

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.

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 certain locations, and appear *italicized*. Abbreviations in the text should be readily understood; conceivable exceptions follow: CBC=Christmas Bird Count; CRP=Conservation Reserve Program; CVNRA=Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area; *fide*= "in trust of," said of data conveyed on behalf of another; Isl= Island; Killdeer=Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area; Lk=Lake; Magee=Magee Marsh Wildlife Area; MP=Metropark; MWW=Miami-Whitewater Wetlands; OBRC=Ohio Bird Records Committee; Ottawa=Ottawa National Wildlife Area; PP=Power Plant; Res=Reservoir; SF=State Forest; SNP=State Nature Preserve; SP=State Park; Twp=Township; WA=Wildlife Area.



Sheldon Marsh State Nature Preserve, Erie Co., was home to this Northern Saw-whet Owl for part of the winter season. This sleeping bird was photographed by Bob Finkelstein on 20 February 1999.

The Winter 1998-99 Reports

Common Loon: The peak migration flight reported was of 85 passing Lakeshore MP, *Lake*, on 11 Dec (J. Pogacnik), and 31 were seen flying south over Fredericksburg, *Holmes*, on the same day (P. Yoder). The last migrant passing Lakeshore was a single bird on 1 Jan (J. Pogacnik). A single bird was seen at Findlay Res., *Hancock*, 29 Dec (B. Hardesty); one at Berlin Res, *Stark*, on 19 Jan was an unusual mid-winter occurrence at this location (B. Morrison). A pair of returning birds was sighted at East Fork SP, *Clermont*, on 30 Jan (T. Bartlett). 43 were recorded on 12 CBCs throughout the state.

Red-throated Loon: All reports: three flybys at Lakeshore on 11 Dec, 20 Dec, and 1 Jan (J. Pogacnik); two stranded birds turned in at the Ohio Wildlife Center, *Franklin*, 13 Jan (D. Burton); and a single bird at Caesar Cr SP, *Warren*, on 18 Jan (Dayton RBA).

Pied-billed Grebe: The ice storm, which passed through portions of the state 13-14 Jan and resulted in numbers of loons and grebes being stranded and taken to various rehabilitation centers, was also most likely the reason for the large number of pied-bills found in several Ohio locations. 40 birds were counted at East Fork SP on 20 Jan (H. Armstrong, N. Keller). 15-17 Jan found 10 birds at Greenlawn Dam, *Franklin* (R. Evans), while 18 showed up at Rocky Fork Lk, *Highland*, on 18 Jan (St. Wagner). During the same period, at least seven additional birds appeared at four other locations.

Horned Grebe: Fall migration extended into December, with 48 birds passing Lakeshore MP on 20 Dec (J. Pogacnik), 21 off Sims Park, *Cuyahoga*, on 29 Dec (T. LePage), and seven reported from Fairport Harbor, *Lake*, 27 Dec (L. Rosche). Storm-related numbers in January included: six birds at Greenlawn Dam on 14 Jan (R. Cressman), seven at Avon Lake PP, *Lorain*, 18 Jan (R. Harlan, Sa. Wagner), 24 at East Fork SP, also on 18 Jan (St. Wagner), and five at Ashtabula, *Ashtabula*, on 22 Jan (J. Pogacnik). Three birds were also grounded in *Coshocton*, *Holmes*, and *Tuscarawas* according to *The Bobolink*. The 15 birds seen by L. Rosche at LaDue Res, *Geauga*, on 28 Feb were most likely spring migrants.

Red-necked Grebe: All reports: W. Pratt reported three birds at Hueston Woods SP, *Butler/Preble*, on 9 Dec. A single bird was reported on the Hamilton CBC on the Great Miami R in downtown Hamilton, *Butler*, on 19 Dec (M. Busam). The two discovered by D&M Dunakin on 17 Jan at a power dam in *Defiance* were most likely storm-driven. The one found at Ashtabula on 22 Jan (J. Pogacnik), however, is not so easily pigeon-holed.

Western Grebe: The bird of the season was the western grebe found at East Fork SP on 20 Jan by H. Armstrong and seen by many observers through the period and well into spring. It was probably deposited there by the storm a week earlier that led to the grounding of many other birds throughout the region. This sighting was accepted by the OBRC.

American White Pelican: Amazingly, a single bird was discovered above Greenlawn Dam on 2 Dec (R. Evans) and remained there through at least 10 Dec. So far as can be determined, this is the latest recorded date for this species in Ohio.

Double-crested Cormorant: The last significant report of migrants was of 80 birds from East Harbor SP, *Ottawa*, 3 Dec (V. Fazio). 188 were discovered on CBCs, largest total 94 birds on the Lake Erie Islands CBC (see CBC article in this issue). The largest number found after the CBC period was four at the Avon Lake PP on 10 Jan (B. Finkelstein, T. Gilliland).

Northern Gannet: A single first-year bird was seen at Headlands Beach SP, *Lake*, on 5 Dec by N. Barber and R. Hannikman. This sighting was accepted by the OBRC upon review of submitted documentation.

Great Blue Heron: 96 birds were counted at East Harbor SP on 3 Dec (V. Fazio). Ten wintered at the Bath Twp roost, *Summit*, and 30 were counted there on 14 Feb (G. Demars). Small numbers were reported through the period from Killbuck Marsh WA, *Wayne* (B. Glick). V. Fazio reported eight birds on six nests at Little Portage WA, *Sandusky*, 11 Feb.

Great Egret: Two birds were seen at Medusa Marsh, *Erie*, 25 Dec (J. Pogacnik); one remained there for the Gypsum CBC on 1 Jan.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: The largest number (29) was reported from Bayshore PP, *Lucas*, 16 Jan (**D. Dister**). Single birds were noted at Kelley's Island, *Ottawa*, 20 Dec (**T. Bartlett**, **V. Fazio**) and Dayton, *Montgomery*, 9 Jan (**D. Dister**).

Turkey Vulture: **B. Glick** counted 35 birds at the Lk Buckhorn, *Holmes*, roost on 3 Jan. A winter roost in Eastern *Holmes*, about 10 miles East of the Lk Buckhorn roost contained an estimated 100 on 23 Jan (**E. Schlabach**). One or two birds wintered in the CVNRA, *Cuyahoga/Summit*, seen occasionally 6 Dec through 28 Feb (**D&A Chasar**). Other midwinter birds in the north included singles at Grand River WA, *Lake*, on 17 Jan, and Willoughby, *Lake*, on 30 Jan (both **J. Pogacnik**). A flock of 18 seen over Irwin Prairie SNP, *Lucas*, on 11 Feb were most likely migrants (**R. Nieschl**), as were two and three birds seen in *Paulding* 11 & 27 Feb, respectively (**D&M Dunakin**). A total of 201 was reported on CBCs.

Black Vulture: **E. Schlabach** reported five birds at the winter roost East of the Lk Buckhorn roost on 26 Jan, while **B. Glick** counted four at the Lk Buckhorn site on 3 Jan. Further south, 30 were in Whitewater Twp, *Hamilton*, 6 Dec, and 11 were at Miami-Whitewater Forest, *Hamilton*, on 1 Jan (both **P. Wharton**). **C. Dusthimer** counted five birds in the usual area of *Hocking* near Rockbridge on 11 Feb. 196 were seen on the CBCs.

