

# Eastern Highlands & Upper Ohio River Valley



Victor W. Fazio, III | Rick Wiltraut

In many respects, birds of this season reminded one of the post-El Niño winters of 1983-1984 and 1998-1999. The November invasion of Lake Erie by maritime species was felt well into December. An early December chill quickly gave way to soggy warmth that turned spring-like across the Region after Christmas and entering the New Year. The heron family may never have been so well represented in winter as this season. Waterfowl and songbird species lingered, even foregoing migration altogether, some in extraordinary numbers, notably swallows. More seasonal temperatures returned in mid-January, but it took a severe chill in the waning days continuing through February to ice over much of the Region's waterways. This wintry weather induced a number of species to move southward, while others were snared in the quickly forming ice. An open Lake Erie, offering up lake-effect snow through much of the season, was mostly ice-bound by mid-February. Gull variety increased substantially inland to the Three Rivers area of southwestern Pennsylvania, while to the south, West Virginia enjoyed a tremendous incursion of waterfowl. Western additions to the Region's avifauna included an Inca Dove and a Virginia's Warbler, both firsts for West Virginia, and a Scott's Oriole, a first for Pennsylvania.

**Abbreviations:** Deer Creek (Deer Creek Res., Pickaway/Ross, OH); C.C.S.P. (Caesar Creek S. P., Warren/Greene, OH); G.L.R. (Green Lane Res., Montgomery, PA); J.H.N.W.R. (John Heinz NWR, Philadelphia, PA); M.C.W.M.A. (Middle Creek W.M.A., Lancaster/Lebanon, PA); O.D.N.R. (Ohio Department of Natural Resources); O.N.W.R. (Ottawa N.W.R., Lucas/Ottawa, OH); P.W.R.S. (Pennsylvania Winter Raptor Survey); P.I.S.P. (Presque Isle S. P., Erie, PA); P.M.W.B.C. (Philadelphia Mid-Winter Bird Census; 6 Jan); P.W.T. (Penn Warner Tract, Bucks, PA); P.V.P. (Peace Valley Park, Bucks, PA); R.C.B. (Robert C. Byrd Lock &

Dam, Mason, WV); S.N.P. (State Nature Preserve); T.L. (Tullytown Landfill, Bucks, PA).

## WATERFOWL

A late flight of Tundra Swans over Lake, OH 2 Dec numbered 123 (JP); 1300-1600 wintered in *Ottawa*, OH (O.D.N.R. aerial survey, m.ob.), and 90 wintered at Killdeer Plains W.A., Wyandot, OH 29 Dec+ (R. Lowry, BS, VF). Equally notable, 200 were found around Hamburg, PA 31 Dec (*vide* RK) and 210 in *Indiana*, PA 27 Dec (M. Higbee). After 3 appeared in *Jefferson*, WV 2 Feb (MO), the species was widely observed across the state, peaking at 21 at R.C.B. 24 Feb (DP). Mute Swans ventured southward, with 4 in *Mason*, WV 24 Feb (R. Talbert). Two Ross's Geese appeared at Deer Creek 4-15 Dec (RR, m.ob.); perhaps the same 2 were located nearby in *Ross*, OH 9-20 Jan (JL, B. Whan, D. Hess et al.). Another was found in *Ottawa*, OH 11 Feb (JP). A flock of 6 was present near Martinsburg, WV 12-15 Jan (S. Harris, MO), matching the seasonal tally for Pennsylvania, where 3 resided in *Chester* 6 Jan-25 Feb (m.ob.). While common in winter within the Eastern Highlands, Snow Geese were more prevalent across the w. portion of the Region in winter than normal. Bob Powell makes a case that the 180 over C.C.S.P. 8 Jan and the 130 there 10 Jan were different flocks. This correspond-

