. The most elsewhere were 10; Denyse Carone and Tom Hissong each found that many in different parts of Caesar Creek. Only **Pike** and **Van Wert** didn't have sightings.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

William L. Jones saw the season's first, at Berlin Lake on 25 Aug. Jen Brumfield found 16 three times, on 02 Oct at Cleveland's Gordon Park and Wendy Park and on 04 Oct at CLNP. She also found the next most, 12 in Cleveland's Erie Street Cemetery on 08 Oct. (76 counties)



On 13 Oct Su Snyder was treated to incredible looks at this Yellow-bellied Sapsucker in Wooster, **Wayne**.

Red-headed Woodpecker

Rebecca Van Dyke counted 26 adults and 11 juveniles throughout OOPMP on 14 Aug, and up to 32 were seen there on other dates. Christina Zorn's 22 at Culberson Woods SNP, **Clinton**, on 28 Nov were the most elsewhere. (82 counties)

Red-bellied Woodpecker

Beechhaven, **Perry**, hosted 31 for Joe Faulkner on 05 Nov. Andrew O'Connor came in second with 25 at CNC's Rowe Woods on 21 Oct. (all 88 counties)

Downy Woodpecker

Lucas Weaver found 20 in the Fredericksburg, **Holmes**, area on 10 Oct. Tyler McClain saw 16 at Kelleys Island on 26 Nov. (all 88 counties)

Hairy Woodpecker

Christmas Rocks SNP, **Fairfield**, provided the high count, nine on 17 Oct for Amy Collins-Warfield. Three sites each hosted six. Only **Monroe**, **Paulding**, **Pike**, and **Van Wert** didn't have sightings.

Northern Flicker

Birders reported up to 65 at CLNP on several dates. Jen Brumfield's 43 at Wendy Park on 04 Oct were the most elsewhere. (all 88 counties)

Pileated Woodpecker

David Helm and Dan Kramer each found six, respectively at Armleder on 13 Nov and at Camp Zimmerman, **Tuscarawas**, on 06 Sep. (83 counties)

American Kestrel

Four sites each hosted nine birds, all in Aug. Only **Henry**, **Paulding**, and **Scioto** didn't have sightings.

Merlin

Bob Krajeski saw the first migrant of the season, at Conneaut on 02 Aug, and sightings came almost daily thereafter. Tyler McClain counted six passing the South Bass Island lighthouse, **Ottawa**, on 12 Sep and wrote, “All birds were seen heading south. Occasionally hunting Common Green Darners.” (58 counties)

Peregrine Falcon

At least 20 sites spread around 10 counties hosted two, almost surely mated pairs. (48 counties)

Great Crested Flycatcher

Paul and Susie Belanger saw the last, at Geneva SP, **Ashtabula**, on 10 Oct. That's a couple of weeks late for the north coast, but sightings were steady to that date. Andrew O'Connor found 11 at Deer Creek WA on 29 Aug, and Ryan Eldridge counted six in the Rocky River Reservation, **Cuyahoga**, on 19 Aug. (63 counties)

Eastern Kingbird

Several birders saw the last, on 04 Oct at Caesar Creek. The second last were singles on 28 Sep, far apart in CVNP (Eileen Zimlich) and CNC's Long Branch Farm (Andrew O'Connor). The high count was a remarkable 70 at the Proctorville driving range, Lawrence, on 28 Aug (Bryan Smith). The next highest count was 32; Inga Schmidt found them at LaDue on 01 Aug. Only **Crawford**, **Gallia**, **Henry**, and **Madison** didn't have sightings.

Olive-sided Flycatcher

One Jul sighting preceded this season's first, which was by Randy Morgan in **Butler** on 03 Aug. The last were single birds on 29 Sep, at Wendy Park (Debra Sweeney) and West Creek Reservation, **Cuyahoga** (Eli Kavouras). Six locations, each in a different county, hosted two. (39 counties)

Eastern Wood-Pewee

Debbie and Mark Raven saw the last, a three-weeks overdue bird at Elywood Park, **Lorain**, on 04 Nov. Ami Horowitz had seen and heard one at Bucyrus Reservoir #2, **Crawford**, on 28 Oct, and Jackie Delk at Fairborn Marsh, **Greene**, on 24 Oct. Jen Brumfield *et al.* counted 38 in Cleveland's Erie Street Cemetery on 12 Sep and wrote, "Slammed with pewees". Counts of 16 came from Justin Martin at Mohican SF on 15 Aug and Bob and Denise Lane in their **Mahoning** neighborhood on 21 Aug. Only **Belmont** didn't have a sighting.



Kathy Mock caught the attention of a Merlin at Greenlawn Cemetery, **Summit**, on 07 Nov.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher

The first was a week or so early when Jelmer Poelstra saw it at his Wooster, **Wayne**, home on 08 Aug. These are usually gone by the end of Sep, but Tom Bartlett banded one at the Jones Preserve on 31 Oct. Shari Jackson gave a good description of the second last, in Alliance, **Stark**, on 11 Oct. Kathryn DiNardi and Joe Woyma photographed yet another straggler in Cleveland on 05 Oct. Jen Brumfield provided the two highest counts, from Cleveland sites on 12 Sep: nine at the Erie Street Cemetery and six at Wendy Park. (46 counties)

Acadian Flycatcher

Barb Lindenmuth and Kisa Weeman photographed the last, in Wooster Memorial Park, **Wayne**, on 10 Oct, a couple of weeks later than expected for so far north. Even Joe Brehm's find at the Bernard Preserve, **Athens**, on 04 Oct was straggling. David Factor counted 16 at the Barrow FS on 06 Aug, and eight were at each of three other locations. (69 counties)

Alder Flycatcher

The reports are:

One in the North Chagrin Reservation, **Cuyahoga**, on 03 Aug (Ami Horowitz)

One along Wilderness Road on 24 Aug (Dennis Mersky)

One photographed at CLNP on the late date of 17 Sep (Gautam Apte)

Willow Flycatcher

The last "sightings" were by ear on 03 Oct, somewhat later than expected. Andy Brown's duo were at Scioto Gove MP, **Franklin**, and Brad Goodner's soloist was at Tinkers Creek SNP, **Portage**. CLNP hosted eight on 01 Aug for several birders. (49 counties)

Alder/Willow "Traill's" Flycatcher

The latest was at Headlands on 02 Oct for Josh Hargrave and Roy Ketchum. (28 counties)

Least Flycatcher

Doug Davis saw the last, at Thompson Park, **Franklin**, a week or so late on 11 Oct. CLNP hosted 11 on 12 Sep when Jelmer Poelstra was there. (56 counties)

"Western" (Pacific Slope/Cordilleran) Flycatcher

Several birders photographed a bird thought to be one of these species at Morris Woods SNP, **Licking**, on 23 Nov. As of this writing the jury is still out.

Eastern Phoebe

The season's last were at six locations on 28 Nov, though as usual sightings continued all through

Dec. Alvin Miller counted 14 in 1½ miles of travel near Walnut Creek, **Holmes**, on 13 Sep, as did David Crotter along the ONWR WD on 19 Sep. Only **Van Wert** didn't have a sighting.

Loggerhead Shrike

A post from **Franklin** had a description. Posts from **Hamilton** had photos.

Northern Shrike

Greg Cornett saw the first, at Howard Marsh, about as expected on 28 Oct. All of the sightings, from nine counties, were of single birds.

White-eyed Vireo

The last was straggling; Josiah Stumbo and Joel Throckmorton saw it separately at Huntington Reservation, **Cuyahoga**, on 31 Oct. Even Lisa Phelps's at Blendon Woods on 24 Oct was late for mid-state. Jane Balbo found 20 along the Ora Anderson Trail, **Athens**, on 12 Sep. The next most were Matthew Plante's 12 at the Denison University Biological Reserve, **Licking**, on 10 Sep. (65 counties)

Bell's Vireo

Though they've historically departed before the end of Jul, sightings were fairly steady to the last, three that Bob and Sara Crist saw at Pickerington Ponds on 09 Sep. The Crists also made two counts of four in different zones of Pickerington, on 21 and 30 Aug. (Given that the species now nests in many areas, no doubt the upcoming new edition of the *Annotated Checklist* will revise their "normal" departure date.) (7 counties)

Yellow-throated Vireo

Kathy Mcallister saw the last, at her **Gallia** farm on 12 Oct. About a mile of travel in Mason, **Warren**, on 19 Sep produced 11 for Dalton Lilly. Josh Yoder saw the second most, seven, along the Holmes County Trail on 06 Sep. (72 counties)

Blue-headed Vireo

The first two that were surely migrants were at Magee on 29 Aug (Kathy and Rose Jakischa). The last was straggling by a week or more; Jeffrey Roth described it at Rock Mill Lake WA, **Franklin**, on 16 Nov. The second last were seen on 12 Nov, photographed at a **Cuyahoga** home (Lori Brumbaugh) and seen in Liberty Township, **Hardin** (Michael Crouse). Joshua Davidson counted 13 in CLNP on 09 Oct and up to nine were seen there on other dates. The most elsewhere were six at each of two locations. (68 counties)

Philadelphia Vireo

The first was seen a little later than usual; Kisa Weeman found it at Huston-Brumbaugh NC, **Stark**, on 25 Aug. Greg Harrington well described two at Magee on 08 Nov, about a month late for so far north. (56 counties)

Warbling Vireo

Stefan Minnig photographed one at Kiser Lake SP, **Champaign**, on 17 Oct, a little late for that latitude. Douglas Vogus *et al.* counted 28 in ONWR on 06 Sep and Josh Yoder found 22 along the Holmes County Trail that same day. (68 counties)

Red-eyed Vireo

Karen Mammone's find at The Ridges, **Athens**, on 24 Oct, was lagging about a week behind schedule. So was Kathy Mcallister's at her **Gallia** farm on 22 Oct. Adrian Lee found 25 at the Brown Family Environmental Center, **Knox**, on 05 Sep. Only **Adams**, **Crawford**, and **Pike** didn't have sightings.

Blue Jay

Matt Anderson counted 1027 passing over his **Lucas** home on 11 Oct. Gautam Apte saw about 960 over CLNP on 01 Oct and wrote, "Running estimate by 10s, big diurnal movement today primarily westbound". (all 88 counties)

American Crow

Gary Cowell found about 1200 at Clear Fork on 20 Nov. Leslie Warren saw about 850 at a Poland, **Mahoning**, roost on 10 Nov. (all 88 counties)

Fish Crow

Most of the many posts from **Cuyahoga** lacked any supporting information. A larger percentage of those from **Summit**, but still too few, had either a description or photo.



