

The Ohio Cardinal is a quarterly publication devoted to the study and appreciation of Ohio's birdlife.

The Ohio Cardinal exists to provide a permanent and timely record of the abundance and distribution of birds in Ohio; to help document the occurrence of rare species in the state; to provide information on identification of birds; and to provide information on birding areas within Ohio.

The Ohio Cardinal invites readers to submit articles on unusual occurrences of birds, bird distribution within the state, birding areas in Ohio, identification tips, and other aspects of ornithology. Bird reports and photographs are welcome from any area of the state. Report forms are not a necessity but will be supplied upon request. Unusual species should be documented, and forms to do so are available upon request from the Editor, Publisher, and Records Committee Secretary.

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The Ohio Cardinal

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On the Cover: California Gull - Caesar Creek State Park, Warren Co., 15 May 2000.
Photo by Bob Royse.

Spring 2000 Overview

by Bill Whan

In ancient Rome, the priestly college of the augurs had the task of taking the auspices (*auspicia*, from *avis spicere*, "the observation of birds"). Standing on an elevated spot and facing south, they forecast the future of civic undertakings by studying birds' flight and vocalizations, interpreting them as omens from the gods. For the rest of us, it is challenging enough to look back and make sense of the past. After all, the complex weather conditions—and the phases of the moon, or stranger omens—that influence bird migrations are easier to recognize after the fact than beforehand. Ask birders how they might tell what birds tomorrow will bring, and you'll get a mixed answer including remembrance, folklore, and magic. Who knows if tomorrow will be an auspicious day? Guessing what the birds will do is too tempting a habit to give up, but our task here is to pay attention to what happened this spring, to interpret as best we can what the birds are telling us.

Looking backward then, temperatures in the 60s and 70s statewide in late February helped usher in an exceptionally warm spring. In Cleveland, April featured only a single day of frost—0° F on the 27th—after mid-month, and just four days with measurable snow, each 0.4 inches or less. Cincinnati had it even easier, with a 0.2-inch last snow on 4 April and a final frost only five days later. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration called the first four months of 2000 the warmest in 106 years of record-keeping for the US. Didn't they say that last year? Ohio orchardists estimated a harvest two weeks ahead of schedule, the earliest in decades, and nature delivered on the promise, luckily enough. Animals are generally better prognosticators than plants; Ohio birds don't start nests early just because of a few warm days in February. As for precipitation, the period started quite dry in March, but later became considerably wetter than normal, trending into the next period, though deeper effects of long-term drought persisted in many areas of the state.

Whatever the effects of warm weather in recent years, this migration bucked recent trends by lasting longer and proceeding at a more measured—some veterans even called it a dull—pace. Overflights were quite scarce, and even though some species stretched the early limits of their customary schedules, a few others seemed to take their time. All in all, 286 species were reported, a significant fifteen of them on the Review List, with documentation for all of the latter sent, or at least promised, to the Ohio Bird Records Committee.

Our scarcer colony-nesting waders—snowy and cattle egrets, little blue herons—seemed harder to find. Waterfowl numbers, at least in most of the usual spots, seemed depressed, and even where in good numbers they did not linger long. Among raptors, ospreys seemed up in numbers, and the winter's many rough-legged hawks, along with its unprecedented bonanza of merlins and golden eagles, continued into spring. Rails in general seemed down, with some traditional spots eerily silent. Shorebird numbers probably fell short of last spring's; even at spots so productive during last fall, like the Crane Creek estuary and Sheldon Marsh next to the old Cedar Point causeway, a lot of apparently prime habitat went unvisited. No one could justifiably complain about shorebird variety, however, with species like black-necked stilt, ruff, piping plover, Hudsonian godwit, and long-billed dowitcher reported; a spring with 32 species comes along very seldom.

A very nice thirteen species of gulls were found, including black-headed and California gulls well-behaved enough to permit repeated scrutinies. Reports of chuck-will's-widows increased, and well beyond their traditional Adams County haunts, one venturing as far as Magee Marsh. No fewer than four loggerhead shrikes were reported. Reports of blue-winged X golden-winged warbler hybrids sadly outnumbered the latter. Two Kirtland's warblers were captured on their way north, as was a spotted towhee. A painted bunting celebrated International Migratory Bird Day by pleasing hundreds of observers at Magee.

Caesar Creek State Park hosted quite a few unusual birds this spring, starring a California gull and a good supporting cast of shorebirds and other larids. The new Sandy Ridge Metropark in Lorain County emerged as a magnet for marsh birds in numbers better than those from much larger marshes to the west. Perhaps this county park will come to serve as a model for larger governmental units as to how to manage for non-game marsh birds. Wayne County reminded us of its tradition as a fine inland shorebird spot, and the same low water that has made the Crane Creek estuary so attractive to shorebirds has, we have begun to learn, continued to do likewise for stretches of the Huron River as well. Volunteer birders at the 7 May continuation of the decades-old monthly census at Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge set an all-time record of 145 species—131 of them by lunch-time—by finding all the expectable species, the rarities reported as present, then adding a dose of luck to their hard work.

A few words on how to read reports such as ours. A little bleary-eyed one evening while going through a big stack of bird sightings reports, we said, "Gee, a lot of interesting birds seemed to show up on 13 May; look—all those gulls, painted bunting, so many high counts...I should mention this." A moment's reflection served up a reminder that 13 May was a Saturday in the middle of the passerine migration, and International Migratory Bird Day to boot; the interesting data were largely the result of having hordes of birders out looking around on that date. May 16 might have been even more interesting, but we'll never know. Other biases that sneak in when we consider birders' behavior more than birds' are less obvious. Lots of birds—diving ducks, or gulls, for example—might seem to be reduced in numbers in warm winters simply because in the absence of offshore ice we cannot normally see far enough out into Lake Erie to find them. We'll probably always have more—and more accurate—data on spring warblers than on fall flycatchers, simply because of our differing abilities to distinguish between species in these groups. Fewer of us systematically look for hawks by the Lake in the fall than in the spring, and reading fall reports we might think falcons and accipiters tend to predominate more than they actually do, because other raptors are likelier to disperse around the Lake, escaping our notice.

Successful species migrating through Ohio both north- and south-bound must necessarily be more numerous in the fall, with adults and young-of-the-year alike in the mix, but how often do our collective reports reflect this disparity? There are several reasons they do not—basic and juvenal plumages in fall may not be so easy to distinguish for all observers, birds are less likely to vocalize then, fall migrations of most species are more protracted in time and less concentrated in space, etc.—but the ultimate reason for the disparity is, we are compelled to admit, our collective failure to record the true fall numbers and variety of birds. Even banding projects yield us data for only a very small segment of our birdlife. So if reports for spring migrants—early

and late dates, peak numbers, ratios of the sexes and ages, etc.—seem more surprising and interesting and prone to constant revision than those for fall, we have only ourselves to blame, not the birds.

We spoke above of increasing reports of chuck-will's-widows beyond their traditional range in the state, an attempt to avoid the error of saying the increasing occurrence of chuck-will's-widows beyond their ancestral range in the state. What we humans see and hear—and report to others—may or may not accurately reflect what actually goes on. If we got reports of this species from twenty counties next year, it would be unendurably tempting to make some big generalizations about exploding populations, range expansions, invasions, etc., but only after we factored in the human factor—how many observers were in how many places at how many times, for example—and we could still easily be wrong. If we have reports from reliable observers that a species has arrived—or at least been reported to arrive—earlier than ever before (see the account for alder flycatcher in the Reports that follow), is it because climate warming has made it possible for the species to move north earlier, or because chance put these observers in a situation to see some of the few earlier representatives of the migrants heretofore unseen, or because new field ID techniques come into play, or for some as-yet unimagined reason?

Finally, even merely numerical data can mislead. On the next page readers will find that a horned grebe persisted weeks beyond its normal schedule, at least as late as mid-June, at a lake in southern Ohio, an extremely unusual event; we have two records this late, both in northern Ohio. Later, we report two alder flycatchers' arrival a mere four days ahead of the earliest date supplied by Peterjohn in *The Birds of Ohio*. Waterbirds may sustain injuries over the fall and winter, and a much-prolonged stay might be the result, but weather-sensitive flycatchers arriving even a few days earlier than recorded is likely far more significant. Could we say that for reasons like these late departures tend to be less significant than early arrivals? Maybe so, maybe not. Having perhaps so largely undermined confidence in human—and more specifically our—understanding of such matters, we nonetheless dare to proceed with the Reports.

