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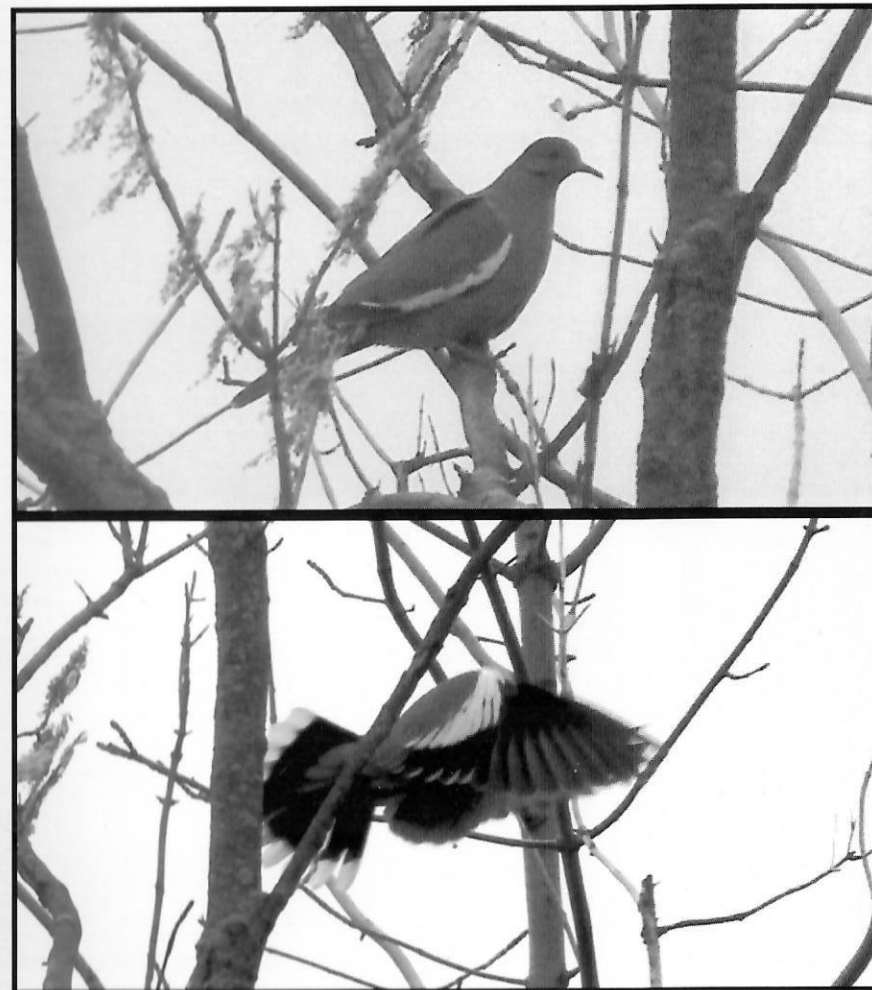
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The Ohio Cardinal is a quarterly publication devoted to the study and appreciation of Ohio's birdlife.

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 Winter (Dec.-Feb.)-March 25 Spring (Mar.-May)-June 25 Summer (June-July)-August 25 Autumn (Aug.-Nov.)-December 25	Please send all reports to: Bill Whan 223 E. Tulane Road Columbus, OH 43202 billwhan@columbus.rr.com
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On the Cover: Pictured at rest and taking flight-- never to be refound-- was Ohio's fourth record of white-winged dove *Zenaida asiatica*, sighted 28 Apr by J. Habig in Delaware County. Photos by Troy Shively.



Winter 2006-2007 Overview and Reports

by Bill Whan
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This spring's abnormal weather dramatically affected many birds. March extended the overall warm trend of winter, with temperatures 5.3 degrees F above the average, and was quite wet, with 3.78 inches (~57%) more than normal precipitation in mid-state. May too averaged quite warm, 3.5 degrees above normal, but with only ~58% of normal rainfall.

April was another story. Its very cold spell most noticeably influenced birds. Most of the month averaged 6.4 degrees above normal, but between the 4th to the 16th came days of frost and temperatures averaging 13 degrees below normal overall. Such conditions would not have been so eventful in March, but on this schedule it coincided with flowering and/or fruiting of many plant foods for migrants, as well as accompanying emergences of insects, and impeded in some ways the spring migration. Before its arrival, many plants were already two weeks ahead of schedule. With Lake Erie open, the predictable occurred in the snow belt, with 30+ inches on the ground in Solon the 9th; Toledo had 13.4 inches during April. Even in the southernmost counties die-off of leaves at treetops cast a pall over the spring landscape. Some birds arriving early to take advantage of March warmth paid the ultimate price. Many effects may linger, with reduced food sources persisting into the coming year.

Migration slowed after a first wave of early movers, especially with the April cold snap. Early migrants like waterfowl had largely left the state by the time and were unaffected. Impacts on Carolina wrens, bobwhites, northern mockingbirds, etc. by snow cover at such a time were expected. Reduced catches at insect traps were reported. Veteran observer Bob Royse reported on 10 April that no new birds seemed to have arrived in the Shawnee SF since 2 April; Rob Thorn reported few changes in birdlife in Columbus between the 9th and the 16th. After the ensuing thaw, migration was a week or more behind schedule. Some early breeders, such as phoebes, apparently abandoned nests during the April freeze, then resumed. A big push on the third week of the month was noticeable, but migration still lagged slightly behind at April's end.

