

Curt Dusthimer tallied 100 species on the last day of the month with rough-legged hawk at The Wilds, and was able to claim a "two-phoebe winter," drifting south to Tar Hollow SP for the eastern.

Tom Bartlett reached his 100 species by the end of the month as well, and had such fun doing it that he continued seeing 100 species every month for the rest of 1998. Much like the bunny of the famous advertisement, he just kept on "ticking."

Jim Reyda and Ed Pierce dutifully networked the sightings of others and ended with 109 and 108 species respectively, when Jim saw the field sparrow that popped out of the brush, and then back in forever, before Ed could get an eye on it.

This friendly competition against the clock shows that the most compulsive Minnesotans and Californians have nothing on us. The fun of reaching an unusually lofty birding goal can occupy us nearly totally when the chance is there. Anyone for a game of Ohio monthly life lists?

Ed Pierce
2338 Harrington Rd.
Akron, OH 44319



A January century list seems a lot more obtainable when rarities like this Say's phoebe appear. This bird was found in Knox Co. on 11 December 1997 and remained for the listers until 7 January 1998. Photo by Bruce Glick.

Spring 1998 Overview

by Bill Whan

After such an extraordinarily mild winter, it seemed natural to expect as extraordinary a spring migration. And so it might have been, had we been privileged to witness it. As it was, continued warm weather, diminished stopover habitat for shorebirds, and favorable winds zipped many northbound migrants through Ohio in a hurry, often by night or high above us, and in many ways the migration was a lackluster affair. No doubt we had any number of early arrivals, and very few late ones, but there were no notable fallouts, no remarkably high counts of birds, and few amazing "you should have been here yesterday!" migratory events. Indeed, we might have seen still earlier arrivals, but birds involved in such overflights may never have touched down here. Research is beginning to reveal a trend toward earlier migration among many species, and ornithologists are wondering if temperatures may be more decisive for some species than length of daylight as a spur to migration. Species dependent upon flying insects seem good candidates in this case, and extensive research by Peter Dunn at the University of Wisconsin has shown tree swallows are nesting on average nine days earlier than they did fifty years ago.

The season's most dramatic weather event was an enormous storm on 9 April that brought hail and heavy rain statewide (4 inches in six hours in places), but was especially violent along the western Lake Erie shore, where many trees were blown down and low areas flooded by an extra 43" of Lk Erie water blown in by its winds. The Magee Marsh bird trail, for example, was inaccessible without wading for several days, and not opened to the public in its entirety until 22 April. Though doubtless hampering observer coverage of the migration in this area, the storm's most important effect on migrating birds was probably the flooding of agricultural fields close to the managed marshes, resulting in some marginal but usable foraging areas for migrant shorebirds. Areas such as low-lying farmland southeast of the intersection of Routes 2 and 19 and some bean fields along Park Colony Road west of Reno Beach attracted a lot of birds, and a lot of observers.

Overall, the season was quite warm statewide, with no snow in April or May. Spring's unaccustomed warmth was no abrupt departure; even Cleveland had received only 0.2" of snow in February. Especially warm was May, with temperatures in Cleveland 6.4°F above normal; the figure was 6.1°F in Columbus and 3.7°F in Cincinnati. April averaged quite wet, in large part due to the aforementioned storm, with Cincinnati's precipitation a full 6.0" above normal. Waterfowl, especially the cold-tolerant species and many others breeding north of us, passed through very quickly. Some shorebirds found stopover sites in fields, and Lorain's harbor impoundment continued as the best spot for shorebirds in the state, albeit with a somewhat disappointing 19 species reported overall. Some exciting rarities were seen—three jaegers, plus black-headed and mew gulls. At least as exciting were finds of common raven, Bewick's wren, and Swainson's warbler in the state. All in all, 10 Review Species were found, adequately documented, and accepted to the Ohio records. The flood of passerine migrants—orioles, tanagers, warblers, flycatchers, and the like—did not touch down all that often here, and counts tended to be low, with no memorable concentrations, though there was no reason to think their real numbers were down. Some observers expressed some grumpy reservations about the season, but for the connoisseur there were many things to savor.

For instructions about interpreting the reports, see the foot of the Winter 1997-98 Overview on page 39.

The Spring 1998 Reports

- Red-throated Loon:** An ad in basic plumage was found at Fairport Hbr on 22 Mar (K. Metcalf); apparently entangled in fishing line, it remained on the following day (K. Messner, m obs). A breeding-plumaged bird passed by Lakeshore MP on 17 May (J. Pogacnik).
- Common Loon:** Appeared in mid-Mar statewide this spring, in singles and small groups, the first at MWA on the 15th (C. Holt). Fewer than 20 were seen in Lk Erie, and none there after mid-May. About 120 were reported, with a high of 14 birds at Alum Ck Res, Delaware, on 12 May (B. Shively). An unusual number stayed over into the summer season.
- Pied-billed Grebe:** Some having wintered in the state, the first migrants appeared in late Feb. An unusual concentration of 45 showed up at Lake Alma in Vinton on 8 Apr for D. Sapienza.
- Horned Grebe:** Some wintered here, and migrants had appeared before the period. The bulk of the birds moved through in Mar, with a high of 29 at MWA on the 20th (J&D Hochadel). Few were noted in Apr, but eight birds lingered into May, with a high count of three on the 12th at Shalersville, Portage (L. Rosche). The last healthy bird was seen near Findlay on 19 May (B. Hardesty), and an apparently injured bird found at Lorain on 22 May (K. Metcalf) remained there on the 31st (C. Holt). A total of more than 130 were reported during the period.
- Red-necked Grebe:** Five birds reported, four of them inland. J. Nisley had the first, at Apple Valley Lk in Knox on 26 Mar. One was at Killdeer on 5 Apr (L. Powlick). A breeding-plumaged bird with a fish hook embedded in its neck was found at MWA on 20 Apr (D&J Hochadel, m obs) and was seen there as late as 15 May (N. Brundage). One was a flyby at Lakeshore MP on 26 Apr (J. Pogacnik), and one came late, staying 12 May (C. Holt) through 17 May (L. Rosche) at Shalersville, Portage.
- Eared Grebe:** A good showing of four birds. One spent 6-14 Mar at LaDue Res (N. Kotesovec, m obs). Another spent 12 Mar (D. Ferris) through 24 Mar (H. Petruschke) in Holden Arboretum, Lake. One was at Eastwood Lk near Dayton on 21 Apr (fide V. Fazio), and a breeding-plumaged bird was off Lake on 14 May (J. Pogacnik).
- American White Pelican:** Quite early was one at MWA 18-19 Mar (D&J Hochadel). Two were at Lake St Marys on 10 Apr (E. Pierce). Another duo was seen in and over Ottawa on 16 May (C. Rieker et al.) and on 17 May (R. Harlan, S. Wagner).
- Double-crested Cormorant:** Isolated birds were found through the winter, but the first big push of migrants began on 31 Mar, when P. Lozano counted 58 off Cleveland; on the following day she saw 71, and on 3 Apr 253. Lozano tallied the high count at the same spot, 555 on 15 Apr. Other counts in excess of 100 included 500+ at Lake St Marys on 19 Apr (D. Dister), ~400 on the 3 May ONWRC, and 150 at MWA on 5 May (J&D Hochadel).
- American Bittern:** Early was one at Springville Marsh, Seneca, on 1 Mar (V. Fazio). In Apr, single birds were in Holmes on the 11th (L. Schlabach et al.), Athens on the 19th (B. Placier), MWA on the 20th (D&J Hochadel), BIWA on the 20th (Fazio), and the Shaker Lks on the 21st (R. Rickard) and the 27th (P. Lozano); Mallard Club Marsh had three on the 30th (Fazio). The latter number diminished to two on 6 May (R. Harlan, S. Wagner) and to one on 9 May (C. Holt). Seen in the CVNRA on 11 and 17 May (D&A Chasar).
- Least Bittern:** Few reports. Single birds were heard on 3 May at Ottawa (R. Harlan, S. Wagner), 17 May at Springville Marsh (V. Fazio), and GRWA on 31 May (C. Babyak).