The following reports follow 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's Review List; adequate documentation of such sightings is needed to add reports to the official Ohio records. County names are supplied for certain locations, and appear *italicized*. Other abbreviations should be readily understood, with the following possible exceptions: BCSP=Buck Creek SP; BSBO=Black Swamp Bird Observatory; CBC=Christmas Bird Count; CCMP=Clear Creek MP (*Hocking*); CVNRA=Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area, the census for which is reported by **D&A Chasar**; EFSP=East Fork State Park; *fide*="in trust of," said of data conveyed on behalf of another observer; GRWA=Grand River WA; Killbuck=Killbuck WA; Killdeer=Killdeer Plains WA; Magee=Magee Marsh WA; MBSP=Maumee Bay SP; Metzger=Metzger Marsh WA; MP=Metropark; m obs=many observers; MWA=Mosquito Creek WA; MWF=Miami-Whitewater Forest (*Hamilton*); MWW=Miami-Whitewater Wetlands; NWR=National Wildlife Refuge; OBRC=Ohio Bird Records Committee; ONWR=Ottawa NWR; ONWRC=census of birds at Ottawa NWR, reported by **E. Pierce**; ph=photograph; Res=Reservoir; Res'n=Reservation; SF=State Forest; SP=State Park; SVWA=Spring Valley Wildlife Area; WA=Wildlife Area; ~≈approximately.

The Reports

Red-throated Loon: A good showing overall. An imm was at HBSP for N. Barber on 24 Apr. K. Miller discovered one in an Akron reservoir on the following day. Another graced Beaver Ck Res on 11 May (V. Fazio). J. Pogacnik reported three in Lake, on 26 and 29 Apr and 19 May.

Common Loon: Just over five weeks after winter's last report, one was quite early on 4 Mar at BCSP (D. Overacker), where by the 21st a local-record 64 had assembled (B. Menker, *fide* Overacker). Sixty-two were at Walborn Res, Stark, on 8 Apr (B. Morrison); on the same day, an astonishing 150 floated on Clear Fk Res (Morrow/Richland) for B. Courson. C. Bombaci's highest count at Hoover Res, Delaware, in 25 years was 37 on 23 Apr. Only eight birds reported in May, the later ones three in Lima on 28 May (D. Dister) and two in Hancock on the 30th (B. Hardesty).

Pied-billed Grebe: Earliest were on 4 Mar, with six at BCSP (D. Overacker) and four at GRWA (C. Babyak), where the species nests; 20 were there on 21 Apr (D. Sanders). Three adults and from 15 to 20 grebe chicks were at Gilmore Ponds on 29 May (T&S Tolford, *fide* M. Busam).

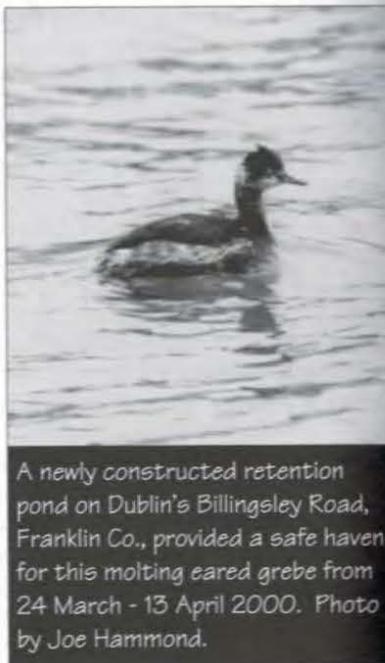
Horned Grebe: Six were at BCSP by 5 Mar (D. Overacker). High count was 70 at Springfield Lk in Akron on 18 Mar (L. Rosche). Several unusual May birds: one in Lorain on the 8th (R. Harlan, S. Wagner), one in Senecaville on the 18th (J. Larson), one off Kelley's Isl the same day (J. Vince *et al.*), and, most unusual, a bird spotted on 29 May at Cowan Lk, Clinton (L. Roush), and seen through at least 10 Jun (E. Roush, L. Gara). There are only a couple of other records this late, none this far south.

Red-necked Grebe: Twelve birds, all inland. D. St. John reported one early at Lk Logan on 7 Apr. The others fell in a narrow span. The Dunakins found one on 20 Mar in Paulding, then five there on the 24th. J. Pogacnik had one at GRWA on 20 Apr, and L. Rosche another on the 23rd in Portage. Three were at Springfield Lk in Akron on 25 Apr (K. Miller). Only as far from Conneaut as Chillicothe, a spot in Ontario's Bruce Peninsula had 401 on 26 Apr.

Eared Grebe: Three inland, one on the Lake. S. Landes *et al.* reported one from a volatile mixed grebe flock in Franklin on 15 Mar. Another Franklin bird appeared on 24 Mar (D. Sanders) and departed by 13 Apr (V. Gallagher). L. Rosche spotted one off Cleveland on 13 Apr; it remained through at least the 25th (S. Zadar). A bird found on 23 Mar at Killdeer by J. Games remained for Z. Baker on the 30th.

Double-crested Cormorant: Hundreds reported for late Mar began with 25 at BCSP on the 19th (D. Overacker). P. Lozano monitored arrivals in Cleveland harbor, noting a single bird on 23 Mar, 100 on the 27th, 209 on the 29th, and 700 by 12 Apr. Inland, ~200 were over Columbus on 8 Apr (J. McCormac), 2-300 at C. Mills Lk, Richland/Ashland, on 12 Apr (B. Burnett), 240 at Berlin Res, Stark, on 17 Apr (B. Morrison), and ~200 seen by Holmes/Tuscarawas hawkwatchers on 20 Apr (*fide* B. Glick). Late birds inland included 20 on 29 May at BCSP (Overacker) and four in Hancock on the 30th (B. Hardesty).

American Bittern: Thirty-four reports. Quite early were two at MWW on 21 Mar (D. Styer) and one at Beach City WA on the 28th (P. Rosenberry). As many as four were seen and heard at Sandy Ridge MP, Lorain, between 2 May (J. Pogacnik) and 27 May (L. Rosche).



A newly constructed retention pond on Dublin's Billingsley Road, Franklin Co., provided a safe haven for this molting eared grebe from 24 March - 13 April 2000. Photo by Joe Hammond.

Least Bittern: Earliest was a report from Magee on 5 May (V. Fazio). Away from their strongholds, birds seen during nesting season were at Tinker's CK SNP on 21 May and Sandy Ridge MP on the 27th (L. Rosche) and MWW on the 29th (P. Wharton). Three were at Sandy Ridge MP on 29 May (B&A Toneff), and two were calling at GRWA on 30 May (C. Babyak).

Great Blue Heron: Not alone, a colony at the CVNRA expanded, with a count of 160 nests on 12 Apr (A&B Toneff).

Great Egret: On schedule, the first appeared 24 Mar, but in Lake (J. Pogacnik). L. Rosche reported as "very unusual" a personal total of 31 birds in the Cleveland region this spring. Thirty-two were on the ONWRC of 2 Apr, and the previous day V. Fazio estimated at least 40 birds on 27 visible nests at Turning Pt Isl in Sandusky.

Snowy Egret: Early was one in Holmes on 3 Mar (T. Hochstetler), and one at Toussaint WA on 6 Mar (V. Fazio). The same observer detected a nest at Turning Pt Isl on 11 Mar, and six birds at Ottawa on 20 May. Only 21 reports overall.

Little Blue Heron: Down from last year, by all accounts. One 13 May near Dayton (J. Rakestraw), one at Metzger on 19 May (B. Morrison), and one at Bacon Wds MP, Lorain, on 25 May (D. Sanders).

Tricolored Heron: Probably a single bird: reported 25 May at Medusa Marsh, then on 31 May and 1 Jun at Pickerel Ck WA. Details are with the OBRC.

Cattle Egret: Way down this spring. The earliest was a first for Lk Hope, Vinton, on 18 Apr (B. Perrine *et al.*). One was in Washington on 19 May (C. Amos). The high count was only four, at Big Island WA on 22 May (B. Royse). Only four reports from near the Lake, and R. Harlan and S. Wagner found none at all during a whole lot of birding there.

Green Heron: First report timely, of two at Killbuck on 13 Apr (S. Snyder). High count of 15 by the ONWRC on 7 May. One to three birds spent May in the Merwin roost in Cleveland (P. Lozano).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: Two were reported from Shawnee Lkout on 20 Mar (G. Redmer). P. Lozano kept track of Cleveland's Merwin roost, noting two birds on 29 Mar, numbers growing steadily to 50 on 10 Apr, then diminishing to nine by 26 May. Elsewhere the high count was 16 at Mentor Marsh on 24 Apr (N. Barber). E. Schlabach had a flyover in Holmes on 4 May, and one of 2-3 imm birds in Columbus, present since Feb, persisted to at least 8 Apr (D. Sanders).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: All over the map, but only one successful nest reported. Three or more nests were reported in a Columbus neighborhood 23 Apr (B. Paschall), and one produced three young (A. Paschall); a small colony may have been here for as long as four years. One was at the Wilderness Ctr, Stark, on 6 May (C. Hoagstrom), one in the CVNRA on 11 May (B. Martineau), one at Lk Logan on 18 May (D. Profant), and one among the black-crowns at the Merwin roost in Cleveland from 22 to at least 26 May (P. Lozano). At the erstwhile Greenlawn Dam colony, only an imm was seen, by B. Evans, on 28 Apr.