Birds of passage adapted by delaying slightly their local movements, or relying on food sources different from the usual. Widely noticed, unprecedented numbers of rose-breasted grosbeaks visited feeders in mid-April. Some migrant shorebirds, who are headed for the high Arctic and shrug off cold spells, had good local numbers this spring. Prairie-loving species like golden-plovers and pectoral sandpipers were seen in decent numbers, but numbers of local breeders like killdeers seemed less than robust at the same time.

Lake Erie water levels were the highest since '95-'96, exacerbating the erosion of natural features (our Canadian neighbors now talk of a "pointless Pelee"). The much shallower Western Basin especially is increasingly defined by artificial shorelines; an offshore boat trip provides extensive views of riprap and dikes, especially—ironically enough—in the wildlife areas. Such shorelines are not inviting to wading birds and other forms of imperiled wildlife such as marsh-spawning fishes or native mussels. The effect is cumulative, as armored shorelines increase erosion on unarmored ones. This spring, a drawdown at Metzger Marsh supplied some habitat features that characterized a more natural shoreline there, and attracted good numbers of birds for only the second spring since the completion of the Pharaonic dike system there twelve years ago.

This spring 15 rare review species were reported, fewer than last year, but interesting overall: Ross's goose, cackling goose (3), tricolored heron (2), glossy ibis

(multiple), white-faced ibis (multiple), Swainson's hawk (3), piping plover (3), black-necked stilt (3), Eurasian collared-dove, white-winged dove, scissor-tailed flycatcher, loggerhead shrike (2), Kirtland's warbler, spotted towhee, and Harris's sparrow (2). As always, we report them here provisionally and without attribution, and observers are reminded that acceptable documentation is required to enter occurrences of rare birds to the official Ohio records; please send details to the Ohio Bird Records Committee; the address for Secretary Tom Kemp is inside the front cover.

In this issue, beyond our regular features, there appear accounts of Ohio passenger pigeon populations from over a century ago, as well as an inspiring article about creating shorebird habitats in the state. We hope readers will profit from reading them, and that they'll be moved to offer contributions of their own to Ohio's ornithological record in the *Ohio Cardinal*.

Corrigenda: In the Reports for the spring 2006 season, the 200 ruddy ducks at Lake Milton occurred on 7 April. In last issue's Reports, delete Butler from listed counties with northern shrikes; the 10 Feb Virginia rail was seen at SVWA; the harlequin duck photo pictured an immature male; and add a lesser black-backed gull in Mansfield 27 Dec (*vide* S. McKee), a third-winter bird and two adults at CFR 14-20 Jan, and an adult at Chas Mill Lk 12 Jan (all J. Herman); the 24 Jan pipits were in Fairfield Co.

The Reports follow the nomenclature and taxonomic order of the 7th edition of the *AOU Check-list of North American Birds* (1998), including the 47th Supplement (July 2006), except for the capitalization of English names of birds, where we follow standard English usage. Underlined names of species indicate those on the OBRC Review List; documentation is needed to add reports of these species to official state records, or to attributions (i.e., reporters' names) in the Reports. Where supplied, county names appear *italicized*. Unless numbers are specified, sightings refer to single birds. Abbreviations, conventions, locations, and symbols used in the Reports should be readily understood, with the possible exceptions of the following: ad=adult; alt=alternate (breeding) plumage; BCSP=Buck Ck SP in *Clark*; BIWA=Big Isl WA in *Marion*; BSBO=Black Swamp Bird Observatory; CCE=Crane Ck estuary in ONWR; CPNWR=Cedar Point NWR in *Lucas*; CVNP=Cuyahoga Valley Natl Pk in *Cuyahoga* and *Summit*; Dike 14=the Gordon Park impoundment in Cleveland; EFSP=East Fork SP in *Clermont*; eop=end of the period, in this case 30 Nov 2006; Deer Creek=Deer Creek WA in *Pickaway/Fayette*; EHSP=East Hbr SP in *Ottawa*; fide="in trust of," said of data conveyed on behalf of another person; Funk WA is in *Wayne*; Gilmore Ponds is in *Butler*; GLSM=Grand Lk St Marys in *Mercer/Auglaize*, HBSP=Headlands Beach SP in *Lake*; HBSNP=Headlands Beach SNP in *Lake*; HWSP=Hueston Wds SP (*Butler/Preble*); imm=immature; Indian Creek WA is in *Brown*; Killbuck=Killbuck Marsh WA in *Wayne/Holmes*; Killdeer & KPWA=Killdeer Plains WA in *Wyandot*; LSR=Lakeshore Reservation (MP) in *Lake*; Magee=Magee Marsh WA in *Ottawa/Lucas*; MBSP=Maumee Bay SP in *Lucas*; MCWS=Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary in *Mahoning*; Medusa=Medusa Marsh in *Erie*; Metzger=Metzger Marsh WA in *Lucas*; MP=Metropark; m obs=many observers; MWW=Miami-Whitewater Wetlands in *Hamilton*; NWR=National Wildlife Refuge; OBBA=Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas, second edition; OBRC=Ohio Bird Records Committee; ODOV=Ohio Division of Wildlife; ONWR=Ottawa NWR in *Ottawa/Lucas*; ONWRC=monthly bird census at ONWR, reported by E. Pierce; PCWA=Pickerel Ck WA in *Sandusky*; ph=photograph, PP=power plant, Res=Reservoir; Res'n=Reservation; SCBC=Greater Akron Audubon Society Summit County Bird Count of 16-25 June; Shawnee=Shawnee SF/SP in *Scioto*; SF=State Forest; SNP=State Nature Preserve; SP=State Park; SVWA=Spring Valley WA in *Greene/Warren*; VOA=Voice of America Park in *Butler*, WA=Wildlife Area.

