

The Winter Season 1987-88
1 December - 29 February

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The winter season is always a bit unusual when trying to analyze individual bird reports and population trends. In general, the number of observers in the field diminishes considerably as the snow begins to fly. The obvious exception to this trend, however, is the annual Christmas bird count which draws hordes of birders away from the warmth of their homes for a day or two anyway.

The broad coverage represented by the state's many Christmas counts always provides numerous unusual sightings and insights into bird populations. Many of the most noteworthy sightings reported in this issue occurred on Christmas bird counts. Unfortunately, some of the unusual reports were probably made by inexperienced observers and slipped through onto Christmas count tallies. In addition, there are no doubt numerous legitimate sightings which have not been properly documented. For whatever reason, many reports were received for the winter season without proper documentation, and a good share of these were Christmas count records. All birders and CBC compilers are advised and encouraged to include sufficient documentation to THE OHIO CARDINAL on all sightings requiring such. Inclusion of a sighting on a local CBC list does not preclude the need we have for proper documentation. There is a long list of undocumented reports at the conclusion of this section.

In this issue, in general, CBC records are covered in a separate article. Species which were found solely on Christmas counts and not otherwise during the winter are included here in order to present a comprehensive list of species recorded during the three month period.

Weather, particularly in the winter, is difficult to summarize. Even in a fairly small state such as Ohio, weather patterns are highly variable from one corner of the state to the other or even between adjoining counties. December was quite mild, accounting for a plethora of lingering species during the month. As mild as December was, January was bitter cold. For the most part, the state was spared of major snowfall in December and January. In February, a series of storms rolled through dumping significant accumulations of snow over a good portion of the state. Much of the southern part of Ohio was virtually devoid of snow the entire winter. At least in the northern part of the state, most bodies of water were ice-covered by early January. Warmer weather near the end of February brought with it a few of the typical early migrants such as Turkey vultures, Killdeers, woodcocks, and blackbirds.

All told, 164 species (plus one race) were reported for the winter period. Of these, 15 species were not documented. What will certainly turn out to be the bird of the year is the Northern Wheatear found in Ottawa County in January. Details are covered in a separate article.

The following summarizes many of the highlights of the winter season.

Loons through Herons

Common loons were reported from 10 scattered locations throughout the state, indicating that at least in early winter, they are present in greater numbers than suspected by these writers. A Red-necked grebe was at Akron in late February and an Eared grebe was at Cleveland much of December. Double-crested cormorants were found at several locations, one as late as January 10. Two undocumented Great egret reports were received. Black-crowned night-herons were listed on three L. Erie CBCs.

Swans through Ducks

Thirty-two species of waterfowl were reported during the period. Tundra and Mute swans were observed at numerous locales. Greater White-fronted geese were reported on two CBCs. Twenty Brant were at Bresler Reservoir December 6. Puddle ducks were well represented and included several Wood duck reports. Unusual diving ducks included Harlequin duck, Barrow's goldeneye, and an undocumented King eider. Impressive concentrations of ducks included 2000 Common goldeneyes on Maumee Bay and River and 10,000 Red-breasted mergansers near Cleveland in early December.

Vultures through Falcons

Black vultures were listed on four CBCs and Turkey vultures on five. Turkey vultures also made early appearances at scattered locations in late February. Rough-legged hawks were relatively scarce throughout the state. See the separate article in this issue for the update on Toledo's Peregrines. (Subsequent to that article being written, it was discovered that the newly-arrived falcon is indeed banded.)

Pheasants through Shorebirds

Forty Wild turkeys were reported from Richland County on February 24. Northern bobwhites were noted from only two locations. Late shorebirds made news at several locations. Two yellowlegs, sp. were seen on the Toledo CBC, a Solitary sandpiper on the Mansfield CBC, a Spotted sandpiper (undocumented) on the Tiffin CBC, and a Dunlin was at Buck Creek SP on December 12. A few Killdeers were found throughout the period and 29 Common snipe were counted in Wayne County on December 7.

Jaegers through Gulls

A Pomarine jaeger was documented from Edgewater Park January 4. Ten species of gulls were reported. Of the rarer species only 1 Little, 4 Thayer's, 5 Iceland, 7 Lesser Black-backed, and 6 Glaucous were reported outside of CBC tallies.

Doves through Horned Lark

A Common Barn-owl was listed on the Portsmouth CBC. Snowy owls staged a moderate invasion with half a dozen or so reported. Visitors to Killdeer Plains were treated with up to a dozen Long-eared owls, 20 Short-eared owls, and two Saw-whet owls during February. Two Eastern phoebe reports were submitted; one from Holmes County on January 1 and one in Franklin County on February 27.