White-faced Ibis: An alternate-plumaged bird was photographed in Senecaville on 17 May. Documentation is with the OBRC. Coincidentally or not, a very similar bird showed up in Shelby, Kentucky, for a possible first state record on the 20th and was photographed the following day (B. Palmer-Ball).



This white-faced ibis put in a brief appearance at the Senecaville Fish Hatchery, Guernsey Co., on 16-17 May 2000. Photo by Gary Eckhardt.

Plegadis sp.: One was at MWW on 6 May (R. Kolde). S. Zadar and T. Gilliland saw two fly over Metzger the same day; two glossy ibises were found by Michigan birders the following day at Pte Mouille.

Black Vulture: A bird was on two eggs in Adams on 20 Mar (fide P. Whan). High count was 39 in Hamilton on 23 Apr (V. Fazio et al.).

Turkey Vulture: Having begun in Feb, migration continued in typically leisurely fashion. P. Lozano counted 136 over Rocky River on 24 Mar, C. Holt 165 over Conneaut on the 25th, and D. Cole 110, very unusual for Kelleys Isl, on the 26th. Apparent migrants could still be seen near the Lake near the end of the period (m obs).

Greater White-fronted Goose: Three in Cincinnati stayed from 17 Mar (M. Mercer, m obs) to at least 26 Mar (D. Kinsman). Two birds at Pickerington Ponds, Franklin, stayed from at least 15 Mar (S. Landes) to 13 Apr (P. Schiff).

Snow Goose: Hastily departed. S. Snyder had one at Funk WA on 1 Mar, D. Morse one on 31 Mar in Clermont, and W. Hull three at MWW on 2 Apr. Except for a nonbreeder lingering in Franklin through at least 13 May (D. Sanders), that was it.

Ross's Goose: One was at Mercer WA on 1 Apr (D. Dister, m. obs). Accepted by the OBRC.

Tundra Swan: Like snow geese, wasted no time in departing. Birders afield as often as L. Rosche and S. Snyder saw none, nor did the attentive folks at the Geauga Pk District. Luckier were D&J Hochadel, who had 15 at MWA, T. Chapman, who had three at Big Island WA on 3 Mar, and the ONWRC team, which recorded 60 on 5 Mar. Two stragglers were at Conneaut on 20 Apr (J. Pogacnik), and another at GRWA the following day (D. Sanders).

Wood Duck: Abandoning more responsible mates, 160 carefree males near Ottawa on 19 May constituted the high count (B. Morrison).

Gadwall: Counted at Magee were 279 on 16 Apr (H&S Hiris), and the ONWRC had 67 on 7 May. A few were reported through mid-May, the latest nine on the 20th at Pickerel Ck WA (V. Fazio).

Eurasian Wigeon: Findable when in accessible areas at ONWR from a period spanning at least 26 Apr (N. Barber) through 13 May (D. Overacker), a male was seen by many. A female, mercifully of the rufous morph, was found with American wigeons in a Muskingum wetland on 24 Mar by J. McCormac.

American Wigeon: An unexceptional migration. After a count of 25 on the ONWRC of 7 May, a few stragglers remained through mid-May in the marshes; the last report, of three birds, came from Wayne on 17 May (S. Snyder).

American Black Duck: Lingering at unaccustomed locales were two in Paulding on 10 May (D&M Dunaikin) and another couple in Wayne on 18 May (S. Snyder).

Mallard: High count was on 19 Mar: 3293 at Magee (H&S Hiris).

Blue-winged Teal: Having arrived in late Feb, single birds at ONWR on 1 Mar (D. Sanders) and BCSP on 4 Mar (D. Overacker) were not unexpected. Two remained at BCSP on 27 May (Overacker), and four on 30 May at GRWA (C. Babyak) may have been setting up housekeeping.

Northern Shoveler: Like other species, seemed to move on early. Twenty-two at Lk George from 6-16 Apr was the "largest local number in recent memory" (L. Rosche), but no remarkable counts were reported elsewhere. This spring the last report was of two on 23 May in Wayne (S. Snyder).

Northern Pintail: With no notable high counts, only eight remained for the Ottawa census on 7 May. One bird was still to be seen there on the 14th (J. Hammond et al.). A hybrid of this species X mallard was at Stage's Pond, Pickaway, on 25 Mar (J. McCormac).

Green-winged Teal: Forty-plus were in Franklin on 2 Mar (R. Cressman) and 110+ at a Muskingum wetland the same day (J. McCormac). Customary concentrations were in Wayne (120 on 22 Apr, L. Yoder) and at Big Island WA, with 137 on 30 Mar (V. Fazio), but 87 as late as 7 May was interesting for the ONWRC. The last report away from the Lake came from Wayne on 19 May (S. Snyder).

Canvasback: Pretty much gone by the period, leaving no remarkable high counts behind. Latish, however, was one on 13 May at Ottawa (D. Overacker), and decidedly so a female there on 29 May (C. Rieker).

Redhead: Followed the general pattern, rocketing through without accumulating significantly, but with a few late reports: four at ONWR on 25 May (B. Conlon), and one still there on the 29th (C. Rieker).

Ring-necked Duck: Spring high counts were in the hundreds rather than in the thousands: for example, on 15 Mar 320 were at GRWA (C. Babyak) for the season's local high. Again, a few overstayed: on 13 May J. Stenger had one at Winton Wds, Hamilton, and C. Rieker observed an apparently injured bird at Little Portage WA the same day.

Greater Scaup: Warm water dispersed these birds, and no giant concentrations were noted at the Lake. D&A Chasar found a pair in Northfield, Summit, on 12 Mar, but few were detected elsewhere inland. Remarkable was D. Dister's find of a female at the St Marys fish hatchery, Auglaize, on the very late date of 28 May.

Lesser Scaup: After reports in the five figures last spring, numbers stayed in the three figures, with a high report of 958 in Lake on 4 Apr (J. Pogacnik). Only one remained for the 7 May ONWRC, and three were found in Sandusky Bay on 14 May (J. Hammond et al.).

Surf Scoter: Thirty-seven birds reported, 11 of them near Dayton on 7 Apr (fide C. Mathena). Most were inland, the earliest a female at Van Wert Res on 14 Mar (J. Perchalski), the latest three on Beaver Ck Res, Seneca, on 2 May (V. Fazio). S. Snyder in Wayne had a male from 1-14 Apr and a female from 2-5 Apr within 3-4 miles of one another, but no tryst was observed. If surf scoters were "accidental to casual spring visitors throughout the state" in 1989 (Peterjohn, *Birds of Ohio*), with 32 this spring and 99 in the spring of '99 this assessment seems due for an update.

White-winged Scoter: Eighteen reported last spring, and but six this year. C. Holt had three at LaDue on 8 Mar, two were at Caesar Ck SP on 24 May (S. Reeves), and a female was at Camp Dennison, Hamilton, on 1 May (W. Hull).

Black Scoter: No reports. Seven individuals reported last spring.

Oldsquaw: All reports: three males off Marblehead on 7 Mar (V. Fazio); one on 19 Mar, one on 1 Apr, and two on 2 Apr in Lake (J. Pogacnik); one at Killdeer on 9 Apr (R. Sempier), and one in Toledo on 14 Apr (fide V. Fazio).

Bufflehead: Kelleys Isl continues as a haven for the species, with censuses tallying 307 on 21 Mar and 171 on 16 Apr (T. Bartlett). Inland high was 88 at Mogadore Res, Portage, on 10 Apr (L. Rosche). Two stragglers at Lake La Su An WA on 15 May caught the eye of J. Grabmeier.

Common Goldeneye: Not surprisingly, these early migrants were scarce this spring. High count was 594 flybys on 4 May in Lake (J. Pogacnik). Last reported was an apparently injured female at Killbuck 13-23 Mar (S. Snyder).

Hooded Merganser: A family group of a female and six young was at Killbuck on 26 May (S. Snyder), and the pioneering pair at MWW showed off four young on 29 May (P. Wharton) this year.

Common Merganser: No large concentrations noted this spring. Latest report was of a couple at Lk Rockwell on 23 Apr (L. Rosche).

Red-breasted Merganser: J. Pogacnik's Lake counts tallied 4256 on 19 Mar, 542 on 29 Apr, 184 on 6 May, and one on 29 May. A female lingered at Pickerel Ck WA till 14 May (J. Hammond et al.). A good inland count was 938 in Hancock on 14 Mar (B. Hardesty), and 200 were at BCSP on 4 Mar (D. Overacker).

Ruddy Duck: High count was 635 inland at Willard Res, Huron, on 5 Apr (V. Fazio). Late stays were many: 27 May at Shreve Lk (S. Snyder), 10+ in Lorain on 27 May (S. Zadar), six at Lk Rockwell 31 May (L. Rosche), and five through the end of the period at Sandy Ridge MP, Lorain (R. Harlan, S. Wagner).