ed with 130 moving southward over the Cincinnati area 6-10 Jan in scattered flocks (D. Morse, Jr., TU, KR, GF). Elsewhere in Ohio, the species was encountered widely, with mid-season concentrations bracketed by 38 at The Wilds 6 Jan (GCr), 35 at Deer Creek (P. Gardner), 12 in *Mercer* (J. Bowers), 12 in *Wayne* (H. Ostermiller), and 12 at Hoover 2 Feb (J. Thurston). In West Virginia, after a fall flight of 60 over *Jefferson* 8 Dec (MO), the species could be found in scattered locations, led by 14 at R.C.B. 10 Jan (WA). In Ohio, a 17 Dec Greater White-fronted Goose in *Cuyahoga* and one in *Clermont* 21 Feb (D. Morse) were consistent with fall and spring migration patterns. The species remains rare in midwinter in the w., so 2 in *Adams* 24 Jan (ph. VF), another in *Auglaize* 24 Jan (A. Werst, Jr.), 5 in *Greene* 3-4 Feb (RA et al.), and 2 in *Ottawa* 11 Feb (JP) were unusual. A flock of 6 near Lewisburg, WV 24-26 Feb (B. Williams) likely were spring migrants. Pennsylvania recorded 8 for the season, including 4 in *Chester*, PA (m.ob.), 3 alone in *Unionville* 25 Feb (NP). Few details now accompany Cackling Goose reports, but the species appears to be of rare but regular occurrence in winter. In Ohio, reports from six counties were led by 6 birds in *Hamilton* 15 Jan (J. Rowe). One report came from *Mineral*, WV 21 Dec (J. B. Churchill). More common to the e. in Pennsylvania, a season total of 35-40 was reported, including 11 from P.V.P. 29 Jan (CR). A Brant was present at P.V.P. 6-16 Dec (AM, SK) and Greencastle Res., *Franklin*, PA 22 Jan (D. Snell). Single **Barnacle Geese** were seen at P.V.P. 27 Dec (SK) and L. Chillisquaque, *Montour*, PA 17-23 Dec (J. Beam).

The 119 Gadwalls on Kelleys I., *Erie* 20 Jan



This first-cycle Black-headed Gull was photographed at Tullytown, Bucks County, Pennsylvania 12 January 2007; the species is recorded almost annually in the state. Photograph by Tom Johnson.

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(TB) and 178 in *Hamilton* 1 Feb (RF), the 45 Northern Pintails at Longbrake Wetlands, *Hardin* 14 Jan (RC), and 187 Northern Shovelers at *Castalia*, *Erie* 8 Feb (VF) were record or near-record mid-winter concentrations for Ohio. Leftovers from the late-fall concentrations on Sandusky Bay included 1500 Northern Pintails and 4850 Gadwalls 6 Dec



This apparent first-cycle Thayer's Gull at Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania 18 February 2007 was part of a gull invasion there; its identification stimulated much discussion, as the petite head/bill and lightly marked tertials suggest Kumlien's Iceland Gulls. Photograph by Geoff Malosh.

(O.D.N.R. aerial survey). Similarly, the Philadelphia Mid-winter Bird Census 6 Jan produced 416 Northern Shovelers. The 64 Gadwalls at R.C.B. 20 Jan (WA, MG) made a high mid-season count for West Virginia, while an equal number at L. Arthur, Butler, PA 24 Dec was an excellent total. Eight Northern Pintails and 66 American Black Ducks 19 Feb were superb tallies for the New R. in Summers, WV (Jim & Judy Phillips). Lingering Blue-winged Teal included single birds in Lawrence, PA 8 Dec–5 Jan (MV) and Washington, PA 8–10 Feb (R. Gallardy et al.). A male Eurasian Wigeon in Hamilton, OH 1–4 Feb (RF, m.ob.) was a rare mid-winter record for the state. The 93 Redheads on the Shenandoah R. in Jefferson 26 Feb (MO) was a high count for the West Virginia panhandle. Indicative of the mild season through Jan, 130 Ring-necked Ducks remained in Summit, OH 23 Jan, 180 in Hamilton, OH 5 Feb (RF), while 91 concentrated on the Scioto R. in Columbus 31 Jan (RR). Atypical of recent winter seasons, the scaup composition favored Greater over Lesser, with 1600:1200 the ratio around Kelleys I., Erie 23 Feb (TB et al.). Maumee Bay saw scaup up to 24,000 on 31 Jan (O.D.N.R. aerial survey), a concentration more typical of migration. The fall sea duck parade on L. Erie continued into the first half of the season. A King Eider was seen at P.I.S.P. 23 Dec (JM); a female was seen at several locations in Lake, OH 1–2 Dec (RH, LR, JP). In the Central Basin, the counties of Lake, Cuyahoga, and Lorain had reports of up to 2 King Eiders 27 Jan (NA, RR, GL, m.ob.), including a first-winter male. The flight of 6 Harlequin Ducks into the Central Basin 2 Dec (RH, LR) may explain the sporadic reports of individuals along the shoreline of L. Erie through 27 Jan (JP) from Lorain, Cuyahoga, and Lake. In the Western Basin, 2 apparently moved back and forth from mainland Marblehead, Ottawa 16 Dec (ph. P. Ko-

