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

The Ohio Cardinal exists to provide a permanent and timely record of the abundance and distribution of birds in Ohio; to help document the occurrence of rare species in the state; to provide information on identification of birds; and to provide information on birding areas within Ohio.

The Ohio Cardinal invites readers to submit articles on unusual occurrences of birds, bird distribution within the state, birding areas in Ohio, identification tips, and other aspects of ornithology. Bird reports and photographs are welcome from any area of the state. Report forms are not a necessity but will be supplied upon request. Unusual species should be documented, and forms to do so are available upon request from the Editor, Publisher, and Records Committee Secretary.

Seasonal Report Due Dates	Please send all reports to:
Winter (Dec.-Feb.) - March 25 Spring (Mar.-May) - June 25 Summer (Jun.-Jul.) - August 25 Fall (Aug.-Nov.) - December 25	Bill Whan 223 E. Tulane Rd. Columbus, OH 43202 danielel@iwaynet.net

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The Ohio Cardinal
c/o Edwin C. Pierce
2338 Harrington Rd.
Akron, OH 44319

The Ohio Cardinal

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

Cover: **Snowy Egret,** Magee Marsh WA, Ottawa Co., 7 May 1999. Photo by Gary Meszaros.

A Note from the New Editor

We owe much to our subscribers and contributors for having kept faith with *The Ohio Cardinal* as we fell behind our regular publication schedule over the past several years. We intend to restore an unbroken chain of data, importantly through Vic Fazio's ongoing work to publish missing issues through Summer 1998. We also intend, contemporaneous with efforts to fill in the gaps, to return *The Ohio Cardinal* to prompt and regular publication with this issue. The magazine you hold covers the Spring of 1999, and we plan issues just as punctual from now on.

One of the primary reasons for the founding of this publication in 1978 was the need to open up communications among Ohio birders. No quarterly magazine can compete with instantaneous news, electronic or word-of-mouth, about important bird sightings, but we can make it easier to find interesting birds and learn more about them by providing a coherent permanent record of occurrences, identification articles, details on remarkable records, and useful guides to birdfinding around the state. In all these efforts, information gathered by field observers is our most valuable resource, and the more widely it is promulgated the more valuable it becomes—valuable not in the narrow proprietary sense, but useful and enlightening to the greatest possible number of us. Because open communication remains as important as ever to us, we have made arrangements with other compilers of this sort of information—*The Bobolink*, *North American Birds*, *The Cleveland Bird Calendar*, and the projected *Ohio Birds and Natural History*—to share freely and mutually all raw data of bird sightings. Our contributors are of course free to opt out of this arrangement as individuals, and have only to notify us if that is their choice, but we believe the fullest possible sharing of information can only benefit Ohio birders.

A lot of new projects for *The Ohio Cardinal*, fondly considered over recent years, have had to await a return to regular and timely publication. They will have to wait a bit longer, since one on-time issue is hardly enough to re-establish good habits. At the same time, while the heart of this publication will remain the seasonal reports, we intend immediately to tap more fully the resources of birders in Ohio and elsewhere to make the magazine of deeper interest to our readers. We plan more articles on birdfinding in the state, guides to field identification, and more field studies and reports. With this issue we also inaugurate "Further Afield," a regular column by Rob Harlan, of which we expect to be especially proud; for this issue, so well-matched was his topic to our own that we feel obliged to confess it was a happy coincidence rather than the result of thoughtful coordination. We invite your opinions, and, as always, we depend vitally upon your contributions.

Bill Whan

Spring 1999 Overview

by Bill Whan

After another warm winter, the spring of 1999 continued warm in Ohio, and pretty dry as well. In Cleveland, for example, the National Weather Service reported the last measurable snowfall of the season on March 10th; Cleveland's last year with no April snowfall was 1941, the previous one 1925. During April, on only three days did Cleveland's high temperature fall below freezing, at the lowest only to 28 degrees Fahrenheit. Lake Erie waters, quite high for three decades, suddenly fell nearly to historically normal levels, down a whopping twenty inches from last year's. Severe weather far away—droughts in Mexico and the West Indies, and Hurricane Mitch in Central America—were bound to affect migrants.

Their expectations diminished by last year's bad showing, most birders rated this year's migration better than 1998's, but by no means good. A trend seems to persist in which the major waves of neotropical migrants begin later and end sooner. Observers who went afield in April in eager anticipation of new arrivals were often disappointed, though not—in view of recent spring seasons—much surprised, as were those who hoped for one more big wave late in May. Good numbers of migrants in early June, of course, are a fading memory one hardly dares to trust. While not fully explanatory, at least contributory was this spring's stalled front in late April and early May, whose stubborn northeasterly winds blockaded the songbird migration long enough to try many an observer's patience. Only in a few places, however—such as the 8th of May's fallout in Metzger Marsh's patch of cottonwoods on the Lakeside—did one sense that the resumption of southerly breezes had brought a big onrush of long-delayed birds on their way north. Good numbers of the southern breeders arrived on or a bit ahead of schedule there earlier in April, and there were a few brief overflights to the north, but as May grew older the passage of Canada-bound songbirds became so brisk that the end of the month seemed empty of anything but local breeders.

Shorebirds, more dependent than songbirds on specialized habitats on migration, were unusually hard to find, and particularly ill-served by Ohio on their long voyages. Few land managers accommodated their habitat needs, and this year, unlike in 1998, no flooded agricultural fields afforded them make-do stopover sites. By and large, only those species happy with drier settings—golden-plovers, upland sandpipers, pectoral sandpipers—were seen in normal numbers. Among other species, we found plovers and turnstones reduced to following plows in dusty fields, or while marveling at the midge hatch near the Lake we noticed upwards of 60 ruddy turnstones snapping up the chironomids at Crane Creek SP beach. Enough mudflat-loving species stopped, of necessity, at inland reservoirs—often in unusual numbers—or in odd situations near the Lake, to make the count of species, if hardly of individuals, close to normal.

It may have been the warm weather which persuaded unprecedented numbers of grebes to overwinter on Lake Erie and inland waters alike. Among close to a hundred grebes at East Fork SP in January, a western grebe arrived to spend over ten weeks. Waterfowl as a whole seemed to set an impatient example for songbirds, pulling out early. As among shorebirds, some waterfowl made unusually good showings at inland locations.

We did have some extraordinary gull events. Iceland gulls, usually the shortest-staying and least numerous of the white-winged species, lingered till late April, with a startlingly high count of 48 birds on the 10th. Little gulls numbered 22 on March 2nd at Fairport Harbor, a remarkable concentration at any time, especially spring. Echoing

our own exceptional numbers, 52 little gulls showed up on the Niagara River on March 17th, their numbers swelling to 85 two days later; both the Ohio and the NY/Ontario events were accompanied, not surprisingly, by unusually large numbers of Bonaparte's gulls.

Another event of significance was the heavy migration witnessed by a few lucky birders at Conneaut on the late date of May 17th: 150 turkey vultures, 7 ospreys, 7 bald eagles, 14 harriers, 17 sharpies, a rough-legged hawk, a golden eagle, 408 broad-winged hawks, 20 ruby-throated hummingbirds, 36 eastern kingbirds, 175 blue jays, 375 American pipits, and 30 bobolinks. It was as if all the lingering and indecisive migrants of the region were swept up as one and sent on their way at last.

Migrant flycatchers zipped through in a ten-day spate for the most part. Tern numbers seemed down in the impressions of many observers—as well as in the numbers reported. Three monthly counts in Magee Marsh WA, for example, found only eight terns of two species, and in three Ottawa NWR counts did only a little better, with 34 birds of three species. Black terns' dim regional prospects continue to fade, and common terns hang on as nesters only at two elaborately-protected colonies.

If sightings of some expected species were rather meager, those of the unexpected ones were truly puny. In the spring of 1998, 19 Review List species were reported in Ohio; this year, only eight came to light. Among them, only the western grebe (more properly a holdover from the winter), a Harris's sparrow, and a purple gallinule stayed for more than brief looks by single observers.

We hope to be forgiven for a fairly grumpy overview of the spring season. Watching populations of birds other than starlings generally prepares one for disappointments, but surely some grousing—and even a bit of sniping from time to time—should be permissible. These notes are being written in mid-July, and even though not a single pulse-quickening sighting has been reported since the end of a lackluster spring rarity-wise—oh, maybe the ruff seen by one observer but never relocated—we look forward at least to some interesting reports for this summer about Ohio breeders from our contributors.

Speaking of which, most of us are guilty of ignoring local birds during the summer. A horned grebe hanging around into June—a remarkable record—might not catch our attention after we've seen so many earlier in the year. Sure, we saw upland sandpipers out by the airport, but do we know if they stayed to nest successfully? Lots of us keep Ohio life-lists and year-lists, but if more of us kept *month*-lists we'd probably know a lot more about our birdlife.

The following report follows the taxonomic order of the 7th edition of the *AOU Check-list of North American Birds* (1998), in which some significant changes will require some getting used to; notice the radical displacement of the vultures and the vireos as examples. Underlined names of species indicate those on the OBRC Review List. County names are supplied for certain locations, and appear *italicized* and often abbreviated. Other abbreviations should be readily understood; conceivable exceptions follow: CBC=Christmas Bird Count; *fide*="in trust of," said of data conveyed on behalf of another; Killbuck=Killbuck Marsh Wildlife Area; Killdeer=Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area; Magee=Magee Marsh Wildlife Area; Metzger=Metzger Marsh Wildlife Area; MP=Metropark; m obs=many observers; MWW=Miami-Whitewater Wetlands; NF=National Forest; NRA=National Recreation Area; NWR=National Wildlife Refuge; Res=reservoir; Res'n=reservation; SF= State Forest; SNP=State Nature Preserve; SP=State Park; WA=Wildlife Area.

The Reports

Red-throated Loon: Scarce at best in spring, one was at Buck Creek SP, *Clark,* on 13 Mar (**D. Overacker**), and another off Lakeshore MP, *Lake,* on 10 April (**J. Pogacnik**).

Common Loon: Numbers were good. **K. Metcalf** had an immature bird on the early date of 12 Mar at Eastlake; no local rehabber having released one, it may have been a rare overwintering bird. Spring loons often prefer inland waters, so 68 at Lakeshore MP on 10 Apr (**J. Pogacnik**), 29 at Conneaut, *Asht,* on 21 Apr (**B. Glick, E. Schlabach**), and 16 off S. Bass Isl on 11 Apr (**S. Wulcowicz**) were remarkable. Inland, **R. Nirschl** had 66 birds on Pleasant Hill Lk, *Rich*, on 12 Apr, **B. Heck** found 13 on Acton Lk, *Preb*, on 28 Mar, **E. Schlabach** had eight on Seneca Lk, *Noble,* on 10 April, and **D. Best** had 20 on East Branch Res, *Geauga,* on the following day. Several birds remained at the end of the period; thus, Findlay Res hosted three on 23 Mar, 12 on 1 May, and two laggards 25 May (**B. Hardesty**).

Pied-billed Grebe: 6 Mar brought reports statewide: 28 birds at East Fork SP, *Cler* (**H. Armstrong**), five at Buck Creek SP (**D. Overacker**), and one at Killbuck (**S. Snyder**), though some of those at the first two locations had likely overwintered, numbers at East Fork SP having reached an astonishing 40+ by the third week of January (**N. Keller** et al.).

Horned Grebe: This species, too, took advantage of a warm winter, with reports spanning Dec-Feb. At East Fork SP their numbers equaled those of the previous species during the winter (**N. Keller** et al.). Likelier migrants came through in good numbers, including 18 at Cowan Lk, *Clin,* on 20 Mar (**L. Gara D. Overacker**), 15 on Paulding Res on 25 Mar (**D&M Dunakin**), four in *Maho* 28 Mar (**N. Brundage**), nine at Wooster 29 Mar (**S. Snyder**), and 20 on 30 Mar at Outwaite Res, *Craw* (**R. Counts**). The species was reported during the North Coast Open latish on 15 May (*fide* **G. Links**), and a straggler was detected by **E. Tramer** at Metzger on 26 May.

Red-necked Grebe: Two were on Lake Logan, *Hock,* 7 Apr (**D. St John**) and on 10 Apr (**B. Perrine**), and three were found in *Lake* on May 1 (**J. Pogacnik**).

Eared Grebe: All reports: 27 Mar along the entry to Ottawa NWR (Tol RBA), 28 Mar at Magee (Tol RBA), 29 Mar at Delaware Res (**B. Conlon**), 3 Apr at Reno Beach, *Lucas,* by **J. Pogacnik**, and 24 Apr at Metzger (**J. Lesser**).

Western Grebe: An obliging individual at East Fork SP stayed from 20 Jan through 21 Apr (**H. Armstrong,** see notes in this issue). Record accepted by the OBRC. A western grebe in Massachusetts this spring outlasted ours, and one was in Alton, IL from 8 May through 4 June.

Double-crested Cormorant: By 23 Mar, four birds had returned to Meander Res, *Maho,* soon growing to over a hundred individuals; nesting is suspected but not confirmed (**D&J Hochadel**). Other nests outside well-known areas included some noted 5 May on Turning Pt Isl off Sandusky (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**). Inland high was 142 at Acton Lk, *Preb,* on 9 Apr (**C. Tucker**), and 130 were at Lk Rockwell (**C. Holt**). 2500 were offshore from the mouth of the Cuyahoga throughout mid-Apr (**P. Lozano**).

American Bittern: Earliest reports: 10 Apr at Mallard Club WA (**E. Pierce**) and 11 Apr at Buck's Pond, *Warr, (***M.Ray**). Apr 24 brought a bird to Spring Valley WA (**D. Graham**); the same day two were seen flying over Highbanks MP, *Dela,* (**J. Hammond, P. Cozens**) for a second record there. 28 Apr one was at N Chagrin Res'n, *Cuy,* seen by **K. Metcalf.** The first seen on S. Bass Isl in six years was noted by **S. Wulcowicz** on 3 May. One was in Whitehouse, *Lucas,* on 8 May (**E. Tramer**), another on 15 May at Metzger (**J. Howard**), and on the 16th **J. Grabmeier** had one at Lake La Su An WA. Next season's reports will show which birds were merely migrants.

Least Bittern: 10 Apr was a very early arrival (**E. Pierce**) at Mallard Club WA; this bird was heard throughout Apr and May (m obs). High number was three at Big Island WA 17 May (**R. Sempier**), and most other reports arose in mid- to late May: one on the 15th at Metzger (**J. Howard**) and on the 20th (**E. Tramer**), on the same day at Fawn Ridge, *Greene,* by **D. Dister,** on the 22nd in *Paul* (**M&D Dunakin**), on the same day at Headlands Beach SP (**N. Barber**), the 23rd at MWW (**D. Brinkman**), the 28th at Magee (**E. Tramer**), and on the 30th at Killbuck (**V. Fazio**), and two unexpectedly in *Athens* by **B. Placier.**

Great Egret: Not too surprising considering the weather, early arrivals showed up at 17 Mar at Magee (**V. Fazio**), and 24 Mar at Killdeer (**L&N Powlick**) and in Strongsville (**B. Gaal**).

Snowy Egret: Encouraging weather brought birds early: two on 3 Apr at Salt Fork SP, *Guern* (**P&T Sica**), then 9 Apr to Magee (**V. Fazio**), and 11 Apr to Grand Lk St Marys (**D. Dister**). Further afield, one was over in the Grand River WA on 29 May (**J&D Brumfield**), and another down near Dundee, *Tusc,* on 15 May (**E. Schlabach**).

Little Blue Heron: Quite a spring for reports of these. All: 6 Apr in Dayton's Englewood MP (**C. Mathena**), 4 May at Spring Valley WA (**J. Rakestraw**), 9 May Mallard Club WA (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**), 15 May two in *Lorain* (**A. Ryan**), 19 May two at Killdeer (**B&R Rinehart**), 22 May at Gilmore Ponds, *Butl,* (**S. Pawlowski**), 26 May two at Fairborn, *Greene,* and 28 May at the Grand River WA, *Trum,* by **J. Pogacnik.**

Cattle Egret: Early was a flyby at Magee on 2 Apr (**V. Fazio**). 13 were counted along Rte 2 along the Lake on 5 May (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**). One was found in a hayfield in *Holmes* on 26 May (**E&M Yoder**).

Green Heron: Earliest report was 11 Apr at Buck's Pond, *Warr,* by **M. Ray**. **J. Pogacnik** counted eight along an eight-mile stretch of the Grand River on 4 May.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: Several observers remarked this species seemed down in numbers; certainly reported numbers were down this season. The traditional roost in Cleveland's Flats area produced gatherings of a dozen or two throughout the month of April, but only two remained on 20 May (**P. Lozano**).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: The species apparently abandoned some traditional nest sites, but was seen in some new locales. All reports: 8 Apr Englewood MP in Dayton (**J. Krupka**), 19 Apr Cobey Pk in Galion (**J. Little**), 14 Apr just a flyby at Greenlawn Dam in Columbus (**T. Thomson**), 20 Apr in Toledo (**L. Bode**), 21 April *Athens* by **J. Miller**, and on 15 May four in *Lorain* (**A. Ryan**).

Glossy Ibis: **V. Fazio** found an adult at Pickerel Creek WA on 30 May.

Black Vulture: Strongholds for the species seem intact, though the *Adams* roost has apparently not recovered from an intentional poisoning by our species some years ago. Other sightings: 11 Mar at Hueston Wds SP (**D. Russell**), 10 on 16 Mar near Paint Creek SP (**M. Skinner**), 19 Apr one with Granville's famous TVs in *Lick* (**H. Nagy**), 25 Apr at Charles Mill Lk, *Rich/Ashl* (**C. Rieker**), three on 1 May in *Cler* (**D. Morse**), 2 May near Wyandot (**J. Hill**), 2 May in *Dela* (**J. McCormac**), and 2 May in *Holmes* (**J&E Snively**).