Osprey: Reports of 104 birds spanned late Mar through May. After the return of a nesting pair to Salt Fk Lk on 24 Mar (J. Larson), migrants flooded through, mostly during the first half of Apr. Hawkwatchers in Wayne/Holmes/Tuscarawas counted 15 on 20 Apr (fide B. Glick). Latest report away from nest sites was one at Highbanks MP, Delaware, on 27 May (J. Hammond). ODO reports ten nests in the state this year.

Swallow-tailed Kite: Documentation from a 5 May report in Hamilton is with the OBR_C. A bird appeared at Pt Pelee in Ontario the following day.

Bald Eagle: ODO surveys counted a record 63 nests, with 89 young hatched. Last year's totals were 57 nests and 72 eaglets. Nests were found in 23 counties, including 12 in Ottawa, nine in Sandusky, six in Erie, five in Wyandot, four in Lucas, and four in Seneca.

Northern Harrier: Ninety-three birds reported. Suggestive May reports included: one ONWR the 10th (J. Hammond), two at The Wilds on the 14th (D. St. John) and one the 29th (R. Harlan, S. Wagner), one in Paulding on the 21st (M&D Dunakin), a pair apparently courting at ONWR on 22 May (Harlan, Wagner), a bird on 27 May at MWA (C. Babyak), one in Lorain on 29 May (A&B Toneff), and one at Lake La Su An WA on the 30th (J. Grabmeier).

Sharp-shinned Hawk: One hundred six reported. The high count came in Tuscarawas, with 21 near Rag-ersville on 20 Apr (E. Schlabach).

Northern Goshawk: The first seen was an adult at Killbuck on 18 Mar (M. Troyer et al.), then V. Fazio reported an imm over MBSP on 1 Apr. Slim pickings after a dozen reports last spring.

Red-shouldered Hawk: V. Fazio counted 158 over MBSP on 7 Mar; G. Links had 50+ near ONWR the following day.

Broad-winged Hawk: The first three birds were reported over Geauga on 5 Apr (T. Gingrich). Three were seen 13 Apr in Hamilton (L. Peyton), then others the following day in Brecksville, where they nest (D&A Chasar). J. Pogacnik noted an excellent flight of ~350 in Ottawa on 23 Apr; oddly enough, they passed over at less than 100 feet altitude. Counts on 20 Apr in eastern Holmes were 107 (L. Yoder), and for Tuscarawas 178 (E. Schlabach). Schlabach remarked that the "total number of broadwings seen on the phenomenal 20 Apr hawk flight was 700+...totals for broadwings, sharpie, and merlin were outstanding for inland Ohio. Most of the hawks were seen after 2 pm." A surprising late flight of 48 was over ONWR on 12 May (J. Miller et al.).

Rough-legged Hawk: Fifty-nine reported. High count was "up to 11" at Funk WA on 1 Mar (S. Snyder), and nine were at Killdeer on the 19th (L. Rosche). Two were in Hocking on 4 Mar (D. Horn), and nine at The Wilds the following day (R. Cressman). Three remained at Killdeer on 22 Apr (L&N Powell), and the last straggler was reported by the ONWRC on 7 May.

Golden Eagle: A good spring after an exceptional winter. All reports: an adult at Killdeer on 2 Mar (T. Chapman), an imm in Holmes on 4 Mar (E. Schlabach), an imm persisting at The Wilds on 5 Mar (J. McCormac), two adults over MBSP on 8 Mar (V. Fazio), one over Magee on 27 Mar (G. Klug), an imm on 1 Apr in Holmes (E. Schlabach), an imm on 13 Apr in Holmes (R. Schlabach), an imm over Killbuck on 15 Apr (L. Yoder, L. Miller), and an imm in Holmes on 20 Apr (J. Miller).

Merlin: Thirty-eight reports for a spring that matched a remarkable winter. Earliest report was of a bird at Conneaut on 22 Mar (D. Sanders, D. Burton), the latest of one on 21 May in Lake (J. Pogacnik). High count was four at HBSP on 21 Apr (L. Rosche, R. Hannikman), unless one counts six tallied over Wayne/Tuscarawas/Holmes by hawkwatchers on 20 Apr (fide B. Glick). Other inland birds included reports from 22 Apr at Dillon SP, Muskingum (D. St. John) and near Portsmouth (D. Linzell et al.).

Peregrine Falcon: Thirteen reports of migrants, the first on 1 Mar at Lorain (S. Zadar). Unusual was a 19 Mar sighting in Adams (L. Miller, P. Whan). ODO reports that 12 pairs statewide produced eggs, and that eight of those pairs produced 27 chicks.

Ruffed Grouse: First report was of a drumming male in Adams on 6 Mar (P. Whan).

Wild Turkey: Lotsa turkeys. Setting aside the living, a 23rd consecutive record 19,895 were taken in the three-week spring hunt. Ashtabula led with 1030 birds checked, followed by Guernsey, Cochocton, Harrison, and Tuscarawas.

Northern Bobwhite: Unusual occurrences included one on the Exchange Rd grasslands, Huron, on 29 Apr (R. Harlan, S. Wagner), one photographed at Metzger on 11 May (B. Zweibel). Ten were at Woodbury WA on 29 May (Harlan and Wagner) and 20 in Stark from 15 May through the end of the period (B. Morrison).

Yellow Rail: One was calling at Calamus Swamp, Pickaway, on 11 Apr (J. McCormac), and heard the following day by C. Gambill and L. Peavler. Accepted by the OBR_C.

King Rail: All rails seemed down, this one in particular. J. Grabmeier found two at Lake La Su An WA on 16 May, and J. Pogacnik recorded his first for the northeast at GRWA on 21 May. No reports received from the western Lk Erie marshes.

Virginia Rail: An early arrival was one at Springville Marsh SNP on 21 Mar (T. Bartlett). C. Babyak noted seven on 13 May at MWA for the high count. Six were at Sandy Ridge MP, Lorain, on 27 May (C. Rieker).

Sora: Good and early was one at Funk WA on 29 Mar (S. Snyder et al.). Eight were in Lorain on 27 Apr (C. Rieker), and seven was a good count at MWA on 13 May (D&J Hochadel).

Purple Gallinule: Discovered on 30 Apr at Lk Logan, Hocking, one persisted for m obs—though not all obs—through the end of the period. Details are with the OBR_C.

Common Moorhen: High count was eight at ONWR on 13 May (J. McCormac et al.). Five were at Killbuck on 29 Apr (S. Snyder), and four at Mallard Club Marsh on 6 May (C. Holt). D. Overacker found his first at BCSP since 1989 on 30 Apr, then one on 5 May.

American Coot: Big numbers included 750 on 10 Apr at Mogadore Res (L. Rosche), 2200 at Big Island WA on 30 Mar (V. Fazio), and 9112 at Magee on 19 Apr (H&S Hiris). A straggler was at the CVNRA on 17 May (M. Zehnder), another at Conneaut on 27 May (C. Holt), and three at Killbuck on 28 May were interesting (S. Snyder).

Sandhill Crane: Fifty-two birds reported, spanning the period, none of more than four birds. The latest was 26 May, two in Geauga (K. Metcalf), possibly the LaDue area pair from last year frequenting spots further north.



These two wild turkeys were voyeuristically captured on film this spring while trying to propagate their own kind in Hocking Co. Photo by John Hockingberry.

Black-bellied Plover: Two early arrivals were noted: 15 birds at MWW on 16 Apr (J. Stenger), and two at HBSP on 21 Apr (L. Rosche, R. Hannikman). High count was 22 at Park Colony Rd, Lucas, on 24 May (J. Hammond *et al.*).

American Golden-Plover: R. Counts found ~200 in Wyandot on 11 Apr, and L& N Powlick ~300 nearby at Killdeer on 22 Apr. Fifty-four were a nice find in Holmes on 2 May (L. Yoder). R. Harlan and S. Wagner found 109 near ONWR on 6 May, and reported that small numbers remained in the area until at least 20 May.

Semipalmated Plover: Earliest reported was one at Killbuck on 30 Apr (Z. Baker), and a very nice inland high count came from nearby in Wayne—47 on 17 May (S. Snyder).

Piping Plover: One was reported from the Huron R flats on 12 May (V. Fazio). Details are with the OBRC.

Black-necked Stilt: Two were photographed near Van Wert Res on 22 May; details are with the OBRC. The birds stayed a total of 2½ days, not bad for Ohio stilts. The most recent verified record was from 1995.

American Avocet: L. Miller found nine birds in the Crane Ck estuary on 15 May, where T. Simmons relocated them the following day.

Greater Yellowlegs: Reported in late Feb, another was at MWA on 3 Mar (J&D Hochadel), and another in Muskingum on 5 Mar (J. McCormac). L. Yoder had an excellent tally of 205 at Funk WA on 15 Apr in the county which bid fair to be the state's best shorebird spot this spring.