covsky, P. Wetzel) across to Kelleys I., Erie through 20 Jan (JP, TB et al.). A strong flight in Lake, OH 2 Dec held 20+ Long-tailed Ducks and 150+ scoters (RH); farther e., 3295 Long-tailed Ducks were at P.I.S.P. that day (JM). Subsequently, 91 White-winged Scoters were tallied at P.I.S.P. 11 Dec (JM). The fallout left remarkable numbers of scoters wintering through the late Jan freeze within the Central Basin. At Sims Park, Cuyahoga, there were 12 White-winged and 17 Surf Scoters 1 Jan, with 30 Surfs there 21 Jan (NA). Although common in early Dec, Black Scoters numbered no more than 3 into late Jan in Ohio and at P.I.S.P. 12–21 Jan (JM). Scoters were mostly on L. Erie until the freeze, when single Surf and Black Scoters appeared at Alum Creek Res., Delaware, OH 2 Feb (RTh). One remained at L. Arthur, Butler,



Part of an influx of gulls at Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania 17 February 2007, this bird was one of two second-cycle Iceland Gulls detected. Photograph by Geoff Malosh.

PA 9 Dec until the early Feb freeze-up (m.ob.). Two White-winged Scoters frequented the R.C.B. area 15–24 Feb (S. Albaugh). Five on the Ohio R., Beaver, PA 4 Feb were unusual (B. Smith, MV). Long-tailed Ducks were inland 19 Dec, with 3 in Medina and 2 at Deer Creek (RR) remaining there through 4 Feb (TB); one was s. to Hamilton, OH 26 Jan–3 Feb (L. Gruber, JL). Counts of 1350 Buffleheads 19 Jan, 1190 Common Goldeneyes 20 Jan, and 1900 Red-breasted Mergansers 22 Jan from Kelleys I., Erie, OH (TB) were well above the norm for L. Erie in mid-winter. A Common Goldeneye × Hooded Merganser hybrid was at P.I.S.P. 24 Jan (JM). The peak count of Common Mergansers was 1300 at P.V.P. 27 Jan (AM), and 10,500 on Maumee Bay 17 Jan (O.D.N.R. aerial survey) made up the bulk of the wintering population on L. Erie.

## TURKEY THROUGH RAPTORS

An apparently freshly lined Wild Turkey nest with 8 eggs was discovered 2 Dec in Marion, WV (fide J. Herron). Up to 6 Red-throated Loons along the Central Basin the first week of Dec trailed the fall flight (JP, RH, LR, m.ob.); one was w. to Kelleys I. 28 Dec (TB). The species was found inland to C.C.S.P. 2 Dec (RA), on L. Arthur, Butler, PA 16 Dec (G. Wilhelm), at P.V.P. 2 Dec (AM), on the Glenolden C.B.C. 16 Dec (fide NP), on Chambers L., Chester, PA 6 Dec (P. Fisher), and 2 were seen on the Delaware R. in Bucks, PA 22–25 Feb (N. Zahn, DF). A rare mid-season record came from Lake, OH 9 Jan (JP). Single mid-season Common Loons were in Cuyahoga, OH 21 Jan (J. McConnor) and Chester, PA 2 Feb (J. Loomis). An Eared Grebe was found in Hamilton, OH 1 Dec (KH) and at P.I.S.P. 11 Dec (JM). A Red-necked Grebe at C.C.S.P. 10 Dec (LG) was late in the w., and up to 16 were reported across Pennsylvania for the season (m.ob.). An American White Pelican was present at Green Lane Res., Montgomery, PA 14–16 Dec (L. & J. Hillegass); one at Deer Creek remained through 5 Jan (RR, m.ob.). Up to 30 Double-crested Cormorants could be found on the Scioto R. in Columbus 28 Jan (J. Brown). The P.M.W.B.C. recorded a remarkable 51 Double-crested and 25 Great Cormorants 6 Jan (fide KR).