Turkey Vulture: Many overwintered. A migrant was at Lakeshore MP on 5 Mar (**J. Pogacnik**). 75 at Hueston Wds SP on 11 Mar (**D. Russell**) were probably augmented by migrants, as well. 191 were on the North Hill roost in Athens on 14 Mar (**B. Whan**); the winter roost there was of 60-70 birds. 120 were south of Marion on Mar 17 (**T. Bartlett**). **E. Schlabach** noted 150 late migrants at Conneaut on 17 May.

Greater White-fronted Goose: An interesting concentration was at Salt Fork SP, *Guer*: sixteen birds on 6 Mar (**P&T Sica**) then increased to 23 and stayed until the 19th (**J. Larson**). One was reported at Lakeshore MP on 21 Mar (**J. Pogacnik**).

Snow Goose: Numbers seemed skimpy in view of the species' recent population explosion. All reports: on 6 Mar eight birds, all but one blue morph, were at Funk Bottoms WA (**S. Snyder**); on 16 Mar ten were at Acton Lk, *Preb* (**C. Tucker**); on 17 Mar eight birds, all white, were at Funk Bottoms WA (**S. Snyder**); four were at Lakeshore MP on 19 Mar (**J. Pogacnik**); two at Tare Ck Marsh, *Geauga* (**R. Sharpnak**); on 26 Mar seven were at Killdeer (**T. Chapman**); five were at Beach City WA, *Tusc,* on 31 Mar (**P. Rosenberry**), 21 Apr Ottawa NWR (**M. Victoria**), and Killdeer from 20 Apr (**V. Fazio**) to the 25th (**B. Cullen**).

Mute Swan: A pair nested brazenly in the open a stone's throw from the road next to Medusa Marsh, where three young were seen June 2 (**V. Fazio**).

Trumpeter Swan: **S. Snyder** had a pair at Killbuck on 1 Mar without neck bands. ODW released 29 more birds this spring, and earlier surveys found 41 in the state, including seven breeding pairs. Two cygnets

resulted from natural reproduction among this population.

Tundra Swan: No huge numbers, nothing especially early or late. Max 50 on 4 Mar, growing to 175 by the 14th, at Mosquito Lk WA (**D&J Hochadel**), and 150 were at LaDue Res, *Geauga*, 16 Mar (**R. Reda**). Latest reported on 3 Apr at Cedar Pt NWR (**J. Pogacnik**).

Wood Duck: Mostly migrants were concentrations of 80 on 11 Mar at Huston Wds SP (**S. Walker, D. Russell**), 94 at Killbuck on 25 Mar (**V. Fazio**), and 120 at Funk Bottoms WA on 14 Mar (**J&D Brumfield**).

Gadwall: Neither early nor numerous, nor did they linger long. On 6 Mar, 30 were at East Fork SP (**H. Armstrong**). On 25 Mar, 111 were tallied at Killbuck (**V. Fazio**), and **H&S Hiris** had 331 on 18 Apr for the Magee bird count.

Eurasian Wigeon: **S. Snyder** reported a possible EurXAm hybrid at Killbuck on 23 Mar.

American Wigeon: V. Fazio reported 160 at Killdeer on 14 Mar, then 550 at Killbuck by 25 Mar. High count was 527 on 18 Mar at Magee (**H&S Hiris**); late were two at Big Island WA on 27 May (**V. Fazio**) and one 31 May at Pickerel Ck WA (**D. Sanders**).

American Black Duck: On 11 Mar, 25 were at East Fork SP (**N. Cade**), and on the 14th 200 were at Killdeer (**V. Fazio**). On the 13th a total of 85 were at Killbuck and Funk Bottoms WAs (**L. Yoder**).

Mallard: Good concentrations were 4000 at Funk Bottoms WA on 6 Mar (**S. Snyder**), 3500 at the same location on 14 Mar (**J&D Brumfield**), and 2100 at Killdeer on 14 Mar (**V. Fazio**).

Blue-winged Teal: Pretty early were two at Gilmore Ponds 24 Feb (**E. Baumgardner**). High count was 559 at Magee Marsh WA (**S&H Hiris**). In late May, pairs were on several locations in *Trum*, (**J&D Hochadel**) where they may nest.

Northern Shoveler: Widespread, best reported number 350 at Funk Bottoms WA on 14 Mar (**J&D Brumfield**), while further inland were 120 the same day (**V. Fazio**), with 47 at Deer Creek WA (**J. McMahon**). **H&S Hiris** had 232 at Magee on 18 Mar. A bird lingered through the end of the period at Big Island WA (**V. Fazio** et al.).

Green-winged Teal: 170 were at Funk Bottoms WA on 18 Mar (**C. Holt**). To the south, good numbers were 50+ on 4 Apr at MWW (**N. Cade**), and 100 on 17 Mar at Spring Valley WA (**E. Baumgardner**).

Canvasback: Good numbers appeared in the western basin, with one raft of about 3000 on 8 Mar in inner Sandusky Bay (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**), where big aggregations of several spp remained for several weeks. Ten were to the south at Winton Wds, *Ham*, on 3 Mar (**J. Stenger**).

Redhead: Also well-represented in the Sandusky Bay rafts, with about 1500 on 8 Mar (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**) and 2100 on 13 Mar (**E. Pierce**). Inland, 250-300 were at Killbuck on 14 Mar (**J&M Kraus**) and 300 the same day at Big Island WA (**V. Fazio**); 300 were at Outwaite Res on 15 Mar (**R. Counts**).

Ring-necked Duck: Max was 2200 at Killbuck on 25 Mar (**V. Fazio**). 1000 birds were at East Fork SP on 11 Mar (**H. Armstrong**) and 1100 at Mogadore Res 3 Apr (**C. Holt**). A late bird was at Killdeer on 15 May (**D. Horn**), another even later in *Hanc* on the 25th; of 335 in Paulding Res on 24 Mar, two remained at the end of the period (**M&D Dunakin**).

Greater Scaup: Moving early and briskly, with appearances at many inland locations. About 3500 were in Sandusky Bay 8 Mar (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**). Small numbers inland: 6 Mar East Fork SP (**H. Armstrong**), 11 Mar at Killdeer (**J. Perchalski**), 11 Mar Hueston Wds (**D. Russell**), 13 Mar at Killbuck (**L. Yoder**), same day at State Line Pond, *Ham* (**P. Wharton**), 17 and 27 Mar at Wooster (**S. Snyder**), a startling 79 at Paulding Res on the 19th (**M&D Dunakin**), 31 Mar at MWW (**J. Dansard**), 1 Apr at Youngstown (**N. Brundage**), 4 Apr at MWW (**N. Cade**). Very late was a female in *Marion* 24 May (**J. Hammond, D. Sanders**).

Lesser Scaup: **E. Pierce** reports—exactly—10,197 on Sandusky Bay on 13 Mar. Inland, 500 at Buck Ck

SP on 27 Mar were remarkable (**D. Overacker**). Considering the overall rush to the exits among the waterfowl, late birds were significant, with 15 at Sandusky on 16 May (**V. Fazio**) with another at Bayview, *Erie*, the same day.

Harlequin Duck: From mid-Mar to at least 20 June a male accepted handouts along the riverside in Zanesville, a protracted stay that argued against its wild origin. A male and a female, not always on the best of terms, persisted into the period at Fairport Harbor, with last report 5 Mar (**L. Rosche, R. Hannikman, B. Morrison,** et al.).

Surf Scoter: Zebra mussels may be attracting more scoters. White-wingeds used to be the default scoter here, but most would agree that surfs have taken over, as witness: 1 Mar Upper Sandusky (**R. Counts**), four at Lorain on 13 Mar (**B. Finkelstein**), six at Avon Lk 14 Mar (**S. Zadar**), ten at Lorain 20 Mar (**B. Whan**), East Fork SP on 26 Mar (**H. Armstrong**), six on Mar 26-7 at Wellington Res, *Lorain* (**B. Toneff**), Mar 26 first *Hardin* record (**N. Moore, G. Kelley**), 27 Mar in *Pauld* (**D&M Dunakin**), a whopping 62 at Huron (**J. McCoy**) on 28 Mar, Lk Snowden in *Athens* on Apr 9 (**B. Perrine**), two at Hueston Wds SP on the 10th (**O. Debre**), three at Wellington Res the same day (**T&B Sponseller**). The latest was 22 Apr at Lake Park, *Cosh* (**L. Deininger**).

White-winged Scoter: All records: 5 Mar Meldahl Dam (**F. Renfrow**), 5 Mar Fairport Harbor (**B. Morrison**), 11 Mar two at Bayshore, *Lucas* (**E. Tramer**), 12 Mar three at Fairport Harbor (**K. Metcalf**), 13 Mar at Lorain (**B. Finkelstein**), 14 Mar Outwaite Res, *Crawf* (**R. Counts**), 20 Mar Lorain (**B. Conlon**), 28 Mar four at Huron (**J. McCoy**), 10 Apr Wellington Res (**B&T Sponseller**), 10 Apr Lk Nimisila, *Summit* (**T&B Sponseller**), 24 Apr at Killdeer (**V. Fazio**), and a late bird at Cedar Pt on 16 May (**C. Rieker**).

Black Scoter: Mar 20, three at Lorain (**B. Whan**), 28 Mar three at Huron (**J. McCoy**) continuing through 13 Apr (**B. Morrison**), and one 3 Mar at Maumee Bay SP (**J. Pogacnik**).

Oldsquaw: Not a good year for sightings of this species. 7 Mar Lakeshore MP (**J. Pogacnik**), 20 Mar at Cleveland (**N. Barber**), 1 Mar two at Lk Rockwell, *Portage* (**B. Toneff**) and six at Wingfoot Lk by same observer, 3 Apr nine on Clendening Lk, *Harr* (**W. Sarno**), 18 Apr Bresler Res *Allen* (**D. Dister**).

Bufflehead: 250 were off S. Bass Isl on 8 Mar (**S. Wulcowicz**). Inland, 27 Mar had 50 at Buck Ck SP (**D. Overacker**), 80 at Mosquito Lk WA (**D&J Hochadel**), and 17 at the Greenlawn Ave Dam in Columbus (**A. Goloda**).

Common Goldeneye: Commonest in the coldest open waters, and departed in a big hurry. 200 were off Pipe Ck WA on 13 Mar, and 400+ off S. Bass Isl on the 18th. Latest were three at Lakeshore MP 25 Apr (**J. Pogacnik**).

Hooded Merganser: Some wintered, but first evidence of migrants was 11 Mar, with 45 at Hueston Wds SP (**D. Russell**), then 75 on the 13th at Buck Cr SP (**D. Overacker**). Evidence of nesting was widespread: female with young at Pickerel Ck WA 30 May (**D. Sanders**), 16 May at Mosquito Lk WA female and four chicks (**D&J Hochadel**), 16 May female with three young (**O. Debre**), and 20 May four young (**P. Wharton**) for first confirmed *Ham* breeding record, and three hens with broods at Killdeer on 26 Jun (**C. Bombaci**).

Common Merganser: 542 were counted at Ottawa NWR on 7 Mar (**E. Pierce**). Very late was one on 15 May during a trip through *Ottawa* and *Lucas* (**D. Overacker**).

Red-breasted Merganser: Mostly normal numbers, but unusually persistent, witness: 21 May at Cowan Lk (**L. Gara**), 28 May Walnut Beach (**V. Fazio**), 28 May Wooster (**S. Snyder**), 31 May Lakeshore MP (**J. Pogacnik**), and the 1-7 that lingered at Paulding Res from the beginning to the end of the period (**D&M Dunakin**).

Ruddy Duck: Good numbers on the Lake were 650 at East Harbor SP on 3 Apr (**K. Mock**), and 200 downstate at Buck Ck SP on 11 Apr (**D. Overacker**). Late was an ill-looking female at Bayview on 16 May (**B. Conlon**); one was at Lakeshore MP on the 23rd (**J. Pogacnik**).

Osprey: Fairly skimpy numbers this year, other than hacked youngsters. First reported 27 Mar at Buck Ck SP (**D. Overacker**), but the next day produced birds at Cowan Lk (**L. Gara**), Spring Valley WA (**N.**

Keller), a pair at Salt Fork SP (**J. Larson**), one in *Belmont* (*fide* **M. Skinner**), and one at Caesar Ck SP (**N. Keller**). **E. Schlabach** had 14 at Conneaut on 21 Apr and seven there on 17 May. ODW reports five active nests, two in *Portage,* and one apiece in *Jeff, Butler,* and *Guern.* A late pair courted in Deer Creek WA, one of them one of ODW's birds. A 25 May flyover in *Hancock* was intriguing, as was a bird over Maumee Bay SP on the 26th (**E. Tramer**).

Bald Eagle: Interesting was a bird on 11 Mar at East Fork SP (**H. Armstrong**), and one near Dundee, *Tusc,* on 15 May (**E. Schlabach**). The latter observer counted seven immature migrants over Conneaut on 17 May. The process of Federal delisting of the species has begun. ODW says 142 birds wintered in Ohio, and this spring there were 57 nests, fledging 72 eaglets.

Northern Harrier: Migrant numbers at Conneaut reached 16 on 21 Mar and 14 on 17 May (**E. Schlabach**). On 16 May pairs were on two sites at Mosquito Lk WA, where it apparently nests annually (**J&D Hochadel**). On 9 May three were found along Echange Rd in *Huron,* including adults of both sexes, remaining to end of the period (**R. Harlan, S Wagner**). On 27 Mar an adult male was seen carrying nesting material, in at least a display (**B. Whan**) at Killdeer. In late May a probable nesting pair was reported for TriValley WA in *Musk* (**J. McCormac**), ditto for Woodbury WA (**B. Royse**). On 29 Apr ten were reported at The Wilds, *Musk* (**J. Larson**).

Sharp-shinned Hawk: One on 8 Mar in the CVNRA could have been a wintering bird (**T&M Romito**). Headlands Beach SP had migrants: seven on 3 Apr and six on 24 Apr (**N. Barber**), and 190 were counted at Conneaut on 21 Apr (**B. Glick, E. Schlabach**), where 17 apparent migrants were still in transit on 17 May (**E. Schlabach**). Two on 30 May were interesting at Funk Bottoms WA (**S. Snyder**).

Cooper's Hawk: 24 were over Conneaut on 17 Mar (**L. Yoder**).

Northern Goshawk: An excellent year for goshawks, which actually included a relocatable bird the previous season at Maumee Bay SP. Reports included one 13 Mar near Pt Clinton (**T. Bartlett**), one 18 Mar and two 2 Apr at Magee (**V. Fazio**), one 31 Mar at Ottawa NWR (**E. Tramer**), and one 6 Apr at Lakeshore MP (**J. Pogacnik**). **R. Harlan** and **S. Wagner** found them almost routine, with sightings on 27 Apr at Nathan Hale Pk, *Cuy,* an immature, then two adults at the same spot on the 30th, 1 May at Firestone MP (m obs), and 4 May at Wadsworth *Medina.* According to Peterjohn (1989) their birds were all abnormally late; Rob, however, says he believes this period to be the peak of the spring goshawk movement, and this year at least the data support him. **D. Sanders** had an adult—in Columbus, no less—for the latest reported, on 11 May!

Red-shouldered Hawk: **V. Fazio** had 100+ at Magee on 17 Mar, and **L. Yoder** counted 149 at Conneaut the same day. The Oak Openings pair fledged one young on 4 Jun.

Broad-winged Hawk: First report 3 Apr at Brecksville (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**). High count was 1377 at Conneaut on 21 Apr (**B. Glick, E. Schlabach**). Migrants continued late: 408 were over Conneaut on May 17 (**E. Schlabach**); **R. Schlabach** noted an excellent inland flight of 68 birds in *Tusc* on 22 Apr.

Red-tailed Hawk: Two reports of scarce dark morphs: one 3 Apr at Magee (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**) and another, intriguingly late for a presumed migrant, was at Funk Bottoms WA on 30 May (**S. Snyder**). **M. Skinner** had an individual in *Highland* entirely white save for 2-3 retrices.

Rough-legged Hawk: Not numerous at the Lakeside or standard inland sites, perhaps because so many wintered at The Wilds, where there were 33 on 19 Mar (**J. Larson**). Late birds were at Lakeshore MP on 5 May (**J. Pogacnik**) and on the 17th at Conneaut (**E. Schlabach**).

Golden Eagle: Migrants appeared in expected numbers at Lakeside spots: 19 Mar at Magee (**V. Fazio**), 7 Apr at Ottawa (**M. Stasko**), and 22 Apr at Conneaut (**B. Glick, E. Schlabach**). Late was one 7 May at Magee (**J. Pogacnik**), and an immature in *Holmes* was an exciting find on 25 Apr (**J. Miller**).

American Kestrel: 35 were over Conneaut on 3 Apr (**L.Yoder**), 63 in the same locality on the 21st (**B. Glick, E. Schlabach**). **N. Barber** had five over Headlands Beach SP on the 24th, and **B. Toneff** nine on the 29th at The Wilds.

Merlin: Good numbers this spring: 6 Mar at The Wilds (**J. Larson**), 13 Mar in Bath, *Port* (**E. Pierce**), two

on 28 Mar on S. Bass Isl (**S. Wulcowicz**), 29 Mar at Lakeshore MP (**J. Pogacnik**), 30 Mar at Harrison, *Ham* (**L.Peyton**) and at Magee (**H&S Hiris**), 31 Mar at Ottawa (**E. Tramer**), 15 Apr at Harrison, *Ham* (**L. Peyton**), 21 Apr at Lakeshore MP (**J. Pogacnik**) and at Conneaut (**E. Schlabach**), 24 Apr at Headlands (**N. Barber**) and at Whitehouse, *Lucas* (**M. Anderson**), and 1 May at Lakeshore MP (**J. Pogacnik**). **R. Schlabach** saw the max of three on 22 April, and in *Tuscarawas.* Quite late was a bird at Conneaut on 17 May (**E. Schlabach**).

