

Autumn 1998 Overview

by Bob Conlon

The autumn season of 1998 was once again warmer than normal, and significantly drier than normal as well. The following tabulations show the deviations of both temperature and rainfall from the monthly averages.

Temperature Deviation from Normal (°F)

Station	August	September	October	November	Average
Cleveland	+1.7	+3.1	+0.7	+2.3	+1.95
Columbus	+4.7	+6.1	+2.0	+3.0	+3.95
Cincinnati	+1.6	+4.3	-2.6	+1.2	+1.12

Rainfall Deviation from Normal (inches)

Station	August	September	October	November	Average
Cleveland	-0.38	-2.24	-0.18	-1.58	-4.38
Columbus	-1.73	-1.69	+0.91	-1.23	-3.74
Cincinnati	-0.68	-2.21	-0.04	-1.13	-4.06

From a birding point of view, the most significant meteorological event of the season was the passage of an intense low-pressure system through the state on November 10 and 11. This system originated in the upper Midwest and was considered by some meteorologists as among the strongest fronts of the century in the states to the west and north of Ohio. This system was undoubtedly responsible for unprecedented numbers of Franklin's gulls and greater white-fronted geese appearing in the state in the following days. It may have been a coincidence, however, that Ohio's second northern wheatear was discovered the day before the front roared through the state.

Aside from the results of this storm, the autumn season was rather pedestrian in nature, though there were a few significant exceptions. Ohio's second Ross's gull made a brief appearance off Headlands Beach State Park, and a group of ornithology students at East Harbor State Park observed the stately passage of the state's fourth magnificent frigatebird. Sightings of Ross's goose, long-tailed jaeger, Harris's sparrow, and rufous hummingbird added a bit of spice for those who were fortunate enough to observe them. Shorebirds enjoyed a good season, particularly at the Lorain impoundment (alas, their last hurrah at this site). Neotropical migrants had a mixed, but fairly normal migration, and northern finches barely deigned to make even a token appearance.

As guest editor, I will take advantage of this forum to mourn the passing of yet another excellent shorebirding habitat from the Ohio scene—the Lorain impoundment. Having been filled with dredge spoil this autumn, it seems this location will no longer be available as a stopping place for migrating shorebirds. Thus, it follows into history the impoundments at Gordon Park in Cleveland and at the Oregon Power Plant near Toledo. Additionally, the closing in of Metzger Marsh has apparently ruined it as a spot for shorebird observation, despite lip-service given to shorebird habitat by the planners of this ill-advised ecological folly. At last viewing, Metzger appears over-

grown, largely with invasive, non-native plant species. On the other hand, with Lake Erie water levels approaching normal levels for the first time in many years, other areas may open up, as has been demonstrated in the area of the old Cedar Point causeway.

The following report follows the taxonomic order of the 7th edition of the AOU *Check-list of North American Birds* (1998). Underlined names of species indicate those on the OBRC Review List. County names are supplied for many locations, and appear *italicized*. Abbreviations appear throughout the reports and should be readily understood, but the following list is provided for the reader's assistance: Cr=Creek; CBC=Christmas Bird Count; CVNRA=Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area; *et al.*=and others; *fide*= "in trust of," said of data conveyed on behalf of another; Killdeer=Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area; m obs=many observers; Magee=Magee Marsh Wildlife Area; MP=Metro Park; MMW=Miami-Whitewater Wetlands; NWR=National Wildlife Refuge; OBRC=Ohio Bird Records Committee; Ottawa=Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge; Pk=Park; PP=Power Plant; Rd=Road; Res=Reservoir; Res'n=Reservation; SNP=State Nature Preserve; SP=State Park; Twp=Township; WA=Wildlife Area.



This Magnificent Frigatebird, which provided Ohio's fourth record, was spotted by an Ohio University ornithology class on 17 October 1998. Adam Grimm was able to snap this photo as it flew between Middle Harbor and Port Clinton, Ottawa Co.

The Autumn 1998 Reports

Red-throated Loon: A very cooperative bird remained at Lake Medina, *Medina*, from 29 Oct to the end of the period (C. Witt, S. Sprengnether, m obs). Other reports included: one bird at Shalersville, *Portage*, on 22 Oct (C. Holt, L. Rosche); one at Lake LaFarge, *Portage*, also on 22 Oct (C. Holt, L. Rosche); singles at Headlands Beach SP on 6 Nov and 21 Nov (both L. Rosche); lone birds at Buck Creek SP, *Clark*, 8 Nov and 22 Nov (D. Overacker). J. Pogacnik reported two birds at Lakeshore MP, *Erie*, one on 13 Nov and another on 22 Nov.

Common Loon: The highest count was 840 reported by E. Schlabach on 21 Nov at Conneaut, *Ashtabula*; all birds were flying west at the time. In the same time period, 320 were seen passing Lakeshore MP, 20-22 Nov by J. Pogacnik. The largest number inland was 60 birds at Mosquito Res, *Trumbull*, on 8 Nov (J. Pogacnik), while 46 were in the air over *Holmes* on 21 Nov (M. Hershberger). One was in an unusual place at an unusual time at Paulding Res, *Paulding*, on 10 Aug (D&M Dunakin), while four in basic plumage at Bresler Res, *Allen*, on 2 Aug were intriguing (D. Dister).

Pied-billed Grebe: The greatest concentration of pied-billed grebes was 76 birds recorded on the 1 Nov Ottawa census (E. Pierce *et al.*).

Horned Grebe: The first bird was spotted at Kelley's Island, *Erie*, on 24 Oct (J. Pogacnik). From 11 Nov through 13 Nov, 614 birds passed Lakeshore MP, *Lake*, with a high count of 243 on the 12th (J. Pogacnik). The largest inland total reported was 39 at East Fork Lake, *Clermont*, on 30 Oct (D. Chaffin).

Red-necked Grebe: All reports: individuals were seen at Lakeshore MP on 30 Oct and 14 Nov (J. Pogacnik). C. Holt discovered another at Pymatuning Res, *Ashtabula*, on 8 Nov.

Eared Grebe: All reports: J. Pogacnik had singles at Lakeshore MP on 9 Nov and 14 Nov, while C. J. Brown Res, *Clark*, yielded one at the more-or-less regular location near the dam on 14 Nov (N. Cade).

American White Pelican: All reports: on 18 Sep, five pelicans spent the night on an apartment complex pond in Maumee, *Lucas* (fide M. Anderson). A bird discovered at Shaker Lakes, *Cuyahoga*, on 4 Oct remained through the period (L. Deininger, P. Peskin). Another bird was found at Hoover Res, *Delaware*, by J. Hammond on 21 Sep. In addition, four were reported soaring over Rocky River, *Cuyahoga*, on 19 Sep (fide V. Fazio).

Double-crested Cormorant: The maximum was an estimated 1500 birds on the 4 Oct Ottawa census (E. Pierce *et al.*). The next largest number reported was 400 birds on Sandusky Bay, *Erie/Ottawa*, on 7 Nov (B. Stehling). This is well below numbers reported in recent years, which have included multiple counts well into the four figures. Whether this discrepancy is the result of under-reporting or of a dramatic reduction in the flocks is a matter of speculation. The largest inland counts were of 300 at Northside, *Hamilton*, on 30 Oct (J. Hays), and of 275 at Mosquito WA on 6 Oct (D&J Hochadel). These numbers are also down from previous years.

Magnificent Frigatebird: A single bird was spotted by D. Miles and his Ohio University ornithology class on 17 Oct flying between Middle Harbor and Port Clinton, *Ottawa*. A. Grimm secured a photograph of the bird. This was just the fourth sighting of this species in Ohio, the first since 1967. Accepted by the OBRC.

American Bittern: Three birds were found by J. Pogacnik, all in *Lake*: one in the Grand River WA on 9 Aug; another at Arcola Creek on 4 Nov; and a final one at Lakeshore MP, 11 Nov.

Least Bittern: L. Powlick discovered 7 birds, likely nesters, at Big Island WA, *Marion*, on 8 Aug. Latest birds were one at Fairport, *Lake*, on 4 Nov (R. Hannikman), and another in *Madison* on 5 Nov (J. Pogacnik).

Great Blue Heron: Along the lake, the highest report was of 169 birds tallied on the 4 Oct Ottawa census (E. Pierce *et al.*), while inland, the maximum was represented by a meager 20 birds at Gilmore Ponds, *Butler*, seen by F. Renfrow on 7 Sep.

Great Egret: The 2 Aug Ottawa census yielded 215 birds (E. Pierce *et al.*). 40 was a good inland count at Gilmore Ponds, *Butler*, on 7 Sep (F. Renfrow).

Snowy Egret: Up to 28 birds were at Ottawa during Aug (E. Tramer, C. Holt, T. Kemp). The last one reported was also from Ottawa on 20 Sep (C. Holt).

Little Blue Heron: The Ottawa census (E. Pierce *et al.*) tallied six birds on 2 Aug. J. Hammond reported four at Ottawa on 20 Aug, where a single bird remained on the 23rd. The only other reports were of solitary birds from Grand River WA, *Lake*, on 9 Aug (J. Pogacnik) and from Gilmore Ponds, *Butler*, on 2 Aug (D. Brinkman).

Cattle Egret: Very few reports this year. The high count was four birds at Ottawa on 2 Aug (E. Tramer). Other sightings included two near Sandusky, *Erie*, on 2 Aug (J. Hammond *et al.*); one bird at Medusa Marsh on 1 Aug (J. Pogacnik); one near the Davis-Besse plant, *Ottawa*, on 8 Aug (C. Dusthimer); and one seen by J. Pogacnik at Ottawa on 18 Sep.

Green Heron: Maxima included 15 birds at East Fork Lake, *Clermont*, on 22 Aug; 10 at Killbuck Marsh, *Wayne*, on 19 Aug (S. Snyder); and eight at the Ira Rd area of the CVNRA, *Summit/Cuyahoga*, on 31 Aug (T&M Romito). The latest bird was reported from Penitentiary Glen Pk, *Lake*, on 5 Oct by J. Pogacnik.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: There were two reports of 31 birds. The first was on the 2 Aug Ottawa census (E. Pierce *et al.*), the second on the 20 Sep Magee census (H&S Hiris). Other multiple sightings include 10 on 21 Aug at Winton Woods Pk, *Hamilton* (J. Stenger); eight at the Merwin St location in the Flats, *Cuyahoga*, on 23 Oct (P. Lozano); six at Lorain on two occasions—21 Aug (C. Holt), and 12 Sep (R. Harlan, Sa. Wagner); and six at Ottawa on 23 Aug (C. Holt). The last report was of a single bird at Lorain on 30 Nov (J. Pogacnik).

Black Vulture: P. Wharton reported 27 birds at MWW 13 Nov. The other significant report was of five birds in *Holmes* on 10 Oct (E. Schlabach).

Turkey Vulture: A major flight, estimated at 1500 birds, was observed over Toledo, *Lucas*, on 31 Oct (fide T. Kemp). This sighting may have established a new one-day record for the state. A roost near Sugar-creek, *Tuscarawas*, held 170 birds on 30 Aug (J. Beechy), while B. Hardesty reported 184 from *Hancock* on 1 Sep. The latest sighting was of an individual near the Cleveland Zoo, *Cuyahoga*, on 26 Nov (R. Harlan, Sa. Wagner).