Tundra Swan: Tundra swans were still moving south at the beginning of the year with 166 flying past Lakeshore MP on 1 Jan (**J. Pogacnik**), and 35 seen at Tiffin on the 3rd (**Z. Baker**). 75 were reported on the 3 Jan Ottawa census (**E. Pierce et al.**), but this number had dwindled to 15 by the 7 Feb count. No large concentrations were reported during the rest of the period, although small numbers were seen at a number of locations throughout the state.

Mute Swan: East Harbor SP, *Ottawa*, appears to be the headquarters for these exotics. **V. Fazio** saw 53 there on 3 Dec, and 59 on the 29th. Ten were reported from Headlands Beach SP, *Lake*, on 17 Jan (**N. Barber**). Reports were received from at least seven other counties. Of local interest was a sighting of eight birds at Spring Lakes Pk, *Greene*, on 18 Jan (**J. Rakestraw**), possibly the first record for this county.

Greater White-fronted Goose: 92 birds from the autumn flock at Killdeer, *Wyandot*, were still there on 1 Dec (**V. Fazio**). Their numbers had shrunk to 28 by 29 Dec (**J. Brumfield**), but recovered to 36 birds on 7 Jan (**J. Larson**). Two individuals that were discovered in southern *Holmes* on 14 Jan (**M. Gingerich**) had likely been forced down by the ice storm. **T. Kemp** reported three from *Lucas* on 2 Jan, and **R. Cressman** saw five orange-billed individuals at Blendon Woods MP, *Franklin*, on 9 Feb.

Ross's Goose: 1 Dec was apparently the final day for the bird that had been present at Killdeer (**V. Fazio**). A rumor of this species's occurrence in *Wood* during the period went undocumented.

Snow Goose: Prior to mid-January, most reports were from the northern third of Ohio, although **O. Debre** found two birds on the Ohio River, *Washington*, on 3 Jan. **B. Sponseller** counted 55 at Ottawa on 1 Dec; 41 lingered there for the 3 Jan count (**E. Pierce et al.**). 75 birds were observed in flight in northern *Coshocton* on 5 Jan (**D. E. Miller**). The Magee census of 17 Jan discovered a flock of 27 birds (**H&S Hiris**), and nine were at Killdeer on 1 Dec (**V. Fazio**). Then, likely as a result of the weather event of 13-14 Jan, a number of sightings occurred throughout the southern part of the state. **St. Wagner** had 60 at Rocky Fork Lk, *Highland*, on 18 Jan. The previous day, 11 were seen at Adams Lk SP, *Adams* (**P. Whan**). In the Cincinnati area, three were at MWW, *Hamilton*, on 18 Jan (**P. Wharton**); one at Gilmore Ponds, *Butler*, on 22 Jan (**F. Frick**); and another at Hueston Woods SP, *Butler/Preble*, on 23 Jan (**D. Russell**).

Brant: The two birds found 9 & 10 Feb in a swamp north of Jaite in the CVNRA, *Cuyahoga*, by **B. Roach** were most likely spring migrants.

Canada Goose: Nearly 50,000 were counted on statewide CBCs. Post-CBC numbers included 1000 estimated at Rocky Fork Lk, *Highland*, on 18 Jan (**St. Wagner**); 1750 on the 7 Feb Ottawa census (**E. Pierce et al.**); 1336 on the 21 Feb Magee census (**H&S Hiris**); and 2000+ at Funk Bottoms WA, *Ashland/Wayne*, on 28 Feb (**B. Glick**).

Wood Duck: The highest number reported was 42 on the 20 Dec Magee census (**H&S Hiris**).

Green-winged Teal: Late birds in the southwest included 23 at MWW on 6 Dec (**M. Busam**) and 33 at Winton Woods, *Hamilton*, on 9 Dec (**J. Stenger**). A remarkable 260 were tallied by **V. Fazio** at Ottawa on 20 Dec. 16 birds were counted on the Magee census of 20 Dec (**H&S Hiris**). Two apparently overwintered at MWW, seen by **J. Stenger** on 18 Jan. Returning migrants included two at Kirtland, *Lake*, on 11 Feb (**J. Pogacnik**), four at Killdeer on 20 Feb (**J. Pogacnik**), and a well-documented bird of the "Eurasian" race that remained at a location near Sugarcreek, *Tuscarawas*, 5-27 Feb (**E. Schlabach**), this last record accepted by the OBRC.

American Black Duck: No extremely large groups of black ducks were reported, although the Gypsum CBC had 988 birds on 1 Jan, and upwards of 750 were estimated at Funk Bottoms WA on 6 Feb (**M. Gingerich**). Otherwise, the high count was 193 on the 21 Feb Magee census (**H&S Hiris**).

Mallard: The Gypsum CBC reported 13,598 on 1 Jan. The 21 Feb Magee count tallied 3345 birds (**H&S Hiris**), and 3000 were estimated at Funk during Feb according to *The Bobolink*.

Northern Pintail: Best spring migration numbers included 186 on the 21 Feb Magee census (**H&S Hiris**); 150 at Killdeer, *Wyandot*, on 20 Feb (**J. Burt et al.**); and 70+ at Medusa Marsh, *Erie*, also on the 20th (**J. Pogacnik**).

Northern Shoveler: The Gypsum CBC counted 135 at Castalia, *Erie*, on 1 Jan. The 21 Feb Magee census tallied 44 spring migrants (**H&S Hiris**).

Gadwall: The Magee census reported 267 birds on 20 Dec (**H&S Hiris**), while 25 were at Lk Rockwell, *Portage*, on the 28th (**L. Rosche**).

American Wigeon: Early spring arrivals included 156 at Magee on 21 Feb (**H&S Hiris**); 43 at Cowan Lk, *Clinton*, on the 27th (**L. Gara**); and 30 at Killbuck Marsh WA, *Wayne*, on the 28th (**B. Glick**).

Canvasback: **B. Whan** estimated a count "in the four figures" of canvasbacks on Sandusky Bay, *Ottawa/Erie*, on 4 Feb. 1000 were tallied at Avon Lake PP on 17 Jan (**B. Finkelstein**, **T. Gilliland**, **D. Norris**), while on 5 Feb there were about 500 birds on Maumee Bay (**J. Hammond**, **D. Sanders**).

Redhead: The high count of 200 birds reported at Maumee Bay SP, *Lucas*, on 5 Feb (**J. Hammond**, **D. Sanders**) was matched at the Avon Lake PP on 9 Feb (**T. LePage**), and at Wellington Res, *Lorain*, on 28 Feb (**F. Greenland**). 150 were seen both at Avon Lake PP on 17 Jan (**B. Finkelstein**, **T. Gilliland**, **D. Norris**) and at Killbuck Marsh WA on 28 Feb (**B. Glick**).

