

The Ohio



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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 in the state. Report forms are not a necessity but will be supplied on request. Unusual species should be documented--documentation forms are also available on request from the Editor, Publisher, and Records Committee Secretary.

In order to keep **The Ohio Cardinal** timely, seasonal reports are due by the following dates:

Winter--March 10
Spring--June 10
Summer--August 10
Autumn--December 10

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Cover: Kirtland's Warbler. Magee Marsh (Lucas Co.), 5/21/95.
Photo by Robert Royse.

Cyclist Finds a Kirtland's Warbler at Magee Marsh By Paul H. Motts

On May 21, 1995, at 6:30 in the morning, I pulled into the Crane Creek SP/Magee Marsh WA park entrance off Ohio Route 2, planning to bicycle along the causeway as far as the closest (eastern) end of the Magee Marsh Bird Trail. Dressed as a serious cyclist, I arrived at the boardwalk shortly before 7:00 a.m. Right away there was a Blackpoll Warbler calling; soon thereafter I observed several Magnolia Warblers and Chestnut-sided Warblers as well. Right at 7:00, something atypical appeared. This warbler was very different from any I have ever seen and had a distinctive tail-bob. Perched within three feet of the boardwalk, the very faint wing bars and solid gray back were in plain view. This ruled out the Magnolia, which has a yellow rump. The bird remained very close, and soon a broken eye ring and very fine speckling along the outside of the breast became apparent. There was only a very fine yellowish was on the breast. The faint yellow was puzzling and quite a bit fainter than I expected, although this being my first sighting ever, I was still convinced that this had to be a female Kirtland's Warbler.

About 20 minutes later, I noticed an older fellow looking down into the shrubbery. He was eager to share the more unusual birds which he had spotted, and so I informed him about the Kirtland's Warbler. Suddenly he said, "There are an awful lot of Magnolia's this time of year." I replied, "Yes, I know, I have seen several, too." Changing the subject, he then said "Let me show you something out of the ordinary, look down there, close to the log, it's a female woodcock on a nest." We continued to bird for a while and then he continued, but in the opposite direction from where I had seen the Kirtland's.

Shortly thereafter I came upon two people talking about the birds they had seen, so I shared my findings, informing them of the female Kirtland's. They asked, "Were you alone?" "Yes", I responded. Then they asked, "Have you ever seen a Kirtland's Warbler before?" "No, this was my first time", I said. They then asked me to describe what I had seen. "It looked somewhat similar to a Magnolia, only it had a solid gray back and a broken eye ring." They responded, "Sounds interesting, maybe we'll check it out when we get a chance." They then responded, "Let us show you a Mourning Warbler. Look mid-way up the trunk, to the right near the vines."

No more than 10 minutes later, I heard someone else running down the boardwalk shouting, "Kirtland's Warbler, Kirtland's Warbler; this is an incredible find. Tell everyone." I responded, "Yes, I know,

I'm the person who first discovered the bird. I informed several people; they were either uninterested or totally skeptical." He replied, "You tell them that an experienced bird bander, who bands the Kirtland's Warbler frequently, says that there is no question." I informed him that I would do my best.

Some time later, I saw Bill Osborne with his group from the Greater Akron Audubon Society. I informed Bill of my Kirtland's Warbler sighting and how everyone I talked with was in disbelief. Bill responded, "I believe you. They don't know who you are, let's go there right now." We drove down to the other end of the boardwalk, and, to my surprise, there they were, all the disbelievers, lined up patiently waiting for another glimpse of the female Kirtland's Warbler. An unbelievable bird, no, believable; just found by someone dressed in an "unbelievable" cycling outfit.

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Kirtland's Warbler. Magee Marsh WA, May 21, 1995.
Photo by Mary Jo Kohn.

A Brief History of Kirtland's Warbler in Ohio by Robert Harlan

Jaws drop and eyebrows raise at the mere mention of the words. "You say you have a what? A Kirtland's Warbler?" This little playlet is reenacted every spring somewhere in Ohio, seemingly most often along the Magee Marsh Wildlife Area Bird Trail. Unfortunately, however, in most instances the "Kirtland's" mysteriously transforms into a drably-plumaged Magnolia Warbler, or simply melts into the vegetation, never to be seen again. But sometimes, on very special occasions, everything falls into place and the "Kirtland's" remains long enough to actually be confirmed as a Kirtland's Warbler.

Due to the great rarity of the species, the life history of the Kirtland's Warbler has long been intensively studied. This extremely localized species nests only in Michigan, and is further limited on the nesting grounds to jack pine forests fitting certain height and density requirements. Since the species winters in the Bahamas, it follows that Kirtland's Warblers must cross through (or over) Ohio twice a year, in both spring and fall migration (Mayfield, 1960).

The Ohio history of the Kirtland's Warbler is an interesting one. In fact, the first specimen ever examined by science was collected by Charles Pease, son-in-law of Dr. Jared P. Kirtland, near Kirtland's farm at Rockport (now Lakewood, Cuyahoga Co.), Ohio on May 13, 1851. Kirtland, who was an extremely important figure in the natural sciences in his day, recognized the specimen, a male, as something unusual. When Prof. Spencer F. Baird, of the U.S. National Museum in Washington, D.C., fortuitously stopped by at the Kirtland farm to visit his friend a few days later, Kirtland presented the specimen to Baird. After further examination, Baird declared that the specimen represented a species unknown to science, and named it after his friend, "a gentleman to whom, more than anyone living, we are indebted for a knowledge of the natural history of the Mississippi Valley." (Williams, 1950; Mayfield, 1960).

The next Ohio specimen was not secured until 1860, also in the Cleveland area. Since then, the trickle of records has continued, with usually 1, but sometimes 2, birds being reported. While unquestionably an extremely rare species, the Kirtland's Warbler does occur in Ohio on a fairly regular basis. After making a thorough literature search, I find that at least 77 Kirtland's Warblers have been reported in Ohio prior to the Spring 1995 season. As expected, however, these 77 reports vary in the quality of details provided, and hence in apparent reliability. Although no Ohio bird records committee has ever examined all Ohio Kirtland's Warbler records in detail, I personally feel that 38 records, totalling 43 individual birds, are reliable enough to form the basis of the following review.

Of the 43 acceptable Kirtland's Warblers recorded in Ohio, 24 (or 55.8%) were found during the years 1851-1910. During the years 1901-1910 alone, 13 individuals (or 30.2% of all individuals recorded to date) were discovered. From the years 1911-1994, 19 Kirtland's Warblers (or 44.2% of the 43 Ohio records) were discovered. These data indicate that during the 60-year period of 1851-1910, an average of 0.400 individuals were found per year in Ohio, even though very few active observers were present to look for the species, and the quality of optics was poor. During the 84-year period of 1911-1994, however, the

average dropped to 0.226 individuals found per year. Given the exponential increase in field observers in recent decades, it seems fairly obvious that Kirtland's Warblers must have been considerably more numerous prior to 1910. However, substantial warbler population growth on the Michigan breeding grounds during the 1980's and 1990's may help to reverse this occurrence pattern, and an upswing in Ohio sightings (some too recent to have been examined by the Ohio Bird Records Committee, and therefore not included in this review) may be an indication of an increasing number of observations in the near future.

The timing of Kirtland's Warbler migrations through Ohio reveals the following patterns. During spring migration, 36 individuals have been reported. Spring migration dates range from April 30 (1975) to May 24 (1954), with 20 of the 36 individuals (55.6%) being discovered during the May 11-20 period. Eleven individuals (30.6% of 36) have been discovered during the April 30-May 10 period, while only 3 individuals (8.3%) have been discovered after May 20 (two more individuals have also been discovered in the spring, but without exact dates listed). If a birder had to choose a date to search for a Kirtland's Warbler in Ohio, both May 11 and May 15 have seen the most individuals present on those dates over the years, with 5 individuals being present on both dates. Fall migration presents a different picture. Only 7 individuals have been acceptably recorded during these months, ranging from August 28 (2 individuals in 1902) to October 14 (1886). The other 4 individuals were recorded between September 11-27. Covering both migrations, males are far more likely to be observed. Of 30 individuals reported by sex, 22 were listed as males. At least in the spring, males are more likely to be found in early- to mid-migration, and females in mid- to late-migration. Only 3 of 43 individuals have been reported to remain more than a single day during either migration.

At least 12 Ohio counties have hosted this species, with counties bordering Lake Erie garnering 67.4% (29 individuals) of all reports, although not all individuals found in these counties were located immediately adjacent to the Lake. Inland counties have hosted 14 individuals (32.6%). Cuyahoga County, site of the discovery of the type specimen, leads the way with 10 individuals being found over the years. Other county totals are as follows: Lucas-7; Ottawa- 6; Lorain- 4; Hamilton- 4; Seneca- 3; Franklin- 2; Lawrence- 2; Lake- 2; Auglaize- 1; Champaign- 1; & Washington- 1. In the most recent 25 year period (1970-94), however, 6 of 11 records have come from Lucas County, including 4 individuals at the heavily birded Magee Marsh WA Bird Trail.

Two of our more interesting observations follow. On September 27, 1975, 7-year old S. Doerger found a banded window casualty in Cincinnati. The specimen eventually made its way to the U.S. National Museum. Banding data revealed that the bird, an adult male, was initially banded as a nestling near Mio, Michigan, on July 2, 1971. It was retrapped and color banded two years later, some 20 miles north of its hatching site, after having successfully mated (American Birds 30(1):78, 1975; Birdwatching 1(6):25, 1975). But perhaps the most amazing Ohio sighting took place on South Bass Island on May 24, 1954. Milton B. Trautman, who had by then accumulated an extensive birding tenure on South Bass, consequently knew enough about the site to be "at the right place at the right time". During periods of heavy weather, the powerful lights atop the Perry Monument routinely attracted migratory birds like moths attracted to a flame. At about 9:00 p.m. on May 24, a strong wind kicked up in the midst of a large passerine movement. Soon, about 100 hapless birds would hit the Monument,

falling to the ground below. As Trautman was busily collecting these unfortunates at the base of the Monument, one particular bird fell from the sky and hit Trautman on the head-- a dead female Kirtland's Warbler! (Audubon Field Notes 8(4):316, 1954).

While the chances of observing a Kirtland's Warbler in Ohio during any given year remain slim at best, the above review of Ohio records seems to suggest that the following *modus operandi* may increase one's likelihood of finding this species: join the throng at Magee Marsh WA Bird Trail in mid-May! Although this solution should be fairly obvious, a familiarity the species' song and tail-bobbing behavior are also of significant value. Moreover, the next time you happen to be at a location and the words "Kirtland's Warbler!?" are mentioned, don't just raise an eyebrow. Go look for the bird-- you might like what you find!

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Harold Mayfield for improving an earlier draft of this paper.

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Worm-eating Warbler. Magee Marsh Bird Trail (Lucas Co.), May 21, 1995.
Photo by Melinda Greenland.

Bewick's Wrens Nest in Brown County by Barbara A. Lund and Betty Weitlauf

Memorial Day weekend 1995 was a memorable one for 24 birdwatchers from Ohio and Kentucky. In addition to whatever else they did, they took the time to visit Brown County to see a rare nesting of a pair of Bewick's Wrens. It was a life bird for four people, a state bird for many and a year bird for all.

The 24 birders came from as far away as the Cleveland area, some driving four or five hours. The Cleveland party called ahead for a motel and the manager stayed up until they arrived at 2:00 a.m., just so they could get an early morning view of the wrens. As of this writing, visitors have included eight people from Columbus, three from Cleveland, three from Cincinnati, two from Dayton, two from Portsmouth, two from Highland County, two from Crawford County, one from Adams County and one from Kenton County, Kentucky.

The wrens were in Jackson Township at a farm yard north of Russellville. The pair nested in an old bluebird box placed on a fence line between the yard and an open pasture. Observers stayed about 60 feet away from the birds so as to not disturb them, yet obtained excellent views with binoculars and telescopes. Most also got to hear the male sing. His song was very like that of a Song Sparrow. The call and scold notes were reminiscent of the call notes of the more common Carolina or House Wrens. The nest fledged at least six, probably seven young on Memorial Day, May 29. The young, with tails already 1/4 grown, quickly took to the shelter of a woodlot just to the south, where they continued to be fed by the adults.

The last confirmed nesting record of Bewick's Wren in Ohio took place in 1987 in Pike County. In the late 1940's they were fairly common in southern Ohio and were expanding northward. Since then they have declined greatly. Each year there may be a single sighting somewhere in the state, but a nesting observation is very special.

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Amidst the hurried and complex world, a small wren nesting in a bird box would seem very insignificant. But this was a nest of the rare Bewick's Wren. Though not widely reported, extreme efforts were made by several birders to view these birds. These efforts were rewarded when a wren would sit on a fence post, twitching its tail side to side, unaware of its great importance, while binoculars and telescopes zoomed in on it!

I continued to observe the pair after the young fledged on May 29. The adults were seen inspecting a nearby nest box on May 31. The male continued to sing in the area through at least June 8. On June 7, a House Wren moved into the area, but was run out by the Bewick's. On June 17, Barbara Lund and three Columbus birders were still able to find the Bewick's Wren family in the woodlot just south of the nest site. As late as June 18-22, the adults would use a scolding call to lure the young to roost in a spruce tree in the front yard.

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A Critique of Tom Thomson's Checklist of Ohio Birds by Victor W. Fazio, III

In Part IV of the second edition of Birding in Ohio (1994), Tom Thomson presents a list of birds for the state on pages 217-242. Unfortunately, it may be construed as the "official" list, and certainly as the most recent compilation it may be taken as up to date, yet it is neither. I thought I would offer the following review with appropriate caveats for those unfamiliar with the official Ohio state list, as coordinated by the Ohio Bird Records Committee (OBRC).