Greater White-fronted Goose: The records for the number of greater white-fronted geese in Ohio for both a single location, as well for the entire state in a season, were shattered this year. On 15 Nov, D. Overacker reported 90 birds at Killdeer, *Wyandot*. By 27 Nov, this flock had grown to 113 (N. Barber), with 91 remaining at the end of the period (D. Dister). The maximum was 16 more than the previous high of 97 birds at Big Island WA, *Marion*, in March of 1995. Other sightings included 27 at Caesar Creek SP, *Warren*, on 12 Nov (J. Rakestraw); nine at Lakeshore MP, *Lake*, (J. Pogacnik) on 13 Nov; three at Mosquito WA, *Trumbull*, on 12 Nov (D&J Hochadel); and two seen by D. Chaffin at MWW on 22 Oct.

Snow Goose: This was a poor season for snow geese. The maximum count was 15 birds on the 1 Nov Ottawa census (E. Pierce *et al.*), a number duplicated at Killdeer, *Wyandot*, on 14 Nov (J. Hammond *et al.*). The Killdeer flock had dwindled to 10 by 29 Nov (T&M Romito). D. Dister reported seven birds from Bresler Res, *Allen*, on 22 Nov, while seven others were seen at Mosquito Res, *Trumbull*, by D&J Hochadel on 29 Nov. There were two other sightings of five or six birds each from *Stark* and *Cuyahoga*. An early arrival was at Ottawa on 27 Sep (fide M. Anderson).

Ross's Goose: Two reports were documented and accepted by the OBRC. One bird was seen by J. Hammond and S. Richards at Killdeer, *Wyandot*, on 22 Nov. The other was discovered at Conneaut, *Ashtabula*, on 29 Nov (C. Holt).

Brant: One bird was seen on 30 Oct at Fairport Harbor, *Lake* (T. Kellerman), while a second was discovered at Geneva SP, *Ashtabula*, by J. Pogacnik on 8 Nov.

Canada Goose: Maxima for the period include: 1800 tallied on the 4 Oct Ottawa census (E. Pierce *et al.*), 1000 birds at Killdeer, *Wyandot*, on 29 Nov (T&M Romito); 965 counted on the Magee census on 15 Nov by H&S Hiris; and 900 in *Ashtabula* on 8 Nov (C. Holt). Four "Richardson's" geese were reported by J. Hammond and S. Richards at Killdeer on 22 Nov; a single "Richardson's" was at Springville Marsh SNP, *Seneca*, on 31 Oct (Z. Baker, B. Barchus).

Mute Swan: The maximum was 20 birds at East Harbor SP, *Ottawa*, on 16 Oct (V. Fazio).

Tundra Swan: J. Pogacnik reported 1135 birds flying past Lakeshore MP, *Lake*, on 13 Nov. Inland maxima were 175 at Mosquito WA on 14 Nov (D&J Hochadel), and 150+ at LaDue Res, *Geauga*, on 15 Nov (B. Faber).

Wood Duck: Wood duck populations seemed down this season. The highest totals reported were 145 on the 6 Sep Ottawa census (E. Pierce *et al.*) and, from the Magee monthly censuses, 138 on 18 Oct and 136 on 15 Nov (H&S Hiris). The highest inland count was 120 birds at Killbuck Marsh WA, *Wayne*, on 4 Oct. (At&Ad Burkholder).

Gadwall: 785 were tallied on the 1 Nov Ottawa census (E. Pierce *et al.*). The inland high was 80 birds at Killdeer, *Wyandot*, on 15 Nov (D. Overacker).

American Wigeon: The largest number reported was 3736 from the 18 Oct Magee census (H&S Hiris), while the 1 Nov Ottawa census (E. Pierce *et al.*) estimated 1400 birds. Few reports were received from inland sites. Of those, the highest total was 15 birds from MWW (S. Pelikan).

American Black Duck: The 1 Nov Ottawa census had 807 birds (E. Pierce *et al.*). The high inland count was 500 from Mosquito WA, *Trumbull*, on 27 Nov (D&J Hochadel).

Mallard: The maximum was an estimated 4000 birds from Mosquito WA on 27 Nov (D&J Hochadel). On 1 Nov, the Ottawa census had 3400 for the lakefront high (E. Pierce *et al.*).

Blue-winged Teal: On 6 Sep, T. Bartlett estimated 870+ birds at Ottawa. Inland, the highest count submitted was eight at Mosquito Res, *Trumbull*, on 7 Aug (D&J Hochadel).

Northern Shoveler: High counts included 83 on the 4 Oct Ottawa census (E. Pierce *et al.*) and 38 on the 15 Nov census at Magee (H&S Hiris). The inland maximum was 19 birds at Winton Woods Pk, *Hamilton*, on 25 Nov (J. Stenger).

Northern Pintail: Maximum was 243 birds on the 1 Nov Ottawa census (E. Pierce *et al.*) while, inland, 20 were at MWW on 1 Nov (N. Keller, K. McDonald).

Green-winged Teal: The highest number was 1500 estimated on the 1 Nov Ottawa census (E. Pierce *et al.*). Inland, B. Master had 500+ birds at Killdeer on 21 Sep. Along the lake, other totals included: 328 on the 15 Nov Magee census (H&S Hiris); an estimate of 200+ by E. Tramer at Ottawa on 14 Nov; and 200 in *Lucas/Ottawa* on 3 Oct (D. Overacker).

Canvasback: First sightings were on 20 Oct with 15 birds spotted at Lakeshore MP, *Lake*, by J. Pogacnik, and nine on Findlay Res (B. Hardesty). The maximum for the period was 30 birds on Wellington Res, *Lorain*, on 7 Nov (F. Greenland).

Redhead: The first two birds of the season were noticed on the 6 Sep Ottawa census (E. Pierce *et al.*), while six were counted on 4 Oct during that day's Ottawa census. Inland, five arrived at Buck Creek SP, *Clark*, on 11 Oct (D. Overacker). Highest counts were 100 at East Harbor SP, *Ottawa*, on 29 Nov (V. Fazio); 67 at Lakeshore MP, *Lake* (J. Pogacnik); and 60 at Wellington Res, *Lorain* (F. Greenland).

Ring-necked Duck: First arrivals were 32 birds at Best Lake, *Geauga*, on 22 Sep (H. Hendrickson). Maximum counts: 450 birds from LaFarge Lake, *Portage*, on 11 Nov (L. Rosche); 280 at East Harbor SP, *Ottawa*, on 29 Nov (V. Fazio); 265 seen by F. Greenland at Wellington Res, *Lorain*, on 15 Nov; and 250 at Best Lake on 8 Nov (H. Hendrickson).

Greater Scaup: The first bird spotted was at Veteran's Park on 9 Oct (R. Hannikman, L. Rosche), while the first inland bird was at Big Island WA, *Marion*, on 14 Nov (N. Cade). High count was 32 birds at Lakeshore MP, *Lake*, on 13 Nov (J. Pogacnik).

Lesser Scaup: A single bird was discovered on the 4 Oct Ottawa census (E. Pierce *et al.*). Multiple arrivals were noticed on 20 Oct with 94 birds at Findlay Res, *Hancock* (B. Hardesty), and 54 at Lakeshore MP, *Lake*, on 31 Oct (J. Pogacnik). The high count for the period was 108 birds at Lakeshore (J. Pogacnik). A male bird at St Mary's Fish Hatcheries, *Auglaize*, seen by D. Dister on 2 Aug was interesting; it isn't known if this bird had remained through the summer.

Harlequin Duck: There were two sightings in the period. One bird was discovered at Headlands Beach SP, *Lake*, on 15 Nov by N. Barber and L. Rosche. A second bird was seen at Lakeshore MP, *Lake*, on 19 Nov (J. Pogacnik).

Surf Scoter: Most of the surf scoter flight was concentrated in the eastern basin this autumn season. Early birds were spotted at Headlands Beach SP, *Lake*, by K. Metcalf, with one bird on 1 Oct and 12 on 10 Oct. An amazing 212 birds were counted by J. Pogacnik at Lakeshore MP, *Lake*, on 4 Nov; from 11 Nov to the end of the period, he saw an additional 25 birds. From 4-9 Nov, V. Fazio, L. Rosche, and J. Hammond collectively counted 31 more birds at Headlands Beach SP. Away from the far east, one bird was noticed near the Bayshore PP, *Lucas*, on 8 Nov (Toledo RBA), and another at Sims Park, *Cuyahoga*, on 22 Nov (T. Kellerman). The only inland report was of three birds at Buck Creek SP, *Clark*, on 1 Nov by D. Overacker.

White-winged Scoter: The 33 white-winged scoters reported for autumn 1998 are more than twice those seen in any one of the past four years. The maximum count was nine birds seen at Eastlake PP, *Lake*, on 22 Nov by K. Metcalf. Between 4 Nov and 26 Nov, J. Pogacnik reported a total of 11 birds at Lakeshore MP, *Lake*. Three were seen at Headlands Beach SP, *Lake*, two by L. Rosche on 24 Nov, and another by J. Hammond on 14 Nov. Inland reports included five at Deer Creek SP, *Fayette/Pickaway*, on 20 Nov (*vide Columbus RBA*); three at Clear Fork Res, *Richland*, on 21 Nov (J. Herman); one at Killdeer on 1 Nov (R. Sempier, J. Games); and one seen by S. Pelikan at Hueston Woods SP, *Butler/Preble*.

Black Scoter: An impressive 85 black scoters moved past Lakeshore MP on 4 Nov (J. Pogacnik). E. Schlabach counted 14 at Ashtabula on 21 Nov. Four birds stayed off Rocky River Pk, *Cuyahoga*, 26-28 Nov (N. Barber, B. Finkelstein, T. Gilliland, P. Lozano); Barber also saw single birds at Eastlake PP, *Lake*, on 27 Nov, and at Headlands Beach SP, *Lake*, on 28 Nov. A single bird was at Perkins Beach, *Cuyahoga*, on 6 Nov (D&J Hoffman). The only inland reports were from LaDue Res, *Geauga*—C. Holt found four birds there on 29 Oct, while K. Metcalf saw two on 9 Nov.

Oldsquaw: All reports: at Lakeshore MP, J. Pogacnik reported three birds on 13 Nov and two more on the 21st. The first one was spotted on 29 Oct by L. Rosche at Headlands Beach SP. Inland, single birds were reported from Oberlin Res, *Lorain*, from 11-15 Nov (F. Greenland) and from Wellington Res, *Lorain*, 12-14 Nov (J. Hammond).

Bufflehead: The first arrival was noted at Lakeshore MP on 20 Oct by J. Pogacnik. On 11 Nov, he saw 23 at the same location with an additional 29 the following day. At Sims Pk, J. Hammond reported 20 birds on 14 Nov. The largest inland count was 70 birds at LaDue Res, *Geauga*, also on 14 Nov (C. Holt).

Common Goldeneye: L. Rosche rated the fall common goldeneye migration as "poor." The only report from along the lake came from J. Hammond who saw 12 birds off Sims Pk on 14 Nov. Inland, 30 birds were reported on 8 Nov from Pymatuning Res, *Ashtabula*, by C. Holt and five more at Mosquito WA, *Trumbull*, on 17 Nov by N. Brundage. Puzzling was a report of seven birds from Findlay Res on 1 Sep (S. Ross, A. Scarbrough).