Jays through Warblers

Red-breasted nuthatches were in very low numbers throughout. House wrens were reported on two CBCs. A variety of extraordinarily late species was noted on CBCs: Blue-gray gnatcatcher (Toledo and W. Hamilton Co.), Northern wheatear (ONWR, count period), Wood thrush (Toledo), Water pipit (Ohio River, L. Erie Is., Kingston), Cape May warbler (Wellington), and Pine warbler (Adams County). Documentations were not submitted to THE OHIO CARDINAL on any of these sightings other than the Cape May Warbler and Northern wheatear. Only one Northern and Loggerhead shrike each were reported during the period.

Northern Cardinal through House Sparrow

Undocumented Lincoln's, Vesper, and Savannah sparrows (four counts) were reported on CBCs. Outstanding concentrations of Fox sparrows (100+) and White-crowned sparrows (1000+) were noted in the L. Miami River bottoms in mid-December. These numbers seem almost hard to believe. Lapland longspurs were very scarce and Snow buntings uncommon during the period. The winter finch movement was disappointing. Purple finches were found throughout the state but in very low numbers. A dozen Red crossbills were found at Woodlawn Cemetery in Toledo on January 17, and only a handful of Common redpolls were noted. Pine siskins were found in good numbers, but only very locally. Evening grosbeaks appeared to be even more local with only 3 or 4 locations noting more than a few birds (but see CBC reports).

In the following reports, an asterisk indicates a species that has been documented and accepted by the Records Committee. A (D) indicates a species that should be documented. Documentation should be submitted for species wintering in Ohio that do not typically winter in the state. Commonly used abbreviations include ONWR (Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge), CPNWR (Cedar Point National Wildlife Refuge), and CVNRA (Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area).

Common Loon

12/1-2/3 Caesar Creek (3-5) (JS, LG), 12/4 E. Liverpool (2) (NL), 12/4 Mosquito Res. (4) (NB), 12/4 L. Cowan (4) (LG), 12/6 Buck Creek SP (3) (DO), 12/19 Findlay Res. (3) (BH), 12/23 Akron Lakes (4) (LR), 12/31 Wellington (LR), 1/1 Lorain Co. (ETH), 1/3 Buck Creek SP (DO), 1/9 Lorain (ECP), one wintered at E. Fork Lk. (TLu).

Pied-billed Grebe

12/2-1/3 Wilmington Res. (LG), 12/6 Buck Creek SP (DO), 12/23 Akron Lks. (22) (LR), 12/30 L. Rockwell (12) (LR), 1/10 Dayton (3) (JS), 1/11 E. Fork Lk. (2) (PG), 1/14 Washington Co. (LB), 2/10 Lorain (VF), 2/18 Akron Lks. (11) (ECP)

Horned Grebe

12/5 Caesar Creek (5-6) (JS), 12/6 Buck Creek SP (20) (DO), 12/10 Wilmington Res. (LG), 12/10 Oberlin Res. (ETH), 12/18 E. Liverpool (NL), 12/19 Findlay Res. (7) (BH), 12/19 Buck Creek SP (8) (DO), 12/23 Akron Lks. (17) (LR), 1/7 Gordon Pk. (VF), 1/23 Toledo (MA), 2/17 Washington Co. (LB)

Red-necked Grebe (D)

2/28-29 Springfield Lk. (Akron) (ECP*, LR, TL*)

Eared Grebe (D)

12/6-24 Cleveland (TL*, m.ob.)

Double-crested Cormorant

12/1-1/8 L. Isaac (RH), 12/4 E. Liverpool (NL), 12/6 Buck Creek SP (DO), 1/5 Wellsville (NL), 1/9-10 Cleveland (TL, RH)

Great Blue Heron

12/13 CPNWR (84) (JK); widely reported.

Black-crowned Night-Heron

Reported on 3 CBCs (Elyria-Lorain, Gypsum, Toledo).

Tundra Swan

12/1 Findlay Res. (13) (BH), 12/13 CPNWR (4) (JK), 12/21 Mosquito WR (3) (NB), 12/30 L. Rockwell (45) (LR), 1/2-3 Wilmington Res. (4) (LG), 1/18 Magee Marsh (10) (ET), 1/24 Killdeer Plains (4) (TB), 1/31 Mosquito Lk. (4) (CB)

Mute Swan

1/10-11 Huron (CC, LC, ETH), 1/10-11 Avon Lk. (6) (m.ob.), 1/11-2/15 E. Fork Lk. (11) (PG, TLu), 1/18 Magee Marsh (2) (ET), 2/1 Newtown (6) (PG, TLu), 2/18 Akron Lks. (4) (ECP), 2/27 Springfield (CBB), 2/28 Xenia (CBB), 2 wintered near Tiffin (TB).