The Reports

Greater white-fronted goose: An immature bird found near **Lucas (Richland)** 5-7 Mar (J. Herman) was relocated at **Charles Mill Lk** on the 9th (G. Cowell). Not much of a showing after last spring's 240 birds.

Snow goose: Single-digit March reports came from **Trumbull, Franklin, Wayne,** and **Clark**, with a nice flock of ~300 near **Toledo** the 19th (M. Zuillhof). Four stragglers spent 19-21 Apr at **Acton Lk** (D. Russell et al.).

Ross's goose: One reported from **Clinton** 3 Mar was determined by the OBRC to show several intermediate features with snow goose—a premonition of a sticky ID problem likely to increase. One was widely observed in **Holmes** 30 Mar - 27 Apr.

Cackling goose: Reported were one in **Pickaway** 3 Mar, one at **SVWA** 8 Mar, and two at the **GLSM** fish hatchery 18 Mar. The OBRC still requests documentation for this newly-designated species.

Mute swan: A potential pest increasingly worth monitoring, especially in the northern counties. J. Dolan reported 33 in **Columbiana** 12 Mar, C. Bombaci 13 in **Hoover Res** 20 Mar, V. Fazio eight at **EHSP** 2 Apr, and at **Metzger R&S Harlan** had 22 on 21 Apr, 32 on 6 May, and five on 22 May; the latter observers also reported 38 in the **Marblehead** area 21 May.

Tundra swan: Unprecedented numbers at many spots this winter. Not long ago, these swans passed through a rather narrow sliver of NE Ohio on their spring return. This year, reports of multiple birds came from **Ashland, Pickaway, Clinton, Auglaize, Wayne, Wyandot,** and **Hardin**, as well. The migration took place in March, with the latest reported 24 at **Funk** the 26th (S. Snyder). The high count of 1300+, no doubt augmented by a large wintering contingent, came from **ONWR** on 12 Mar (A. Sewell).

Wood duck: Early concentrations peaked at ~300 at **Indian Ck WA** 4 Mar (B. Stanley). 179 on 26 May at **CPNWR** (E. Tramer) were probably males dodging parental duties.



A snow goose touched down at Acton Lk 19 April. Photo by Dave Russell.



Bruce Glick got a photo of a rarity for Holmes County—a Ross's goose—on 9 April.

Gadwall: Spring concentrations in w. Lk Erie marshes were considerable, with 725 at CPNWR (E. Tramer) and 850+ at Metzger (V. Fazio) on 1 Apr, where K. Kaufman reported 1320 the following day. Ten remained at the latter location 13 May (R&S Harlan).

Eurasian wigeon: A few Eurasians are a spring standby. A drake frequented Funk from 21 (Levi Yoder *vide* S. Snyder) through 28 Mar (E. Schlabach). J. Pogacnik found another at ONWR 8 Apr, and R. Troutman one at Killbuck 22 Apr.

American wigeon: Large numbers reported included 500+ at Deer Creek 6 Mar (B. Royle) and ~700 at Killdeer on the 20th (R. Lowry). Five lingered at ONWR as late as 12 May (R&S Harlan).

American black duck: Lacking aerial survey numbers as usual, highs were 263 at Blendon Wds MP in Franklin 4 Mar, with two remaining 4 Apr (B. Simpson), 150+ at Deer Creek 6 Mar (B. Royle), and 190 at BIWA 1 Apr (V. Fazio). One remained on a CVNP pond 11 May (D. Chasar).

Mallard: As always the most numerous of our waterfowl, ~4000 were at Deer Creek 6 Mar (B. Royle); S. Snyder tallied ~700 at Funk 25 Mar.

Blue-winged teal: This tenderest of local breeders appeared 10 Mar in Portsmouth (B. Sparks), with 35 gathered at Indian Ck WA by 18 Mar (B. Stanley). In Hardin, 86 were present 6 Apr, then 412 by the 14th (R. Counts). R&S Harlan observed 75 at Metzger 21 Apr. C. Holt came across birds in Ashtabula 31 May.

Northern shoveler: The high count was a healthy 355 off CPNWR 1 Apr (E. Tramer), and inland counts of ~100 at Deer Creek 6 Mar (B. Royle) and 89 in Hardin 24 Mar (R. Counts) were good, where one remained 28 May. Castalia hosted 71 on 8 Mar for V. Fazio.

Northern pintail: Among the first ducks to move, with most gone by the second week of Mar, ~500 were at Deer Ck 11 Mar (E. Reiner), 268 in Hardin 24 Mar (R. Counts), 130 at BIWA 1 Apr, and 29 lingered in Hardin 14 Apr (Counts).

Green-winged teal: Arrived in Paulding 15 Mar (M&D Dunakin), with triple-figure reports of 189 in Hardin 24 Mar (R. Counts), 540 at BIWA 1 Apr (V. Fazio), 375 in Hardin 14 Apr (Counts), and ~100 at Metzger 21 Apr (R&S Harlan). Nesting seemed likely in Ashtabula, with birds as late as 31 May (C. Holt).