Kathy Mock detected this Fish Crow at Cuyahoga Falls, **Summit**, on 22 Nov

Common Raven

Joshua Davidson saw three hanging about Fairport Nursery Road, **Lake**, on 24 Oct. One or two were still there as I write this in early Jan. (14 counties)

Horned Lark

David Factor and Mia Yeager weren't together, but both saw about 200 along Ely Road, **Portage**, on 21 Nov. Counts of 100 came from Celeryville, **Huron**, on 30 Aug (Adrian Smith) and near Fayette, **Fulton**, on 22 Nov (Geoff Malosh). (64 counties)

Bank Swallow

Duos at two *Licking* sites on 14 Oct were about a month overdue to leave; Margaret Bowman saw them at Evans Park and the Hebron hatchery. Sarah Preston and James Smallwood saw about 550 at Headlands on 14 Aug. (54 counties)

Tree Swallow

Sometimes a few trickle into Dec, but this year Helen and Ken Ostermiller's single bird at Funk on 28 Nov was the last. David Ackerman saw two and Tony Dornbusch three at Fernald on 24 Nov, the second last date. Brad and Trek Imhoff counted 6689 at the Granville Schools Land Lab, *Licking*, on 22 Aug. Brad wrote, "Lined up closely together on wires for quite a distance. I took photos panning across the group, took them home, and counted them individually on my computer screen." The next most were the 1200 that Dan Enders and Nicole Freshour saw at Maumee Bay on 11 Sep. (81 counties)

Northern Rough-winged Swallow

Though these are usually gone before the end of Oct, sightings were fairly frequent until 29 Nov. On that date Joel Throckmorton well described one at Burke Airport, and Marianne Gorman saw three at Fernald that had been there since 23 Nov. About 400 congregated at Old Reid Park, *Clark*, on 07 Oct (Julie Karlson and Doug Overacker). Tom Kemp wrote of the 275 at Grand Rapids, *Lucas*, on 30 Sep, "birds were moving by in a steady stream to the SW; this is a major staging area for this species". (69 counties)

Purple Martin

Ron Marek's eight at Darby Creek and Vicki Derr's two at Beechhaven, *Perry*, were lagging a little on 03 Oct. The annual massing in Nimisila's reedbeds produced an estimated 50,000 for Liz Jagers and Luke Schrader on 26 Aug. Luke wrote, "Rough estimate based on extrapolated relative densities. Phenomenal! Populations on the water, high in sky, already roosted, and the inter layer right at top of reeds - a seething mass of birds trying to sort out their resting spots. I've had experience with large flocks, but only bats in larger flocks." (74 counties)

Barn Swallow

Rick Luehrs photographed one at Eastwood MP, *Montgomery*, on 14 Nov, almost two weeks later than usual, but sightings were fairly regular to then. A trio of birders saw about 1500 at Nimisila on 23 Aug, and Allen Chartier's 650 at Howard Marsh on 17 Aug was the second highest number. Only *Adams*, *Henry*, *Monroe*, and *Scioto* didn't have sightings.

Cliff Swallow

Tom Kemp saw the last, at his Grand Rapids,

Lucas, home on 29 Sep, about when they're often last crossing the Ohio River. Pete Johantgen saw about 150 at Delaware WA on 21 Aug. (49 counties)

Swallow sp.

Joshua Davidson saw three "almost certainly cave but just too backlit" at Lake Erie Bluffs on 07 Nov. Other unidentified swallows were seen until 01 Nov.

Carolina Chickadee

Andrew O'Connor saw about 40 at CNC's Rowe Woods on 09 Oct and 50 there on 21 Oct. Adam Mitchell saw the next most, 30 near Cadiz, *Har-rison*, on 21 Nov. (66 counties)

Black-capped Chickadee

Sandra Brown found 50 at Seiberling Nature Realm, *Summit*, on 28 Nov. Ami Horowitz's 32 at Quail Hollow SP, *Stark*, on 13 Nov were the second most. Scott Albaugh photographed one in Marengo, *Morrow*, on 21 Nov, well south of the species' normal haunts. (35 counties)

[Carolina x Black-capped Chickadee]

This bird had been visiting Bernie Master's *Franklin* home on and off since late Apr; he saw it for the last time on 31 Aug.

Tufted Titmouse

About 30 of these were with the chickadees at CNC's Rowe Woods for Andrew O'Connor on 21 Oct. (all 88 counties)

Red-breasted Nuthatch

The first two sighted had probably been here all summer. They were at CVNP on 09 Aug (Alex Colucci) and in Bentleyville, *Cuyahoga*, on 14 Aug (Michael Levin). Gautam Apte found 18 in CLNP on 01 Oct. (82 counties)

White-breasted Nuthatch

Adrian Lee provided counts of 25 from two *Knox* sites, the Brown Family Environmental Center on 03 Oct and the Franklin Miller Observatory on 14 Nov. Luke Thies' 20 at Magrish Riverlands Preserve, *Franklin*, on 14 Sep were the most elsewhere. (all 88 counties)

Brown Creeper

Like the first Red-breasted Nuthatches, the first two of this species most likely were among our sparse nesters. Corinna Honscheid and Beth Lenoble photographed one at Hoover NP on 06 Aug, and Bonnie Fish saw one at Eldon Russell Park, *Geauga*, on 16 Aug. Ron Marek found seven in Hocking Hills SP on 29 Nov. (75 counties)

House Wren

Historically these are gone by mid-Nov, but Reanna Thomas found one at Stillmeadow Farms, *Clermont*, on 24 Nov, and sightings had

been fairly steady until then. (There was also a Dec sighting at another location.) The 02 Aug ONWR census produced 38 for Douglas Vogus *et al.* Jelmer Poelstra counted 22 at Headlands on 03 Oct. (83 counties)

Winter Wren

Sightings at nesting areas continued from summer, but Lori Brumbaugh and Lou Gardella's at their *Cuyahoga* home on 10 Sep appeared to be the first migrant. Observers found up to 80 at Headlands on 04 Oct. The most elsewhere were 11 at CLNP on both 22 Oct (Gautam Apte) and 24 Oct (Kevin Pero). (66 counties)



An elusive Winter Wren was observed by Tyler Ficker at East Fork on 07 Oct.

Sedge Wren

Several birders described one they saw at East Fork on 26 Oct, a typical last date. The high count of seven, at CLNP on 04 Oct, was also a multiple-eyes event. (30 counties)



On 30 Aug Richard Bradley was treated to amazing looks at a Sedge Wren at Gallant Woods, *Delaware*.

Marsh Wren

The season's last sightings were on 28 Nov but as usual quite a few lingered well into Dec and some

will probably overwinter. The high counts of 14 came from two sites on 01 Aug, Howard Marsh (Karen and Warren Leow) and the ONWR WD (Mary Anne Romito). The most away from *Lucas* and *Ottawa* were Julie Tyson's nine at Fernald on 29 Sep. (36 counties)

Carolina Wren

Jane Balbo found 30 along the Ora Anderson Trail, *Athens*, on 12 Sep. Only *Williams* didn't have a sighting.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

Usually these are gone before the end of Oct, but at least four were stragglers. Louis Hoying saw two at his *Auglaize* home on 25 Oct, Bryan Smith heard and saw one on the Ohio River bank in *Lawrence* on 29 Nov, and (spoiler alert) one was photographed in Butler in mid-Dec. Gilmore hosted the high count of 23, for David Rudemiller on 03 Aug. Sandy Garrison came in second with 12 at Spring Grove Cemetery, *Hamilton*, on 11 Aug. (75 counties)

Golden-crowned Kinglet

Don Keffer and Larry Richardson each found one at Grand River WA, *Trumbull*, on 12 Aug; it had likely been there all summer. The next was surely a migrant; Rita Rand saw it at CLNP on 15 Sep. Observers reported between 150 and 190 at Headlands on 03 Oct. The most elsewhere were the 75 that a trio of birders found at Shaker Lakes NC, *Cuyahoga*, on 11 Oct. (83 counties)

Ruby-crowned Kinglet

Paul Sherwood saw the first, at Pearson MP, *Lucas*, on 03 Sep, and as usual many stayed into winter statewide. Headlands hosted 85 for Jelmer Poelstra on 03 Oct and CLNP 75 for Bill Deininger on 11 Oct. (80 counties)

Eastern Bluebird

Three hours of skywatching near Walnut Creek, *Holmes*, on 07 Nov produced 74 for Alvin Miller. David English found 63 at Frohring Meadows, *Geauga*, on 18 Oct and wrote, "All but 4 [were] in a huge flock that settled in at and around the lodge". Only *Paulding* didn't have a sighting.

Veery

Julie Karlson and Doug Overacker saw the last, at Gallagher Fen NP, *Clark*, on 11 Oct, a week or so behind schedule. Brian Tinker recorded the flight calls of nine over Cuyahoga Falls, *Summit*, very early on 31 Aug. The eyes-on high count was five by Jelmer Poelstra at CLNP on 19 Sep. (38 counties)

Gray-cheeked Thrush

The earliest reports were on 30 Aug. Early that morning Brian Tinker recorded one flight call in Cuyahoga Falls, *Summit*, and later that day Bill

Deiningner saw three at CLNP. Anthony Popiel's at **Lorain** on 21 Oct was the last; that's about two weeks later than usual for the north coast. Matt Anderson counted 30 passing his **Lucas** home on 24 Sep. (45 counties)

Swainson's Thrush

Brian Tinker recorded nighttime flight calls of one on 03 Aug and up to four on nights between then and 26 Aug; he lives in Cuyahoga Falls, **Summit**. Alvera M. Sams had the first sighting, two at Oakwoods NP, **Hancock**, timed about as expected on 18 Aug. Eileen Zimlich well described the last of the season, a straggler at CLNP on 10 Nov, though one was also documented in early Jan 2021. Matt Anderson counted 225 passing over his **Lucas** home on 24 Sep. The next most were the 150 that Eli Miller estimated passed overhead in **Holmes** during the pre-dawn of 20 Sep. (76 counties)

Hermit Thrush

David Russell banded one in the **Butler** section of Hueston Woods SP on 20 Aug. Sightings earlier in the month were at known nesting locations. As usual, many remained into (and probably through) winter. Cory Chiappone and Doug Marcum provided the high count of 20, from the Zimmerman Trail, **Lake**, on 24 Oct. (70 counties)

Wood Thrush

Several birders saw the last, in Cincinnati's Burnet Woods on 18 Oct, about right for the southern edge of the state. Jane Balbo counted 20 at Riddle SNP, **Athens**, on 03 Oct; half of them were in a mixed flock eating grapes. Up to 16 were reported there on other dates. Joe Brehm's 12 at the Bernard Preserve, **Athens**, on 04 Oct were the most elsewhere. (69 counties)

American Robin

Gautam Apte reported 12,100 at Darby Creek on 23 Nov and wrote, "Impressive flight today. Counted 10x1 streaming southwest." Gautam also made a "careful count by 10s" and tallied 4110 passing OSU's Waterman Farm on 05 Nov. (all 88 counties)

Varied Thrush

One spent the last three days of Nov and most of Dec at a **Holmes** farm, but no one filed a report with the OBRC.

Gray Catbird

Karen Gray counted 67 at Cascade Valley MP, **Summit**, on 15 Sep; see Field Notes for details. The second highest count of 35 was shared by David Rudemiller at Gilmore on 03 Aug and Henry Trimpe at CLNP on 23 Sep. (all 88 counties)

Brown Thrasher

Adrian Lee provided the high count of 12, from the Franklin Miller Observatory, **Knox**, on 06 Sep. Bill Deiningner came in second with eight at CLNP on 02 Sep. (67 counties)

Northern Mockingbird

Anthony Cannizzaro counted 22 at Voice of America MP, **Butler**, on 29 Sep. The next most were Jane Balbo's 15 along the Ora Anderson Trail, **Athens**, on 12 Sep. (82 counties)

European Starling

Gary Cowell estimated 33,000 were at a Mansfield, **Richland**, roost on 23 Sep and wrote, "Morning roost departure counted in blocks of 500." He saw up to 17,000 there on other dates. The most elsewhere were the 15,000 that Jacob Raber and James Stammen saw at Darby Creek on 11 Sep. (all 88 counties)

Cedar Waxwing

Benjamin H. Yoder counted 752 migrating overhead in Fresno, **Coshocton**, on 31 Aug. Wyatt Flood saw at least 300 at Seneca Lake Park, **Noble**, on 28 Oct, and wrote "They just kept streaming over." Ryan Tomazin also saw 300 "in almost every tree" along Slaters Hospital Road, **Belmont**, on 06 Nov. Only **Van Wert** didn't have a sighting.