Snow Goose

12/6 Holmes Co. (3) (BG), 12/6 ONWRC (66), 12/18 Dayton (SB), 12/23 Summit Lk. (LR), 12/27 Lima (RCu), 12/31 Mosquito WR (NB), 1/7 E. Harbor (ETH), 1/16-17 CJ Brown Res. (JS), 1/17 Mahoning Co. (NB), 1/21-24 Butler Co. (m.ob.), 1/31 Mosquito Lk. (CB), 2/12 Oxbow (13) (MM), 2/18 Killdeer Plains (BH), 2/27 Buck Creek SP (12) (DO)

Brant (D)

12/6 Bresler Res. (20) (RCu)*

Canada Goose

Widespread: High counts: 12/9 Baldwin Lk. (1100) (RH), 12/13 CPNWR (2230) (JK), 2/21 Killdeer Plains (2500) (RCu)

Wood Duck

1/12-2/9 Findlay (2-5) (BH), 12/30 L. Rockwell (LR), Early migrants: 2/18 Summit Lk. (ECP), 2/27 Englewood Res. (20-25) (CBB)

Green-winged Teal

12/7 Wayne Co. (5) (BG), 12/24 L. Rockwell (3) (LR), 1/2 Dayton (6) (JS), 1/29 Buck Creek SP (DO), 2/8 Castalia (VF)

American Black Duck

Widely reported; High counts: 12/6 ONWRC (1700), 12/8 Findlay Res. (221) (BH), 12/13 CPNWR (581) (JK), 12/21 Wilmington Res. (150) (LG), 1/6 Castalia (2400) (VF), 1/24 Hueston Woods (500) (TLu, JB, DeQ), 1/29 Buck Creek SP (200) (DO) 1/31 L. Isaac (170) (RH).

Mallard

Widespread; High counts: 12/6 ONWRC (4000), 12/8 Findlay Res. (1463) (BH), 12/13 CPNWR (4004) (JK), 1/6 Castalia (6300) (VF), 1/17 CJ Brown Res. (2500) (DO), 1/24 Hueston Woods (1300) (TLu, JB, DeQ), 1/12 L. Isaac (1300) (RH), 2/28 Akron Lks. (1300) (LR).

Northern Pintail

12/5-1/29 Wilmington Res. (LG), 12/6 ONWRC (25), 12/13 CPNWR (50) (JK), 1/2 Dayton (JS), 1/6 Castalia (VF), 1/8-12 L. Isaac (RH), 1/29 Buck Creek SP (10) (DO), 2/6 Clermont Co. (PG), 2/8 Castalia (6) (VF), 2/24 Lorain (TL), 2/28 Cuyahoga Co. (3) (RH)

Northern Shoveler

12/6 ONWRC (4), 12/13 CPNWR (22) (JK), 12/18-1/1 L. Isaac (3) (RH), 12/19 Buck Creek SP (3) (DO), 12/30 L. Rockwell (5) (LR), 1/6 Castalia (38) (VF)

Gadwall

12/7 Wayne Co. (BG), 12/13 CPNWR (57) (JK), 12/15 Findlay (3) (BH), 12/19 L. Rockwell (30) (LR), 12/20 Mosquito Lk. (46) (CB), 1/6 Castalia (28) (VF), 1/10 Dayton (JS), 1/11 E. Fork Lk. (15-20) (PG), 2/8 Gordon Pk. (6) (VF)

American Wigeon

12/1 Findlay Res. (BH), 12/6 ONWRC (6), 12/7 Wilmington Res. (10) (LG), 12/23 Wilmington Res. (27) (LG), 1/10 Avon Lk. (LR, RH), 1/18 Holmes Co. (BG), 1/19 Eastwood Lk. (CM), 2/20 Englewood Res. (JS), 2/24 Lorain (TL), 2/28 Buck Creek SP (4) (DO)

Canvasback

Wintered on Maumee Bay (1000+) (ET, TK), 12/5 Caesar Creek (5) (JS), 12/6 ONWRC (750), 12/6 Holmes Co. (BG), 12/21 Mogadore Res. (17) (LR), 12/21 Mosquito Res. (NB), 12/22 Findlay Res. (BH), 1/2 CJ Brown Res. (DO), 1/14 Washington Co. (LB), 2/24 Lorain (550) (TL), 2/29 Lorain (420) (VF).