The taxonomic list is nicely spaced and a check box accompanies each species entry. There is sparing annotation, which generally is just the right amount for a book of this nature. If one wanted more annotation, this can be found in two other publications, Abundance and Distribution of the Birds of Ohio (1987) by Bruce Peterjohn et al. (a middling amount of annotation) and The Birds of Ohio (1989) by Peterjohn (with extensive annotation). Unlike the first edition in 1983, I find this listing fairly conservative and much more in line with generally accepted records. The annotation is also generally conservative, which I commend; as tourist birders we often make up fairly wishful hit lists for our trips. There are, however, a few exceptions I take with both the list and annotations. These are more than slight differences of opinion, which I appreciate there always will be, but rather reflect internal inconsistencies which I think could prove confusing at best.

The Species List

Virtually all species entries in Thomson's Checklist of Ohio Birds are accepted by the Ohio Bird Records Committee, except for the Wilson's Storm-Petrel. I think this is just an oversight on Thomson's part, as the basis for its rejection is listed on page 29 in Abundance and Distribution. Thomson maintains the listing of hybrids. Such a listing might be interesting, yet it is restricted to "Brewster's" and "Lawrence's" Warblers, complete with unique genus and species names as if they were full species.

At a glance, the listing seems reasonably up-to-date, after all, listed on page 224 is Snowy Plover (first found in 1993). I think this was the last addition to the state list voted on by the OBRC (5 others are pending). However, the following previously accepted species are not listed:

Brown Pelican-- multiple records the past several years
Black Guillemot-- November 1990
Violet-green Swallow-- May 1990
Gray Flycatcher-- August 1988
Mountain Bluebird-- December 1989

In addition, name changes involving American Golden-Plover and Green Heron presumably came as the book was in press; however, I think the use of "Water Pipit" is a genuine oversight. Also with the book in press, the rosy finches were split, creating two Ohio entries (Gray-crowned Rosy Finch and Black Rosy Finch) instead of one.

The Annotation

Birding in Ohio uses the following designations of abundance:

Common-- "A species which occurs routinely..."
Fairly Common-- "Fewer numbers than the Common category... more localized..."
Infrequent-- "Not always found in a given season or year..."
Rare-- "...just a few individuals are seen in a season or in an entire region."
Accidental-- "Extremely rare or casual..."

These designations are used to surprisingly good effect given the geographic scope is Ohio. But if I had a hand in editing, I would have changed the following entries:

- Great Egret- Go with Accidental in winter, not "Rare"
Mute Swan- Infrequent permanent resident, not "Rare-infrequent migrant, visitor". (Exploding these past 3-4 years)
Blue-winged Teal- Accidental, not "Rare", in winter
Red-breasted Merganser- Rare, not "Accidental", in summer
Bald Eagle- Fairly Common "along W. Lake Erie", not "infrequent permanent resident"
Black Rail- Accidental, not "Rare migrant; accidental summer visitor"
Sandhill Crane- Infrequent, not "Rare" migrant
Curlew Sandpiper- simply Accidental, drop "rare migrant along Lake Erie"
Parasitic Jaeger- Rare, not "Rare-infrequent" migrant along Lake Erie. This would bring it in line with "rare" for Pomarine Jaeger, which in a recent 10-year period was recorded more frequently than Parasitic (27 vs. 22 birds)
Lesser Black-backed Gull- Infrequent, not "Rare" Lake Erie migrant, winter visitor
Common Raven- simply Accidental, drop "Rare in southern Ohio". Thomson's statement presumably stems from his recent 1987-89 record of "nesting" Common Ravens in south-central Ohio. There are no accepted records for Ohio in recent decades (although a record is pending). Even if Thomson's record is correct, it could not warrant the suggestion that it is anything but Accidental.
Hermit Thrush- by contrast, this species nesting in the same area as the putative raven record does so annually (5-15 pairs in one location). Change "accidental-rare..." to Rare summer resident
Blue Grosbeak- Rare, not "accidental-rare" summer resident in southern Ohio
Dickcissel- Infrequent, not "rare and erratic" summer resident
Vesper Sparrow- Rare, not "accidental" in winter
Le Conte's Sparrow- Rare migrant, not "Accidental"
Sharp-tailed Sparrow- Rare, not "Accidental-rare"
Harris's Sparrow- simply Accidental, not "Accidental migrant"
Bobolink- Fairly common migrant, infrequent summer resident, not "Rare-infrequent migrant, summer resident"
Pine Grosbeak- Accidental, not "Rare [in] northern Ohio in winter; accidental elsewhere"

Finally, the OBRC appreciates that the question of what constitutes the official Ohio list of accepted species may be asked of it at any time. For instance, the Committee gets several requests each month regarding either specific records (by investigators completing regional geographic summaries) or regarding requests for checklist compilations, whether for personal or commercial (e.g. computer software databases) use. Apart from bringing you updates in the pages of *The Ohio Cardinal*, the Committee expects to make the complete state list available electronically (as part of a joint project with the Ohio Biological Survey) on the World Wide Web in the near future. We'll have more on this project in a future issue.

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Spring 1995 Overview by Robert Harlan

It was an extraordinary spring. I would venture to guess that very few readers of this report were disappointed by the season, especially the month of May. Chilly weather may have slowed migration during the first week of the month, but this only served to retard leaf development, making it easier to observe the waves of passerines soon to appear. In fact, many trees in the northern portion of the state were not fully leafed-out until mid-month.

Thus, the situation was ripe for a sensational mid-May. Anyone fortunate enough to be at the Magee Marsh Bird Trail on May 10 can attest that this day was truly outstanding, although perhaps falling just short of legendary status. Numerous inland sites also were phenomenal that day. After this "big hit", weather patterns continued to cooperate (from the viewpoint of birders, at least), producing a series of waves throughout the remainder of the month. Speaking primarily of Headlands Beach State Park, another premier lakefront migratory hot-spot, veteran observer Larry Rosche comments in The Cleveland Bird Calendar that "it will be hard to top the weekends of May 13-14 and May 20-21 in the future."

Across the state, migrants were generally acknowledged to be present in favorable numbers. Recognizing that our impressions of migration are often molded by the prevailing weather conditions, we should be careful to avoid making blanket statements regarding overall bird populations based on migratory results. Indeed, this is a situation better gauged by nesting season field work. With this caveat out of the way, I believe it is safe to say that few birders bothered to temper their enjoyment of the season with this concern-- it was just too much fun.

It was an exceptional season for rarities, as well. In terms of regional rarities, at least one Chuck-will's-widow appeared in Tuscarawas Co. 5/10-11 +, providing a first record for northeastern Ohio. On a statewide scale, the Ohio Bird Records Committee received documentations for 15 birds from the month of May alone! Included among these were the sensational Kirtland's Warbler at Magee Marsh May 21-22, nesting Bewick's Wrens in Brown Co., a Curlew Sandpiper at Medusa Marsh May 4-7, a Black-necked Stilt at Killdeer Plains May 23, a mini-invasion of Clay-colored Sparrows May 2-21, and a Harris's Sparrow in Columbus May 6. Wow.

The "Reports" section is intended to be read in phylogenetic order. The specific county location of most sites is listed in the accounts the first time each site receives mention. County names are often abbreviated by using their first four letters-- "High" representing Highland County, for instance. Other place name abbreviations found in this issue are: BIWA (Big Island Wildlife Area, Marion Co.); BuCr (Buck Creek State Park, a.k.a. C.J. Brown Reservoir, Clark Co.); CPNWRC (Cedar Point National Wildlife Refuge Count, Lucas Co., as compiled by Joe Komorowski); CVNRA (Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area, Cuyahoga/Summit Cos.); FRes (Findlay Reservoirs, Hancock Co.); GLC (Green Lawn Cemetery, Franklin Co.); HBSP (Headlands Beach SP, Lake Co.); KPWA (Killdeer Plains WA, Wyandot Co.); Lksh (Lakeshore Metropark, Lake Co.); LPWA (Little Portage WA, Ottawa Co.); Magee (Magee Marsh WA, Ottawa/Lucas Cos.); MCMWA (Mallard Club Marsh WA, Lucas Co.); MWF (Miami Whitewater Forest, Hamilton Co.); Navarre (Navarre Marsh, Ottawa Co.); OkOp (Oak Openings MP and vicinity, primarily Lucas Co.); ONWR (Ottawa NWR, Ottawa/Lucas Cos.); ONWRC (Ottawa NWR Count, Ottawa/Lucas Cos., as compiled by Ed Pierce); PCWA (Pickerel Creek WA, Sandusky Co.); SVWA (Spring Valley WA, Greene/Warren Cos.); & TCM (Turtle Creek Marsh, Ottawa Co.).

THE REPORTS— SPRING 1995

by Robert Harlan

Loons through Herons

Common Loon-- Fairly low peaks include: 16 Findlay Reservoirs [hereafter FRes] (Hanc) 3/28 (BH); 16 L. Medina (Med) 3/29 (C. Witt); & 12 Paulding Res. (Paul) 4/11 (DMD). Late singles were at Paulding Res. 5/28 (DMD); the Overton ponds (Wayn) 5/28 (MJK, TLP, TLe); & at Buck Creek SP [a.k.a. C. J. Brown Res., hereafter BuCr] (Clar) 5/29 (DO).

Pied-billed Grebe-- 15 birds each at Spring Valley WA [hereafter SVWA] (Gree/Warr) 4/1 (DO); at Big Island WA [hereafter BIWA] (Mar) 4/24 (KA); & on the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge Count [hereafter ONWRC] (Ott/Luca) 5/7 served as the highs, except for 40 birds at Magee Marsh WA [hereafter Magee] (Ott/Luca) 4/16 (HSH). Nesting was reported from Pickeral Creek WA [hereafter PCWA] (Sand) (DK) and was certainly possible at SVWA (1 bird 5/27, NKe et al.); at Miami-Whitewater Forest [hereafter MWF] (Hami) (3 birds 5/29, PW); & at Silver Creek MP (Summ) (3 birds 5/29, B. & D. Lane).

Horned Grebe-- Peak counts came 3/23-4/10, featuring: 85 Mogadore Res. (Port) 4/7 (LR); 50 LaDue Res. (Geau) 3/23 (CH); 42 BuCr 3/26 (DO); 23 S. Bass Is. (Ott) 4/10 (SW); & 14 Seneca Lk. (Guer/Nobl) 4/4 (SLH). 2 were at Hueston Woods SP (Preb/Butl) through 5/3 (T. Ellis).

Red-necked Grebe-- 1 was at Pickerington Ponds MP (Fran) 3/19 (BC, J. Howard).

Eared Grebe-- An alternate-plumaged bird was an excellent find at L. Rockwell (Port) 4/30-5/1 (LR, CH). A very late bird was at Killdeer Plains WA [hereafter KPWA] (Wyan) 5/23 (fide RHR).

Am. White Pelican-- Always noteworthy, birds were as follows: 1 BuCr 5/10-11 (DO, KA); 1 flying south past N. Bass Is. (Ott) 5/13 (SW); 1 KPWA 5/17-20 (JH, BC); 2 flying past Lakeshore MP [hereafter LkSh] (Lake) 5/29 (JP); & 1 at Meander Res. (Maho Co. portion) 5/31 (J. Gottron, fide

DJH).

Double-crested Cormorant-- Mid-April has obviously become the peak migrational period for this increasing species, with reports such as: 1000+ Cleveland (Cuya) 4/19 (PL); 735 W. Branch SP (Port) 4/16 (LR); 700 Greenlawn Dam (Fran) 4/14 (AG); 425 L. Rockwell 4/12 (LR); & 275 Eastwood Lk. (Mont) 4/9 (JD, ST). Meander Res. typically holds this species well into late spring, evidenced by 60 there 5/31 (NB, DJH).

Am. Bittern-- At least 13 birds were reported statewide 4/2-5/20, only 5 of which were found along L. Erie.

Least Bittern-- All reports: 1 MWF 4/25 (PW); 1 Mallard Club Marsh WA [hereafter MCMWA] (Luca) 5/13 (JP); 1-2 Headlands Beach SP [hereafter HBSP] (Lake) 5/21 & 28 (M. Krister et al.); & 2 SVWA 5/27 (NKe et al.).

Great Blue Heron-- 320 active nests were counted at Little Portage WA [hereafter LPWA] (Ott) 3/20-25 (VF). The Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area [hereafter CVNRA] (Cuya/Summ) census 5/13 tallied 188 birds (DAC et al.). 32 of 36 nests at Pickerington Ponds MP were occupied 3/13 (VF). CH counted 35 nests at Tinkers Creek SNP (Port) 4/15. 187 birds were counted at Magee 5/21 (HSH).

Great Egret-- A very early bird arrived at Medusa Marsh (Erie) by 3/11 (RHR, EP). 2 were at their Turning Point Is. (Erie) nesting colony along the Sandusky waterfront by 3/25 (EP, RHR). 7 birds at Stage's Pond SNP (Pick) 4/10 served as the inland high (RR), whereas 162 lakefront birds were tallied at Magee 5/21 (HSH).

Snowy Egret-- 1 was at Medusa Marsh 4/14-16 (RHR, EP, JP) and 2 were there 5/27 (CH). Singles were at Caesar Creek Lk. (Warr) 4/8 (ST, C. Mathena); Chagrin River MP (Lake) 5/21 (JP); PCWA 5/26-31 (DK); & Turtle Creek Marsh [hereafter TCM] (Ott) 5/24-27 (HH, P. Hamer, JH). 4 were tallied on the ONWRC of 5/7.

Little Blue Heron-- 1 was at MCMWA 5/16 (JP). A mostly white bird was of note at S. Bass Is. 5/17 (SW).

Cattle Egret-- Inland singles were at Columbus (Fran) 4/15 (BC); at KPWA 4/23 (BM); & in Concord Twp. (Lake) 4/28 (JP). 15 birds in northwestern Erie Co. 5/7 (CH) were very likely from the nearby Turning Point Is. heronry, where 10 were counted 5/12 (EP et al.).