SPRING 1998 REPORTS

- Great Blue Heron:** By 19 Apr 68 were at Magee (H&S Hiris), and by 3 May 96 were counted by the ONWRC; on 17 May Magee held 157 (Hirises). D. Chasar reported over 100 nests in Pinery Narrows in the CVNRA, and D. Best at least three sizeable rookeries in Geauga.
- Great Egret:** After several birds successfully overwintered at Medusa Marsh, surprisingly no other was reported until 27 Mar, when V. Fazio saw one from the hawk tower at Magee. Fifty were on the Magee census by 19 Apr and 88 by 17 May (H&S Hiris). Oddly, among 24 reports the southernmost came from the Wooster area, with two on 11 May (S. Snyder).
- Snowy Egret:** More than 10 birds reported, nearly all in the western Lk Erie marshes. M. Victoria saw the first at Ottawa on 20 Apr. H&S Hiris found eight on the 17 May census of Magee Marsh. Intriguing was a bird in Butler on 30 May (M. Busam).
- Little Blue Heron:** This species was reported widely except in the western Lk Erie marshes. All reports: one at Pickerington Ponds, Fairfield, on 18-19 Apr (D. Linzell et al.), an ad at Pleasant Hill Lk, Richland, on 18 Apr (J. Herman), one on 25 Apr at Adams Lk SP (B. Foppe), two ad at SVWA in Warren on 25 May (fide V. Fazio), and still another ad at N. Chagrin Res'n, Cuyahoga, on 26 May (K. Metcalf).
- Cattle Egret:** All reports: five on 13 Apr in Ottawa (J. Pogacnik), one on 30 Apr at MBSP (V. Fazio), three in the heronry in Sandusky on 17 May (R. Harlan, S. Wagner), and one near Medusa Marsh on 31 May (Harlan, Wagner).
- Green Heron:** Early birds were in Hamilton on 13 Apr (T. Uhlman) and at Magee on the 14th (ODW staff fide V. Fazio). The bulk of the migrants hit the marsh by the last week of Apr and the first of May. The high count at a single venue was four at Killbuck on 19 May (B. Glick).
- Black-crowned Night-Heron:** P. Lozano's counts of staging birds in downtown Cleveland began on 25 Mar with five, and the high count was 35 on 15 Apr, falling to three by 12 May. H&S Hiris had the statewide high count of 41 on the 17 May Magee census. R. Harlan and S. Wagner had two at Lorain on 25 May. At the Mill Creek colony in Hamilton, six nests were counted, then nine incubating birds on 7 May; by the end of the period, however, all these nests had been abandoned (J. Hays).
- Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** Birds first appeared at the Greenlawn Dam nesting area in Columbus on 5 Apr (A. Goloda).
- Glossy Ibis:** Three relatively easy-to-identify breeding-plumaged birds appeared, one at MWA on 5-6 May (D&J Hochadel), and two at Mallard Club Marsh 9 (R. Harlan, S. Wagner) to 17 May (C. Holt), with m obs for all. Accepted by the OBRC.
- White-faced Ibis:** A brief stay of less than a day for three birds, two adults and a subadult, on 26 Apr at Salt Fork SP, Guernsey (P&T Sica et al.). Accepted by the OBRC.
- Black Vulture:** Beyond the traditional strongholds in south-central Ohio, seven were seen through mid-May near the Lk Buckhorn roost in Holmes (M&O Troyer).
- Turkey Vulture:** Migrants arrived during the previous season, but the largest numbers, with over a thousand reported, appeared at the Lk Erie shore in the last week of Mar. A nesting-season roost of 52 was at Cowan Lk SP on 23 May (L. Gara).
- Greater White-fronted Goose:** Three singletons were found at widely-separated spots: one 1-3 Mar at Arcola Ck, Lake (J. Pogacnik), one on 28-29 Mar at BCSP (fide V. Fazio), and another at BIWA on 20 Apr (Fazio).

Snow Goose: A few passed through earlier, but spring's first report came from Killdeer, where B&A Toneff found six birds on 7 Mar. A total of 34 were seen, 25 of them all at once at HBSP on 28 Mar (R. Hannikman, *vide* V. Fazio), and the last were a duo over Killbuck on 9 May (M&O Troyer).

Mute Swan: Reported from eight counties, though they are to be found in many more. B&D Lane found three nests at Walborn Res, *Stark/Portage*.

Tundra Swan: Well underway by the beginning of the period, their migration continued apace, with reports of over 900 birds. The high count of 460 came on 1 Mar on the ONWRC. Ten seen at Funk on 24 Mar (C. Holt) were the last.

Wood Duck: Nesting was underway as early as 23 Mar in Mill Ck Pk, *Mahoning* (N. Brundage). The high count was of 196 birds on the ONWRC of 3 May. Later in the month most flocks, such as 26 at Meander Res, *Mahoning*, were exclusively inattentive males (C. Babyak).

Gadwall: Having started before the period, movements reached a peak during two weeks in Apr, bracketed by flocks of 260 on the ONWRC and 60 at PCWA (C. Holt) on 5 Apr and the season's high of 392 on the Magee census of 19 Apr (H&S Hiris). Only a few were detected late in the period in the usual nesting areas, culminating in three at Mallard Club Marsh on 31 May (R. Harlan, S. Wagner).

Eurasian Wigeon: Reported from a surprising six locations during the season, though possibly only three to four birds were involved. V&D Kline found the first in Killbuck on 23 Mar; another bird at Killbuck on 18 Apr (S. Snyder) may not have been the same one, as there were no intervening reports. An adult at PCWA on 5 Apr (*vide* V. Fazio), and another at Castalia (D. Sanders et al.) on the 9th might have been one and the same, as might have been one seen at Ottawa from 5-18 Apr (T. Bartlett, m obs) and one found nearby on Krause Rd on the 13th (J. Pogacnik).

American Wigeon: Peaked in numbers in the second half of Mar, with over 900 reported at seven locations. Birds were seen at Mallard Club Marsh at late dates, with five on 9 May and one on 31 May (R. Harlan, S. Wagner).

American Black Duck: Numbers fell off somewhat from late Feb migration, except for 160 found on the 15 Mar Magee census (S&H Hiris). High count away from the Lake was 35 at Funk, *Wayne*, on 29 Mar (C. Holt). Holt found one on 24 May near Sandusky Bay for the latest report of this scarce nester.

Mallard: Large numbers spilled over from winter with ~2000 at Funk on the first of Mar (B. Glick). Even in May they gathered in enormous aggregations, with 2698 at Magee (H&S Hiris) on the 17th. P. Lozano monitored a nest near Merwin St in Cleveland's Flats district downtown, where all but one of its 8 chicks fell prey to crows.

Blue-winged Teal: Most numerous by far in Apr, with over 1500 reported, about half of them away from the Lk Erie marshes. Small numbers seen in eight counties in late Apr and May were potential local nesters.

Northern Shoveler: Only a few migrants in Feb, and Mar's largest count was 38 on the Magee census of the 15th (S&H Hiris). Apr's high count was 120 at Ottawa on the 5th (ONWRC). Overall there were 24 reports totaling fewer than 400 birds from 12 counties, with late May birds showing up mainly in the NW marshes, with the exception of a straggler at Killdeer on the 15th (D. Linzell).

Northern Pintail: A few decent counts this spring, with 107 on the 1 Mar ONWRC, 49 at MWA on the 6th (J&D Hochadel), 60 the same day at Magee (V. Fazio), 213 on the 15 Mar census of same (H&S Hiris), and 150 at Funk on 22 Mar (J. Larson). Apr numbers were low as usual, and the only May report was of a single bird at MWA on the 6th (N. Brundage).

Green-winged Teal: A few showed up in late Feb, but big numbers waited till late Mar and early Apr. On 5 Apr, 80 were at PCWA (C. Holt), and 593 on the ONWRC. Another rare nester, its numbers in May were restricted to a few single-digit sightings, the latest of a bird on 31 May at Mallard Club Marsh (R. Harlan, S. Wagner).

Canvasback: Warm weather blew them through in a hurry. After a spring high count of 105 on the 1 Mar ONWRC, all subsequent reports were in single digits except for C. Holt's 21 at MWA on 15 Mar. A male, probably unhealthy, lingered at Bay View, *Erie*, to benefit many Big Day teams from 9-18 May (m obs), and even later another drake was in *Wayne* on 25 May (B. Glick).

Redhead: Another early mover, 200 were off the Lk Erie shore in the west (T&M Romito) on 1 Mar, and 373 on the ONWRC the same day. Numbers quickly fell off in Apr, though later a pair obliged birdathon teams by spending 9-16 May in the company of the Bay View canvasback drake (m obs).

Ring-necked Duck: Attained its largest numbers in Mar, with 3000+ at Killbuck (B. Glick et al.) on the 21st and 1200+ at Metzger on the 25th (V. Fazio). Of 26 reports, only two came from Apr, totaling nine birds. A lone individual remained on 20 May at Lk Rockwell, *Portage* (R. Harlan, S. Wagner).

Tufted Duck: A bird observed by many on 20-21 Mar in *Wayne* was said to be of this species. Only two written descriptions—and no photos—were sent to the OBRC. Details furnished about bill coloration and length of the head-tuft at this time of year did not rule out the rather common scaup X tufted duck hybrid, which has occurred as often in Ohio as full-blooded tufted ducks.

Greater Scaup: Numbers were quite low. The high count of migrants was 20 in western Lk Erie on 11 Apr (T&M Romito); the five subsequent Apr reports were all of single birds, most at inland reservoirs, and in May the only birds seen were three joining the over-the-hill gang near Bay View (J. Brumfield et al.).

Lesser Scaup: B&A Toneff had a good count of ~1500 birds on 7 Mar in Sandusky Bay, but the high came two days earlier, with 4075 on the ONWRC. 950 remained on the Bay on 5 Apr (C. Holt), after which numbers rapidly fell off statewide. Ten remained at Magee on 3 May and one on the 16th (R. Harlan, S. Wagner), and bringing up the rear was a drake that lingered 14-18 May at—you guessed it—Bay View, with the greater scaups, redheads, and canvasback.

King Eider: Documentation for a bird found on 12 Mar in *Lake* by J. Pogacnik was accepted by the OBRC.

Surf Scoter: Twenty-three birds reported, not many for recent times. Except for two at HBSP on 5 Apr (*vide* L. Rosche) all were inland, the last at Beaver Ck Res, *Seneca*, on 17 May (J. Hammond). High count was 7 at Findlay Res on 7 Apr (S. Ross *vide* B. Hardesty).

White-winged Scoter: Once our commonest scoter, now decidedly otherwise. One report, one bird, one day: 25 Apr at Hoover Res, *Franklin* (C. Bombaci).

Black Scoter: Two reported: one at Fairport Hbr on 23 Mar (H. Petruschke), and a male at Beaver Ck Res, *Seneca*, 9-13 May (T. Bartlett, Z. Baker, et al.).

Long-tailed Duck: Four reports, three away from Lk Erie. One on 20 Mar at Mosquito Lk (J&D Hochadel), one on 5 Apr at Clear Fork Res, *Richland* (B. Courson), 15 flybys the same day at HBSP (*vide* L. Rosche), and another at Lk Buckhorn, *Holmes*, on 10 Apr (M. Gingerich).

Bufflehead: Widely reported, from 19 counties. Predictably, the high count came from the Lk Erie islands, with 187 on 29 Mar, but 80+ pairs were at Walborn Res on 11 Apr (D&B Lane). Late were a drake at Kelleys Isl 13-16 May (K. Metcalf) and one at the Lorain impoundment on 31 May (D. Rickard, m obs).