House Sparrow

Philip Steiner found about 500 in a sunflower field near Cedar Point, **Erie**, on 17 Oct. Josiah Stumbo's 250 at Sims Park, **Cuyahoga**, on 29 Oct were the second most. (all 88 counties)

Evening Grosbeak

A brief visit by one to this editor's **Cuyahoga** feeder on 24 Oct provided the first sighting, and they came thick and fast after that. Dan Gesualdo counted 154 from Volunteer Bay on 04 Nov and wrote, "2 massive flocks headed west along lake and a flock of 29 in [tree] tops." That site and two others produced counts of 90. (45 counties)



Chad Wilson photographed this beautiful Evening Grosbeak on 24 Nov near Mohican.

American Pipit

George Coleman saw the first, in Fairview Park,

Cuyahoga, on 04 Sep. The next was Nicky Rosner's duo at Funk on 11 Sep. Nicky and Funk also provided the high count, 200 on 03 Nov, but Anthony Lee Zimmerman tied him near Shelby, **Richland**, on 11 Nov. (59 counties)

House Finch

Margaret Bowman tallied 119 at her home in **Licking** and wrote that they "came streaming out neighboring trees, and were fairly easy to count." (all 88 counties)

Purple Finch

Several birders saw one at CLNP on 05 Aug; earlier sightings had come from known nesting locations. Matt Anderson counted 101 throughout OOPMP's "Tornado Alley" on 20 Sep; see Field Notes for more. A trio of birders found the most elsewhere, 19 at Kiwanis Riverway Park, **Franklin**, on 20 Oct. (70 counties)



Debbie Parker enjoyed the beautiful colors of this Purple Finch at Buckeye Woods, **Medina**, on 21 Sep.

Common Redpoll

Ryan Smylie saw the first, three at Huntington Reservation, **Cuyahoga**, on 30 Oct, and they were seen somewhere almost daily after that. Dan Gesualdo counted 85 passing Volunteer Bay on 29 Nov and other Lake Erie viewpoints tallied up to 80. (29 counties)

Hoary Redpoll

The reports are:

One at Huntington Reservation, **Cuyahoga**, on 03 Nov

One at Cleveland's Scranton Flats on 05 Nov (m. obs.)

One at Painesville TP, **Lake**, on 09 Nov

One at CLNP on 14 Nov

Red Crossbill

Matt Anderson saw the first, at OOPMP on 18 Oct. Jen Brumfield photographed some of the 10 she found at Huntington Reservation, **Cuyahoga**, on 09 Nov. The only other multiple sighting was Ryan Smylie's duo at Cleveland's Gordon Park on 08 Nov. (8 counties)

White-winged Crossbill

Barbara Fries saw the first, at Willard Reservoir, **Huron**, on 02 Nov. Dave Chase and Sarah Preston separately counted 12 at Painesville TP, **Lake**, on 19 Nov. Amy Holloway's four at an Evening Grosbeak stakeout in **Holmes** on 28 Nov was the second-highest number. (11 counties)

Pine Siskin

The first date of 01 Sep produced one at Nancy Anderson's **Ottawa** home and eight at Mill Creek for John Petruzzi. Sunset Cemetery, **Franklin**, hosted about 350 for Leslie Sours on 07 Oct and up to 230 on other dates. Three sites each held about 200. (81 counties)

American Goldfinch

About 500 were at Lake Erie Bluffs on each of 04, 07, and 08 Nov (m. obs.). The most elsewhere were 420 at Mark Shieldcastle's **Ottawa** home on 24 Sep. (all 88 counties)

Lapland Longspur

Sarah Preston and James Smallwood found two on Fairport Nursery Road, **Lake**, on 28 Sep. Geoff Malosh found about 200 near Fayette, **Fulton**, on 22 Nov, and up to 75 were seen there on other dates. Two north coast sites each hosted 40, the most elsewhere: Wake Robin on 05 Nov (Richard Domokos) and Burke Airport on 12 Nov (m. obs.). (20 counties)

Snow Bunting

Several birders saw the first, two along the Mosquito Lake causeway on 24 Oct. Juliet Berger was at Maumee Bay on 07 Nov and counted 2000 "by 20's as they flew east along the shoreline, and the flock seemed like an endless snowstorm, sparkling in the sun". Counts of 200 came from Howard Marsh on 14 Nov (John Durback) and 22 Nov (Ian Lewis). (26 counties)

Grasshopper Sparrow

A trio of birders saw the last, at Old Highland Stone on 26 Oct. The second last was seen at Margaret Peak Preserve from 13 to 15 Oct (m. obs.) Scott Pendleton's nine near Cadiz, **Harrison**, on 01 Aug were the most. (28 counties)

Lark Sparrow

With their increasing number of nesting locations, we're now often seeing these well into fall. The last, however, seem quite late: Vernon E. Yoder saw five near New Bedford, **Coshocton**, on 14 Nov. Neill Cade saw the second last, one at Miami Whitewater Forest, **Hamilton**, on 09 Oct. Reports of one or two also came from **Franklin**, **Greene**, **Lucas**, and **Wyandot**.

Chipping Sparrow

Cleveland's Gordon Park held 75 to 100 on 03

Oct (m. obs.). Two other sites also hosted 75. (all 88 counties)

Clay-colored Sparrow

The first was right on time; several birders saw it at CLNP on 16 Sep. The last, however, was very late; Caitlin Ambrose effectively described it at Lake Erie Bluffs on 04 Nov. The second last had been seen at two locations on 11 Oct, a typical ending date. Ami Horowitz found three at Spencer Lake WA, *Medina*, on 20 Sep. (10 counties)

Field Sparrow

Fields along Chapel Drive, *Noble*, held 70 on both 04 and 08 Oct for Wyatt Flood, and almost that many on other dates. Reanna Thomas found the most elsewhere, 35 at Indian Creek WA, *Brown*, on 13 Oct. (84 counties)

Brewer's Sparrow

The OBRC has a report from *Holmes*. A post from *Lorain* has a photo.

Fox Sparrow

The first was more than a month earlier than usual; Karen Shrader saw and described it well in Centerville, *Montgomery*, on 02 Sep. It appeared to be an individual of one of the western subspecies, not our usual "red" ones; see Field Notes for much more. The next was also an early arrival when Mark Kershner saw it at Herrick Fen, *Portage*, on 18 Sep. Larry Richardson provided the high count of 12, from Grand River WA, *Trumbull*, on 10 Nov. Counts of eight came from two sites. (64 counties)

American Tree Sparrow

The first arrived on 03 Oct as expected. Jonathan Strassfeld saw one at Wendy Park and Jelmer Poelstra another at Headlands that day. Jacob Raber tallied 40 at Chippewa Lake, *Medina*, on 22 Nov. (65 counties)

Dark-eyed Junco (slate-colored)

Tyler Connell saw the first away from its few nesting areas, at Scioto Audubon MP, *Franklin*, on 02 Sep. Of course, it could have started its journey in northeast Ohio rather than Canada. Joan Scharf found about 250 at CLNP on 09 Nov; Jen Brumfield's 110 at Cleveland's Lake View Cemetery were the second most. Only *Belmont*, *Meigs*, *Mercer*, and *Pike* didn't have sightings.

Dark-eyed Junco (other)

Birds proposed as of subspecies *cismontanus* were photographed in *Lucas* and *Franklin*; one reported in *Hancock* had no supporting data. Cindy Ploch described an "Oregon" she saw at Wayne Lakes Village, *Darke*, on 31 Oct.

White-crowned Sparrow

Paul and Susie Belanger saw the first, at Head-

lands on 19 Sep. Observers reported up to 150 at CLNP on 25 Oct and up to 100 there on other dates. Janice Farral found 50 at Lorain on 21 Oct, the most elsewhere. Tom Bartlett banded an individual of the western "Gambel's" subspecies at the Jones Preserve on 09 Nov. (75 counties)

White-throated Sparrow

One showed up exceedingly early on 16 Aug at Gale Wulker's *Hamilton* feeder; and almost 20 were seen among eight other sites before their historical arrival date of 08 Sep. About 350 were at Headlands for Jelmer Poelstra on 03 Oct and about 300 were at two other north shore sites at about that time. Only *Crawford*, *Pike*, and *Van Wert* didn't have sightings.

Vesper Sparrow

These are usually last seen during the first week of Nov, but Irina Shulgina found a straggler at Darby Creek on 12 Nov and Phil Cantino photographed an even tardier bird at Lake Snowden, *Athens*, on 28 Nov. Counts of six came on 27 Oct from Darby Creek (Leslie Sours) and the *Summit* fairgrounds (Ann and Dwight Chasar). (31 counties)

LeConte's Sparrow

The first arrived a week earlier than usual, but Caitlin Ambrose and Kari Warner Matsko saw it clearly at Headlands on 25 Sep. Several birders saw the next, at Lorain on 05 Oct. The last was also at Lorain, straggling on 06 Nov for Michael Darmstadt. All were singles except the three that Douglas Vogus *et al.* found at ONWR's Grimm Prairie on 04 Oct. (7 counties)



A hike at Wake Robin on 26 Oct allowed James Smallwood to dig up a close LeConte's Sparrow.

Nelson's Sparrow

John Petruzzi saw the first, at Mill Creek on 25 Sep; that's about three weeks earlier than usual. Dave Chase photographed the last, at Mentor Marsh on 14 Nov, a date that is at least three weeks later than usual for so far north. Gautam Apte discovered four at the CVNP Coliseum Grasslands on 02 Oct and there were several re-

ports of duos and trios there and elsewhere. (17 counties)

Henslow's Sparrow

Kyle Carlsen saw the last, at The Wilds on 17 Oct. Scott Pendleton contributed two counts of 13 from **Harrison**: near Cadiz on 01 Aug and near Flushing on 09 Aug. Julie Tyson saw the most elsewhere, nine at Fernald on 04 Aug. (24 counties)

Savannah Sparrow

Eight sites each hosted birds on the last date of the season, 29 Nov, but as usual sightings were frequent in Dec. Gautam Apte found about 95 at Darby Creek on 21 Oct and wrote, "Estimate, dawn roosting birds littering bare ground + morning flight". Up to 70 were reported there on other dates. Jelmer Poelstra's 40 at Wilderness Road on 09 Oct were the most elsewhere. (61 counties)

Song Sparrow

Chad Wilson found about 100 at Lorain on 21 Oct. Three sites produced counts of 90. (all 88 counties)

Lincoln's Sparrow

Jeff Harvey documented the one which showed up a month early at his **Mahoning** home on 15 Aug. The next was also a pioneer; Jeff Harvey and John Petruzzi saw it at Mill Creek on 03 Sep. The last spent from 24 to 30 Nov at OSU's Mirror Lake (m. obs.) and reappeared there in mid-Dec. CLNP hosted about 80 on 04 Oct (m. obs.); 30 had been at Wendy Park two days earlier (Jen Brumfield). (63 counties)

Swamp Sparrow

Nicky Rosner counted 72 at Funk on 27 Oct, and up to 69 were reported there on other dates. Gautam Apte's estimate of 65 at Darby Creek on 21 Oct were the most elsewhere. (73 counties)



Debbie Parker expertly photographed this Swamp Sparrow posing in lovely fall colors in **Medina** on 17 Oct.