Hooded Merganser: The largest flocks reported were 350 at Lake Rockwell, *Portage*, on 20 Nov (L. Rosche), and 275 on Seneca Lake, *Guernsey/Noble*, on 28 Nov (B. Glick, E. Schlabach). The first report was of two birds from Lakeshore MP on 4 Nov (J. Pogacnik), where six additional birds were seen through the end of the period.

Common Merganser: The first bird was seen at Lakeshore MP on 4 Nov by **J. Pogacnik**, who reported highs of 21 on 14 Nov and 38 on 19 Nov at the same site. The inland high was 15 birds at LaDue Res, *Geauga*, on 11 Nov (**D. Ferris, B. McCullough**).

Red-breasted Merganser: First arrival was of 20 birds at Lakeshore on 20 Oct (**J. Pogacnik**). The same observer tallied high counts at the same location of 25,849 on 20 Nov and of 14,950 on 26 Nov. At Eastlake PP, **L. Rosche** estimated 12,000 birds on 21 Nov. An unimpressive 20 birds constituted the inland high count at Pymatuning Res, *Ashtabula*, on 8 Nov (**C. Holt**).

Ruddy Duck: Maximum counts were all inland. 750 were at Mogadore Res, *Summit*, on 2 Nov (**L. Rosche**), 710 at Wellington Res, *Lorain*, on 6 Nov (**V. Fazio**), and 500 at Metzger Res, *Allen* (**D. Dister**). The largest count along the lake was a paltry 22 birds at Ottawa on 11 Oct (**C. Holt**); this was also the earliest report of ruddies during the season.

Osprey: At least 31 birds were reported from ten counties. The latest bird was seen at Lake Kelso, *Geauga*, on 24 Oct (**D. Best, E. Hauser, et al.**).

Bald Eagle: At least 64 individuals were reported from 14 counties, with counts of 10 birds coming from both Mosquito WA on 27 Aug (**D&J Hochadel**), and from the 6 Sep Ottawa census (**E. Pierce et al.**).

Northern Harrier: On 7 Nov, **B. Stehling** counted 11 birds in *Seneca*. On 15 Nov, eight were at Killdeer (**D. Overacker**). Five birds were in the vicinity of Walnut Creek, *Holmes*, on 29 Nov (*vide L. Yoder*).

Sharp-shinned Hawk: At least 51 birds were reported from at least nine counties.

Cooper's Hawk: Six were discovered in *Hancock* on 22 Sep (**B. Hardesty**) for the largest number reported.

Northern Goshawk: All reports: **R. Harlan** and **Sa. Wagner** discovered one bird at the Gordon Park impoundment on 1 Nov, while **S. Zadar** reported one from Big Creek Reserve, *Geauga*, on 9 Nov.

Red-shouldered Hawk: **T. Kemp** watched "hundreds" of red-shoulders fly over *Lucas* on 31 Oct; along with his TV and red-tail sightings on the same day, it must have been a memorable flight. With no active fall hawk watches, there were few other reports. One was seen at Veteran's Park, *Lake*, on 9 Oct (**D&J Brumfield, L. Rosche**). Another was reported from Buck Creek SP on 21 Nov (**D. Overacker**).

Broad-winged Hawk: Only 10 birds were reported.

Red-tailed Hawk: **T. Kemp** saw "hundreds" flying over *Lucas* on 31 Oct. On the same day, 40 birds were reported at Tiffin (**Z. Baker, B. Barchus**).

Rough-legged Hawk: An early bird was spotted by **L. Powlick** at Killdeer on 25 Sep, while another was fairly early at Holmesville on 8 Oct (**D. Kline**). Highest counts were of four birds each at Mentor, *Lake*, on 27 Oct (**R. Hannikman**) and on the 15 Nov Magee census (**H&S Hiris**).

Golden Eagle: It was a banner year for fall golden eagle reports. An early bird was seen on 16 Oct at Medusa Marsh, *Erie* (**V. Fazio**). An unprecedented flight occurred on 31 Oct: **M. Anderson** and **E. Tramer** saw four at Whitehouse, *Lucas*; two were noticed over Toledo (**J. Chadwick, vide M. Anderson**); and one bird was seen in Perrysburg, *Lucas*, by **C&S Nilsson, vide M. Anderson**.

American Kestrel: *Hancock* counts had 24 birds on 4 Aug and 25 on 22 Sep (**B. Hardesty**).

Merlin: Two very early birds were found in *Athens* on 7 Aug (**S. Edinger, V. German**). Other early merlins were discovered at Lorain on 12 Aug (**D. Burton, D. Sanders**); and on Kelley's Island on 16 Aug by **T. Bartlett** and **V. Fazio**. 18 other birds were reported from around the state.

Peregrine Falcon: Peregrines were reported from 14 counties for a total of at least 23 birds.

Ring-necked Pheasant: Two birds were unusual at Headlands Beach SP on 18 Oct (**N. Barber et al.**).

Wild Turkey: A flock of 125 was discovered at Mosquito WA on 29 Nov (**C. Holt**).

Northern Bobwhite: **E. Tramer** heard one calling 26 Aug at Oak Openings MP, *Lucas*.

Virginia Rail: The only report was of a single bird at Lorain on 12 Sep (**J. Pogacnik**).

Sora: Eight birds were found at MWW on 27 Sep by **P. Wharton**, while six were at Killbuck Marsh WA, *Wayne*, on 7 Sep (**J. Beechy**). Six birds were tallied on the 20 Sep Magee census (**H&S Hiris**). 10 birds were reported at six other sites. One was late at Killbuck on 19 Nov (**M. Gingerich**).

Common Moorhen: The 6 Sep Ottawa census yielded six birds (**E. Pierce et al.**), and five were discovered on 20 Sep by the **Hirises** on the Magee census. Inland, four birds were found at three sites.

American Coot: High counts included 5912 tallied on the 18 Oct Magee census (**H&S Hiris**); 1240 counted on the 4 Oct Ottawa census (**E. Pierce et al.**); 900 at Wellington Res on 14 Nov (**N. Barber**); 600 at Caesar Creek SP, *Warren*, also on 14 Nov (**L. Gara**); and 500 at Hueston Woods SP, *Butler/Preble*, on 15 Nov (**N. Keller**).

Sandhill Crane: The numbers reported seemed somewhat low this year. The maximum numbers included 35 at Buck Creek SP, *Clark*, on 14 Nov (**N. Cade**) and 20 at Winton Woods, *Hamilton*, on the 16th (**Jk. Stenger**). At least 55 other birds were recorded from throughout the state.

Black-bellied Plover: The highest counts were: 24 birds at Lorain on 6 Aug (**B. Finkelstein**); 14 on the 4 Oct Ottawa count (**E. Pierce et al.**); 12 at Killdeer on 1 Nov (**M. Bolton**); eight, also at Lorain, on 20 Sep (**C. Holt**); and seven seen by **J. Pogacnik** at Conneaut harbor on 26 Oct. Lingering birds included two at Conneaut on 22 Nov (**C. Holt**), and two more at Seneca Lake, *Guernsey/Noble*, on 28 Nov (**E. Schlabach**).

American Golden-Plover: Maxima were 74 birds seen by **K. Metcalf** at Killdeer on 28 Sep, and 60 near Antwerp, *Paulding*, on 10 Oct (**D&M Dunakin**).

Semipalmated Plover: The largest number recorded was 55 birds counted on the 1 Nov Ottawa census (**E. Pierce et al.**). Other high counts were at Lorain: 33 birds on 4 Aug (**C. Holt**), and 25 on 3 Sep (**J. Hammond**). Nine late birds were counted on the 15 Nov census at Magee (**H&S Hiris**).

Killdeer: High counts were modest this season, with the maximum being 418 birds tallied on the 6 Sep Ottawa count (**E. Pierce et al.**). Other numbers included 250 seen on a sod farm near Orrville, *Wayne*, (**S. Hackett**); 200 at Deer Creek SP, *Fayette/Pickaway*, on 22 Nov (**Columbus RBA**); 185 at Killdeer on 13 Sep (**V. Fazio**); 170 at Cowan Lake, *Clinton*, on 20 Nov (**L. Gara**); and 150 at Berlin Res, *Mahoning/Portage/Stark*, on 4 Oct (**C. Holt**).

American Avocet: Avocets were reported frequently from the Lorain impoundment during most of August and September; the first report was of two birds on 8 Aug (**D. Linzell**); the last was of a single bird on 20 Sep (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**). The maximum of 16 birds was seen at Lorain on two occasions; by **C. Holt** on 21 Aug, and by **G. Demars** on 30 Aug. Lone birds were found at Killdeer on 26 Aug by **K. Alexander**, and on 6 Sep by **J. Brumfield**. A late bird was discovered at Conneaut 31 Oct (**D&J Hoffman, J. Pogacnik**), and remained 1 Nov (**C. Holt**).

Greater Yellowlegs: The high counts were 40 birds at Killdeer, *Wyandot*, on 11 Sep (**B. Conlon, B. Whan**), and 25+ in *Mahoning* on 24 Oct (**B. Jones**). Along the lake, 26 were seen during the 6 Sep Ottawa census (**E. Pierce et al.**). A late bird was discovered on the 11 Nov Magee census by the **Hirises**.

Lesser Yellowlegs: Maxima included: 114 tallied on the 6 Sep Ottawa count (**E. Pierce et al.**) and ~100 birds at Killdeer on 11 Sep (**B. Conlon, B. Whan**). Once again, a single late bird surfaced on the 15 Nov Magee census (**H&S Hiris**).

Solitary Sandpiper: Maximum was 25 birds reported from Gilmore Ponds, *Butler*, on 22 Aug by **N. Cade**. Latest report was from Twin Lakes, *Portage*, on 9 Oct (**L. Rosche**).

Willet: Willets were reported from the Lorain impoundment throughout August with a maximum of five birds on the 30th (M&J Kraus). A lone bird was seen at Buck Creek SP on 6 Sep (D. Overacker).

Spotted Sandpiper: The largest number reported was 23 on the 2 Aug Ottawa census (E. Pierce *et al.*), and 18 birds in Hancock on 18 Aug (B. Hardesty).

Upland Sandpiper: The only birds reported were one at Burke Lakefront Airport, Cuyahoga, on 9 Sep (J. Pogacnik), and another at Big Island WA on 31 Aug (V. Fazio).

Whimbrel: A single bird was at Headlands Beach SP on 1 Sep (K. Metcalf). All other reports were from Lorain. Two birds were seen at the impoundment on 1 Aug (M&J Kraus), with one remaining the next day (J. Hammond *et al.*). On 18 Aug, V. Fazio, B. Finkelstein, and T. LePage found three birds. Finally, on 30 Aug, a single bird was sighted by B. Finkelstein, J. Heflich, and P. Kellner. These numbers were in line with reported sightings from the past several years.

Hudsonian Godwit: Three birds were found on the 4 Oct Ottawa census (E. Pierce *et al.*), and one was spotted at Pickerel Creek WA, Sandusky, on 22 Sep (B. Conlon, B. Whan). All other reports came from Mosquito Creek Res: C. Holt discovered seven birds there on 18 Oct; L. Rosche saw one on 22 Oct; and D&J Hochadel reported up to six birds present from 21 Oct through 8 Nov.

Marbled Godwit: All reports: Three birds were found at the Lorain impoundment on 8 Aug (D. Linzell, P. Lozano, B. Finkelstein); one remained the next day (C. Holt). V. Fazio reported a single bird at Lorain 17-18 Aug. Finally, one bird was present at Killdeer 25-31 Aug (R. Counts).