Ring-necked Duck: A flock of 230 was reported in Deerfield Twp, *Hamilton*, on 23 Dec (**J. Lehman**). A strong movement toward the end of the period was manifested at a number of locations. 450 were at Killbuck Marsh WA on 28 Feb (**B. Glick**), and **D. Dister** saw 74 in *Muskingum* on the same day. Also, on the 28th, 30 were reported at Mosquito WA, *Trumbull* (**D&J Hochadel**), with another 10 at Killdeer (**B. Shively**). The previous day, 30 were found in *Clark* (**D. Overacker**).

Greater Scaup: 100 were at the Avon Lake PP on 4 Jan (**T. LePage**), while on 5 Feb, 200 were estimated at Maumee Bay SP, *Lucas* (**J. Hammond**, **D. Sanders**). Inland, four birds were at Shreve Lk WA on 6 Feb (**M. Gingerich**), and one was seen at Killbuck Marsh WA on 28 Feb (**B. Glick**).

Lesser Scaup: Maximum numbers were 5000 at East Harbor SP on 20 Dec (**V. Fazio**), and 2000 at Maumee Bay SP on 5 Feb (**J. Hammond**, **D. Sanders**). Away from the lake, 20 birds were seen in *Clark* on 27 Feb (**D. Overacker**), and another 10 at Cowan Lk SP, *Clinton*, on the same day (**L. Gara**).

Harlequin Duck: A banner year! The first appearance was of an immature off Kelley's Island 18 Dec (**J. Pogacnik**). **J. Hammond** and **D. Sanders** reported an immature male at Headlands Beach SP on 6 Jan, which remained for **J. Pogacnik** on the 7th and 9th. A first-winter male was seen on the Great Miami River in Sidney, *Shelby*, on 16 Jan (**C. Mathena**, **D. Overacker**), and stayed at least until the next day (**G. Stauffer**). On 18 Jan, **D&J Brumfield** reported another immature bird at the Avon Lake PP, *Lorain*. A female was discovered at Headlands Beach SP 3 Jan, and it and another bird were reported off the mouth of the Grand River until at least the middle of Feb (*The Cleveland Bird Calendar*).

Oldsquaw: J. Pogacnik saw three off Lakeshore MP on 11 Dec, and another five on 1 Jan. The only other sighting along the lake was an individual at Sims Park, *Cuyahoga*, on 17 Jan (T. Kellerman *et al.*). Inland, single birds were at East Fork Lk, *Clermont*, on 20 Jan (A. Oliver, N. Keller, H. Armstrong); State Line Pond, *Hamilton*, from 31 Jan until 14 Feb (F. Renfrow, J&Jk Stenger, *et al.*); and an adult male at Wellington Res, *Lorain*, on 10 Feb (P. Jones). A single bird at Greenlawn Dam, *Franklin*, on 15 Jan (R. Evans) was joined by another on the 18th (C. Dusthimer).

Black Scoter: The only sightings were of eight at Lakeshore MP on 5 Dec (J. Pogacnik), and a lone bird off Sims Park on the 18th (T. LePage).

Surf Scoter: Ten were sighted off Bay Village, *Cuyahoga*, on 27 Dec (B. Finkelstein, T. LePage, P. Lozano); six were spotted off Lakeshore MP 4 Dec (J. Pogacnik); and five were at Eastlake on 17 Jan (L. Rosche). Sightings inland included five at Riverside Marina, *Hamilton*, on 28 Dec (F. Renfrow); one on Rocky Fork Lk, *Highland*, on 22 Jan (J. McMahon); one at Clear Fork Res, *Richland*, on 24 Dec (J. Herman); and, interestingly, a lone bird at the Castalia Pond on 10 Jan (R. Harlan, Sa. Wagner).

White-winged Scoter: The total of white-winged scoter sightings bested those of the past several years by a comfortable margin. Five each were seen at Lakeshore MP on 4 Dec (J. Pogacnik), and at Headlands Beach SP on 20 Jan (J. Hammond, D. Sanders). Six others were reported from along the lake. Away from Lake Erie, one was at Buckeye Lk, *Licking*, on 14 Jan (G. Buckley); another was in southern *Holmes* 15-16 Jan (B. Glick); and a single stranded bird was turned in to the Ohio Wildlife Center, *Franklin*, on 15 Jan (D. Burton, *vide J. Hammond*). It is likely that these last three birds were brought down by the ice storm of 14-15 Jan.

Common Goldeneye: 3000+ was a good mid-winter count from S Bass Island on 30 Dec (S. Wulkowicz). Later in the season, T. Bartlett *et al.* estimated 1400 in the waters around Kelley's Island on 20 Feb. Inland, the high count was 20 at Hueston Woods SP, *Butler/Preble*, on 31 Jan (O. Debre).

Bufflehead: Kelley's Island led the way with 548 on 20 Feb (T. Bartlett *et al.*). No other lakefront report exceeded 25 birds. Inland highs were 40+ at The Wilds on 5 Dec (J. Larson), 10 at Camp Dennison, *Hamilton*, on 23 Jan (R. Foppe), and a like number at Buck Creek SP, *Clark*, on 14 Feb (D. Overacker).

Hooded Merganser: 88 were seen at Lakeshore MP on 5 Dec (J. Pogacnik); this was the only sizeable pre-CBC count. A good mid-winter total was the 30+ encountered at Greenlawn Dam, *Franklin*, on 22 Jan (R. Cressman); in addition, 22 were at Deer Creek Res, *Fayette/Pickaway*, on 4 Jan (B. Morrison).

Common Merganser: The 7 Feb Ottawa count tallied 3083 birds that had likely overwintered in the vicinity (E. Pierce *et al.*). 1332 were noted off Lakeshore MP 2 Jan (J. Pogacnik), while 900 were estimated at Fairport Harbor, *Lake*, on 27 Dec (L. Rosche). Inland, 38 were on Meander Res, *Mahoning/Trumbull*, 24 Feb (C. Babyak); 21 were at Pleasant Hill Lk on 30 Jan, growing to 30 on 27 Feb (J. Herman); and 18 were seen on Salt Fork Lk, *Guernsey*, on 6 Feb (J. Larson).

Red-breasted Merganser: 10,000 migrants were estimated at Eastlake on 2 Dec (D. Burton, J. Hammond, D. Sanders), while J. Pogacnik counted 19,386 two days later at Lakeshore MP. A mid-winter tally of 3,000 birds at Bay Village on 27 Dec was a good number for that date (B. Berger, B. Finkelstein, T. LePage).

Ruddy Duck: The aggregated CBC numbers showed a total of 784 ruddy ducks, while several recent years have resulted in numbers only in the double digits. This is probably due to the mild weather leading up to, and persisting through all but the last two days of, the CBC period. Migrants showed up in force in *Allen* in early Feb: D. Dister found 650 at Metzger Res on 12 Feb and 350 more at Bresler Res on the same date.

Hybrid duck: R. Harlan and Sa. Wagner reported an apparent common goldeneye X hooded merganser along the Cedar Point causeway, *Erie*, on 10 Jan.

Osprey: Interesting was a report of a lone bird at Cowan Lk, *Clinton*, on 14 Feb (N. Cade). No documentation was submitted to substantiate this sighting, which would be one of a very few for Ohio during the winter season; the OBRC did accept a 9 Feb report from last winter in *Lake* (J. Pogacnik), and there are four previous Feb records.