Common Goldeneye: Like the other hardy divers, moved on quickly. **H&S Hiris** had 114 on the 15 Mar census of Magee for the high count, and 56 on the Kelleys Isl census of 29 Mar (**T. Bartlett**) stood out in a run of Mar sightings in the single digits. One oddball drake loafed through 15 May at the latter location (**Bartlett**).

Hooded Merganser: Mar migrants came in small numbers, with highs of 19 at Mosquito Lk and LaDue on 15 Mar (both **C. Holt**). Nesting must have begun earlier, as **S. Snyder** found nine newborns on 15 Apr at Killbuck, subsequently reformed by **R. Bauer** on the 21st. Eggs had been noted in some boxes at Mosquito Lk the last week of Mar (**D&J Hochadel**). Broods were widespread later, with a high count of 27, including 12 hatchlings, at Mosquito Lk on 9 May (**C. Babyak**), and the first confirmed nesting at N. Chagrin Res'n on 28 May (**K. Metcalf**).

Common Merganser: Most had moved on by the period, and the highest counts came early—187 on the 1 Mar ONWRC and ~100 at Lk Rockwell on 3 Mar (**C. Holt**). A few straggled into Apr and even May, the latest six at Magee for the 17 May census (**H&S Hiris**).

Red-breasted Merganser: Largest numbers passed mid-Mar through mid-Apr, with a good high count of ~2000 at Lorain on 22 Mar (**C. Holt**), and five triple-digit counts during the span at northern inland reservoirs. Fourteen birds lingered through the last week of May, half in Lk Erie and half at inland reservoirs in the NW quadrant.

Ruddy Duck: In greatest numbers—with ~1800 reported—late Mar and early Apr. The high count was 500+ at Walborn Res on 11 Apr (**B&D Lane**). Thirty-three reports came in May, with counts of 100 at Metzger on the 3rd (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**) and at Magee on the 14th (**J. Hammond**); on the last day of the month, seven were at Lorain (**C. Holt**), four at Metzger Res in *Allen* (**D. Dister**), and one at HBSP (**K. Metcalf**).

Osprey: Perhaps aided by ODW's reintroduction program, birds showed up early, with one in *Holmes* on 26 Mar (**A. Raber**) and a pair at the Berlin Res nest site on 28 Mar (**B&D Lane**). Another nesting pair was noted on 11 Apr at Salt Fork SP (**J. Larson**). Reported from 11 counties as far apart as *Jackson* (6 Apr, **D. Sapienza**) and *Lucas* (20 migrants at Magee on 5 May, **L. Garling** et al.).

Bald Eagle: 70+ sightings reported, spanning the period.

Northern Harrier: 50+ reports, mostly in Mar and Apr, though the season's high was 14 migrants at Magee on 5 May (**L. Garling** et al.). The last was at Mentor Marsh on 31 May (**K. Metcalf**). A hint of breeding in the offing came from **J. Larson**, who saw a male in active courtship display at *The Wilds, Muskingum*, on 25 Apr.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: A good flight, with highs of migrants at Magee of 66 on 27 Mar (**V. Fazio**) and 80 on 5 May (**L. Garling** et al.).

Cooper's Hawk: Only 60+ reported, many of resident birds. Migrants topped out at 13 on 5 May at Magee (**L. Garling** et al.).

Northern Goshawk: Three were detected at the Magee hawk watch: two on 1 Apr (**V. Fazio**), and a very late bird on 5 May (**L. Garling, F. Annarino, Fazio**).

Red-shouldered Hawk: Some sightings of winter residents and migrants mixed in Mar, the latter evidenced in 89 reported from Magee, including the high count of 32 on 25 Mar (*vide V. Fazio*).

Broad-winged Hawk: A decent flight, with a high count of 460 on the excellent day of 5 May at Magee (**L. Garling** et al.). Good inland counts were of 111 in *Holmes* during two hours on 16 Apr (**E. Schlabach**) and 62 there on 25 Apr (**L. Schlabach** et al.).

Red-tailed Hawk: Migrants along w. Lk Erie peaked in Mar, with over 200 birds and 89 on the best day of the 25th (*vide V. Fazio*). Thirty-seven passed over on the 5 May hawk watch there (**L. Garling** et al.). An all-dark bird was noted in *Coshocton* on 29 Mar (**M&O Troyer**).

Rough-legged Hawk: Less wary of crossing the Lake, these birds reached a high concentration of only nine for the season, inland at *The Wilds, Muskingum*, on 5 Apr; three remained on the 25th (both **J. Larson**). The latest report, of a single bird, came from the remarkable 5 May day at Magee hawk watch (**L. Garling** et al.).

Golden Eagle: One report, from the Magee hawk tower, an adult on 13 Mar (**V. Fazio**).

Merlin: A decent flight, with sixteen birds reported, half of them inland: one was in *Marietta, Washington*, on 26 Mar (**B. Thompson**), one in *Ross* on 2 Apr (**J. McMahon**), and three in *Holmes*: on 16 Apr (**R. Schlabach**), 21 Apr (**T. Hochstetler**), and 10 May (**T. Schrock**). The latest report came from *Hancock*, a female found by **S. Baxter** on 13 May.

Peregrine Falcon: Only four migrant birds were reported: at HBSP on 12 Apr (*vide L. Rosche*), at Magee on 24 Apr (**V. Fazio**), at *Ottawa* on 3 May (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**), and on 5 May in *Lake* (**J. Pogacnik**).

King Rail: No attributed reports made this spring. Some seasoned observers made a point of reporting their failures to find the species.

Virginia Rail: Some overwintered. The first migrants detected were three at MWW on 8 Mar (**J. Stenger**). Other reports came from 11 counties, with high counts coming from May marsh surveys: 13 at Killbuck on 19 May (**B. Glick**) and 10 at GRWA, *Trumbull*, on 31 May (**C. Babyak**).

Sora: Quite early was one at MWW on 8 Mar (**J. Stenger**); another was in the same county on 14 Mar (**N. Cade** et al.). Reported from 12 counties in migration, with a high of 18 on the 3 May ONWRC.

Common Moorhen: No early arrivals reported for this species, with the first on 25 Apr at BIWA (**J. Games, R. Sempier**) and on the same day at SVWA (*vide V. Fazio*). By 14 May moorhens were reported at eight northern Ohio locations.

American Coot: A few wintered. Widely reported as migrants, peaking in the second half of Mar and early Apr, with 655 at Magee on 15 Mar (**H&S Hiris**), 550 at *Wellington Res, Lorain*, on 22 Mar (**C. Holt**), and 1150 on the 4 Apr ONWRC. Big numbers in May included 175 on the 12th at Magee (**V. Fazio**), and 65 there on the 30th (**T&M Romito**).

Sandhill Crane: The flight was reported in 13 counties. No double-digit numbers were seen. Extraordinary was the number of May sightings: 14 birds in seven counties, in which two were not unexpected at Killbuck on the 5th (**S. Snyder** et al.), but one was reported in the Magee/Ottawa area 7-16 May (m obs), with one near Kent on 2 May (**C. Sweigert**), one near Medina on the 28th (**G. Emmert**), and one in *Hancock* 8-14 May (**B. Hardesty**); four birds were reported at Mosquito Lk from the 24th through the 31st (**D&J Hochadel**).

Black-bellied Plover: All sightings came in May, a total of over 225 birds. All were along Lk Erie in agricultural fields in or near *Ottawa*, with the exception of two at Killdeer on the 22nd (**V. Fazio**), one at HBSP on 1 May (**K. Metcalf**) and one to two in the latter half of May at *Lorain* (**C. Holt**).

American Golden-Plover: Surprisingly few reports for a species often reported in the thousands, and unrestricted to scarce mudflat habitat. They seemed uncharacteristically late to arrive as well. The mere six reports came from late Apr to mid-May, on schedule, but 95%+ of the birds were seen on two occasions: 140+ from the Magee hawk-watch tower on 29 Apr (**V. Fazio**), and 650 in an agricultural field adjacent to Metzger on 3 May (**J. Larson**).

Semipalmated Plover: One arrived at SVWA on 24 Apr (D. Russell), but the next report came from 13 May, when Magee hawk-watchers saw 14 flybys (V. Fazio). Some remained through the period, but numbers were never large, with a high count of only 18, at Lorain on 24 May (C. Holt).

Killdeer: Common as always, with big counts of 82 in flight over MBSP on 26 Mar (V. Fazio) and 97 at Magee on 17 May (H&S Hiris).

American Avocet: L. Gara found five at Cowan Lk SP, Clinton, on 21 Apr, and one stayed on 16 (R. Harlan, S. Wagner) and 17 May (T. Kemp) near Reno Beach, Lucas.

Greater Yellowlegs: Funk WA often seems our yellowlegs capital, and claimed the high count of ~100 on 11 and 18 Apr (J. Herman). Funk also hosted the first birds on 22 Mar (J. Larson). As with nearly all shorebird species, if they were seen in the managed marshes of western Lk Erie, it was as they flew over, looking for places to feed.

Lesser Yellowlegs: The first report was of two at Gilmore Ponds on 19 Mar (F. Renfrow). The high count was of 105 at Funk on 2 May (S. Snyder).

Solitary Sandpiper: V. Fazio found one on Kelleys Isl on 29 Mar. More routine in their timing were birds in ten counties beginning on 27 Apr, with two bringing up the rear in Holmes on 23 May (R. Schlabach). A high count of 16 at Streetsboro Bog on 1 May (C. Holt) was not bad for a solitary species.

Willet: An excellent flight, with 41 reported from seven counties, four of them inland. Two were in Ashland on 25 Apr (B. Burnett), five in Warren on 28-29 Apr (L. Gara), six in Lorain on 29 Apr (T. LePage), seven at MBSP on 30 Apr (V. Fazio), five in Holmes the same day (T. Hochstetler), 11 at HBSP on 1 May (K. Metcalf), and singletons on 17 May at Metzger (C. Holt), and Killdeer on 25 May (Fazio).