Green Heron-- The participants on the CVNRA census 5/13 could find only 4 birds (DAC et al.), despite excellent habitat. A very early bird was far north at E. Branch Res. (Geau) 4/6 (H. Hendrickson, M. Meyer, fide DBe).

Black-crowned Night-Heron-- Numbers along the industrialized Cuyahoga River in Cleveland built up to 65 birds 4/14, then dropped to 3 imm. by 5/24 (PL). The Turning Point Is. colony was inhabited by 3 birds by 3/25 (EP, RHR). Inland high was 4 birds at Greenlawn Dam 4/6 (AG).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron-- At the traditional Greenlawn Dam site, 1 bird returned by 4/1. 2 more arrived within a week and began nest building. 4 were seen 4/17-19, and one nest was being incubated by 4/18. The 1994 nest was also rebuilt by an unmated bird (AG, KA, BC, BM, RR).

Glossy Ibis-- An adult was found at PCWA 5/3-11 (HH, DK, RHR*, CH*, m. obs.), and 2 birds were there 5/22 (DK).

Ibis sp.-- A dark ibis flew by Medusa Marsh 5/12 (EP et al.).

Waterfowl

Tundra Swan-- The 220 at Mosquito Lk. (Trum) 3/15 (DJH) provided the only count of 50 or more birds.

Mute Swan-- 8 were at KPWA 4/2 (RR). Probable inland nesters were at Walborn Res. (Port/Star) & Mogadore Res. An adult with 3 young were at Medusa Marsh 5/24+ (VF, CH).

Greater White-fronted Goose-- A bird was at the O.M. Scott Co. HQ (Unio) 3/22 (BC, D. Horn, J. Howard)

Snow Goose-- The wintering flock at Magee consisted of 34 "snow" and

66 "blue" geese 3/11 (m. obs.). 7 inland sites held 1-5 birds 3/2-27. A late "Blue Goose" was at Barberton Res. (Summ) 5/15 (KMo).

Brant-- A straggler accompanied Canada Geese on the golf course adjacent to Sheldon Marsh SNP (Erie) from at least 3/12-4/8 (R. Johnson, m. obs.).

Canada Goose-- Max. 9700 ONWRC 3/5.

Wood Duck-- Highs include: 90 ONWRC 4/2 & 40 Tinkers Creek SNP 4/15 (CH).

Green-winged Teal-- Some highs include: 250 ONWRC 4/2; 150 BIWA 4/14 (JH); 56 Delaware WA (Dela) 3/7 (KA); & 40 Grand River WA (Trum) 3/16 (DJH).

Am. Black Duck-- 600 were on the ONWRC of 3/5.

Mallard-- Max. 3000 ONWRC 3/5.

N. Pintail-- 330 at LPWA 3/20, and 630 there 4/1 were by far the highest counts (VF). 26 were inland at Delaware WA 3/7 (KA). A lingering male was at Medusa Marsh 5/28 (VF).

Blue-winged Teal-- Max. was 270 birds at Magee 4/16 (HSH). 20 at TCM 5/27 (CH); 12 at MWF 5/25 (PW); & a pair at Grand River WA 5/25 (DJH) may all have been locals.

N. Shoveler-- Some highs include: 282 Magee 3/19 (HSH); 207 ONWRC 4/2; 40 Medusa Marsh 4/2 (CH); 30 BIWA 4/1 (JH); & 25 Bresler Res. (Alle) 3/12 (RCu). 3 dawked at BIWA 5/21 (JH).

Gadwall-- Maxima: 110 ONWRC 4/2; 70 Medusa Marsh 4/2 (CH); 50 Mosquito Lk. 4/6 (DJH); & 45 L. Rockwell 4/6 (LR).

Eurasian Wigeon-- The male at Castalia pond (Erie) remained from the winter period to at least 3/5 (JP).

Am. Wigeon-- 560 at LPWA 4/1 provided an excellent count (VF). 74 lingered from the winter at Castalia 3/16, and a pair remained through May (VF). Inland highs were only 40 at Delaware WA 4/6 (KA) & 31 each

at Mogadore Res. 3/19 (CH) & at Mosquito Lk. 3/30 (DJH). 2 lingered at Pipe Creek WA (Erie) 5/27 (CH).

Canvasback- Sandusky Bay (Ota/Erie) harbored 700 birds 3/20 (VF), and 588 were at Magee 3/19 (HSH). The 30 at Mosquito Lk. 3/19 (DJH) served as the inland high. A very late female remained at Delaware WA 5/8-28 (WS).

Redhead- 3000 congregated on Sandusky Bay 3/20 (VF). Inland, 300 were at the Paulding Sewage Lagoons (Paul) 3/11-12 (DMD) & 50 were at BuCr 3/5 (DO). A non-breeding pair lingered at Castalia 5/10-24 (VF).

Ring-necked Duck- LPWA attracted 2200 birds 4/1 (VF). Other highs include: 817 Magee 3/19 (HSH); 750 Mogadore Res. 3/19 (CH); 500 Killbuck WA (Wayn/Holm) 3/11 (JH); about 500 at L. Kelso (Geau) 3/16 (J. O'Meara, fide DBa); 400 Sandusky Bay 3/20 (VF); & 220 Lksh 3/13 (JP). Laggards include a pair at Castalia through May (VF); 3 males and a female at a Shalersville Twp. (Port) pond 5/17 (CH); & a male at Greenlawn Dam 5/27 (AG).

Greater Scaup- Inland numbers continue to increase, with 11 sites reporting. Inland highs include: 50 E. Fork Lk. (Cler) 3/22 (H. Armstrong); 40 Caesar Creek Lk. 3/13 (H. Armstrong, DBr); 40 Paulding (Paul) 3/18 (DMD); & 22 Mosquito Lk. 3/15 (DJH). 4 at Seneca Lk. 4/2 (SLH) provided a rare southeastern Ohio report.

Lesser Scaup- About 8000 scaup, the vast portion of which were Lesser's, accumulated on L. Erie off Crane Creek SP (Luca) 3/14-25 (VF, RHr, EP). Between 5500-7000 more spent 4/1-8 in the adjacent Magee and ONWR marshes (VF, ONWRC, EP). The Hirls' tally of 9482 at Magee 3/19, while very likely involving some duplication with the above, is further evidence of large numbers in that area. 14,000 + scaup were on Sandusky Bay 3/20 (VF). Inland: 650 L. Rockwell 3/27 (LR); 400 LaDue Res. 3/26 (LR); & 390 Paulding 3/12 (DMD).

Oldsquaw- An impressive flock of 24

descended on Summit Lk. (Summ) 3/28 (GK, EP), while 11 were at Walborn Res. 3/28 (AG) & 12 were at LaDue Res. 3/30 (AF). A total of 10 more sites attracted about 18 birds 3/14-4/9.

Black Scoter- A female was in the Wayne Co. portion of Killbuck WA 3/26 (JH). Another single was at Paulding Res. 3/30 (DMD), while 4 were at Fairport Harbor (Lake) 4/22 (JP).

Surf Scoter- Reported from 8 inland sites 4/8-5/6, totalling at least 11 birds, including 4 at Cowan Lk. (Clin) 4/8 (LG). 1 at Mosquito Lk. through 3/6 remained from the winter (DJH, CBa). 3 lakefront sites reported 6 birds 3/14-4/9.

White-winged Scoter- 2 were inland at FRes 3/4 (S. Ross, K. Noblet, fide BH). 6 were at Lksh 3/22 (JP) and 1 was at the Avon Lake Power Plant (Lora) 3/4 (m. obs.).

Common Goldeneye- Highs: 522 Magee 3/19 (HSH); 120 LaDue Res. 3/26 (LR); 100+ S. Bass Is. 3/1 (SW); & 75 L. Rockwell 3/27 (LR). 7 remained at HBSP 5/7 (LR et al.).

Bufflehead- A count of 265 at Mogadore Res. 4/8 was very impressive (LR). Next highest tallies were 145 at Magee 3/19 (HSH) and 75 at Mosquito Lk. 4/6 (DJH). 7 sites reported this species into May, including 12 at HBSP 5/7 (LR et al.) & 5 at Shenango WA (Trum) 5/10 (DJH).

Hooded Merganser- Max. 145 L. Rockwell 4/6 (LR). Nesting was confirmed or strongly suspected at MWF, Shenango WA, Mosquito Lk., KPWA, PCWA, Hidden Valley MP (Lake), & in the Cuyahoga Co. portion of the CVNRA, where a pair arrived by 3/26 (DAC).

C. Merganser- The Hancock Co. reservoirs combined for a huge inland concentration of 460 birds 3/14 (K. Noblet, S. Ross, fide BH). 728 lakefront birds were at Magee 3/19 (HSH). 4 May reports include a very late bird at Paulding Res. 5/26 (DMD).

Red-breasted Merganser- Inland highs include: 1075 Mosquito Lk. 4/6 (DJH); 600 Ferguson Res. (Alle) 3/26

(DD); 600 L. Rockwell 3/31 (LR); & 500-1000 Seneca Lk. 4/4 (SLH). 50 remained on L. Erie off Sims Pk. (Cuya) 5/17 (TMR).

Ruddy Duck-- 600 birds at LaDue Res. 4/16 (CH) & 395 at Mogadore Res. 4/8 (LR) were the inland highs. 600+ were on Sandusky Bay 4/8 (JP).

Vultures through Cranes

Black Vulture-- Some interesting sightings include: 1 Mohican SF (Ash) 3/18 (LEY); 4 L. Hope SP (Vint) 4/9 (FMG); 1 Gilmore Ponds (Butt) 5/10 (DBr); & 1 in Coshocton Co. 5/18 (JM).

Turkey Vulture-- On 4/3, 504 were counted in passage past Lksh (JP), & 330 were at Perkins Beach (Cuya), some 40 miles to the west along the Cleveland lakefront (TLP). 412 and 325 were also tallied at Lksh on 3/20 and 4/11, respectively (JP).

Osprey-- Reported from at least 26 counties 3/27-5/28, totalling about 85 birds, including 13 at Lksh 4/11 and 8 there 4/27 (JP).

Bald Eagle-- Roughly 20 were reported away from nesting areas. At PCWA, 11 imm. were spotted at once on an unspecified date (DK). According to the Ohio Division of Wildlife, 29 nests were initiated in Ohio this year, including 3 new nests. The most interesting of the new nests was built along the Muskingum River at the Muskingum/Coshocton Co. line. Both members of this pair had been raised in the w. L. Erie marshes. Of the 29 nests statewide (representing 12 counties), 25 pairs were successful, raising a total of 38 chicks.

N. Harrier-- 27 passed Lksh 4/11 (JP). A pair was at KPWA 5/31 (JH).

Sharp-shinned Hawk-- JP counted 116 at Lksh 4/27. 36 more lakefront birds passed Perkins Beach 4/3 (TLP). 8 were inland in Tuscarawas Co. 4/18 (ESc).

Cooper's Hawk-- 3 migrated over Tuscarawas Co. 4/18 (ESc). 6 did likewise at Lksh 3/20 (JP).

N. Goshawk-- An adult circled over Kitty Todd SNP (Luca) for nearly 2 minutes 3/25 (VF). Another adult was at Lksh 3/20 (JP). An extremely late migrant was viewed for several minutes in Parma (Cuya) 5/5 (RHR).

Red-shouldered Hawk-- Movements include: 97 Maumee Bay SP (Luca) 3/13 (LEY); 23 HBSP 3/19 (LR); 24 Lksh 3/20 (JP); & 14 S. Bass Is. 4/16 (SW).

Broad-winged Hawk--April 18 witnessed an impressive migration through Holmes & Tuscarawas Cos. JM reported 104 near Berlin (Holm) that day, and LEY noted 68 birds in that area between 3-6 p.m. alone. ESc & RS totalled 80 birds in nearby Tusc the same day. 196 passed over Lksh 4/27 (JP).

Red-tailed Hawk-- While 34 passed Perkins Beach 3/20 (TLP), 141 passed Lksh the same day (JP). LB reported a "white bird with a faded red tail" in Morgan Co. 3/12.

Rough-legged Hawk-- Small numbers were reported from 7-8 counties.

Golden Eagle-- An imm. was found at Oak Openings MP [hereafter OkOp] (Luca) 3/12 (JC). At Lksh, 1 imm. was reported 3/20, and 2 imm. were there 4/11 (JP). An adult was noted at Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge [hereafter ONWR] (Otta/Luca) 4/19 (BBu).

Am. Kestrel-- A colossal 128 passed Lksh 4/11. 34 there 3/20 and 28 there 4/27 were also respectable totals (JP).

Merlin-- About 19 birds were reported from at least 8 counties 3/28-5/20.

Peregrine Falcon-- 10 migrants were noted 3/21-5/21, with reports from 7 counties. Some nesting data: Of the Toledo (Luca) nesting pair, the original female from 1988 was still present this season, producing 4 eggs with a male hatched in Milwaukee, WI in 1993. A second nesting pair was confirmed in Cleveland, consisting of a male from Akron (Summ) and a female from Rochester, NY. This nest was atop a high-rise apartment in Lakewood's "Gold Coast" (PL).

Ring-necked Pheasant-- How does one explain a female, swimming in the reservoir at KPWA 3/19? (VF).

Ruffed Grouse-- A road-kill along Rt. 101 n. of Tiffin (Sene) 3/4 was certainly at an unexpected site (VF).

Wild Turkey-- The ODOW reports that 10,826 were taken by hunters this season, a 19% increase over 1994. Gallia, Vinton and Jackson Cos. led the state with 662, 585 and 494 birds taken, respectively. The Hochadel's found 39 birds at Mosquito Lk. 3/1.

N. Bobwhite-- A bird at HBSP 5/7 was an exciting find for local die-hard listers (LR et al.).

King Rail-- At least 2 territorial birds were at Magee 5/3-19 (J. Heflich, RHR, m. obs.). Singles were at LPWA 5/9-27 (JP, RHR, EP); at BIWA 5/5-21 (JH, KA); at Irwin Prairie SNP (Luca) 5/13 (BM); & at MWF 5/24 (PW).