Lesser Yellowlegs: Early were two 5 Mar birds, one at Killdeer (R. Kolde) and one at BCSP (D. Overacker). High count was ~250 on the Huron flats on 27 Apr (D. Sanders). Five remained at Funk WA on 25 May (S. Snyder) for the latest report.

Solitary Sandpiper: First reported at Magee on 15 Apr (E. Tramer). Not so solitary were 6 in Paulding on 26 Apr (M&D Dunakin), or 13 flying over Magee on 5 May (R. Harlan, S. Wagner).

Willet: A good showing. D. Sanders saw a flock of 16 at Sheldon Marsh on 29 Apr, and J. Pogacnik a flyby in Lake the following day. Two were at MBSP on 13 May (D. Overacker), conceivably the same two found that afternoon at Sheldon (J. Hammond *et al.*). Two joined the action at Caesar Ck SP on 15 May (L. Gara).

Spotted Sandpiper: Early were two photographed at Lk Logan on 7 Apr (D. St. John). High count was 17 birds at Edgewater Pk on 18 May (P. Lozano).

Upland Sandpiper: Returned to traditional breeding sites statewide, few as they are, with the exception of Bolton Field in Columbus, where their habitat has been attractively landscaped. The Krause Rd, Lucas, pair was present from at least 29 Apr through the period (m obs). Migrants appeared at Gordon Pk on 5 May (S. Zadar), and three were at Fairport Harbor on 21 Apr (L. Rosche, R. Hannikman).



Black-necked stilts are rare wanderers to Ohio. These two occupied areas near Van Wert Reservoir, Van Wert Co., from 22-24 May 2000. Photo by John Perchalski.



Not only was Caesar Creek State Park, Warren Co., a Mecca for gulls on 15 May 2000, two willets put in a cooperative appearance as well. Photo by Tom Uhlman.

Whimbrel: Quickly and in quantity, 150+ moved through: six in Lake on 19 May (J. Pogacnik), 64 the same day at MWA (C. Babyak, ph), then eight at Lk Rockwell on the 20th (L. Rosche), and ~80 in Wood on the 23rd (C. Anderson).

Hudsonian Godwit: Genuinely rare in spring, one in nearly full alternate plumage was found and well described by M. Misplon and R. Goeke on 22 May at the Lk St Marys fish hatchery.

Marbled Godwit: Perhaps rarer than the preceding was one of this species well inland, photographed at Dillon SP, Muskingum, by D. St. John on 22 Apr. Far to the east of expected reports from the western basin (none this year) were two at HBSP on 15 May (K. Metcalf).

Ruddy Turnstone: Early was one at Park Colony Rd on 28 Apr (A. Blank), where at least several were regularly seen through the end of the period (m obs). Inland, one was at Delaware WA on 12 May (B. Whan), and seven in a plowed field in MWA on 19 May (J&D Hochadel). The highest numbers came at Crane Ck SP beach during the period when birders and midges congregate there: 54 on 15 May (D. St. John), 30 on 20 May (R. Harlan, S. Wagner), and 24 on 24 May (J. Ruedisueli).

Red Knot: Six were at Conneaut on 21 May (J. Pogacnik); last spring's only report was from this location on 19 May.

Sanderling: Scarce. Two were among the turnstone throng at Crane Ck SP on 13 May (R. Harlan, S. Wagner), and five at Conneaut on 20 May and one on the 27th (C. Holt), but the other three reports arose far from the Lake: one in Hamilton on 13 May (J. Stenger), and one on 26 May then three on 27 May at BCSP (D. Overacker).



This whimbrel, showing how cryptic the species can be, was but one of a grand total of 64 present at Mosquito Creek Wildlife Area, Trumbull Co., on 19 May 2000. Photo by Carole Babyak.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: One appeared early in *Paulding* on 26 Apr (M&D Dunakin). High counts included ~75 at the Crane Ck estuary 14 May (D. Horn) and 68 in Conneaut/Walnut Beach on 27 May (C. Holt).

Western Sandpiper: C. Holt detected one at Conneaut on 27 May.

Least Sandpiper: Seemed down to some observers, and hard to find after mid-May. On 7 May, ~100 were at the Crane Ck estuary (R. Harlan, S. Wagner), and 140 on the Huron flats on 12 May (V. Fazio). Inland, 52 were near Wooster on 10 May (S. Snyder), and one limped through MWW on 25 May (F. Frick).

White-rumped Sandpiper: Hardly numerous, with only 18 reported. High count was five in Conneaut on 27 May (C. Holt). Earliest was one on 7 May at the Crane Ck estuary (R. Harlan, S. Wagner). Inland reports included one in *Hamilton* on 13 May (J. Stenger), three in *Wayne* on 18 May (S. Snyder), and two at Caesar Ck SP on 27 May (D. Dister).

Pectoral Sandpiper: Numerous as always, with thousands reported. Some early arrivals included one at Killdeer on 5 Mar (R. Kolde) and one at Acton Lk on 12 Mar (B. Heck). By 26 Mar, 150 were at BCSP (D. Overacker). High count was 2370 in *Ottawa* on 6 Apr (V. Fazio), but one of 850 at the Funk WA on 15 Apr was good, too (L. Yoder). One was in *Holmes* as late as 29 May (E. Schlabach).

Dunlin: Characteristically, the most numerous spring shorebird. Two early arrivals in Mar: one on the 26th at BCSP (D. Overacker) and 71 on the 30th at Big Island WA (V. Fazio). Four were at Funk WA on 12 Apr (S. Snyder). Throngs later alit in the Lake Erie marshes, with a high count of 4000 at the Crane Ck estuary on 14 May (C. Holt).

Stilt Sandpiper: Always hard to come by in spring, one was inland at MWW on 13 (N. Keller) through 15 May (D. Russell). J. Pogacnik reported two in *Lake* on 7 May. One was near Metzger on 14 May (B. Conlon *et al.*).

Ruff: One was reported at Toussaint WA on 4 Apr, an early date. A one-day wonder, its details are with the OBRC.

Short-billed Dowitcher: Decent numbers appeared in precious spots of appropriate habitat. The high count was 357 near Sheldon Marsh on 12 May (V. Fazio). Good inland counts were in—where else?—*Wayne*, with 93 on 10 May (S. Snyder) and 160 on the 12th (E. Schlabach).

Long-billed Dowitcher: Seldom met with in spring, two added to the ONWRC's extraordinary species count on 7 May.

Common Snipe: Migrants appeared in late Feb. V. Fazio noted 13 at Big Island WA on 5 Mar, then 55 by 30 Mar. The ONWRC had 14 on 5 Mar, then the high count of 180 on 2 Apr. L. Gara found 40 in a field well inland in *Clinton* on 15 Apr.

American Woodcock: Eleven reports from late Feb. Seven were seen on Kelleys Isl on 14 May (B&A Toneff). Birds were still displaying at northern sites in late May (m obs).

Wilson's Phalarope: Twelve birds reported, all in May. First was one in *Lake* on the 3rd (J. Pogacnik), the last two at Big Island WA on the 29th (D. Linzell). Other inland records included two at MWW on 13 May (N. Keller), and one on the Van Wert Res on 18 May (J. Perchalski). High count was inland, too, with three in *Wayne* on 14 May (S. Snyder).

Red-necked Phalarope: Two reports, one from—you guessed it—Wayne County, a female from 10-15 May (S. Snyder, m obs), the other a male at the Crane Ck estuary on 14 May (C. Holt).

Laughing Gull: Four reports, three from inland surprisingly enough. One was at Caesar Ck SP, *Warren*, from 13 May (J. Dunn *et al.*) to 20 May (J. Bens), an adult at Conneaut on 21 May (J. Pogacnik), and two adults at BCSP on 29 May (D. Overacker).

Franklin's Gull: Scarce in spring, again with four reports, three inland. An adult was at Conneaut on 2 Apr (J. Pogacnik), an adult at Pleasant Hill Lk, *Richland/Ashland*, on 12 May (E. Schlabach), one in the Caesar Ck SP retinue from 13 May (J. Dunn, m obs) to 25 May (L. Gara), and one adult in alternate plumage at BCSP on 19 May (D. Overacker).

Little Gull: Large story. Last spring should have prepared us. J. Pogacnik had flybys in *Lake*, three on 18 Mar and one on the 19th, but Conneaut was the place. Here, Pogacnik found a second-winter bird on 11 Mar, then J. Miller two on the 18th. By 22 Mar, D. Sanders *et al.* counted 21 there (previous record was 18, according to G. Meszaros), which fell to three by the 26th (L. Rosche). Sanders found four there on 16 Apr, where the last report was of a second-year bird on 21 May (Pogacnik). Very intriguing was another bird about as far as you can get from Conneaut in the state—an immature observed along the Cincinnati riverfront on 4 Apr by F. Renfrow.