Spotted Sandpiper: Hardly early, the first was reported in Hancock 7 Apr, where the high count of 24 was made on 9 May, and 16 at a single spot there on 26 May (all B. Hardesty). At Lorain's mudflats, 16 were seen on 27 May (C. Holt).

Upland Sandpiper: Reported from seven counties. One was rather early on 2 Apr in Holmes (A. Raber), and the high count was five near Krause Rd in Lucas on 30 Apr (V. Fazio), where 1-2 were seen through at least 16 May (m obs). At least two pairs were present at nesting areas on 26 May at BIWA (Fazio). Obvious migrants were at HBSP on 2 May (K. Metcalf) and at Burke Airport in Cleveland the next day (C. Holt).

Whimbrel: A bird was found dead in Lakewood in late May (N. Barber).

Hudsonian Godwit: A very nice find was a spring Hudsonian at Lorain on 17 May (C. Holt).

Marbled Godwit: An unusual array of inland records. Unexpected as to time and place was one near Charlie's Pond, Pickaway, on 17 Apr (L. Powlick). One was at Ottawa the next day for V. Fazio. Eight were at Caesar Ck SP on 26 Apr (L. Gara, ph), when one was discovered at BCSP by D. Dister.

Ruddy Turnstone: All reports came in the last 17 days of the period, totaling more than 120 birds. With the exception of a single bird at Lorain on 31 May (D. Rickard), all were found in Lucas and Ottawa, with a high of 43 at Crane Ck SP beach on 24 May (C. Holt), where 10 remained on the 30th (M&T Romito).

Red Knot: Always a good find, a bird assuming breeding plumage was on the beach at MBSP on 17 May (C. Dusthimer, m obs).

Sanderling: Not many. The first were two on the Crane Ck SP beach on 8 May (B. Shively). Later in May four were found at Lorain on the 25th and one at Magee on the 31st (both R. Harlan, S. Wagner).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: Touched down in decidedly skimpy numbers. Sixteen were near the Pickaway Airport on 1 May (L. Powlick) as first arrivals, but the high count was only 35, at Lorain on 31 May (C. Holt).

Western Sandpiper: Seldom seen in spring, one was carefully observed on 31 May at Lorain (R. Harlan, S. Wagner).

Least Sandpiper: Three on 2 Apr at BIWA were very early (V. Fazio), but four showed up at MWA on the 9th (D&J Hochadel). One was at Caesar Ck SP on 29 Apr (L. Gara), but all other reports came from the Lk shore with the exception of the high count of ~100 at Killdeer on 25 May (B. Royse). One remained on 31 May at Lorain (R. Harlan, S. Wagner).

White-rumped Sandpiper: Not many, with so little stopover habitat, and all in a two-week span. Two were near Reno Beach, Lucas, on 14 May (R. Harlan, S. Wagner), two in Pickaway on the 17th (B. Placier), three near (but not in, where there was no shorebird habitat) Ottawa NWR on 20 May (B. Glick), one to two at Lorain between 17 May and 27 May (C. Holt), and one on 31 May at Mallard Club Marsh (Harlan, Wagner).

Pectoral Sandpiper: One of spring's two most numerous migrants, with over 8300 reported this time. Remarkable were numbers V. Fazio reported inland from BIWA: 1200+ on 2 Apr, ~900 on 18 Apr, and ~3200 on 20 Apr, surpassing the numbers from near Lk Erie.

Dunlin: The other very numerous migrant, with about 7700 reported. First seen were the hardy five who wintered at Lorain (m obs). Arrivals started on 29 Mar at BIWA, where D. Offenberger had a bird, but numbers began showing up near Ottawa on 22 Apr, with 200 (V. Fazio), then 1000 on 6 May (R. Harlan, S. Wagner), culminating in a flock of 3000+ on 13 May (Fazio), with 1000 remaining on the 16th (Fazio). A hundred were estimated at the Lorain impoundment on 27 May (C. Holt).

Stilt Sandpiper: Rare spring individuals were reported, one on 16 May (D. Overacker) and two on 17 May (R. Harlan, S. Wagner) near, but not in, Ottawa.

Short-billed Dowitcher: A very poor showing, with fewer than 40 birds reported. The high was 24 birds at Metzger Marsh on 14 May (D&J Hoffman).

Common Snipe: Reported from 12 counties, all in the northern half of the state. One was at Meander Res, Trumbull/Mahoning, on 1 Mar (C. Babyak), and the last was reported from Magee on 18 May (H&S Hiris). High count was an excellent 64 at a marsh in Holmes (L. Schlabach et al.).

American Woodcock: Early arriving, with the first report on 25 Feb in N. Royalton (N. Kotesovec). Migration peaked with 16 birds on 18 Mar at MWA (J&D Hochadel).

Wilson's Phalarope: Five birds, all in the north. The first were two near Perrysburg, Lucas, on 8 May (J. Szanto). One was at Ottawa on 16 May, then a male and female at Lorain on the 31st (both R. Harlan, S. Wagner).

Pomarine Jaeger: Spring jaegers? We had them, from 1 Mar (L. Rosche, N. Barber) through 14 Mar (J. Pogacnik), two birds from the previous period in the HBSP-Fairport Hbr area for m obs. The adult remained through the 23rd (H. Petruschke).

Jaeger sp.: P. Lozano saw one four times during the morning of 14 Apr off Cleveland.

- Laughing Gull:** An adult was at HBSP on 27 Mar (*vide* L. Rosche). J. Pogacnik had an adult on 23 May at Fairport Hbr, Lake; an adult at HBSP on 31 May (E. Bacik, *vide* Rosche) was probably the same bird.
- Franklin's Gull:** Three reports: 16 Apr at Fairport Hbr (J. Pogacnik), 18 Apr at Conneaut (Pogacnik), and an adult at Lorain on 31 May (R. Harlan, S. Wagner).
- Little Gull:** In a mild winter the species continued into spring, with two on the season's first day at HBSP (L. Rosche). Thirty-four birds were reported during the period, with a high count of six in Cleveland on 17 Mar (Rosche), and a final bird on 18 Apr at Conneaut (J. Pogacnik).
- Black-headed Gull:** One was found in Cleveland on 14 Mar (J. Dunn); another was seen at Conneaut on 22 Mar (J. Pogacnik). Both accepted by the OBRC.
- Bonaparte's Gull:** Seen winter-long, and migrants passed through early in titanic numbers: V. Fazio estimated 3700 on 7 Mar in Cleveland, and C. Holt 2500 there the next day; K. Metcalf had ~6000 there on 28 Mar. One remained on 31 May at Lorain (R. Harlan, S. Wagner). An all-time high for H&S Hiris, and for the period, came from two flocks in fields near Ottawa on 15 Apr, estimated at 10,000 and 5,000.
- Mew Gull:** J. Pogacnik discovered a first-year bird at Fairport Hbr on 6 Mar, and monitored it daily for m obs through 19 Mar. Accepted by the OBRC; the fourth confirmed Ohio record, and the second for 1998.
- Ring-billed Gull:** Perhaps overlooked amid more exciting species, relatively few were reported, with a high count of 1182 on the Magee census of 15 Mar (H&S Hiris).
- Thayer's Gull:** One was found at HBSP on 15 Mar (N. Barber et al.).
- Iceland Gull:** One was in Lake on 23 Mar, and another quite late there on 15 Apr (both J. Pogacnik).
- Lesser Black-backed Gull:** A score of birds were reported through the period, the last a second-year off Lake on 14 May (J. Pogacnik). Most were in the Central Basin, but one was found at Lake St Marys, Auglaize, on 21 Mar (J. McCormac), and two at PCWA in Sandusky Bay on 5 Apr (C. Holt). High count three at Eastlake PP 13 Mar (N. Barber).
- Glaucous Gull:** A young bird settled in at Fairport Hbr from 2-29 Mar (J. Pogacnik, m obs). One was late on 30 Apr off Lakeshore MP, Lake (Pogacnik).
- Great Black-backed Gull:** Fairly scarce through the period, except for a large flock that persisted at the Lorain impoundment, even while birds periodically keeled over and died: 200 were there on 22 Mar (C. Holt), and 62 remained on 31 May (R. Harlan, S. Wagner).
- Caspian Tern:** Fair numbers returned on schedule. The high count was of 101 birds on 29 Apr at Lorain (T. LePage). Six remained there on 31 May (R. Harlan, S. Wagner).
- Common Tern:** Three returnees were at Lk Logan, Hocking, on 14 Apr (B. Placier). During May a number of flocks of 10-20 birds were noted inland. They nested at the two assisted sites in Ottawa and Pipe Ck WA, and R. Harlan and S. Wagner counted 25 at the latter spot on 25 May.
- Forster's Tern:** First appearing at Lorain on 12 Apr (C. Holt), they peaked at 97 there on 1 May (T. LePage); the last report was only on 12 May at Alum Ck Res (B. Shively).
- Black Tern:** All reports came from May, and numbers were puny, with fewer than twenty birds statewide, the high seven at Alum Ck Res on 12 May (B. Shively).