Redhead

Wintered on Maumee Bay (50+) (TK), 12/2 Wilmington Res. (LG), 2/6 Cleveland (30) (LR), 2/7 Caesar Creek (JH), 2/10 Lorain (100) (VF), 2/20 Englewood Res. (JS), 2/27 Lorain (230) (ECP), 2/27 Buck Creek SP (12) (DO)

Ring-necked Duck

12/21 Mogadore Res. (130) (LR), 12/21 Wilmington Res. (30) (LG), 1/3 Buck Creek SP (4) (DO), 1/6 Castalia (8) (VF), 2/14 Maumee River (TK), 2/28 Columbiana Co. (NB), 2/28 Spring Valley WA (50) (CM, JH, CBB)

Greater Scaup

12/13 CPNWR (JK), 12/24 Cleveland (220) (TL), 1/2 CJ Brown Res. (DO), 1/10 Avon Lake/Lorain (400) (LR)

Lesser Scaup

Wintered in small numbers on Maumee Bay (ET, TK), 12/5 Caesar Creek (20) (JS), 12/21 Mosquito Res. (8) (NB), 12/24 Cleveland (401) (TL), 1/2 CJ Brown Res. (4) (DO), 2/17 Washington Co. (LB), 2/21 Bresler Res. (16) (RCu), 2/28 Edgewater Pk. (250) (LR)

Harlequin Duck (D)

2/4-21 Cleveland/Lorain (TL*, ECP*, VF*, m.ob)

Oldsquaw

1/2 CJ Brown Res. (DO), 1/27 Lorain (TL), 2/13-14 Lorain (ETh, RH, ECP), 2/14-22 Belpre (LB), 2/28 Cleveland (3) (TL, LR)

Surf Scoter (D: inland only)

12/1 Cleveland (TL), 2/13 Cleveland (BG)

White-winged Scoter

12/26 Fairport Harbor (LR), 1/2 CJ Brown Res. (DO), 1/16 Maumee Bay (TK), 1/23 West Carrollton (m.ob.), 2/14-28 Belpre (LB), 1/16-2/21 Lorain (3) (TB, RH, ECP), 2/21 Cleveland (2) (TL)

Common Goldeneye

Widely reported; wintered in large numbers on Maumee Bay and River (2000+) (ET, MA, TK), 1/10 CPNWR (497) (JK), 1/10 Avon Lk. (800) (LR), 2/13 Lorain (500) (ECP).

Barrow's Goldeneye (D)

2/20 Lorain (TB)*

Bufflehead

12/6 Buck Creek SP (20) (DO), 12/13 CPNWR (4) (JK), 12/13 Bresler Res. (RCu), 12/21 Mogadore Res. (40) (LR), 12/29 Findlay Res. (29) (BH), 1/2 CJ Brown Res. (8) (DO), 1/10 Avon Lk. (30) (LR), 2/17 Belpre (LB), 2/20 Lorain (34) (ECP), 2/28 Spring Valley WA (CM)

Hooded Merganser

12/6 ONWRC (160), 12/19 Buck Creek SP (7) (DO), 12/19 L. Rockwell (60) (LR), 12/22 Findlay Res. (16) (BH), 12/30 Wilmington Res. (8) (LG), 1/8-12 Cuyahoga Co. (RH), 1/10 Huron (10) (CC, LC), 1/16 Avon Lk. (RH), 1/16-18 Bayshore (ET, TK), 1/23 Toledo (MA), 2/17 Belpre (LB), 2/28 Columbiana Co. (LB)

Common Merganser

Widely reported; wintered in large numbers on Maumee Bay (1500+) (ET, TK), 1/4 Cleveland (200) (TL), 1/9 Avon Lk. (500) (ECP), 1/10 CPNWR (605) (JK), 1/10 Huron (250) (CC, LC), 1/23 Lorain (183) (ECP)

Red-breasted Merganser

High: 12/1-6 Cleveland/Lake Co. (10,000) (TL, LR), 12/1 Findlay Res. (158) (BH), 12/3 Buck Creek SP (DO), 12/6 ONWRC (290), 1/10 CPNWR (950) (JK), 1/10 Huron (50) (CC, LC), 1/23 Lorain (510) (ECP), 1/23-24 G. Miami River (JS), 2/14 Eastlake (80) (VF)

Ruddy Duck

12/2 Wilmington Res. (27) (LG), 12/5 Mogadore Res. (297) (LR), 12/6 ONWRC (10), 12/13 CPNWR (8) (JK), 12/27 Bresler Res. (RCu), 1/1 CJ Brown Res. (11) (DO), 1/11 E. Fork Lk. (50+) (PG), 2/8 Lorain (4) (VF)

Black Vulture (D: central and northern counties)

Reported on four CBCs (Adams Co., Lancaster, Oxford, and W. Hamilton Co.)

Turkey Vulture

Early migrants: 2/22 Tiffin (TB), 2/28 Delaware Co. (JHo), 2/28 Killdeer Plains (ETH), 2/28 Circleville (3) (LG).

Bald Eagle

Reported from traditional nesting/wintering areas along L. Erie and Mosquito WR; 2-3 wintered along Ohio River (LB), 5 reports from Dayton area (JH, LG, NG), 4 reports from Cincinnati area (AW, TLu), 1/7 E. Liverpool (NL).