Bald Eagle: This season produced a number of multiple-eagle sightings at Ohio reservoirs. Five were spotted at Meander Res, *Mahoning/Trumbull*, 19 Dec (C. Babyak); E. Schlabach found four at Pleasant Hill Res, *Ashland/Richland*, on 22 Jan; five more were at Dillon Res, *Muskingum*, on 15 Feb (D. St. John); six were seen at Rocky Fork SP, *Highland*, on 21 Feb (St. Wagner); and eight had returned to the traditional location at Mosquito Creek Res, *Trumbull*, by 31 Jan (D&J Hochadel). Along Lake Erie, six turned up on the 20 Dec Magee census (H&S Hiris); five were tallied on the 7 Feb Ottawa census (E. Pierce *et al.*); and 11 hung out at Old Woman Creek, *Erie*, on 20 Feb (B. Finkelstein).

Northern Harrier: There were a number of single-location sightings of goodly numbers of harriers this season. 31 were counted at The Wilds, *Muskingum*, on 28 Jan (D. St. John); T. Bartlett tallied 28 on the Fireside CRP lands, *Seneca*, on 23 Jan; 10 were at Rocky Fork SP 21 Feb (S. Wharton); and 12 graced the fields of Killdeer on 28 Feb (B. Shively).

Sharp-shinned Hawk: 87 were recorded on CBCs. [This species and the next are reported in this manner because I believe a statewide summary presents a more accurate picture of the status of these species in the winter months than would a listing of the relatively small number of sighting reports that are typically submitted.]

Cooper's Hawk: 267 were reported on CBCs.

Northern Goshawk: All reports follow. A lone bird was found at Magee on 5 Dec (J. Pogacnik). The same observer also reported a goshawk from Ottawa on 26 Dec, and A. Blank saw one at Route 2 and Stange Road on 31 Dec. It is likely that these last two sightings were of the same bird; it is possible that the one seen on 5 Dec was also the same individual. A goshawk that was discovered at Maumee Bay SP on 30 Jan and hung around there through the end of the period (T. Kemp, m obs) could, conceivably, have been the same bird. Another was seen flying into Mentor Marsh, *Lake*, on 28 Dec (N. Barber). E. Nelson reported a sighting at Grand Lk, *Mercer*, on 5 Jan.

Red-shouldered Hawk: J. Pogacnik stated that red-shouldered hawks wintered in above normal numbers in *Lake*, while L. Rosche reported seeing 21 individuals in *Geauga, Lake, Portage, and Summit* during the winter months. Nine were found in the CVNRA on 15 Feb (C. Rieker). Four or five reportedly overwintered in the Pleasant Hill Lk/Mohican SF area, *Ashland/Richland* (M. Gingerich, J. Nisley, E. Schlabach).

Red-tailed Hawk: In *Hancock* on 19 Dec, 26 birds were counted (B. Hardesty), while 25 were seen at Killdeer on 28 Feb (B. Shively).

Rough-legged Hawk: An amazing buildup of rough-legged hawks occurred at The Wilds, *Muskingum*, during the winter period. Five were present on 9 Dec (J. Larson); 12 were counted on 4 Jan (N. Keller). By 28 Jan, the number had swelled to 22 (D. St. John), and J. Larson tallied 31 on 5 Feb. A four-person effort on 17 Feb yielded a total census of 51 birds (J&Jk Stenger, J. Bens, P. Wharton). 30 additional birds were reported from around the state.

American Kestrel: In a 19 Dec census of *Hancock*, B. Hardesty reported a total of 47 kestrels.

Merlin: Two were present at the usual site in Bath, *Summit*, seen on 23 Jan (L. Rosche) and on 5 Feb (J. Brumfield). On 3 Dec, T. LePage observed one at Wildwood SP; another was discovered at Mosquito WA on 16 Jan (D&J Hochadel). On 20 Jan, J. Pogacnik found one at Painesville, *Lake*; on the same day, a single bird was at Sims Pk, *Cuyahoga* (D. Sanders, D. Burton). At Maumee Bay SP on 11 Feb, a lone merlin was sighted by B. Morrison *et al.* One was observed at Fairport Harbor on 21 Feb (E. Bacik, R. Hannikman, H. Petruschke). Well south of these sightings, one was found at The Wilds on 5 Feb (B. Thompson).

Peregrine Falcon: Eight birds were reported from five sites.

Ruffed Grouse: CBCs recorded 35 birds.

Wild Turkey: At least three flocks of more than 50 turkeys were reported from northeast Ohio. Both the Mansfield and Mohican SF CBCs reported upwards of 100 birds.

Northern Bobwhite: Ten were seen at MWW on 17 Jan (M. Busam, L. Peyton). CBCs accounted for 66 birds.

Virginia Rail: The Carey CBC turned up two birds at Springville Marsh SNP, Seneca, 31 Dec (fide T. Bartlett). B. Glick reported four on 1 Jan from the traditional site south of Holmesville, Holmes.

American Coot: The monthly census at Magee on 20 Dec turned up 1607 birds (H&S Hiris). 42 others were found along the Lake in late Dec. The peak inland count was 610 at Clear Fork Res, Richland, on 19 Dec (J. Herman); 200 were seen at Camp Dennison, Hamilton, on 31 Dec (R. Foppe).

Sandhill Crane: The southbound sandhill migration continued through December into early January. On 8 Dec, 56 were spotted over Findlay Res (B. Hardesty); the following day, D. Dister observed 27 flying over Greene. Between 22 Dec and 30 Dec, 383 migrants were reported throughout the state with the largest single count 110 in Darke (R. Schieltz). During this period 112 were observed from various sites near Cincinnati (M. Busam, G. Daley, D. Morse, J. Rowe), and E. Tramer reported 117 from Lucas, Paulding, and Wood on 27 Dec. January reports included a flock over Findlay on the 7th estimated at 15 (D. Phillips) or 17 (K. Noblet), and seven at Lakeshore MP on the 10th (J. Pogacnik). The northbound flight started tenuously, with only two reports: five birds from Darke on 19 and 22 Feb (R. Schieltz) and seven over Deerfield Twp, Hamilton, on the 26th (E. Baumgardner).

Black-bellied Plover: The sole bird reported was at Conneaut on 11 Dec (J. Pogacnik).

Killdeer: Numbers of killdeer were still hanging around into early December with 30 seen at Killdeer on 5 Dec (D. Overacker) and 50 at Buck Creek SP on the next day by the same observer. Later in the month, 55 were observed at Holmesville on 18 & 19 Dec (J. P. Miller, R. Schlabach). Surprising were 39 at Maumee Bay SP on 11 Feb (V. Fazio).

American Avocet: The first record of an American avocet for an Ohio CBC was established with the finding of a single bird at Cullen Park, Lucas, on 20 Dec (T. Kemp, G. Links).