Consistent with its history in Ohio during strong El Niño events, Great Egrets could be found well into the season: singles were in Highland 2–10 Dec (RA), in Stark 3 Dec (P. Soehnen), at Deer Creek 7–12 Jan (E. Reiner, RR), and in Gallia 22 Jan (ph. VF), with 2 in Erie 16 Dec (VF). In West Virginia, one was in Mason 6–20 Jan (WA, MG, MO, m.ob.). Six Great Egrets were recorded on the Glenolden C.B.C., PA 16 Dec, and 3 were recorded on the P.M.W.B.C. (fide KR). A Green Heron was at Crooked Run Nature Preserve, Clermont, OH 17 Dec–9 Jan (K. Robinson, JL, m.ob.), a 2nd Jan record and new late date for Ohio. Black-crowned Night-Herons entered the season with 100 present along the Cuyahoga R. in downtown Cleveland (P. Lozano); 70 remained until 10 Jan (JL). A Least Bittern at Winton Woods, Hamilton 3 Dec (J. Bens, Jay Stenger) furnished only the 2nd winter record for Ohio. An American Bittern lingered in Chester, PA 18 Dec (J. Edge), while one near Circleville, Pickaway, OH 4–12 Feb (ph. T. Bain) was extraordinary. A Glossy Ibis at J.H.N.W.R. was recorded on the Glenolden C.B.C. 16 Dec (J. C. Miller).

Six Virginia Rails remained at Springville Marsh S.N.P., Seneca, OH 1 Jan (TB et al.); the species wintered in Jefferson, WV (MO), and



White-winged gulls, which often move southward in winter as large lakes in Canada begin to freeze, turned up in states south of the Great Lakes mostly in February 2007, as the season turned from unseasonably warm to bitterly cold. This first-cycle Glaucous Gull was photographed at Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania 10 February 2007. Photograph by Geoff Malosh.

2 were still present in Quakertown Swamp, Bucks, PA 13 Jan (DF, CR). A Common Moorhen lingered in Bucks, PA through 26 Jan (A. Binns). The w. flight of Sandhill Cranes materialized 7 Dec, with 1300 over Cincinnati (m.ob.). Odd was a count of 57 from South Bass I. 8 Dec (L. Brohl). Many held on farther n., as from 5-12 Feb, 90 birds in four flocks were seen overhead in w. Ohio (E. Roush, T. Wheat, M. Flynn, JP). Where most years this corresponds with the early push northward, these flocks were all moving southward, coincident with the arrival of severe freezing and heavy snows. A Sandhill Crane was present at M.C.W.M.A. Dec-Feb (m.ob.). American Coots have been enjoying the ice-free reservoirs of Ohio through early winter for some years now. An amazing 4000 entered Jan in Ohio, with an equally astounding 3000+ at P.I.S.P. through Jan (JM). However, dozens if not hundreds of birds died in Feb after a sudden freeze of inland reservoirs within Ohio. A Turkey Vulture remained on Kelleys I., Erie, OH 29 Dec-21 Jan (JP, TB et al.); it or another made its way to Magee Marsh, Ottawa, OH 6 Feb (Kim Kaufman). The 542 Black Vultures on the P.W.R.S. was a record-high count (GG).

A late Osprey was seen at L. Nockamixon, Bucks, PA 9 Dec (B. Etter). The P.W.R.S. posted a record-high 107 Northern Harriers (GG). Of 480 Bald Eagles on the mid-winter survey across 53 counties in Ohio, 165 were found in the Western Basin (O.D.N.R.). A dark-morph Western Red-tailed Hawk was identified in Dry Fork, WV 22 Jan (C. Rucker). A Golden Eagle was reported from Deer Creek 6 Dec (J. Kuenzli); an imm. on Kelleys I., Erie, OH 23 Feb (TB) may have been a first for the L. Erie islands. Although declining for several years in Ohio, American Kestrels continued to post gains farther e., where a tally of 511, yet another record high, came from the P.W.R.S. Up to 22 Merlins were reported in Pennsylvania during the season.

