

Marsh Wren: A single bird was heard at Arcola Creek in July. One was heard at the same location in 1996.

Hermit Thrush: A confirmed nesting took place at Hidden Valley and two singing birds were found at Hell Hollow, one (probable) at the same location as the last two years and another (possible) near the wooded farm pond.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: Kinglets again nested at Chapin Forest. This year one pair was found in a forty year-old Colorado Blue Spruce planting. A single, recently fledged bird was found in early July at the same location.

Black and White Warbler: Birds were found at Chapin Forest (1 singing male), Lake Farmpark (1 singing male), Girdled Road (1 pair), Hell Hollow (2; 1 singing male, 1 pair), Hidden Valley (1 pair), and River Road (1 pair). In 1996, Black and White Warblers were found at 8 locations in 8 parks (1997, 7 locations in 6 parks).

Prothonotary Warbler: A probable nesting was found at Conley Road. None were found 1996.

Golden-winged Warbler: None were found in 1997. A singing male was found in 1996.

Nashville Warbler: Birds were found at two locations at Hell Hollow. A pair was found near the site where they nested in 1996 (probable), and a singing male was heard and seen at the north end of the park (possible).

Northern Parula: Singing males were found at Hell Hollow and River Road (both probable). One was found at River Road in 1996.

Magnolia Warbler: The cool wet spring again seemed to attract good numbers of Magnolias. Birds were found at Chapin Forest (1 probable), Girdled Road (1 probable), Hell Hollow (6; 2 confirmed, 2 probable, and 2 possible), and River Road (3; 1 confirmed and 2 probable). In 1996, there were 10 locations at 6 parks (11 locations at 4 parks in 1997).

Black-throated Blue Warbler: A confirmed nesting took place at Hidden Valley. A pair were seen in the brush along the creek at the far end of the park in mid-June. In early July, three newly fledged young were found. In 1996, a singing bird was found at Hell Hollow.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: Single singing males in non-breeding plumage were found at Lakeshore in late June in a small area of conifers, and above the quarry at Chapin Forest in June and July. Both of these birds were probably summering. A summering bird was found at Penitentiary Glen in 1996.

Blackburnian Warbler: Two singing birds were along Mill Creek at Hogback Ridge, both in the area of Hemlocks. One site was later abandoned and the other site fledged young. They were found at two locations in 1996.

Yellow-throated Warbler: Singing birds were found at Blair Road and Hidden Valley, both on the Grand River and one at Hell Hollow along Paine Creek (all probable). There were three locations in 1996.

Continued on page 167.

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### The Ohio Christmas Bird Counts

1997-98

by Ned Keller

This year's Christmas Count results include data from 58 circles located entirely or partially in Ohio, which equals last year's number. We present the data in the species order of the 7th A.O.U. Checklist. Although it was not published until the summer of 1998, after the counts, most birders are beginning to become familiar with the new order.

The number of individual birds was down considerably from last year, from 1,098,735 to 874,563. In large measure, this difference can be explained by the results from a single count: Firelands reported 13,070 Ring-billed Gulls and 20 Bonaparte's Gulls this year, but 168,710 and 56,136 last year. The total number of species reported this year was 153, of which 24 were represented by a single individual. Last year we recorded only 137 species, and the previous high total reported in the Ohio Cardinal was 149, on the 1994-1995 count. This may represent a new record total for Ohio.

However, this year we seemed to receive an unusually high number of extremely rare sightings without documentation. Christmas Counts are a unique blend of enjoyable birding and scientific data collection. If either is missing, much of the point of doing Christmas Counts is lacking. Compilers already put in a great deal of volunteer work to make Christmas Counts run smoothly. It's extra work to make sure that documentation forms are filled out; and it can get a bit touchy when you tell a respected birder - maybe someone better than you are - that their sighting isn't going to be reported without a documentation form. But without it, the credibility of the entire report, not just that one sighting, becomes suspect.