Greater Yellowlegs: Lingering birds included one at Fostoria Res #4, Hancock, on 1 & 8 Dec (B. Hardesty); two at Ottawa on 4 Dec (V. Fazio) and 12 Dec (B. Bell); one at Sheldon Marsh SNP on 5 Dec (V. Fazio); and the latest in Clark on 19 Dec (D. Overacker).

Lesser Yellowlegs: Two late birds were found by V. Fazio at Sheldon Marsh SNP on 5 Dec. An even later one was discovered at Ottawa on 12 Dec (B. Bell).

Sanderling: The only sanderling reported for the period was from Ashtabula on 11 Dec by J. Pogacnik.

Peep sp.: A peep, unidentifiable as to species, was seen by V. Fazio along the old Cedar Point causeway, Erie, on 5 Dec.

Least Sandpiper: One was present at Sheldon Marsh SNP on 5 Dec (V. Fazio).

Baird's Sandpiper: A laggard was present at Sheldon Marsh SNP, Erie, 3 Dec (V. Fazio).

Pectoral Sandpiper: V. Fazio discovered a late migrant along the old Cedar Point causeway on 3 Dec.

Purple Sandpiper: Five were at Headlands Beach SP 26 Dec (N. Barber, R. Hannikman, et al.). On New Year's Day, E. Schlabach discovered one at Avon Lake PP, and another was found at Sims Park on 19 Jan (B. Winger).

Dunlin: 17 at Ottawa on 12 Dec were a good showing (B. Bell).

Common Snipe: 56 were reported on CBCs. Post-CBC records include: five in Holmes on 13 Jan (At&Ad Burkholder), one in Montgomery on 9 Jan, and one at Spring Valley WA on the 10th (both D. Dister), three more on 10 Jan in Clark (D. Overacker), one in Holmes 30 Jan (E. Schlabach), and two at Gilmore Ponds, Butler, on 26 Feb (F. Frick).

American Woodcock: A report of a woodcock in Knox on 14 Jan was intriguing (H. Gratz). Spring arrivals were early in northern Ohio, with the following areas recording single birds on 11 Feb: Girdled Rd MP, Lake (J. Pogacnik); Oak Openings MP (M. Victoria); Parkman, Geauga (J. Augustine); and Hancock (W. Seiler).

Wilson's Phalarope: A single, extremely late bird was present along the old Cedar Point causeway, Erie, 3-5 Dec (V. Fazio). This sighting may have established a new record late date for the occurrence of Wilson's phalarope in Ohio. The previous late date was of a bird discovered at Pickerington Ponds, Franklin, on 4 Dec 1981; the latest sighting along Lake Erie was on 20 Nov 1987 near Toledo (*The Birds of Ohio*).

Jaeger sp.: J. Pogacnik reported a flyby jaeger, unidentifiable as to species, at Lakeshore MP on 4 Dec.

Pomarine Jaeger: One bird was identified at Eastlake on the Cleveland CBC (R. Hannikman, L. Rosche).

Franklin's Gull: Stragglers from the fall invasion included one bird at Lorain on 5 Dec (L. Yoder), single birds at Lorain on 17 & 19 Dec (J. Pogacnik), and one at Lakeshore on 24 Dec (J. Pogacnik).

Little Gull: A veritable invasion of little gulls occurred toward the end of February. On 26 Feb, J. Pogacnik counted four passing Lakeshore MP; the next day he tallied 21 at the same location. Also on 27 Feb, 26 were tallied at the mouth of the Grand River, Lake (E. Bacik, N. Barber, R. Hannikman). Twenty remained in the Fairport Harbor area the next day (L. Rosche). An unusual inland sighting was reported from East Fork SP, Clermont, on 22 Jan (V. Fazio). This bird remained until 6 Feb, oftentimes in the same location as the western grebe (H. Armstrong).

Bonaparte's Gull: An estimated 40,000 graced Lorain on 23 Dec (J. Hammond, D. Sanders). Inland, the highest counts were about 100 at Clear Fork Res on 19 Dec (J. Herman), and the same number at East Fork SP on 20 Jan (H. Armstrong, N. Keller).

Ring-billed Gull: J. Hammond and D. Sanders estimated 40,000 of this species as well at Lorain on 23 Dec. On 1 Jan, an estimated 8850 passed by Lakeshore MP (J. Pogacnik). The best inland count was 750 at Clear Fork Res on 19 Dec (J. Herman), followed by 500 at Mosquito Res on 14 Feb (D&J Hochadel).

Herring Gull: About 3500 passed Lakeshore MP on 17 Jan (J. Pogacnik).

Thayer's Gull: At least nine were observed at seven locations along the lake.

Iceland Gull: J. Pogacnik reported single birds passing Lakeshore MP on 11 & 24 Dec and on 9 & 16 Feb. On 21 Dec he discovered a single bird at Ashtabula, and another at Conneaut on 7 Feb. On 18 Jan, T. Kemp picked one out at Farnsworth MP, Lucas. Two were at Fairport Harbor on 30 Jan (N. Barber, L. Rosche).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: The greatest concentration of this species was six birds at Farnsworth MP on the Maumee River on 19 Jan, Lucas (B. Whan). At least 20 other birds were reported from nine additional sites along the lake. Only two were recorded on CBCs.

Glaucous Gull: Three first-winter birds were spotted on the Great Miami River in Dayton on 16 Jan (D. Dister). Since this species rarely ventures inland even as far as the second tier of counties south of Lake Erie, this sighting is truly astonishing. It could be argued that their appearance was occasioned by the ice storm several days earlier. The only previous record of glaucous gull this far inland in Ohio was of a single bird seen in the Cincinnati area in mid-Feb 1979. Aside from 12 birds passing Lakeshore MP during the period (J. Pogacnik), only 11 others were recorded along the lake for a far-from-impressive showing.

Great Black-backed Gull: Several concentrations of great black-backs were reported: on 2 Dec, 125 were seen at the Avon Lake PP (**D. Burton, J. Hammond, D. Sanders**); on 7 Jan, **P. Lozano** observed about 160 at the entrance to Cleveland Harbor; on the 17th, 227 were counted flying past Lakeshore MP (**J. Pogacnik**); and on 13 Feb, 107 were around South Bass Isl (**S. Wulkowicz**). Rare this far inland, an adult was in the same location in Dayton, also on 16 Jan, as the three glaucous gulls mentioned above (**D. Dister**).

Black-legged Kittiwake: All sightings: One was seen at Eastlake PP on 24 Dec (**J. Brumfield**). Another was discovered by **J. Pogacnik** at Conneaut on 7 Feb.

Common Tern: A lone bird, discovered at Lorain on 2 Dec by **J. Hammond**, was still hanging around on the 19th (**J. Pogacnik**).

Barn Owl: Two birds at a site north of Berlin, *Holmes*, stayed for the winter (**E&M Yoder**), as did one near Sugarcreek, *Tuscarawas* (**R. Schlabach**).

Snowy Owl: The only report was of an immature bird at Conneaut on 17 Jan (**J. Pogacnik**).