Peregrine Falcon: Numbers were good for spring, and pretty much on schedule. First report 17 Mar at Magee (**V. Fazio**), the latest 5 May at Lakeshore MP (**J. Pogacnik**). In the ODW introduction program, thirteen urban sites featured pairs at the end of the period.

Wild Turkey: Despite record kills during the hunting season, turkeys increase in the SW, with a flock at Cowan Lk SP, *Warren,* on 14 Mar (**D. Dister**) and one at East Fork SP on the 11th (**N. Cade**). Birds showed up in many urban settings in the NE: 7 Apr in a yard in Shaker Hts (**V. Fazio**), in Parma Hts (**S. Zadar**), in a yard in Kirtland (**N. Barber**), on 23 Apr atop a teacher's car in a schoolyard in Mayfield Hts (**N. Barber**), and the next day at the Shaker Lakes (**J. Heflich**).

Northern Bobwhite: Outside the south, two were near Fredericksburg, *Holmes,* on 23 May (**L. Yoder**).

King Rail: One at Mallard Club Marsh WA (**C. Rieker**) on 8 May persisted to the end of the period (m obs), and two were a good find in the Cuyahoga Valley NRA on 8 May (**T&M Romito**).

Virginia Rail: The earliest were at Spring Valley WA on 28 Mar (**N. Keller**); 17 were noted at Springville Marsh on 18 Apr (**T. Bartlett**) and in mid-May at Killbuck (**V. Fazio**).

Sora: Arrived in the south by 9 Apr at Spring Valley WA (**K. Beal**); 15 were at Killbuck in mid-May (**V. Fazio**), three were in the Grand River WA, *Trumbull,* on 20 May (**D. Hochadel**) and on 16 May six at Mosquito Lk WA (**J&D Hochadel**). **D&A Chasar** observed a pair during an intimate moment 8 May at Stumpy Basin (*Cuyahoga*).

Purple Gallinule: One was fairly reliable at MWW from 22 to 30 May (**N. Keller, K. McDonald,** m obs).

Common Moorhen: **K. Metcalf** had one at N. Chagrin Res'n, *Cuy,* on Apr 24-25, and Mike Busam another at Gilmore Ponds on the 25th. Two were at Mallard Club Marsh WA on 9 May (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**), then six on 17 May. Three were at Big Island WA on 14 May (**B. Whan**) and seven at Killbuck on 28 May (**S. Snyder**).

American Coot: 4000 was a good number at Metzger 2 Apr, considering how little water was visible (**J. Larson**), and 600 were at Magee the same day (**V. Fazio**). 596 were at Ottawa on 4 Apr (**E. Pierce**), and 1500 at Metzger the day before (**C. Holt**).

Sandhill Crane: Numbers were small, but birds were present throughout the period. High count 16, at Hueston Wds SP on 3 Mar (**D. Russell**). Notable late occurrences in the western basin of the Lake, not to mention a bird at Ottawa on 19 Aug of last year (**J. Hammond, B. Whan**), are suggestive: three at Port Clinton on the 8th (**K. Mock**), one on the 15th at Magee (**J. Brumfield**), two on the 21st in *Erie* (**K. Mock**), and two on the 31st at Pickerel Ck WA (**D. Sanders**) sightings continued into the next period. At least as interesting was a bird at Big Island WA on 31 May (**C. Bombaci**).

Black-bellied Plover: Reports were very skimpy this spring, probably reflecting—unsurprisingly—a lack of habitat. The state hot-spot turned out to be fields being plowed between Ottawa NWR and Maumee Bay, where 150 were seen along Decant Rd on 16 May (**S. Albaugh**), and fewer in subsequent days. Earliest was one at Conneaut on 25 April (**C. Holt**).

American Golden-Plover: An excellent showing, probably the best among shorebirds in a dry spring. First report was 22 Mar in *Ham* (**P. Wharton**), and on 30 Mar eight were at Big Island WA (**V. Fazio**). Later, three-figure counts included 106 on 24 Apr at Big Island (**V. Fazio**), 375 at Killdeer the same day (**D. St John**), 210 at Ottawa on the 25th (**P. Lozano, D. Friedman**), 500-900 at Big Island on the 27th (**V. Fazio, J. Rakestraw**), 280+ in *Huron* on 2 May (**V. Fazio**) and 300 the same day on Pk Colony Rd (**D&J Hoffman**), 815 on 1 May at Magee (**V. Fazio**), and 400 along Yondota and Corduroy Rds, *Lucas* (**D. Overacker**). Stragglers were found till mid-May in fields near Maumee Bay (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**).

Semipalmated Plover: Numbers were down, but unusual concentrations occurred at inland areas. Earliest was 29 Apr at Gilmore Ponds, *Butler* (**T. Uhlman**). Beginning on 6 May, the Park Colony Rd area was as good as any lakeside spot for the species. On 30 May, seven were at Pickerel Ck WA (**D. Sanders**). Interesting were 60 at Grand Lake St Marys on 23 May (**D. Dister**) and 12 at Cowan Lk SP, *Clin* (**L. Gara**).

Piping Plover: Even one's a good find, this year 27 May at Lakeshore MP (**J. Pogacnik**). The Great Lakes population is estimated at 25 pairs. It may be too late for lower Lake levels to help.

Killdeer: Some overwintered, and others arrived before the period. One was seen incubating eggs on 3 Apr in *Pickaway* (**J. Hammond**). Large counts were 45 at MWW on 7 Mar (**N. Cade**), 122 at Lakeshore MP on 21 Mar (**J. Pogacnik**) and 197 in *Lucas/Ottawa* on 17 Mar (**D. Overacker**).

Greater Yellowlegs: First reported 21 Mar at Gilmore Ponds (**M. Busam**), where as many as 24 were seen later on 22 Apr (**G&D Sadler**). Over a hundred were at Funk Bottoms WA on 28 Apr (**S. Snyder**), and tail-enders were at Spring Valley WA (**J. Lehman**), at Conneaut (**C. Holt**), and Big Island WA (**B. Whan**), all on 16 May.

Lesser Yellowlegs: Not at all numerous this spring. On 22 Mar **M. Victoria** found two at Old Woman Ck SNP and four at Ottawa NWR; a few days earlier, none (and no shorebird but killdeer for that matter) had been counted at Magee by censusers **H&S Hiris**. On the 24th, however, **L. Yoder** did find 70 at Funk Bottoms WA.

Solitary Sandpiper: Many early arrivals, including 27 Mar at Big Island WA (**V. Fazio**), 3 Apr at Reno Beach, *Lucas* (**J. Pogacnik**), and 4 Apr at Ottawa NWR (**T. Bartlett**) and MWW (**N. Cade**). The **Brumfields** came across an astonishing 200 at Funk Bottoms WA on 1 May.

Solitary Sandpiper, Pickerington Ponds, Franklin Co., 1995. Photo by Len Powlick.

Willet: A wretched spring for this species along the Lake, but bright spots were Lake Logan, *Hock*, where **D. St John** photographed 11 birds on 10 May; four days earlier, he'd found three at Dillon Res, *Musk*.

Spotted Sandpiper: Early was a bird photographed at the aforementioned hot spot Lk Logan on 1 Apr by **D. St John**. High count was 21 birds at Cowan Lk SP on 9 May (**L. Gara**).

Upland Sandpiper: Perennially scarce, they returned to most of their scattered breeding areas, as at Big Island, where first noted on 20 Apr (**V. Fazio**); at Lahm Airport in Mansfield, where 10 were found by **K. Metcalf** on 30 May; the Springfield airport on 3 May (**D. Overacker**), and Krause Rd (*Lucas*) with five birds the first week of May (m obs). A beautification program at Bolton Field in Columbus apparently discouraged traditional birds there. **T. LePage** had a migrant at Edgewater Pk in Cleveland on 23 Apr for an odd sighting. Accurate breeding reports are needed.

Whimbrel: Dillon Res hosted one on 23 May (**D. St John**), and on 26 May 16 appeared at Lakeshore MP, then probably joined others to make a party of 26 at Chagrin River Pk (*Lake*) later that day (**J. Pogacnik**).

Hudsonian Godwit: A nice find was one in breeding plumage at Pipe Creek WA on 17 May (**L. Deininger**).

Marbled Godwit: Pipe Creek was this spring's hidey-hole for godwits, as a marbled was discovered there only two days before the Hudsonian (15 May) (**B. Phillips, V. Fazio**).

Ruddy Turnstone: Midge-snarfing birds were at Crane CK SP beach from at least 10 May (**J. Krupka**) with up to 67 birds, to 17 May (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**), with 40. Twenty were in fields off Decant Rd (*Lucas*) on 16 May (**S. Albaugh**). Ten were at Dillon Res on 23 May (**D. St John**).

Red Knot: One report, 23 May at Conneaut (**C. Holt**).

Upland Sandpiper, Bolton Field, Franklin Co., April 1995. Photo by Len Powlick.

Sanderling: Numbers were down. **B. Royse** had one at Magee on 11 May. **V. Fazio** had eleven at Conneaut on 28 May.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: Hard to find as mudflats, and in a narrow window. One with turnstones at Crane Ck SP on 16 May (**D. Horn**), 25 at Big Island (**R. Sempier**), 10 at Marblehead on 19 May (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**), 16 at Turtle Ck unit at Magee (**J&D Brumfield**) and 16 at Conneaut (**J. Pogacnik**), both on 22 May, six at Cowan Lk SP and six at Pickerel Ck WA (**D. Sanders**), both on 30 May.

Western Sandpiper: **C. Holt** had one at Conneaut on 23 May.

Least Sandpiper: More catholic in its tastes than some, still had trouble finding a place to eat in Ohio. Two small peep, almost certainly this species, were found at a great distance by **D. Overacker** at Buck Ck SP on the early date of 4 Apr. Eight were at Gilmore Ponds on 2 May (**J. Lehman**), two were at Sheldon Marsh SNP (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**), and 90 at Big Island (**V. Fazio**) on 13 May. 12 were interesting at Cowan Lk SP on 25 May (**L. Gara**).

White-rumped Sandpiper: With little habitat Lakeside, most turned up downstate. Present in numbers up to four at Big Island from 22 May (**B. Royse**) to 28 May (**V. Fazio**), and from the 28th to the 30th at Grand Lake St Marys (**L. Gara**). High count was 12 at Conneaut (**V. Fazio**) on May 28, where mudflat existed.

Pectoral Sandpiper: Oblivious to the absence of mudflats, Pecs made a good showing, moving through briskly. First report was from Salt Fork SP, five birds on 21 Mar (**J. Larson**), followed by 23 Mar at Arcola Ck MP (**J. Pogacnik**). By 2 Apr, 405 were at Magee (**V. Fazio**). On the 8th, 150 were on the Pickaway Plains (**D. Linzell**) and on the 13th 180 were in *Wyandot* (**R. Counts**) and 825+ in the Big Island area (**V. Fazio**). **M. Victoria** counted 500-600 near Pk Colony Rd on 31 Apr, where **J&D Hoffman** found 300 on 2 May. Latish birds were at Sheldon Marsh on 16 May (**B. Toneff**) and Big Island on 17 May (**B. Whan**).

Dunlin: Very early were eight in basic plumage at Buck Ck SP on 27 Mar (**D. Overacker**). More usual were nine birds there on 18 Apr (same obs) and 11 the same day at Funk Bottoms WA (**S. Snyder**). Some habitat was available at Pickerel Ck WA, where **V. Fazio** found 800+ on 10 May, 315 on 18 May, and 390 on 23 May. One was in Columbus on 30 May (**A. Goloda**).

Ruff: On 27 Mar a male made repeated flights around 19 observers on the causeway at Magee (**J. Pogacnik**).

Short-billed Dowitcher: A poor showing. Earlyish was a bird 24 Apr at Pk Colony Rd (**J. Pogacnik**). Five were at Mallard Club Marsh WA on 15 May (**D. Overacker**) and nine at Pickerel Ck WA on May 18 (**V. Fazio**).

Long-billed Dowitcher: Two were at Ottawa NWR on 27 Mar (**M. Bolton**).

Common Snipe: Nine at MWW on 7 Mar could have been overwinterers or migrants or both; a bird on the 8th at Magee was the first to the Lake by a long shot (**V. Fazio**). By 21 Mar, 30 were at Funk Bottoms WA (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**), and 40 were counted at Mosquito Lk WA on 4 Apr (**D&J Hochadel**), as well as 67 at Ottawa on the same day (**E. Pierce**).

American Woodcock: An early bird was calling on 27 Feb in *Mahoning* (**J&D Hochadel**).

Wilson's Phalarope: A bird at Sheldon Marsh SNP remained from 7 May (**J. Pogacnik**) to 15 May (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**). One was at Big Island WA on the 9th (**K. Longberry, C. Lee**), and another stayed at Mallard Club Marsh WA May 12-17 (m obs).

Red-necked Phalarope: One was reported from Eastlake on 19 May (**J. Pogacnik**).

Laughing Gull: One was at Lakeshore MP on 10 Apr (**J. Pogacnik**), and another at Pipe Ck WA on 15 May (**B. Phillips**). A nice inland record came from Columbus on 16 May (**A. Goloda**).

Franklin's Gull: While nothing like last fall, four reports were good: 31 Mar at Lakeshore MP (**J. Pogacnik**), 13 Apr along Zenser Rd, *Lucas* (Tol RBA), 3 May in *Clark* (**D. Overacker**), and 15 May at Maumee Bay SP (**G. Links, C. Wolcott, J. Holzworth,** m obs).

Little Gull: Localized perhaps, but excellent numbers. At Lakeshore MP, **J. Pogacnik** had singles on 20 Mar, 31 Mar, 5 Apr, and 10 Apr. At Fairport Harbor extraordinary numbers appeared: four were there on 26 Feb (**J. Pogacnik**), then 26 on 27 Feb (**J&D Brumfield, E. Bacik, R. Hannikman**). 22 remained on 2 Mar (**J. Pogacnik**), 13 on 3 Mar (**N. Barber, L. Rosche**) and 18 on 5 Mar (**S. Zadar, N. Kotesovec**); your compiler can vouch for their absence on the 4th.

Bonaparte's Gull: A fairly copious migration, after a few through the winter. On 28 Feb, **J. Pogacnik** had 483 at Lakeshore MP; on the same day, two were seen at Hueston Wds SP (**N. Keller**). On 1 Mar, **G. Carey** had one at East Fork SP, and on the 4th, approximately 500 were at Fairport Harbor (**B. Conlon, B. Whan**). **C. Holt** had 1500 at Lorain on 18 Apr during the peak of migration. As many as 60 were at Buckeye Lk, *Licking* (**G. Buckey**), and later birds visited Paulding Res (**M&D Dunakin**) on May 14 and on the 18th in *Hancock* (**B. Hardesty**).

Ring-billed Gull: 5500 were in Sandusky Bay the first week of Mar (**V. Fazio**). Also notable was a count of 400 on 11 Mar at East Fork SP (**H. Armstrong**).

Herring Gull: 600 were with other gulls in Sandusky Bay during the first week of Mar (**V. Fazio**).

Thayer's Gull: Noted at Lakeshore MP were two on 7 Mar, one on 20 Mar, and two on 10 Apr (**J. Pogacnik**).

Iceland Gull: Surprisingly numerous after a warm winter, and late as well. At Lakeshore MP, **J. Pogacnik**'s census reported singles on 7 Mar, 9 Mar, 19 Mar, and 4 Apr, then 48 on 10 Apr, six on 11 Apr, and one on 17 Apr. Other reports were on 4 Mar at Fairport Harbor (**B. Conlon, B. Whan**), 19 Mar at Lorain (**S. Zadar**), 27 Mar at Headlands Beach SP (**N. Barber**), 14 Apr at Conneaut (**J. Hammond, D. Sanders**), four 15 Apr at Conneaut (**J. Pogacnik**), and on 11 Mar nine at Conneaut and four at Ashtabula (**J. Pogacnik**). Latest was 24 Apr at Headlands Beach SP (**N. Barber**).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: **J. Pogacnik**'s Lakeshore MP censuses had singles on 7 Mar, 8 Mar, 9 Mar, 13 Mar, 19 Mar, 4 Apr, two on 10 Apr, 4 on 11 Apr, and one on 17 Mar. Elsewhere, one was at Fairport Harbor on 6 Mar (**S. Zadar**), one at Eastlake 12 Mar (**K. Metcalf**), one at Kelley's Isl 21 Mar (**T. Bartlett**), one at Pickerel Ck WA on 3 Apr (**V. Fazio**), nine at Conneaut and three at Ashtabula 11 Mar (**J. Pogacnik**), five at Conneaut on 15 April (**J. Pogacnik**), and an extraordinarily late one at Conneaut on 22 May (**J. Pogacnik**).

Glaucous Gull: Unaccustomedly less numerous than Icelands. **J. Pogacnik**'s Lakeshore MP census had three on 7 Mar, two on 8 Mar, one on 9 Mar, one on 13 Mar, one on 19 Mar, and two on 10 Apr. Also 4 Mar at Fairport Harbor (**B. Conlon**), 12 Mar Fairport Harbor (**K. Metcalf**), 13 Mar Pipe Ck WA (**E. Pierce**), 20 Mar Lorain (**B. Whan**), two at Conneaut 10 Apr (**J. Pogacnik, V. Fazio**) and one Conneaut 14 Apr (**J. Hammond, D. Sanders**).

Great Black-backed Gull: On the increase in the warmer months, but nothing yet like the 100+ often found at Lorain last summer. **C. Holt** had six at Conneaut May 29. One was inland at Lk Rockwell on 1 April (**B. Toneff**).

Caspian Tern: Early on 25 Mar at Pickerel Ck WA (**A. Blank, B. Sams**). 300 were over Turtle Ck on 16 Apr (**G. Anderson**), six at The Wilds on the 17th (**J. Larson**), and 200 passed by Lakeshore MP on the 22nd (**J. Pogacnik**). Good numbers were observed off the Cleveland docks, with a high of 142 on 21 Apr and a low of three on 6 May (**P. Lozano**).