Northern Harrier

Wintered at Maumee Bay SP (12+) (ET, TK) and Killdeer Plains (12) (m.ob.), 12/6 Huffman Prairie (several) (PK, JR), 12/6 ONWRC, 1/31 Mosquito Creek (ECP), 2/14 CPNWR (5) (JK), 2/28 Circleville (4) (LG); reported scarce in SW Ohio (TLu).

Sharp-shinned Hawk

Widely reported; less common in Richland Co. (JHe).

Cooper's Hawk

Widely reported; less common in Richland Co. (JHe); 20 injured birds received in SW Ohio by Raptor, Inc., all females (TLu).

Red-shouldered Hawk

A few wintered in Lucas Co. (ET, MA, TK) and Trumbull Co. (CB); 12/21 Mill Creek Pk. (NB), 2/7 CVNRA (LR), 2/26 Hamilton Co. (PG).

Red-tailed Hawk

Normal numbers wintered; 12/6 ONWRC (27), small movement near the end of February in Lucas Co. (23) (TK) and near Circleville (39 birds) (LG).

Rough-legged Hawk

12/6 ONWRC, 12/12 Dayton (JS), 1/2 Wayne Co. (BG), 1/7 Holmes Co. (BG), 1/18 Richland Co. (3) (JHe), 2/14 CPNWR (JK), 2/28 Maumee Bay SP (3) (TK), 2/28 Circleville (LG), one wintered at Lunken Airport (LG, TLu).

American Kestrel

Normal numbers wintering; listed as abundant in SW Ohio (AW).

Peregrine Falcon (D)

Two wintered in downtown Toledo (MA, m.ob.) (see article this issue).

Ring-necked Pheasant

Good numbers at Maumee Bay SP (released birds), scarce elsewhere.

Ruffed Grouse

12/12 CVNRA (DAC), 12/26 Lake Co. (LR), 1/6 Holmes Co. (BG), 2/8 Holmes Co. (BG), 2/21 CVNRA (LR)

Wild Turkey

2/24 Richland Co. (40) (JHe), reported from Washington Co. (LB).

Northern Bobwhite

1/10 Germantown Res. (21) (JS), small numbers wintered in w. Lucas Co. (TK); only reports.

American Coot

High counts: 12/2 Wilmington Res. (60+), 12/5 Mogadore Res. (200) (LR), 12/8 Akron Lks. (600) (LR), 12/20 Wilmington Res. (100) (LG), 1/1 Buck Creek SP (13) (DO), 1/16 Toledo (TK), 2/10 Lorain (4) (VF, ECP)

Sandhill Crane

High: 12/6 Huffman Prairie (120) (PK, JR), 12/18 Englewood (60) (PK), 12/23 Hamilton Co. (3) (KF), 12/31-1/29 Mosquito WR (NB), 2/24 Dayton (3) (PK)

Killdeer

Widely reported throughout the period; High: 12/12 Buck Creek SP (75) (DO), Early migrant: 2/27 CVNRA (DAC).

yellowlegs, sp.

12/20 Toledo CBC (MA*, JO)

Solitary Sandpiper

Reported on the Mansfield CBC*.

Dunlin

12/12 Buck Creek SP (DO)

American Woodcock

Early migrants: 2/20 Washington Co. (LB), 2/23 Dayton (SH).

Common Snipe

12/7 Wayne Co. (29!!) (BG), 12/19 Buck Creek SP (DO), 1/10 Clark Co. (DO), 2/2 Holmes Co. (BG), reported from Richland Co. (JHe), Early migrant: 2/20 Buck Creek SP (DO).

Pomarine Jaeger (D)

1/4 Edgewater Pk. (TL*, RH)

Little Gull (D: inland only)

Reported on the Mentor CBC.

Bonaparte's Gull

12/1 Findlay Res. (126) (BH), 12/4 L. Cowan (100) (LG), 12/19 Buck Creek SP (170) (DO), 12/21 Mosquito Res. (177) (NB), 12/30 Richland Co. (15) (JHe), 1/1 CJ Brown Res. (100) (DO)

Ring-billed Gull

Widespread, but declines noted in late winter; 1000 at Buck Creek SP on 12/26 (DO).

Herring Gull

Widespread; declines noted in late winter.