Long-eared Owl: CBCs found only three birds. The usual area at Killdeer yielded a maximum of six birds on 5 Feb (**T. Chapman**). The only other site with a multiple-owl count was Grand River WA, *Lake*, with five owls on 21 Feb (**J. Pogacnik**). Single birds were discovered in Perry Twp, *Lake*, on 23 Dec (**J. Pogacnik**); at LaDuc Res on 1 Jan (**D. Ferris, A. Fjeldstad**); at a site north of Berlin, *Holmes*, on 21-22 Jan (**E&M Yoder**); and at Englewood MP, *Montgomery*, on 4 Feb (**J. Krupka**).

Short-eared Owl: It was a bounteous year for these owls. Large numbers were in several locations. **E. Schlabach** had 12 in one field in eastern *Holmes* on 29 Dec. **V. Fazio** counted at least 12 at Killdeer on 3 Dec, a number that grew to about 20 on 14 Feb (**J. Brumfield**). In *Columbiana* on 24 Dec, **W. Sturgeon** estimated 20-30 birds. On 30 Dec, 50 were estimated at the Fireside CRP lands, *Seneca* (**T. Bartlett, V. Fazio**). But the prize goes to The Wilds, where a sweep of the area on 17 Feb yielded a total of 83 (**J. Bens, J&Jk Stenger, P. Wharton**); this gathering had built up from 26 on 4 Jan and 54 on 24 Jan (**J. Larson**).

Northern Saw-whet Owl: A lone bird stayed at Killdeer throughout a goodly portion of the season (**C. Dusthimer, P. Lozano**, m obs). **J. Pogacnik** found three other single birds: in *Lake* on 21 Jan, at Lakeshore MP on 17 Feb, and at Grand River WA on 21 Feb. Finally, one bird remained at Sheldon Marsh SNP 15-24 Feb (**B. Finkelstein, P. Lozano, M. Warren**, m obs).

Rufous Hummingbird: One bird, first recognized on 24 Nov, lingered at a feeder at Lakeshore MP until 2 Dec (**J. Pogacnik**). This sighting was accepted by the OBRC.

Belted Kingfisher: Reports from lakeside counties: One bird was on S Bass Isl, 15-18 Dec (**S. Wulkowicz**); two were tallied on the Magee Census on 20 Dec (**H&S Hiris**); and another was seen at Fairport on 30 Jan (**J. Pogacnik**).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: A male lingered at Whitehouse, *Lucas*, from 23 Dec until 9 Jan (**E. Tramer**). Other post-CBC records include: one bird at Dawes Arboretum, *Licking*, on 5 Jan (**C. Dusthimer**); a single bird in the CVNRA on 15 Feb (**C. Rieker**); and a female at a feeder in Whitehouse, *Lucas*, on 21 Feb (**E. Tramer**).

Northern Flicker: Of interest was a report of a group of 24 birds in several small trees near the upground reservoir at Killdeer on 20 Feb (**V. Fazio**).

Eastern Phoebe: Late birds in the north included singles on 10 Dec in Veterans' Park, *Lake* (**J. Pogacnik**), 4 Dec on S Bass Isl (**S. Wulkowicz**), and 19 Dec at Tiffin (*vide V. Fazio*). Two were reported on the Cuyahoga Falls CBC (*vide B. Szabo*). Overall, CBCs totaled 19 birds, not an impressive sum considering the mildness of the fall and winter to that point.

Loggerhead Shrike: All reports follow. A bird that had been hanging around since mid-summer lingered in *Noble* until 18 Dec (**B. Morrison**). **W. Seiler** reported a bird in *Hancock* near the intersection of Twp Rd 89 and OH Rte 235 on 2 Feb.

Northern Shrike: It was a great year for this species. 12 were recorded on CBCs, and there was a plethora of additional reports. At least one bird was present at Killdeer from 5 Dec through the end of the period (**D. Overacker**, m obs), with three reported on 29 Jan (**D. St. John**). One was discovered at Sidecut MP, *Lucas*, on 7 Dec (**E. Tramer**). A bird discovered by **H. Petruschke** at Chesterland, *Geauga*, on 10 Dec remained well into Feb. On 12 Dec, a northern showed up at a site in *Holmes* near Mount Hope for the 4th year running (**L. Yoder**); it remained in the area through 30 Jan. On 17 Dec, a pair was observed in the Grand River WA (**J. Pogacnik**); on 17 Jan, **J. Pogacnik** found a 3rd shrike, and one remained as of 21 Feb. **N. Brundage** found one in Jackson Twp, *Mahoning*, on 21 Dec, and **J. Pogacnik** saw a single bird on the 23rd in Perry, *Lake*. In January, one bird was found in *Lucas* on the 3rd (*vide T. Kemp*); a single bird was tallied on the Magee census on the 17th (**H&S Hiris**); one remained in the Fairport Harbor area from the 24th through the end of the period (**R. Hannikman**, m obs); **L. Rosche, J. Haley, and V. Weingart** found one at the Burton Wetlands, *Geauga*, on the 25th; Eldon Russell Pk hosted a single bird from 26 Jan until 26 Feb (**B. Faber, D. Ferris, K. Metcalf**); one was found at Mosquito WA, *Trumbull*, on the 31st (**D&J Hochadel**). Late-appearing shrikes were discovered at Spencer Lk, *Medina*, on 3 Feb (**G. Demars**); in Leroy Twp, *Lake*, on the 5th (**J. Pogacnik**); at Jaite in the CVNRA on the 7th (**D&A Chasar**); **J. Heflich** discovered one along Rockhaven Rd, *Geauga*, which was photographed by **B. Finkelstein** on the 23rd; finally **F. Greenland** saw one at Camp Belden WA on the 28th.

American Crow: **D. Overacker** reported a high of 3000 birds from *Clark* on 19 Dec, while **F. Renfrow** estimated in excess of 60,000 crows going to roosts in the Eden Park area of Cincinnati on 12 Dec.

Horned Lark: Peak numbers were found in January at several locations: 220 birds near Salem, *Columbiana*, on 2 Jan (**C. Babyak**); 400+ north of Kidron, *Wayne*, on 4 Jan (**M. Gingerich**); 450 near Fredericksburg, *Wayne*, from 7-16 Jan (**A. Troyer**); upwards of 550 at Maysville, *Wayne*, on 14 Jan (**Lee Miller**); 225 in western *Hamilton* on 15 Jan (**P. Wharton**); 2000 on 16 Jan at Killdeer (**N. Keller**); 1000 in *Portage* and *Geauga* on 17 Jan (**L. Rosche**); and 100 at Buck Creek SP, *Clark*, on 17 Jan (**D. Overacker**).

Purple Martin: An extremely early female was found south of New Bedford, *Coshocton*, on 11 Feb (**M. Miller, vide O. Troyer**). The next day, a male appeared at a nest box south of Mount Hope, *Holmes*, according to *The Bobolink*.

Barn Swallow: Two stragglers were reported along Veler Rd, *Lucas*, by **M. Victoria** on 9 Dec.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Only 66 were found on CBCs this season, among the lowest totals in recent years. Post-CBC highs included five in *Hancock* on 23 Feb (**B. Hardesty**), and four in the CVNRA on 15 Feb (**C. Rieker**).

Brown Creeper: The highest count recorded was 8 in *Hancock* on 19 Dec (**B. Hardesty**).