Spotted Towhee

One was photographed many times during a 10 day stay in **Lake**.

Eastern Towhee

Wyatt Flood saw about 40 along Chapel Drive, **Noble**, on 03 Oct. The next most were Zebedee Muller's 25 at Chestnut Ridge MP, **Fairfield**, on 06 Aug. (80 counties)

Yellow-breasted Chat

Adam Jackson's bird at Cascade Valley MP, **Summit**, on 10 Oct was the last. Nathaniel Mast had found the second last on 02 Oct, in Lafayette Township, **Coshocton**. Tania Perry saw four in Bloomfield Township, **Jackson**, on 09 Aug and there were six reports of two. (24 counties)

Yellow-headed Blackbird

Birders found one or two at Howard Marsh throughout Aug and to 05 Sep. Clara Landon and Jory Telser saw one at the Oberlin Preserve, **Lorain**, on 10 Oct.

Bobolink

Irina Shulgina photographed one at West Case Park, **Franklin** on 22 Nov, at least a month after they've usually left central Ohio. Even the second last, Josh Yoder's bird at Wake Robin on 24 Oct, was late for the north coast. Scott Pendleton found about 125 near Flushing, **Harrison**, and wrote, "Apparently flush them off their night roost. No inkling they were even present until they all flushed up at one time and started making their calls". There were two reports of about 100 birds. (41 counties)

Western Meadowlark

David L. Erb heard one repeatedly singing near Millersburg, **Holmes**, on 07 Nov.

Eastern Meadowlark

Scott Pendleton saw about 50 near Cadiz, **Harrison**, on 26 Sep. Dennis Mersky found the second most, 30 at the CVNP Coliseum Grasslands on 04 Oct. (71 counties)

Orchard Oriole

Craig Nilsson saw the last, in Waterville, **Lucas**, on 22 Sep, two weeks later than they've usually left the state. Doug Davis saw the second last, on 14 Sep still a straggler at Kiwanis Riverway Park, **Franklin**. Michael Hensley found six near Sandusky, **Erie**, on 04 Aug. (38 counties)

Baltimore Oriole

Though historically these have departed by mid-Sep, in recent years stragglers have been documented even as late as the end of Dec. This year wasn't quite that dramatic, but Linda Woolard hosted a male at her **Licking** home on 13 and 14 Nov. Joshua Hershberger saw another straggler, a male at Beach City, **Tuscarawas**, on 04 Nov. Lisa Salehpour's female at Armleder on 13 Oct was the third last. Larry Richardson found 15 at Grand River WA, **Tuscarawas**, on 16 Aug and

birders found up to 14 there on other dates. Dan Kramer's 11 at the Beach City Dam, *Tuscarawas*, on 16 Aug were the most elsewhere. (74 counties)

Red-winged Blackbird

Gautam Apte estimated that the Darby Creek roost held 16,400 on 21 Nov, and up to 15,000 were reported there on other dates. Matt Mason also saw about 15,000, at Killdeer on 18 Oct. Only *Henry* and *Monroe* didn't have sightings.

Brown-headed Cowbird

Gautam Apte saw about 7100 at Darby Creek on 21 Nov. A trio of birders had found 3400 there the day before. The third most were Bob Lane's 3000 near Berlin Lake on 09 Sep. (73 counties)

Rusty Blackbird

Susan Jones and Clyde Witt saw five at Howard Marsh on 11 Sep; that's a typical first sighting date. Gautam Apte's 170 at Darby Creek on 21 Nov were the most; Gregory Bennett's 130 at Chippewa Lake, *Medina*, on 17 Oct were the second most. (57 counties)

Brewer's Blackbird

Susan Brauning photographed one at Darby Creek on 21 Oct.



A keen eye helped Susan Brauning pick out a Brewer's Blackbird in a large mixed flock at Darby Creek on 21 Oct.

Common Grackle

Gary Cowell found about 36,000 along Logan Road, *Mansfield*, on 03 Sep and wrote, "Annual fall roost location morning departure." Ethan Kistler provided the second highest number, 16,000 at Newton Falls, *Trumbull*, on 16 Nov. Only *Crawford*, *Monroe*, and *Paulding* didn't have sightings.

Ovenbird

Hugh Shannon saw one at his *Cuyahoga* home on each of 22 and 31 Oct; usually they're gone from the state by then. Shane Brown saw another straggler, at Tippecanoe, *Harrison*, on 20 Oct. David Russell banded nine at a station in western *Hamilton* on 29 Sep. (62 counties)

Worm-eating Warbler

Richard Bradley saw the last, a couple of weeks late on 06 Oct at Lake Hope SP, *Vinton*. Andrew O'Connor saw the second last, at Kelley NP, *Clermont*, on 28 Sep, still a week later than usual. Duos were along the Cucumbertree Trail, *Athens*, on 12 Aug (Phil Cantino) and in Guysville, *Athens*, on 09 Sep (Josue Artega Torres). Reports also came from *Fairfield*, *Franklin*, *Gallia*, *Lawrence*, and *Summit*.

Louisiana Waterthrush

Fred Losi saw the last, at the Hinckley Reservation, *Medina*, on 30 Aug; often sightings continue well into Sep. Anthony and Jona Schmitt found three at Highbanks MP, *Franklin*, on 08 Aug. (18 counties)

Northern Waterthrush

Karl Overman photographed the first, at Maumee Bay on 05 Aug. Kenn Kaufman saw the next, in Oak Harbor, *Ottawa*, on 09 Aug. Gary Cowell heard and saw the last, at Malabar Farm SP, *Richland*, on 17 Oct. That's a week or two late for so far north. Bill Stanley's at his *Clermont* home on 13 Oct was about on schedule. Observers saw four at Magee on 14 Sep and there were many reports of two. (37 counties)

Golden-winged Warbler

Tom Kemp saw the first, at Grand Rapids, *Lucas*, on 21 Aug. John Petruzzi found the second, at Mill Creek Park, *Mahoning*, on 26 Aug. Jarrett Dickey's at Hills & Dales MP, *Montgomery*, on 01 Oct was only a little late. All of the reports were of single birds. (12 counties)

Blue-winged Warbler

Neill Cade saw the last, at Miami Whitewater Forest, *Hamilton*, on 09 Oct, just a bit late. However, one at Wendy Park on 02 Oct was lagging by two weeks for so far north (m. obs.). Larry Richardson found eight at Grand River WA, *Trumbull*, on 17 Aug, and up to seven were reported there on other dates. The most elsewhere were duos in at least 14 locations. (36 counties)

Black-and-white Warbler

Daniel Beechy saw one in Millersburg, *Holmes*, on 25 Oct, at least three weeks late for so far north. The second last date of 14 Oct was still late for two north coast sites, one bird at West Creek Reservation, *Cuyahoga* (Eli Kavouras) and two at Headlands (Sophia Balunek). Jory Teltser counted eight along the Black River, *Lorain*, on 12 Sep, and there were two counts of six. (66 counties)

Prothonotary Warbler

These stayed long past their usual departure of the end of Aug. Philip Steiner photographed one

at Pipe Creek WA, **Erie**, on 17 Oct. Susan Carpenter saw one in CVNP on 29 Sep and there were many more reports that month. Don Keffer counted 12 at Mosquito Lake on 11 Aug and wrote, "Just about everywhere I found poison ivy berries there were Prothonotary Warblers feeding." The next most were quintets, at Berlin Lake on 05 Aug (Lois Frisbee) and at Mosquito on 14 Aug (Rick Nelson). (32 counties)

Tennessee Warbler

Don Keffer and Larry Richardson each saw one at Grand River WA, **Trumbull**, on the first date of 12 Aug. Mark and Sherry Plessner saw the next, at home in **Lucas** on 21 Aug. Though they've usually been gone by the last week of Oct, sightings were steady until 08 Nov, when Phil Cantino saw one along the Hockhocking bike trail, **Hocking**. Adrian Lee counted 28 at the Franklin Miller Observatory, **Knox**, on 20 Sep. Three sites each hosted 20. (76 counties)

Orange-crowned Warbler

David Factor's was the first; he saw it at the Barrow FS on 01 Sep, a couple of weeks earlier than usual. Bruce Simpson's at Delaware SP on 02 Sep was also a pioneer. The second last, at the Barrow FS on 08 Nov (David Factor) and the last, at Cleveland's Scranton Flats on 13 Nov (m. obs.) were late for those locations. Mandy Roberts provided the two highest counts, seven on 15 Sep and 12 the next day at Harrod, **Allen**. (46 counties)



Mandy Roberts lucked out with some great views of an Orange-crowned Warbler in **Allen** on 26 Sep.

Nashville Warbler

Kari Warner Matsko saw the first, about as expected at Headlands on 20 Aug. The last, however, was lagging by about two weeks when Tom Kemp saw it at Grand Rapids, **Lucas**, on 12 Nov. CLNP hosted 32 for Jelmer Poelstra on 12 Sep and up to 26 on other dates. Adrian Lee found 18 at the Franklin Miller Observatory, **Knox**, on 20 Sep for the most elsewhere. (74 counties)

Connecticut Warbler

Sometimes these arrive in late Aug, but the first

was Kent Miller's at Berlin Lake on 06 Sep. One spent 06 to 08 Oct at Cleveland's Public Square (m. obs.); that's about when they usually last cross the Ohio River. Duos were seen near Mt. Hope, **Holmes**, on 16 Sep (m. obs.) and in downtown Cleveland on 02 Oct (Katheryn DiNardi and Joe Woyma). (14 counties)

Mourning Warbler

These were first seen on the typical date of 15 Aug, in CLNP (*vide* Laura Gooch) and Cuyahoga Falls, **Summit** (Brian Tinker). The second date was 23 Aug, when Jeff Peters saw one in Terra Woods, **Clark**. The second last date of 19 Oct was a bit late for mid-state; Irina Shulgina saw a bird at Kiwanis Riverway Park, **Franklin** that day. But the last was very much a straggler when m. obs. saw it at Cleveland's Scranton Flats on 06 Nov. (38 counties)

Kentucky Warbler

Usually these have departed by 08 Sep, but sightings were fairly frequent until 24 Sep, when Bill Ohlsen saw the second last at Huntington Reservation, **Cuyahoga**. Michael Schramm's, though, was lagging even more on 05 Oct in the **Washington** section of Wayne NE. All of the reports, from 14 counties, were of single birds.