Canvasback: With larger movements behind them, cans peaked at ~275 between MBSP and Metzger on 19 Mar (M. Anderson), with a hundred inland at Funk on 18 Mar (R&S Harlan) and 85 there on the 28th (E. Schlabach). A singleton lingered at Winton Wds in Cincinnati on 22 Apr (Jay Stenger).

Redhead: The largest numbers involved ~150 at Deer Ck 6 Mar (B. Royle), 750+ off Bay View on Sandusky Bay 8 Mar (V. Fazio), 200+ on Caesar Ck Lk 13 Mar (L. Gara), ~4000 at Metzger/MBSP 19 Mar (M. Anderson), and 480 at BIWA on 1 Apr and 210 at EHSP on 3 Apr (both Fazio).

Ring-necked duck: Mostly a Mar migrant, with ~1200 on the 6th at Deer Ck (B. Royle), 1350 at Funk the 18th (R&S Harlan), ~800 at Mogadore Res the 24th (G. Bennett), numbers tailed off rapidly thereafter, with single birds reported 10 May at KPWA (Sempier) 10 May, two at Ottawa NWR the 13th (R&S Harlan), and one at Pipe Creek WA the 19th (G. Links).

Greater scaup: Inland, B. Foppe reported 40 at EFSP 7 Mar, and V. Fazio 14 at Castalia the following day. Fazio related that perhaps 5% of ~9800 scaups off EHSP were greater on 2 Apr. One persevered on Akron's Summit Lk as late as 2 May (G. Bennett).

Lesser scaup: G. Links observed ~5500 off MBSP on 3 Mar, but this species' migration is more protracted than that of others. V. Fazio counted 715 inland at BIWA on 1 Apr, then estimated a flock of ~9800 scaups to contain ~95% lessers at EHSP on the next day. At Metzger, ~2500 remained on 21 Apr for R&S Harlan. Two females dallied as late as 24 May in Hardin (R. Counts).

Surf scoter: Too numerous to detail, reports came of 105 birds in Ashland, Clark, Clermont, Clark, Clinton, Cuyahoga, Delaware, Franklin, Hamilton, Hardin, Highland, Lake, Lorain, Marion, Morrow, Noble, Richland, and Wood. High counts included 13 in Rocky River, Cuyahoga on 3 Apr (P. Lozano), 12 at Clear Fk Res 27 Apr (J. Herman), and 10 at Hoover Res on 21 Mar (R. Thorn).

White-winged scoter: Nearly all inland, with reports from 15 Mar at Seneca Lk (J. Benedetti), 6-17 Mar at Pleasant Hill Lk (J. Herman), 24 Mar at Seneca Lk (R. Schlabach), 25 Mar at KPWA (D. Overacker), 25 Mar and 8 Apr at Bresler Res in Lima (D. Dister, also 4/18), 27 Mar at Metzger (R. Nirschl), 30 Mar two at Clear Fork Res (Herman), 30-31 Mar at Pleasant Hill Res (Herman), 31 Mar at LSR (J. Pogacnik), 22 Apr in Huron (T. Kemp), 12 May two off CPNWR (E. Tramer), and one at Mosquito Lk 15 May (C. Babyak).

Black scoter: The rarest scoter in spring, a female was at the Senecaville fish hatchery 24 Mar (E. Schlabach).

Long-tailed duck: A drake was at Killbuck 17 (E. Schlabach) through 21 Mar (S. Snyder). E. Kistler found one at Mosquito Lk 18 Mar, and one discovered by D. Kersten 24 Mar in Medina was around 3 Apr for K. Neugebauer. One at Springfield Lake in Akron (G. Bennett) was found 19-21 Apr. The Dunakins had another in Paulding 6 May.

Bufflehead: A nice inland number of 250+ was at Mosquito Lk 25 Mar (A. Morrison). The Kelleys Island stronghold produced 272 on 26 Mar and 555 on 21 Apr (T. Bartlett). Extraordinary was an apparent exodus from the state 21 Apr, when G. Bennett found 101 at Long Lake, 44 at Nesmith Lk, 23 at North Res, 209 at Nimisila Res, 105 at Springfield Lk, 51 at Summit Lk, and 108 at Turkeyfoot Lk (all in Summit), and 82 at Wingfoot Lk and 193 at Mogadore Res (in Portage), for a total of over 900. The same day P. Lozano found 52 off Rocky River Pk and 95 down the road at Bradstreet Ldg. Few were reported thereafter, with a dawdler at Mosquito 15 May (C. Babyak).

Common goldeneye: No huge numbers, with high counts of ~450 at MBSP on 3 Mar (G. Links) and 905 off Kelleys Isl on 26 Mar (T. Bartlett). Tarrying in Hardin were one 21 Apr and two pairs on 19 May (R. Counts).

Hooded merganser: A modest high count as usual, 100+ with waterfowl hordes at Deer Ck SP 6 Mar (B. Royle). Females with young were reported between 6 and 21 May from Sandusky, Ashtabula, Lucas, Ottawa, and Wayne. Drake hybrids with common goldeneye were found at Medusa Marsh (12 Mar, A. Sewell) and the Lorain harbor (17 Mar, J. Pogacnik).