Be that as it may, we continue to report all sightings submitted to us in this report. In the charts, a single asterisk (\*) means that we received documentation. Two asterisks (\*\*) means that the documentation has been submitted to the Ohio Rare Birds Committee. Records accepted by the OBRC will appear within the body of the Winter 1997-98 seasonal summary (Vol. 21 No. 2). A plus sign (+) means that the bird was recorded outside Ohio. Finally, the number in parentheses following the name of the count refers to the numbered circle on the map which accompanies this report.















	W. Central										Central Region										
	Clark Co. 12/20/1997 (44)	Grand Lake St. Marys 12/7/1997 (41)																			
		Greenville 12/28/1997 (43)		Indian Lake 12/27/1997 (42)		Columbus 12/21/1997 (55)		Delaware Reservoir 12/21/1997 (52)		Hoover Reservoir (53)		Killdeer Plains (50)		Kingston 1/4/1998 (58)		Lancaster 1/3/1998 (57)		Mt. Gilead 12/20/1997 (51)		O'Shaughnessy Reservoir 12/28/1997 (54)	
Red-winged Blackbird	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	390	3290	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	141		
Eastern Meadowlark	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	21	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Rusty Blackbird	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	2*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
blackbird, sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Common Gackle	1	—	—	—	—	16	—	—	—	—	3353	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	24		
Brown-headed Cowbird	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	26	542	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	
Purple Finch	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2*	1	—	4	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	
House Finch	82	104	184	—	—	868	293	416	81	215	93	53	90	90	191						
White-winged Crossbill	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Pine Siskin	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	31	—	—	3	2						
American Goldfinch	85	124	176	10	515	157	347	140	381	112	51	199	614								
Evening Grosbeak	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
House Sparrow	165	341	599	625	3616	993	419	330	1201	97	54	900	655								
total species	57	52	44	36	69	57	69	55	63	55	35	48	83								
total individuals	16126	5215	5479	7381	27205	12413	13517	8018	35474	3027	1326	6511	23999								
observers	12	16	20	5	??	22	34	18	45	31	5	8	84								
party hours	32.00	32.00	38.00	25.00	??	71.50	42.50	50.75	93.50	52.25	18.50	23.50	191.00								



Lark Sparrow with American Tree Sparrow : Ragersville CBC  
Photo : Bruce Glick

	Southwest Region										Unglaciated Region											
	Dayton 12/28/1997 (60)		East Fork Lake S.P. 12/27/1997 (67)		Hamilton-Fairfield 12/20/1997 (62)		Ohio River (IN-OH-KY) 12/20/1997 (64)		Oxford 12/20/1997 (61)		Paint Creek Area 12/21/1997 (66)		Western Hamilton Co. 12/21/1997 (63)		Adams Co. 12/20/1997 (82)		Athens 1/6/1998 (78)		Beaver Valley 12/20/1997 (84)		Cadiz 1/1/1998 (72)	
	4	—	42	36	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	23	—	2	—	3	—	—	38	100	—	
	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	15	—	2	—	—	—	—	15	1	—	1	—	5	
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	169	
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	561	
	—	1	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	CW	20	305	77	CW	—	—	—	—	25	—	10	
	CW	—	10	4	—	—	—	—	1	14	—	—	—	—	—	54	—	—	—	46	1	
	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	15	—	15	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	
	93	67	141	173	26	25	150	161	173	38	10	13	388	26	342	43	555	32				
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	CW	—	—	—	—	—	
	—	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	17	1	3	4	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	17	—	
	144	120	117	241	126	158	231	308	131	84	14	28	734	67	304	186	557	53				
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	18	—	
	182	42	176	78	210	128	888	216	96	176	34	55	2002	229	332	123	1207	72				
	68	62	66	64	54	62	65	75	58	60	37	54	88	50	63	66	75	38				
	7138	8658	11604	7480	4073	4875	60458	7835	4417	3205	1747	1753	29908	2377	9576	4842	39680	1241				
	??	9	14	11	7	30	34	16	12	8	17	22.50	80.50	103.00	49.00	43.50	24.75	22.50	263.00	27.75	72.25	
	??	22.50	42.00	26.00	150.00	35.00	80.50	103.00	49.00	43.50	24.75	22.50	160.50	24.00								



Northern Waterthrush : Ragersville CBC  
Photo : Bruce Glick