House Wren: One lingered at Mitchell Forest, *Hamilton*, and was spotted on 5 Dec (**N. Cade**); two were discovered on CBCs.

Winter Wren: Although 80 were reported on CBCs, the only post-CBC sighting was of a single bird near New Bedford, *Coshocton*, on 17 Jan (**O. Troyer**).

Marsh Wren: **T. Bartlett** recorded the only marsh wren sighting for the period with one, fittingly, at Magee Marsh WA on 29 Dec.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 46 were tallied on CBCs. Non-CBC sightings included: three on the 17 Jan Magee census with two remaining for the 21 Feb count (**H&S Hiris**); single birds on Kelley's Island on 18 Dec (**J. Pogacnik**); and in Kent, *Portage*, on 20 Dec (**L. Rosche**).

Swainson's Thrush: An extremely late bird was found at Long Branch Farm, *Hamilton*, on 11 Dec (**Y. Mohlman**), while two others were discovered on CBCs.

Hermit Thrush: CBCs counted 80, including 30 on the Lake Erie Islands count. The only post-CBC sightings were of single birds near Holmesville, *Holmes*, on 7 Jan (**H. N. Troyer**); near New Bedford, *Coshocton*, on the 9th (**O. Troyer**); and at Dawes Arboretum, *Licking*, on 11 Jan (**C. Dusthimer**).

American Robin: About 77,000 robins were tallied on CBCs. **B. Glick** stated that this was "the best year I can remember," while both **J. Pogacnik** and the **Dunakins** considered that wintering birds were well above normal.

Gray Catbird: Eleven catbirds were tallied on CBCs. The only post-CBC report was of a single bird at Nimisila Res, *Summit*, on 28 Feb (**C. Holt**).

Brown Thrasher: Six were discovered on CBCs, with no later sightings reported.

American Pipit: Pipits put on an excellent winter showing, with upwards of 1900 recorded on CBCs. Post-CBC sightings included eight groups of one to 10 birds seen between 3 Jan and the 19th, as reported in *The Bobolink*; one on East Miami River Rd, *Hamilton*, on 10 Jan (**J&Jk Stenger**, **P. Wharton**); one at Hamilton Riverside, *Hamilton*, on 16 Jan (**M. Busam**); and one in *Geauga* on 17 Jan (**L. Rosche**). Latest reports were of two at Pleasant Hill Res, *Richland*, on 30 Jan (**J. Herman**), and a single bird at Walnut Creek, *Holmes*, on 11 Feb (**T. Hochstetler**).

Cedar Waxwing: There were several CBC counts of over 400 birds. No significant numbers were reported after the CBC count period.

Yellow Warbler: A very late bird lingered at Lorain 9 Dec (**M. Victoria**).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: A healthy 1351 birds were tallied on the CBCs.

Pine Warbler: One bird stayed for the Millersburg CBC, *Holmes*, 19 Dec (**L. Yoder**). Another stayed a week in New Concord, *Muskingum*, 5-12 Jan (**J. Larson**).

Palm Warbler: A late migrant was found in Deerfield Twp, *Warren*, on 22 Dec (**J. Lehman**). The Millersburg CBC recorded yet another warbler species with a palm found on 19 Dec, which was the only one reported from all Ohio CBCs.

Black-and-white Warbler: One was seen on the Indian Lake CBC, *Logan*.

American Redstart: An immature male made an appearance at Lakeshore MP on 5 Dec (**J. Pogacnik**).

Common Yellowthroat: Five were recorded on CBCs.

Wilson's Warbler: One bird was reported at a thistle feeder in *Hancock* on 29 Dec by **G. Hutt**.

American Tree Sparrow: The wintering flock at Killdeer reached a peak estimated at 1000+ birds on 18 Jan (**R. Royse**), while 150 were seen near Walnut Creek, *Holmes*, on 6 Dec (**T. Hochstetler**).

Chipping Sparrow: 12 were recorded on CBCs, somewhat below the norm for recent years. The only post-CBC report was of a bird that frequented a feeder north of Mount Hope, *Holmes*, from 6 Jan through the end of the period (**P. Yoder**).

Field Sparrow: Appeared in average numbers for the CBCs. No other reports were received.

Vesper Sparrow: One was recorded on the Lake Erie Islands CBC.

Lark Sparrow: The bird that was first reported near New Bedford during the fall stayed through 26 Dec (**M. Barkman**).

Savannah Sparrow: The 20 found on CBCs constituted a good total. The only multiple post-CBC find was two in *Clark* on 14 Feb (**D. Overacker**). Single sparrows were seen near Fredericksburg, *Wayne*, 6-19 Jan (**M. Gingerich**); just west of Walnut Creek, *Holmes*, on the 14th (**J. Beechy**, **L. Schlabach**); and another on the 14th at Maysville, *Wayne* (**Lee Miller**).

Fox Sparrow: CBCs tallied 61 fox sparrows, reflective of the mild weather through the months leading up to the count period. Post-CBC numbers included four birds at East Miami River Rd, *Hamilton*, on 5

Jan (**P. Wharton**); three that lingered in *Delaware* until 13 Jan (**B. Shively**); two on the 21 Feb Magee census (**H&S Hiris**); and single birds at Ottawa on 10 Jan (**A. Blank**), and in *Trumbull* on 12 Feb (**D&J Hochadel**).

Lincoln's Sparrow: Outstanding were the discoveries of two Lincoln's sparrows on CBCs. The first, on the Millersburg count, was found on 19 Dec (**D. Kline**); the other, also identified by **D. Kline**, was on the Ragersville count of 29 Dec.

Harris's Sparrow: A single bird was present at a feeder south of Mount Hope, *Holmes*, from 22 Dec until the end of the period (**I. Miller**). OBRC review of this sighting is pending receipt of pertinent documentation.

White-crowned Sparrow: Two wintered at Lakeshore MP (**J. Pogacnik**). One was reported from *Geauga* on 17 Jan (**L. Rosche**).

Lapland Longspur: The flock that occupied a portion of Pond 27 at Killdeer through much of the winter had grown to an estimated 3000 birds by 16 Jan (**N. Keller**). This number is nearly an order of magnitude larger than the largest flocks usually seen in Ohio in the winter. These birds may have been attracted by the Japanese millet that had been sowed in this impoundment in the fall.

Snow Bunting: It was also a banner year for snow buntings. Prior to the CBCs, the largest estimates were of 50 at Pickerel Cr WA, *Erie*, on 4 Dec (**A. Blank**), and 240 in *Hancock* on the 29th (**B. Hardesty**). Activity picked up in mid-January, several days after the storm of the 13th & 14th. 50 were estimated in *Portage* on the 14th (**D&J Hochadel**); on the 15th, **S. Wulkowicz** sighted 60 on South Bass Isl, and 40 were seen by **P. Wharton** in western *Hamilton*. The 16th brought 250 to Killdeer (**N. Keller**). On 17 Jan, **J&Jk Stenger** found a flock estimated at 1200 birds in *Preble*. On the same day flocks of 400 in *Portage* and 200 in *Geauga* were seen by **L. Rosche**; 130 were observed in the vicinity of Clyde, *Sandusky* (**B. Heck**); 30 were at Sims Pk (**T. Gilliland**, **T. Kellerman**); and 20 were seen at Headlands Beach SP (**N. Barber**). Likely migrants were spotted on 11 Feb by **V. Fazio**: 105 at Park Colony Rd, *Lucas*, and 57 at Maumee Bay SP.