- Black-billed Cuckoo:** The first noted was on 9 May in *Coshocton* (E. Schlabach et al.), and they were reported frequently through the period, with a high of five migrants at Magee on 14 May (R. Harlan, S. Wagner).
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** As often reported as the previous species, but in greater numbers, with a high of 8 on 16 May's census of Kelleys Isl (V. Fazio). Arrived 6 May in *Holmes* (H. Troyer).
- Snowy Owl:** An imm was reported on 23 Mar at Ashtabula (J. Pogacnik).
- Long-eared Owl:** The long-suffering owls at Killdeer provided all reports, all in March.
- Short-eared Owl:** Some lingered into the season, as three at Killdeer on 7 Mar (M. Gingerich) and one at BIWA on 23 Mar (V. Fazio). Birds in late Apr—one on the 28th at The Wilds (J. Larson) and two in *Seneca* on the 20th (Fazio)—presaged nesting, confirmed at the former location on 26 Apr, when six eggs yielded five young (D. Ingold, *vide* J. Larson), and strongly suspected in *Seneca*.
- Northern Saw-whet Owl:** Seven reports do not reflect its true abundance but rather its inconspicuousness. The latest came from Killdeer on 21 Mar (G. Emmert et al.).
- Common Nighthawk:** Not lured by the weather into an early appearance, the first one was in *Coshocton* on 10 May (J. J. Miller), and continued in singles and small groups through the period.
- Chuck-will's-widow:** J. Fry reported one had arrived in *Hocking* by 30 Apr.
- Whip-poor-will:** The first report came from EFSP on 15 Apr (*vide* J. Stenger). First near the Lake was at Nathan Hale Pk, *Cuyahoga*, on 1 May (R. Harlan, S. Wagner).
- Chimney Swift:** The first report came from Wooster on 8 Apr (K. Knebusch), and another was in *Holmes* the next day (L. Raber), both pretty early dates.
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** Arrived on 26 Apr in Cincinnati (S. Pelikan), and regular thereafter statewide.
- Red-headed Woodpecker:** B. Hardesty reported nine from a *Hancock* survey of 5 May; two days later J. Pogacnik had nine migrants passing through Lakeshore MP, Lake.
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** Three migrants appeared at Green Lawn Cem in Columbus on 28 Mar (P. Raver). Fifteen were at HBSP on 5 Apr (L. Rosche).
- Northern Flicker:** Some showed up early, such as two at Camp Berry in *Hancock* on 3 Mar (B. Hardesty), and one on 7 Mar at Killdeer (B&A Toneff). High count 80 on 29 Mar at HBSP (L. Rosche).
- Olive-sided Flycatcher:** Arrived 9 May in Cincinnati (F. Renfrow), with the first at the Magee bird trail on 13 May (H Besser et al.). Eight birds reported in all.
- Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** The first reported was from *Hancock* on 12 May (B. Hardesty), and two were on the Magee bird trail on 16 May (R. Harlan, S. Wagner) for the high count.
- Acadian Flycatcher:** Arrivals came to *Holmes* on 4 May (J. J. Miller) and the next day at MWF (L. Peyton).
- Willow Flycatcher:** One was found at Killbuck on 9 May (B. Glick et al.), and the high count was seven in *Hancock* on 26 May (*vide* B. Hardesty).

Least Flycatcher: Earlyish birds were seen near Clendening Lk, *Harrison*, on 25 Apr (J. Miller), and in *Holmes* on 27 Apr (M. Weaver). The first sighting along Lk Erie came from HBSP on 1 May (K. Metcalf). High count was 10 at Magee on both 13 and 14 May (R. Harlan, S. Wagner). Interesting were two at Camp Berry in *Hancock* on 26 May (B. Hardesty).

Eastern Phoebe: After Jan and Feb records, the first migrant came to Salt Fork SP on 6 Mar (W. Sarno). Big numbers were at Green Lawn Cem in Columbus on 26 Mar (T. Thomson) with 12, and at HBSP on 29 Mar with 18 (L. Rosche).

Great Crested Flycatcher: The first report came from *Athens* on 26 Apr (B. Placier). Fifteen were at Magee on 13 May (R. Harlan, S. Wagner).

Eastern Kingbird: A couple showed up in *Holmes* on 18 Apr for W. Miller, but numbers were small till mid-May, when the high count of 25 at Magee was made (H&S Hiris).

Loggerhead Shrike: One was seen near Ottawa on Rte 2 on 21 May by D. Russell, *vide* J. Hammond.

Northern Shrike: A single report, one on 16 Mar on Ira Rd in the CVNRA (T&M Romito).

White-eyed Vireo: Unexpected was a bird at HBSP on the early date of 5 Apr (L. Rosche), undoubtedly an overflight, as the next report came from *Hocking* on the 19th (B. Placier). No reports from the northwest other than Lakeside migrants except singles at Camp Berry, *Hancock*, on 12 and 26 May (B. Hardesty).

Yellow-throated Vireo: B. Royse noted one at Scioto Trail SP on 15 Apr, and one was in *Holmes* the following day (M. Schlabach). Otherwise unremarkable numbers appeared in the usual locations.

Blue-headed Vireo: A very early bird was at HBSP on 28 and 29 Mar (L. Rosche et al.). R. Harlan and S. Wagner found five at Magee and another five at Ottawa on 3 May. No nesting was reported during the period.

Warbling Vireo: On a more normal schedule, the first arrived in *Hancock* on 21 Apr (B. Hardesty), then 15+ were seen in Cincinnati on 25 Apr (N. Cade). By 30 May, T&M Romito counted 25 at the Magee bird trail.

Philadelphia Vireo: Rather early was one on 28 Apr in *Hancock* (B. Hardesty) and another in *Hamilton* on 2 May (F. Renfrow). The latest noted were on the Magee bird trail on 18 May (M. Victoria).

Red-eyed Vireo: First reported at Scioto Trail SP on 25 Apr (L. Powlick), 20 were at HBSP by May 16 (L. Rosche), and the high count was of 85 in Mohican SF on 25 May (B. Glick).

Blue Jay: Good numbers were noted in migration along the Lake, with ~3000 at Lakeshore MP, *Lake*, on 7 May (J. Pogacnik) and 1500+ over Magee on 13 May (V. Fazio).

Common Raven: One was photographed at Lakeshore MP, *Lake*, on 27 Mar (J. Pogacnik), and the documentation was eventually accepted by the OBRC for the first Ohio record in 52 years.

Horned Lark: County-wide surveys of *Hancock* produced 205 birds on 3 Mar and 442 on 10 Mar (*vide* B. Hardesty).

Purple Martin: One bird was seen in *Holmes* (M. Weaver), and two more elsewhere in the county (A. Troyer), on 26 Mar. By the end of the period, 52 pairs were nesting in the same county at L. Miller's property.

Tree Swallow: Returned before the period, and by 27 Mar 600+ were seen from the Magee hawk watch site (V. Fazio).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: *Holmes* claimed the first of this swallow, too, on 30 Mar (M. Troyer), a quite early date. This ungregarious species produced a single-site high count of 12 in the CVNRA on 23 May (M&T Romito).

Bank Swallow: The first arrived at MWW on 12 Apr (J. Hovekamp).

Cliff Swallow: As has become traditional, they returned quite early to welcomes from P. Yoder (who later had over 600 nests at his *Holmes* farm) on 6 Apr, and to E&M Yoder's nearby farm on 8 Apr. No comparable numbers were reported anywhere else. One was odd in Lorain on 31 May (C. Holt), as was one at the ONWRC of 3 May, and another on 16 May at Metzger (R. Harlan, S. Wagner).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Many wintered, and migrants lingered. High count was 50+ at Findley SP on 2 Mar (C. Rieker). One tarried in *Hancock* through 26 May (B. Hardesty), and nesting was confirmed at Brecksville Res (D&A Chasar).

Brown Creeper: Quite a few wintered, and by the end of the period nesting was confirmed on the CVNRA (19 May, A&D Chasar) and on the N. Chagrin Res'n (28 May, K. Metcalf); a bird lingered into June in *Geauga*, and likely nested (D. Best).

Bewick's Wren: Two, an apparent pair, were found in *Pike*, near a site occupied by nesters in former years, on 2 Apr (D. Minney, B. Whan, B. Conlon). Accepted by the OBRC. The vanishing eastern form of this species was involved.

House Wren: Clearly an overflier was one in *Hancock* on 31 Mar (W. McClanahan, *vide* B. Hardesty), where Hardesty later was to count 144 on a 9 May county census.

Winter Wren: Some overwintering birds persisted, and two at Magee on 15 Mar may have been among them (H&S Hiris). Remarkable were 23 on the Magee bird trail on 27 Mar (V. Fazio). A singing bird on 17 May in *Geauga* was suggestive of nesting (D. Best). Another on the same day at Magee (H&S Hiris) was on its way out of here.

Sedge Wren: All reports came in May. An inland bird was in *Delaware* on the 12th (B. Shively). The rest were near Lk Erie, one at Magee on 6-14 May (R. Harlan, S. Wagner), possibly the same as that on 17 May (H&S Hiris), and one at Cedar Pt NWR on the 16th (C. Rieker).

Marsh Wren: Earliest was one at BIWA on 5 Apr (L. Powlick), then two days later another at Mallard Club Marsh (*vide* V. Fazio). B. Glick's survey of Killbuck on 19 May yielded 14. Five were at Delaware WA on 12 May (B. Shively).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: Some apparently wintered in spots like *Hancock*, where three persisted on 3 Mar (B. Hardesty). The first report from Lakeside migrant spots came from Magee where 10 were on the bird trail on 27 Mar (V. Fazio); five were at HBSP the following day (L. Rosche). A day later, T. Bartlett estimated 45 birds at Springville Marsh. Not all departed, as N. Kotesovec had a nest with fledglings at Hinckley MP, *Medina*, on 29 May.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Some very early birds were likely overwinterers, such as one in *Hocking* on 1 Mar (B. Placier) and two in Columbus on 7 Mar (A. Goloda). At the peak of migration, ~50 were seen on the ONWRC of 3 May. Latest report was of three at Magee on 17 May (H&S Hiris).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Many quite early arrivals: one in *Holmes* on 30 Mar (J. Schlabach *vide* T. Hochstetler), one on 1 Apr at MWW (L. Peyton), one on 2 Apr at N. Chagrin Res'n (K. Metcalf), and another in the CVNRA the following day (D&A Chasar). By 12 Apr two were building a nest in Cincinnati (F. Renfrow).

Veery: First reported 2 May, at HBSP (L. Rosche), and in Columbus (*vide* T. Thomson). High count was five on 19 May at Magee (R. Harlan, S. Wagner), and the same observers saw one there on 31 May.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: Oddly, no reports till 12 May, in Holmes (L. Yoder). Two were at Magee on 23 May (R. Harlan, S. Wagner). The last report came from Twin Lks on the 24th (L. Rosche).