Ruddy Turnstone: The high count was six birds at Lorain on 21 Aug (C. Holt); two were seen there on 3 Sep by G. Coleman and B. Finkelstein. One was at West Branch SP on 4 Sep (C. Holt), and a single bird was reported from Findlay Res, Hancock, on 22 Sep (S. Ross, A. Scarbrough). *The Cleveland Bird Calendar* reports that turnstones were noted twice during the period at Headlands Beach SP by T. LePage.

Red Knot: From 3-12 Sep, the Lorain impoundment held from two to eight knots (J. Hammond, C. Holt, J. Pogacnik). Killdeer had one bird on 2 Sep (B. Master), and four on the 6th (J. Brumfield). A single bird was at the St. Mary's Fish Hatchery, Auglaize, on 30 Aug (D. Dister). Another lone bird was found at Hoover Res, Delaware, by C. Bombaci on 7 Sep.

Sanderling: Most reports came from Lorain. On 2 Aug, J. Hammond *et al.* found five birds; on 20 Aug, Hammond recorded four. The maximum at Lorain was 38 birds seen by T. LePage on 2 Sep; by 6 Sep, the flock was down to 25 (C. Holt). The only other reports were of 11 birds from Headlands Beach SP on 16 Sep (L. Rosche), and seven tallied on the 16 Aug Magee count (H&S Hiris).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: There were several good counts, all at Lorain: C. Holt had an estimated 200 birds on 4 Aug; 330 were reported on 28 Aug (*vide* V. Fazio); this flock had dwindled to 75-100 by 3 Sep (J. Hammond).

Western Sandpiper: Inland reports include a surprising nine at Mill Creek Park, Mahoning, on 13 Aug (N. Brundage); two birds at Gilmore Ponds, Butler, on 26 Aug (N. Cade); four from Killdeer on 6 Sep (J. Brumfield), and a single bird from there on 15 Oct (V. Fazio); and one at Hoover Res, Delaware, on 7 Sep (C. Bombaci). Along the lake, three were seen at Conneaut by J. Pogacnik on 7 Sep, with the rest of the reports from Lorain: one on 9 Aug (C. Holt); two on 3 Sep (J. Hammond); and three on 18 Sep (D&J Brumfield).

Least Sandpiper: Reported numbers were below those of recent years. Maxima were 40 birds at Lorain on 3 Sep (J. Hammond), 31 at Ottawa on 6 Sep (E. Pierce *et al.*), and 28 at Findlay Res, Hancock, on 4 Aug (B. Hardesty). Single birds lingered at Medusa Marsh, Erie, 8 Nov (R. Harlan, Sa. Wagner), and Killdeer on 22 Nov (J. Hammond).

White-rumped Sandpiper: All reports: From along the lake: one at Ottawa on 2 Aug (E. Tramer), and another one there on 20 Aug (J. Hammond); one at Lorain on 23 Aug (C. Holt), and two there (including the first?) on 28 Aug (L. Gara); and a single bird from Conneaut on 7 Sep (J. Pogacnik). Inland, a bird was at Cowan Lake SP, Clinton, on 1 Aug (L. Gara); one was seen by D. Overacker at Grand Lake St Marys on 10 Oct; and V. Fazio reported a bird from Killdeer on 15 Oct.

Baird's Sandpiper: The maximum was four birds seen by L. Gara at Buck Creek SP on 9 Sep. Three were at Grand Lake St Marys, Auglaize/Mercer, on 10 Sep (*vide* V. Fazio). Between 2 Aug and 15 Oct, one to three birds were reported in Holmes, Lorain, Trumbull, Tuscarawas, and Wyandot. Two late birds were tallied on the 15 Nov Magee census (H&S Hiris).

Pectoral Sandpiper: Maximum numbers reported this year are somewhat below those of recent years. The highest lakeside count was 20 birds at Lorain on 3 Sep (J. Hammond). Inland, 70 were at Gilmore Ponds, Butler, on 26 Aug (N. Cade), and 50 were seen by L. Powlick at Killdeer on 7 Sep. A bird at Medusa Marsh on 8 Nov was late (R. Harlan, Sa. Wagner); two counted by H&S Hiris on the 15 Nov census at Magee were even later.

Purple Sandpiper: A single bird was discovered by C. Holt at Conneaut on 1 Nov. Three were present at Fairport Harbor 20 Nov (J. Pogacnik); the bird seen at Headlands Beach SP on 28 Nov (B. Finkelstein, T. Gilliland, P. Lozano) was likely one of these.

Dunlin: There was a large influx of dunlins into the area on 25 Oct. On that day, R. Hannikman estimated 570 passing Headlands Beach SP. The same day, 260 were seen by C. Holt at Conneaut. On the 26th, J. Hammond saw 175 at Conneaut, and another 50 birds at Mosquito Creek WA, Trumbull. The highest count was 725 birds found on the 1 Nov Ottawa census (E. Pierce *et al.*). Three early birds were seen at Mosquito Creek by D&J Hochadel on 21 Aug. Two were still at Ottawa on 28 Nov (D. Dister).

Stilt Sandpiper: Lorain held good numbers with 20-24 birds being reported on various dates between 9 Aug and 18 Sep (D&J Brumfield, J. Hammond, C. Holt). The number at Killdeer decreased from 23 seen on 6 Sep (J. Brumfield) to 12 reported by J. Hammond on 24 Sep. B. Conlon and B. Whan saw 16 birds at Pickerel Creek WA on 22 Sep. At least 12 birds were reported at five other locations.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: The first bird reported was on 17 Aug by V. Fazio at Lorain. Other reports from there include: two on 28 Aug (L. Gara), and single birds on 6 Sep (C. Holt) and 20 Sep (R. Harlan, Sa. Wagner). Two birds were spotted at West Branch SP by L. Rosche on 28 Aug, and another was seen two days later at the Mercer Waterfowl Area, Mercer, by D. Dister. A single bird was reported from Maumee Bay SP on 27 Aug (T. Kemp), and another seen there by C. Dusthimer on 17 Sep. On 6 Sept, T. Kemp saw a lone bird in a field near Ottawa; the next day one appeared at Headlands Beach SP (E. Bacik, R. Hannikman). Also on 7 Sep, J. Pogacnik reported two at Conneaut. R. Counts saw another pair at Killdeer on 30 Sep. On the dikes at Findlay Res, S. Ross and A. Scarbrough reported a single bird on 1 Sep, as well as three that lingered from 15 Sep to 22 Sep.

Short-billed Dowitcher: The sole inland report was of three birds at Mosquito WA on 16 Aug (C. Holt). The high count was 90 at Lorain on 23 Aug (C. Holt). This flock had dwindled to 40 birds by 18 Sep (D&J Brumfield), and to a lone survivor on 20 Sep (R. Harlan, Sa. Wagner). The Magee count reported 59 birds on 16 Aug and 42 on 20 Sep (H&S Hiris). The Ottawa census had 32 on 2 Aug and 40 on 6 Sep (E. Pierce *et al.*).

Long-billed Dowitcher: 49 birds were at Ottawa on 23 Aug (C. Holt). This flock had decreased to 30 on 3 Sep (J. Hammond), then peaked at 152 on 1 Nov (E. Pierce *et al.*). Inland, K. Alexander found 26 at Killdeer on 29 Sep and T. Bartlett reported 19 from the same location on 9 Nov. Of local interest, a single bird was seen at Caesar Creek SP on 2 Oct (L. Gara), while 13 birds were unusual at Killbuck Marsh, Wayne, on 3 Oct (E. Schlabach).

Common Snipe: The maxima were 112 birds at Killbuck Marsh on 3 Oct (E. Schlabach) and 60 seen at Killdeer by L. Powlick on 25 Sep. Late birds included 26 at Seneca Lake, Guernsey/Noble, on 28 Nov (E. Schlabach) and 18 at Killdeer on the 29th (J. Hammond).

American Woodcock: Eight reports were received covering the period from 19 Aug to 12 Nov.

Wilson's Phalarope: All reports: J. Pogacnik had one bird at the Grand River WA, Lake, on 3 Aug. Two were recorded from Ottawa on 16 Aug (D. Burton, D. Sanders). The first report of a single bird from Killdeer came on 30 Aug (K. Alexander); other single-bird sightings from there were on 3 Sep (J. Hammond, B. Whan), and on 11 Sep (B. Conlon, B. Whan). On 6 Sep, C. Holt saw two at the Lorain impoundment, and a very late bird was discovered at Sheldon Marsh SNP 28-30 Nov (M&J Busam).

Red-necked Phalarope: Single-bird sightings were registered at Lorain on 31 Aug (**D. LeGallee**), 3 Sep (**G. Coleman, J. Hammond**), and 6 Sep (**C. Holt**). One was seen at Conneaut by **J. Pogacnik** on 5 Sep. Away from the lake, **E. Schlabach** reported a bird from *Holmes* on 21 Aug, and lone birds were at Killdeer on 6 Sep (**J. Brumfield**) and 28 Sep (**K. Metcalf**).

Red Phalarope: One bird was identified by **K. Metcalf** and **L. Rosche** at Headlands Beach SP on the early date of 8 Sep. Another was spotted at Conneaut on 20 Oct (**J. Pogacnik**).

Long-tailed Jaeger: **Rosche** and **Metcalf** topped off a great day at Headlands on 8 Sep by finding a long-tailed jaeger and observing it for more than five minutes as it flew past the beach. Record accepted by the OBRC.

Laughing Gull: Two birds remained on and near the beach at Buck Creek SP from 15 Aug until 6 Sep (**D. Overacker**). Single birds were at Lorain on 24 Aug (**K. Metcalf**) and at Metzger Marsh WA, *Lucas*, on 6 Sep (**T. Kemp**). **J. Pogacnik** reported sightings from Conneaut on both 5 Sep and 7 Sep. A later bird was seen at Eastlake, *Lake*, on 6 Nov (**B. Whan, B. Conlon**).

Franklin's Gull: An unprecedented influx of Franklin's gulls into the state followed the low-pressure system of 10-11 Nov. From 12 Nov to 22 Nov, **J. Pogacnik** reported 111 birds at Lakeshore MP, *Lake*, with the one day maximum being 47. On 13 Nov, **G. Links** tallied 54 in the Toledo area. On 14 Nov, 70-85 were estimated in fields along Washburn Rd at Killdeer (**B. Finkelstein, T. Gilliland, P. Lozano**). On the same day, **D. Dister** counted 28 birds at Grand Lake St Marys and **J. Hammond** saw 15 following a plow along Rte 23 near Carey, *Wyandot*. Lesser, but still significant counts came from the following sites: 6 at Paulding Res on 13 Nov (**D&M Dunakin**); 20 in fields in *Hancock* and *Sandusky* on 16 Nov (**V. Fazio**); six at Cowan Lake SP, *Clinton*, on the same date (**L. Gara**); eight in *Ash-tabula* on 21 Nov (**E. Schlabach**); and seven on the 22nd at Wellington Res (**R. Harlan, Sa. Wagner**). At least 12 other birds were reported in the same period. Earlier reports of single birds include one at Farnsworth MP, *Lucas*, on 4 Oct (**E. Tramer**) and another at Grand Lake St Marys on 10 Oct (**D. Overacker**).