## SHOREBIRDS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS

Wintering Killdeer n. of the Ohio R. were limited to 6 at Pleasant Hill L., Ashland, OH 2 Feb (GC) and 4 at C.C.S.P. in mid-Jan (VF). Two late Lesser Yellowlegs were seen on the Glenolden C.B.C. 16 Dec (S. Conant). The latest Dunlins were 2 at Conneaut 29 Dec (JP). A strong flight of Purple Sandpipers brought 5 to Headlands through 17 Dec (RH et al.) with one remaining 20 Jan (J. Talkington et al.). One was w. to Maumee Bay S.P., Lucas 3 Dec (BZ), while 4 were on Kelleys I. 17 Dec, with one still present 30 Dec (JP). The species was also reported from Lorain 9 Dec (S. Landes) and P.I.S.P. 14 Dec (JM). A Least Sandpiper on the Southern Bucks County C.B.C. was new for the count (DF), and one was in Cumberland, PA through 17 Feb (V. Gauthier). The 5 Wilson's Snipe at Cowan L., Clinton 29 Jan (LG), a high mid-season count for s. Ohio, was easily exceeded by 30 at R.C.B. 3 Feb (WA, DP); one lingered in Chester, PA 17 Feb (NP), while 13+ were reported during the season in Bucks, PA (m.ob.), including birds into Feb at Maple Knoll Farm (R. Smith).

ported from Deer Creek 4 Feb (E. Reiner), a first for s.-cen. Ohio. An ad. Glaucous Gull was at Charles Mill Res., Ashland, OH 31 Jan-8 Feb (GC, ph. B. Glick, m.ob.), for a very rare inland record. Nelson's Gull reports included 2 at T.L. 12 Jan (TJ) and one at Bristol, Bucks, PA 14 Jan (DF). White-winged gulls were scarce on L. Erie. Only 2-3 each of Thayer's and Iceland Gulls and up to 5 Glaucous Gulls were reported in the Central Basin. A notable concentration of gulls at the confluence of the Allegheny/Monongahela/Ohio Rivers in Feb held up at least 6 Iceland, 3 Glaucous, and 2 Thayer's (*vide* PH, m.ob.). Single Thayer's Gulls in Pennsylvania were at Memorial L., Lebanon late Dec-3 Jan (m.ob.), in Erie 9 Jan (JM), and at T. L. 6-12 (DF) & 21 Jan (TJ).

An Inca Dove in Huntington, Cabell, WV 3-10 Dec (D. Rieger, ph. MO, m.ob.) represents a first state and Regional record. An early Barn Owl nesting was reported 28 Jan in Northumberland, PA (W. Laubscher), although the 5 young succumbed to the weather. Barn Owls were found at five locations in Juniata, PA (C. Kaufmann), an encouraging number. Northern Saw-whet Owls in the

**SA** The mid-winter status of American Woodcock remains something of a mystery. Presumably newly arrived migrants, singles were widely noted by 28 Feb through the Ohio R. drainage to Wayne, WV and Morgan, OH, preceded by one in Cabell, WV 24 Feb (MG, DP) and one in Chester, PA 20 Feb (J. Sebastiani). Or were these instead detections of overwintering birds? The species may well winter in the immediate vicinity of the Ohio R., a low density of birds and birders alike contributing to its apparent rarity. However, recent warm spells in Jan produced calling birds, with up to 5 reported in s. Ohio counties such as one at East Fork L., Clermont 24 Jan (B. Stanley) and in Adams 13 Jan (*vide* B. Whan). Interpreting the winter status of such a retiring species at the fringes of its range is difficult. Have woodcocks been present annually but overlooked? Or are we seeing a genuine increase in numbers of birds remaining farther n. through an increasingly mild season? In well-birded Bucks, PA, woodcocks were present 3 & 21 Jan (DF, H. McGarrity)—it is hard to imagine that the species has been overlooked here.

A Parasitic Jaeger was in Lake, OH 2 Dec and a Pomarine the next day (JP). Another 2 Pomarine Jaegers were there 7 Jan (JP). Two Little Gulls were in Lake, OH 7 Dec (GL). Two reappeared 16 Feb in Lorain, OH (J. Brumfield). The Cleveland Black-legged Kittiwake remained through 7 Dec (GL). A Black-headed Gull was at T.L. 6-23 Jan (DF), and a California Gull was at Bristol, Bucks 13 Jan (ph. M. Sharp). An ad. California Gull was reported from Kelleys I., OH 17 Dec (JP). Eight Lesser Black-backed Gulls were seen in the Central Basin; inland, 3 were at Clear Fork Res., Richland/Morrow, OH 14 Jan (J. Herman). Lesser Black-backed Gulls peaked at 315 at P.V.P. 30 Dec (AM) and 5684 Great Black-backed Gulls were recorded on the Southern Bucks County C.B.C. 16 Dec. An apparent Herring Gull × Great Black-backed Gull hybrid was reported from Cleveland 11 Feb (JP). A Great Black-backed Gull was re-