Virginia Rail-- Max. 5 BIWA 4/23 (JH); 4 SVWA 5/10 (DBr); & 4 Grand River WA 5/25 (DJH).

Sora-- Highs include: 20 BIWA 4/23 (JH); 13 MWF 4/25 (PW); & 11 LPWA 5/4 (VF).

Common Moorhen-- Very small numbers were reported from 11 sites 4/24-5/27.

Am. Coot-- Maxima include: 300 Magee 4/8-14 (EP, RHR); 215 Akron lakes 3/12 (CH); 140-145 LaDue Res. 4/14-16 (DBe, CH); & 180 BIWA 4/24 (KA). An unspecified number at MWF 5/29 is suggestive of nesting (PW).

Sandhill Crane-- At least 2 pair were present in the Killbuck WA/Funk Bottoms WA (Wayn) vicinity 3/16-5/27+ (JH, EP, BG, LEY). A courting pair was seen at Walborn Res. 3/19-26 (LR, CH, m. obs.). At least 15 birds were found in the southwest 3/10-11 (T. Ellis, WP, m. obs.). About 9 more birds were reported from the northwest 3/5-13, with 4 more found 5/5-21. In April, 1 was near Huron (Erie) 4/3 (RHR); 2 were at Stow (Summ) 4/4 (J. Tisdale); & 5 were at Girdled Rd. MP (Lake) 4/28 (JP).

Shorebirds through Terns

Black-bellied Plover-- Highs: 15 Mosquito Lk. 5/15 (DJH); 11 MCMWA 5/7 (RHR, EP); & 8 KPWA 5/12 (JH).

Am. Golden-Plover-- The Washburn Rd. area (in Marion Co. adjacent to KPWA) proved attractive to this species 4/18-28 (KA, JH, BM), with a peak of 420 counted there 4/24 (KA). 250+ were in Ottawa Co. 4/16 (JP). BHa found 15 in Hancock Co. 4/11.

Semipalmated Plover-- Some peaks include: 70 Metzger Marsh WA 5/21 (CH); 40 Medusa Marsh 5/8 (LR); 20 Grand River WA 5/16 (DJH); & 20 KPWA 5/26 (JH).

Killdeer-- Max. 95 ONWRC 5/7.

Black-necked Stilt-- A drawn down impoundment attracted a bird to KPWA 5/23 (JH*).

Am. Avocet-- Metzger Marsh WA hosted a bird 5/14-15 (BC et al., ESc).

Greater Yellowlegs-- A bird reached Funk Bottoms WA by 3/11 (R. Troutman, fide JH). 50 were there 4/19 (EP), while 60 were at BIWA 4/13 (JH). 63 were along L. Erie on the ONWRC of 5/7.

Lesser Yellowlegs-- Highs include: 110 LPWA 5/10 (VF); 100 ONWR 5/6 (RHR); & 50 Funk Bottoms WA 4/19 (EP).

Solitary Sandpiper-- 55 at LPWA 5/10 was by far the highest count (VF). A laggard was at PCWA 5/29 (DK).

Willet-- 1 was at KPWA 5/1 (KA).

Spotted Sandpiper-- Highs include 24 Magee 5/21 (HSH); 20 HBSP 4/27 (RHn); & 18 Cowan Lk. 5/18 (LG). Early singles were at Dublin (Fran) 4/14 (KA) & at Shaker Lakes (Cuya) 4/15 (BF).

Upland Sandpiper-- 2 adults & 2 young were seen in Clark Co. 5/25 (DO). An early bird was at MWF 4/9 (NKA et al.). Also: 1 HBSP 4/15 (LR, RHn); 1 Bolton Field Airport (Fran) 4/17 (KA); a pair near the Ashtabula Co. Airport 4/23+ (CH, JP); & 3 KPWA 4/30-5/7 (JH).

Whimbrel- The 5/21-29 period was obviously the peak, especially at KPWA, where 3 birds on 5/21 grew to a massive 106 birds on 5/24 (JF, AG, JH, KA). On 5/21, Cowan Lk. hosted 27 birds (E. Krichen). Along the Lake, 22 passed HBSP 5/21 (LR, RHn) and 1 was there 5/25 (RHn). 16 more were noted at Lksh 5/29 (JP).

Ruddy Turnstone-- The Crane Creek SP/Magee Marsh Beach is always a favored site, with a high of 26 turning stones there 5/21 (CH). 4 were at S. Bass Is. 4/28-30 (SW). Inland, up to 3 were at KPWA 5/8-22 (VF, JH, KA) & 1 was at Paulding Res. 5/20 (DMD).

Red Knot-- Many observers watched 1 at TCM 5/27. Another was at Metzger Marsh WA 5/21 (CH).

Sanderling-- Up to 15 were on the Crane Creek SP/Magee Marsh Beach 5/14-22, with the peak coming 5/14 (EP et al.). 12 were at HBSP 5/21 (RHn et al.). Pipe Creek WA, a very underbirded site, hosted 5 birds 5/27 (CH). 1 at the Alum Creek SP beach (Dela) 5/29 was an inland rarity (WS). A very good spring.

Semipalmated Sandpiper-- Maxima: 365 Medusa Marsh 5/28 (VF); 120 Magee 5/21 (HSH); 120 KPWA 5/27 (JH); & 50-100 TCM 5/27 (m. obs.).

Least Sandpiper-- Highs: 160 LPWA 5/10 (VF); 30 Medusa Marsh 5/8 (LR); 25 Grand River WA 5/16 (DJH); & 21 BuCr 5/6 (DO).

White-rumped Sandpiper-- We received reports from 8 sites 5/11-28, including 15 at TCM 5/27 (m. obs.) & 10 at L. Rockwell 5/16 (CH). Also found in Butl, Erie, Luca, & Wyan Cos. and Killbuck WA.

Pectoral Sandpiper-- Excellent numbers: 2500 Medusa Marsh 4/3 (RHr); 1460 passing the Magee hawk tower 3/20 (VF); 500 Metzger Marsh WA 3/20 (likely including some of the individuals noted above passing the Magee tower) (VF); about 500 KPWA 4/23 (BM); 481 Delaware WA 4/20 (WS); 320 BIWA 4/19 (JH); plus 4 more sites with 166-300 birds 4/2-25. A late bird was at HBSP 5/28 (RHn, E. Back).

Dunlin-- The drawn-down mudflat at

Medusa Marsh was outstanding for this and the above species. 2000 Dunlin were there 5/12, and 1000 were there 4/30-5/7 (m. obs.). The peak at Metzger Marsh WA came 5/20, with 1750 birds present (RHr, EP). TCM held 1500 more birds 5/21 (CH). The Hiris' total of 3060 at Magee the same day very likely includes the TCM report above. The inland peak was 185 at KPWA 5/20 (JH).

Curdew Sandpiper-- An adult was photographed at Medusa Marsh 5/4 (VF). It remained at least to 5/7 (CH*).

Stilt Sandpiper-- Up to 3 were at ONWR 5/15 (ESc, RR). At least 1 was at Metzger Marsh WA 5/13 (LEY), with others apparently also present, but not reported, in mid-May.

Ruff-- A multi-colored adult male was seen at Medusa Marsh the morning of 4/2 (CH*).

Short-billed Dowitcher-- A bird at Medusa Marsh 4/14-30 was quite early (EP, RHr, JP, CH). Highs include: 25 TCM 5/21 (CH); 16 Medusa Marsh 5/10 (KA); & 10 KPWA 5/13 (JH). At Metzger Marsh on 5/17, a bird showing all the characters of the eastern "griseus" race was noted with 20 of the expected "hendersoni" race (JD).

Long-billed Dowitcher-- A rare spring migrant was at Delaware WA 3/25 (AG).

Common Snipe-- Highs include: 130 ONWRC 4/2; 100 MWF 4/15 (PW); & 60 BIWA 4/14 (JH). Birds were winnowing in the CVNRA 4/15-29 (DAC) and 6 were doing likewise at Mosquito Lk. 4/13 (DJH).

Am. Woodcock-- 30+ were performing courtship flights in Trumbull Co. 3/7, hours before a snowstorm. Despite the storm, the species was still plentiful 3/11 (DJH).

Wilson's Phalarope-- 2 were at ONWR 5/8 (BHe) and 1 was in Paulding 5/19 (DMD).

Red-necked Phalarope-- Up to 8 were thought present at TCM 5/21-27, with the peak coming 5/27 (HH, P. Harner,

JH, m. obs.). Singles were at Metzger Marsh WA (JF) and at KPWA (a female, JH), both on 5/16.

Gulls through Terns

Laughing Gull— An adult was well described and photographed at Alum Creek Res. 5/29-31 (WS ph., ME). Another adult was at HBSP 5/12 (EST et al.). 1 was at Lksh 5/21 (JP).

Franklin's Gull— 1 Fairport Harbor 4/15 (JP).

Little Gull— An adult was at Sims Pk. 4/16 (RHn). Fairport Harbor attracted a bird 4/7 (JP).

Bonaparte's Gull— About 1500 fed in Hancock Co. fields 4/13 (BHa). About 120 were at L. Logan (Hock) 4/4 (RR). 2000+ were along the Cleveland waterfront 4/22 (FMG).

Ring-billed Gull— Continues to expand as a nesting species. At Ashtabula (Asht), a large colony was disrupted by U.S. government personnel 5/4. About 235 of these birds had their bellies dyed red to aid in detection elsewhere. About 2000 nests were also established at Cleveland's Burke Lakelront Airport in early May, obviously an unacceptable situation. These nests were also destroyed, and about 200 birds had their bellies dyed blue 5/8. A few days later, a few of these red- & blue-dyed birds, along with thousands of others, were initiating a colony at Dock 20 at the Port of Cleveland. On 5/19 & 26, personnel in safety garb were seen spraying these nests and eggs with an unknown substance, presumably to eliminate this colony as well (PL, with additional data from ODOW's S.J. Peters, fide PL). A very large gull movement developed at Lksh 3/22, including about 45,000 Ring-billeds (JP). Inland, some 2500 birds spent all day 5/21 eating worms from Hancock Co. spruce trees! (G. Heist, fide BHa).

Herring Gull— Some 15,000 migrated past Lksh 3/22 (JP).

Thayer's Gull— Reports of 1-3 birds were made from Lake & Lorain Cos. 3/9-22.

Iceland Gull— Singles were at Lksh

3/9 & 22 (JP).

Lesser Black-backed Gull— 3 Lake Co. reports 3/18-4/5 (JP).

Glaucous Gull— 6 passed Lksh 3/22 (JP). 5 more lakelront singles were noted 3/3-4/8.

Great Black-backed Gull— The Lksh gull passage of 3/22 also contained 430 of this species (JP). SW reports this species to be present year-round on S. Bass is.

Black-legged Kittiwake— 1 Lksh 3/22 (JP).

Caspian Tern— The Port of Cleveland sheltered 183+ birds 4/19 (PL), with 130+ still present through 4/27 (FMG, PL). Other highs: 90 HBSP 4/22 (RHn); 75 Lorain (Lora) 4/27 (N. Kraps); & 49 Conneaut 4/23 (CH). 5 inland sites reported 1-6 birds 4/8-5/6.

Common Tern— Highs include: 30 HBSP 5/20 (RHn); 30 at the Pipe Creek WA nesting colony 5/27 (CH); 20 S. Bass is. 4/27 (SW); & 19 FRes 5/23 (BHa). An additional 8 inland sites reported, including a misguided bird flying with Rock Doves over a Berlin farm pond 5/7 (RHe).

Forster's Tern— Highs include: 50 Medusa Marsh 4/30 (CH); 38 KPWA 5/18 (BC); & 15 L. Logan 4/30 (EP et al.). 11 more inland sites attracted 1-12 birds, including a 1st-summer bird at L. Rockwell 5/15 (LR) & an early bird at Greenlawn Dam 4/5, despite the 19 degree temperature (AG).

Black Tern— At least 37 inland birds were reported at 10 sites 5/5-30, including 11 KPWA 5/30 (JH) & 7 Paulding Co. 5/20 (DMD). At least 10 lakelront birds were noted 5/7-21.

Cuckoos through Swallows

Black-billed Cuckoo— Both cuckoo species were generally thought to be in above average numbers. Highs include: 6+ S. Bass is. 5/26 (SW); 5 Magee 5/10 (RHr); & 4 Greenbriar Ridge (Monr) 5/13 (BSP).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo— 4 were along Pine Ridge in Washington Co. 5/15 (BSP). Good numbers overall.

Barn Owl— 1 was in Richland Co. 5/11-31 (JH).

Snowy Owl— A laggard was at Fairport Harbor 3/25-4/1 (RHn, JP).

Barred Owl— 6 were counted at E. Fork SP 5/13 (DBr).

Long-eared Owl— Singles were found as follows: Caley MP (Lora) 3/12 (J. Sheldon); Lksh 3/12 (JP); Hamilton Co. 3/15 (M. Dermody); & KPWA 3/18-30 (RCu, VF).

Short-eared Owl— At KPWA, numbers dwindled from 7 birds 3/5 to 1 bird as late as 5/7 (JH, KA, BC, RR). Up to 6 remained from the winter along Hayes Rd. in Middlefield Twp. (Geau) 3/3-11 (PE, E. Faber). Up to 4 were at Rocky Fork Lk. (High) 3/12 & 19 (S. Wagner), and Jefferson Co. Rd. 45 held 3 birds 4/8 (MA). 5 more were reported elsewhere 3/1-4/14, including a bird in Fulton Co. on the latter date (ET).

N. Saw-whet Owl— 1 was spotted at Lksh 4/12 (JP).

Common Nighthawk— Earliest northern reports came 5/5, including a bird in Parma, practically in the same binocular field as the N. Goshawk noted above (RHR). Max. 20 HBSP 5/29 (RHn).