Black-headed Gull: An individual well along into alternate plumage was discovered at Conneaut on 18 Mar. The last report of this bird came from 28 Mar. The previous verified record was from Cleveland in 1998; this gull has become demonstrably more difficult to find during the past decade. Details are with the OBRC.

Bonaparte's Gull: Showed up early across the state, with two at BCSP (D. Overacker) and 42 off *Lake* (J. Pogacnik) on 4 Mar. By the 29th, N. Barber reported a "huge influx...thousands" in Cleveland Harbor. A few lingered into May, the latest on the 29th in *Lake* (Pogacnik).

California Gull: A third-year bird was reported walking imperturbably along the busy beach at Caesar Ck SP on 13 May, where it remained through at least the 18th (Photographed, m obs). Details are with the OBRC.

Thayer's Gull: A bird on 18 Mar (E. Schlabach *et al.*) at Conneaut was a side-show for *Larus ridibundus*, and stayed longer, till the 26th (L. Rosche).

Iceland Gull: Seven birds reported, the first among the Conneaut gull extravaganza on 18 Mar (E. Schlabach *et al.*), the last a flyby in *Lake* on 8 Apr (J. Pogacnik).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: One or two birds were reported at Conneaut from 11 to 25 Mar in splendid alternate plumage (m obs). One was in *Ashtabula* on 18 Mar (J. Pogacnik), two imm on Kelleys Isl on 21 Mar (T. Bartlett), and an adult in *Ottawa* on 6 Apr (V. Fazio).

Glaucous Gull: Nine reported. Numerous reports received of one 11 Mar (J. Pogacnik) to 22 Mar (D. Burton) at Conneaut. The latest and best was a first-winter bird discovered on 11 Apr on one of the Findlay reservoirs by S. Ross *et al.*

Great Black-backed Gull: Unusual were five on ONWR's 7 May census. At the other end of the Lake Erie shore, 200 were at Conneaut on 11 Mar (J. Pogacnik). An excellent record was one with the above bird near Findlay on 11 Apr (S. Ross *et al.*).

Caspian Tern: Some early arrivals included one 26 Mar at Conneaut (B. Finkelstein *et al.*), one in *Lake* on 1 Apr (J. Pogacnik), and one at HBSP on 2 Apr (L. Rosche, R. Hannikman). High count was 110 on 20 Apr at Conneaut (Pogacnik); no other count came close this spring, as the species seemed harder to find.

Common Tern: Neither early nor numerous compared to former years. Nice inland flocks included 30 at Big Island WA on 22 Apr (L&N Powlick), 17 at MWA on 5 May (D&J Hochadel), 54 at Dillon Res, *Muskingum*, on 10 May (D. St. John), and 20 on 13 May at—of course—Caesar Ck SP (L. Gara). High count was 134 near Sheldon Marsh on 12 May (V. Fazio).

Forster's Tern: Earliest reported were one on 2 Apr at Lorain (H. Armstrong) and two in *Lake* on 9 Apr (J. Pogacnik). Twenty-one were at HBSP on 21 Apr (L. Rosche, R. Hannikman), 80 near Sheldon Marsh on 29 Apr (D. Sanders), and 74 on 13 May at MBSP (C. Rieker). S. Richards had four basic-plumaged birds at Lk Logan, *Hocking*, on 21 May, and B. Hardesty two at Findlay Res on 30 May.

Black Tern: Six birds reported last spring, 35 this. Reports spanned the period 2 May (two birds in *Wayne* from **S. Snyder**) to 29 May (a bird in Woodbury WA from **R. Harlan** and **S. Wagner**). Most reports were from inland, but the high count was of 11 birds off MBSP on 14 May (**J. Hammond et al.**).

Black-billed Cuckoo: Spring can be too early to be sure of breeding by this species, but **C. Babyak** felt confident of at least four territories on the GRWA on 30 May. **V. Fazio** had five calling at Killbuck on 5 May. Few appeared on the Magee Bird Trail this spring. Tireless spring birders **R. Harlan** and **S. Wagner** found but one, but **D. Chasar**, remarking on a CVNRA census of 16 birds on 13 May, called "the ratio of BB/YB cuckoos greater than ever" in the area.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: First report 2 May from Zaleski SF (**D. St. John**), and **J. Fry** had one in *Hocking* the following day. The CVNRA census of 13 May tallied 32. **R. Harlan** called the species "much more numerous" this year.

Barred Owl: **D. St. John** counted 25 on 1 Mar in the Zaleski SF to start spring out right.

Long-eared Owl: A few persisted at Killdeer through at least 12 Mar (**D. Fisher**). One was on the Magee Bird Trail 1-4 May (m obs).

Short-eared Owl: Twenty-three reports. Migrants appeared along the Lake with two over the Magee causeway on 5 Apr and for some time thereafter (**B. Zweibel**, m obs), one flying over the waves in *Lake* on 15 Apr (**J. Pogacnik**), three at Fairport Harbor on 21 Apr (**L. Rosche**, **R. Hannikman**), and one at Gordon Pk on 30 Apr (**S. Zadar**).

Northern Saw-whet Owl: Twelve reports, all from the northern tier of counties except for one at Springville Marsh on 16 Apr (**T. Bartlett**) and a first record there for *Clark* expert **D. Overacker** at BCSP 7-11 Apr.

Chuck-will's-widow: First calling birds reported in *Adams* on 23 Apr (**L. Miller**). **D. Riepenhoff** reported their return to sites in *Pike* again this spring. On 28 Apr (**E. Pierce et al.**) for the fourth year in a row, birds returned to *Hocking*, where at least three were calling by 13 May (**J. McCormac**); birds remaining through the end of the period (**J. Fry**). One was calling in western *Holmes* on 9 May (**V. Miller**). One of a very few NW records, one was heard on 12 May at the western terminus of the Magee Bird Trail (**T. Bartlett et al.**).

Whip-poor-will: First reported 14 Apr in *Adams* (**M. Zloba**), then the following day at Magee (**B. Hammond**). **D. St. John** got the high count—but no chucks—in a survey on 17-18 May in Zaleski SF—73 birds.

Chimney Swift: **L. Aldrich** reported the first, very early but far from a record, on 25 Mar in Columbus. This scout either failed to return or brought bad news, as the migration resumed abruptly statewide with numerous reports between 19 and 25 Apr; high count was 250-300 birds over Columbus on the 22nd (**M. Skinner**).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: The first males arrived on 20 Apr, in Cincinnati for **J. Watkins** and in *Hocking* for **J. Fry**. **Watkins** had the first female on 30 April, and **Fry** noted the 20 Apr arrival was a record early one for his location, the previous record of 22 Apr having been set only last year. First bird reported at the Lake was 4 May at HBSP (**L. Rosche**, **R. Hannikman**).

Red-headed Woodpecker: Two surveys conducted on 13 May—at the CVNRA and in Hancock County—tied for high count with 13 birds.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Good numbers moved through—witness 11 at HBSP on 2 Apr (**N. Barber**)—but there were several odd occurrences, too. **J. Howard** reported a bird in her *Delaware* yard from at least as early as 20 Jan to 24 Mar. **M. Busam** reported a sapsucker at Mitchell Mem Forest, *Hamilton*, very early on 4 Mar, and **G. Links** had one at Magee on 8 Mar. The **Dunakins** observed a bird at the Black Swamp Audubon Sanctuary, *Paulding*, through the end of the period. **C. Babyak** reported a territorial pair at MWA's nest site of last year. **J. Pogacnik** reported as many as four pairs in *Ashtabula* by 3 May. **P. Lozano et al.** on 21 May found two active nests in *Ashtabula* and two in *Geauga*.

Northern Flicker: Many of us have marveled at flicker migrations along shorelines, but not everyone is careful enough to count them; **L. Rosche** and **R. Hannikman** had 82 at HBSP on 14 Apr, and **S. Zadar** 45 the following day at Gordon Pk.

Pileated Woodpecker: Three reports from curious locations: **B. Cullen** saw one at Pickerel Ck WA on 24 Apr, **M. Warren** one at Magee on 14 Apr, and **L. Rosche** one in downtown Lakemore—an Akron suburb—on 10 Apr.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Decent numbers—for this relatively scarce species—reported statewide, with no remarkable dates, numbers, or locations.

Eastern Wood-Pewee: An early report came from *Clermont* on 28 Apr (**D. Morse**).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: As olive-sided flycatcher, except for a remarkable high count of 10 at Magee on 20 May (**R. Harlan**, **S. Wagner**, m obs).

Acadian Flycatcher: Early arrivals included 30 Apr at EFSP (**J. Lehman**) and 1 May at Clear Ck MP (**B. Conlon**).