ported from Deer Creek 4 Feb (E. Reiner), a first for s.-cen. Ohio. An ad. Glaucous Gull was at Charles Mill Res., Ashland, OH 31 Jan-8 Feb (GC, ph. B. Glick, m.ob.), for a very rare inland record. Nelson's Gull reports included 2 at T.L. 12 Jan (TJ) and one at Bristol, Bucks, PA 14 Jan (DF). White-winged gulls were scarce on L. Erie. Only 2-3 each of Thayer's and Iceland Gulls and up to 5 Glaucous Gulls were reported in the Central Basin. A notable concentration of gulls at the confluence of the Allegheny/Monongahela/Ohio Rivers in Feb held up at least 6 Iceland, 3 Glaucous, and 2 Thayer's (*vide* PH, m.ob.). Single Thayer's Gulls in Pennsylvania were at Memorial L., Lebanon late Dec-3 Jan (m.ob.), in Erie 9 Jan (JM), and at T. L. 6-12 (DF) & 21 Jan (TJ).

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The so-called "Nelson's Gull," a hybrid between Glaucous and Herring Gulls, was reported in at least five eastern states in winter 2006-2007. This first-cycle bird at Island View Business Complex, Bristol County, Pennsylvania was photographed 14 January 2007. Photograph by Howard Eskin.

an ad. female Rufous, was in Berks, PA 26 Nov–18 Jan (C. Cravotta).

### FLYCATCHERS THROUGH FINCHES

An Ash-throated Flycatcher was present at Lititz, Lancaster, PA 21 Dec–5 Jan (J. Sheaffer, ph. F. Haas)—just a 3rd record for Pennsylvania. A Western Kingbird was present near Morgantown, Berks, PA 25 Dec–11 Jan (H. Hartshore, m.ob. ph.); a yellow-bellied kingbird seen briefly at Maumee Bay S.P., Lucas, OH 10 Dec (BZ, L. Stifel) was thought to be a Western. Eastern Phoebes were widely noted in s. Ohio and w.-cen. West Virginia counties through Dec. Up to 9 were counted on the Cincinnati C.B.C. and 14 on the Charleston C.B.C., while 7 remained into Jan around sw. Ohio (RF, B. Hull, G. Fantetti, JL). Pushing their n. limits farther, wintering were birds at Hoover 27 Jan (RTh) and n. to L. Erie, where one was found dead 4 Feb at O.N.W.R. (m.ob.). A hardier bird was found in Muskingum, OH 7 Feb (A. Lavy). There were six mid-winter reports of Eastern Phoebes in Berks, PA 30 Dec–18 Feb, including one that survived single-digit temps (RK). An unidentified *Empidonax* flycatcher was at Muddy Run, Lancaster, PA during the Southern Lancaster C.B.C. 17 Dec (*fide* BS). Two Common Ravens at Edinboro, Erie, PA 1 Feb were w. of the normal range (D. Peters). The 11 on the Hamburg C.B.C. was a new high (*fide* RK).

A surprising flock of 6 Tree Swallows appeared in Summers, WV 25 Feb (Jim & Judy Phillips); 3 more were in Putnam, WV 28 Feb

(C. Ellis); and 2 on the West Chester C.B.C., PA 16 Dec were new for the count (D. Davis). Two Cave Swallows were reported in Lehigh, PA 1 Dec (D. Welch). Single Loggerhead Shrikes were reported from Greenbriar, Jefferson, and Hardy, WV (BW, MO, M. Johnson). The total of 100 Golden-crowned Kinglets on Kelleys I., OH 17 Dec was reminiscent of a Dec 1983 count on the islands. Once thought accidental after the C.B.C. period, Ruby-crowned Kinglets were widespread mid-season, with Ohio reports from Lawrence (VF), Jackson (VF), Pickaway (G. Stauffer), Butler (B. Heck),