Chuck-will's-widow— Unprecedented in northeastern Ohio, a vociferous male appeared about 5/10-11 at Peter & Levi Miller's farm in Tuscarawas Co., just across the Holmes Co. line. It seems very probable that 2 birds were present (a pair?), remaining at least through 6/6 (ESc, BG, m. obs.). Washington Co. hosted an unspecified number 5/12 (LB).

Whip-poor-will— Arrived in Washington Co. 4/6 (LB) and in Adams Co. 4/10 (C. Bedal, fide BL). 10 inhabited OkOp 5/13 (DO), & 6 were at E. Fork SP 5/13 (DBr). Greenbriar Ridge in Monroe Co. held 4 birds 4/29 (BSP). Approximately 10 migrants were detected 4/18-5/18, mostly along L. Erie.

Chimney Swift— Earliest report was of a bird at Eastwood Lk. 4/10 (JD, ST).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird— Arrived

in Washington Co. by 4/17 (LB).

Red-headed Woodpecker— A nest was found at Zaleski SFA. Hope SP (Vint) 5/19, an area without Breeding Bird Atlas data (BSP). 10 were in Trumbull Co. 5/13 (CBA).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker— KA counted 14 at Green Lawn Cemetery [hereafter GLC] (Fran) 4/17. 5 were in a single tree at Camp Berry (Hanc) 4/11 (m. obs., fide BHA). Last report was of a bird at Greenlawn Dam 5/21 (AG).

N. Flicker— 17+ migrants were found at Lakewood Pk. (Cuya) 4/16 (PL).

Olive-sided Flycatcher— At least 17 were reported from at least 9 counties, beginning 5/12. 1 at the Bewick's Wren nest site in Brown Co. 5/26 was the most unexpected (JD et al.).

E. Wood-Pewee— Arrived in Paulding Co. by 5/1 (DMD).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher— At Lksh, 18 were thought to be present 5/29, and 10 were banded. A total of 22 were banded there 5/21-6/6 (JP). Observers at Navarre Marsh [hereafter Navarre] (Otta) found this species to be present on all 17 dates the area was surveyed between 5/17-6/5 (BSBO). Hancock Co. observers tallied 8 birds countywide 5/23 (BHa et al.).

Acadian Flycatcher— 6 migrants were banded at Lksh 5/18-6/3 (JP).

Alder Flycatcher— Max. 3 L. Isaac (Cuya) 5/24 (RHR). About 15-20 more birds were also reported from 9 more counties 5/13+. 1 at L. LaSuAn WA (Will) 5/28 was at a seldom birded site (DD).

Least Flycatcher— Highs include: 26 HBSP 5/10 (KMe); 14 Magee 5/10 (VF); & 10 Parma/Parma Hts. 5/16 & 19 (RHR).

E. Phoebe— 1 reached central Ohio at GLC by 3/7 (KA), and the north by 3/13, including 3 at S. Bass is. that day (SW). Max. 10 GLC 4/3 (KA). 8+ in the Toledo area 5/13 is indicative of increasing numbers there (ET).

Great Crested Flycatcher— Quite low overall. Max. 6 Magee 5/10 (VF).

E. Kingbird— 3 were at Winton Woods MP (Hami) by 4/18 (JS). 75 were reported at Magee 5/21 (HSH).

Purple Martin— Arrived at Lksh 3/20 (JP). About 100 birds were at Evans Lk. (Maho) 4/21 (DJH). Scarce as a nester in the Cleveland area, about 20 pair were in residence at Lakewood Pk. 5/30 (TLP).

Tree Swallow— Earliest birds arrived 3/7 at both Columbus (KA) & Lksh (JP). 1414 were tallied at Magee 5/21 (HSH). About 200 were at L. Logan 4/4 (FR).

N. Rough-winged Swallow— Reached 3 sites 4/4, including 1 in the north at Toledo (ET).

Bank Swallow— 3 northwestern sites reported this species 4/14. 250 were at KPWA 5/10 (VF). A colony in Brecksville (Cuya) held about 200 "Bankers", as well as a Cliff Swallow, on 5/15 (RHR).

Cliff Swallow— Found in at least 18 counties 4/15+. Thought to be increasing as a nester in Holmes/Tuscarawas Cos. (ESc). Others specifically reported as nesting include: 6 at Sand Beach (Otta) 5/12 (PL et al.); Berlin Res. (Maho) 5/14 (CH); about 20 birds under the Mosquito Lk. causeway 5/18 (DJH); & a colony in Huntsburg Twp. (Geau), which was later overrun by House Sparrows (D. Ferris, fide DBe). 7 migrants were at Eastwood Lk. 4/27 (JD, ST).

Barn Swallow— 1 at Sheldon Marsh SNP 3/25 was decidedly early (RHR). Another was at Walborn Res. by 4/2 (PL, BF et al.). Max. 150 Mosquito Lk. 5/18 (DJH).

Crows through Shrikes

Am. Crow— A heavy migration takes place annually in early spring, being especially noticeable in March along L. Erie. This year, 280 were at HBSP 3/6 (LR et al.), 165 were found on the Cedar Point National Wildlife Refuge Count [hereafter CPNWRC] (Luca) 3/12, and 80 were counted at Magee 3/19 (HSH). For some reason, this

species does not reside in the western L. Erie marshes, so birds found there are obvious migrants.

Red-breasted Nuthatch— Migrants were very scarce in May, as expected after an "off" winter season.

Brown Creeper— This species is present year-round in the CVNRA. Birds found there 3/29-4/8 (ESp, AL, DAC) could have been wintering or in passage, since 9 obvious migrants were at Lksh 4/3 (JP). 19 were at Magee 4/16 (HSH).

Carolina Wren— The 38 participants in the CVNRA census 5/13 could only find 2 Carolina Wrens (DAC et al.). BG felt that about 20% of 1992 numbers were present in the Holmes Co. area this season.

Bewick's Wren— 6, possibly 7 young fledged from a nest near Russellville in Brown Co. 5/29 (BWe, BL, RHR, NKe, EP, m. obs.). Both adults had been present for some time before this date, and the adults and young remained into the summer.

House Wren— Earliest bird was at Camp Berry 4/11 (BHa). Max. 39 ONWRC 5/7.

Winter Wren— Highs include 23 at GLC 4/3 (KA) and 15 at the Wilderness Center (Star) 4/8 (LEY). 1 male at N. Chagrin MP (Cuya) 5/23 (RHR), 1 at Mohican SF through 5/31 (BG), and 2 males at Big Creek MP (Geau) through 5/31 (DBe) were likely nesters.

Sedge Wren— Reports include: 1 Magee 5/10 (KA) & 13 (ET); 1 Sims Pk. 5/13 (T. Kellerman); 1 Maumee Bay SP 5/13 (JP); 1 at the Dunakin's place in Paulding Co. 5/20 (DMD); & 1 in Adams Co. 5/20 (DO).

Marsh Wren— A singing bird at SVWA 3/6-12, and 2 there 3/17 may have wintered (LG, JD, ST). Can the same be said of an unspecified number far to the north at PCWA 3/26? (DK). At least 2 migrants were at Donald Gray Gardens in Cleveland 5/17-26 (PL, BF, TMR, FMG).

Golden-crowned Kinglet— Max. 85 Hinckley MP (Medi) 4/9 (EP et al.). A bird at Hidden Valley MP (Lake) 5/23

would ultimately nest (JP). 1 at Hinckley MP through 5/31 + also likely nested (NKO).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet-- Highs include 48 at GLC 4/12 (KA) & 40 at Magee 5/6 (RHR). An unspecified number was present at Navarre through 5/30 (BSEO).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher-- 1 reached Winton Woods MP by 3/27 (JS). 20 were along L. Erie at HBSP 4/30 (LR) & 12 were inland at Brukner Nature Center (Miam) 4/22 (BHe).

E. Bluebird-- 8 migrants were detected at HBSP 5/7 (LR et al.).

Veery-- Highs were 12 HBSP 5/21 (LR) & 11 Magee 5/10 (VF).

Swainson's Thrush-- Maxima include: 25 HBSP 5/14 & 21 (LR); 25 Magee 5/21 (RHR); & 20 Howland (Trum) 5/22 (CBa). 12 birds at Barnesville (Belm) 5/13 seemed like a good total for southeastern Ohio (SLH).

Hermit Thrush-- The 50 at GLC 4/27 (KA) was the only count of over 20 birds. 1 at Mitchell Forest (Haml) 5/13 was late for the south (NKe et al.).

Wood Thrush-- 2 reached GLC by 4/12. 18 migrants were there 4/27 (both KA).

Am. Robin-- 800 + migrants passed Lksh 3/13 (JP).

Gray Catbird-- HBSP swarmed with 200 catbirds 5/14 (LR). 126 at Magee 5/21 was the next highest tally (HSH). A presumed migrant was at L.

Snowden (Athe) 4/10 (AB), but singles at Camp Berry 3/7 (fide BHa) & at Sheldon Marsh SNP 3/13 (E. Thompson) may have wintered nearby.

Brown Thrasher-- 16 were counted at HBSP 4/29 (LR). 4 birds were reported in March, including 1 at Caley MP 3/3 (J. Blaser) & 1 in Holmes Co. 3/25 (JK). The CVNRA would seem to provide good habitat for this species, but the 38 participants on the CVNRA census 5/13 could only find 1 thrasher, as compared to 87 catbirds (DAC et al.).

Am. Pipit-- Above average numbers include: 400 over Magee 5/4 (VF); 60 Marion Co. 4/1 (JH); 35 s. Bellbrook (Gree) 4/29 (JD, ST); & 20 + Charlie's Pond (Pick) 4/22 (BC et al.). Latest single was at Crane Creek SP 5/27 (CH).

Cedar Waxwing-- The March movement produced 105 at Greenlawn Dam 3/30 (AG) & 50 in Lorain Co. 3/19 (BF, PL). The May movement generated larger numbers including 500 + at Magee 5/28 (VF) & 226 across Hancock Co. 5/30 (BH et al.).

N. Shrike-- 1 Spencer Lk. WA (Medi) through 3/2 (N. Kraps); 1 Geneva (Asht) 3/6 (JP); 1 Lksh 3/13 (JP); 1 Magee 3/14 (VF); & 1 Jaite (n. CVNRA) 3/15 (DAC).

Loggerhead Shrike-- Singles of this rare species were found at KPWA 4/2 (RR); Fairport Harbor 4/15 (JP); & at Brukner Nature Center 5/2 (BHe).

Vireos through Warblers

White-eyed Vireo-- Earliest arrival was at GLC 4/12 (KA).

Bell's Vireo-- 2 singing males were at BuCr 5/21, and 1 remained 5/29 + (DO).

Solitary Vireo-- 20 + at Columbus 4/27 seems like a very good count (RR). 2 at L. Hope SP 4/9 were the earliest arrivals (FMG). A late migrant was at L. Isaac 5/24 (RHR). A nest at Big Creek MP held 2 vireo eggs and 4 cowbird eggs in late May. It was later abandoned (DBe).

Yellow-throated Warbler-- 3 at Magee 5/10 provided a good lakefront count (VF). A late migrant was at HBSP 5/29 (RHn).

Warbling Vireo-- Singles reached Winton Woods (JS) and GLC (KA) by 4/18. Magee attracted 28 birds 5/21 (HSH).

Philadelphia Vireo-- Seemed scarcer than usual, max. 3 Magee 5/17 & 24 (RHR, VF).

Red-eyed Vireo-- Heavily wooded Scioto Co. held 144 birds 5/13 (D. Piepenhoff et al., fide BL). An

exceptionally early bird was at Sugarcreek Reserve (Gree) 4/12 (LG).

Blue-winged Warbler-- Another good spring, including 6 at Magee 5/4 (VF). The old Christmas Tree farm at Horseshoe Pond in the s. CVNRA produced 13 birds 5/9 (RCa, NKO).

"Brewster's" Warbler-- The old stand-by at Station Rd. In the n. CVNRA was present 5/9-30+, for its 4th year at this site (DAC, TLP, TMR, MJK, NKO). 1 was found dead near the Cleveland Museum of Natural History 5/12 (B. Segedl, fide LR). Living singles were at Firestone MP (Summ) 5/10 (J. Reyda, fide EP); at Shaker Lakes 5/13 (P. Peskin); & at Hogback Ridge MP (Lake) 5/23 (JP). 1 was paired with a Blue-winged Warbler at Oak Hill in the s. CVNRA 5/29+ (DAC).

"Lawrence's" Warbler-- This extremely rare hybrid was found at 2 sites on 5/13: at Barnesville City Pk. (SLH) & in Scioto Co. (D. Todt, fide BL).

Golden-winged Warbler-- At least 3 males were present at Magee 5/7-13 (VF, m. obs.). At least 13 others were reported from 8 more counties 4/27-5/17, with 1 in Coshocton Co. 5/13 being the most unexpected (ESc). Additionally recorded at Navarre on 8 dates between 4/27-5/16 (BSBO).

Tennessee Warbler-- Amazingly few were found prior to the May 7-10 period. Highs include: 100 HBSP 5/21 (LR et al.); 22 Howland 5/17 (CBa); & 20 Magee 5/17-21 (RHR, EP).

Orange-crowned Warbler-- Found in at least 9 counties, as early as 4/18 (2 birds at GLC, KA) and as late as 5/28 (an unspecified number at Navarre, BSBO).

Nashville Warbler-- Highs include: 24 GLC 5/8 (KA); 15 Paulding Co. 5/13 (DMD); & 12 HBSP 5/21 (LR).

N. Parula-- 6 each were at Columbus 4/28 (RR) & at Magee 5/14 (VF). Reached MWF by 4/14 (L. Peyton).

Yellow Warbler-- Numerous high counts include: 100 HBSP 5/14 (LR); 92 ONWRC 5/7; & 84 Trumbull Co.