Common Tern: A nice early sighting was 9 Apr at Magee (**V. Fazio**). Four were over Cowan Lk SP on 20 Apr (**E. Roush**). ODW continues heroic measures at nest colonies at Ottawa NWR and Pipe Creek WA.

Forster's Tern: Numbers seemed down. Early was a bird at Dillon Res on 25 Mar (**D. St John**). Away from the Lake, two were at Grand Lake St Marys on 11 Apr (**D. Dister**), four at Lost Bridge, *Ham,* on 16 Apr (**F. Frick**), and one lingered till 25 May at Findlay Res (**B. Hardesty**).

Black Tern: Grim numbers. None were seen on three monthly counts at Magee, nor were any found on three counts at Ottawa. Two were in *Adams* on 7 May (**P. Whan**), one at Beaver Ck Res (*Seneca*) on 14 May (**B. Conlon**), and one on 14 May and then two on 19 May at Paulding Res (**M&D Dunakin**).

Black-billed Cuckoo: First report 6 May at Beavercreek, *Greene* (**J. Dunn, S. Tackett**).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Good and early was one at New Richland, *Cler.* on 22 Apr (**D. Morse**). **D&A Chasar** reported the cuckoos at the CVNRA were "stupendous…can be heard everywhere" this spring. **S. Wulcowicz** reported three nesting pairs on S. Bass Isl in May.

Barn Owl: ODW says that this year's 20-odd nests, while failing to match last year's record 42, were above average, dry conditions having limited the meadow vole population. Birders confident of the ID of this species should report sightings to local District Office of ODW.

Great Horned Owl: The most celebrated pair of this species seized upon a nest abandoned by eagles at Magee Marsh WA in mid-Mar.

Snowy Owl: There was a single report, on 7 Mar in the southwest corner of *Morrow* (**S. Bartuss**).

Long-eared Owl: Another single report, at Magee Marsh WA 1-3 April (**M. Warren**).

Short-eared Owl: 13 remained at Big Island WA on 20 Mar (**G. Kelley**), and as late as 27 May one remained at Woodbury WA (**B. Royse**). Scarce in the NE, one was at Headlands Beach SP on 24 Apr (**N. Barber**), and two were in *Trumbull* on 20 Mar (**J&D Hochadel**).

Northern Saw-whet Owl, Magee Marsh WA, Ottawa Co., 17 May 1999. Photo by Greg Miller.

Northern Saw-whet Owl: Numbers of migrants seemed normal, and birds were most often seen near the Lake, but totally unexpected was a saw-whet along the Magee Marsh Bird Trail on the late date of 17 May (**J. Hammond,** m obs).

Common Nighthawk: Three birds on 26 Apr in Oak Harbor (**A. Blank**) were early, but one on the 16th in Withrow Preserve, *Ham.* was really jumping the gun.

Chuck-will's-widow: On schedule by late April to *Adams* (**P. Whan**), one arrived 1 May to *Hocking* (**J. Fry**), the third straight year at this location. **D. Horn** had two calling in the Wayne NF in *Lawrence*.

Whip-poor-will: Whips are pretty tough, and reports of birds on 8 Apr in downtown Columbus (!) (**P. Raver**) and at Highbanks MP, *Dela.* (**B. Conlon**) are early but not unprecedented.

Chimney Swift: First reported 8 Apr in Holmesville, *Holmes* (**D. Kline**), with birds the following day at Lk Logan (*Hock*) (**D. Sanders**) and Lunken Airport (*Ham*) (**J. Bens**). **T&M Romito** had 200 over Brecksville on 9 May.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: **C. Rieker** reported a hummingbird sp at a backyard in Hinckley on 1 Mar, even before the "buzzards." A hummer at this date could be almost anything. More normal arrivals were 20 Apr in *Adams* (**J. McMahon**), 21 Apr in *Logan* (**B. Hatfield**), and 22 Apr in *Clinton* (**E&L Roush**). **N. Barber** had 20 at Headlands Beach SP on 16 May, and on the following day **E. Schlabach** counted another 20 at Conneaut.

Red-headed Woodpecker: High count was 12 birds in *Hancock* (**B. Hardesty**) on 4 May; notable were eight on S. Bass Isl the same day (**S. Wulcowicz**).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: At least five nesting pairs are being studied in NE OH (**T. Leiden**). Earliest report was 1 April at Headlands Beach SP (**N. Barber**), but what was one doing on 25 May in *Hancock* (**D. Kahl**)?

Downy Woodpecker: **B. Hardesty** counted 54 in *Hancock* on 8 May.

Hairy Woodpecker: 19 were counted in *Hancock* on 8 May (**B. Hardesty**).

Northern Flicker: Most obvious as a migrant in Apr, 76 were counted in *Hancock* on the 20th (**B. Hardesty**).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: All reports: early on 4 May at Spring Valley WA (**J. Rakestraw**), and 8 May at East Fork SP (**N. Cade**), then more normally on 12 May at Headlands Beach SP (**K. Metcalf**), 15 May at Mt Airy Forest (*Ham*) (**S. Pelikan**), two on 19 May at Johnson's Isl (*Ottawa*) (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**), 21 May in *Paulding* (**D&M Dunakin**), 22 May at Magee (**C. Hammond, R. Harlan, S. Wagner**) and at Sugarcreek, *Tusc* (**L. Schlabach**), 25 May in Columbus (**D. Sanders**) and 26 May at MWW (**D. Sanders**).

Eastern Wood-Pewee: Early birds were on 22 Apr near Marietta (**M. Williams**) and on 29 Apr in McFarland Wds, *Ham* (**N. Cade**).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: In the usual small numbers, though three at Magee on 17 May was enviable (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**), and during the expected period, ranging from 11 May in *Hancock* (**S. Baxter**) to 27 May in Columbus (**B. Whan**).

Acadian Flycatcher: Very early was one 25 Apr in Millersburg, *Holmes* (**B. Glick**).

Alder Flycatcher: Two were reported on 11 May, one in *Hancock* (**S. Baxter**) and one in Firestone MP, *Summit* (**E. Pierce**). The following week saw most arrivals, the largest of which was six birds at Magee on the 17th (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**).

Willow Flycatcher: Four birds arrived earlier than usual: flycatcher-catchers **R. Harlan** and **S. Wagner** had birds at Magee on 3 and 5 May, and **M&T Romito** had two in *Summit* on the 8th.

Least Flycatcher: Widely expressed was an estimation that numbers were down. First report was 21 Apr in *Adams* (**B. Royse**), and by 8 May **N. Barber** was able to tally eight birds at Mentor, *Lake.* Nesters were detected at the usual NE spots, as in *Geauga* (*fide* **D. Best**).

Eastern Phoebe: Two were in *Hocking* on 14 Mar (**B. Placier**), and four on Kelley's Isl—a new outpost—on 21 Mar (**T. Bartlett**). **R. Harlan** and **S. Wagner** amassed 12 at Magee on 31 Mar.

Great Crested Flycatcher: First reported on 11 Apr in *Adams* (**B. Royse**), three were already at Magee the following day (**M. Victoria**).

Eastern Kingbird: Earliest was 11 Apr at Shawnee Lookout (*Ham*) by **F. Frick**. As part of the remarkable Conneaut flight on 17 May, **E. Schlabach** found 36.

Loggerhead Shrike: Four birds, fortunately as two nesting pairs: one from 4 Apr through the end of the period near Greenfield (*Highland*) (**M. Skinner**), and another from 7 May near Fredericksburg, *Holmes* (**E. Miller**).

Northern Shrike: A good winter for the species, and some remained into the second half of March, such as one on the 15th at Killbuck (**S. Snyder**), one until at least the 17th in the CVNRA (**A&D Chasar**), and the last of as many as three at Killdeer, last reported on the 27th.

White-eyed Vireo: An overflyer was at Navarre Marsh (*Ottawa*) by 6 April (**J. Shieldcastle**), before the first seen in downstate in *Athens* on the 8th (**B. Placier**). BSBO banded 10 on May 8-9 at Navarre, and that week **G. Anderson** counted an amazing 74 along Turtle Creek, *Ottawa.*

Bell's Vireo: One was reported 16 May on the Magee census (**H&S Hiris**), one was at MWW from 26 May through the end of the period (**D. Sanders, D. Burton**), and at least one was at Buck Cr SP from May 21 (**D. Overacker, M. Skinner**).

Yellow-throated Vireo: Some reported their numbers as down this spring. Two were at Zaleski SF on 18 Apr (**D. St John**), and 17 were counted on the 20th in a census of *Scioto & Adams* (**B. Royse, C. Johnston**); by the 27th birds had reached Brecksville (**A&D Chasar**).

Blue-headed Vireo: Quite early was one at Spring Valley WA on 3 Apr (**J. Dunn, S. Tackett**), which was reinforced by birds on the 8th in *Hocking* (**C. Dusthimer**) and Berlin (*Holmes*) (**G. Troyer**).

Warbling Vireo: A very early bird was in *Adams* on 9 Apr (**M. Zloba**), and ten were counted at Headlands Beach SP on 8 May (**N. Barber**).

Philadelphia Vireo: First report 5 May at Greenlawn Cem, Columbus (**B. Conlon**), and by the 7th at Magee (**J. Burtt**). Several observers reported their numbers as sub-par.

Red-eyed Vireo: Healthy numbers, and on schedule, with first at Clear Ck MP on 21 Apr (**D. St John**).

Blue Jay: 225 were counted at Maumee Bay SP on 26 Apr (**V. Fazio**), and **G. Anderson** had 400 at Turtle Ck on Apr 28th, then 520 there on May 3. 175 passed Conneaut on the 17th of May (**E. Schlabach**), and on the 15th the numbers passing eastward over Magee tried the patience of warbler-gawkers.

Common Raven: Two were reported in *Trumbull* on 4 Apr (**D. Hochadel**), and another at the Mansfield airport on 4 May; neither was relocated. US populations of ravens have doubled over the past 30 years, and they are known to nest not far from our border in Pennsylvania.

Horned Lark: Good aggregations were 948 in *Hancock* on 8 Mar (**B. Hardesty**), 700 on Kilby Rd in *Ham* on 13 Mar (**P. Wharton**), and a flock of fifty latish on 5 April in *Trumbull* (**J&D Hochadel**).

Purple Martin: Earliest report was 31 Mar in *Hancock* (*fide* **B. Hardesty**).

Tree Swallow: First sighting predated the period: 25 Feb at Big Island WA (**T. Chapman**), but widespread arrivals were in the second and third weeks of Mar. **M. Anderson** had 1200+ at Farnsworth MP *Lucas* on 9 Apr.

Violet-green Swallow: **J. Pogacnik** reported a female at Grand River WA, *Trumbull,* on 28 May.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: Earlyish birds were at Spring Grove Cem (*Ham*) (**N. Cade**) 31 Mar, 3 Apr at Magee (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**), and 5 Apr at Mentor, *Lake* (**J. Pogacnik**).

Bank Swallow: Earliest were several on 9 April at Farnsworth MP, *Lucas* (**M. Anderson**).

Cliff Swallow: Two were in a mixed flock at Farnsworth MP, *Lucas*, on 9 Apr (**M. Anderson**). A number of new sites were colonized in *Ottawa, Franklin, Adams* and *Lucas*. **P. Yoder** reported 520 nests at the end of the period on his farm near Fredericksburg, *Holmes.*

Barn Swallow: Earlyish was a flyby at Maumee Bay SP on 31 Mar (**V. Fazio**), followed by 4 Apr at Lk Rockwell (**C. Holt**), Apr 5 bird in *Summit* (**T&M Romito**), and one 6 April at The Wilds (**J. Larson**).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Not a bad spring, considering the paucity of its irruptive companions. One to three were at feeders of **W. McClanahan** in *Hancock* from 2 Mar to 4 May. One was in **J. Reda**'s backyard in Akron on 29 Mar. Other records: 13 Apr in Brecksville (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**), 14 Apr nest in Hocking Hills (**F. Renfrow**), 18 Apr at Lake Hope SP (**D. St John**), 18 Apr a pair at Hinckley MP (*fide* **E. Pierce**), 19 Apr nesting at Hinckley (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**), 26 Apr at Goll Wds SNP, *Fulton* (**R.**

Harlan, S. Wagner), 29 Apr at Sheldon Marsh SNP (**R. Boldry**), 29 Apr in *Lake* (**J. Pogacnik**), 9 May Mentor Marsh (**N. Barber**), 10 May Mohican SF (**L. Yoder**), 15 May a pair in the CVNRA (**D&A Chasar**), 30 May in the N Chagrin Res'n (**K. Metcalf**); **S. Wulcowicz** reports a nesting pair on S. Bass Isl in May.

White-breasted Nuthatch: A count in *Hancock* produced 343 of this species on 8 May (**B Hardesty**).

Brown Creeper: **N. Barber** had eight on 1 Apr at Headlands Beach SP. Many lasted into May, intending to stay. A nest was found on 1 May at Kendall Ledges (**A&D Chasar**), and on 12 May one was in *Delaware* (**B. Shively**). On 15 May a pair was nest-building near Dundee (*Tusc*) (**E. Schlabach**), and on 16 May a pair was feeding young at Hinckley MP (**E. Pierce**). On 23 May a pair was in the CVNRA (**P. Lozano**), and on 30 May a male was singing in the N Chagrin Res'n (**K. Metcalf**), and several unpaired birds persisted into the next period at Highbanks MP (*Dela*) (**J. Hammond**) and the Miami-Whitewater Forest (**L. Peyton**). An unusual NW nesting at Lake La Su An WA is described in this issue by **J. Grabmeier**.

House Wren: One was reported 30 Mar in *Hancock* (**W. McClanahan**), where **B. Hardesty** later counted 120 individuals on 8 May.

Winter Wren: Ten were at Magee on 31 Mar (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**), and 12 were there on 28 Apr (**M. Victoria**). Suggestively late were birds on 16 May in *Geauga* (**D. Best**), 20 May in Chapin Forest Res'n in *Lake* (**J. Pogacnik**), and a singing male at Hinckley MP on the 23rd (**E. Pierce**).

Sedge Wren: An early report was from the Magee census 18 Apr (**S&H Hiris**); another appeared there on 7 May (**J. Pogacnik**). Increased later in the month, including two singing at Mosquito Lk WA (**D&J Hochadel**) at an "almost annual" site, unusual site-fidelity for the species.

Marsh Wren: Arrived MWW 22 Apr (**T. Uhlman**), then Magee by 25 Apr (**P. Lozano**). **D&J Hochadel** had six at Grand River WA on 25 May.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: 75 were counted at Magee on 31 Mar (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**). 95 were on Kelley's Isl on 17 Apr (**T. Bartlett**). One was as late as 8 May at Riverbend (*Hancock*) (**B. Hardesty**).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: **M. Victoria** had a bird 30 Mar at Magee. 72 were at the Shaker Lks on 23 Apr (**V. Fazio**). Latest was a bird on 22 May at Magee (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: An early overflier was at Lakeshore MP on 31 Mar (**J. Pogacnik**). 117 were counted in *Scioto* on 13 Apr (**C. Johnston, B. Royse**).

Veery: First reported in Columbus on 21 Apr (**R. Cressman**). On 28 May five males were singing in Clear Ck MP (*Hock*) (**B. Whan**).

Gray-cheeked Thrush: Early in *Tusc* on 23 Apr (**E. Schlabach**), and another at Hauck Arboretum in Cincinnati (**S. Sando**). Nine were at Magee on 7 May (**B. Morrison**), and one on 28 May at Mosquito Lk WA (**V. Fazio**).

Swainson's Thrush: Appeared 22 Apr Gilmore Ponds (**G&D Sadler**), and on the 23rd in Columbus (**B. Evans**) and in *Tusc* (**E. Schlabach**). 10 were counted at Magee on 17 May (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**).

Hermit Thrush: A bird reached Magee on 31 Mar (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**). 24 were at Lakeshore MP on 22 Apr (**J. Pogacnik**). Suggestively late were birds at Old Man's Cave SP on 31 Apr (**F. Renfrow**), 25 May at Camp Berry in *Hancock* (*fide* **B. Hardesty**), and one at Riverview, *Summit,* on 30 May (**D&A Chasar**).

Wood Thrush: Earliest report was 18 Apr at Zaleski SF (**D. St John**).

American Robin: Big counts were 2500 at Maumee Bay SP on 4 Apr (**V. Fazio**), 475 in *Hancock* on 6 Apr (**B. Hardesty**), and 1825 at Lakeshore MP on the 22nd (**J. Pogacnik**).

Gray Catbird: A bird seen on the first day of the period in *Summit* (**M&T Romito, M. Zehnder**) was

perhaps the same one that wintered there the previous year. A likelier migrant reached *Hancock* 8 Apr (**B. Hardesty**).

Northern Mockingbird: The Gordon Pk (*Cuy*) boat ramp pair was noted 4 Mar (**P. Lozano**).

Brown Thrasher: First reported in **L. Gara**'s backyard in Wilmington (*Clin*) on 31 Mar. Eight were at Headlands Beach SP on 8 May (**N. Barber**).

American Pipit: Eight were at East Fork SP on 11 Mar, and by 31 Mar nearly 1000 passed over Maumee Bay SP (**V. Fazio**), who noted 800+ there the following week. 100+ were in Pickaway on 26 Apr (**Jo Hammond**) and 375 were over Conneaut on 17 May (**E. Schlabach**).

Cedar Waxwing: Many said their numbers were down, but **V. Fazio** had 400 at Magee on 17 May.

Blue-winged Warbler: Early on 15 Apr in *Adams* (**B. Lund**), but by the 19th one was at Tinker's Ck (*Port*) (**B. Bolton**). **D&A Chasar** had thirty at the Major Rd tree farm (*Summit*) on May 15.