Swainson's Thrush: J. Stenger had the first on 26 Apr in the MWF. The high count for this often ubiquitous migrant was only 10, at Magee on 16 May (T&M Romito). One was in Brecksville as late as 25 May (D&A Chasar).

Hermit Thrush: The first report of a migrant came from the CVNRA on 13 Mar (A&D Chasar). K. Metcalf's observation that only this species among the thrushes had decent numbers was borne out by a high count of 11 on 13 Apr at HBSP (L. Rosche), 11 in Holmes 26 Apr (L. Yoder), five at HBSP on 1 May (Metcalf), and 14 at Magee on 6 May (V. Fazio).

Wood Thrush: One was in Cincinnati by 11 Apr (J. Stenger et al.), and one reached the far NE in Lake by the 16th (J. Pogacnik). Reported numbers were not large, with a maximum of 9 in the Hancock survey of 9 May (*vide* B. Hardesty).

Gray Catbird: One seen on 9 Mar in the CVNRA was likely the wintering individual (T&M Romito). One on 7 Apr at Camp Berry in Hancock, however, probably arrived early on favorable winds; a county census there on 9 May discovered 85 (*vide* B. Hardesty).

Northern Mockingbird: Eleven reports of about thirty birds from the northernmost tier of counties, the highest from Wildwood Pk in Cuyahoga, where on 17 May a pair was feeding nestlings (K. Metcalf). P. Lozano sent six reports of 1-3 birds elsewhere in the county, where a hundred years ago sightings of the species were usually dismissed as those of escaped cage birds.

Brown Thrasher: Many early arrivals: one in Canton 20 Mar (B. Ball), one in Niles 26 Mar (*vide* V. Fazio), and three at HBSP on 28 Mar (L. Rosche). Rosche had no fewer than 20 at HBSP on 13 Apr.

American Pipit: Some showed up before the period. Nearly a thousand were reported, with the high count 166 at MBSP on 20 Mar (V. Fazio). At MWA, 91 were seen on 9 Apr (J&D Hochadel). One was late at Mallard Club Marsh on 25 May (R. Royse).

Cedar Waxwing: No huge movements were noted, with a high count of 75-100 gorging themselves on P. Yoder's cherries 27-29 May in Holmes.

Blue-winged Warbler: B. Royse found the first at Scioto Trail SP, on 21 Apr and by 9 May C. Babyak counted 25 around Mosquito Lk. On 14 May B. Glick had 20 singing males at Woodbury WA, Coshocton. Fifteen on 5 May in Hancock had diminished to one by 26 May (S. Baxter *vide* B. Hardesty).

Golden-winged Warbler: Not bad numbers at all by recent standards, with over a dozen birds reported from 11 counties, the first on 4 May in Summit (C. Tveekrem *vide* P. Haddad), the last on 17 May at Magee (H&S Hiris).

Hybrids of the above: "Brewster's" was reported on 13 May from Magee (R. Harlan, S. Wagner), and the following weekend from Lake La Su An WA in Williams (J. Grabmeier). Two reports of "Lawrence's" warbler: one was in the Oak Openings on 21 May (T. Colborn) and one on the Ravenna Arsenal, Portage, on 15 May and later on 27 May, when it may have nested with a blue-winged (C. Willis, *vide* J. Hochadel).

Tennessee Warbler: One early bird was in Columbus on 24 Apr (M. England). Usually numerous, but with a high count of only 15 at Magee on 13 May (R. Harlan, S. Wagner), and quick to depart, with the last report from Cuyahoga on 19 May (T&M Romito).

Orange-crowned Warbler: One arrived at the Shaker Lks on 25 Apr (*vide* V. Fazio), and the last report came from 12 May in Holmes (L. Yoder), with precious few in between.

Nashville Warbler: Arriving first in Columbus on 24 Apr (M. England), numbers peaked at 28 birds on Kelleys Isl on 16 May (*vide* V. Fazio), and the last at Magee on 30 May (M&T Romito).

Northern Parula: V. Fazio had one at Shaker Lks on 12 Apr, and birds appeared steadily and in small numbers through the period, with the last migrant reported on 30 May near Wooster (S. Snyder).

Yellow Warbler: On schedule, with the first seen at SVWA on 18 Apr (N. Keller). The Kelleys Isl count found 269 there on 16 May (T. Bartlett).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: On 26 Apr, J. Stenger noted one at MWF, and N. Keller and K. McDonald another nearby in Hamilton. The high count was 20 at Magee on 13 May (R. Harlan, S. Wagner). Two males in the CVNRA on 31 May (D&A Chasar) were probably on territory.

Magnolia Warbler: Two Wayne reports were on the early side—1 May (M. Gingerich) and 4 May (Levi Yoder). At Magee there were 25 by 13 May (R. Harlan, S. Wagner), and at HBSP 22 on 24 May (L. Rosche). Possible nesters in the north were birds at Hinckley Res'n in Medina 1 May-31 July (N. Kotesovec).

Cape May Warbler: Often the most nonconforming warbler, just as it can be the most quarrelsome. One was videotaped at a feeder in Logan in late Mar (*vide* D. Daniel)—mission inscrutable. Three in Cincinnati on 27 Apr were on a more expected schedule (N. Cade). The high count was the last one: four at Magee on 17 May (H&S Hiris).

Black-throated Blue Warbler: Earlyish on 27 Apr at Scioto Trail (B. Royse), their migration was otherwise normal, with a high count of 9 at Magee on 17 May (R. Harlan, S. Wagner), and a departure on 24 May, when three were at HBSP (L. Rosche).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: On 3 May, 122 were seen on the ONWRC, but numbers seemed low overall, with few reported after 10 May.

Black-throated Green Warbler: A bird was in Lake on 3 Apr (*vide* V. Fazio) and another in Columbus on the 8th (M. England). Seven were among the throngs at Magee on 13 May (R. Harlan, S. Wagner). A straggler passed through Holmes on 31 May, noted by L. Yoder.

Blackburnian Warbler: B. Royse reported the first, at Scioto Trail SP on 27 Apr. Not common this spring, seven were at Magee on 13 May (R. Harlan, S. Wagner), and two reports brought up the rear on the early date of 21 May at Shaker Lks (T&M Romito).

Yellow-throated Warbler: Quite early was one on 1 Apr at MWF (L. Peyton), reinforced by another riding the next patch of weather at Cowan Lk SP on the 7th (L. Gara). One was at the CVNRA on the 10th, and three by the 12th (D&A Chasar). The latter observers counted 12 singing males along the Cuyahoga R and Chippewa Ck during the period.

Pine Warbler: Birds returned to Cincinnati (D. Hochadel) and Lake Hope SP (D. Sapienza) by 1 Mar. By the 7th, one was a Findley SP (C. Rieker). C. Babyak had two singing males at Mosquito LK on 28 May, and one at Meander Res on the 31st.

Prairie Warbler: Arrived Lk Alma, *Vinton*, on 15 Apr (**D. Sapienza**). Numerous in its strongholds, with 25 in *Adams* on 25 Apr (**B. Foppe**) and 21 at Woodbury WA in *Coshocton* on 14 May (**B. Glick**). Interesting was one decidedly elsewhere, at Kelleys Isl on 13 May (**K. Metcalf**).

Palm Warbler: The first two reports were of the yellow *hypochrysea* race, one in *Lake* on 10 Apr (**J. Pogacnik**), and the other in the Cincinnati area on 12 Apr (**D. Styer**). Twenty were at HBSP on 1 May (**K. Metcalf**), and 64 on the 3 May ONWRC. A last bird was noted at EHSP on 16 May (**V. Fazio**).

Bay-breasted Warbler: First arriving on 4 May in *Ross* (**B. Royle**), they peaked on 16-17 May at Magee, with counts of 20 on the former (**T&M Romito**) and 25 on the latter date (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**). One dallied at HBSP on 31 May (**K. Metcalf**).

Blackpoll Warbler: Like the preceding species, arrived 4 May in *Ross* (**B. Royle**), and recorded high counts of 25 at Magee (**M&T Romito**) and 24 on Kelleys Isl (**V. Fazio**) on 16 May. Two remained at Magee on 31 May (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**).

Cerulean Warbler: Arrived at Shawnee SF strongholds on 24 Apr (**C. Johnston**); a pioneer reached the Magee bird trail by 13 May (**V. Fazio**). Good numbers were at the CVNRA by 18 May (**A&D Chasar**).

Black-and-white Warbler: In *Hocking* by 15 Apr (**P. Raver et al.**), but not to HBSP until 2 May (**L. Rosche**). Seven were at Magee on both 13 and 14 May (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**).

American Redstart: A remarkable five Apr dates: in *Hancock* on the 21st (**C. Eckert** *vide* **B. Hardesty**), in *Scioto* on the 24th (**C. Johnston**), at Salt Fork SP on the 25th (**J. Larson**), at Springville Marsh on the 26th (**T. Bartlett**), and on the 30th at Mohican SF (**E. Rebbmann**). By 16 May, 20 could be found at Magee (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**).

Prothonotary Warbler: Three established territories at SVWA by 26 Apr (**L. Gara**), and birds appeared at traditional spots through mid-May.

Worm-eating Warbler: Extraordinary was a bird on 31 Mar at Lakeshore MP (**J. Pogacnik**), though not a record, as one was in *Ottawa* on 29 Mar 1994 (**M&J Shieldcastle**). In odd places elsewhere were overshooting birds at Magee on 6 May (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**) and in *Seneca* on 17 May (**V. Fazio**).

Swainson's Warbler: Netted by banders, one was photographed in *Ottawa* on 28 Apr (*vide* **J. Shieldcastle**). Accepted by the OBRC.

Ovenbird: Reports began on 21 Apr with several in *Ross* (**B. Royle**), and smallish numbers crested at only five at Magee on 17 May (**H&S Hiris**). One remained there on 31 May (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**).