5/13 (CB), etc.

Chestnut-sided Warbler-- A 1.5 hour walk through CBA's Howland property produced a very impressive 62 birds 5/10. 50 were at Magee the same day (RHR), and 34 remained there the next day (KMe). A bird at Sharon Woods MP (Ham) 4/23 was early (TMR).

Magnolia Warbler-- 65 at Lksh 5/21 (including 22 banded, JP); 50 at Magee 5/21 (RHR); & 40 at HBSP 5/14 (LR, RHN) served as the highs. A very early bird was at Mill Creek Pk. (Maho) 4/17 (NB).

Cape May Warbler-- 24 were in Paulding Co. 5/13 (DMD). 10 were at Magee on 4 dates 5/10-21 (RHR).

Black-throated Blue Warbler-- Very good numbers include 40 at Magee 5/10 (RHR) & 36 at HBSP 5/14 (LR, RHN).

Yellow-rumped Warbler-- At Magee, 300 were estimated 5/4 (VF), and 250 were there 5/6 (RHR). Other highs include: 175 ONWRC 5/7; 82 Howland 5/9 (CBa); 80 HBSP 5/7 (LR et al.); & about 75 at Columbus 4/28 (RR).

Black-throated Green Warbler-- 1 was extremely early at Lksh 4/3 (JP). 50 more lakefront birds were at Magee 5/10 (RHR). Inland, 11 were at Howland 4/29 (CBa).

Blackburnian Warbler-- Max 8 HBSP 5/21 (LR).

Yellow-throated Warbler-- 2 arrived at California Woods (Ham) 4/3 (DBr). 4 definite migrants were reported 4/11-5/3. 1 spent 5/13-16 in the OkOp (ET). 28 locals were at Scioto Trail SF (Foss) 4/11 (KA).

Pine Warbler-- LG's wintering bird was last seen at his Wilmington (Clln) feeder 3/8. 9 had already set up territories at Waterloo Wildlife Experiment Station (Athe) by 3/13 (VF), and a migrant was in the north at Twin Lakes (Port) by 3/24 (R. Blacklow). Single territorial males were at L. Rockwell 5/13 (CH) & at Brecksville MP (Cuya) 5/15+ (DAC). About 30 migrants were reported.

Kirtland's Warbler-- A female (probably a 2nd-year bird) put on a show for the throng at the Magee Bird Trail 5/21-22 (PM, RHR*, JKS* RE* ph., NK*, RR ph., MK ph., m. obs.).

Prairie Warbler-- Singles at GLC (KA, BC) and Blacklick Woods MP (Fran) (RR) 4/11 both tied the earliest state spring arrival record. This record should be fairly easily broken, I should think. At least 15 other migrants were reported from Columbus and points north through 5/14, not including an unspecified number at Navarre on 5 dates between 4/27-5/11 (BSBO). A pair was on territory at Oak Hill in the s. CVNRA 5/15+ (NKo, RCa, TMR, DAC).

Palm Warbler-- Highs include: 90 HBSP 5/7 (LR et al.); 56 ONWRC 5/7; & 25 BuCr 5/6 (DO). A very yellow-hued bird was at Shaker Lakes 4/15 (BF).

Bay-breasted Warbler-- Highs: 42 HBSP 5/21 (LR et al.); 35 Magee 5/17 (RHR); & 20+ Jajte 5/19 (DAC).

Blackpoll Warbler-- An exceptionally early bird was reported in w. Hancock Co. 4/18 (W. Seiler, fide BHa). 35 in Scioto Co. (D. Riepenhoff et al., fide BL) & 20 in Pike Co. (D. Minney & T. Bain, fide BL) on 5/13 seem like good counts for these areas. 25+ were at HBSP 5/21 (KMe).

Cerulean Warbler-- 20 residents were at Brecksville MP 5/15 (RHR). At least 15 definite migrants were reported.

Black-and-white Warbler-- Highs include: 40 Magee 5/10 (RHR); 22 Scioto Co. 5/13 (D. Riepenhoff et al., fide BL); & 10 HBSP 5/14 (LR et al.). 1 was in Athens Co. 4/10 (BSP).

Am. Redstart-- Magee attracted 100 birds 5/21 (RHR) & 60 birds 5/24 (VF). 35 were inland at Howland 5/10 (CBa). Scioto Trail SF hosted 4 birds as early as 4/21 (KA).

Prothonotary Warbler-- At Eldon Russell Pk. (Geau), 7 nesting pairs were attracted to jars erected specifically for this species. An unmated male was also present in the study area, and 2-3 more males

were present just outside the area (DBe, AF). 8 were at Mosquito Lk. 5/22 (DJH), & 7 were tallied on the CVNRA census 5/13 (DAC et al.). 2 nests were discovered in the s. CVNRA in May (MZ). Unusually scarce at Magee, but 1 there 5/16 was noted to have been previously banded (JD).

Worm-eating Warbler-- At least 1 was at Magee 4/29-5/7, providing a treat for many observers. At least 11 other migrants were found 4/25-5/23, with definite transients noted in Cuya, Fran, Hanc, Holm, Lake, Luca, Otta & Paul.

Ovenbird-- Good numbers: 93 Scioto Co. 5/13 (D. Riepenhoff et al., fide BL); 25 Magee 5/10 (RHR); & 25 HBSP 5/14 (LR et al.).

N. Waterthrush-- Max. 8 Magee 5/10 (VF).

Louisiana Waterthrush-- An extremely late migrant remained at Magee on 5/21-27 (RHR). Other migrants include: 1 S. Bass Is. 4/5 (SW); 1 Columbus 4/9 (RR); 1 Shaker Lakes 4/14 (NKo); 2 GLC 4/17 (KA); & 1 banded at Lksh 4/25 (JP).

Kentucky Warbler-- At least 16 migrants were reported, including 1 in CR's Parma yard 4/27. This same yard has also hosted a Hoary Redpoll & a Dickcissel in the past!

Connecticut Warbler-- A good season, with at least 20 reported statewide 5/10-30. In addition, this species was reported at Navarre on 7 dates between 5/10-30 (BSBO). Altogether, found in Clar, Cler, Fran, Gree, Lake, Luca, Otta, Paul, Scio, Sene, & Summ Cos.

Mourning Warbler-- 34 were banded at Lksh 5/18-6/4, including 10 on 5/21 alone (JP). 6 were at GLC 5/24 (KA), and 4-6 were at HBSP 5/22 (KMe, RHN).

Common Yellowthroat-- An exceptional count of 80-100 birds was made at HBSP 5/14 (LR et al.). 68 were at Magee 5/21 (HSH), 48 birds at Mosquito Lk. 5/13 was also impressive (CBa). Of 23 at Lksh 5/29, 15 were captured for banding (JP).

Hooded Warbler— About 18 migrants were reported 4/19-5/22, including 3 at BuCr 4/30 (DO). Earliest bird was at Stroud's Run SP (Athe) 4/18 (BSP).

Wilson's Warbler— Highs: 25 Magee 5/21 (RHr) & 20 HBSP 5/21 (LR).

Canada Warbler— 20 at Magee 5/21 (RHr) & 17 at Lksh (with 10 banded) 5/29 (JP) were the highs.

Yellow-breasted Chat— Tiny Donald Gray Gardens sheltered singles on 5/10 (FMG) & 5/26 (TMR).

Tanagers through Finches

Summer Tanager— Max. 10 MWF 5/7 (NKe, K. McDonald). Always rare as a migrant in the north, but the following were noted this year: 1 imm. male Lksh 4/27 (JP); 1 imm. male Magee 5/10 (VF); a pair at the Magee Marsh Beach 5/12 (MJK); & an imm. male at Maumee Bay SP 5/13 (JP); & 1 Magee 5/21 (HSH).

Scarlet Tanager— 6 were at S. Bass is. 5/10 (SW). 30 residents/migrants were at Scioto Trail SF 5/8 (KA). 1 was at Winton Woods by 4/18 (JS).

N. Cardinal— RR once hosted 80 + birds at his Columbus feeder this March.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak— Peaks include: 35 Scioto Trail SF 5/8 (KA); 22 Lksh 5/10 (JP); & 16 HBSP 5/7 (LR et al.). 6 were at CBA's Howland feeder 5/9.

Blue Grosbeak— 2 at E. Fork Lk. SP 5/21 (H. Armstrong) were away from normal haunts.

Indigo Bunting— Many passed overhead at Magee on the morning of 5/10 (RHr). 10 was considered a good total for HBSP 5/21 (LR).

Dickcissel— 2 males were near Sugarcreek (Tusc) 5/16-6/2, but moved on after their field was mowed 6/2 (RS). 5 were at KPWA 5/30 (KA). DK judged the species to be common at PCWA by 5/25. 3 more were in Ottawa Co. 5/27 (B. Morrison).

Rufous-sided Towhee— GLC produced an excellent migratory total of 48 birds 4/12 (KA).

Am. Tree Sparrow— The 525 at Magee 3/19 was by far the highest count (HSH). Latest report was of a bird at Camp Berry 5/2 (m. obs., fide BH).

Chipping Sparrow— 2 reached Mitchell Forest 3/19 (NKe, K. McDonald). 150 concentrated at GLC 4/27 (KA), & 44 did likewise at HBSP 5/7 (LR et al.).

Clay-colored Sparrow— An amazing influx: 1 singing bird at Greenlawn Dam 5/2-5 (AG⁺, RR, BC, KA, m.obs.); 1 Parma 5/9 (RHr⁺); 1 Metzger Marsh WA 5/13 (LEY⁺, RHr⁺, EP⁺, m. obs.); 1 HBSP 5/21 (LR⁺, RHn); & another singing bird at Lksh 5/21 (JP⁺).

Field Sparrow— 20 migrants hit the L. Erie shore at Cleveland's E. 72nd St. 4/12 (FMG). 45 residents were in the CVNRA 5/26 (PE).

Vesper Sparrow— At least 6 migrants passed through Tuscarawas Co. 4/8 (Esc).

Lark Sparrow— An out-of-place bird was in Whitewater Twp. (Hami) 5/13 (PW). At least 3 were in the OkOp (m. obs.). Following last year's nesting, 2 were at KPWA by 5/23 (KA).

Savannah Sparrow— The wintering flock at MWF stood at 6 birds 3/5 (PW).

Grasshopper Sparrow— Singles at HBSP 5/14 (LR) & at Donald Gray Gardens 5/16 (PL, FMG) were certainly migrants.

Henslow's Sparrow— Some highlights include: 12 in the Clear Creek Valley area (Hock) 4/30 (EP et al.); 6+ Jefferson Co. Rd. 45 4/18 (MA); several near Dundee (Tusc) 5/26 (Esc); & 2 at the Horseman's Area of Scenic Vista Pk. (Colu) 5/31 (G. Melter, fide RE).

Fox Sparrow— Highs: 18 GLC 3/27 (KA) & 17 Lksh 4/12 (JP).

Song Sparrow— Highs: 849 Magee 3/19 (HSH); 105 ONWRC 4/2; 74 Lksh 4/12, with 56 banded (JP); & 56 HBSP 5/7 (LR et al.).

Lincoln's Sparrow-- An early bird was at Berlin 4/23 (LEY). Of 30 at Lksh 5/10, 17 were banded (JP). 25 were at HBSP 5/14 (LR). A singing bird was a treat for FMG & PL at Donald Gray Gardens 5/16.

Swamp Sparrow-- 16 transients were at Lksh 4/27 (JP). The cattails at Plymouth Marsh (Ash) sheltered 10 birds 4/23 (CH). 1 at SVWA 5/27 was late for the south (NKE et al.).

White-throated Sparrow-- Highs: 250+ Lksh 4/27, with 125 being banded (JP); 240 Magee 5/4 (VF); 200 Scioto Trail SF 5/8 (KA); & 140 GLC 4/27 (KA).

White-crowned Sparrow-- Apparent representatives of the "Gambel's" race were at ST's/JD's Beaver Creek (Gree) feeder 4/25-26 & 5/9. Highs: 100+ HBSP 5/7 (LR et al.); 73 banded at Lksh 5/10 (JP); 35 Greenlawn Dam 5/4 (AG); & 32 at Berlin 4/18 (RHe).

Harris's Sparrow-- An adult appeared at Greenlawn Dam 5/6, presenting itself to observers looking for the Clay-colored Sparrow noted above (K. Johnson, AG*, m. obs.).

Dark-eyed Junco-- Only decent count was of 95 at Lksh 4/11, with 68 banded (JP). A territorial male continued his hopeless vigil at Greenlawn Dam through 5/31, present for the 2nd consecutive year (AG). Residents were noted at Big Creek MP (DBe); S. Chagrin MP (Cuya) (EP, RHR); & N. Chagrin MP (RHR). Singles showing characteristics of the "Oregon" race were at RR's Columbus feeder through 3/8 and near Sugar Creek 4/14 (RS).

Lapland Longspur-- Washburn Rd., adjacent to KPWA in Marion Co., was again host to an impressive display of longspurs 3/19-5/6. Some totals from this site include: 45 3/19 (VF); 95 4/6 (JH); 150 4/23 (RR); 180 5/1 (KA); & 23 5/5 (KA). Many were in breeding plumage. 8 birds were near Magnetic Springs (Unio) 3/21 (JD, ST).

Snow Bunting-- 3 reports totalled 20 birds 3/4-11.

Bobolink-- Aerial migrants were

detected at Lksh (27 birds 4/27, JP) & at HBSP (30+ birds 5/7, LR).

Red-winged Blackbird-- 5250 were on the CPNIWRC 3/12.

W. Meadowlark-- A cooperative nesting pair of Western Meadowlarks was found along Darsch Rd. (Otta), near Magee, 5/10+ (KA, m. obs.). A male was in Tuscarawas Co. 3/25 to about 5/13 (ESc).