Golden-winged Warbler: Seen 27 Apr Burnet Wds (**D. Styer**), 29 Apr Withrow Nat Pres (**D. Brinkman**), 30 Apr *Paulding* (**D&M Dunakin**), 4 May Girdled Rd Res'n (**J. Pogacnik**), 5 May Greenlawn Cem, Cols (**B. Conlon**), 10-16 May at Magee (**J. Dunn,** m obs), two at Sheldon Marsh 15 May (**N. Barber**), 16 May East Fork SP (**N. Cade**).

Hybrids of above: In May, a bird in *Adams* (**P. Whan**) and one in *Scioto* (**D. Sanders**) heard using typical golden-winged songs were found to look just like blue-wingeds; apparently the genetic swamping of *chrysoptera* continues. **K. Metcalf** reported an F2 backcross Brewster's on 10 May in Hunting Valley (*Cuy*); a Brewster's was seen 3 May at Metzger Marsh WA (**D. Friedman**), and another 14 May at Killbuck (**L. Yoder**). **J. Pogacnik** had a singing male Lawrence's at Girdled Rd Res'n (*Lake*) on 13 May, seen by others through the end of the period.

Tennessee Warbler: Early on 23 Apr at Shawnee Lookout (*Ham*) (**L. Peyton**). Seven at Magee 8 May (**R. Harlan**).

Nashville Warbler: An early overflight brought one to Lake La Su An WA on 11 Apr (**J. Grabmeier**). 12 were at Magee on 5 May (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**).

Northern Parula: Early report indeed was one on 2 Apr at Pataskala (**H. Nagy**); another was in *Adams* on 9 Apr (**M. Zloba**).

Yellow Warbler: Earliest report was 21 April along the Little Miami R (**R. Dage**). 57 were censused in *Hancock* on 8 May (**B. Hardesty**).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: Early report: 24 Apr at Brecksville (**J&D Brumfield**). Eight were at Magee Marsh WA on 8 May (**N. Barber**).

Magnolia Warbler: One set an early arrival record of 10 Apr at the Brucker Nat Ctr in Dayton (**E. Mulholland**). 25 were tallied on 17 May at Magee (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**).

Cape May Warbler: Scarce, but not as scarce as last year. Tom Thomson reminded us this species was once almost as common as the magnolia warbler. A crash in spruce budworms may be discouraging this species recently. Earliest was 5 May, with five birds at Magee (**R. Harlan**), and 21 were counted there 16 May (**H&S Hiris**).

Black-throated Blue Warbler: First appeared in numbers on 3 May, in spots as distant as Shawnee SF (**C. Johnston**), Magee Marsh (**V. Fazio**), and the Shaker Lks (**B. Winger**).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: Some overwintered as usual. **D. Brinkman** had 100 at the Cinci Ntr Ctr on 10 Apr, **V. Fazio** had 95 at the Shaker Lks on 23 Apr, and **N. Cade** 200 at McFarland Wds (*Ham*) on 27 Apr.

Black-throated Green Warbler: A bird reached Toledo on 7 Apr (**R. Nirschl**), and another was in *Tusc*

by 8 Apr (**J. Miller**). 15 were counted at Magee on 5 May (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**).

Yellow-throated Warbler: Early birds were on 3 Apr on Wesselman Rd (*Ham*) (**N. Keller**) and California Wds MP (*Ham*) (**D. Brinkman**). One was on territory in the Oak Openings (*Lucas*) on 2 May (**M. Victoria**), and one was in *Lake* the same day (**J. Pogacnik**).

Pine Warbler: More than a few overwintered. Birds were at Ottawa on 4 Apr (**E. Pierce**), Mentor Marsh on 8 May (**N. Barber**), with two at Magee the same day (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**). One was on territory in the Oak Openings on 1 Apr (Tol RBA), and a singing male was found by **K. Metcalf** on 30 May at the N. Chagrin Res'n.

Prairie Warbler: One was in Adams on 10 Apr (**N. Keller**), and one the following day at MWW (**J. Lehman**). By 20 April, **B. Royse** and **C. Johnston** were counting 35 in Shawnee SF. One was at Sheldon Marsh on 18 May (**B. Royse**).

Palm Warbler: Quite early was one photographed at Magee on 5 Mar (**D. St John**), and one was at Meander Lk (*Maho*) on the 7th (**C. Babyak**). Max 20 at Mentor (**N. Barber**). Birds of the "yellow" subspecies were reported from Magee on 14 Apr (**S. Wagner**) and Conneaut on 11 Apr (**J. Pogacnik**).

Bay-breasted Warbler: The first was 3 May at Burnet Wds (*Ham*), and five were at Magee the 8th (**R. Harlan**).

Blackpoll Warbler: Earliest was at Spring Grove Cem (*Ham*) on 24 Apr, and some lingered through the end of the period. 15 were at Magee on 17 May (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**).

Cerulean Warbler: On 20 Apr, **B. Royse** and **C. Johnston** tallied 18 birds in *Scioto* and *Adams*, and **R. Dage** had 13 in Little Miami SP (*Warren*). Eight were at Grand River WA on 4 May (**J. Pogacnik**), and at least 30 singing males were counted at Clear Ck MP (*Hocking*) on 18 May (**B. Whan**).

Black-and-white Warbler: One was at Lakeshore MP on 8 Apr (**J. Pogacnik**), and another in Cleveland on the 11th (**W. Craig**), and another the next day in *Tusc* (**J. Miller**). **C. Johnston** and **B. Royse** counted 30 in *Adams* and *Scioto* on 20 Apr. One was noted at Sheldon Marsh on 30 May (**V. Fazio**).

American Redstart: Very early was one at Lake Hope SP on 20 Apr (**D. St John**) and two the following day in *Scioto* (**B. Royse**). **C. Johnston** counted 52 on 3 May in the Shawnee SF, and **B. Toneff** 49 on 18 May at Magee.

Prothonotary Warbler: First return at Spring Valley WA on 22 Apr (**C. Mathena**). Assisted nesting sites did well, with nine pairs at Hoover Nat Pres (*Frank*) (**T. Thomson**) and seven (with 30 young) along the Cuyahoga River in *Geauga* (**A. Fondrk**) at the end of the period.

Worm-eating Warbler: Early was a bird in the Shawnee SF by 13 Apr (**C. Johnston, B. Royse**). North of the breeding grounds, singles showed up at Springville Marsh on 25 Apr (**T. Bartlett**), at Ottawa on 26 Apr (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**), and 5 May at Maumee Bay SP (**V. Fazio**). In *Adams,* **L. Miller** counted 12 singing males along a one-mile trail.

Ovenbird: First report was 13 Apr from the Shawnee SF (**B. Royse, C. Johnston**), where the same observers counted 49 by the 20th. Opinions differed as to whether the species seemed scarcer this spring.

Northern Waterthrush: None reported till 22 Apr at the Shaker Lks (**V. Fazio**). Another species on which opinions differed as to less-than-normal numbers.

Louisiana Waterthrush: One was photographed 30 Mar in *Athens* (**D. St John**). By 5 Apr, one was on territory in the Oak Openings (Tol RBA).

Kentucky Warbler: One reached Spring Grove Cem (*Ham*) by 26 Apr (**E. Roush**), and 13 were counted in the Shawnee SF by 3 May (**C. Johnston**). Lakeside occurrences were 7 May at Maumee Bay SP (**V. Fazio**) and the following day at Magee (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**). Two were seen in the Oak Openings on 8 May and another in Irwin Prairie SNP on the 17th by **E. Tramer**. Also on the 17th was one at Metzger (**D. Sanders, J. Hammond**).

Connecticut Warbler: Earliest 12 May at Chagrin River Pk (*Lake*), with another at Lakeshore MP (**J. Pogacnik**). Many saw a bird at Magee on 16 May. An unusual number of sightings away from the Lake: 15 May at Mt Airy Forest (*Ham*) (**S. Pelikan**), 16 May Spring Valley WA (**J. Lehman**), 18 May near Findlay (**S. Ross**), 18-19 May at Clear Ck MP (*Hocking*) (**B. Whan, D. Sanders**), and one at Buck Ck SP on the 28th (**D. Overacker**).

Mourning Warbler: **J. Dunn** found the first at Beavercreek on 5 May, and a widely-observed bird was at Magee the following day. Four males were at Magee on 17 May (**V. Fazio**) and four more on the 22nd (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**). Two were at Black River MP (*Lor*) on the last day of the period (**V. Fazio**).

Common Yellowthroat: Pretty early was one at Gilmore Ponds on 14 Apr (**G. Sadler**).

Hooded Warbler: **C. Johnston** and **B. Royse**'s odyssey through *Scioto* and *Adams* on 20 Apr produced 13 birds. One was a good find in *Paulding* on 26 Apr (**M&D Dunakin**).

Wilson's Warbler: Two Apr appearances, one on the 29th at Withrow Nat Pres (**D. Brinkman**), and another at Shawnee Lookout the following day (both *Ham*) by **L. Peyton**. 25 were tallied on 17 May at Magee (**B. Royse**), and a few remained at the end of the period.

Canada Warbler: First report from the NE was 4 May (**K. Metcalf**), and reports came the following day from Beavercreek (**J. Dunn**), Columbus (**B. Conlon**), and S. Bass Isl (**S. Wulcowicz**). 15 were at Magee on 17 May (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**), and six singing males were noted along one trail in Clear Cr MP (*Hock*) on 28 May (**B. Whan**).

Yellow-breasted Chat: One arrived 23 Apr at Shawnee Lookout (**L Peyton**), and another was in Columbus the following day (**B. Royse**).

Summer Tanager: First noted at Shawnee Lookout on 23 Apr (**L. Peyton**). Max was four at Highbanks MP (*Dela*) 12 May (**B. Conlon**). Birds to the north included 8 May at Oak Openings (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**), Metzger Marsh on 8 May (**J. Larson**), Shaker Lks on 9 May (**L. Deininger**), and Kelley's Isl on 11 May (*fide* **P. Hayes**).

Scarlet Tanager: Pretty early was one 21 Apr at Clear Ck MP (**D. St John**), another 22 Apr at MWW (**L. Peyton**) and 24 Apr in Columbus (**B. Royse**). On 3 May, 28 were noted in Shawnee SF (**C. Johnston**), and 12 were on S. Bass Isl on the 5th (**S. Wulcowicz**). Some veteran observers said numbers were down.

Eastern Towhee: One was in *Hancock* on 23 Mar (**B. Hardesty**). Fifteen were in *Clark* on 3 May (**D. Overacker**).

American Tree Sparrow: High count 150+ on 13 Mar at Killdeer (**E. Baumgardner**). An unusual number of May records: 2 May at Lakeshore MP (**J. Pogacnik**), 8 May at Headlands Beach SP (**N. Barber**), and as late as 29 May at Springville Marsh (**T. Bartlett**).

Chipping Sparrow: Earliest were near Johnstown (*Licking*) on 27 Mar (*fide* **M. Skinner**), the following day in Columbus (**R. Cressman**), and on 31 Mar at places as far-flung as Magee (**R. Harlan**), Wilmington (**L. Gara**), and S. Bass Isl (**S. Wulcowicz**).

Clay-colored Sparrow: One was at Lakeshore MP on 22 Apr (**J. Pogacnik**). **P. Niehoff** had one at MWW on 3 May, and one was at Berlin Heights (*Erie*) from 9 May to the end of the period (**B. Phillips**).

Field Sparrow: Arrived in *Paulding* 31 Mar (**D&M Dunakin**), and were noted at S. Bass Isl the following day (**S. Wulcowicz**).

Vesper Sparrow: Seen on 17 Mar at MWW (**N. Cade**). Max eight at Gilmore (*Cuy*) (**N. Barber**).

Lark Sparrow: First noted at traditional Oak Openings spot on 26 Apr (**A. Osborne**). One territorial bird was along Exchange Rd from 4 May to at least 9 May for first *Huron* record (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**).

Grasshopper Sparrow: First returns at Big Island WA on 20 Apr (**V. Fazio**), who counted 46 birds there

Clay-colored Sparrow, Berlin Heights, Erie Co., 19 May 1999. Photo by Greg Miller.

at the end of the period.

Henslow's Sparrow: **L. Andrews** reported the first return in *Hocking* on 13 Apr, and **J. Larson** had one the same day at The Wilds (*Musk*). Three were at MWW on 20 May (**P. Wharton**). Reclaimed strip-mines are the place to look: **J. McCormac** estimated in excess of 150 territorial males in areas in *Belmont, Lawr, Cosh, and Muskingum.*

Le Conte's Sparrow: One was reported on 6 May in Valley View, *Cuy* (**M. Egar**).

Fox Sparrow: Very early on 12 Feb, this species reached *Trumbull*, and was at several locations there by Mar 6 (**D&J Hochadel**). **R. Harlan** and **S. Wagner** had 25 at Magee on 31 Mar, and **E. Pierce** counted 15 at Ottawa on 4 Apr. Late was a bird May 4-5 at Headlands Beach SP (**K. Metcalf**).

Song Sparrow: 97 were in *Hancock* on 30 Mar (**B. Hardesty**), and 15 at Magee 26 Apr (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**).

Lincoln's Sparrow: Extraordinarily early was a bird reported in Hilliard (*Frank*) on 14 Apr (**M. Gallaway**); other Apr reports included one on the 24th at a feeder in *Holmes* (**L. Yoder**), and one on the 29th at Killbuck (**V. Fazio**).

Swamp Sparrow: High count was nine in the CVNRA 7 Apr (**B. Toneff**).

White-throated Sparrow: 350 were at Lakeshore MP on 22 Apr (**J. Pogacnik**). Late for central OH was one on 26 May (**B. Whan**).

Harris's Sparrow: One spent most of the winter at a feeder near Mt Hope (*Holmes*) until 22 April (**J. Miller**).

White-crowned Sparrow: High count 25 at MWW on 7 Mar (**N. Cade**). An individual of the *gambelii* subspecies was observed 13 Mar at C. J. Brown Res feeders (*Clark*) (**D. Overacker**).

Dark-eyed Junco: 183 were counted in *Hancock* on 30 Mar (**B. Hardesty**). Late birds: one 11 May at Mohican SP (**B. Morrison**), one 24 May at Lakeshore MP (**J. Pogacnik**), and one from 9 Apr to end of period in backyard of **S. Snyder** in Wooster.

Lapland Longspur: Big numbers this spring. 300 at Killdeer 6 Mar (**C. Bombaci**), 75-100 in Sugarcreek on 10 Mar (**L. Schlabach**), 50+ near Waverly (*Pike*) 11 Mar (**B&D Bosstic**), 300 in *Ham* 13 Mar (**P. Wharton**), 600 in *Wyandot* 16 Mar (**R. Counts**), 600 at Big Island WA 30 Mar (**V. Fazio**), 150 Maumee

Bay SP 31 Mar (**V. Fazio**), and 800+ near Big Island 10 Apr (**V. Fazio**).

Snow Bunting: Late birds included three in *Allen* on 13 Mar (**D. Dister**) and 20+ on 3 Mar near Park Colony Rd (*Lucas*) (**M. Victoria**).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Earlyish reports: 22 Apr at The Wilderness Ctr (*Stark*) (**T. Sica**), 24 Apr at Fairfield (*Butl*) (**M. Sandvig**), and 27 Apr N. Olmsted (*Cuy*) (**S. Wright**). Though some asserted that numbers were low, 67 were counted on 4 May in the Grand River WA (**J. Pogacnik**).

Blue Grosbeak: 12+ birds were reported in late May at the traditional *Adams* spots (m obs). One was at last spring's spot near the Toledo airport, and one was at Chapin Forest Res'n (*Lake*) on 18 May (**J. Pogacnik**). 10+ singing males were on a relatively small tract of Crown City WA (**J. McCormac, J. Rakestraw**).

Dickcissel: Among unusual appearances: one photographed 3 May in Cleveland (**P. Lozano**), one 10 May in the CVNRA (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**), and one 31 May in *Coshocton* (**B. Glick**). Nine were at Big Island WA at the end of the period (**V.Fazio**).

Bobolink: Early arrivals at Headlands Beach SP (**N. Barber**) on 1 May, and same day in *Marion* (**V. Fazio**). 30 were flying over Conneaut on 12 May, and **B. Morrison** had the high count of 75 at a *Noble* strip-mine on 9 May.

Western Meadowlark: A retiring bird along Krause Rd (*Lucas*) sang twice only on 9 May for **R. Harlan** and **S. Wagner.** The species was sought in traditional haunts elsewhere without reported success.

Yellow-headed Blackbird: Nearly all records in the NW: 20 Mar Wyant Rd (*Lucas*) (**J. Buecking**), at feeder near Mallard Club Marsh WA 25 Apr (**P. Lozano**), at Metzger Marsh WA 26 Apr to end of period (including as many as 7 males) (**J. Lichorat,** m obs), Apr 30 at Park Colony Rd (*Lucas*) (**D. St John**). Elsewhere, one in Larue (*Marion*) on 30 May (**K. Longberry**), and a male for two weeks in mid-May at a feeder in *Adams* (*fide* **B. Whan**).

Rusty Blackbird: At Wilmington (*Clinton*) on 9 Mar (**L. Gara**) and *Paulding* the same day (**M&D Dunakin**). High of 150+ was in *Geauga* on 29 Mar (**D. Best**). Latest 5 May near Johnstown (*Licking*) (**M. Skinner**).

Brewer's Blackbird: Widespread to the west, high was 150+ south of Big Island WA on 7 Mar (**V. Fazio**). Eastward, the **Brumfields** had 13 at Funk Bottoms WA on 4 Apr, and a female was found at Conneaut on 21 Apr by **E. Schlabach**.

Orchard Oriole: Earliest report 20 Apr in *Adams* (**J. McCormac**), then Apr 22 in *Holmes* (**E. Schlabach**) and *Cuyahoga* (**C. Rieker**). Ten were counted in *Hancock* on 8 May (**B. Hardesty**).