Red-winged Blackbird: An estimated 100,000 were present at Magee for the census of 20 Dec (**H&S Hiris**). Earliest arriving migrants were 273 birds at Maumee Bay SP on 7 Feb (**V. Fazio**).

Eastern Meadowlark: 49 were counted at Killdeer on 29 Dec (**J. Brumfield**), and 20 was a good number in *Seneca* on the 23rd (**T. Bartlett**).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: One bird was reported by **D. Sanders** at Ottawa on 1 Dec. Another was discovered at Killdeer on 10 Jan (**D. Burlett et al.**).

Rusty Blackbird: The largest number reported, by far, was 1200+ returnees at Funk Bottoms WA on 27 Feb (**M. Gingerich**). There were also 380 migrants at Gilmore Ponds Preserve, *Butler*, on the same day (**M. Busam**). Earlier migrants included 13 counted on the 7 Feb Ottawa census (**E. Pierce et al.**), and 38 at Magee on 11 Feb (**V. Fazio**).

Brewer's Blackbird: All reports follow. Ten were found at Killdeer on 1 Dec (**V. Fazio**); **D. Sanders** saw another in *Ottawa* the same day. One bird was discovered at Ross Lk, *Ross*, on 4 Dec (**B. Bosstic**, **J. McMahon**), another near Holmesville, *Holmes*, on 18 Jan (**D. Kline**), and yet another came to a feeder near Millersburg, *Holmes*, along with a flock of robins on 23 Jan (**B. Glick**).

Common Grackle: 2000 were estimated at Winchester, *Adams*, on 6 Jan (**B. Lund**), and another 2000+ raided a yard and feeders in Massillon on 21 Feb (**W. Sarno**).

Brown-headed Cowbird: 5000 were near Bunker Hill, *Holmes*, on 31 Jan (**M. Hershberger**); another flock of 5000 was spotted in *Lucas/Ottawa* on 11 Feb (**V. Fazio**).

Baltimore Oriole: All reports follow. One bird was found at Ottawa on 1 Dec (**B. Sponseller**). **C. Rieker** reported one in *Cuyahoga* on 9 Dec.

Purple Finch: Midwinter reports came from *Coshocton, Cuyahoga, Lake, Hancock, Holmes, and Perry*. **B. Lund** had 11 at Lynx, *Adams*, on 25 Feb. 105 were reported on CBCs. This total is somewhat below the average for the past five or six years.

Pine Siskin: Very scarce, like all winter finches during this season. All reports: A single bird was at Lorain 19 Dec (**J. Pogacnik**). Another was seen at Lakeshore MP 2 Jan, while three or four visited the feeders at Lakeshore 21 Jan through the end of the period (**J. Pogacnik**). Finally, **D. Sapienza** reported "several at the feeders" in Lk Alma SP, *Vinton* [no date(s) given]. Nine CBCs reported a total of 29 birds.

American Goldfinch: Wintering *maxima* included 75 at Mohican SF on 22 Jan (**E. Schlabach**); 152 in *Hancock* on 8 Dec (**B. Hardesty**); and "up to 100 on snow days" in Lynx, *Adams* (**B. Lund**).

Evening Grosbeak: Extremely scarce. All reports: One bird was reported at Paint Cr Lk., *Highland*, 22 Jan (**J. McMahon**); another was seen at Girdled Rd MP, *Lake*, 10 Feb (**J. Pogacnik**). None were seen on any CBC this year.

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Weather-related Waterbird Groundings

by Donald L. Burton, MS, DVM

An unprecedented number of strictly aquatic birds presented for care at the Ohio Wildlife Center (OWC) in Columbus, Ohio, 13-20 January 1999. The cluster of admissions began with a red-throated loon *Gavia stellata* admitted 13 January. The following day had the largest number of admissions with nine horned grebes *Podiceps auritus* and one white-winged scoter *Melanitta fusca*. One additional red-throated loon, three common loons *Gavia immer*, and five horned grebes were received at OWC from 15-20 January. Though the number of birds presented is inconsequential in terms of populations, it nonetheless exceeded in one week the numbers of such species normally admitted over a year's time at OWC.

This unusual group of admissions prompted the author to review admission records at other rehabilitation centers across Ohio. There were at least 55 horned grebes presented at other rehabilitation centers during this week, with 13-15 January identified as the peak days of admissions. The vast majority of grebes (45 of 55, or 81.8%) were reported in the Cleveland area by the Lake Erie Nature and Science Center (with 23) and the Lake Metro Parks Wildlife Center (with 22). In this paper, I theorize that weather was responsible for this downing of birds. I will describe a series of factors leading up to these events and advance hypotheses to explain this *en masse* downing of birds.

A review of the seasonal weather patterns for late 1998 and early 1999 reveals a prolonged period of above-normal temperatures and reduced precipitation. August averaged 5°F above normal, September 6°F, October 2°F, November 3°F, and December 6.5°F. Early December produced record warmth in Ohio; 6 December, for example, showed a record 73°F high and 62°F low in Columbus. Nearly 80 record high temperatures east of the Rocky Mountains were set that day. In Ohio, the period including 22-31 December 1998 and the first 15 days of January 1999 was contrastingly cold, leading to the freezing of most surface waters of inland lakes, ponds, and rivers. Exceptionally low nightly temperatures in combination with above-normal levels of precipitation led to snow accumulation reaching 13 inches in central Ohio on 11 January (Jym Ganahl, pers. comm.). Low temperatures recorded at night in central Ohio from 22 December to 15 January exceeded 22°F only twice during this 25-day period.

Because their feeding habits enable them to find fish prey as long as the water remains free of ice, the mild temperatures of late fall 1998 led many horned grebes and loons to linger longer than normal on the Great Lakes and other large bodies of water. The abrupt change of temperatures in late December did not quickly lead to the freezing of the Great Lakes, but after two weeks of daily sub-freezing temperatures, conditions there deteriorated even for these cold-resistant species. It was, however, certain very specific weather conditions on 13 January that stimulated these late migrants to a remarkable mass movement.

During the day on 11 January, a front passed through Ohio, leaving clear, dry conditions and a low of 3°F that night. On the following day an "Alberta Clipper," a large cold air mass originating in the Canadian Yukon and Northwest Territories, swept across the United States along a front extending from Montana to Buffalo, New York. The characteristic west-to-east jet stream carrying this frigid air passed north of Ohio, allowing warm Gulf air from the southwest to warm Ohio to a 43°F high and 37°F low for the day. On 13 January the front sagged south over Ohio due to the influence of a low-pressure area developing over Arkansas. Low-pressure areas have a tendency to travel along such a front, in this case causing it to stall above Ohio (Jym Ganahl, pers. comm.). Results of these atmospheric conditions were strong, cold, northeasterly