Common merganser: Good numbers from winter continued, with 650 at MBSP 3 Mar (G. Links); that same day J. Pogacnik counted 43 at LSR, then 1285 the following day. Twenty at Seneca Lk 24 Mar were the last migrants reported (E. Schlabach). Three at Beaver Creek SP 5 May were probably local breeders (J. Dolan).

Red-breasted merganser: A thousand were off **Rocky River** 12 Mar (P. Lozano), after which numbers at reservoirs increased: J. Benedetti had ~500 at **Seneca Lk** 15 Mar, C. Bombaci 273 at **Hoover Res** 20 Mar, V. Fazio 560 at a **Findlay** reservoir 30 Mar, and E. Kistler 100+ at **Mosquito Lk** the following day. Six hundred were still at **Conneaut** 14 Apr (C. Holt), and late were singletons there on 16 May (Holt) and at **Shreve Lk** in **Wayne** 18 May (R&S Harlan).

Ruddy duck: Continued at favored spots, such as ~500 at **Wellington Res** in **Lorain** 11 Apr (C. Caldwell), with a spike on 21 April, when G. Bennett found ~300 at **Mogadore Res** in **Portage**, and in **Summit** 250+ at **Nimisila Res** and 390+ at **Springfield Lk**. As always, several lingered, at **KPWA** 10 May (R. Sempier), and R. Counts noted a pair on 25 May and a single bird in **Hardin** 28 May.

Northern bobwhite: C. Dusthimer noted several at **Tri-Valley WA** 14 May, D. Patick 12 at **Crown City WA** 20 May, and J. Grabmeier heard birds 29 May in **Williams**, where there is apparently no active release program.

Red-throated loon: J. Pogacnik spotted one at **LSR** 1 Apr, and J. Herman an adult bird in basic plumage at **Clear Fork Res** in **Richland** 15 Apr.

Common loon: The high count was 135 on 31 Mar at **Clear Fork Res** (J. Herman). Fifty-five were at **Seneca Lk** on 24 Mar (E. Schlabach). A few hung around into May, such as flybys at **Magee** on the 12th (R&S Harlan) and in **Ashtabula** the 20th (C. Holt); one was at **Delaware Res** 25 May (B. Shively).

Horned grebe: A few had shown up throughout the winter, and modest numbers passed through beginning early in the period; the largest flight involved 115+ 21 Apr in **Summit** reservoirs (G. Bennett). Few seen thereafter.

Red-necked grebe: Scarce as usual, with three sightings: 7 Apr one off the **HBSP** breakwall (R. Hannikman), an alternate-plumaged bird at **Mosquito Lk** 22 Apr (J. Lucas *vide* C. Babyak), and another at **LSR** (J. Pogacnik) 28 Apr.

Eared grebe: Continued a recent trend by showing up in numbers: early on 10 Mar (J. McMahon, **Rocky Fork Lk**), at **Medusa** 13 Mar (S. Young), 18 Mar at **KPWA** (C. Followay et al.), at **Mentor** 14-17 Apr (*vide* L. Rosche), at **Conneaut** 14 Apr (C. Holt), at **Fairport Hbr** 15 Apr (J. Pogacnik), at a **Findlay** res 19 Apr (B. Hardesty), and a bird in alternate plumage in **Huron** 22 Apr (T. Kemp).

American white pelican: Few, and tended to be sedentary. C. Tucker found one at **BCSP** 21 Mar, which remained 22 Apr (R. Asamoto). Another at **Delaware WA** 30 Mar (Jack Stenger) persisted till 13 Apr (B. Master).

Double-crested cormorant: Moved on a schedule with waterfowl. First migrant was at **Cowan Lk** 10 Mar (L. Gara). By 31 Mar, ~200 were found at **Hoover Res** (C. Bombaci), and the following day J. Pogacnik witnessed passage of 848 at **LSR**. Some immature birds loafed at reservoirs, such as 71 remaining 8 May at **Hoover** (Bombaci).

American bittern: First of spring was one in **Lucas** on 19 Mar (M. Anderson). Reports came from fifteen other counties thereafter. As usual, most were on their way to Canada, but Atlas activities should reveal more about how many breed in Ohio. P. Rodewald heard three at **ONWR** as late as 16 May, for example.

Least bittern: A disappointingly small number of reports as usual, many of obvious northbound migrants.

Great egret: Healthy numbers, and first reported 13 Mar at **Funk WA** (C. Followay). On 1 April, S. Young estimated 46 possible nests at **Turning Pt Isl** in **Sandusky**. For perspective on this colony, Peterjohn (2001) estimated 20-30 pairs, and the *Cardinal* reported two pairs in 1995, "at least 40 nests" in 2000, "100 birds" in 2001, and "about 50 nests" in 2005. By 14 Apr, C. Caldwell found 150 at **Medusa Marsh**, numbers more reminiscent of fall gatherings there. At **Metzger**, P. Rodewald counted 241 on 10 May. On 1 May, M. Brehmer detected egrets building a nest at the same abandoned quarry in **Columbus** where they nested for the first time last spring, with a second nest underway on 18 May. One in **Conneaut** 14 Apr was out of the way (C. Holt), and May reports of non-breeders emerged at many spots. Thirty birds were at **Sandy Ridge Res'n** in **Lorain** on 30 May (C. Caldwell).

Snowy egret: One appeared in **Ross** 29 Apr (J. Ross *vide* D. Hess). The usual small numbers were found in the NW marshes, with maxima three at **Metzger Marsh** and two at **Magee Marsh** on 3 May (P. Rodewald). One in **Clermont** on 17 May (B. Stanley) was noteworthy.