Alder Flycatcher: Remarkably, two record early dates were established: one singing 7 May at SVWA (**D. Dister**), and one the same day (with five by 20 May) at Magee (**R. Harlan**, **S. Wagner**). **S. Zadar** reported another very early bird in song at Gordon Pk on the 9th. High count was three in *Geauga* on 26 May (**L. Rosche**).

Willow Flycatcher: At Gordon Pk, **S. Zadar** had a singing bird on 4 May, and 14 by the end of the period. **D. Overacker** counted 15 at BCSP on 26 May.

Least Flycatcher: Had arrived in *Clermont* by 23 Apr (**D. Morse**). High count five at Tinker's Ck SNP on 1 May (**L. Rosche**). **J&D Hochadel** reported three on territories around previous breeding locations at MWA on 25 May, **C. Holt** a pair in *Ashtabula* on 20 May, and **D. Best** two on territory on the Upper Cuyahoga River during the month.

Eastern Phoebe: One was found at Caesar Ck SP 2 Mar (**J. Rakestraw**), seven in Zaleski SF on 3 Mar (**D. St. John**), and two at Meander Res on 5 Mar (**C. Babyak**). High counts were on 25 Mar: 25 at HBSP (**K. Metcalf**) and 31 in *Lake* (**J. Pogacnik**).

Great Crested Flycatcher: With few remarkable records, several observers remarked that its numbers seemed down this spring.

Loggerhead Shrike: A very robust four reports. **T. Bartlett** described one at Magee on 19 Mar. **D. Sanders** had one on 29 Apr at Gordon Pk, an odd location, but still odder was one found by **H. Petruschke et al.** on 6 May in Fairport Harbor. **B&A Toneff et al.** saw one along Rt 163 near Port Clinton on 19 May. That more records seem to occur outside its former haunts is one more reason to worry about the species.

Northern Shrike: Established birds persisted at several locations into the period. One at ONWR and Magee was on the ONWRC of 5 Mar, and reported until 30 Mar (**B. Zweibel**). The Killbuck bird stuck it out till 24 Mar (**L. Yoder**). One at GRWA was last reported on 15 Mar by **C. Babyak**. One was in song on 25 Mar at HBSP (**K. Metcalf**).

Shrike sp.: **J. Pogacnik** saw a shrike, unidentifiable as to species, in *Lake* on 18 Mar.

White-eyed Vireo: Early was one in the Zaleski SF on 14 Apr (**D. St. John**); **S. Harvey** reported one in the Shawnee SF on 16 Apr.

Bell's Vireo: **D. Overacker** located a nesting pair at the traditional BCSP area on 26 May. **J. Grabmeier** found a singing male in Lake La Su An WA on 29 May.

Yellow-throated Vireo: Returned to *Adams* as early as 10 Apr (**P. Whan**). On the 13 May CVNRA census, it reportedly outnumbered the ubiquitous red-eyed vireo 100-91.

Blue-headed Vireo: Early were birds near Dayton on 6 Mar (*fide* **C. Mathena**) and at Cedar Falls on 15 Apr (**D. St. John**). **D. Chasar** found a nest on the CVNRA on 6 May, **J. McCormac** two territorial males and a female on eggs in *Hocking* on 19 May, and **L. Gara** and **F. Renfrow** presumed breeders at four other *Hocking* locations on 29 May.

Warbling Vireo: Earlyish was one at Cowan Lk on 15 Apr (**L. Gara**).

Philadelphia Vireo: The most remarkable aspect of the data was how few were seen. Some very good birders who were afield almost daily in May missed this one. High counts were of only two, both inland: 11 May in Columbus (**B. Whan**) and 20 May in *Holmes* (**L. Yoder**).

Red-eyed Vireo: A normal first arrival was of six at the Shawnee SF 20 Apr (**B. Royse, C. Johnston**).

Blue Jay: **J. Pogacnik** counted 2787 migrating through *Lake* on 5 May.

Purple Martin: **M. Yoder** somehow lured one to Millersburg by 6 Mar (*fide* **J. Larson**), and **E. Schlabach** saw one not far away in *Holmes* on 15 Mar.

Tree Swallow: Reported in Feb, four were duly noted by **S. Snyder** in *Wayne* on the first day of the period. **H&S Hiris** counted 490 at Magee on 16 Apr.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: After a record late stay last fall, roughwings were absent from the state only 2½ months, showing up on 25 Mar in Tiffin (**T. Bartlett**) and 28 Mar at EFSP (**B. Stanley**).

Bank Swallow: **E. Schlabach** reported the first on 11 Apr from *Holmes*; only a week later good numbers appeared statewide.

Cliff Swallow: Possibly a new early record arrival, two returned to *Holmes* and began nest-building on 25 Mar (**P. Yoder**), and two appeared in *Wayne* the following day (**A. Troyer**). Five were in Columbus on 16 Apr (**R. Thorn**). The species continues to establish new nesting colonies at many sites.

Barn Swallow: First scouts were seen 25 Mar at MWW (**T. Kolde**), and two at Conneaut the same day (**C. Holt**). The species was widespread statewide within ten days.

Black-capped Chickadee: Winter's incursion, chronicled by observant *Holmes* birders, continued with four birds there on 25 Mar and a final one 23 Apr (**E. Schlabach**).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: High count 12+ on 15 Mar in *Hamilton* (**L. Peyton**). Nuthatches wandered so far south that one was still hanging around Oxford, Miss., on 16 May. Migrants were here at the time, with one at Magee on the 14th-20th (m obs), one on the 20th on the Kelleys Isl census (**T. Bartlett**), and three on the CVNRA census of 13 May. On 29 May, **F. Renfrow** reported three nests in *Hocking*, and **R. Harlan** and **S. Wagner** three territories in Hinckley MP, *Medina*.

Brown Creeper: High count 20 at Shaker Lks on 1 May (**N. Barber**). Suggestively late were birds at Tinker's Ck on 21 May (**L. Rosche**) and 30 May birds at Killbuck (**S. Snyder**) and Spr Gr Cem in *Hamilton* (**J. Lehman**). A nest started below Greenlawn Dam in Columbus on 28 Apr (**B. Evans**) was abandoned by 8 May (**A. Goloda**). **R. Harlan** and **S. Wagner** found four on territory at Killbuck on 29 Apr, and a nest was discovered on 31 May on the CVNRA by **D&A Chasar**. **D. Best** noted probable territories throughout May in the Upper Cuyahoga River area.

House Wren: Two early reports: 25 Mar in *Hamilton* (**D. Hedeon**) and 30 Mar in Columbus (**R. Cressman**). **B. Royse** estimated ~20 in Columbus by 4 May.

Winter Wren: High count 12+ at Springville Marsh on 26 Mar (**T. Bartlett**). Three in song at Stebbin's Gulch on 29 Apr were potential nesters (**H. Petruschke**). One was tallied for the Kelleys Isl census of 20 May (**Bartlett**).

Sedge Wren: One on the GRWA on 29 Apr (**J. Pogacnik**) and one at Gilmore Ponds on 6 May (**M. Busam et al.**) were early. **J. Hammond et al.** saw one at MBSP on 12 May. The **Hochadels** had one on 30 May at a traditional MWA site—insofar as the species is traditional about anything.

Marsh Wren: Outside of Erie shore strongholds, 11 territories were found at one MWA location, *Trumbull*, on 13 May (**J&D Hochadel**). Three territories attested to the health of the new marsh at Sandy Ridge MP on 25 May (**B. Conlon**).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: **Chasar** called the movement of 18 Mar-16 Apr "the best...in the CVNRA I can remember." **T. Bartlett** counted 65 at Springville Marsh on 26 Mar. Five territories were noted at Hinckley MP, *Medina*, on 26 May (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Migrant peaks were 27 at Zaleski SF on 10 Apr (**D. St. John**) and ~40 at Shaker Lks on 1 May (**N. Barber**). Late birds were at the CVNRA on 22 May (**T&M Romito**) and 26 May at Pearson MP (**G. Links**).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Overflying the schedule was one in *Allen* on 26 Mar (**L. Houshower**). **D. St. John** found one at Zaleski SF 31 Mar, with 33 there by 10 Apr. **B. Royse** and **C. Johnston** had 73 in Shawnee SF 15 Apr, then ~200 by 20 Apr.

Eastern Bluebird: **V. Fazio** counted 272 migrants at MBSP on 8 Mar.

Veery: In *Adams* by 27 Apr (**P. Whan**), one reached HBSP (**L. Rosche**) and five reached Magee by 4 May (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**). Later, one was heard in *Geauga* MPs 27 May (**D. Best**), another at Sandy Ridge MP on the 29th (**B&A Toneff**).

Gray-cheeked Thrush: Far from early, with first in *Hamilton* on 5 May (**S. Pelikan**).

Swainson's Thrush: Ubiquitous, and in no hurry. First report 22 Apr at Gilmore Ponds (**T. Tolford, fide M. Busam**), where 26 May brought the latest report of spring.