Yellow-headed Blackbird-- Males were in Delaware Co. along I-71 3/19 (RHR); at the PCWA feeder 5/9, with it or another there 5/31 (DK); & at KPWA 5/12 (BC et al.). Unspecified singles were at Magee 4/29 (TMR) & at a Mentor feeder 4/11 (A. & J. Fjeldstad).

Rusty Blackbird-- Highs: 185 ONWRC 4/2; 150 Hancock Co. 3/28 (E. Masel, fide BHA); & 100 Parma/Parma Hts. 4/13 (RHR).

Common Grackle-- 2500 were at HBSP 5/7 (LR et al.).

Orchard Oriole-- HBSP attracted 3 birds 5/14 (LR).

N. Oriole-- Highs: 65 Scioto Trail SF 5/8 (KA); 47 Trumbull Co. 5/13 (CBA); & 40 HBSP 5/14 (LR). In Parma, an early female was seen to feed at sapsucker wells as well as on the lawn with robins 4/24-28 (RHR).

Purple Finch-- Lksh nets captured 38 birds 3/19-6/4, with a peak of 9 banded 4/27 (JP). 8 were at BuCr 3/19 (DO).

House Finch-- 359 were banded at Lksh 3/14-6/6, topped by 48 birds 5/27 (JP).

Pine Siskin-- Only 10 birds were reported from 5 counties 3/6-5/21. Both the earliest and latest reports came from BM's Worthington (Fran) property.

Am. Goldfinch-- Highs: 210 Lksh 5/8, including 73 banded (JP); 150 Scioto Trail SF 4/26 (KA); & 150 Magee 5/10 (VF). 60 were at ESc's Holmes Co. feeder 4/1.

EXOTICS & ESCAPES

Trumpeter Swan-- The Hancock Co.

saga continues [see "The Ohio Cardinal" 16(4):121], with the 2 adults chasing off 5 immature birds from the nesting pond in early May. The immatures were still present in the general area 6/1 (BHa).

Meanwhile, at the Stark Co. portion of Walborn Res., 3 adult Trumpeter's were found 3/26 (CH*). At least 2 birds remained at least intermittently through the summer. This record was reviewed by the OBRC, and received a Non-Accept ruling by reason of uncertainty of origin. Rather than being true vagrants, chances are that these birds were from an introduced population.

ADDENDA

Am. White Pelican-- According to "The Redstart" 62(1):43, a bird that lingered along the Ohio River near Belpre (Wash) through the end of the Spring 1994 period remained into the Summer 1994 period. It "was reported to be a nuisance to the fisherman in a June 26 newspaper article and could not be located by the end of the week. It was not known whether it left on its own or not."

Golden Eagle-- 1 was reported at Nelsonville (Athe) 4/19/94 (Dr. Pemine, fide VF).

"Brewster's" Warbler-- 1 Dover Twp. (Athe) 5/9/94 (VF).

Pine Siskin-- A late bird was in Athens Co. 5/25/94 (VF).

FINAL OBRC DECISIONS FROM PREVIOUS REPORTING PERIODS

The following records were reviewed by the Ohio Bird Records Committee. All received at least 9 "Accept" votes from the 11-member Committee, and are therefore ACCEPTED:

Western Grebe-- OBRC 01-95-03: Unprecedented in Ohio in midwinter, 1 was observed from approximately 150 feet away on the Maumee River Rapids at Jerome Road (Sidecut MP) (Luca) 1/25/95. The bird confined itself to a calm nearshore eddy rather than exposing itself to the swiftly moving main channel waters (M. Anderson*, ET*, m. obs.).

N. Gannet-- OBRC 117-94-04: A 1st-winter bird put on a show at the Lorain Marina International (Lora) from 12/10 to at least 12/13/94 (BC et al., RHR*, W. Sarno*, EP*, m. obs.).

Eurasian Wigeon-- OBRC 136-94-05: An adult male consorted with a mixed flock of other dabblers just outside the Conneaut Harbor breakwall (ASht) on the late afternoon of 12/21/94 (JP*). Another adult male (OBRC 136-95-06) was attracted to the never-freezing pond in downtown Castalia (Erie) attracted an adult male, apparently first seen by a local observer in November 1994, and then re-found by the same observer in mid-January 1995 (fide VF). VF first saw and photographed the bird on 1/23/95, and it was documented on 1/28 (RHR*, EP*). It remained to be seen by many observers through at least 3/5.

N. Lapwing-- OBRC 269-94-01: This mind-blowing first state record (a juvenile) was found in an Adams Co. (Liberty Twp.) winter wheat field just west of the hamlet of Panhandle on 12/29/94 (M. McAllister). The bird remained only until about 10:15 a.m. on 12/30, allowing about 20 observers the probable once-in-a-lifetime chance to add this species to their state lists (C. Bedel*, J. McCormac*, BWh*, P. Gatch*, m. obs.). [For more details, see "The Ohio Cardinal" 18(2):38-39, 77].

American Golden-Plover-- OBRC 272-95-01: On 1/3/95, a dark shorebird was observed being chased downstream by Ring-billed Gulls at the Jerome Rd. access to the Maumee River Rapids. It eventually landed along the Lucas Co. river bank and allowed approach to within 20 feet. The bird was in a plumage surprisingly similar to breeding plumage, with undersides almost entirely black although mottled with white (M. Anderson*).

Piping Plover-- OBRC 277-94-06: A juvenile was observed on the mudflat at the Lorain East Breakwall (Lorain Co.) 9/25-28/94 (TLP*, RHR).

Pomarine Jaeger-- OBRC 36-94-02: A dark immature was found off the Lorain East Breakwall (Lorain Co.) 12/17/94 (EP*, JP*, RHR*, et al.).

Common Black-headed Gull— OBRC 55-1-94-02: A winter-plumaged adult spent most of the day of 12/17/94 (the date of the Cleveland CBC) at the Eastlake Power Plant (Lake Co.) (LR* ph., RHn*, JD*, m. obs.).

California Gull— OBRC 53-95-05: An adult was observed for 4 minutes on the mudflat at Walnut Beach (Ashtabula Co.) 1/13/95. It then took off and flew to the east (JP*).

CONTRIBUTORS & OBSERVERS

All individuals contributing bird reports to "The Ohio Cardinal" for the Spring 1995 season (March 1-May 31, 1995) are listed below in CAPITAL LETTERS. In addition, many other Observers submitted their sightings to other birding-related publications. For this issue, reports from the following publications have been used: "The Cleveland Bird Calendar" (Kirtland Bird Club); "Passenger Pigeon" (The Cincinnati Bird Club); "The Toledo Naturalists' Association Bulletin"; & "Wingtips" (Black River Audubon Society). Those Observers who received at least four citations in the Spring 1995 "The Reports" section are also included in the following list of Contributors: J. KIRK ALEXANDER (KA); MICHAEL J. ARABIA (MA); CAROLE L. BABYAK (CBa); BOB BALL (BBa); ANDREW L. BARBER (AB); LYNN BARNHART (LB); DAN BEST (DBe) for the Geauga Co. Park District; BLACK SWAMP BIRD OBSERVATORY (BSBO) fide Mark Shieldcastle; CHARLES A. BOMBACI (CBo); DAVID A. BRINKMAN (DBr); NANCY D. BRUNDAGE (NB); BYRON BURNET (BBu); RONALD A. CANTERBURY (RCa); JOHN CHADWICK (JC); DWIGHT & ANN CHASAR (D&C); BOB CONLON (BC); ROBERT F. CUTTER (RCu); DAVID C. DISTER (DD); DOUG & MICKI DUNAKIN (DMD); JON L. DUNN (JD); ROBERT K. ELLWAY (RE); PAUL D. ELLSWORTH (PE); MARCUS C. ENGLAND (ME); VICTOR W. FAZIO, III (VF); BOB FINKELSTEIN (BF); ANDY FONDRK (AF); JIM FRY (JF); LARRY GARA (LG); BRUCE D. GLICK (BG); ADAM GOLODA (AG); FRANK & MELINDA GREENLAND (FMG); Ray Harrilman (RHn); SHARON LEE HANSE (SLH); BETTY HARDESTY (BHs); ROBERT

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In 1991, at least 309 species were found in Ohio.

In 1992, at least 308 species were found (plus 1 pending).

In 1993, at least 309 species were found (plus 2 pending).

In 1994, at least 309 species were found (plus 4 pending).

1995 totals are incomplete.

Given the remarkable consistency of these totals, can we predict the 1996 statewide total before the year even begins? Perhaps!

The Grapevine

A Black-necked Stilt at Killdeer Plains WA

Sometimes, when excellent habitat is present, and enough hours are spent birding, an unusual species is seen. During Spring 1995 one of the large ponds at Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area (Wyandot Co.) along County Road 68 was drawn down. On May 23, 1995, I arrived at Killdeer at 7:15 a.m. I was scanning the mudflats when I saw a Black-necked Stilt. When I first found the bird, it was about a quarter-mile from me. Even at this distance, with my Bausch & Lomb 40x scope, the stilt was unmistakable, with its long red legs and black and white plumage. After watching it for about 15 minutes, I raced home to get my wife so she could see the bird, and to put it on the state-wide Rare Bird Alert as well. Around 8:00 a.m., I arrived home at Bucyrus and immediately phoned Bruce Glick, asking him to put the stilt on the Alert.

I arrived back at Killdeer with my wife at about 8:45 a.m. The stilt was still where I left it, and we watched it for some time. Then I scanned the mudflat for other birds, and found a few Black-bellied Plovers. But when I looked back for the stilt, it was gone. Knowing that the willows lining the pond prevented the entire area from being viewed from one location, I drove to the next small parking lot to the west. There I found the stilt again, this time at a distance of only 200 feet. We watched the bird until about 9:40 a.m., when it took flight and headed east and then south. It was apparently never seen again. By John Herman, 1217 Teddy Avenue, Bucyrus, OH 44820



Ruddy Turnstones and Sanderling. Crane Creek SP (Lucas Co.), 5/20/95.
Photo by William Shively.

Rare Sparrows at Greenlawn Dam

Extremely exciting was the discovery May 2, 1995 of a Clay-colored Sparrow, in the company of a half-dozen Chipping Sparrows, approximately one-quarter mile up the bike path from the boat launching park adjacent to the Greenlawn Avenue Dam (Franklin Co.). [Editor's note- A site guide to this location was published in The Ohio Cardinal 18(1):6-8]. I found the bird at about 9:15 a.m., and watched it for several minutes, at first as it sat on the ground and then in the shrubbery and trees. Although it was not refound on May 3, I did relocate it during the morning of May 4, again with the Chipping Sparrows. I subsequently ran into Bob Conlon, and we observed the bird together and heard it singing as well. Charles Gambill reported seeing the bird early in the morning of May 5, but several of us who arrived later that day could not relocate the bird.

As if the Clay-colored Sparrow wasn't exciting enough, birder Keith Johnson, while investigating the area where the Clay-colored had been, happened upon a breeding-plumaged Harris's Sparrow, just before 9:00 a.m. on May 6. This bird was feeding with a small flock of White-crowned Sparrows. The bird was subsequently "discovered" by Red and Louise Gambill and was also seen by Bob Conlon, just minutes later. After getting word of this bird from Keith, I rushed back to the area and met up with the Gambills and others. Soon, seven of us were standing and waiting. Some White-crowns would pop out from the vegetation to feed in the grass, only to be chased away by bikers, roller skaters and runners. Finally, however, at around 10:30 a.m., the bird came out to feed in the grass and was well seen by all of us. Although neither rare sparrow could be relocated on May 7, it seemed that a little of the "Patagonia Picnic Table Effect" had rubbed off on this small area in central Ohio. By Adam Goloda, 269 E. Blenkner Street, Columbus, OH 43206.

Exciting Days in Holmes & Tuscarawas Counties

It was an exciting season! On April 18th, I saw 9 species of raptors, totalling over 100 individuals, in Tuscarawas County, all between about 2:15 and 5:00 p.m. These birds came through immediately after a warm front passed; a front that had been somewhat stationary just south of Ohio for a few days previously. Only in Tuscarawas Co. (or any other place where hawks aren't geographically concentrated) can such numbers and diversity be really appreciated! How many must have been moving across Ohio? For passerine migration, the period of May 10 through about May 13 was excellent. In fact, it was the best migration in my memory here in the local Tuscarawas/Holmes Co. area. Over 20 species of warblers were practically in my backyard! Numbers of many species were high. One has to wonder about all the claims that neotropical migrants are rapidly declining. Over the past 15 years I haven't noticed much change in overall numbers of migrants. Two species of special concern, the Wood Thrush and Cerulean Warbler, seemed to be in very healthy numbers! By Ed Schlabach, 3153 SR 93, Sugarcreek, OH 44681

"Great" would describe spring migration. Of course, being out on the right days makes a big difference. We lucked out in picking some good

days. On April 18, I got 68 Broad-winged Hawks inland over eastern Holmes County from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. Cold, wet weather with north winds for two weeks held back migration. When the wind finally went to the south, Wednesday May 10 brought the best fall-out I've seen, including 23 species of warblers in my wood lot. On Thursday May 11, we birded Killbuck WA, Mohican SP and at home, and found 34 species of warblers, missing only Mourning and Connecticut, both of which had been seen the day before. By Leroy E. Yoder, 4501 TR 606, Fredericksburg, OH 44627.

Laughing Gull at Headlands Beach SP

On May 12, 1995, my friend Bob Schwab and I were birding Headlands Beach State Park (Lake Co.). As we were approaching the water's edge to check out what we thought was an immature Great Black-backed Gull (it was), we were approached by a young man with a pair of roof prism, 10 x 42's slung around his neck. We later learned that he had just completed his second year at John Carroll University, and that his name was Pete Munson. "You fellows know anything about gulls?" he asked. This is the kind of question I presume we all try to avoid, since you can't win whatever you decide to answer, but Bob and I have a combined 80-some years birding experience, so I took a shot at the affirmative. "Sure we do, and he is, in fact, an immature Great Black-backed." "No", said Pete, "not that one. I saw another gull and I would rather just give you the field marks and let you tell me what it is."