Common Yellowthroat

Sightings continued well into Dec as usual. CLNP hosted about 35 for Jen Brumfield on 04 Oct (83 counties)

Hooded Warbler

Cole DiFabio saw the last, which spent 13 to 16 Oct at Red Oak Camp, **Lake**. Often they're gone from the state a week earlier than that date, but David Factor saw another at the Barrow FS on both 08 and 10 Oct. Robert Thorn found nine at Clear Creek on 30 Aug. (42 counties)

American Redstart

John Kolar photographed the last, one of two at Chickagami Park, **Geauga**, on 07 Nov. Several birders saw two males at CLNP between 24 and 28 Oct. (Historically they've been gone by mid-Oct.) Blendon Woods hosted 30 for Madeline Wellman on 15 Sep. (77 counties)



Wendy Park provided excellent fall warbler photos ops for Gautam Apte who snapped a picture of this American Redstart on 17 Sep.

Cape May Warbler

Brian Tinker saw the first, in Cuyahoga Falls, **Summit**, on the typical date of 18 Aug. The last, however, was about a month behind schedule at CLNP when m. obs. saw it from 03 to 05 Nov. CLNP also provided the high count, 22 on 12 Sep for Jelmer Poelstra. (72 counties)

Cerulean Warbler

Janice Farral and Connie Gheer saw the last, at Bacon Woods on 20 Sep. Four sites hosted duos. (12 counties)

Northern Parula

Mary Ann Henderson photographed, and Martha Burrows saw, a very late bird at Sandy Ridge on 18 Nov. Even the second and third last were stragglers. They were, respectively, one at Berlin Lake on 28 Oct (Barbara James) and two at Mentor Lagoons on 14 Oct (Joel Throckmorton). Jelmer Poelstra found 12 at CLNP on 19 Sep; the next most, eight, were found at three sites. (65 counties)

Magnolia Warbler

Kirk Denton saw the first migrant a couple of weeks earlier than expected, at Blendon Woods on 01 Aug. Of course, it could have nested at Mohican. The next was Larry Richardson's find at Grand River WA, **Trumbull**, on 11 Aug. These have usually departed before late Oct, but two stragglers were reported. Domenic Rocco photographed one at Mentor's Veterans Park, **Lake**, on 03 Nov and Michael Schramm well described one along the Great Guernsey Trail on 06 Nov. CLNP hosted 18 for Jelmer Poelstra on 12 Sep. (74 counties)

Blackburnian Warbler

Lori Brumbaugh and Lou Gardella saw the first, at their **Cuyahoga** home on 16 Aug. Blake Anderson's at Armleder on 15 Oct was the last; it was a week or so tardy. The hot migration day was 12 Sep: That day Jelmer Poelstra counted 18 in and near CLNP and Jen Brumfield found 12 at Wendy Park. (72 counties)



An elegant Blackburnian Warbler posed for Tyler Ficker at Maumee Bay on 28 Sep.

Bay-breasted Warbler

The first arrived a bit early, at Magee on 09 Aug (Tony Gazso). Brian Tinker recorded nighttime flight calls between 15 and 20 Aug at Cuyahoga Falls, **Summit**. The second eyes-on report came from **Clermont** on 22 Aug (Michael Gertz). The last were solo birds on 21 Oct at CNC's Rowe Woods (Andrew O'Connor) and Hoover Dam Park, **Franklin**, (Steve Wheeler). Cole DiFabio found 55 at Headlands on 11 Sep and Jelmer Poelstra found 48 at CLNP the next day. (77 counties)

Yellow Warbler

These have usually been gone by the second week of Oct, but the last two this year were about three weeks late coming through northern Ohio. On 17 Oct Gustino Lanese saw one at Mentor Lagoons and several birders saw another at Lorain. Douglas Vogus' ONWR census team counted 38 on 02 Aug. Erin Allen and Andy Avram came in second with 30 at Lake Erie Bluffs on 01 Aug. (63 counties)

Chestnut-sided Warbler

Ann and Dwight Chasar saw the season's first, at CVNP on 08 Aug; it could have nested there. Bill Stanley's at East Fork on 15 Oct was late for the north coast. Joseph Norris saw another that same day at Woodward Park, **Franklin**. Jen Brumfield's nine at Wendy Park on 12 Sep were the most. (61 counties)

Blackpoll Warbler

Tom Kemp saw the first, at Grand Rapids, **Lucas**, on 23 Aug, a week or so later than they often arrive. Jerald Reb saw the last, in Columbus on 04 Nov, also a week late for mid-state. Gautam Apte counted 73 at CLNP on 01 Oct and wrote, "Exact count, lots in dawn flight and also dripping from the veg in the preserve early, out-numbered only by yumps." Tom Frankel's 40 at Headlands on 25 Sep were the second most. (74 counties)

Black-throated Blue Warbler

Alex Eisengart saw one at Headlands on 26 Aug, a typical arrival date. Chagrin River Park, **Lake**, hosted three that same day (m. obs.). Paul Sherwood's at Shawnee SP on 22 Oct was about a week overdue for departure, and one at CLNP on 09 Nov was seriously lagging (Ken Vinciquerra). CLNP also provided the high count, seven on 17 Sep for Gautam Apte. (53 counties)

Palm Warbler

The first arrived later than usual; several birders saw it at Chagrin River Park, **Lake**, on 31 Aug. This hardy species' migration continued well into Dec. On 04 Oct Jen Brumfield found 60 at

CLNP and 50 at Edgewater. Stan Plante also saw about 50, at Frohring Meadows, **Geauga**, on 26 Sep. Several observers photographed one or two of the bright “yellow” morph at Wake Robin on 24 Oct; this variant is rare west of the Appalachians. (71 counties)

Pine Warbler

Josh Hargrave saw the first probable migrants, three at Chagrin River Park, **Lake**, on 26 Aug. Like Palms, these are somewhat hardy; a few hung around into Dec. Amy Didion saw the season’s last, at the McBride Arboretum, **Erie**, on 28 Nov. Bryan Smith’s travels in the **Lawrence** section of Wayne NF netted 14 on 06 Sep. Matt Mason’s four at the Hebron hatchery, **Licking**, on 19 Sep were the second most. (59 counties)

Yellow-rumped Warbler

Helen and Ken Ostermiller saw the first, at Magee on 30 Aug. Often they’re here a week earlier than that. Some will be here all winter. Jory Teltser and Clara Landon estimated 320 were at CLNP on 04 Oct, and up to 300 were reported at other Cleveland lakeshore sites at around that date. The most elsewhere were Jelmer Poelstra’s 180 at Headlands on 03 Oct. Only **Van Wert** didn’t have a sighting.

Yellow-throated Warbler

Joe Brehm got a video of one at Millfield, **Athens**, on 26 Nov; they’re usually gone by the beginning of Oct. Even Kimberly Wagner’s at Armleder on 13 Oct was lagging by two weeks, and there were quite a few more early Oct sightings from Columbus south. The high count of four came twice from Fernald, on 30 Aug by Lauren Boerger and 05 Sep by her and Michael Gertz. (37 counties)

Prairie Warbler

Nick Flanik photographed one at Buckeye Woods Park, **Medina**, on 21 Oct, three weeks after they’ve historically left the state. Kirk Doergers at East Fork on 06 Oct was lagging by a week. Bryan Smith found six in the **Lawrence** section of Wayne NF on 06 Sep. (20 counties)

Black-throated Green Warbler

Harrison Ponn photographed one at Blackhand Gorge, **Licking**, on 20 Nov, a month later than usual for that latitude. Irina Shulgina also got a photo of another straggler, at the OSU Livestock Facility on 06 Nov. CLNP hosted 17 for Jelmer Poelstra on 12 Sep. (75 counties)

Canada Warbler

Sightings were steady to the last. Regina Schieltz saw it at Alice Bish Park, **Darke**, on 13 Oct, a week later than their historical last sighting date.

John Petruzzi’s four at Mill Creek Park, **Mahoning**, on 06 Sep were the most. (46 counties)

Wilson’s Warbler

Jeanne Hrenko saw the first, at Chagrin River Park, **Lake**, about as expected on 16 Aug. The last was late for the north coast; several birders saw it at Lake Erie Bluffs on 25 Oct. The second last was also a straggler at CLNP on 21 Oct (Nancy Howell). CLNP also provided the high count of 14, for Gautam Apte on 01 Oct, and up to 13 were seen there on other dates. The most elsewhere were the six that Clara Landon and Jory Teltser counted along the Black River, **Lorain**, on 12 Sep. (56 counties)



Mandy Roberts spotted an upclose Wilson’s Warbler on 23 Sep in **Allen**.

Summer Tanager

These have usually been gone by the end of Sep, but several birders saw one at Cleveland’s Lake View Cemetery on 06 Nov. Irina Shulgina saw another laggard, at Glacier Ridge MP, **Union**, on 24 Oct, and sightings had been fairly steady to then. Joseph Lautenbach saw four at Indian Creek WA, **Brown**, on 23 Sep. (30 counties)

Western Tanager

One that spent 27 to 29 Nov in **Cuyahoga** was well photographed but didn’t prompt anyone to file a formal report.



Chad Wilson was excited to capture a rare western visitor to Ohio, this Western Tanager feeding on berries at Lakeview Park, **Cuyahoga**, on 28 Nov.

Scarlet Tanager

Lori Brumbaugh and Lou Gardella photographed one at their *Cuyahoga* home on 24 Oct, three weeks later than usual for so far north. Counts of nine came from the Barrow FS on 06 Aug (David Factor) and Ales Run WA, *Noble*, on 01 Oct (Terry Bronson). (69 counties)

***Piranga sp.* Tanager**

Ryan Eldridge saw an enigmatic bird at Rocky River's Elmwood Park, *Cuyahoga*, on 24 Nov; see Field Notes for much more.