Baltimore Oriole: First reported at Gilmore Ponds (*Butler*) on 22 Apr (**G&D Sadler**), good numbers were seen later: 48 in Grand River WA on 4 May (**J. Pogacnik**), 75 in *Hancock* 8 May (**B. Hardesty**), and 30 the same day in Mentor (*Lake*) (**N. Barber**).

Purple Finch: Up to 25 wintered at a feeder in *Adams* until the end of Mar (**P. Whan**). Reported 21 Mar at Lakeshore MP (**J. Pogacnik**), 30 Mar at Firestone MP (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**), 31 Mar at Spring Grove Cem, *Ham* (**N. Cade**), and five same day at Lakeshore MP (**J. Pogacnik**), one at feeder of **L. Yoder** in *Holmes* 30 Mar, pair returned to Trumbull nesting site 5 Apr (**D&J Hochadel**), 6 Apr Worthington (*Frank*) (**B. Conlon**), 12-16 Apr in Brecksville (**B. Toneff**), 18 Apr in *Geauga* (**D. Best**), 14 on 22 Apr at Lakeshore MP (**J. Pogacnik**), two at Clear Ck MP (**E. Pierce**) 24 Apr, 25 Apr at Norton (*Summit*) (**K. Mock**), 27 Apr and 18 May in *Hancock* (**B. Hardesty**), and 31 May at the Major Rd tree farm (**A&D Chasar**).

Pine Siskin: 3-4 birds from the beginning of the period through 9 Apr, then one on 6 May and one on 16 May, at Lakeshore MP (*Lake*) (**J. Pogacnik**). **T. Bartlett** had one on Kelley's Isl on 15 May.

Evening Grosbeak: Two on 4 May at Grand River WA (**J. Pogacnik**).

CONTRIBUTORS: Scott Albaugh, Gene Anderson, Matt Anderson, Lynda Andrews, Hank Armstrong, Carole Babyak, Emil Bacik, Zac Baker, Nick Barber, Dorothea Barker, Tom Bartlett, Sharon Bartuss, Sue Baxter, Erich Baumgardner, Kathy Beal, Joe Bens, Dan Best, Adam Blank, Linda Bode, Robert Boldry, Brad Bolton, Mike Bolton, Charles Bombaci, Bill & Donna Bosstic, Sue Bowman, David Brinkman, Jenny & Dave Brumfield, Nancy Brundage, Gina Buckey, Jeff Buecking, Don Burton, Jed Burtt, Mike Busam, Neill Cade, Granville Carey, Todd Chapman, Dwight & Ann Chasar, Bob Conlon, Rick Counts, Brad Courson, Paul Cozens, Rich Cressman, Brad Cullen, Rick Dage, Mabel Dailey, Jill Dansard, Olivier Debre, Leo Deininger, Micki & Doug Dunakin, Jon Dunn, Curt Dusthimer, Mike Egar, Ken Eikelberry, Bob Evans, Vic Fazio III, Duane Ferris, Bob Finkelstein, Andy Fondrk, Darlene Friedman, Jim Fry, Bruce Gaal, Mike Gallaway, Larry Gara, Gerald Gillen, Bruce Glick, Adam Goloda, Jeff Grabmeier, Darlena Graham, Cathy Hammond, Joe Hammond, Ray Hannikman, Betty Hardesty, Rob Harlan, Becky Hatfield, Bill Heck, Jim Heflich, Dave Helm, Joan Hill, Hank & Sally Hiris, Dave & Judy Hochadel, Dick and Jean Hoffman, Craig Holt, Janet Holzworth, Dave Horn, Gabe Hostetler, Judy Howard, Cece Johnston, Dorothy Kahl, Milan Keim, Ned Keller, Gregg Kelly, David Kline, Dennis Kline, Jonathon Kline, Norm Kotesovec, Jeff & Marian Kraus, David Kriska, Jamie Krupka, Jason Larson, Cam Lee, Andrew Leeds, Jay Lehman, Tom LePage, Jim Lesser, Jim Lichorat, Greg Links, Doreene Linzell, Jenny Lippert, James Little, Kevin Longberry, Paula Lozano, Barb Lund, Ed Masel, Charlotte Mathena, Jeff McCoy, Winnie McClanahan, Jim McCormac, Cal McCormick, Kathy McDonald, Heather McFerran, Joe McMahon, Joseph Miller, Joyce Miller, Kent Miller, Lucy Miller, Kathy Mock, Nelson Moore, Ben Morrison, Donald Morse Jr., Eric Mulholland, Heather Nagy, Patti Niehoff, Rick Nirschl, Art Osborne, Doug Overacker, Sharon Pawlowski, Steve Pelikan, John Perchalski, Bill Perrine, Haans Petruschke, Lester Peyton, Brad Phillips, Ed Pierce, George Pierse, Bob Placier, John Pogacnik, Len & Nancy Powlick, John Rakestraw, Pam Raver, Mark Ray, Reno Reda, Frank Renfrow, Jim Reyda, Craig Rieker, Bill & Roxanne Rinehart, Tom & Mary Romito, Larry Rosche, Paul Rosenberry, Sue Ross, Ed & Linda Roush, Bob Royse, Dave Russell, Arlene Ryan, George & Darlene Sadler, David St John, Ron & Victoria Saklosky, Ron Sempier, Bob Sams, Dan Sanders, Morris Sandvig, Dave Sapienza, Winnie Sarno, Ed Schlabach, Leroy Schlabach, Robert Schlabach, Wilma & Bob Seiler, Rod Sharpnack, Julie Shieldcastle, Bill Shively, Pat & Tona Sica, Mark Skinner, Steve Smith, Jim & Elaine Snively, Su Snyder, Terry & Bob Sponseller, Mike Stasko, Jay Stenger, David Styer, Sue Tackett, Bill Thompson III, Tom Thomson, Bill Toneff, Elliot Tramer, Gary Troyer, Casey Tucker, Tom Uhlman, Matt Victoria, Barb Van Stein, Sandy Wagner, Sean Walker, Pat Walsh, Mary Warren, Bill Whan, Pete Whan, Paul Wharton, Mike Williams, Ben Winger, Connie Wolcott, Stanley Wulcowicz, Scott Wright, Leroy Yoder, Perry Yoder, Emery and Mary Yoder, Sean Zadar, Marian Zehnder, Mark Zloba. *The Ohio Cardinal* also received invaluable assistance and information from the Ohio Division of Wildlife, the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves, the editors of *The Bobolink*, the Rare Bird Alerts of Dayton, Cincinnati, Columbus, and Toledo, the online resources managed by Vic Fazio III, and the Black Swamp Bird Observatory.

Little Gull, East Fork SP, Clermont Co., 27 January 1999.
Photo by Frank Renfrow.

Further Afield
by Rob Harlan

For me, the seasons are defined thusly: Warblerless Season (November through March); Spring Warbler Season (April & May); Nesting Warbler Season (June); Shorebird Season (July & August); Fall Warbler Season (September); and Sparrow Season (October). From the above grand scheme of things, you may have surmised that I hold warblers in high regard, and you would be correct. But also note that shorebirds are awarded two months unto themselves, and for good reason. Warblers and shorebirds have that certain something—personality and pizzazz—and they have it in spades.

Don't get me wrong, I like swallows and cuckoos, grouse and grebes just fine, but I must confess that any extended period with these other groups leaves me glassy-eyed. "Rob—did you get the rough-winged in with that group of immature tree swallows over the mudflat? It's pretty late, actually." "Sure thing," I might say casually, as I mentally note the yellowthroat "checking" away in the cattails, or the Baird's sandpiper "kreeping" overhead. "Did you get that Baird's?" would probably be my next response, only to be rebuffed by "Uh, no, I was scoping that young eagle in the old dead cottonwood over there—looks like a fourth-year bird, I'd guess." And so it would go: to each his own.

While warblers understandably catch the fancy of most any birder (spring warblers, at least), shorebirds just haven't attracted as big a fan club as yet. And this is a shame. They are imbued with a fascinating energy, and their variety in Ohio is even greater than that of the warblers. But where spring warblers almost scream out their presence with song and a riot of color, shorebirds are content with their own sense of subtlety. No neon-orange throats or "Beee-bzz-bzz-bzz's" here. What shorebirds may lack in plumage or song they make up for in energy and charisma, as anyone who has had the opportunity to spend some time with them can attest. Sure, they can be a challenge to identify, but the bigger challenge often seems to revolve around a much more basic issue—finding them in the first place.

While it is true that ideal habitat varies from species to species—a long-billed dowitcher might turn up its nares at the grassy edge favored by a buff-breasted sandpiper, and a least sandpiper would probably not swim through greater yellowlegs habitat—the bottom line is that the habitats preferred by shorebirds, are, in general, a scarce commodity. And if their habitat is scarce, then our opportunity to study and appreciate shorebirds is equally scarce. But I suppose this is too obvious to mention.

The sad part is, shorebirds don't ask for much—only a nice, juicy lakefront mudflat here and there, a drawn-down impoundment's edge, or a flooded field if all else fails. But when they do ask, they ask very quietly, and with no big-money special interest group trumpeting their cause. Even so, they still ask. And if we don't answer with at least some favorable habitat every year, they may simply pass us by, for good. I miss them already.

Accidental Habitats, Benign Neglect: Shorebirds in Ohio
by Bill Whan

Most of the subtle beauties of shorebirds are reserved for the connoisseur with a spotting-scope. Other people, if they notice them at all, tend to be aware only of drab brownish birds feeding far off on a malodorous mudflat, or fleeing before them on a beach. Shorebirds' economic value seems less than obvious, too; only snipes and woodcocks remain game in Ohio, and we haven't worked out a way to assess the value of animals we can't take home with us. Finally, only four of their species regularly nest in the state, reducing still more our sense of ownership of these mysterious wanderers. Wild, indifferent, and remote, animals without easy eye-appeal or commodity value, shorebirds are likely to be ignored as long as our conservation values are based upon popularity rather than a commitment to protect the full spectrum of native wildlife.

Our official state list of birds features forty-seven species of shorebirds, forty-one of warblers, and forty of waterfowl among the most numerous comparable species groups, making shorebirds the most diverse of Ohio's avifauna. Ohio, moreover, provides the largest expanse of potential stopover habitat in the eastern US between the Atlantic coast and the breeding ranges of most of these migrants. Hundreds of years ago the shore of Lake Erie, and to a lesser extent the wet prairies to the south, must have teemed with migrant shorebirds every spring and fall. That this no longer happens seems almost entirely the result of human ignorance in some cases, and human insouciance in the rest.

Readers of *The Ohio Cardinal* do not need a lengthy recitation of the plight of shorebirds—their numbers declining or still not recovered from market gunning of a century ago, their long migrations and precise habitat requirements along the way, and the widening gaps in the ancestral chain of foraging areas along their paths to and from the breeding grounds. What should be more widely known is how many shorebirds are now compelled to overfly Ohio without stopping, and why.

Ohio's great wetlands are nearly gone, the prairies mostly paved or plowed. As sad as the loss of these wetlands is, the loss of prime shorebird habitat within them—shallow sheets of water, mudflats, and contiguous dryer open ground, all rich in aquatic invertebrate food sources—is far more grievous. Private landowners too often regard this habitat as barren, unappealing, and unprofitable wasteland, begging for obliteration. In the primeval haunts of migrant shorebirds—in the Pickaway Plains, near Killdeer Plains WA, or in innumerable places along the western basin of Lake Erie—land converted to crops can still show its origins. If drainage tiles are broken up, or after a heavy rain, the land will reveal what natural forces destine it to be, and shorebirds will appear from nowhere to feed in sky-ponds in the vestiges of otherwise-invisible primeval contours. A few more intact shorebird havens in the hands of private owners have been suffered to remain—most often in the name of duck-hunting—but for the most part it is on public land that the hope for substantial shorebird habitat remains.

Here, at least in an earlier era, scientific principles of biodiversity mattered less than the tender mercies of the marketplace, and land managers were constrained by a system in which the husbandry of game species alone supplied the life-blood of their agencies. Non-game shorebirds were acknowledged only by ritual repetitions of the old canard that management for waterfowl automatically manages for shorebirds, a

recitation usually accompanied by pointing to a few spotted sandpipers and yellowlegs puttering around the muddy margins of diked impoundments flooded to a depth sufficient to float hunters' boats.

Times have changed of course, and wildlife managers have learned the language of biodiversity, noticing warblers, noticing raptors, most of all noticing the hordes who crowd the boardwalk at Magee Marsh, and the families who walk the windswept dikes at Ottawa hoping for a glimpse of an eagle. It will perhaps take a bit longer before they notice less showy species with their own urgent claims to a rightful share of the land's remaining bounty.

Centuries after the wetlands were drained, lonely bands of shorebirds—and the birders who follow them—have learned how to locate such isolated stopover areas as still exist. Inland reservoirs can be productive for a decent number of shorebirds, mostly in the fall when drawn down or depleted. In the spring, agricultural lands may attract birds in wet weather, especially in ill-drained fields and those where organic fertilizers such as manure are used. River channels sometimes accommodate shorebirds in shallows and along sandbars. Even impoundments in fish hatcheries can provide good habitat if managed appropriately.[1] Sewage settlement ponds—widely resorted to by shorebirds just north of here in Ontario—are seldom available in Ohio. Lakeside seiches, and larger climate-related changes in Lake levels, are less often a factor nowadays, most of the appropriate natural shoreline having been diked off to protect farms and roads, though prominent exceptions remain at Sheldon Marsh SNP and Conneaut Harbor.

As natural shorebird habitats disappeared, and public lands continued to be managed for other purposes, some highly artificial areas were sought out by birds and birders alike. Such was the case with dredge-spoil disposal basins—usually circular Stonehenges of boulders built by the Corps of Engineers to accumulate the sludge and muck from dredging operations in ports, channels, and marinas along the Lake—which for years were some of the best places to look for shorebirds in Ohio. Old-timers will recall the choice rarities—spotted redshank, sharp-tailed sandpiper, etc.—and the good numbers of commoner species found at these impoundments over the years. These places were not managed for wildlife—far from it. They were—fortunately, as it happened—mostly overlooked by humans except during dredging, but physiographically they were right for the formation of good shorebird habitat, and they lay in ancestral areas for stopovers by migrants.

Alas, things happened to these neglected spots. Some were eventually filled to a level at which they could no longer hold surface water, and some have been overrun by *Phragmites*. Others have been closed to public access after someone happened to ask the legal department about liabilities, and received the predictable answer. While these hotspots were immune to the interventions of commercial developers, they were also ignored by wildlife managers—for shorebirds, at least, an instance of benign neglect.

The Lorain dredge-spoil impoundment having last year finally been filled above

[1] That there are fully 34 shorebird species on ODW's checklist for the tiny Hebron Fish Hatchery, far inland in Licking County, is almost entirely due to the efforts of "Fritz" Griffith, the Hatchery's manager till it left Federal for State hands in 1982. Griffith loved shorebirds, and carefully managed the routine draw-downs of ponds at the Hatchery to accommodate migrants for many years. The checklist is less useful these days, as the Hatchery is attractive to shorebirds less frequently and more often by happenstance.

Lake level—and with toxic spoil from the Black River, to boot—there now exists no spot in Ohio that has consistently produced significant numbers of migrant shorebirds year after year over the nineties. Nor is there any assurance that there will ever be one, unless strategies change in management regimes on our public lands. For some hints about how this change might take place, it is worth looking at some numbers—among the relatively few available—on this much-neglected group of Ohio species.

Inconsistencies in stopover locations (weather, management practices in place, etc.) mean that season-by-season surveys of shorebird numbers at single sites (such as the monthly bird counts taken for years for the Ohio Division of Wildlife at Magee Marsh, and at Ottawa for the US Fish & Wildlife Service—in both cases by volunteer birders) tend not to reflect overall shorebird abundance in the region so much as habitat availability at such sites. One set of counts, more flexible as to areas surveyed in the interest of a better overall picture of shorebird migrations, is that conducted by the Black Swamp Bird Observatory.[2] These surveys, devoted exclusively to shorebirds, take place in varying selected locales near the Lake's western basin, between Pointe Mouille in Michigan to Old Woman Creek in Ohio. Intended as they are to reflect overall numbers of birds, the following results nevertheless reveal much about stopover sites in general, or the lack thereof:

1994	Spring:	19,170 shorebirds of 24 species
	Fall:	61,742 shorebirds of 32 species
1995	Spring:	34,331 shorebirds of 26 species
	Fall:	17,396 shorebirds of 28 species
1996	Spring:	27,013 shorebirds of 22 species
	Fall:	24,075 shorebirds of 31 species
1997	Spring:	20,656 shorebirds of 20 species
	Fall:	9,606 shorebirds of 23 species
1998	Spring:	22,162 shorebirds of 20 species
	Fall:	16,155 shorebirds of 31 species

Most eye-catching is the number of birds found in the fall of 1994. This extraordinary count arose, BSBO notes, because 51,000 shorebirds were counted at a single spot—the Turtle Creek unit of Magee Marsh Wildlife Area. Shorebirders will surely recall this event: major dike construction at Turtle Creek created, as an unintentional and temporary side-effect, a large mudflat in an area which had been either flooded or dry for decades, and thousands of birds dropped out of the air, including remarkable numbers of scarcer species. The birds began arriving in spring; gradually realizing the significance of the event, beginning in August the Division of Wildlife provided limited access for the public to the area, and again the following spring before the area was reflooded. Some of the peak numbers of shorebirds counted on single selected days on

[2] Data courtesy of the Black Swamp Bird Observatory, P.O. Box 228, Oak Harbor, OH 43449.

that autumn, as reported to *The Ohio Cardinal*, follow: black-bellied plover 30, American golden-plover 100, semipalmated plover 450, killdeer 1600, American avocet 2, greater yellowlegs 26, lesser yellowlegs 800, willet 7, spotted sandpiper 12, whimbrel 1, Hudsonian godwit 3, marbled godwit 2, ruddy turnstone 30, red knot 6, sanderling 86, semipalmated sandpiper 3098, western sandpiper 2, least sandpiper 185, white-rumped sandpiper 10, Baird's sandpiper 34, pectoral sandpiper 500, dunlin 450, stilt sandpiper 200, buff-breasted sandpiper 8, short-billed dowitcher 620, long-billed dowitcher 50, Wilson's phalarope 15, red-necked phalarope 8, red phalarope 1—a total of 29 species.