Thayer's Gull (D: inland only)

1/1 Eastlake (LR), 1/17 Maumee Bay (TK, PM), 2/7 Cleveland (TL, RH), 2/13 Lorain (ETh, ECP)

Iceland Gull (D: inland only)

12/30 Sandusky (TK), 1/16 Toledo (TK), 1/23 Toledo (MA), 2/6 Cleveland (LR), 2/14 Lorain (TL, RH)

Lesser Black-backed Gull (D: inland only)

12/19 Eastlake (BG), 12/20 Edgewater Pk. (TL), 1/9 Lorain (ECP), 1/10 Eastlake (LR, RH), 1/23 Toledo (ET*, MA), 2/7 Edgewater Pk. (RH), 2/13-14 Lorain (RH, ECP)

Glaucous Gull (D: inland only)

1/3 Eastlake (LR), 1/23 Toledo (MA), 2/10-21 Lorain (2-4) (m.ob.)

Great Black-backed Gull

1/10 Huron (100) (CC, LC), 2/13 Lorain (30) (ECP), wintered in moderate numbers on Maumee Bay (TK, JK).

Rock Dove

No apparent change in status.

Mourning Dove

Common permanent resident.

Common Barn-Owl

Reported on the Portsmouth CBC.

Eastern Screech-Owl

Reported from Clark (DO), Clermont (PG), Hamilton (BM), Hancock (BH), Holmes (BG), Lake (LR), Summit (ECP), and Lucas Cos. (TK).

Great Horned Owl

Widespread.

Snowy Owl

12/24 Xenia (JS), 1/2 Wayne Co. (BG), 1/19 Wayne Co. (LR), 1/21 Dayton Int. Airport (JS), two wintered at Maumee Bay SP (TK, ET, PM), one wintered at Lorain (m.ob.), one at Wooster in January (JHe, SM).

Barred Owl

Reported from Hancock (BH), Lucas (TK), Mahoning (NB), Portage (LR), and Fulton Cos. (PM), Killdeer Plains and Englewood Res. (CB, JHo, CM).

Long-eared Owl

1/10 Germantown Res. (2) (JS), 2/6 ONWRC, 2/6-28 Killdeer Plains (8-12) (m.ob.), 2/15 Englewood Res. (CBB).

Short-eared Owl

1/25 Holmes Co. (5) (BG, DVK), 2/13 Lunken Airport (5) (m.ob.), wintered at Maumee Bay SP (max 17) (m.ob.) and Killdeer Plains (20+) (m.ob.).

Northern Saw-whet Owl

1/30 Clermont Co. (2) (LG), 2/6-21 Killdeer Plains (2) (m.ob.), 2/14-20 Englewood Res. (JT), down in SW Ohio (RA).

Belted Kingfisher

Normal small number of winterers; listed as common in Washington Co. (LB).

Red-headed Woodpecker

Reported from Allen (RCu), Cuyahoga (LR, RH), Hancock (KN), Henry (TK), Holmes (BG), Mahoning (NB), Richland (JHe), and Trumbull Cos. (CB) and Caesar Creek (JS).

Red-bellied Woodpecker

Reported greatly increased in Shaker Lakes region (VF).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

12/10 E. Liverpool (NL), 1/16-17 Englewood (JS), 1/23 E. Liverpool (NL) (numbers down), 1/29 Milford (PG), 2/7 Centerville (JS), 2/11 Findlay (BH), wintered in Lucas (TK, MA) and Washington Cos. (LB).

Downy Woodpecker

Widespread.

Hairy Woodpecker

Cited as reduced in parts of NW Ohio (ET), common in Washington Co. (LB), declining in N. Central Ohio (JHe).

Northern Flicker

Widely reported in small numbers; common in Washington Co. (LB).

Pileated Woodpecker

Widely reported; High: 1/10 Germantown Res. (13) (JS).

Eastern Phoebe

1/1 Holmes Co. (BG), 2/27 Franklin Co. (TB)

Horned Lark

1/3 Wilmington Res. (100+) (LG), 2/6 Richland Co. (70) (JHe), 2/7 Hancock Co. (250+) (BH), 2/14 Clark Co. (250) (DO), 2/14 Lucas Co. (150) (TK), 2/20 Newtown (15) (PG)

Blue Jay

Common and widespread.

American Crow

Widespread; maximum 2500 on 12/13 Lucas Co. (TK) and 2500 on 12/19 Clark Co. (DO).

Black-capped Chickadee

Widespread in northern counties, reported as far south as Washington Co. (LB).

Carolina Chickadee

Common in central and southern counties.

Tufted Titmouse

Common and widespread.

Red-breasted Nuthatch

12/19 Hancock Co. (BH), 12/22 Findlay (BH), 1/5 Washington Co. (LB), 1/6 Holmes Co. (BG), 1/10 Germantown Res. (JS), 1/23 Wayne Co. (BG), wintered in Wilmington (LG) and the Oak Openings (TK); rather poor movement.

White-breasted Nuthatch

Common and widespread.

Brown Creeper

Normal moderate numbers wintered.

Carolina Wren

Continues to increase statewide; 1/10 Germantown Res. (23) (JS).