Franklin (K. Graham), Hamilton (2; N. Cade, W. Hull), and Kelleys I., Erie 21 Jan (2; TB). A late Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was seen in Lancaster, PA 3 Dec (CR, D. Hoffman). A Marsh Wren lingered at Quakertown Swamp, Bucks, PA through 24 Dec (R. French, B. Etter), and one survived the winter at Buckingham Wetlands, Bucks (R. Hendrick). It was banner year across the Region for Carolina and Winter Wrens. Five lingering House Wrens in Pennsylvania included one on the P.M.W.B.C. 6 Jan (*fide* KR). A Townsend's Solitaire was present in Fairview Twp., Erie, PA 31 Dec–3 Feb (M. Anderson, ph. JM). The 7600 American Robins on the Cincinnati C.B.C. 30 Dec were especially impressive, as were the 818 on Kelleys I., OH 17 Dec (JP). Hundreds of robins could be found daily across Ohio R. counties of Adams, Scioto, and Lawrence through Jan (VF). Hermit Thrushes were common early in the season, as evidenced by 107 on Kelleys I., OH 17 Dec (JP et al.). A Brown Thrasher wintered n. to Franklin, OH through 2 Feb (RTh). Wintering Brown Thrashers in Bucks, PA included one in Warrington Twp. 12 Dec–26 Feb (R. French) and one in Bedminster Twp. 21-28 Feb (J. Mertz). Late Ohio Gray Catbirds included one in Stark 30 Dec (E. Snively) and one in Wyandot 1 Jan (Kenn Kaufman). Two Gray Catbirds survived in multiflora rose at L. Ontelaunee, Berks, PA through at least 25 Feb (S. Fordyce).

In Ohio, up to 25 American Pipits were at Madison 8 Jan (RR), while 115 appeared sw.

of West Union, Adams in mid-Jan (ph.VF). Curiously, the species did not become conspicuous in West Virginia until later, when 16 appeared in Jefferson 14 Feb (B. Haydl) and 23 in Hardy 21 Feb (MO). A flock of 500 American Pipits in Berks, PA 21 Jan (RK) and another of 75-80 in Northampton, PA 5 Feb (RW, N. Pryzwara) were excellent late-winter counts. Another late migration saw 110,000 European Starlings on Kelleys I., OH 28 Dec (TB). Ohio's 4th wintering Orange-crowned Warbler was in Franklin 13 Feb (ph. N. Nye). A Virginia's Warbler appeared at the feeder of Dave and Kim Myles in Harper's Ferry, Jefferson, WV 10-15 Feb (ph. MO, m.ob.) for a first state and Regional record and one of very few in the East/Midwest. A Nashville Warbler was in Hamilton, OH 4-6 Dec (L. Brumbaugh). Yellow-rumped Warblers were especially numerous across the Region. The 56 on Kelleys I., OH in mid-Dec dwindled to 22 by 20 Jan (TB et al.). Another 56 were counted around Buckeye Furnace, Jackson, OH in mid-Jan (VF). A Pine Warbler was in Stark, OH through 4 Feb (S. Jackson, R. Macko), and another spent the period in Mason, Hamilton,



Pennsylvania's third, this Ash-throated Flycatcher at Lititz, Lancaster County was smartly photographed 30 December 2006. The species appears to be increasing as a late-autumn and early winter visitor to the East in the past several years. Photograph by Geoff Malosh.

OH (ph. L. Keene). A Yellow Warbler was seen on the P.M.W.B.C. (F. Windfelder). A Cape May Warbler was present in Franklin, PA through at least 7 Feb (E. Martin). A lingering Palm Warbler was in Chester, PA 4 Jan (K. Fryberger). Late Common Yellowthroats were in Centre 8 Jan (J. Verica) and noted on the P.M.W.B.C. (*fide* KR). A late Ovenbird was in Washington, PA 17 Dec (R. Gallardy, T. Byrnes). A Yellow-breasted Chat was recorded on the Glenolden C.B.C. 16 Dec (D. McGovern). A Western Tanager was present in a Columbus, OH neighborhood 4-20 Dec (RTh, ph. RR, m.ob.).

A lingering Indigo Bunting was seen on the P.M.W.B.C. (R. Hynson, B. Keim), and single Painted Buntings in Pennsylvania in Emporium, Cameron 11-15 Dec (*fide* M.

**SA** An amazing 140 Northern Rough-winged Swallows were present on the P.M.W.B.C. 6 Jan, most at the Northeast Water Pollution Control Plant in Philadelphia; an estimated 200 were present in Dec. Large numbers have been recorded at this location in the previous two winters as well. This is believed to be the only U.S. location n. of s. Florida and s. Texas where the species currently winters in any numbers (KR). The swallows here apparently subsist on a species of Chironomid.