Little Gull: **J. Pogacnik** reported one bird from Lakeshore MP on 31 Oct and another at Eastlake PP on 14 Nov. One was found at Headlands Beach SP on 6 Nov (**L. Rosche**). At least one bird was at Lorain between 19 Nov and the 30th (**B. Peterjohn, R. Rickard, J. Pogacnik, J. Hammond**).

Bonaparte's Gull: An estimated 10,000 birds frequented Lorain Harbor on 29 Nov (**J. Hammond**). Another 3600 were at Headlands Beach SP on 15 Nov (**L. Rosche**). Inland, significant numbers were discovered at several locations: 600 at Mosquito Res, *Trumbull* (**C. Holt**), and 300 at Clear Fork Res, *Richland* (**J. Herman**).

Ring-billed Gull: The maximum away from the lake was 700 birds at Berlin Res, *Mahoning/Portage/Stark*, on 19 Oct (**C. Holt**).

Herring Gull: 1000 were at Lorain on 29 Nov (**J. Hammond**). The highest inland count reported was only 20 birds at Grand Lake St Marys, *Auglaize/Mercer*, on 10 Oct (**D. Overacker**).

Thayer's Gull: A good showing, with eight birds reported. One was at Fairport Harbor on 1 Nov (**N. Barber, L. Rosche**). **G. Links** sighted lone Thayer's on 7 Nov and 28 Nov in Toledo. **J. Pogacnik** reported single birds from Lakeshore MP on 12 Nov, and from Eastlake on the 13th. A report of one at Eastlake on 17 Nov by **L. Rosche** may have been of the previously sighted bird. On 15 Nov one was spotted at Headlands Beach SP by **N. Barber, J. Hammond, and J. Pogacnik**. Finally, **J. Hammond** picked out a Thayer's at Lorain Harbor on 29 Nov.

Iceland Gull: The only report was of a single bird at Lorain on 27 Nov (**J. Pogacnik**).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Possibly 16 birds were found during the season, constituting a comparatively strong showing. Early single sightings were reported from Headlands Beach SP on 13 Sep (**N. Barber**) and on the 16th (**L. Rosche**), possibly of the same bird. **Barber** had another bird at Headlands on 4 Oct. The largest single count was of six at Lakeshore MP on 18 Oct (**J. Pogacnik**). On 1 Nov **R. Harlan** and **Sa. Wagner** reported one bird at Huron, *Erie*. **J. Hammond** saw single birds at Avon

Lake PP, *Lorain*, on 9 and 14 Nov; these could have been the same bird. **L. Rosche** found one at the Eastlake PP on 8 Nov, and another at Fairport Harbor on the 21st. Finally, two birds were seen at Lorain on 29 Nov (**J. Hammond**).

Glaucous Gull: All reports: A very early bird was reported at Conneaut on 7 Sep (**J. Pogacnik**). **Pogacnik** also had one at the Eastlake PP on 14 Nov. **G. Links** saw another in Toledo on 13 Nov. A single bird was reported at Fairport Harbor on 21 Nov by **L. Rosche**.

Great Black-backed Gull: The maximum reported was 46 birds at Lorain on 16 Aug (**C. Holt**).

Sabine's Gull: All reports: One bird was discovered on 13 Oct at Conneaut by **J. Pogacnik**. Another was reported at Lorain on 9 Nov (**B. Peterjohn**).

Black-legged Kittiwake: The sole report came from Lakeshore MP on 20 Nov (**J. Pogacnik**).

Ross's Gull: The second Ross's gull in as many years, as well as the second record for the state, was discovered at Headlands Beach SP on 15 Nov (**L. Rosche, R. Hannikman**, m obs). Accepted by the OBRC.

Caspian Tern: The highest count was only 40 birds at Lorain on 9 Aug (**C. Holt**). Three inland sites had tallies of just three birds apiece for maxima away from the lake. A late bird was seen at Lorain on 27 Nov (**J. Pogacnik**).

Common Tern: The best number reported from along the lake was a mere 200 on the 6 Sep Ottawa count (**E. Pierce et al.**), with 175 remaining on 20 Sep (**C. Holt**). One bird was inland at Buck Creek SP on 7 Sep (**D. Overacker**). An adult at Lorain, seen by **J. Pogacnik** on 30 Nov, was the latest in the period.

Forster's Tern: Following a poor showing last year, this year's was even worse for the autumn season. Maximum reported along the lake was 55 on the 6 Sep Ottawa census (**E. Pierce et al.**). One or two birds were reported from several inland locations with one at Meldahl Dam, *Clermont*, on 21 Nov being of interest (**F. Renfrow**).

Black Tern: Peak counts were nine birds at Winton Woods Park, *Hamilton*, on 25 Aug (**B. Leaman**), and six at Findlay Res on the same day (**B. Hardesty**). Only a single bird at Lorain on 11 Aug (**T. LePage**) was reported from the Lake.

Black-billed Cuckoo: Appeared to be scarce this year. Two were reported on the 20 Sep Magee count (**H&S Hiris**), with two more at Spring Grove Cemetery, *Hamilton*, on 27 Sep (**N. Cade**). Five other reports of single birds were received.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: A late bird was at Seiberling Nature Center, *Summit*, on 11 Oct (**J. Brumfield**).

Barn Owl: An excellent showing. **R. Schlabach** reported that 5 young in a nest near Sugarcreek, *Tuscarawas*, fledged in mid-Sep, and that two young were in a second nest in Nov. Two other birds were at a nest site north of Berlin, *Holmes*, through the end of Nov (**E&M Yoder**). **S. Rapien** reported three birds at Lakota W. High School, *Hamilton*, on 27 Aug.

Snowy Owl: No reports.

Long-eared Owl: A single bird was found at the traditional spot at Killdeer on 28 Nov (**D&J Hoffman**).

Short-eared Owl: One was seen at Headlands Beach SP on 9 Oct (**N. Barber, L. Rosche**). **R. Harlan** and **Sa. Wagner** discovered one bird at Big Island WA, *Marion*, on 15 Nov, while the **Columbus RBA** reported 35 at The Wilds, *Muskingum*, in mid-Nov (*vide V. Fazio*). On 29 Nov, **J. Kline** reported 12 birds near Walnut Creek, *Holmes*; on the same day, **J. Hammond** saw four at Killdeer.

Northern Saw-whet Owl: No reports.

Common Nighthawk: E. Tramer reported "thousands over Toledo Aug. 28, 4-6pm." Other sightings of over 100 birds include: 150 in *Holmes* on 28 Aug (E. Schlabach); 200 seen by J. Stenger in Springfield Twp, *Hamilton*, on 2 Sep; and 200 the next day, by the same observer, over Colerain Twp, *Hamilton*. A late bird was seen on 17 Oct at the Stranahan Arboretum, *Lucas*, by E. Tramer.

Whip-poor-will: No reports.

Chimney Swift: Highest reports were 300 at Headlands Beach SP on 16 Sep (L. Rosche), 200 over West Salem, *Wayne*, on 8 Sep (E&J Snively), and 189 reported from *Hancock* on 4 Aug by B. Hardesty. The latest bird noted was one from Lakeshore MP on 18 Oct (J. Pogacnik).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 24 birds were counted in *Hancock* on 25 Aug (B. Hardesty). The last one seen was at Westwood, *Hamilton*, on 2 Oct (J. Cade).

Rufous Hummingbird: One bird remained at a feeder in Lakeshore MP from 24 Nov to the end of the period (J. Pogacnik). This sighting was accepted by the OBRC.

Red-headed Woodpecker: 17 birds were in *Hancock* on 25 Aug (B. Hardesty).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Early arrivals included five found at Headlands Beach SP on 19 Sep (L. Rosche), one at Lakeshore MP the following day (J. Pogacnik), one heard at Gilmore Ponds, *Butler*, on 22 Sep (D&G Sadler), and three seen in S. Baxter's yard, *Hancock*, on 29 Sep. Of interest was a single bird reported on the 2 Aug Ottawa census (E. Pierce *et al.*).

Northern Flicker: A county-wide count in *Hancock* on 29 Oct yielded 31 birds (B. Hardesty). The 4 Oct Ottawa count tallied 15 (E. Pierce *et al.*), while D. Overacker reported 10 from Buck Creek SP on 28 Nov.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: All reports: The earliest bird was found at *Holmesville*, *Holmes*, on 13 Aug (L. Deininger). One was reported 25-26 Aug at MWW by L. Peyton, and another was at Lakeshore MP 28 Aug (J. Pogacnik). B&A Toneff discovered a bird at the CVNRA on 9 Sep, while R. Schlabach found one near Sugarcreek, *Tuscarawas*, on the following day. Another was seen at *Maysville*, *Wayne*, on 13 Sep (L. R. Yoder). The latest birds were seen by K. Metcalf at North Chagrin Res on 26 Sep, and by P. Wharton at MWW the next day.

Eastern Wood-Pewee: The latest bird was located at Nathan Hale Pk, *Cuyahoga*, on 9 Oct (R. Harlan, S. Wagner). Of interest were five seen on 1 Oct at Sugarcreek (E. Schlabach).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: A quite early migrant was at Hebron Fish Hatchery, *Licking*, on 3 Aug (B. Placier). Reports of single birds were received from five other counties between 19 Aug and 22 Sep.

Acadian Flycatcher: The latest report was of three birds at Brecksville, *Cuyahoga*, on 25 Sep (D&A Chasar).

Alder Flycatcher: The only reports were of single birds at Lakeshore MP on 4 Aug and 3 Sep (J. Pogacnik).

Willow Flycatcher: Latest were two birds seen on the 20 Sep Magee census (H&S Hiris).

Least Flycatcher: The maximum reported was five from Headlands Beach SP on 8 Sep (L. Rosche). The latest was seen at Lakeshore MP on 5 Oct (J. Pogacnik).

Eastern Phoebe: The last migrant reported from the Lake was a bird at Lakeshore MP on 16 Nov (J. Pogacnik).

Eastern Kingbird: The highest count was 28 birds near Charm, *Holmes*, on 26 Aug (J. Beechy), closely followed by 27 on the 2 Aug Ottawa census (E. Pierce *et al.*). The latest report was of a pair in *Hancock* on 15 Sep (S. Ross, A. Scarbrough).

Loggerhead Shrike: The sole report was of one bird from Fawcett, *Adams*, on 26 Oct (B. Lund).

Northern Shrike: A good year for this species. All reports: J. Pogacnik found one bird at Girdled Rd MP, *Lake*, on 26 Oct; on 28 Nov, he saw three at the same site. On 26 Oct, J. Rakestraw reported a bird from Big Island WA, *Marion*, and two days later another was discovered near Mt Hope, *Holmes* (L. E. Yoder, N. Yoder). G. Burkholder reported one bird at Knox Lake WA, *Knox*, on 31 Oct. Mosquito Creek Res held a single bird on 15 Nov (D&J Hochadel), while K. Noblet saw one at Magee the same day. Finally, C. Holt saw one bird in New Lyme Twp, *Ashtabula*, on 29 Nov.

White-eyed Vireo: The latest report was of two birds near Berlin, *Holmes*, on 17 Oct (E&M Yoder). Maximum number was six at The Wilderness Center, *Stark*, on 5 Sep (J&E Snively), and eight near New Bedford, *Coshocton*, on the same day (M. Troyer).

Yellow-throated Vireo: D. Best heard a singing male near Meyer Center, *Geauga*, on 21 Sep; this was the latest report for the season.