Winter Wren

12/12 Buck Creek SP (DO), 12/22 Findlay (KN), 12/26 Firestone MP (ECP), 1/2 CJ Brown Res. (DO), 1/10 Germantown Res. (3) (JS), 1/30 Spring Valley (JS)

Marsh Wren

12/6 ONWRC, 12/20 Kent (LR)

Golden-crowned Kinglet

Fairly normal numbers wintered; 1/10 Germantown Res. (15) (JS).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet

12/20 CVNRA (DAC), 1/2 CJ Brown Res. (DO), 1/10 Germantown Res. (JS), 1/19 Findlay (KN), 1/23 Wayne Co. (BG)

Northern Wheatear

1/4-21 Ottawa Co. (MS, m.ob.) (First state record. See article this issue.)

Eastern Bluebird

Widely reported, increasing further south; 1/10 Germantown Res. (21) (JS).

Hermit Thrush

Normal small numbers in early winter.

American Robin

Normal wintering numbers; common in Washington Co. all winter (LB), 1/24 Firestone MP (144) (ECP), major movement into the state 2/14-19.

Gray Catbird

12/5 Firestone MP (ECP), 12/22 Findlay (KN), January in Xenia (2) (JHk)

Northern Mockingbird

Small numbers winter in north, increasing further south.

Brown Thrasher

1/10 Spring Valley (JS), 1/19-2/9 Findlay (KN), 12/23-2/29 L. Isaac (RH), 2/14-29 Firestone MP (ECP)

Water Pipit

Reported on the Ohio River, Lake Erie Is., and Kingston CBCs.

Cedar Waxwing

Sporadic, as usual; highs of 175 on 12/13 Lucas Co. (TK), 12/28 Northfield (75) (DAC), 2/16 Shaker Lakes (180) (VF), 2/20 E. Liverpool (105) (NL); listed as abundant in Portage Co. in January (LR).

Northern Shrike (D: central and southern counties)

1/23-24 Seneca Co. (TB)

Loggerhead Shrike (D: northern counties)

2/15 McConnellsville (LB)

European Starling

Status unchanged; 3000 in Clark Co. on 12/19 (DO).

Cape May Warbler

Wellington CBC (carefully documented, photographed).

Yellow-rumped Warbler

Numbers down in NW and SW Ohio (ET, TK, AW); widely reported in small numbers; seemed scarce this winter.

Northern Cardinal

Common and widespread.

Rufous-sided Towhee

Widely reported in small numbers, down in Washington Co. (LB).

American Tree Sparrow

Normal numbers wintered; High count: 1/10 CPNWR (230) (JK); reported low in SW Ohio (AW, PG) and at E. Liverpool (NL).

Field Sparrow

Normal numbers wintered.

Savannah Sparrow

Reported on 4 CBCs (Hoover Res., Columbus, E. Fork Lk., and Kingston).

Fox Sparrow

12/29 Findlay (KN), 1/1 Lunken Airport (13) (PG), 1/10 Germantown Res. (JS), 2/6-29 Holmes Co. (DVK), 2/21-28 Springville Marsh (TB); exceptional was a flock of 100+ in the L. Miami River bottoms in mid-December (WR, DS).

Song Sparrow

Normal numbers reported; High count: 2/9 Hancock Co. (83) (BH).

Swamp Sparrow

Normal moderate numbers wintered; High count: 1/10 CPNWR (99) (JK).

White-throated Sparrow

Widely reported in small numbers; cited as down in NW Ohio and Washington and Richland Cos. (ET, TK, LB, JHe) and down in E. Liverpool area (NL); listed as very common in Summit and Portage Cos. (LR); high of 65 reported in the Shaker Lakes area 2/16 (VF).

White-crowned Sparrow

Widely reported in small numbers; listed as down in Washington Co. (LB) and up in Hamilton Co. (DaQ); common in Portage and Summit Cos. (LR); unusually common in Holmes Co. (DVK); outstanding was a flock of 1000+ in the L. Miami River bottoms in mid-December (WR, DS).

Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco

Common statewide.

Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco

1/10 Miamisburg (JS), 2/15-2/21 Harrison (DeQ, DaQ, TLu, JB), 2/13 Firestone MP (ECP)

Lapland Longspur

1/28-2/15 Holmes Co. (2) (DVK), 2/6 Seneca Co. (2) (JHo) (only reports)

Snow Bunting

12/13 CPNWR (JK), 12/20 CVNRA (6-8) (DAC), 1/5 Washington Co. (LB), 1/12 Findlay Res. (386) (BH), 2/5 Richland Co. (8) (JHe), 2/7 Holmes Co. (10) (DVK), 2/7 Wyandot Co. (100+) (LR), 2/8 Wayne Co. (BG), 2/14 Clark Co. (20) (DO), 2/24 Seneca Co. (100) (H. Hintz), near Dayton mid-February (50) (PK), reported from Mahoning Co. (NB).