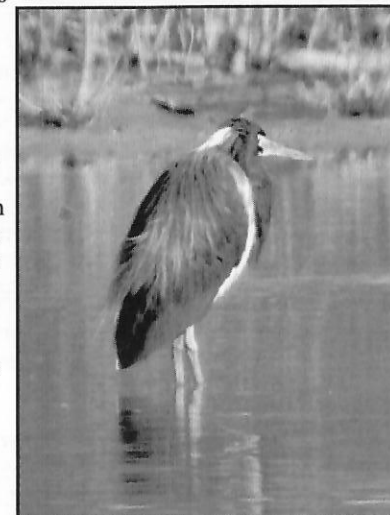
Little blue heron: Their presence in the NW marshes was as expected, with an ad and an imm at **Magee** by 22 Apr (B. Bowman). Staged a mini-invasion in the SW this spring. One was at **SVWA 2** (C. Schooley) through 10 Apr (J. Habig), and it or another there 22 Apr (L. Gara). Others were reported from **Caesar Ck SP** (14 Apr, F. Frick), **MWW** (25 Apr, J. Nicodemus), **Indian Ck WA** in **Brown** (30 Apr, B. Foppe and 8 May, Jay Stenger), and **HWSP** (23 May, A. Hickey).

Tricolored heron: Two were discovered, one at **HWSP** 21 Apr, and another 24 May at **Pipe Ck WA**. Documentation is requested.

Cattle egret: Few were reported. Near **ONWR**, L. Harder had one 26 Apr, and G. Leidy one 28 Apr. Migrants are usually reported to the south in April, but not this year; two were reported in May, one on the 4th in **Hancock** (B. Hardesty) and another on the 12th at **Killbuck WA** (E. Schlabach).

Green heron: Arrived as expected in mid-Apr, first in **Clermont** the 14th (K. Robinson), with five seen along a stretch of the **Scioto River** in **Columbus** by 1 May (B. Royle).

Black-crowned night-heron: P. Lozano's last report of the wintering birds in **Cleveland** had 76 birds there on 10 Mar. The smaller roost on the OSU campus in **Columbus** had 10 on 20 Mar (B. Fate). C. Holt reported two at **Conneaut** on 14 Apr. Twelve were found in **Winton Wds** in **Cincinnati** 10 Apr (J. Lippert); at **Spring Grove Cemetery**, a pair was present at the nesting island 1 May (Jay Stenger), then 10 on 9 May (D. Brinkman).



A tricolored heron was found for a few days at Acton Lk in Hueston Woods SP. Photo 21 Apr by Dave Russell.

Yellow-crowned night-heron: For the eleventh consecutive spring, showed up to nest on a quiet sycamore-lined street in **Columbus**. First noticed on 2 Apr, when two adults and an immature were reported by A. Paschall. Two nests were renovated and used, and ten young hatched by the eop. Elsewhere, J. Pogacnik had one roosting in his lakeside yard 8 May. L. Loibl sent an intriguing report of one in **Beaver Ck SP in Columbiana** on 25 May for the only other sighting.

Glossy ibis: Consistent with recent range expansions by ibises, numerous reports from Ohio and SE Michigan suggest a mixed flock containing as many as 7-10 of this species moving in the western Lake Erie marshes. Most Ohio reports in the area came from **Metzger Marsh**, beginning 26 Apr (six or more glossies) through the eop (m obs). Other sightings came from **Killbuck WA**, with three 10-12 May, a bird at **Prairie Oaks MP** near Columbus 15 May, one at **SVWA** 18 through 20 May; one was reported at **Sandy Ridge in Lorain** 15 May, two more at **Pipe Ck WA** on 19 May, and one at **Metzger** 29 May.

White-faced ibis: Closely related to movements of the previous species were smaller numbers of this one. One or more was reported in a flock of ten ibises, at least six of them glossies, on 26 Apr at **Metzger Marsh**. One was with six glossies there on 12 May. The last report came 29 May with one glossy. Elsewhere, one briefly accompanied the three glossy ibises at **Killbuck** on 10 May. The OBRC requests documentation for all ibis sightings.

Black vulture: Noteworthy records included 26 over **Holmes** 25 Mar (E. Schlabach), one at **LSR** way up in **Lake** 1 Apr (J. Pogacnik), one in **Coshocton** 11 Apr (L. Deininger), another in **Holmes** 13 May (J. Miller), and two in **Columbus** 27 May (T. Shively).

Turkey vulture: Gatherings of 100+ were not uncommon in the southern counties the first week of the season. Large migrant numbers showed up later, with ~900 over **Toledo** on 21 Mar (E. Tramer), and ~450 there four days later (R. Nirschl). Elsewhere along Lake Erie, on 25 Mar J. Pogacnik counted 622 at **LSR**, then farther west N. Anderson et al. had 528 at **Mentor**, and P. Lozano 138 still farther west in **Cleveland**.