Blue-headed Vireo: 11 were counted at Headlands Beach SP on 9 Oct (L. Rosche, D&J Brumfield). The latest one was seen at Headlands by J. Hammond on 26 Oct. An early migrant was found in *Tuscarawas* on 5 Sep by E. Schlabach.

Warbling Vireo: The highest count was six birds in the CVNRA on 7 Sep (T&M Romito). Latest report was a pair at Spring Grove Cemetery, *Hamilton*, on 27 Sep (N. Cade).

Philadelphia Vireo: The earliest migrant was at Mosquito WA, *Trumbull*, on 27 Aug (D&J Hochadel). The high count was a mere two birds at Shaker Lakes, *Cuyahoga*, on 14 Sep (R. Rickard). J. Pogacnik had one at Lakeshore MP on 6 Oct for the latest report.

Red-eyed Vireo: The high was eight at Headlands Beach SP on 19 Sep (L. Rosche). The last report was a lone bird at Lakeshore MP on 18 Oct (J. Pogacnik).

American Crow: F. Renfrow saw upwards of 30,000 flying to the Mt Adams roost in Cincinnati on the evening of 30 Nov.

Horned Lark: Maximum counts were 110 birds in *Hancock* on 1 Sep (S. Ross, A. Scarbrough), and 100 at Big Island WA, *Marion*, on 13 Nov (D. Overacker).

Purple Martin: Paulding Res hosted the two highest counts for the period, 500 on 15 Aug, and 450 on 1 Sep (D&M Dunakin). J. Hammond reported 200 from Lorain on 3 Sep.

Tree Swallow: The peak number was estimated at upwards of 6000 birds at Beaver Cr Res, *Seneca*, on 21 Sep (V. Fazio). Other high counts included 1200 at Killbuck Marsh WA, *Wayne*, on 10 Oct (E. Schlabach); 1045 on the 4 Oct Ottawa census (E. Pierce *et al.*); and 600 at Mosquito WA, *Trumbull*, on 13 Oct (D&J Hochadel). A laggard was seen at Lorain on 27 Nov by J. Pogacnik.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: The maximum reported was just 28 birds counted on the 16 Aug Magee census (H&S Hiris). The latest bird was observed at Lakeshore MP on 18 Oct (J. Pogacnik). J. Hammond reported an albino bird from Commercial Point, *Pickaway*, on 31 Aug.

Bank Swallow: The only report of more than 20 birds was 414 from the 2 Aug Ottawa count (E. Pierce *et al.*).

Cliff Swallow: The peak count was 20 at Shawnee Lookout, *Hamilton*, on 16 Aug (N. Cade). The last bird reported was at Sugarcreek, *Tuscarawas*, on 24 Sep (R. Schlabach).

Barn Swallow: 258 birds were counted in *Hancock* on 1 Sep (S. Ross, A. Scarbrough). 87 were tallied on the 2 Aug Ottawa census (E. Pierce *et al.*), while 40 were at Buck Creek SP on 8 Aug (D. Overacker). One was quite late in *Holmes* on 30 Nov (A. Rahe).

Black-capped Chickadee: Both *The Bobolink* and J. Pogacnik noted that there was little movement of this species during the period.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Slow compared to last year, with only 14 birds being reported from seven counties.

Brown Creeper: The first migrant was reported on 5 Sep east of Berlin, *Holmes*, by E&M Yoder. Highest counts consisted of 12 birds in the Headlands Beach SP area on 9 Oct (L. Rosche), and 10 at Ottawa on 4 Oct (E. Pierce et al.).

House Wren: The peak count of 44 was obtained on the 2 Aug Ottawa count (E. Pierce et al.). A late bird was at Springville Marsh, *Seneca*, on 8 Nov (T. Bartlett).

Winter Wren: The first arrival was spotted at Lakeshore MP on 11 Sep (J. Pogacnik), with one not far behind north of Mt Hope, *Holmes*, the following day (Mo. Weaver). Maxima were 49 birds on the Ottawa census of 4 Oct (E. Pierce et al.), 32 at Headlands Beach SP on 9 Oct (L. Rosche, D&J Brumfield), and 25 at Magee on 4 Oct (D. Overacker).

Sedge Wren: There were reports of three likely migrants: one bird at Magee on 18 Sep (J. Pogacnik), one at Headlands Beach SP on 3 Oct (R. Hannikman, N. Barber), and one on the 18 Oct Magee census (H&S Hiris).

Marsh Wren: The 2 Aug Ottawa count (E. Pierce et al.) accounted for 32 birds. D. Kline found eight migrants at Killbuck Marsh WA, *Wayne*, on 3 Oct for the peak seasonal count. D&M Dunakin discovered a single bird on their property on 11 Sep for a rare record in *Paulding*. A laggard was discovered at Conneaut on 22 Nov (J. Pogacnik).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: The highest number encountered was 120 in the Headlands Beach SP area on 9 Oct (L. Rosche), while the 4 Oct Ottawa count tallied 101 (E. Pierce et al.). Inland, 25 was a good count at East Fork Lake SP on 1 Oct (R. Emmitt). The first bird was seen on 15 Sep by Le. Yoder in *Holmes*.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Headlands Beach SP on 9 Oct must have been the place to be to see kinglets, as L. Rosche added about 100 ruby-crowns to his kinglet total for the day. The earliest was seen near Millersburg, *Holmes*, on 3 Sep (B. Glick). Other early reports include one at the Villa Angela area of Cleveland Lakeside Park, *Cuyahoga*, seen by B. Finkelstein on 6 Sep, and another at Headlands Beach SP on 8 Sep (L. Rosche).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Last reports were on 7 Sep: one at Lakeshore MP (J. Pogacnik); one north of Mt Hope, *Holmes* (Mo. Weaver); and two birds south of New Bedford, *Coshocton* (H. Troyer).

Northern Wheatear: The sensation of the season was the second record for northern wheatear in the state of Ohio. This bird was discovered at Big Island WA, *Marion*, on 9 Nov by V. Fazio (ph). It remained until the 18th, to the delight of many observers. This sighting was accepted by the OBRC.

Veery: Poorly reported. The last bird was at Lakeshore MP on 1 Oct (J. Pogacnik).

Gray-cheeked Thrush: An early migrant was in Whitehouse on 21 Aug (E. Tramer). Highest counts were all recorded at Headlands Beach SP: five on 13 Sep (N. Barber); four on 16 Sep (L. Rosche); and eight on 19 Sep (L. Rosche). A late bird was seen by N. Kotesovec on 23 Oct at Mill Stream Run, *Cuyahoga*.

Swainson's Thrush: The earliest migrant was discovered at Lakeshore MP on 20 Aug (J. Pogacnik). The maximum number seen was a rather pedestrian 21 on the 6 Sep Ottawa count (E. Pierce et al.), though 15 birds were reported three times: at Headlands Beach SP on 16 Sep (L. Rosche); and twice by E. Schlabach in *Holmes*, on 19 Sep as well as on the 23rd.

Hermit Thrush: The high counts were both at Headlands Beach SP: 18 birds on 9 Oct (L. Rosche), and 20 on the 24th (R. Hannikman). The last report was of a single bird at The Wilderness Center, *Stark*, on 21 Nov (J&E Snively, W. Sarno).

Wood Thrush: The latest report was of four birds near New Bedford on 11 Oct (M. Troyer).

American Robin: B. Hardesty reported 815 in *Hancock* on 27 Oct, while a roost near Sugarcreek, *Tuscarawas*, contained up to 386 birds throughout the period (E&R Schlabach). Several other reports of 250+ robins were received.

Gray Catbird: Maxima included 23 birds on the 2 Aug Ottawa count (E. Pierce et al.), 20 at Headlands Beach SP on 16 Sep (L. Rosche), 16 near Sugarcreek, *Tuscarawas*, on 12 Sep (E. Schlabach), and 15 at Buck Creek SP on 16 Aug (D. Overacker). A late bird was found at Gilmore Ponds Preserve, *Butler*, on 8 Nov (M. Busam).

Brown Thrasher: High count was 10 at Headlands Beach SP on 13 Sep (L. Rosche). The last report was of a solitary bird at Walnut Creek, *Holmes*, on 1 Nov (J. Kline).

American Pipit: Four were quite early at Commercial Point, *Pickaway*, on 31 Aug (J. Hammond). High counts included 250 near Orrville, *Wayne*, on 8 Nov (M. Gingerich); 200 at Mosquito WA, *Trumbull*, the previous day (D&J Hochadel); another 200 at MWW on 1 Nov (S. Pelikan); and 175 in *Paulding* on 10 Oct (D&M Dunakin). 75 were "unexpected" in *Medina* on 11 Nov (F. Greenland).

Cedar Waxwing: This was a big year for cedar waxwing sightings. J. Pogacnik reported seeing more than 2000 flying past Lakeshore MP, *Lake*, on 31 Aug; on the same day, E. Schlabach saw 225 in *Holmes*. Between 7 Sep and 9 Nov, between 250 and 400+ birds were reported from the Ira Rd area of the CVNRA (T&M Romito). J. Nisley noted a flock of about 300 birds in *Knox* on 1 Nov, and 200 were recorded in *Hamilton* on 10 Oct (J&L Mathews).

Blue-winged Warbler: The latest report was of a solitary bird at Lakeshore MP on 24 Sep (J. Pogacnik).

"Brewster's Warbler": One of these hybrids was seen at MWW on 23 Sep (Y. Mohlman).

Golden-winged Warbler: All reports: On 4 Sep, the Dunakins hosted a bird in their yard in *Paulding*. One was at Shawnee Lookout, *Hamilton*, on 6 Sep (D. Styer); on the same day, another was discovered at MWW (M. Busam, T. Mohlman, A. Bess). On 8 Sep, possibly the same bird found on the 6th was seen at Shawnee Lookout (D. Graham). The latest occurrence was one at Headlands Beach SP on 12 Sep (R. Hannikman).

Tennessee Warbler: Both the first and last Tennessee warblers of the migration were seen at Lakeshore MP by J. Pogacnik: arrival on 18 Aug; departure on 18 Oct. The maximum of eight birds was counted in two locations: in northeast *Holmes* on 12 Sep (Lee Miller, Ma. Weaver), and at Headlands Beach SP on 19 Sep (L. Rosche).

Orange-crowned Warbler: At least 19 birds were reported from at least eight counties. The earliest report was on 12 Sep in *Holmes* (Lee Miller), while the latest was recorded at Lakeshore MP on 25 Nov (J. Pogacnik). The maximum count of three birds was registered both in *Lorain* on 4 Oct (C. Reiker), and at Headlands Beach SP on the 9th by L. Rosche.

Nashville Warbler: A very early bird at Lakeshore MP on 19 Aug (J. Pogacnik) was followed a week later by one at Ragersville, *Tuscarawas*, on 26 Aug (R. Schlabach). High counts of 15 and 12 birds, respectively, were recorded on 8 Sep and 19 Sep at Headlands Beach SP (L. Rosche). A late bird was spotted at North Chagrin Reservation, *Cuyahoga*, on 2 Nov (K. Metcalf), but a much later one was reported in *Tuscarawas* on 14 Nov by E. Schlabach.

Northern Parula: A total of 14 birds was reported, including a high count of three at East Fork SP on 30 Sep (R. Emmitt). Earliest ones were at Oak Openings MP, *Lucas*, on 30 Aug (E. Tramer), and at MWW by M. Busam on the same day. A very late bird was spotted at Headlands Beach SP on 25 Oct (R. Hannikman).