Northern Waterthrush: One was quite early on 15 Apr at Magee (*vide* **V. Fazio**). High count was six, on the 3 May ONWRC.

Louisiana Waterthrush: Five reports for Mar, the first in *Delaware* on the 26th (**B. Shively**) but the rest from the far north, ending with a bird at Magee on the 28th (**S. Zadar**). Twelve were in the Mohican SF by 22 Apr (**B. Glick**), and one on territory in the Oak Openings by 17 May (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**), with three in Hinckley MP, *Medina*, on 31 May (**L. Rosche**).

Kentucky Warbler: Appeared in *Hamilton* on 2 May (**F. Renfrow**), with high counts of four on 6 May at Cowan Lk (**L. Gara**) and in *Coshocton* (**E. Schlabach**). The species was seen at least three times in mid-May at the Magee bird trail (m obs).

Connecticut Warbler: Eight or nine birds were reported. First was an early one on the Magee bird trail on 14 May (*vide* **V. Fazio**), where others were reported through 25 May (*vide* **Fazio**). One sang on the latter date in *Holmes* for **K. Miller**, and the same day **E. Pierce** had one at Firestone MP, *Summit*.

Mourning Warbler: A decent but unremarkable migration, with arrival at Magee on 14 May (**R. Rickard**) and fourteen other reports late in the month from the same locale.

Common Yellowthroat: **J&E Snively** found one near Wooster on 19 Mar, and some naturally speculated it may have overwintered. Next was a more expected report from 25 Apr in *Holmes* (**T. Hochstetler**). **B. Glick** counted no fewer than 125 singing males in Woodbury WA, *Coshocton*, on 14 May, while 51 were counted for the Magee census of 17 May (**H&S Hiris**).

Hooded Warbler: One arrived in *Ross* on 23 Apr (**B. Royle**), and birds reached HBSP by 5 May (**K. Metcalf**). Seven to eight were in *Geauga* 6-16 May (*vide* **D. Best**).

Wilson's Warbler: In Columbus by 8 May (**T. Thomson**) and Magee by 13 May (*vide* **V. Fazio**), where seven were found on 23 May and two on the 31st (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**).

Canada Warbler: Seven reached Magee on 13 May (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**), and on the following day five were noted on traditional breeding grounds in the Mohican SF (**J. Kline**).

Yellow-breasted Chat: Arrived 27 Apr in *Ross* (**B. Royle**), with a high count of 30 birds in **B. Glick's** 14 May survey of Woodbury WA in *Coshocton*.

Summer Tanager: **J. Hammond** found the first, on 26 Apr in Green Lawn Cem in Columbus. Among out-of-the-way reports, one was at HBSP on 17 May (**L. Rosche**).

Scarlet Tanager: Early was a pair at Mill Ck Pk, *Mahoning*, on 13 Apr (**N. Brundage**). By 9 May 15-20+ could be counted in *Coshocton* (**E. Schlabach**). On a 14 May survey, **B. Glick** found 17 at Woodbury WA.

Eastern Towhee: Some wintered. Migrants numbered up to 12 in Columbus on 26 Mar (*vide* **T. Thomson**), 14 at Magee on the next day (**V. Fazio**), and 12 at HBSP the day after that (**L. Rosche**). The high was 15 on the 3 May ONWRC.

American Tree Sparrow: On 1 Mar, 400 were counted on the ONWRC, and on 15 Mar 151 on the Magee census (**H&S Hiris**). Two lingered long in *Hancock*, and were last seen on 12 May (**B. Von Stein, vide **B. Hardesty**).**

Chipping Sparrow: After a good number of winter records, one was singing in *Medina* on 9 Mar (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**). **B. Hardesty's** *Hancock* survey found 96 on 25 Apr and 62 on 26 May.

Clay-colored Sparrow: A singing bird was found in *Knox* on 3 May (**J&E Snively**), another the same day in *Holmes* (**J. Miller**), and one in *Hamilton* on 21 May (**D. Styer**). Reported on 9 and 16 May at HBSP (**E. Bacik, vide **L. Rosche**).**

Field Sparrow: A few wintered. Birds in the CVNRA on 9 Mar (**T&M Romito**) and one in *Hancock* on 17 Mar (*vide* **B. Hardesty**) might have, as well. Twelve migrants were at HBSP on 28 Mar (**L. Rosche**).

Vesper Sparrow: The first report came from *Holmes* on 21 Mar (**M. Schlabach**). One was at HBSP on 13 Apr (**L. Rosche**). **B. Hardesty** had counts on her *Hancock* surveys of 36 on 9 May and 28 on 26 May.

- Lark Sparrow:** Away from the established Oak Openings population, one was on the bird trail at Magee on 1 May (T. Colborn), and the individual that wintered in *Holmes* showed up at J. Beasley's feeder there as late as 4 Apr (E. Schlabach).
- Savannah Sparrow:** Arrived at Killdeer on 16 Mar (V. Fazio). Eighteen were at HBSP on 13 Apr (L. Rosche), and a flock of 30+ in the *Bobolink* area on 16 Apr (B. Morrison).
- Grasshopper Sparrow:** At The Wilds, *Muskingum*, on 18 Apr a flock of 15+ had grown to 50+ by the 25th (J. Larson). One was at HBSP on 3 May (L. Rosche). B. Glick's 14 May survey at Woodbury WA turned up 21. At BIWA on 26 May V. Fazio counted 15.
- Henslow's Sparrow:** Two showed up at Killbuck on 10 Apr (B. Glick), and numbers arrived at The Wilds on 18 Apr (J. Larson), with 30-40+ found. Present at Lake La Su An WA in *Williams* from 16 May to the end of period (J. Grabmeier).
- Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow:** Scarce in spring, one was photographed on 17 May at Mallard Club Marsh by B. Finkelstein.
- Fox Sparrow:** Migration began in Feb, and on 27 Mar a good total of 38 were found on the Magee bird trail (V. Fazio); on the next day, L. Rosche had 12 at HBSP. B. Morrison found 14 at Quail Hollow SP, Stark, on 3 Apr. One hung around in *Ashland* through 9 May for B. Burnett.
- Lincoln's Sparrow:** A bird was found at Gilmore Ponds, *Butler*, on 26 Apr (E. Baumgardner et al.). The first at the Lake was at HBSP on 1 May (K. Metcalf), where the high count of 10 birds came on 16 May (R. Hannikman, *vide* L. Rosche). Last seen at the latter location on 31 May (Metcalf).
- Swamp Sparrow:** Some wintered as usual. High counts were 10 in the CVNRA on 18 May (T&M Romito) and 17 at Streetsboro Bog on 5 May (R. Rickard).
- White-throated Sparrow:** Migrants peaked with ~250 on the 3 May ONWRC. A few remained as late as 31 May, when one was still at Magee (R. Harlan, S. Wagner).
- Dark-eyed Junco:** Migrants seemed scanty, with a single-location high count of 40 at Shaker Lks on 5 Apr (M&T Romito). Breeding seemed indicated in *Geauga*, with birds through the period (*vide* D. Best), and one in Mohican SF sang through at least 29 May (B. Morrison et al.).
- Lapland Longspur:** Migrants were noted in good numbers in fields in and near BIWA by V. Fazio: 1600 on 23 Mar, 166 on 24 Mar, and 460 on 30 Mar, with smaller numbers through 27 Apr. Last were 10 in *Lucas* on 8 May (*vide* C. Rieker).
- Snow Bunting:** Scanty migrants included 17 on 3 Mar in Findlay (B. Hardesty), up to 15 at Killdeer on 16 Mar (V. Fazio), and a late bird on 28 Mar at HBSP (*vide* L. Rosche).
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** D. Styer reported one in *Hamilton* on 27 Apr, and by 2 May J. Pogacnik was to see one in *Lake*. Seven were at Magee on 13 May for the high count (R. Harlan, S. Wagner).
- Blue Grosbeak:** Away from its traditional haunts, J. Nisley found two at Mohican SF on 9 May. One had returned to the Toledo airport site on 16 May (E. Durbin), and another to a nearby Oak Openings locale the following day (R. Harlan, S. Wagner).
- Indigo Bunting:** Two birds—one in *Hocking* (D. Slomer) and one in *Holmes* (D. Kline)—were early on 18 Apr. B. Hardesty's surveyors found 54 in *Hancock* on 26 May.