Curiously, this extraordinary foraging opportunity produced the only survey results in which fall birds outnumbered those counted in spring in the surveys. Normally, far more shorebird species occur in fall than in spring in Ohio, and there are more birds, augmented as their numbers are by young of the year. Why are more birds being counted in these surveys in spring during most years? Is it because by late summer and fall wetlands are so often intentionally flooded in anticipation of the coming migration of game waterfowl?

These phenomena, in which shorebird numbers seem so extravagantly affected by unrelated interruptions—such as dike construction—in business as usual in our publicly-owned wetlands, are not restricted to the Lakeshore. Birders who keep an eye on Killdeer Plains WA, for example, have noticed huge fluctuations in the numbers of shorebirds stopping at this area of primeval wet prairie. After an accessible area was drawn down for carp control in 1995, and again in 1998 when summer dike work resulted in the draining of the same impoundment, strikingly large numbers and variety of shorebirds were easily noted—29 species in 1995, an exceptional number for an inland spot in recent years.

At places like Killdeer where water uptake depends upon rainfall, severe drought can also have unintentional good consequences for shorebirds. Many will remember the autumn of 1991, when a summer-long drought benefited at least 35 species of shorebirds statewide, but especially at Killdeer, where managers were unable to flood the impoundments in the traditional early welcome to waterfowl. For the season, shorebird reports to *The Ohio Cardinal* included the following for Killdeer (bear in mind that certain species almost certainly present—spotted sandpiper, sanderling, white-rumped sandpiper, short-billed dowitcher, dunlin, and Wilson's phalarope—weren't in sufficient numbers to merit mention in *The Ohio Cardinal*): 50 black bellied plovers on 7 Sept, 100 American golden-plovers on 7 Sept, 40 semipalmated plovers on 24 Aug and 5 Sept, 1200 killdeer on 6 Aug, 25 greater yellowlegs on 19 Aug, 400 lesser yellowlegs on 12 Aug, 77 solitary sandpipers on 6 Aug, 8 willets on 26 Aug, one marbled godwit on 15 Aug, 3 ruddy turnstones on 5 Sept, 18 red knots on 5 Nov, 100 semipalmated sandpipers on 12 Aug, 3 western sandpipers from 6 Aug to 2 Sept, 150 least sandpipers on 12 Aug, 12 Baird's sandpipers on 2 Sept, 850 pectoral sandpipers on 16 Aug, 56 stilt sandpipers on 6 Aug, 8 buff-breasted sandpipers on 11 Sept, from 3-8 long-billed dowitchers 15 Aug-21 Oct, and one red-necked phalarope 19 Aug and 18 Oct. The parallels with Turtle Creek are inescapable.

That occurrences of shorebirds in Ohio should be so closely linked with unrelated marsh management raises questions. Is a large percentage of the local migrant shorebird population being forced to fly over Ohio without stopping because significant

stopover habitats are not permitted to exist? If our land managers were to create good shorebird habitat at the appropriate times *on purpose*, wouldn't these migrants benefit from the restoration of important stopping-points on their long journeys? Would doing so conflict with other management aims, or impose unacceptable costs?

There are hopeful signs that Federal and State land managers increasingly recognize the legitimacy and the importance of these questions. This is over half the battle, for the answers are not hard to come by.

(The above is based in part on a presentation given to National Audubon Society/Ohio this spring.)

Pectoral Sandpiper, Turtle Creek Unit (Magee Marsh WA), Ottawa Co., 1995. Photo by Len Powlick.

Nesting Success for Southern Ohio Loggerhead Shrikes

by Mark Skinner

Every trip to my grandmother's farm, near Greenfield in Highland County, includes a perimeter walk of the fields, pasture and woods searching for birds. On Sunday, 4 April 1999, I observed a loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) on the crown of a three-foot tall multiflora rose bush growing in a less-used corner of a cow pasture. The bird was hunting for food, occasionally hovering for a few seconds, then swooping to the ground before returning to another low vantage-point. The bird habitually landed on a low fence wire or branch of a bush, then worked its way higher, rarely going all the way to the crown or top wire before resuming the hunt.

It was only after the bird moved off to the fence near the corner of the field that I realized a second shrike was present. The second bird flew over to land on the fence wire very close to the first. I watched them reaffirm their bond, greeting one another by nearly touching bills. The close proximity of the birds to one another and to me allowed me to see a couple of plumage differences between them. The first bird had a very clean white breast, while the second showed some faint barring of the breast, visible when it faced me. The white band on the upperparts where the wing attached to the body appeared to extend above nearly the entire wing on the first bird but only partially (perhaps three-fourths of the way) across on the second. With time, these differences as well as their behavior enabled me to recognize the first as the male.

During the following week, Dan Sanders and Don Burton visited the farm. They were able to see one of the shrikes take a large white feather from a recently killed chicken in the pasture (the suspected victim of a coyote or dog) to a tall multiflora rose bush. Closer inspection revealed the makings of a nest, and I believe Don was able to take a few photographs of the nest and the birds.

I returned to the farm on April 10 to relocate the nest, relying on Dan's directions and hoping to observe the birds more closely. Both birds seemingly preferred to hunt in the cow pasture and adjacent wheat fields close to the nest. The nest was situated along a fencerow between two wheat fields, 25-30 feet south of the cow pasture and a T-intersection of fences. The wheat was only a few inches high at the time. The cow pasture was also short, but several small rose bushes were scattered near this corner. The fencerow was probably 80 percent overgrown with rose, other bushes, and small trees, the tallest a maple approximately 30 feet tall.

The shrikes had selected the tallest, densest multiflora rose bush on the fence. It had grown into and smothered a small tree of 10 to 12 feet in height, leaving the leafless skeleton of the tree's main branches above the bush for perching. Since it was early spring, the nest was visible as a thick mass, even from quite a distance. The leaves of the rose bush were filling in quickly all the same.

The nest was seven or eight feet off the ground, surprisingly large and bulky, and rather trashy in appearance. It was constructed of weedy sticks, grass, and several large white feathers. I observed the female take a long strand of grass from the pasture to the nest. On the ground beneath the selected nest site were several holes made by a burrowing mammal, possibly a groundhog.

While most of the literature I reviewed discussed shrikes as living and feeding in close proximity to human activity, this nest site was 1360 feet from one road, and in the

other direction more than 900 feet from the nearest structure (my grandmother's house), itself another 500 feet from another road. The area immediately surrounding the nest, several hundred acres, is all either intensively farmed or devoted to woodlots. Most of the fencerows to the west of the nest are overgrown to varying degrees, and a few have large hardwoods. The fence selected was one of the least overgrown.

I returned to the farm for the week of April 24-30. The nest was now obscured from view, and only once did I move aside the shielding vegetation to check the nest. The female spent most of her time there. I was unable to see if she spent any time in the bush off the nest. She appeared at dusk and dawn in the bare branches of the smothered tree, always when the male was perched nearby on another branch. I saw her leave on several occasions, at which times the male remained at the tree, but not in the bush. While my vantage-point was not optimal for seeing all movements to and from the nest, I was able to see him bring her food about once every hour on average. More scientific studies recorded males feeding mates every 23 minutes on average (Johnson, 1940 as cited in Lefranc, 1997).

Whenever I observed the male's approach to the nest, his behavior was unvarying. He flew in low across the wheat field or pasture and landed on one, nearly always the same, of the dead branches of the tree. He then waited ten or fifteen seconds before hopping down to the top of the rose bush; after a few more seconds of waiting he then entered the bush. He appeared to remain on or near the tree each night, and was found on the same branch at sundown and sunrise on all five days I was able to observe him.

By this time, his primary hunting grounds had changed from the pasture to a fencerow on the opposite side of the wheat field, approximately 400 feet from the nest site. This fencerow featured three small dead trees, each with multiflora rose bushes entwined in them. The snags of these trees served quite often as his hunting perches. In fact, he was the only bird observed utilizing one particular perch. The field opposite this second fencerow was corn stubble from the previous year's crop interspersed with low weeds. During the week, the owner of the wheat field between the male's hunting perches and the nest site plowed under the half of the field closest to the perches in order to plant corn. The half of the field closest to the nest remained in wheat.

On June 11, a group of birders spent two hours not far from the nest site, and walking the length of the pasture, but failed to locate any shrikes. I myself was unable to visit the farm until June 18, at which time I checked the nest site. The nest appeared badly damaged, half having been ripped away and fallen to the ground. I saw no evidence of shell debris. The white feathers used in the nest's construction were missing. Now several red-winged blackbirds were congregating in the nest tree and elsewhere in that corner of the fencerows. Unfortunately, I had been unable to visit the farm during the month of May, so cannot say precisely when the nest was disturbed.

On June 18, I obtained permission from the owner of the field to the west of the pasture to walk the fencerow where the male's hunting perches had been located. The region was suffering from a drought. The corn was in but not very high, and based on the tractor tracks it had been sprayed very recently, presumably with herbicide or insecticide. The field of corn stubble had been sprayed with some sort of broad herbicide, and soybeans had been drilled with no tilling. Very small bean plants were present.

At 4:00 pm, the male appeared, landing on his favorite hunting perch atop the snag on which I had never seen another bird land, while I was standing directly beneath it. It

was too close to use my binoculars; I froze and watched him for a few minutes. His plumage was still as crisp and distinctive as it had been in April; I could see no barring on the breast, even at this close range. As he surveyed the field of soybeans, I made an unintentional movement and he looked down at me. He started bobbing his tail like a kestrel or a phoebe, staring fiercely at me. I cannot recall reading anything about this tail-bobbing behavior in the literature, but I took it to be aggression toward me. I backed away, and after I was at some distance he resumed scanning the bean field.

I called Columbus to make arrangements for the Audubon Society's Avid Birders to see the shrike during their field trip scheduled for the following day. Around 6:30 pm I returned to the fencerow, this time keeping my distance from the favorite perch. The male arrived near 7:00 pm. A few seconds later, the female landed directly beside me, and now I stood between them. The barring on her breast was more apparent at this distance. Recalling my earlier encounter with the male, I cautiously moved away to avoid stressing them further.

On the morning of June 19, I was viewing the birds from approximately a quarter of a mile's distance. I saw the male on his favorite tree. The sun was rising behind me on a clear, bright day. I couldn't see where he went when he left, but between 6:00 and 6:30 am he left and returned to the tree four times. At 6:50 am the female landed in the same tree; in the bright light and with a 40x zoom, I was able to make out the barring on her breast and the partial white band above the wing. The male hadn't been seen for about fifteen minutes. Suddenly an immature shrike flew up next to her and opened its mouth, begging for food. The young bird appeared nearly her size, but was a dirtier gray, almost brownish in color, and more heavily barred. Its black mask was incomplete, its extension behind the eye sketchier and mottled.

The adult female flew to the ground and quickly returned to stuff something in the young's mouth. I was so excited by the evidence of successful nesting I ran inside to tell my aunt and grandmother; nonbirders, they nonetheless shared my elation at this turn of events. When I went back outside I was feeling sure I'd have a chance to see all three birds, but my luck had turned. Having found only one fledgling and knowing from the literature that a female will lay from four to eight eggs was a concern, but I told myself more fledglings may have been in the vicinity.

My Columbus friends arrived at 7:15 am. We went out to the far fencerow on which the birds had been seen. On the way out, Steve Landes spotted a cicada skewered to a thorn near the original nest site, evidence of the shrike's larder. We waited near the favorite perch for a while with no success. I moved down the fencerow alone toward where the female had been seen the night before. As I approached, two shrikes flushed from the fencerow between me and the rest of the group, whereupon the others joined me to look in the direction the birds had flown. Finally we spotted a shrike in a big oak, scanning the soybean field. I believe it was the male. We stayed long enough to watch the shrike swoop to the ground as it hunted, then left the area.

Speculating that the fencerow was hosting a second nesting attempt, I returned on July 10 to search for the birds and a nest. The area was still suffering from a bad drought. The wheat and nearby hayfields had been cut, but the soybeans were not much larger than three weeks earlier. The multiflora leaves were stunted and dropping; I could now see through several bushes that earlier had been too dense and dark to penetrate. Food seemed plentiful; grasshoppers were quite evident in the wheat stubble

and along the fencerow. I wondered whether shrikes would be bothered by dry conditions, given their favored arid habitats in the West. I could see no evidence of a nest.

The first sign that the shrikes had moved on for good was the number of species using the male's favorite perch and the rose bush—song sparrow, dickcissel, grasshopper sparrow, common yellowthroat, goldfinch, indigo bunting, robin, catbird, and red-winged blackbird. The fencerow was a far more active place than it had been while the shrikes were present; I had the feeling these other birds wouldn't have dared had the shrikes still been around. Two and a half hours of searching, scanning area fence lines and waiting near the perch, yielded no shrikes.

I'm still hopeful they'll attempt a second nesting somewhere in the area. As loggerhead shrikes become increasingly scarce in eastern North America—they are on the endangered lists of at least six Midwestern states and all of Canada—opportunities to observe them nesting are limited. While I hope more than one young bird fledged, I consider myself quite lucky to have witnessed as much as I was able to of their success.

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Several web pages:

Illinois Fish & Wildlife Information Service
http://www.inhs.uiuc.edu/chf/pub/ifwis/birds/loggerhead-shrike.html

Loggerhead Shrike Recovery Action Team
http://www.bsc-eoc.org/losh.html

Environmental Protection Agency
http://www.epa.gov/grtlakes/oak/Proceedings/Herkert.html

Alberta Provincial Government Fish & Wildlife Service
http://www.gov.ab.ca/env/fw/theatsp/shrike/sta.html

Canadian Wildlife Service
http://www.ec.gc.ca/cws-scf/hww-fap/loggerhd/logger.html

Ohio Birders' Resource Center
http://aves.net/birds-of-ohio/birdlosh.htm

Nesting Brown Creepers Found in Williams County

by Jeff Grabmeier

Peterjohn and Rice (1991) recorded only four confirmed nestings of brown creepers in the state between 1982 and 1987. Given their rarity as breeding birds in Ohio, I was pleased to confirm nesting of a pair of brown creepers in May 1999 at Lake La Su An Wildlife Area in Williams County. The breeding creepers are especially significant for northwest Ohio; none of the confirmed nestings in the Atlas project took place in this area, and only three possible attempts were recorded in this quadrant of the state.

I first suspected creepers nesting at Lake La Su An in 1998, when I observed a pair between June 20 and June 22. I found them in a shallow swamp of dead trees on the west side of Lake La Su An. Because the trees were leafless and had few limbs, the birds were easy to observe. The two often fed together on the same tree, calling frequently, the male occasionally singing a full song. Every few minutes, one bird would chase the other around the swamp. Ehrlich et al. (1988) list chases as part of the courtship ritual for the species. Peterjohn and Rice (1991) state that all nests with eggs in Ohio have been found in May, so if this pair had indeed been breeding, they may have been getting a late start or making a second nesting attempt. Unfortunately, I was unable to check for the creepers any more that summer.

This year, I first noticed a pair on May 15 in the same swamp where I found them last year. On both May 15, and 16, I observed two adults carrying food behind the loose peeling bark of one of the dead trees—evidence confirming nesting. Ehrlich et al. (1988) state that brown creeper nests are usually found behind loose bark, and between 3 and 50 feet high. This nest was 20 to 25 feet above the water. Because of the nest's height and position in the swamp, I was unable to get closer looks or see any fledglings inside.

I was next able to visit the site a week later on May 23. I heard creepers in the woods surrounding the swamp, but saw no more than two at a time, though there could well have been more. I also observed one or more creepers in the same vicinity on May 30, June 13, and July 10. I also heard creeper calls on all of these dates and a full song on May 30. However, I saw no indication of a renesting attempt on any of these dates.

Evidence suggests that brown creepers are slowly expanding their range southward into Ohio (Peterjohn and Rice, 1991). The nesting attempts at Lake La Su An are certainly consistent with that trend, and point to the hope that these birds may become more frequent breeders in the state.

REFERENCES

Ehrlich, P. R., D. S. Dobkin, and D. Wheye. 1988. *The Birder's Handbook*. Simon & Schuster/Fireside.

Peterjohn, B. G., and D. L. Rice. 1991. *The Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas*. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Natural Areas and Preserves.

Western Grebe, East Fork SP, Clermont Co., 27 January 1999. Photo by Frank Renfrow.

A Western Grebe at East Fork State Park

by Hank Armstrong

On 20 January 1999, I was to attend a meeting at East Fork State Park with Charlie Clark, the park manager. Realizing I was early, I drove down to the swimming beach to check out the lake for waterfowl that might have arrived during the night. There was a large group of ring-billed and Bonaparte's gulls on the beach, and others flying out over the 2100-acre lake. On the water were several species of waterfowl and two species of grebes. Nothing too exciting, I thought, and drove over to the western edge of the large parking lot to check a cove at the foot of the hill. There I quickly discovered a large raft of horned and pied-billed grebes feeding. In plain view among them was a much larger grebe. I was sure it was either a Clark's or a western grebe. The bird was about 75 yards away, and with the morning light behind me and through my spotting scope I was able to pick up the color of the bill, which appeared greenish-yellow. After seeing the bird's black cap came just below the level of the eye, I felt sure it was a western grebe. This species is an extremely rare vagrant to Ohio, even more so away from Lake Erie.