Yellow Warbler: 65 were counted on the 2 Aug Ottawa census (E. Pierce et al.).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: A quite early bird was seen near Walnut Creek, *Holmes*, on 21 Aug (T. Hochstetler). E. Tramer discovered another the next day on the Magee Bird Trail, *Lucas*. The largest number reported was a mere four birds at Chagrin River Pk, *Lake*, on 6 Sep (B. Finkelstein), with three reported on the 6 Sep Ottawa census (E. Pierce et al.). Fairly late birds were spotted at the CVNRA on 3 Oct (D&A Chasar), and at Lakeshore MP on the 6th (J. Pogacnik).

Magnolia Warbler: The earliest report was a bird at Lakeshore MP on 15 Aug (J. Pogacnik). High counts came from Headlands Beach SP of 30 birds on 16 Sep (L. Rosche), and of 16 on 28 Aug (R. Hannikman). 17 were seen on the 6 Sep Ottawa census (E. Pierce *et al.*). J. Pogacnik reported the last sighting from Lakeshore on 6 Oct.

Cape May Warbler: The three highest totals were all reported from Headlands Beach SP: 16 on 30 Aug (R. Hannikman, K. Metcalf); 12 on 20 Sep (N. Barber, R. Hannikman); and 10 on the 19th (L. Rosche). The latest bird was seen at Lakeshore MP on 1 Oct (J. Pogacnik).

Black-throated Blue Warbler: A very early migrant was observed near Mt Hope, *Holmes*, on 19 Aug by L. E. Yoder and N. Yoder. The maximum was 10 birds at Headlands Beach SP on 16 Sep (L. Rosche). The last one reported was found at the Gordon Pk impoundment, *Cuyahoga*, on 1 Oct by R. Harlan and Sa. Wagner. Of local interest, one was discovered at Mitchell Forest, *Hamilton*, on 20 Sep by N. Keller.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: A surprisingly early bird was noted on the Magee Bird Trail by E. Tramer on 22 Aug. Maxima all occurred in early Oct: a robust 350 were estimated at Headlands Beach SP on 9 Oct (L. Rosche); on the same day, there were 100 birds at Nathan Hale Pk, *Cuyahoga* (R. Harlan, Sa. Wagner), and 75 were reported from Killbuck Marsh WA, *Wayne*, by D. Kline & E. Schlabach. The 4 Oct Ottawa census recorded 230 birds (E. Pierce *et al.*).

Black-throated Green Warbler: 20 birds at East Fork SP on 30 Sep (R. Emmit) and 15 at Headlands Beach SP on 19 Sep (K. Metcalf) were both good counts. A rather late bird was found at Ottawa by M. Victoria on 27 Oct.

Blackburnian Warbler: The first reported migrant arrived at Lakeshore MP on 20 Aug (J. Pogacnik). Peak counts were four birds at MWW on 25 Aug (L. Peyton) and three near Trail, *Holmes*, on 20 Sep (M. Hershberger). A departing migrant was spotted at Lakeshore MP on 7 Oct (J. Pogacnik).

Yellow-throated Warbler: Single birds remained at CVNRA on 7 Sep (D&A Chasar), and at Spring Grove Cemetery, *Hamilton*, on 27 Sep (N. Cade).

Pine Warbler: Ten birds were reported from eight locations between 31 Aug and 18 Oct.

Prairie Warbler: Two birds were found near Mansfield, *Richland*, on 6 Sep (J. Nisley). Singles were reported from Mitchell Forest, *Hamilton*, on 26 Sep (N&J Cade), and at Englewood Reserve, *Montgomery*, on 30 Sep (Dayton RBA, *vide V. Fazio*).

Palm Warbler: A quite early bird was at Springville Marsh SNP on 30 Aug (T. Bartlett), while three were found in *Hancock* on 1 Sep (S. Ross, A. Scarbrough). Headlands Beach SP hosted the highest count of 15 birds on 24 Sep (L. Rosche), while six were seen by Ma. Weaver north of Mt Hope, *Holmes*, on 19 Sep. The latest singles were seen at Lakeshore MP on 18 Oct (J. Pogacnik) and by Ma. Weaver in *Holmes* on the same date.

Bay-breasted Warbler: The number of bay-breasts seemed down this year. The earliest arrival was spotted north of Mt Hope, *Holmes*, on 18 Aug (L. E. Yoder), followed by two on the Magee Bird Trail on the 22nd (E. Tramer). The high counts were only five at Sheldon Marsh SNP on 27 Sep (C. Holt), and four at the Rocky River Nature Center, *Cuyahoga*, on 5 Sep (T&M Romito).

Blackpoll Warbler: In contrast to the previous species, blackpolls made an excellent showing. As early as 24 Aug, 20 birds showed up at Headlands Beach SP (R. Hannikman). Maxima included about 50 birds at Headlands on 19 Sep (R. Hannikman, K. Metcalf, L. Rosche), and an estimated 36 at Sheldon Marsh SNP on 3 Oct (V. Fazio). Counts of nine were made on 9 Sep in both *Holmes* (Lee Miller, Ma. Weaver) and in *Tuscarawas* (E. Schlabach). The latest report came from Headlands on 27 Oct (R. Hannikman, L. Rosche).

Cerulean Warbler: Late reports of single birds were received from Headlands Beach SP on 24 Sep (L. Rosche, V. Weingart) and on the same day another laggard was seen at Indian Point MP, *Lake* (J. Pogacnik).

Black-and-white Warbler: This species either had a poor migration or it was under-reported, even though *The Cleveland Bird Calendar* estimated it "made an above-average showing." The maximum count was six birds seen on the 6 Sep Ottawa census (E. Pierce *et al.*). The next largest counts were of two at the Villa Angela area of Cleveland Lakefront SP on 6 Sep (B. Finkelstein), and two others north of Mt Hope, *Holmes*, on 18 Aug (L. E. Yoder).

American Redstart: Peak reported counts were way down compared to those of recent years. In 1995, the high count was 45 birds; in 1996, 83; in 1997, 32. The maxima reported this year were: 10 on the 6 Sep Ottawa census (E. Pierce *et al.*); eight at Chagrin River MP, *Lake*, on 6 Sep (B. Finkelstein); seven in *Holmes* on 12 Sep (Ma. Weaver, L. E. Yoder); and six at Headlands Beach SP on 19 Sep (L. Rosche).

Ovenbird: The 6 Sep Ottawa census found four birds (E. Pierce *et al.*). The latest bird reported was one from Lakeshore MP on 22 Sep (J. Pogacnik).

Northern Waterthrush: The earliest arrival recorded was right on schedule on 2 Aug, recorded on the Ottawa census (E. Pierce *et al.*).

Louisiana Waterthrush: Six birds at the CVNRA on 30 Sep were rather late (D&A Chasar). Of interest was a single bird discovered by J. Reyda on the 2 Aug Ottawa census (E. Pierce *et al.*).

Connecticut Warbler: All reports: the first bird was found in *Tuscarawas* on 5 Sep (E. Schlabach), closely followed by one at Navarre Marsh, *Ottawa*, on 6 Sep (T. Bartlett). D&J Hochadel reported a bird at Mosquito WA on 9 Sep. On the same day, one was spotted at Lakeshore MP, with another there close behind on 13 Sep (both J. Pogacnik). Two birds were seen at Headlands Beach SP on 19 Sep (R. Hannikman, K. Metcalf, L. Rosche, m obs). A single bird was found in Parma, *Cuyahoga*, on 27 Sep by C. Reiker, and a pair was at East Fork SP on 30 Sep (R. Emmit).

Mourning Warbler: At least 24 birds were reported from throughout the state between 24 Aug and 8 Oct. Of interest was a report of eight from *Hancock* on the fairly early date of 25 Aug (B. Hardesty).

Common Yellowthroat: Highest counts were 30 birds at MWW on 20 Sep (N. Cade), and 20 seen at Headlands Beach SP on 13 Sep (L. Rosche). A laggard was spotted at Riverview MP, *Lake*, on 24 Nov (J. Pogacnik).

Hooded Warbler: A late bird was at Lakeshore MP on 7 Oct (J. Pogacnik).

Wilson's Warbler: 20 birds at Headlands Beach SP on 16 Sep constituted the high for the season (L. Rosche). Six birds in *Holmes* on 12 Sep (Ma. Weaver, L. E. Yoder) were worthy of notice.

Canada Warbler: Maximum was four at Headlands Beach SP on 30 Aug (K. Metcalf, L. Rosche).

Yellow-breasted Chat: R. Hannikman reported that the first chat ever reported at Headlands Beach SP made an appearance on 4 Oct.

Summer Tanager: One bird was at Mitchell Forest, *Hamilton*, on 26 Sep (N&J Cade). Another was late at Oak Openings MP on the 30th (E. Tramer).

Scarlet Tanager: Late reports included six birds at the Ira Rd section of the CVNRA on 5 Oct (T&M Romito), as well as single birds on 9 Oct at Nathan Hale Pk in Parma, *Cuyahoga* (R. Harlan, Sa. Wagner) and on 10 Oct north of Mt Hope, *Holmes* (L. E. Yoder).

American Tree Sparrow: The first arrival was spotted on 14 Oct at Lakeshore MP by J. Pogacnik. Maximum was an estimated 320 on the 15 Nov Magee census (H&S Hiris).

Chipping Sparrow: High numbers were 50 at Lorain on 4 Oct (C. Reiker), and 20 in *Holmes* on the 9th (E. Schlabach). The final bird was sighted at Lakeshore MP by J. Pogacnik on 14 Nov.

Clay-colored Sparrow: One bird was reported from Lakeshore MP on 8 Nov (J. Pogacnik).

Field Sparrow: The maximum number reported was 22 from the Headlands Beach SP area on 9 Oct (L. Rosche).

Vesper Sparrow: The last two reported birds were discovered in *Holmes* on 25 Oct (E. Schlabach).

Lark Sparrow: A single bird was found near New Bedford, *Coshocton*, on 1 Nov and remained to the end of the period (M. Barkman, J. Beechy, M. Troyer).

Savannah Sparrow: The best count was 80 birds found in a soybean field near Sugarcreek, *Tuscarawas*, on 4 Oct (E. Schlabach). This flock was first discovered on 26 Sep, when it numbered 35; two birds remained through the end of the period. The next highest count was of 25 birds appearing at Killdeer on 28 Sep (K. Metcalf).

Grasshopper Sparrow: Three birds were found in the same field that harbored the savannahs mentioned above (E. Schlabach). The high count was 15 at Big Island WA on 30 Aug (V. Fazio). One bird was surprisingly late at Girdled Rd MP, *Lake*, on 16 Oct (J. Pogacnik).

Henslow's Sparrow: The only report was of a bird near Jefferson, *Ashtabula*, on 9 Aug (J. Pogacnik).

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow: B. Conlon and B. Whan discovered a bird at Killdeer on 22 Sep. On the 21st, Conlon had found one about a mile from that spot (same bird?). Three other single birds were reported, all found on 30 Sep: at Jaite, in the CVNRA, by S. Zadar; at Chagrin River MP, *Lake* (J. Pogacnik); and at the Brecksville Reservation, *Cuyahoga* (D. Kriska).