He then proceeded to rattle off a list of field marks: "Black head, but the black extends down the back of the neck further than on a Bonaparte's; dark gray upper wings, fading into black at the wing tips; white line on the trailing edge, but no other white on the uppersurface of the wings; light to white underbody and under wing; deep red bill and legs; and a white eye ring. What do you think?" "That's a Laughing Gull", said I, "and I think you're kidding me." "Well, as a matter of fact", said he, "there it is." We turned to look at the shore line, and, not ten feet away, there it was, a Laughing Gull. We flushed it a couple of times, just to get a look at the wing pattern, and it flew back to land almost at our feet. It was a good day at Mentor Headlands. We listed 65 species, including the Laughing Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, 6 Caspian Terns and a dozen Common Terns. Pete Munson gave us the Laughing Gull, and in trade we gave him a Ruddy Turnstone. We had a great time, as we always do, looking for birds. By Ed Stokes, 13697 Butternut Road, Burton, OH 44021.

Resourceful Ring-billed Gulls

On the weekend of May 20-21, 1995, there were in excess of 2500 Ring-billed Gulls on our 6 acre property near Findlay (Hancock Co.). Some of the birds flocked in a grassy area in front of a windbreak consisting of pines and spruces, but most of the birds were perched in the windbreak trees, with the top quarter of the trees being heavily occupied. The trees are 15 to 25 feet tall, and the windbreak is about 100 feet long and 3 tree rows wide. I noticed the gulls were pecking at something on the trees, not so much on the stems, but instead it appeared that they were picking the needles or something off the needles. There was constant activity and hovering around the tree tops,

as the gulls on the ground would try to find positions in the trees. This kept up from mid-morning to late afternoon, and for two days. On Monday the local farmers started working their fields again, and the gulls lost interest in our place.

I lost interest too. However, a few days later, my husband came in from mowing the grassy area and notified me there were caterpillars on our windbreak trees. So, equipped with my sprayer, I went to see what I could do. Sure enough, most of the Scotch Pines and Norway Spruces contained Eastern Tent Caterpillars and their tell-tale webs. Only the lower halves of the trees had any worms remaining. Thanks to the gulls, I could reach the remaining worms. Incidentally, the trees came out of it very well and look fine now. The gulls continue to hang out in this area because the Findlay Reservoirs are about a mile away and because of the promise of farmers working the soil. By Ginny Hiatt, 11373 Twp. Rd. 234, Findlay, OH 45840.

Bird Banding at Lakeshore Metropark, Spring 1995

For a total of 151 hours (1951 net hours) on 31 days between March 14 and June 6, 1995, I banded birds at Lakeshore Metropark (Lake Co.). My final tally was 3102 individuals banded, representing 103 species. Peak movements per month came on March 31 (101 indiv. banded), April 11 (177 indiv. banded), and May 10 (221 indiv. banded). My top numbers banded were: White-throated Sparrow-- 393; House Finch-- 359; Song Sparrow-- 324; Am. Goldfinch-- 288; Dark-eyed Junco-- 285; White-crowned Sparrow-- 118; Blue Jay-- 107; Gray Catbird-- 105; Chipping Sparrow-- 59; & Swamp Sparrow-- 57. Data by John Pogacnik, 4765 Lockwood Road, Perry, OH 44081.



Laughing Gull. Alum Creek SP (Delaware Co.), 5/30/95.
Photo by William Shively.

Ohio Bird Records Committee Report: Winter 1994-95, Spring 1995, and Summer 1995 by Victor Fazio, Vice-Secretary

For this report, the Ohio Bird Records Committee (OBRC) provided initial review for 36 records (3 originating from the Autumn 1994 reporting period, 10 originating from the Winter 1994-95 period, 21 originating from the Spring 1995 period, and 2 originating from the Summer 1995 period).

Of these 36 records, 10 originating from the Winter 1994-95 period received at least 9 "Accept" votes from the 11-member Committee, and are therefore considered ACCEPTED according to OBRC Bylaws section VI F(10)(a). Details regarding these 10 records are appended to the Spring 1995 seasonal report elsewhere in this issue. 12 records originating from the Spring 1995 period were likewise ACCEPTED, and appear within the body of the seasonal report in this issue. 2 records originating from the Summer 1995 period were also ACCEPTED, and details of these 2 records (Royal Tern at Lorain and Snowy Plover at Metzger Marsh) will appear in the next issue.

The following records received between 6 and 8 "Accept" votes, and are therefore scheduled for Recirculation, according to OBRC Bylaws section VI E(3)(a). The next circulation scheduled for each record is noted in brackets. If necessary, each record may receive 4 circulations (the original circulation plus 3 Recirculations). These records are:

- Glossy Ibis- OBRC 186-94-04: 1, reported at Ottawa NWR (Ottawa Co.) 9/8/94 and at Turtle Creek Marsh (Ottawa Co.), 9/10/94. [3]
Ruff- OBRC 260-95-07: 1, Killdeer Plains WA (Wyandot Co.), 4/21/95. [2]
Carolina Chickadee- OBRC 736-95-01: 1, Lakeshore MP (Lake Co.), 5/6/95. [2]
Scarlet Tanager- OBRC 608-94-01: 1, Findlay (Hancock Co.), 11/26-12/3/94. [3]
Brewer's Blackbird- OBRC 510-94-01: 1, Magee Marsh WA/Crane Creek SP (Ottawa/Lucas Cos.), 8/5/94. [2]

The following records are also scheduled for the first Recirculation (2nd circulation overall), according to OBRC Bylaws section VI E(3)(e). These records are:

- Ross's Goose- OBRC 170-95-06: 1, Powell (Delaware Co.), 3/25/95.
Glossy Ibis- OBRC 186-95-05: 2, Pickerington Ponds MP (Franklin Co.), 4/16/95.
Kirland's Warbler- OBRC 670-95-03: 1, Magee Marsh WA (Lucas Co.), 5/20/95.
Rufous Hummingbird- OBRC 433-95-03: 1, Mentor (Lake Co.), 4/29-5/1/95.

3 records originating from the Autumn 1994 and Winter 1994-95 reporting periods received fewer than 6 "Accept" votes, and are therefore considered NOT ACCEPTED, according to OBRC Bylaws section VI F(10)(b). These records are listed below, with commentary.

Baldpate Teal- OBRC 139.1-95-01: 1 male, Englewood Reserve (Montgomery Co.), 2/25-26/95. Identification correct, but not accepted due to uncertain origin. The OBRC would like to extend its thanks for this most thorough documentation. We agree with the authors of the documentation with respect to the importance of bringing this record to the attention of the public. As yet the balance of evidence (captive population being greater than wild source population) does not allow for acceptance as a wild bird. COMMENTARY: The Committee commends every effort to bring to its attention any such records, and we encourage documentation. If indeed of a wild origin, in time

a pattern of occurrence may emerge where the balance of evidence will allow us to vote for such a record; if of captive origin, we will have a history of the species' occurrence on hand should the species prove to be a successful introduction. Case in point: some time in the Spring of 1993 a report surfaced from northeastern Ohio of a Black-bellied Whistling Duck. To my knowledge this was dismissed as an escapee by the birding community, hence not "countable", hence not worth documenting. From the subsequent spate (two dozen plus) of records of Black-bellied Whistling Duck throughout the northeastern Maritimes and Quebec during the Summer of 1993, it is my opinion that not only did Ohio miss an opportunity to add to the state list, but also a valuable data point was lost with regard to an intriguing irruption of the species north and east of its range.

Piping Plover-- OBRC 277-94-06: 8 birds, Turtle Creek Marsh (Ottawa Co.), 9/18/94. Vote-- 1 Yea, 10 Nay. Upon a second round of voting (the first Recirculation) the OBRC found the documentation provided in support of this record inadequate, nor were we convinced that a misidentification had not occurred for these reasons: 1) The authors of this record did not acknowledge the unusual nature of observing 8 individuals of this species in a single location (more than what is generally observed for the Lake Erie basin in any given year). This was especially troublesome for 6 Committee members who felt that such a number required unequivocal documentation (e.g. photos or corroborating observers). 2) For three members of the Committee, the observation of so large a number also begged the question of why no individual differences were noted. 3) Three members felt that the literature study by the observers may have unduly influenced the identification, especially in view of their level of experience with this species. 4) Two members expressed problems with the details provided in the description. To summarize, the description offered an apparent dichotomy between Piping Plovers and Semipalmated Plovers, yet upon close examination this comparison seems more suited to a dichotomy between different age classes of Semipalmated Plover. The observers, for example, do not consider fresh-plumaged juveniles with their pale feather edgings, which at a distance and side by side with darker adult birds could account for the differences ascribed in the report to those between Piping Plover and Semipalmated Plover. More details are available upon request.

Piping Plover-- OBRC 277-94-07: 1, Lorain East Breakwall (Lorain Co.), 10/8/94. Vote-- 0 Yea, 11 Nay. After a second round of voting (the first Recirculation), the OBRC found the documentation provided in support of this record inadequate for these reasons: 1) Seven members cited meagre details, making it difficult to ascertain whether the identification was accurate. 2) Six members had difficulty with internal inconsistencies between the description and the claimed plumage. Namely, the observation of an orange-based bill in what is said to be a juvenile bird (the bill should be black). 3) Two members were concerned about the lack of corroborating testimony by other observers. NOTE: A Piping Plover at the same site 9/25-28/94 [OBRC 277-94-06] was accepted by the OBRC, and details appear elsewhere in this issue.

3 records originating from the Spring 1995 reporting period likewise were NOT ACCEPTED, according to OBRC Bylaws section VI F(10)(b). One of these (3 Trumpeter Swan, Walborn Reservoir) was Not Accepted based on questionable origin. This record appears under the Exotics & Escapes section in this issue. The other 2 Not Accepted records are:

Ross's Goose-- OBRC 170-95-05: 1, L. White SP (Pike Co.), 3/4/95.
Swainson's Warbler-- OBRC 638-95-02: 1, Salt Fork SP (Guernsey Co.), 5/17/95.

Two records received their fourth and final vote at the OBRC meeting in March 1995. Both records received NOT ACCEPT decisions. These records are:

Golden Eagle-- OBRC 349-93-09: 1, Brimfield Twp. (Portage Co.), 5/17/93.
N. Shrike-- OBRC 621-93-01: 1, Green Twp. (Ross Co.), 1/6/93.

Details regarding why the above four records were Not Accepted should appear in the OBRC report in the next issue.

NOTICE

Ohio Bird Records Committee Nominations

As a current subscriber to The Ohio Cardinal, you have the right to nominate members to the Ohio Bird Records Committee.

The Bylaws of the Committee provide that to nominate someone to this Committee, you must: 1) name an individual other than yourself; 2) have their permission; 3) send your nomination in writing, signed by you, to Rob Harlan, Editor, The Ohio Cardinal, 7072 Parma Park Blvd., Parma Heights, Ohio 44130; 4) make your nomination within thirty (30) days of the mailing date of this issue (Spring 1995); 5) make your nomination in good faith.

Anyone who lives in Ohio and has demonstrated an expert ability in and knowledge of field identification is eligible to be a member.

Jon Dunn, Cal Keppler and Jim McCormac are presently ineligible for nomination as their term on the Committee expires 4/1/96. The Bylaws provide that Committee members may serve only one term and then must retire for one year before again being eligible to serve. The magazine benefited greatly from the considerable help of these three members. Our thanks to them for their service.

The Bylaws also provide that should there not be any nominations by the current subscribers, those members nominated by the Editor and the Publisher of The Ohio Cardinal shall be presumed elected.

The Editor and the Publisher hereby nominate each of the following people for a three (3) year term, commencing April 1, 1996:

Bruce Glick, Millersburg
Jean Hoffman, Cleveland
John Shrader, Dayton

The full Committee is composed of 11 members: 10 elected and a voting secretary (presently Tom Bartlett, Tiffin, OH).

You may nominate a maximum of three individuals.

If there are no other nominations by the above deadline, each of the above will be presumed elected. If there are other nominations, there will be an election among all current subscribers to The Ohio Cardinal. The three candidates receiving the highest number of votes will be elected.

SELECTED ARRIVAL DATES, BY REGION--South, Central, North

SPECIES	DATE	COUNTY	OBSV.
R-t Hummingbird	4/17	Wash	LB
	5/12	Fran	RR
	5/6	Port, Otta	v. obs.
Acadian Flycatcher	5/4	Hami	DBr
	5/9	Fran	RR
	5/10	Various	v. obs.
Swainson's Thrush	5/6	Hami	NKe
	4/27	Fran	RR
	4/28	Otta	BSBO
Red-eyed Vireo	4/12	Gree	LG
	4/22	Holm	LEY
	4/30	Cuya	PL
Blue-winged Warbler	4/21	Various	LB, KA
	4/27	Fran	RR
	4/26	Otta/Luca	RR
Tennessee Warbler	5/5	Hami	DBr
	4/27	Fran	RR
	5/4	Otta	BSBO
Yellow Warbler	4/16	Clin	LG
	4/17	Fran	RR, KA
	4/20	Summ	TMR
Cape May Warbler	4/27	Hami	DBr
	4/28	Fran	BC
	5/5	Otta	BSBO
Blackburnian Warbler	5/3	Hami	JS
	4/27	Fran	KA
	4/28	Maho	NB
Blackpoll Warbler	4/27	Gree	JD, ST
	5/8	Fran	KA
	4/18	Hanc	W.Seiler
Scarlet Tanager	4/18	Hami	JS
	4/19	Fran	BC
	4/28	Otta	BSBO
Indigo Bunting	4/18	Hami	JS
	4/21	Fran	KA
	5/2	Hanc	BHa
N. Oriole	4/23	Morg	LB
	4/27	Fran	RR
	4/24	Cuya	RHr

IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR SUBSCRIPTION
if this line is checked

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