I have seen both species in breeding plumage in the western states, but never in winter plumage. In winter, ID is more challenging, because the facial patterns tend not to be so dark and well-defined as in the breeding season. A call to our bird club hotline quickly brought out several members to help confirm the sighting. I live just twenty minutes from the lake, and went home for lunch. When I returned in early afternoon, bringing along two articles by Kim Eckert from *Birding* magazine, there were over a dozen members of the club gathered at the water's edge. In one article Eckert states "An out-of-range *Aechmophorus* grebe probably should be identified only if the bill color is clearly seen and unambiguous and if it is noted in combination with other field marks, especially the facial pattern." Our grebe's facial pattern was typical for western grebe: the black cap completely surrounded the eye area, and the lores were dark gray, not white as in Clark's grebe. The edge of the cap extended fairly straight along the head, whereas Clark's describes more of an S-curve. The bill color, seen

now without the tints of early morning light, clearly revealed the duller greenish-yellow of western grebe, not the orange-yellow of Clark's. The back and flanks were blackish-gray, as were the wings. Our bird was in late basic plumage.

With so many birders around, something else good was bound to turn up. First was an oldsquaw. The 50+ horned grebes and 40+ pied-billed grebes on the lake were themselves very unusual for this time of year. The sightings were posted on the internet that day, and more birders visited the lake the next day, among them Vic Fazio, who while watching the grebe heard a call which he recognized as a little gull's. Soon we found a first-year little gull feeding with several Bonaparte's gulls. Both the grebe and the gull were firsts for the area, and the gull was a lifer for me. During the grebe's unprecedented ten-week stay, several hundred tri-state birders came to have a look at this rarity, and the gull was an extra treat.

At times all three species of grebe and the little gull were in a single field of vision through my scope; now, that is something to experience! The following week a Harris's sparrow was discovered just over the state line in Indiana not more than forty miles from the lake. What a way to start the year's birding!

During the next few weeks the western grebe was never seen in flight. Most of the time it fed in the company of several horned and pied-billed grebes. As the weeks passed, the grebe did a lot of preening, and began to spend more time away from the cove, feeding further out in the lake. After the other grebes had all left the lake, the western grebe was seen resting and diving for food in the company of a common loon. They favored a new area near the saddle dam, a construction of large rocks further to the west. As the weeks turned into months, the bird became more elusive. The boating traffic increased from virtually none to constant activity throughout the day. Still, no one ever saw the bird take flight. The only time it was heard calling was when Frank Renfrow was observing it from the road above the saddle dam on 22 March.

One of the most interesting observations I made during the first week or so was the interaction between the gulls and the grebes. Each morning shortly after daylight, the gulls began to congregate in the cove where the majority of the grebes chose to feed. They coursed back and forth until a grebe surfaced, then descended on it to try to steal its catch. The little gull was often seen resting on the water among the grebes, where it was quite adept at picking morsels from the surface. On occasion it hovered overhead before diving on a grebe, and at other times it landed on the lake and picked peacefully at the surface for food. When during their feeding episodes all the gulls cried out, the little gull could be heard calling a soft "kek-kek." Its call was not loud or strong, and among hungry ring-billeds it was tough to pick it out with my old ears!

The little gull was last seen on February 6th, and the most accommodating western grebe was last sighted on 21 April 1999.

REFERENCES

Eckert, K. 1993. Identification of Western and Clark's Grebes. *Birding* 25: 304-310.
Eckert, K. 1995. Western and Clark's Grebes. *Birding* 27: 54-55.

Recent Actions of the Ohio Bird Records Committee

The eleven-member Ohio Bird Records Committee (OBRC) exists to increase knowledge of Ohio's birdlife by validating bird records, maintaining for the public archives of bird occurrences, and establishing the official state list of bird species. Like *The Ohio Cardinal*, it relies vitally upon the voluntary participation of the birding public in submitting records. Jim McCormac, the OBRC's Secretary, furnished us with the following information on actions taken by the OBRC during his tenure.

ACCEPTED RECORDS: Documentation received for the following species was judged sufficient to verify the record by at least nine members of the Committee:

Western Grebe—Clermont County, Jan 1999
Northern Gannet—Lake County, Dec 1998
Magnificent Frigatebird—Ottawa County, Oct 1998
White Ibis I—Wyandot County, July 1998
White Ibis II—Wyandot County, July 1998
Glossy Ibis—Erie County, Jun 1997
Glossy Ibis—Brown County, Oct 1997
Glossy Ibis—Lake County, Oct 1998
Ross's Goose—Wyandot County, Nov 1998
Ross's Goose—Ashtabula County, Nov 1998
Eurasian Wigeon—Ottawa County, Apr 1998
Eurasian Wigeon—Erie County, Apr 1998
Eurasian Wigeon—Wayne County, Apr 1998
King Eider—Lake County, Mar 1998
Long-tailed Jaeger—Lucas County, May 1997
Long-tailed Jaeger—Lake County, Sep 1998
Black-headed Gull—Cuyahoga County, Mar 1998
Black-headed Gull—Ashtabula County, Mar 1998
Mew Gull—Lake County, Jan 1998
California Gull—Lorain County, Dec 1997
Ross's Gull—Ashtabula County, Dec 1997
Ross's Gull—Lake County, Nov 1998
Rufous Hummingbird—Lake County, Jun 1997
Rufous Hummingbird—Lake County, Nov 1998
Say's Phoebe—Knox County, Dec 1997
Western Kingbird—Wyandot County, Jun 1998
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher—Ottawa County, May 1998
Common Raven—Lake County, Mar 1998
Bewick's Wren—Pike County, Apr 1998
Northern Wheatear—Marion County, Nov 1998
Swainson's Warbler—Ottawa County, Apr 1998
Le Conte's Sparrow—Lorain County, Oct 1997

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

Northern Gannet—Lorain County, Nov 1998
Tufted Duck—Wayne County, Mar 1998
Ferruginous Hawk—Darke County, Dec 1997
Gyrfalcon—Lake County, Feb 1997
Yellow Rail—Lake County, Sep 1998
Northern Lapwing—Ashtabula County, Mar 1997
Spotted Redshank—Hamilton County, Aug 1996
American Oystercatcher—Lake County, Sep 1996
Parasitic Jaeger—Lake County, Jan 1997
Black-headed Gull—Lake County, Jan 1997
California Gull—Ashtabula County, Nov 1998
California Gull—Lorain County, Nov 1998
California Gull—Lorain County, Nov 1998
Least Tern—Lucas County, Jun 1998
Townsend's Solitaire—Wyandot County, Feb 1997
Virginia's Warbler—Cuyahoga County, May 1997

RECORDS IN RECIRCULATION: Three records are currently being recirculated, the first two by virtue of having received from 6 to 8 votes to accept, and the third by request of a Committee member. A fourth report, having completed recirculation without a final decision, will be considered at the next annual meeting in Mar 2000.

Common Raven—Trumbull County, Apr 1999
MacGillivray's Warbler—Stark County, Jan 1999
Glaucous-winged Gull—Cuyahoga County, Jan 1989
Gyrfalcon—Lucas County, Apr 1998

In pending actions, eight sets of documentation are undergoing their initial review: violet-green swallow, ruff, long-billed curlew, "Eurasian" teal, Le Conte's sparrow, least tern, purple gallinule, and spotted towhee. The review process is now caught up with records in arrears, and is proceeding in timely fashion.

In other actions, the Committee decided at the annual meeting in March 1999 not to accept for the public record, consequent to a Committee member's request to recirculate, a report of a slaty-backed gull from December of 1992 to February of 1993, in Lake and Lorain counties. A decision was also made to remove Eurasian wigeon from the Review List, the frequency of its reports no longer supporting its inclusion.

DOCUMENTATION: The Ohio Bird Records Committee, on behalf of the birders of the state, eagerly solicits details—written accounts, photographs, sound recordings—on sightings of Review List species in Ohio. All of us owe a great debt to observers of days gone by who took the time to record and send in documentation of unusual species. No reliable checklist or field guide can be developed without an extensive background of documentary evidence from field observers. Careful observation, good record-keeping and field notes, photographs, sketches, audio and video tapes, together with sound standards applied to verification, go together to build a complete and accurate picture of our avifauna for all of us. The collecting of specimens on the part of amateurs is forbidden for nearly all species these days, and scientists do far less collecting than formerly, so the expansion and refinement of our knowledge about our birdlife increasingly depends upon verifiable reports from field observers. Lacking a specimen in a museum tray, we have to make sure that the more ephemeral observations we make are suitable for a permanent record, and solid enough for everyone to rely upon long after we are gone.

In a more personal sense, preparing documentation on a sighting helps us all become more careful and observant while we're out in the field. Painstaking scrutiny and note-taking in an organized system used for documentation of a rare bird help develop lifelong habits that will serve us well. And birders are always eager to share their discoveries—what better way to do so than to fully document our encounter with something extraordinary? Knowing what is extraordinary involves a familiarity with the Review List.

THE REVIEW LIST: *The Ohio Cardinal* periodically publishes the Review List, a list of bird species sufficiently rare in Ohio as to require documentation (written details, photos, recordings, or physical evidence) satisfactory to the OBRC in order to enter the official Ohio bird records. Specifically, it includes:

- — any species with no accepted record for the state.
- — any recorded species for which the known frequency is no greater than 2 individuals per year over the past ten years.
- — any species for which the known frequency is greater than 2, but less than 3 records per year over the past ten years, as determined by vote of the OBRC.

The Review List is continually revised by the OBRC; over the past several years, species removed from the List, other than Eurasian wigeon, have included pomarine jaeger, Sabine's gull, and clay-colored sparrow; species added have included Ross's gull and boreal owl.

To keep both the Review List and Ohio's official state list up to date and accurate, the OBRC urges observers of these species to send in documentation of sightings to OBRC Secretary Jim McCormac, ODNR/DNAP, 1889 Fountain Sq, Bldg F-1, Columbus, OH 43224 or via email at jmcormac@gcfn.org. A copy of a form useful for this purpose is available from the OBRC at that address or from *The Ohio Cardinal*.

The Review List consists of the following species, plus any species not yet recorded in Ohio:

Pacific Loon
Western Grebe
Black-capped Petrel
Leach's Storm-Petrel
Northern Gannet
Brown Pelican
Anhinga
Magnificent Frigatebird
Tricolored Heron
White Ibis
Glossy Ibis
White-faced Ibis
Roseate Spoonbill
Wood Stork
Fulvous Whistling-Duck
Ross's Goose
Cinnamon Teal
Tufted Duck
King Eider
Common Eider
Barrow's Goldeneye
Swallow-tailed Kite
Mississippi Kite
Harris's Hawk
Swainson's Hawk
Gyrfalcon
Prairie Falcon
Yellow Rail
Black Rail
Purple Gallinule
Northern Lapwing
Snowy Plover
Wilson's Plover
Piping Plover
Black-necked Stilt
Spotted Redshank
Eskimo Curlew
Long-billed Curlew
Red-necked Stint
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
Curlew Sandpiper
Ruff
Eurasian Woodcock
Parasitic Jaeger
Long-tailed Jaeger
Black-headed Gull
Heermann's Gull
Mew Gull
California Gull
Ross's Gull
Ivory Gull
Royal Tern
Arctic Tern
Least Tern
Large-billed Tern
Thick-billed Murre
Black Guillemot
Long-billed Murrelet
Ancient Murrelet
Atlantic Puffin
Smooth-billed Ani
Groove-billed Ani
Northern Hawk Owl
Burrowing Owl
Great Gray Owl
Boreal Owl
Rufous Hummingbird
Red-cockaded Woodpecker
Black-backed Woodpecker
Gray Flycatcher
Say's Phoebe
Vermilion Flycatcher
Western Kingbird
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
Black-billed Magpie
Common Raven
Violet-green Swallow
Boreal Chickadee
Rock Wren
Bewick's Wren
Northern Wheatear
Mountain Bluebird
Townsend's Solitaire
Varied Thrush
Sprague's Pipit
Bohemian Waxwing
Black-throated Gray Warbler
Townsend's Warbler
Kirtland's Warbler
Swainson's Warbler
Painted Redstart
Western Tanager
Green-tailed Towhee
Spotted Towhee
Bachman's Sparrow
Black-throated Sparrow
Lark Bunting
Baird's Sparrow
Le Conte's Sparrow
Harris's Sparrow
Smith's Longspur
Black-headed Grosbeak
Painted Bunting
Great-tailed Grackle
Bullock's Oriole
Brambling
Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch
Pine Grosbeak
Hoary Redpoll

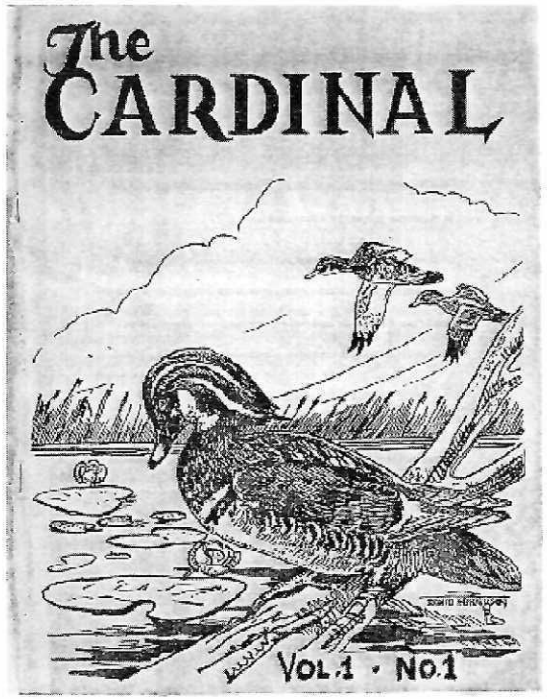
Notices

Ohio Checklist: The Ohio Bird Records Committee and ODNR's Division of Natural Areas and Preserves recently collaborated on a new publication, the "Birds of Ohio Field Checklist." This pocket-sized five-fold checklist on heavy stock includes all the species on the official Ohio list in the latest taxonomic order, annotated as to breeding status, nature of documentation of records, native or introduced status, and highlighting Review List species with the last year of their accepted records. More than a checklist, it can also serve as a compact reference to Ohio's avifauna that users will find themselves referring to frequently, thus deserving places both in the pocket and on the desk. Thanks to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, the checklist is available free of charge by mail at ODNR/DNAP, 1889 Fountain Square, Building F-1, Columbus, OH 43224-1331 or by telephone at (614) 265-6453.

Birds Online: Chase-happy twitchers will no doubt find the news about good birds in this magazine a bit stale. Birders with Internet connections—and no one with a good public library nearby is denied them—are increasingly relying on electronic updates. Several of the Ohio phone-in rare bird alerts are now transcribed for the Internet, and the very latest news is available on ohio-birds, a listserv. To subscribe, send an e-mail message addressed to listproc@envirolink.org with the subject line left blank, and a message consisting simply of the words: subscribe ohio-birds; follow these words with your name. To unsubscribe, do exactly the same thing, substituting unsubscribe for subscribe in the message. You can preview ohio-birds and dozens of other listservs from all over the world by going to http://www-stat.wharton.upenn.edu/~siler/homepage.html and choosing Birdmail. Our recommended website of the season is http://www.pwrc.nbs.gov/, a huge site full of useful information on birds.

Wildlife Area Maps: Maps of wildlife areas administered by the Division of Wildlife of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, along with many other publications—ask for a list of them—are available from the ODNR's Public Information Center, 1889 Fountain Square, Building C-1, Columbus, OH 43224, phone number (614) 265-6791. Maps and some other items are free of charge in quantities of 5 or fewer; each ten items or less requires $1 for postage. Maps can also be downloaded from ODNR's website at http://www.dnr.state.oh.us and printed off.

North American Birds: Many readers of this publication send their bird reports each season to *The Ohio Cardinal*, and also to local publications like *The Bobolink* and *The Cleveland Bird Calendar*. There is of course a national publication that relies on bird reports of continental significance, *North American Birds,* recently titled *Field Notes* and earlier *American Birds*. The subregional editor for the Middlewestern Prairie Region for this publication, Rob Harlan, welcomes reports of significance to that region (unusual species, unusual numbers or early or late occurrences of any species, photos of same, etc) within 15 days of the end of the standard reporting periods, i.e., 15 Aug, 15 Dec, 15 Mar, and 15 Jun to him at 7072 Parma Park Blvd, Cleveland, OH 44130. The major birding publications in Ohio freely share their sightings information so that everyone benefits from field observers' discoveries, but make sure your data get to all the right places because their schedules of publication differ.



The above image is a reproduction of David Henderson's artwork which graced the cover of *The Ohio Cardinal* Vol. 1, No. 1. As you can see, a lot has changed in the last 21 years. *The Ohio Cardinal* was started in 1978 and the first issue covered the Spring season of that year. For the history buffs out there, here are some interesting facts about the first issue:

- The first issue was 28 pages in length and contained the seasonal reports plus two articles: "Pine Siskins Nesting in Toledo" by Tom Kemp and "Documentation of Extraordinary Sight Records" by Jim Fry.
- Thirteen species reported during this season required documentation (numbers in parentheses equal the number of reports): Red-necked grebe (3), little blue heron (1; did not nest in Ohio until 1983), snowy egret (1; did not nest in Ohio until 1983), northern goshawk (2), sandhill crane (1), stilt sandpiper (2), Hudsonian godwit (1), Iceland gull (1), laughing gull (1), Bohemian waxwing (1 on 12 Mar at Pearson Park, *Lucas*), western meadowlark (1), house finch (only 2 reports!), and white-winged crossbill (1).
- Wild turkeys were scarce with only two reports. Northern bobwhites were equally uncommon with only four reports...remember the winter of 1977-78?
- Dowitchers could only be identified to genus in 1978 because field separation of the two species was as yet unclear.
- Twenty-six birders contributed to the first issue, whereas 235 birders contributed to this issue (Vol. 22, No. 3).

It is our goal to continue a long tradition of excellence started by those who pioneered this first issue in 1978. We hope you enjoy!

☐ **A friendly reminder...**

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