Red-winged Blackbird

Large roosts along L. Erie (ET, LR), small numbers reported elsewhere; migrants noted in late February.

Eastern Meadowlark

12/6 ONWRC, 12/7 Lorain Co. (8) (ETh), 1/10 Germantown Res. (13) (JS), 1/27 Clark Co. (3) (DO), Early migrants: 2/14 Hancock Co. (BH), 2/23 Richland Co. (JHe), 2/27 Wilmington Res. (LG).

Yellow-headed Blackbird (D: inland only)

Reported on the ONWR CBC.*

Rusty Blackbird

12/19 Eastlake (5) (TL), 12/30 Richland Co. (16) (JHe), 1/2 Buck Creek SP (DO), 1/5 Canfield (NB), 1/30 Spring Valley WA (JS), 2/14 Firestone MP (7) (ECP), 2/28 Springville Marsh (TB); flock of 100+ wintered in Blue Ash (TLu); wintered in Holmes Co. (DVK).

Brewer's Blackbird

1/3 CJ Brown Res. (present since fall) (DO), 1/26-2/5 Marietta (LB)

Common Grackle.

Normal small winter numbers reported; 100+ on 12/30 Richland Co. (JHe), 250+ on 1/21 Holmes Co. (BG); large numbers at Eastlake (LR); migrants noted in late February.

Brown-headed Cowbird

"Several hundred" wintered near Maumee Bay SP (ET); 100 on 1/10 Richland Co. (JHe); small numbers reported elsewhere; migrants noted in late February (1000+) in Cincinnati on 2/29-TLu).

Purple Finch

12/5 Caesar Creek (10) (JS), 12/12 CVNRA (DAC), 1/1-22 Holmes Co. (BG), 1/10 Germantown Res. (7) (JS), 1/11 Holmes Co. (DVK), 2/2 Findlay (6) (KN), 2/2 Richland Co. (JHe), 2/7 CVNRA (3) (LR), 2/23 Findlay (4) (KN), small numbers in Oak Openings all winter (MA).

House Finch

Widely reported; continue to increase.

Red Crossbill

1/17 Toledo (12) (TK, PM)

Common Redpoll

12/17 Lorain Co. (ETh), 1/3 Oak Openings (MA), 1/31 Oak Openings (MA), 2/20 Lorain (5) (TB), 2/23 Englewood Res. (2) (NG)

Pine Siskin

Good numbers in NW Ohio (max. 175 at Anderson's feeder) (MA, TK), large numbers in Washington Co. (LB), 12/16 Shaker Lks. (14) (VF), 1/26 Findlay (BH), 2/22 Mohican SP (55) (BG), 2/28 Northfield (5) (DAC), wintered in Milford (9-15) (PG), common in Kent (LR), good invasion E. Liverpool (max. 83) (NL).

American Goldfinch

Mixed reports from NW Ohio; widespread elsewhere.

Evening Grosbeak

12/12 CVNRA (25) (DAC), 12/20 Findlay (BH), 2/27 Ashland Co. (3) (BG), wintered in Oak Openings (max. 85) (MA), 20-30 wintered in Washington Co. (LB), 85 Wintered in Richland Co. (JHe); reported from Holmes Co. (DVK).

House Sparrow

Status unchanged.

ESCAPED SPECIES

Greater White-fronted Goose 12/20 Mosquito Lake (believed to be the same individual that appeared last year)

UNDOCUMENTED REPORTS

Eared Grebe 12/1 Cleveland
Great Egret 12/6 ONWR
12/19-1/6 Holmes Co.
Greater White-fronted goose ONWR CBC
Blue-winged Teal 12/21 (25) Mosquito Res.
King Elder Lake Erie Is. CBC
Harlequin Duck 1/10 Lorain
Northern Goshawk Wellington CBC
Broad-winged Hawk Zanesville CBC
Virginia Rail Gypsum CBC
Spotted Sandpiper 12/18 Sandusky River
Glaucous Gull 12/31 Oberlin Res.
House Wren W. Hamilton Co. and Washington Co./Parkersburg CBCs
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 12/20 Toledo CBC
12/27-28 W. Hamilton Co. CBC
Wood Thrush 12/20 Toledo CBC
Pine Warbler Adams Co. CBC
Common Yellowthroat 12/13 Akron
Chipping Sparrow Reported on six CBCs.
Vesper Sparrow Athens CBC
Lincoln's Sparrow Grand Lake St. Mary's and L. Erie Is. CBC

CORRIGENDUM: In Vol. 11, No. 1, the Black rail on 9/13 at Magee Marsh should be placed in the undocumented reports section.