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This Western Kingbird at Morgantown, Berks County, Pennsylvania 30 December 2006 is not calling here but is regurgitating berry seeds. Photograph by Geoff Malosh.

Johnson, ph.) and at J.H.N.W.R. 7-21 Jan (FW, m.ob. ph H. Eskin). A Lark Sparrow wintered at Maple Knoll Farms, Bucks, PA (R. & V. Smith). Three Savannah Sparrows were n. to L. Erie in Lucas, OH 17 Dec (GLi), where a Vesper Sparrow was also seen. A Harris's Sparrow appeared 25 Jan in Holmes, OH, remaining through the period (ph. W. Miller, m.ob.). A remarkable 101 White-throated Sparrows were still present on Kelleys I., OH 20 Jan, with 2 Oregon Juncos there the next day (TB). A female Oregon Junco was carefully identified at Blendon Woods, Franklin 28 Jan (D. Linzell), and one was near West Union, Adams, OH (VF) for the 2nd winter in a row. The 200 Lapland Longspurs in Licking, OH 23 Feb (RR) made a high count for the Glaciated Plateau region. At least 13 lingering Baltimore Orioles in Pennsylvania included 4 in Bucks, with singles through the winter at Levittown (G. Carmichael) and New Hope (S. Meyers). Four were recorded on the West Chester C.B.C. 16 Dec (NP), and 3 were at one feeder at Peach Bottom, Lancaster 9 Dec (BS). An ad. male Scott's Oriole was present at Mechanicsburg, Cumberland, PA 19 Feb+, a first for the Region (K. Atwood, ph., TJ, vt. RW, m.ob.). The count of 82 Rusty Blackbirds wintering at Quakertown Swamp, Bucks, PA (CR, B. Lishman) was exceeded by 100+ in Cumberland, PA 17 Feb (V. Gauthier). A Brewer's Blackbird was at Greencastle Wetlands, Washington, PA (L. Helgerman et al.). Eastern Meadowlarks took advantage of a mild season, as 47 were in Hardin 16 Dec

(RC), 30 in Wyandot 28 Jan (BS), and 12 at O.N.W.R. 4 Feb (m.ob.). A male Rose-breasted Grosbeak made a brief visit to a feeding station in Yellow Springs, Greene, OH 5 Dec (ph. N. Boutis). A Common Redpoll unexpectedly appeared in sw. Ohio in Preble 29 Jan (C. Mathena, S. Tackett); several scattered across the Highlands were in Allegheny, PA 7 Feb (PH), Beaver, PA 17 Feb+ (B. Walbek et al.), and Bucks, PA 28 Feb (J. Mertz). The only Evening Grosbeak reported was one in Juniata, PA 14 & 21 Jan (H. Peterseim).

Initialed observers (subregional editors in bold): OHIO: Nancy Anderson (NA), Rick Asamoto (RA), Tom Bartlett (TB), Gary Cowell (GC), Rick Counts (RC), Glen Crippen (GCr), Vic Fazio (VF), Larry Gara (LG), Ray Hannikman (RH), Kathi Hutton (KH), Ned Keller (NK), Jay Lehman (JL), Gabe Leidy (GL), Greg Links (GLi), John Pogacnik (JP), Larry Rosche (LR), Robert Royse (RR), Bruce Simpson (BS), Rob Thorn (RTh), Brian Zweibel (BZ). PENNSYLVANIA: Devich Farbotnik (DF), Greg Grove (GG), Paul Hess (PH), Tom Johnson (TJ), Steve Kacir (SK), Rudy Keller (RK), Jerry McWilliams (JM), August Mirabella (AM), Nick Pulcinella (NP), Keith Russell (KR), Cameron Rutt (CR), Bob Schutsky (BS), Mark Vass (MV), Rick Wiltraut (RW). Frank



Providing one of few well-documented records of Painted Bunting for the Philadelphia area, this photograph was taken at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge 4 February 2007. Photograph by Howard Eskin.

Windfelder (FW). WEST VIRGINIA: Wendell Argabrite (WA), Jeanette Esker, Mike Griffith (MG), David Patick (DP), Matt Orsie (MO), Barry Williams (BW). ☺

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