Osprey: The Ohio nesters, most descended from released birds, seem to arrive ahead of migrants. Among those reported, at least one member of pairs arrived at **The Wilds** 16 Mar (A. Parker), **Jefferson** 20 Mar (S. Albaugh), **Franklin** 24 Mar (B. Simpson), **Seneca Lk** 24 Mar (R. Schlabach), **Salt Fork** 26 Mar (J. Larson), **Hoover Res** 29 Mar (C. Bombaci), **EFSP** 30 Mar (G. Fantetti), **Tappan Lake** 4 Apr (two pairs, D. Smith), **Nimisila Res** 8 Apr (R&S Harlan), **Caesar Ck SP** 9 Apr (L. Gara). Later, good numbers of migrants included 22 on 23 Apr and 31 on 27 Apr over **Conneaut** (R. Schlabach), and 20 over **Holmes** on 26 Apr (D. Kline *vide* B. Glick).

Northern harrier: Ten remained at **Mosquito Lk WA** 25 Mar (A. Morrison). Migrants observed over **Conneaut** numbered 29 on 23 Apr and 56 on 27 Apr (R. Schlabach). On 12 May, S. Snyder observed one at **ONWR**, and R&S Harlan a female in **Ottawa**. On 20 May, the Harlans had a harrier at **ONWR**, and D. Patick a male at **Crown City WA in Lawrence/Gallia**. C. Holt suspected breeding at **MCWS, GRWA, Mosquito Lk WA, and Denmark Twp in Ashtabula**.

Sharp-shinned hawk: Migrants over **Cleveland** 26 Mar numbered 21 (R&S Harlan). Over **Conneaut** on 23 Apr were 580, and on 27 Apr 182 (R. Schlabach).

Northern goshawk: J. Pogacnik had an adult 25 Mar in **LSR**, and R&S Harlan an adult and an imm over Perkins Beach in **Lakewood** 26 Mar. R. Schlabach reported an imm 29 Mar in **Tuscarawas**, and M&D Dunakin another in **Antwerp, Paulding** 10 Apr.

Red-shouldered hawk: K. Overman reported four early migrants east of **Toledo** 4 Mar, and E. Schlabach 13 over **Holmes** on the 13th. No larger number was reported than 35 over **Toledo** on 25 Mar (R. Nirschl).

Broad-winged hawk: Early was one in **Holmes** 1 Apr (E. Schlabach); the next report came from **Hamilton** on the 10th (D. Brinkman). E. Schlabach and other observers counted 2246 over **Conneaut** on 23 Apr. On 26 April, D. Kline (*vide* B. Glick) observed 329 passing over **Holmes**. By 7 May, D. Chasar had found four nests at **Brecksville Res'n in Cuyahoga**.

Swainson's hawk: Remarkably, two were seen 23 Apr at **Conneaut** by m obs, an adult dark morph in the morning and a juvenile light morph in the afternoon. Documentation is with the OBRC. An adult was reported at **Magee** 3 May as well.

Red-tailed hawk: Seventeen migrants passed over a viewpoint in **Holmes** on 13 Mar (E. Schlabach). V. Fazio photographed a pale-morph "Kriker's" form on 30 Mar at **KPWA**, where this variant has something of a history. S. Kimball (*vide* J. Kuenzli) reported a dark-morph "western" form east of **Columbus** in late Mar.

Golden eagle: Wintering birds at **The Wilds** continued with one 3 Mar (G. Crippen), and one 7 Mar (A. Parker). Migrants probably from elsewhere appeared at **Bay View (Erie)** 21 Mar (M. Krejci), **NE Mahoning** 12 Apr (2nd yr, C. Holt), west of **Chillicothe** 15 Apr (imm, D. Hess), 16 Apr near **Upper Sandusky** (2nd yr, J. Kuenzli), and **Funk WA** on 21 Apr (imm, R. Troutman).

Merlin: The latest sighting of a wintering bird in **Garfield Hts** came on 30 Mar (L. Gardella). Thirty-three sightings were reported from April, predominantly from along the Lake, with only one from May, on the 10th flying west along the shoreline at **ONWR** (P. Rodewald).



In a scene now familiar in urban settings, this Cooper's hawk protects a kill on a lawn at Ohio State University. Photo by Kevin Fitzsimmons 19 April.



Dave Lewis relates that this rare pure albino red-tailed hawk was injured by a train and found at W. 130th St in Cleveland recently. This photo was taken at the Medina Raptor Center this spring.

Peregrine falcon: On 17 Mar, D. Chasar observed one attacking and killing a ring-billed gull at **Lorain** harbor. One was observed carrying food at **Conneaut** 14 Apr (C. Holt).

King rail: Skimpily reported. Two were detected at **Springville Marsh** in **Seneca** 5 May (B. Warner et al.), and singles at **Magee** 16 May (A. Boone) and **Mallard Club Marsh** 19 May (G. Links).

Virginia rail: First reported at **Springville Marsh** 25 Mar (T. Bartlett), then widely over the following two months. High counts were of five, at **SVWA** 22 Apr (R. Lowry), and at the **CVNP** sanitation pond 21 May (D. Chasar).

Sora: Few reports, the first of them on 22 Mar at **Magee** (R. Nirschl). The high count was ten, at **ONWR** on 12 May (R&S Harlan), and the latest came from a **Tuscarawas** hayfield on 23 May (R. Schlabach).

Common moorhen: Few reported, with none from some customary haunts. First noted 21 Apr at **HWSP** (D. Russell), and a high count of six at **ONWR** 12 May (R&S Harlan).