Fox Sparrow: All reports were between 25 Oct and 27 Nov, with the high count being six birds in *Holmes* on 25 Oct (Ma. Weaver). Five were found at Sheldon Marsh SNP on 7 Nov (B. Stehling).

Song Sparrow: Peak counts included 116 on the 1 Nov Ottawa census (E. Pierce *et al.*), 100 birds at MWW on 11 Oct (N. Cade), and 70 on the 18 Oct Magee census (H&S Hiris).

Lincoln's Sparrow: The earliest arrival was seen in *Tuscarawas* on 9 Sep (R. Schlabach) followed by another in the same county on the 12th (E. Schlabach). Another early bird was discovered at Headlands Beach SP by L. Rosche on 13 Sep. The peak number consisted of 18 birds near D. Kline's home close to Holmesville, *Holmes*. 12 were found at MWW on 4 Oct (N. Keller). A late bird was in *Tuscarawas* on 31 Oct (E. Schlabach).

Swamp Sparrow: The maximum was 75 birds at MWW on 11 Oct (N. Cade), while the 1 Nov Ottawa census recorded 52 (E. Pierce *et al.*).

White-throated Sparrow: It is difficult to generalize on the basis of only a few reports, but it appears that this year's migration was well down from those of the last several years. In 1995, the sum of the three highest counts was about 1200 birds; in 1996, about 800; and in 1997, about 700. This year, the peak count was estimated as 200 birds at Headlands Beach SP on 9 Oct (D&J Brumfield, L. Rosche), and the sum of the three best counts was only around 400.

Harris's Sparrow: An immature bird found at the Seiberling Nature Center on 4 Oct (W. Stover) was enjoyed by many observers before its departure on the 26th.

White-crowned Sparrow: Maxima were 118 birds west of Sugarcreek, *Tuscarawas*, on 20 Oct (J. P. Miller); 115 near Walnut Creek, *Holmes*, on 5 Nov (T. Hochstetler); and 75 seen by J. McDonald at MWW on 1 Nov. The first report of the season was of a single bird at Lakeshore MP on 22 Sep (J. Pogacnik).

Dark-eyed Junco: Of interest was an out-of-season report of a bird at a feeder in *Clark* on 20 Aug (G. Hollingsworth). The peak report was a mere 37 counted on the 4 Oct Ottawa census (E. Pierce *et al.*).

Lapland Longspur: A much better showing than the last several years. The first report was on 17 Sep at Lakeshore MP (J. Pogacnik). V. Fazio estimated more than 100 birds in a 15-minute period at Big Island WA, *Marion*, and had to leave while the flight was still ongoing. On 26 Nov at Headlands Beach SP, R. Hannikman counted 12 birds, a good number for the lakeshore.

Snow Bunting: The first bird arrived at Ashtabula on 15 Oct (J. Pogacnik), followed by 50 at LaDue Res on the 30th (D&J Hoffman). Highest counts included an estimated 200 birds at Fairport Harbor on 25 Nov (J. Hammond), and 110 at Conneaut on 8 Nov (C. Holt). On 14 Nov, J. Hammond found 75 at Fairport Harbor and another 50 at Headlands Beach SP.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Five birds were found at Headlands Beach SP on 13 Sep (L. Rosche). A late female was seen at Shaker Lakes Nature Center, *Cuyahoga*, on 18 Oct (B. Finkelstein, T. Gilliland, P. Lozano).

Indigo Bunting: The latest reported bird was near Sugarcreek, *Tuscarawas*, on 31 Oct (E. Schlabach).

Dickcissel: All reports: N. Cade found one bird at MWW on 20 Sep. An adult female was discovered in Mayfield Heights, *Cuyahoga*, on 3 Oct (N. Barber, K. Metcalf). One was discovered on the 2 Aug Ottawa census (E. Pierce *et al.*).

Blackbird spp.: From 3 Nov till the end of the period, a gargantuan flock of mixed species blackbirds stayed around the Kidron, *Wayne*, area (M. Gingerich). The following text paraphrases a report appearing in *The Bobolink*: This flock flew over Me. Weaver for 15 minutes non-stop. Ja. Miller reported blackbirds overhead from horizon to horizon for 20 minutes. Since the flock size changed throughout the period, so did estimates of the total number of birds in the flock: these estimates varied from 200,000 (B. Glick) to 400,000 (M. Gingerich), upwards to D. Kline Jr's 600,000 to 1,000,000 when the flock was at its largest.

Bobolink: An estimated 1000 bobolinks was an amazing find at Ottawa and Magee on 3 Oct (D. Overacker). A late bird was seen at Lakeshore MP on 18 Oct (J. Pogacnik).

Red-winged Blackbird: Although there were no massive aggregations of 50,000 birds or more as in each of the past two years, four counts of 5000 or more were reported, with the peak being 10,000 at Funk Bottoms WA, *Ashland/Wayne*, on 31 Aug (S. Snyder).

Eastern Meadowlark: High counts included 25 birds near Sugarcreek, *Tuscarawas*, on 4 Oct (E. Schlabach); 20 at Killdeer, *Wyandot*, on 29 Nov (J. Hammond); and 13 in *Hancock* on 6 Oct (B. Hardesty).

Western Meadowlark: The sole report: a single bird on 12 Aug near Genoa, *Ottawa* (J. Pogacnik).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: The only sighting was of a lone bird in Mentor, *Lake*, once again by J. Pogacnik, on 7 Oct.

Rusty Blackbird: An early report of 30 birds came from Twin Lakes, *Portage*, on 20 Sep (L. Rosche). Peak numbers were 211 birds tallied on the 1 Nov Ottawa census (E. Pierce *et al.*); 150 at Sheldon Marsh SNP, *Erie* (M. Busam); 75-125 near Kidron, *Wayne* (S. Hackett); and 80 at Killdeer on 15 Nov (D. Overacker).

Brewer's Blackbird: All reports: J. Pogacnik estimated upwards of 40 birds near Genoa, *Ottawa*, on 29 Nov. Other sightings include: five seen on the 15 Nov Magee census (H&S Hiris); four at Ottawa on 1 Nov (T. Bartlett); and two at Killdeer on 27 Nov (N. Barber).

Common Grackle: An enormous flock estimated at 50,000 to 60,000 was seen flying north of Mt Hope, *Holmes*, on 26 Nov. According to L. E. Yoder, the flock consisted solely of grackles. At the Ira Rd area of CVNRA, T&M Romito reported 4000 on 5 Oct, and C. Klaus estimated 1500-2000 on 22 Oct at Kirtland, *Lake*.

Brown-headed Cowbird: The biggest flocks reported were 500 birds at MWW on 1 Nov (N. Keller, K. McDonald); 463 in *Hancock* on 13 Oct (B. Hardesty); 350 on the 1 Nov Ottawa census (E. Pierce *et al.*); and 300 at Nathan Hale Pk in Parma, *Cuyahoga*, on 21 Sep (R. Harlan, Sa. Wagner).

Orchard Oriole: One report of a single bird at Lakeshore MP on 1 Sep (J. Pogacnik).

Baltimore Oriole: The high count was 12 birds seen on the 2 Aug Ottawa census (E. Pierce *et al.*). Late was a bird at a feeder in Englewood MP, Dayton, on 28 Nov (C. Rieker).

Purple Finch: Reported as being "few and far between" by L. Rosche. Maxima were 3 birds at Buck Creek SP on 1 Nov (D. Overacker), and 2 near Walnut Creek, Holmes, on 25 Oct (Je. Miller).

Crossbill sp.: Five crossbills unidentified as to species were discovered in the Gordon Park impoundment on 1 Nov by R. Harlan and Sa. Wagner. No other crossbills were reported.

Common Redpoll: The Harlan/Wagner team also came up with the only redpoll reports of the season with "a few" at Wellington Res, Lorain, on 1 Nov, and 20 birds at Big Island WA, Marion, on the 15th.

Pine Siskin: Birds were reported at Lakeshore MP on 7 Sep (J. Pogacnik), and at Killdeer on 5 Oct (R. Counts).

American Goldfinch: An estimated 240 birds were in the vicinity of Pond 6 at Killdeer on 25 Oct (V. Fazio). 165 were reported in Hancock on 29 Sep (B. Hardesty), and 100 were at Maumee Bay SP on 3 Oct (J. Hammond).

Evening Grosbeak: Clearly not an invasion year. Peak count was 12 birds in Butler on 12 Nov (S. Pelikan). Intriguing was a report of a bird at a feeder in Clark on 20 Aug (G. Hollingsworth). Singles were reported at Cowan Lake SP, Clinton, on 18 Sep (L. Gara), and at Findlay, Hancock, on 29 Oct (M. Dailey).

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Winter 1998-99 Overview by Bob Conlon

Once again we start a seasonal overview by remarking that the season was warmer than normal for the period. Temperatures across the state averaged more than five degrees above normal for the three months. December averaged about five degrees above normal; January, about three and a half; and February, about seven. Since the fall months had also been significantly warmer than normal, there were a number of interesting records of lingering shorebirds and other migrants, as well as an increase in the number of some half-hardy species deciding to overwinter in greater than normal numbers. As a result, some rather out-of-the-ordinary sightings were recorded, including an American avocet on a Christmas Bird Count in the Toledo area on the 20th of December, a first for any Ohio Christmas Bird Count. Another likely record late sighting was of an American white pelican in central Ohio that stuck around Greenlawn Dam in Columbus until the 10th of December. Add to this a Wilson's phalarope that was last seen along the old Cedar Point causeway on December 5th, and it was a truly remarkable December. Although no documentation was received to substantiate the sighting, an osprey was reported in southern Ohio in mid-February; this would constitute only the sixth February record of this species in the state.

The mild autumn and first part of the winter was also likely responsible for a migration of sandhill cranes that peaked during the last ten days of December, and continued into the first third of January. Thirteen shorebird species were reported in the period, well above the number to be expected normally; in addition, eight species of warblers were seen including a yellow (!) and a Wilson's that visited a thistle feeder on 29 December. American robins were seen in enormous numbers; CBCs enumerated twice as many as were reported in the very good winter of 1993-94. Reports of two Lincoln's sparrows seen on separate northeast Ohio CBCs were also noteworthy.

After the first of the year, however, the weather changed, with a major snowstorm in central and northern Ohio on 2 January, followed by an ice storm over large portions of the state on the 13th and 14th. This latter event was responsible for the grounding of many waterfowl (see article later in this issue), and major fallouts of several other species, including horned larks, Lapland longspurs, and snow buntings. The ice storm probably explained the discovery of three glaucous gulls and a great black-backed gull in Dayton on 16 January, as well as the western grebe discovered east of Cincinnati on the 20th.

This winter verified that, for those seeking a mid-winter spectacle involving grass-land raptors, the current place to visit is The Wilds in Muskingum County. It produced high one-day counts of 31 northern harriers, 51 rough-legged hawks, and 83 short-eared owls. This is an area still evolving as a birding venue, and is worth a good deal more attention on the agenda of the Ohio birder.

Christmas Bird Count results are presented in tabular form in a later section of this issue. No attempt has been made to present a complete summary of the CBC results in the species accounts. On the other hand, in those cases in which a result appears to be of particular interest to the readers of this publication, such information is presented in the species accounts. Examples include (1) sightings of rare or out-of-season birds, (2) comparisons of instances where statewide totals are quite large (or small) compared to historic numbers, and (3) those cases in which the CBC sightings make up the majority of seasonal reports for that species.