Northern Cardinal

Debbie Parker's feeder complex in *Medina* hosted about 100 (not a typo!) on 26 Sep. Holly King's in Clermont had a mere 40 on 30 Nov. (all 88 counties)

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Mid-Nov is their historical date of last sighting, so the female that Adam Mitchell saw on 21 Nov at his feeder in Cadiz, *Harrison*, was lagging only a little. Martha Burrows' find at Huntington Reservation, *Cuyahoga*, on 05 Nov was rather late for the north coast. Bill Grant counted 14 at CLNP on 23 Sep. (72 counties)

Blue Grosbeak

A few of these also hung around longer than usual past their usual early Sep departure date. Several birders saw one at Miller Ecological Park, *Warren*, on 27 Sep, and it was still there on 08 Oct for Darrell Hance. The last date otherwise was 26 Sep, when Tony Hintze saw one in Fremont, *Sandusky*, and Daniel Miranda another at Stone Creek, *Tuscarawas*. Counts of five came from Fernald on 17 Aug (Julie Tyson) and Armleder on 18 Aug (Blake Anderson). (32 counties)

Indigo Bunting

By contrast, this species' last sightings, on 23 Oct, were about as expected. They were of one bird at Woodland Mound Park, *Clermont*, by Helen Wright-North, and two at Armleder by Sandra Keller. Armleder also provided the high counts, 40 on 06 Aug for Adam Cupito, and up to 30 on other dates. The most elsewhere were 27 at ONWR on 02 Aug for Douglas Vogus *et al.* (83 counties)

Dickcissel

Kent Miller and Jon Cefus photographed one by Airport Road, *Harrison*, on 20 Nov, a month later than they've usually left the state. Mike Busam's at the Ellis Lake wetlands, *Butler*, was a timely second last. Three miles of travel along Hart Road, *Butler*, produced 16 for Randy Morgan on 03 Aug. Birders found up to 12 at Margaret Peak Preserve, *Lorain*, on various dates. (27 counties)

RUFIOUS AND RUFIOUS/ALLEN HUMMINGBIRDS, FALL 2020

This was a banner year for *Selasphorus* hummingbirds. Unless noted otherwise, the data in these tables were provided by Allen Chartier, who performed the banding. Ad = Adult, HY = Hatch Year, AHY = After Hatch Year

Rufous Hummingbirds

Location and County	Age	Sex	First Observed	Banded	Last Observed
Germantown, <i>Montgomery</i>	HY	M	04 Oct	14 Oct	08 Nov
New Middletown, <i>Mahoning</i>	HY	F	~15 Oct	21 Oct	29 Nov
Mariemont, <i>Hamilton</i> (1)	HY	M	16 Oct	23 Oct	25 Dec
Dublin, <i>Franklin</i>	HY	F	19 Oct	23 Oct	30 Nov
Mt. Hope, <i>Holmes</i> (2)	Ad	M	21 Oct	(not)	06 Nov
Shiloh, <i>Richland</i> (3)	HY	M	28 Oct	14 Nov	15 Nov
Perry Twp., <i>Richland</i> (4)	HY	F	02 Nov	06 Nov	29 Nov
Mt. Vernon, <i>Knox</i>	HY	F	14 Nov	16 Nov	28 Nov
Wooster, <i>Wayne</i>	AHY	F	19 Nov	03 Dec	>22 Jan 2021

- (1) The Mariemont bird was seen from 16 to 28 Oct at one feeder and from ~25 Oct to 10 Nov at a second, nearby, feeder, before returning to original feeder until 25 Dec.
- (2) Robert Hershberger, who hosted the bird at his Time & Optics store, reported that at least 260 visitors saw it.
- (3) This bird was not seen between 05 and 11 Nov.
- (4) Another Rufous Hummingbird had been banded at this feeder on 04 Oct 2016.

Rufous/Allen's Hummingbirds

Location and County	Sex	First Observed	Banded	Last Observed
Elyria(?), <i>Lorain</i> (1)	F	06 Nov	(not)	≥02 Dec
Akron, <i>Summit</i> (2)	F	27 Nov	(not)	09 Dec

- (1) Reported on eBird and FaceBook, fide Patty McKelvey.
- (2) Fide Nancy Jaggard

CONTRIBUTORS

Here we list all the birders who sent reports directly to the *Cardinal* or the *Bobolink*, and those whose posts to eBird or the Ohio-birds listserv we specifically cited. We also list everyone who contributed photographs, even if we weren't able to publish them. We regret that the available space doesn't allow us to list everyone who contributed to one of the e-venues, though those sightings provide the bulk of the county counts. The editors thank all of you.

David Ackerman	Margaret Bowman	Kathryn Clark
Scott Albaugh	Richard Bradley	Ronnie Clark
Erin Allen	Susan Brauning	Tim Colborn
Caitlin Ambrose	Joseph Breeden	George Coleman
Andrea Anderson	Joe Brehm	Amy Collins-Warfield
Blake Anderson	Marcia Brehmer	Alex Colucci
Matt Anderson	Theo Bockhorst	Tyler Connell
Nancy Anderson	Terry Bronson	Greg Cornett
Gautam Apte	Andy Brown	Jon Costanzo
Rick Asamoto	Sandra Brown	Gary Cowell
Andy Avram	Shane Brown	Bob Crist
Will Babb	Lori Brumbaugh	Sara Crist
Carole Babyak	Jen Brumfield	David Crotser
Jane Balbo	Martha Burrows	John Crouch
Sophia Balunek	Mike Busam	Michael Crouse
Dan Barda	Matt Bystrom	Adam Cupito
Alan Barnes	Neill Cade	Michael Darmstadt
Tom Bartlett	Craig Caldwell	Joshua Davidson
Willis M. Beachy	Anthony Cannizzaro	Doug Davis
Daniel Beechy	Phil Cantino	Craig DeCrane
Tom Denbow	Kyle Carlsen	Bill Deininger
Gregory Bennett	Denyse Carone	Karyn Delaney
Juliet Berger	Susan Carpenter	Ned DeLamatre
Paul Berlanger	Jon Cefus	Jackie Delk
Susie Belanger	Lisa Cellura	Kirk Denton
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Dan Best	Robert Chadwick	Jarrett Dickey
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Robert Bobel	Lenore Charnigo	Cole DiFabio
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John Bonnett	Dave Chase	Kirk Doerger
Jenny Bowman	Cory Chiappone	Richard Domokos

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John Dreves	Ryan Gniewecki	Steve Imhoff
Micki Dunakin	Laura Gooch	Trek Imhoff
Kathy Mihm Dunning	Brad Goodner	Edward Ingold
Rick Dunning	Marianne Gorman	Adam Jackson
John Durback	Bill Grant	Shari Jackson
Larry Early	Howard Gratz	Paul Jacyk
Joshua Eastlake	Karen Gray	Nancy Jaggard
Alex Eberts	James Griffin	Liz Jagers
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Ryan Eldridge	Darrell Hance	Rose Jakischa
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Greg Emmert	Jan Hansen	Jon Jenkins
Dan Enders	Josh Hargrave	Pete Johantgen
David English	Rob Harlin	Steve Jones
David L. Erb	Sandy Harlin	Susan Jones
Reuben S. Erb	Greg Harrington	William L. Jones
Christopher Esker	Jeff Harvey	Eric Juterbock
David Factor	Summer Hawkins	Rachael Kaiser
Janice Farral	David Helm	Anita Karklins
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Cassidy Ficker	Michael Hensley	Kenn Kaufman
Tracy Ficker	Eli Hershberger	Eli Kavouras
Tyler Ficker	John Mark Hershberger	Don Keffer
Bonnie Fish	Joshua Hershberger	Sandra Keller
Nick Flanik	Kevin Hershberger	Tom Kemp
Wyatt Flood	Michael Hershberger	Dan Kempf
Tom Frankel	Philip A. Hershberger	Mark Kershner
Nicole Freshour	Robert Hershberger	Ben Kerstetter
Jerry Friedman	Paul Hillman	Roy Ketchum
Barbara Fries	Janet Hinshaw	Holly King
Lois Frisbee	Tony Hintze	Josh King
Lee Funderburg	Tom Hissong	Ethan Kistler
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Tony Gazso	Ami Horowitz	Nate Koszycki
Michael Gertz	Nancy Howell	Bob Krajewski
Dan Gesualdo	Louis Hoying	Dan Kramer
Connie Gheer	Jeanne Hrenko	Chet Kresiak

Donna Kuhn	Bill McGill	Karl Overman
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Michael Lamont	Patrick McGuigan	Dawn Parker
Clara Landon	Patty McKelvey	Debbie Parker
Bob Lane	Karl Mechem	Derek Parker
Denise Lane	Dennis Mersky	Levi Parker
Gustino Lanese	Alvin E. Miller	Travis Parker
Austin Langdon	Alee Miller	Greg Pasek
Mollie Langdon	Benjamin Miller	Kim Pastrick
Joseph Lautenbach	Cristy Miller	Kim Pease
Adrian Lee	David Miller	Scott Pendleton
Cam Lee	Duane Miller	Kevin Pero
Beth Lenoble	Eli M. Miller	Tania Perry
Jack Leow	Jeffrey A. Miller	Jeff Peters
Karen Leow	Kent Miller	Ann Peterson
Warren Leow	Moses Miller	John Petruzzi
Tony Leukering	Sarah Milliron	Lisa Phelps
Michael Levin	Stefan Minnig	Bob Scott Placier
Ian Lewis	Daniel Miranda	Matthew Plante
Patrick Lewis	Adam Mitchell	Stan Plante
Dalton Lilly	Randy Morgan	Mark Plessner
Barb Lindenmuth	Tom Morley	Sherry Plessner
Carrie Lingle	Paul Moser	Cindy Ploch
Andrew Lodge	James Muller	Jelmer Poelstra
Fred Losi	Zebedee Muller	Harrison Ponn
Rick Luehrs	Scott Myers	Anthony Popiel
Holly Lynn	Rick Nelson	Sarah Preston
Geoff Malosh	Craig Nilsson	Chad Pumpelly
Karen Mammone	Kathy Noblet	Allen Rand
Doug Marcum	Kim Nordquest	Rita Rand
Ron Marek	Cynthia Norris	Elias Raber
Justin Martin	Joseph Norris	Jacob Raber
Matt Mason	George Novosel	Debbie Raven
Megan Massa	Gavin Nupp	Mark Raven
Nathaniel Mast	Andrew O'Connor	Jerald Reb
Bernie Master	Brian O'Connor	Dave Reinhart
Kari Warner Matsko	Bill Ohlsen	Nancy Reinhart
Kathy Mcallister	Mary Sue Ostafi	Larry Richardson
Morgan McDonald	Helen Ostermiller	Ethan Rising
Tyler McClain	Ken Ostermiller	Mandy Roberts
Andy McGill	Doug Overacker	Domenic Rocco

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Anthony Rodgers	Julia Smith	Leslie Warren
Mary Anne Romito	Ryan Smylie	Lucas Weaver
Nicky Rosner	Kevin Soncrant	Kisa Weeman
Jeffrey Roth	Leslie Sours	Madeline Wellman
Randy Rowe	James Stammen	Deb Weston
David Rudemiller	Bill Stanley	Steve Wheeler
David Russell	Philip Steiner	Doug Whitman
Sandy Russell	Thomas Stevenson	Jonathan Wilhelms
Jeff Sailer	Jonathan Strassfeld	Gillian Wilke
Lisa Salehpour	Josiah Stumbo	David Wilkins
Alvera M. Sams	Daniel A. Stutzman	Chad Wilson
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Joan Scharf	Jennifer Suydam	Ben Winger
Regina Schieltz	Debra Sweeney	Carl Winstead
Bill Schieman	Kathy Telfer	Clyde Witt
Ed Schlabach	Jory Teltser	Shawn Wolfe
Merle Lynn Schlabach	Luke Thies	Linda Woolard
Norman D. Schlabach	Reanna Thomas	Joe Woyma
Leroy Schlabach	David Thorburn	Ed Wransky
Inga Schmidt	Robert Thorn	Helen Wright-North
Jessica Schmitt	Joel Throckmorton	Brian Wulker
Anthony Schmitt	Brian Tinker	Gale Wulker
Jona Schmitt	Ryan Tomazin	Mia Yeager
Luke Schrader	Josue Artega Torres	Aaron M. Yoder
Michael Schramm	Henry Trimpe	Aden M. Yoder
Glenn Seeholzer	Allen W. Troyer	Atlee Yoder
Hugh Shannon	Anthony R. Troyer	Benjamin H. Yoder
James Sheplar	Eli A. Troyer	David H. Yoder
Paul Sherwood	Julie Tyson	Emery A. Yoder
Mark Shieldcastle	Rachel Vaduva	Josh Yoder
John Shrader	Matthew Valencic	Marvin Yoder
Irina Shulgina	Rebecca Van Dyke	Vernon E. Yoder
Melanie Shuter	Ayden Van Fossen	Eileen Zimlich
Bruce Simpson	Scott Van Valkenburg	Anthony Lee Zimmerman
Shaune Skinner	Joshua Vardous	Devon Zimmerman
James Smallwood	Ken Vinciquerra	Michael Zook
Adrian Smith	Douglas Vogus	Trevor Zook
Bryan Smith	Kimberly Wagner	Christina Zorn
Dave Smith	Ken Walker	
David Smith	Ben Warner	

SAW-WHETS GALORE!