American coot: Flocks grew near the end of Mar into four figures, when V. Fazio counted 1080 at **KPWA** the 30th, then ~1300 at **BIWA** and 1850 at **Metzger** the following day. At the latter location, coots still numbered ~2000 on 30 Apr (E. Tramer). Nearly all continued their journey, but P. Rodewald was to count 512 at **Metzger** as late as 3 May, and 50 were at **ONWR** the 12th. C. Holt had a possible nest, unexpected at **Conneaut** in May.



Possibly thin-shelled, a broken egg at Cleveland's Terminal Tower peregrine nest site, found 21 Mar, was the only casualty. The first sound egg pipped 25 Mar. Photo by Scott Wright.

Sandhill crane: Nearly 500 reported statewide, about 300 in the SW counties, the last 25 migrants in **Clermont** latish on 26 Apr (N. Keller). Beyond the half-dozen **Wayne** breeders, and the birds seen yearly in **Geauga** and **Lorain**, NE migrants were seen at **Mosquito Lk** (E. Kistler, 31 Mar), **Summit** 10 May (D. Chasar) **Mentor** (eight on 25 Mar, N. Anderson), and Mar to 28 May in **Richland** (J. Herman). The high count was 65 at **MWW** 4 Mar (D. Conover). For the third year, a pair returned to **SVWA**, quickly becoming inconspicuous; though courtship has been observed, no obvious sign of successful nesting—such as colts—there has ever been announced.

Black-bellied plover: First detected as a duo in **Wayne** 24 Apr (S. Snyder). J. Hull found one at the **VOA** on 7 May, and C. Holt 15 at **Conneaut** on 16 May, but most reports came from the NW marshes, with a high count of 64 on 28 May at **Metzger Marsh** (K. Kaufman).

American golden-plover: Appeared in good numbers in favored spots. On 30 Mar, R. Counts found 700+ in n. **Wyandot**. Two days later V. Fazio counted 1030 in the **Big Island** vicinity. Two days still later T. Shively encountered 400+ in **Auglaize**. P. Gardner discovered ~200 at **Killdeer** 14 Apr, and on the 27th, both Shively and R. Sempier found 1000+ on fields near **BIWA**. Numbers at **Metzger** topped out at 120 on 8 May (R. Nirschl). Last reported were four in **Hardin** 24 May (Counts).

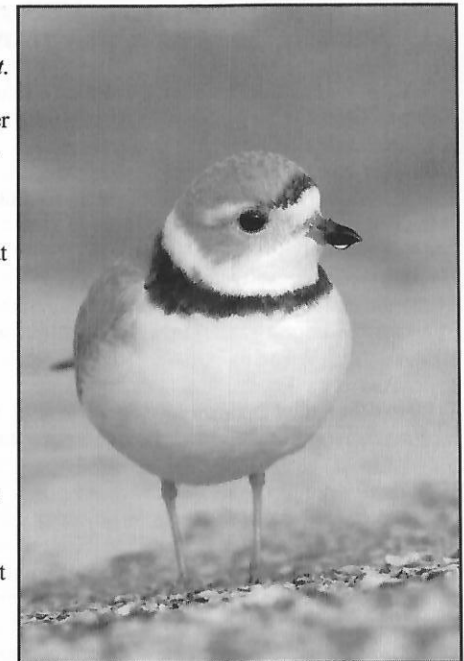
Semipalmated plover: All records came from May, with 59 found as late as the 29th in **Hardin** (R. Counts) and four at **Conneaut** the last day of the month (C. Holt). **Funk** hosted a good flock of 125+ on the 12th (E. Schlabach), but most sightings came from the western half of the state, where the potential of a place like **Metzger** for shorebirds was borne out by a new second-highest state record of 435 semipalmated plovers there 10 May (P. Rodewald).

Piping plover: **Metzger's** miniature beach attracted an unbanded individual 28 Apr. **HBSP** continued to set records, with two birds seen there 1 May and one on May 2; one was banded, *fide* A. Jones as a hatchling in Michigan's Sleeping Bear Dunes in either 2005 or 2006.

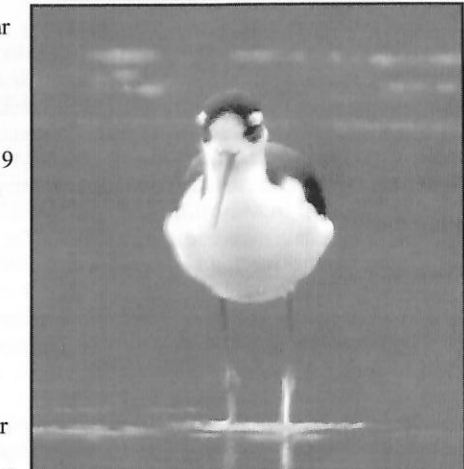
Killdeer: Off to a decent start, with 40-50 in a **Perry** field as early as 2 Mar (J. Faulkner), and ~100 at a **Cincinnati** park 9 Mar (B. Hull), numbers were not so good thereafter.

Black-necked stilt: One waded the shallows of **Acton Lk** 18-21 Apr (ph, m obs). A male and female raised hopes of nesting at **MWW** 25 May, but nothing came of them.

American avocet: P. Chaon reported four at **Metzger** 28 Apr, and S. Jackson 46 at **Walborn Res** on 2 May, a new state record number for an inland location.



This piping plover entertained many while combing the Metzger Marsh beach on 28 April. Photo by Brian Zwiebel.



Among HWSP's many rarities this season, this black-necked stilt was among the stars. Photo courtesy of Dave Russell.