- Dickcissel:** Three reports, all in a matter of days. One was in *Holmes* on 26 Apr (A. Byler), one returned the same day to *Paulding* (D&M Dunakin), and on the 29th another was found in *Holmes*, later to be seen with a female (V. Beachy).
- Bobolink:** Arrived in *Guernsey* and *Muskingum* on 30 Apr (J. Larson). On 9 May 34 were around Mosquito Lk (C. Babyak). Near BIWA 22 males were found in a small wheat field on 20 May by V. Fazio, and one was interesting at Hinckley MP, *Medina*, on 29 May (N. Kotesovec).
- Red-winged Blackbird:** Large numbers wintered. The high spring count was not so large, with 2528 at Magee on 15 Mar (H&S Hiris).
- Eastern Meadowlark:** Four in *Lorain* on 1 Mar were probably early migrants (P. Lozano). The high count of 28 came from the *Hancock* survey of 9 May (*vide* B. Hardesty).
- Western Meadowlark:** A. Troyer had one on his *Holmes* farm from 25 May into June.
- Yellow-headed Blackbird:** Numerous reports. T. Bartlett had three at Springville Marsh on 1 Mar, first seen on 28 Feb. One was with a large blackbird roost in MWW on 29 Mar (N. Keller). R. Arnold found one at his Pt Clinton feeder for the third year in a row on 6 May. From 9-25 May a male was near Mallard Club Marsh at a feeder (m obs). R. Harlan and S. Wagner found one at Magee on the 13th. At Metzger, 1-2 birds were seen 16-20 May (D. Rickard et al.). On 16 May two were at Cedar Pt NWR (C. Rieker, M. Gallaway).
- Rusty Blackbird:** Most numerous in late Mar, with ~1200 at MBSP on the 26th (V. Fazio) and ~150 at Funk on the 29th (C. Holt). Late were single birds in Cuyahoga on 11 May (R. Harlan, S. Wagner) and one in *Geauga* on the 19th (D. Best).
- Common Grackle:** Usually remarkable only for their numbers, and so they were, at least in *Wayne*. B. Glick estimated 20,000 at Kidron on 13 Mar, and M. Weaver 25,000 to 30,000 there on the 17th.
- Orchard Oriole:** More than usually reported from the north. Arrived 26 Apr at Shawnee Lookout (J. Stenger) and Spring Grove Cem in Cincinnati (N. Cade). E. Schlabach and J. Kline found the high count on a bicycle tour of *Tuscarawas/Holmes/Coschocton* on 9 May: 14 birds. Two were at HBSP on 16 May (L. Rosche).
- Baltimore Oriole:** Four Apr reports, the earliest the 18th in Kirtland Hills, *Lake* (*vide* J. Larson). J. Pogacnik saw 44 over Lk Erie in *Lake* on 7 May, and T&M Romito 30 at Ira Rd in the CVNRA on 18 and 23 May.
- Purple Finch:** The flock at Mohican still numbered seven on 14 Mar (M. Gingerich). Many were reported in groups of 1-6 across eleven northern counties through the period.
- Red Crossbill:** Four were at Spring Grove Cem in Cincinnati on 14 Mar (N. Cade). Mohican SF seems always to have a few, and L. Yoder et al. found 13 there on 9 May.
- White-winged Crossbill:** Thirteen were with red crossbills at Spr Grove Cem on 14 Mar (N. Cade), and another showed up at Green Lawn Cem in Columbus on the next day (P. Raver). In less lugubrious surroundings were 8-15 at Holden Arboretum, *Lake*, on 4 Apr (H. Petruschke), three the next day at Shaker Lks (V. Fazio), and one in Garfield Pk near Cleveland on 17 Apr (B. Hinkle). Two lingered on 4 May at J. Pogacnik's feeder in *Lake*.
- Common Redpoll:** Not a redpoll year overall. Ten were in Findley SP, *Lorain*, on 2 Mar (C. Rieker). Fifteen were seen as flybys at Magee on 23 Mar (T. Bartlett et al.).

Pine Siskin: Some were around all winter, and present in spring in 10+ counties. Mohican SF held 140 on 12 Mar (**B. Glick**), and 35 on 22 Mar (**J. Larson**). One lingered as late as 31 May at HBSP (**K. Metcalf**).

Evening Grosbeak: Appeared in 10 or more northern counties during the period, after fewer appearances in winter. High count was ~50 at Lakeshore MP, *Lake*, on 7 May (**J. Pogacnik**), and the latest was seen in *Holmes* on 13 May (**L. Yoder et al.**).

CONTRIBUTORS: We gratefully owe to the following birders data from the above reports, generously shared: Charlotte Anderson, Gene Anderson, Frank Annarino, Carole Babyak, Emil Bacik, Zac Baker, Bob Ball, Nick Barber, Dorothea Barker, Lynn Barnhart, Tom Bartlett, Ron Bauer, Erich Baumgardner, Sue Baxter, Vernon Beachy, James Beechy, Joe Bens, Dan Best, Adam Blank, Linda Bode, Charlie Bombaci, Bill Bosstic, Judy Bradt-Barnhart, Jennifer Brumfield, Nancy Brundage, Gina Buckey, Byron Burnett, Mike Busam, Amos Byler, Neill Cade, Todd Chapman, Ann Chasar, Dwight Chasar, Tim Colborn, Dolores Cole, Bob Conlon, Brad Courson, Donna Daniel, Crystal Davis, Gordon Demars, Dave Dister, John Dobyns, Doug Dunakin, Micki Duhakin, Jon Dunn, Eric Durbin, Curt Dusthimer, Carol Eckert, Laurie Edwards, Greg Emmert, Marc England, Richard Esker, Vic Fazio, Duane Ferris, Bob Finkelstein, Ed Folts, Bob Foppe, Jim Fry, Mike Gallaway, John Games, Larry Gara, Lee Garling, Matt Gingerich, Bruce Glick, Adam Goloda, Jeff Grabmeier, Frank Greenland, Betty Hardesty, Joe Hammond, Rob Harlan, Jason Havecamp, Gary Hays, Jeff Hays, Jim Heflich, Helen Hendrickson, John Herman, Hank Hiris, Sally Hiris, Dave Hochadel, Judy Hochadel, Tim Hochstetler, Dick Hoffman, Jean Hoffman, Craig Holt, Gabe Hostetler, Linda Houshower, Nancy Hovell, Dan Ingold, Cece Johnston, Jeff Jones, Ned Keller, Tom Kellerman, Cal Keppler, Tom Kemp, David Kline, Jonathan Kline, Gerry Klug, Kurt Knebusch, Dorothy Kohl, Norm Kotesovec, Jeff Krause, Bob Lane, Denise Lane, Jason Larson, Andrew Leeds, Tom Leiden, Greg Links, Doreene Linzell, Paula Lozano, Jim McCormac, Kevin Messner, Kevin Metcalf, Bruce Miller, Jeffrey Miller, Jonathan Miller, Joseph J. Miller, Kent Miller, Leon Miller, Levi Miller, Wayne Miller, Dave Minney, Ben Morrison, Ed Mosel, Evelyn Myers, Junior Nisley, Dave Offenbarger, Doug Overacker, Steve Pelikan, Haans Petruschke, Lester Peyton, Ed Pierce, Bob Placier, John Pogacnik, Len Powlick, Dennis Profant, Sandy Quandt, Allen Raber, John Rakestraw, Jean Ranahan, Ed Rebmann, Frank Renfrow, Pam Raver, Dick Rickard, Craig Rieker, Arnold Robins, Mary Anne Romito, Tom Romito, Sue Ross, Bob Royse, Dave Russell, Dave St. John, Dan Sanders, Dave Sapienza, Winnie Sarno, Ed Schlabach, Leroy Schlabach, Marty Schlabach, Robert Schlabach, Tim Schrock, Marcy Scott, Wilma Seiler, Ron Sempier, Julie Shieldcastle, Mark Shieldcastle, Troy Shively, Pat Sica, Tona Sica, Dave Slomer, Elaine Snively, John Snively, Su Snyder, Emily Sprague, Bill Stanley, Jay Stenger, Dave Styer, Carl Sweigert, John Szanto, Bill Thompson, Tom Thomson, Rob Thorn, Ann Toneff, Bill Toneff, Andy Troyer, Henry Troyer, Mervin Troyer, Carol Tveekrem, Tom Uhlman, Matt Victoria, Barb Von Stein, Sandy Wagner, Mark Weaver, Monroe Weaver, Dan Webb, Bill Whan, Courtney Willis, Jeff Wise, Stan Wulkowicz, Leroy Yoder, Levi Yoder, Perry Yoder, James Zabriskie, Sean Zadar, Marian Zehnder. We also received invaluable assistance from the editors of *The Cleveland Bird Calendar* and *The Bobolink*, as well as from online services managed by Vic Fazio III.

Summer 1998 Overview

by Bill Whan

In fall, winter, and spring, freakish aberrations in normal weather—strong winds, sharp fluctuations in temperature, violent storms, fog, etc.—often make birding more interesting. Migrations can be sped up or retarded, and vagrants blown in; the unusual can become, briefly, routine. Because birds are then free to adjust to new conditions by foraging in different places or in new ways, or to leave an area entirely if things get tough, we can enjoy a new mix of birds without feeling they are suffering unduly as a result. Thus it is that strong and steady winds from north or south, giant cold fronts sweeping across the landscape, or unseasonably hot nights with fog and drizzle, can bring hopeful observers out in numbers to see the resulting changes in the local birdlife at times when birds are wintering or migrating.

In the breeding season, such great fluctuations from the norm tend to be unwelcome to birds and birders alike. Violent atmospheric conditions are then less likely to blow in fabulous rarities, and much more likely to disrupt in fatal ways birds' attempts to propagate their own kind, drowning or blowing down nests, chilling hatchlings, wiping out food sources, etc. In summer, birds are the most conservative in their behaviors, and just as they become far more choosy and restricted about where and how they spend their days, birders perforce follow suit, forgoing chases after rarities and hopeful visits to fabled local hotspots in favor of patient deliberate observations, taking pleasure rather in incremental learning about the local residents.

This summer had a somewhat rocky start, with cooler than normal temperatures early in June in all regions, and in many places some violent storms with heavy rains in mid-month, neither helpful to nesting birds. Nighttime temperatures fell into the low 40's F too often in the former case, and in the latter, Cincinnati recorded 5.77" more rain than normal. Later, conditions moderated, and temperatures rose into the 90's F in from two to five days in late June across the state. July was calm and not so hot, with near-normal precipitation, ensuring success for birds whose nests had survived earlier threats from the weather.

Two Review Species were found this summer, both of them at Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area—a white ibis and an unusual mid-summer western kingbird. Many remarkable nestings took place: see the reports for short-eared owls, great egrets, golden-crowned kinglets, red-breasted nuthatches, northern harriers, sandhill cranes, several flycatcher species, and others. We noted the continuing decline of marsh species: black terns, bitterns, and rails, and the growing numbers of grassland species in areas once covered with dense forest, in wildlife areas reclaimed from strip mining. Habitat for shorebirds continued to be scarce, and only the last hurrah of the Lorain impoundment as a haven for shorebirds and larids provided even a less-than-perfect resource—toxic spoil and dead things rotting in the sun—for long-distance migrants. Turnover at Lorain was rapid for migrants, who found the food less than relishing, as fatalities were frequent among gulls poisoned by sludge from Ohio's most polluted river. One hopes we'll take such lessons as we can find from the data in the reports that follow.

For instructions about interpreting the reports, see the foot of the Winter 1997-98 Overview on page 39.