By Tom Bartlett

More than 20 years ago, Project Owl-net was started to connect owl researchers around North America. Four years ago we started Ohio Project Owl-net with Ohio banders who were already studying owls in Ohio at nine different sites. Most of us were working with Project Owl-net and banding Northern Saw-whet Owls. Over the last four years we have grown from nine individuals to 16 banders at 16 sites. Some of these sites have been run since the early 2000s and others just began this past fall.

In some years, we have banded more than 200 saw-whets in a fall season and in others fewer than 100. Northern Saw-whet Owls tend to have a four year population cycle. The years 2012 and 2016 were very good ones for owl banders in Ohio. The fall of 2019 was not a very good year, in fact one of the worst. So expectations for the fall of 2020 were very high. Early reports in the season were showing that it could be good in the eastern North America but not so good in western North America. However, a pandemic was upon us and some of our sites were unable to open, so only nine of our usual 16 sites were run

this past fall. That being said, it was a record year for Ohio Northern Saw-whet Owls. The nine sites banded 487 individual Northern Saw-whet Owls. In addition, banders captured owls with bands on them, known as foreign recaptures. These owls were banded elsewhere, in Ohio, Ontario, Michigan, and Indiana. Two of the foreign recaptures were owls banded by Ohio banders this fall and recaptured by another bander. So, at a minimum, there were 505 Northern Saw-whet Owls in Ohio this past fall and winter. If you ever hoped to see a Northern Saw-whet Owl, that was the season to do it! Ohio owl banders only capture a very small percent of the owls moving through Ohio. Get out and look—they don't start heading back north until March.

Tom Bartlett, a retired secondary science instructor and ornithologist with the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, has been studying and banding Ohio birds for more than 50 years. He was instrumental in forming the Ohio Project Owl-net. He has been banding and studying birds at Springville Marsh since 1984, Kelleys Island since 1996, South Bass Island since 2009, and North Bass Island since 2010. He has been member of the OBRC and a Field Editor for The Ohio Cardinal.

Banding Station	County	Bander-in-Charge	Nights	NSWO Banded	EASO Banded	Other Banded	Foreign Recaps	In-season Recaps
Houston Woods	Butler	Dave Russell	3	21	0	0	2	0
Lowe-Volk Park	Crawford	Bob Placier	1	3	0	0	0	0
Kelleys Island	Erie	Tom Bartlett	46	174	7	9	5	37
Catawba Island	Ottawa	Bruce Buckingham	9	8	2	0	0	0
Lake Erie Island Nature & Wildlife Center	Ottawa	Tom Bartlett	2	0	0	0	0	0
Miller Farm	Seneca	Jim Coffman	24	32	2	0	0	9
Russell Drive, Bolivar	Tuscarawas	Dan Kramer	13	6	1	0	0	0
Mathys Farm	Union	Blake Mathys	16	15	1	0	1	0
Palatial Estates	Vinton	Bob Scott Placier	46	90	0	0	2	10
Caesar Creek	Warren	Rebecca Palmer/Steve Lee/ Bob Thoboban	43	138	1	4	10	20
TOTALS			203	487	14	13	20	76

“Foreign Recaps” are Saw-whets banded elsewhere and captured this year at the named station.

“In-season Recaps” are Saw-whets both banded and recaptured this year at the station.

“Other Banded” are species in addition to Saw-whets and Eastern Screech-Owls.

Details of foreign recaps follow.

Caesar Creek Lake SP (all were banded in 2020): One from Hilliardton, Ontario; two from St. Ignace, Michigan; one from Bartonsburg, Pennsylvania; one from Whitefish Point, Michigan; one from Holiday Beach, Ontario; two from Kelleys Island; one from Mansfield, Ohio; and one from Connersville, Indiana. This station also recaptured one which

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they had banded in 2019, their first “own” recapture.

Kelleys Island (all were banded in 2020): Two from Gilbert, Ontario; one from Long Point, Ontario; one from St. Ignace, Michigan; and one from Lowell, Ohio. The last reversed its migration after banding and flew 36 miles northeast from Lowell to be caught on Kelleys Island 13 days later.

Palatial Estates: One banded in Seneca in 2019 and one banded near Fergus, Ontario, in 2020.

The “other banded” species at Caesar Creek were a Mourning Dove and three Hermit Thrushes; those at Kelleys Island were Hermit Thrushes, a White-throated Sparrow, and Northern Cardinals. Tom Bartlett quipped, “We get them when we open nets too early in the evening.”

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS of PELLETS from NON-CAPTIVE AMERICAN KESTREL (*Falco sparveris*) in n.e. Ohio in winter

By Dwight Chasar and Ann Chasar

Like many raptors, American Kestrels (AMKE) egest or cast up pellets of undigested material, e.g., hair; feathers, and chitin. An examination of the ornithological literature suggests that the physical characteristics, e.g., size and mass, of these falcon pellets have not been a particularly popular topic of study in Ohio.

Pellets from non-captive AMKE have been studied in the spring/summer in central Chile (Yanez *et al.* 1980) where arthropods were found to be more numerous than vertebrates in the diet. Another study (Rojas *et al.* 2004) in southern Chile of pellets collected from non-captive AMKE in the summer found the biomass primarily consisted of birds and rodents. Two studies in North America examined pellets from captive AMKE but in these instances the birds were provided a restricted diet of either one day old chicks (Duke *et al.* 1996), or separately, turkey, albino mice, beef heart, or various sparrows (Balgooyen 1971). These studies raise the question as to whether there are differences in the physical characteristics of pellets from non-captive AMKE in NE Ohio compared to those of the cited literature. To address this requires finding a source of pellets from a wild kestrel.

We found two AMKEs in February 2020 frequenting a field owned by the Cleveland Met-

roparks, *Cuyahoga*. The field was ideal in that it had power lines and poles and nearby trees from which the birds could hunt. We guessed correctly that a stunted lone pine tree in the middle of the field would be a good place for the kestrels to roost and from which to egest pellets. We obtained permission* to collect the pellets, examine their physical characteristics, and then turn them over to the Metroparks.

Our first foray on 02 Feb yielded an accumulation of 25-30 pellets and for nine days afterward an additional 10-15, after which no more pellets were found. The average temperature in Jan was 2° C and for Feb was 0.6° C. Snow cover was intermittent (with a maximum depth of 12.7 cm in Jan and 7.6 cm in Feb), so finding pellets under the tree was not difficult. The pellets were stored for several months and then air dried in the sun during June/July (Balgooyen 1971 and Duke 1996). Forty pellets were weighed to the nearest hundredth of a gram and the size was measured with a caliper to the nearest tenth of a millimeter. Pellets were generally elongated in shape (see photo) but a few were smaller and rounder, the latter sometimes needed to complete the whole ejection process (Balgooyen 1971).

The mean mass was 0.76 g (range: 0.26-1.51 g, N=40), mean length 27.4 mm (range: 12.7-46.3 mm) and mean width 14.2 mm (range: 10.8-23.5 mm). Visually, the pellet surfaces were of two



types (see photo): one of soft brown hair (fragile) (top row) and the other of feathers blackened and hardened with some substance. The mean mass of the eight hairy pellets was 0.72 g and that of the remaining blackish ones 0.76 g, each being essentially the same as the mean mass of all 40.

Pellet size (N=142) from the central Chile study (Yanez *et al.* 1980) was mass = 0.48 g, length = 24.7 mm, width = 11.3 mm while from the southern Chile study (Rojas *et al.* 2004) was mass=1.08 g, length = 26.7 mm, width = 14.3 mm). It has been hypothesized that a pellet is ejected when the volume of the pellet reaches the size of the ventriculus (Balgooyen 1971); this would suggest that differences in length and width among studies would not be significant. The mean mass of the pellets from our study, however, was 54% heavier than that of the central Chile study but 30% lighter than that in the southern Chile report. This may be explained by the fact that insects were the most common prey in both the pellet and stomach samples in the central Chile study while avian prey in the southern Chile work accounted for the highest biomass contribution (79.6%) followed by rodents (18%). Pellets from kestrels wintering in NE Ohio would contain few if any insects. The two types of pellets in our study seem to be that of bird prey (blackish) and rodent/other mammal prey (light brown). This could explain the mass differences because the pellets, while being of similar size, contain more indigestible material, e.g. bones. Further examination of the pellets is open to researchers through arrangements with the Cleveland Metroparks.*

*US Fish and Wildlife Service Permit Number: MB64125B-0 provided by Tim Krynak of the Cleveland Metroparks.

Literature cited:

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Now retired chemists, Dwight and Ann have been volunteers for the CVNP for over 35 years, mostly involved with leading bird walks for the public, censusing birds, and tackling amateur field ornithology. While thoroughly enjoying local birding, they have birded more than 20 countries and hope to visit more.

VAN WERT COUNTY DOES HAVE BIRDS

By Rob Harlan

Sandy and I spent some time in lovely *Van Wert* on 07 and 08 Aug 2020. Regular *Ohio Cardinal* readers will recall the Editor's frequent lament "Only *Van Wert* did not have a sighting" for many common species. There are good reasons for this.

Few birders live in or travel through *Van Wert*, and they surely don't visit there much for the purpose of birding. Thanks to excessively meticulous agriculture, a nearly utter lack of topography and habitat variation, and a general mind-numbing sameness, birding is disturbingly bad there; but somehow we still find it a pleasurable change of pace from typical birding areas (not really). But someone has to do it (and we can't leave all the glory to current *Van Wert* eBird champion Scott Myers), and so we visit there every so often for the purpose of pointing out how few birds can live where humans maintain such total control, even in wide open spaces. Here's a list of birds that we saw that, as best as I can tell, no one reported for the county on eBird all season. That's for the entire county, for the entire season.

07 Aug: Wood Duck—a female and party of 8 ducklings just happy to find a semblance of a stream; Ruby-throated Hummingbird—1; Lesser Yellowlegs—1, seemingly content but blissfully unaware at a stockyard sewage pond; Northern Harrier—2 males, proud of their surroundings, but probably just didn't know any better; Bald Eagle—1 adult, an American icon, holding on in an untenable situation with grim determination; Red-headed Woodpecker—5; American Crow—2 murderously rare residents, and yes, 2 crows beats the entire eBird tally for the season; Horned Lark—20, even with horizon to horizon agriculture; White-breasted Nuthatch—5 super-rare forest dwellers (practically no forest); House Wren—3, but plenty of houses; Carolina Wren—3; Eastern Bluebird—2; Field Sparrow—1 super-rare field dweller (practically no second growth fields); Vesper Sparrow—1 indescribably rare bird, must have just flown in from neighboring *Paulding*; Common Grackle—75 (no one else could find a grackle?); Indigo Bunting—5; and Dickcissel—4 (this particular field must not have received its daily plowing yet). I should add that we found 4, count 'em, 4 Red-winged Blackbirds, while everybody else for the season combined for 2. We are proud, very proud.

08 Aug: We thought we'd look again the next

day, traveling through different areas than the day before. We found Wood Duck—4; Red-headed Woodpecker—5; Warbling Vireo—1 which found a tree; American Crow—1 (you probably don't believe me by now); Horned Lark—2; White-breasted Nuthatch—2 (still super rare); House Wren—1; Carolina Wren—5; Eastern Bluebird—2; Field Sparrow—3; Baltimore Oriole—1; Common Yellowthroat—2 (I don't blame you for not believing that no one else reported Common Yellowthroat for the entire county for the season, but just remember, no one has ever submitted a *Van Wert* eBird report for this species in the fall); Yellow Warbler—; and Indigo Bunting—5.

Had we birded the area a little earlier, perhaps in late Jul, realistically we would have had more birds. And we probably should have reported our findings to eBird. [*Editor's note* – yes!] But keep in mind, no one has ever submitted an eBird report for Common Yellowthroat for the county in the months of Aug through Nov. Or for Yellow Warbler. Or Baltimore Oriole. Or Field Sparrow. Some species, I suppose, are simply too rare to report. Seriously though, think of the gaps in our knowledge here. Surely there are more birds waiting to be found in *Van Wert*. If you go, you probably will also shake your head in disbelief. Then again, you just might find *Van Wert's* first ever eBird Hermit Thrush. Fortune favors the bold...

Rob Harlan is a lifelong birder from Cleveland. He is a former Editor and columnist for The Ohio Cardinal, and is currently serving another term on the OBRC. He is also an original board member of the Ohio Ornithological Society. He and his wife Sandy reside most of the year in the Akron area and winter in Delray Beach, Florida. They watch birds and bugs wherever they are, and usually in that order.

FIELD NOTES

(Lightly edited for obvious spelling errors and conformance with the Cardinal's style sheet)

From Matt Anderson:

[Regarding 101 Purple Finches at OOPMP on 20 Sep] 79 s and sw of OO Lodge, 22 at west end of Oak River Lane; maybe my highest single-day count ever, certainly the most in decades.

From Gautam Apte:

[Regarding 3150 Chimney Swifts on 17 Sep at CLNP] Megaflight. Birds at dawn swirling northward up to the lakeshore and then tracking east over the water and along the coast. Running count of northbound birds only, by 100s from dawn, then by 50s a while later around 2000 individuals.

From Ryan Eldridge:

[Regarding a *Piranga* sp. tanager seen in Elmwood Park, *Cuyahoga*, on 24 Nov] Seen by small field near waste treatment plant; appeared atop shrub 10 feet from me for about 10 seconds before flying into pines by treatment plant. Looked pretty green, and wings looked a bit darker than rest of body, possibly indicating Scarlet. Returned later in day for about 45 minutes without successfully re-locating.--NOTE: I originally entered this [in eBird] as "Summer/Scarlet Tanager". I still believe this was one of those two species. Several days after this sighting, though, a female Western Tanager was sighted at Lakewood Park Cemetery. What are the chances of two different tanagers showing up so close together in this area at this time of year? However: unlike the tanager at Lakewood Park Cemetery, the bird I saw seemed pretty much uniform in color other than (possibly) the wings. Also, I did not observe wingbars and believe that the angles I had were sufficient to see them had they been present. Nevertheless, due to the suspicious co-incidence of the nearby Western Tanager, I am downgrading my classification.

From Christopher Esker, *Summit*:

We have a pair of Carolina Wrens that shelter overnight, most nights, at the top of our porch columns. One or both fly off from time to time, but most nights finds them together resting. [late Oct into early Nov]

From Karen Gray:

[Regarding her 15 Sep report of 67 Gray Catbirds] Massive movement of catbirds. High in trees, low in bushes, everywhere. Conservative count. Many fruiting plants in this area: porcelain berry, poison ivy, dogwoods, crabapples, wild grapes, and more. Catbirds were feasting on all of it. Even warblers were eating fruit.

From Bernie Master:

Chimney Swift, one, 21 Aug, fly south over main house [in *Franklin*] and 15 [on] 15 Aug. Flying south over house. This is a known flyway. I had nesting Chimney Swifts in my house chimney. They left 3rd week Jul. I could tell because lack of chittering and wing fluttering and thank God the fishy poop smell was gone.

Note, This was a poor fall migration in my patch. I know *Franklin* MPs were seeing migrants but not here. Very disappointing. I think one reason for sure was that the City of Columbus sprayed for mosquitos just south of me the week before 28 Sep and killed a lot of insects besides mosquitos.

From Bob Scott Placier:

Here is the most notable, even astonishing, number: From 05 Sep, when I banded my first Swainson's Thrushes of the season (five), until the last two I got on 15 Oct, I banded 245 SWTH here at my *Vinton* home. Previous high was 129 in 2016. I do manage my 1/4 mile lane to increase fruit bearing species such as spicebush and smooth sumac, but never expected a SWTH showing like this! Highest single day was 45 SWTH on 23 Sep. Other thrushes were in typical abundance for the season.

I also had a remarkable number of Ruby-crowned Kinglets, banding 34. That was the fourth highest number for any species this season, and the first time RCKI have been in the top 10 here. This was my sixth fall season of regular banding here at the Palatial Woodland Estate in bucolic *Vinton*.

Keep hoping for Evening Grosbeaks! I have new neighbors, Matt Shumar and Molly McDermott, who are banders, and live only three miles as the Grosbeak flies (I hope) from me. And they have banded at least one.

From Jen Sauter, *Hocking*:

What a year.....the only thing good so far is that I had a visit from some Evening Grosbeaks this fall :). I have not reported them on eBird yet, so here are the dates:

27 Oct: one female

28 Oct – 29 Oct: two males, two females

22 Nov: one male, five females

23 Nov: five females

We have also had a nice flock of siskins—around a dozen or so. Purple finches were here early and RB Nuts.

From Karen Shrader:

[Regarding a Fox Sparrow in *Montgomery* on 02 Sep] In the late morning, I saw a grayish brown Fox Sparrow under the platform feeder (near the house) eating birdseed on the ground. It chased off a female cardinal that was eating right next to it. It left after eating seeds on the ground less than five minutes. I was not able to get a photo due to the short observation time. For comparison, it was a little shorter than the cardinal but had a noticeably long tail. I saw no bright reddish color on it, but some subdued reddish-brown on the wings and tail (more brown than red!). There was also a slightly lighter color on the outer edge of the tail. Its face was uniformly dark grayish brown, with no noticeable eye ring. The bill seemed small to me, and the upper mandible of the bill was dark. I couldn't see the lower mandible because of the way it was eating seeds. The

back was a solid grayish brown color, with no noticeable streaking. The breast was white with heavy dark brownish, almost black, stripes - more striped than spotted. I didn't remember seeing any white on the face, which was quite gray. I am very familiar with both the Song Sparrow and Eastern Towhee, including young birds, because they actually breed in our woods. In addition, we have Wood Thrushes breeding in the backyard and regularly see Swainson's and other thrushes during both spring and fall migration. I am from southern California and have birded extensively in all the western states, and have seen many Fox Sparrows which looked like this one! The wind was from the southwest becoming west at about 3 p.m. After a strong cold front on 30 Aug, the wind was from the northwest with a high temperature of 57 following the cold front. The bird did not at all look like the usual Red Fox Sparrow that stops in our backyard during migration each spring and fall. After extensive research in our bird library, the bird seemed to most closely match *Passerella iliaca schistaea* (so-called "Slate-colored Fox Sparrow".) It seems very early for a Fox Sparrow in Ohio, but I am aware of some other Fox Sparrow records in Ohio in late Aug. Maybe the bird was migrating and perhaps this bird was off-course by 90 degrees? I was wondering if the extensive forest fires in the West have anything to do with this. Too bad I couldn't get a photo—I tried! It was definitely a Fox Sparrow, and although I don't know for sure what subspecies is involved, it did seem like a "western" bird to me.

YEARS AGO

By Craig Caldwell

10 years ago, the Fall 2010 *Ohio Cardinal*, Vol. 34 No. 1 (Jill Russell and Craig Caldwell, Co-Editors-in-Chief) contained these items:

This issue was Jill's last; incoming Editor-in-Chief Craig shared the production.

Sightings came from 83 of our 88 counties; American Crow was reported in 73 of them for the highest return.

Four Pacific Loons were reported pending OBRC action. Only three records preceded this year's.

The state's first Mississippi Kite nest was located in **Hocking**. (Breeding was confirmed in 2009, but the nest was never found.)

Eurasian Collared-Doves were reported from four counties and Northern Ravens from two.

25 years ago, the Fall 1995 *Ohio Cardinal*, Vol. 19 No. 1 (Rob Harlan, Editor) contained these items:

The identity of the state's first Smooth-Billed Ani (found in 1993) was at last confirmed by comparison with museum specimens.

A Gray Flycatcher reported at Magee in 1988 was confirmed by the OBRC as our 401st species.

A Kirtland's Warbler spent part of a day in **Paulding**.

Five flocks of Common Nighthawk each exceeded 50 birds.

35 years ago, began a hiatus which lasted until the Spring 1987 issue.

50 years ago, *The Cleveland Bird Calendars* for Summer 1970, Vol. 66 No. 3 (Aug, Annette B. Flanigan, Editor) and Fall 1970, Vol. 66 No. 4 (Sep–Nov, Donald L. Newman, Editor) included these items. (A reminder—the Calendar area is a circle of radius 30 miles centered at Cleveland's Public Square)

“Passage of Canada Geese through the region was scarcely observed.”

An observer in Lakewood, **Cuyahoga**, counted 839 Common Nighthawks passing overhead between 7:30 and 9:00 pm on 26 Aug.

Two Yellow-crowned Nigh-Herons were seen in Chagrin Falls, **Cuyahoga**.

Three separate Bald Eagles were noted.

The Calendar area's first Glossy Ibis and the state's first (and so far the only) Painted Redstart were documented.

Cleveland's Erie Street Cemetery hosted 70 Northern Flickers on 28 Sep.

100 years ago, The *Cleveland Bird Calendar* did not publish an issue.

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The Counties of Ohio



Indian Lake State Park held a Black-bellied Plover on 20 Sept that allowed Leslie Sours to get some great close-ups.

Instructions for Contributors

The Ohio Cardinal would not exist without contributions from Ohio birders. We solicit sightings, notes on unusual observations, in-depth scientific articles, historical accounts, essays, artwork, and photographs related to Ohio and its birdlife.

Reports of bird sightings for each season are requested and should be submitted directly, by email or postal mail to:

Craig Caldwell, 1270 W. Melrose Dr., Westlake, OH 44145

Cardinal@ohiobirds.org

Send digital photo files or links to Roger Lau:

rognceleste@gmail.com

Deadlines are as follows:

Winter (Dec, Jan, Feb) - 21 March

Spring (Mar, Apr, May) - 21 June

Summer (Jun, Jul) - 21 August

Fall (Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov) - 21 December

Back cover:

James Smallwood spotted a flock of Common Redpoll feeding at Lake Erie Bluffs on 12 Nov.

THE OHIO CARDINAL

The Ohio Ornithological Society
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