Hermit Thrush: A very early bird was at Killbuck on 8 Mar (**S. Snyder**). High count 30 in Columbus 21 Apr (**J. Brumfield**). **D. Chasar** located a nest in the CVNRA, **J. McCormac** one in *Hocking* on 19 May, and **F. Renfrow** discovered four presumed breeding pairs at three other *Hocking* sites on 29 May.

Wood Thrush: First reported very early in *Adams* on 1 Apr (**P. Whan**), one was in *Hancock* on 7 Apr (**B. Hardesty**).

Northern Mockingbird: Continues its slow increase in the north. The CVNRA census recorded its first-ever mocker on 13 May. **P. Lozano** had four at Whiskey Isl on 26 Apr.

Brown Thrasher: An 11 Mar report from *Tuscarawas* (**E. Schlabach**) was perhaps a wintering bird, as there were no others noted till month's end. High count 10+ at Woodbury WA on 29 May (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**, who reckoned the species "seemed up overall").

American Pipit: 150 were in *Wayne* on 4 Mar (**L. Miller**), ~100 there on 19 Mar (**S. Snyder**), and 377 at Big Island WA on the 30th (**V. Fazio**). They persisted as scattered individuals into mid-May near the Lake (m obs).

Cedar Waxwing: Big May counts: 400+ at Magee on the 24th (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**), ~500 at HBSP on the 28th (**L. Rosche**), 7-800 in *Lake* on the 29th (**J. Pogacnik**), and 1666 at Gordon Pk on the 31st (**S. Zadar**).

Blue-winged Warbler: Early were two on 16 Apr at EFSP (**B. Stanley**), then one at Shawnee Lkout (**L. Peyton**) and one in *Athens* on 20 Apr (**D. St. John**). **S. Zadar** counted a local record 69 at Horseshoe Pond in the CVNRA on 12 May.

Golden-winged Warbler: Most reports fell in a short span. One was at the **Dunakins** in *Paulding* on 2-3 May, two males at Magee (**R. Harlan**, **S. Wagner**) and two in Niles (**C. Babyak**) on 4 May, two on 3 May and one on 6 May in *Lake* (**J. Pogacnik**), and one in *Logan* on 6 May (**D. St. John**), and in *Holmes* (**D. Kline**). Intriguing was a male in *Lorain* on 31 May (**D. Sanders**, who couldn't relocate it a week later).

Hybrids of the above: A bonanza, one hopes not a last hurrah of *chrysoptera* genes. **Lawrence's:** **S. Pelikan** had one in Cincinnati on 4 May, and **J. Fry** another the same day in Clear Ck MP. A female was at Magee on 24 May (**R. Harlan**, **S. Wagner**). **L. Andrews** was to find three in SE Ohio early in the next period. **Brewster's:** **D. Brinkman** found a female on 29 Apr in Cincinnati; **P. Lozano et al.** had one at Cleveland Lakefront SP on 5 May; a female was in Magee on 8 May (**R. Harlan**, **S. Wagner**) through the 12th (**S. MacGinnis et al.**), and **S. Zadar** saw a male on the RTLS on 30 May.

Tennessee Warbler: Numbers seemed down to several observers. Early report: two 24 Apr in the Shawnee SF (**D. Sanders**). **C. Babyak** had 12 calling in Niles on 20 May.

Orange-crowned Warbler: Customarily early, with one 17 Apr in Cincinnati (**D. Hedeon**). Most passed through by 10 May, but **R. Harlan** and **S. Wagner** had one at Magee on the 20th, and **E. Yoder** one in *Holmes* on the 21st.

Nashville Warbler: In a hurry, two were first noted by **D. Hedeon** on 17 Apr in Cincinnati. One was in *Summit* by 23 Apr (**R. Harlan**, **S. Wagner**), and the high count came on the 30th, with 20+ birds in Niles (**C. Babyak**). Ten were in Magee by 4 May (**Harlan** and **Wagner**), but they got much scarcer thereafter.

Northern Parula: Both early and numerous. **D. Styer** found the first in Cincinnati on 7 Apr, and many were seen by mid-month. Ten were at Magee on 8 May (**R. Harlan**, **S. Wagner**, who remarked it "seemed up overall, with birds found at many unexpected spots," a view echoed by others).

Yellow Warbler: All over the state by 20 Apr, the first report from *Geauga* (!) on 16 Apr (**C. Skinner**). **R. Harlan** and **S. Wagner** tallied 65 at Magee on 4 May, and **C. Babyak** 114 at MWA on the 13th.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: First seen on 24 Apr in *Hamilton* by **J. Bens**. Several veterans said they seemed scarcer than usual. High was 10 at Magee 7 May (**R. Harlan**, **S. Wagner**).

Magnolia Warbler: *Adams* produced the first on 23 Apr (**J. Stenger**). High count 56 on 10 May in Magee (**L. Yoder**). **D. Overacker** had a latish bird at BCSP on 29 May. **F. Renfrow** and **L. Gara** reported a territorial bird in *Hocking* on the same day.

Cape May Warbler: Below normal, but few complained. One was in *Hamilton* on 2 May (**D. Styer**). **L. Yoder** had 12 at Magee on 10 May for the high reported number.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: One in Shawnee SF on 22 Apr (**D. Linzell**) and one on 25 Apr in Cincinnati (**S. Pelikan**) were lonely, as the rest showed up beginning a week later. **R. Harlan** and **S. Wagner** found 10 at Magee on 4 May, then 20 there on the 20th.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: 150 were at Magee on 4 May (**R. Harlan**, **S. Wagner**), then 115 on the 10th (**L. Yoder**) there. Interesting was a singing male 30 May in *Warren* (**C. Babyak**).

Black-throated Green Warbler: One way back on 26 Mar was a record for *Clark* (**D. Overacker**), with a few more showing up in mid-Apr elsewhere. **J. McCormac** noted three territories in *Hocking* on 19 May, and **F. Renfrow** and **L. Gara** reported breeders at three other sites in the county on the 29th.



This male blue-winged warbler was enjoyed while singing at Scioto Trail State Forest, Ross Co., this spring. Photo by Bob Royse.

Blackburnian Warbler: First report from Columbus on 27 Apr (**J. Grabmeier**). On 29 May, **F. Renfrow** and **L. Gara** noted eight birds, including a copulating pair, on territory at three *Hocking* sites.

Yellow-throated Warbler: Several very early: 2 Apr at Winton Wds, *Hamilton* (**J. Stenger**) and Scioto Trail SP (**P. Gottschling**), then 3 Apr two in the Zaleski SF (**D. St. John**). Most other arrivals were mid-month, and by the 30th the first apparent local breeder had returned to the Oak Openings (**E. Tramer**).

Pine Warbler: Overwintering pines are beginning to seem more likely. **J. Fry** reported his first in *Hocking* on 27 Feb, with birds into Jun. Three were in Zaleski SF on 1 Mar (**D. St. John**). One was singing in *Adams* on 6 Mar (**P. Whan**), and two were in the Cincinnati area of the 8th (**F. Renfrow**). By 14 Apr a nest was at a regular CVNRA spot (**D&A Chasar**). On 26 May **R. Harlan** and **S. Wagner** noted a territory at Hinckley MP, and on the 29th three nesting pairs were located in *Hocking* (**F. Renfrow**, **L. Gara**).

Kirtland's Warbler: Banders captured a female at Navarre Marsh on the morning of 13 May, brought it to Magee, and showed it off that afternoon to visitors on The Bird Trail (m obs). This was the second Kirtland's banded in Ohio, the other having been twenty years ago almost to the day at Magee Marsh in 1980. These captures may conceivably be the only ones of the species between Michigan and the Bahamian wintering-grounds. Amazingly enough another female, this one unbanded, showed up on the Magee bird trail a few days later on the 17th (*fide M. Shieldcastle*, m obs).

Prairie Warbler: First noted in *Adams*, where they should be the County Bird, on 13 Apr (**P. Whan**). Three were in *Hocking* by the 15th (**D. St. John**). The **Dunakins** had one in *Paulding* on 6 May for a significant local record, and the first had returned to the Oak Openings by 8 May (**E. Tramer**).

Palm Warbler: Numbers—from observers who reported them—seemed normal. Two were at Cowan Lk on 15 Apr (**L. Gara**), and one at HBSP by the 21st (**L. Rosche**). **R. Harlan** and **S. Wagner** had one at Magee on 29 Apr apparently of the eastern race *hypochrysea*, then 20 of the expected western race *palmarum* on 4 May. High count was 35 at Shaker Lks on 3 May (**N. Barber**).

Bay-breasted Warbler: Seemed down, with few highlights to report. First report 2 May in Cincinnati (**J. Lehman**). High count 10 at Magee on 7 and 20 May (**R. Harlan**, **S. Wagner**).

Blackpoll Warbler: Customary good numbers showed up the first week of May, the first from Magee on the 4th (**R. Harlan**, **S. Wagner**). 40+ was an excellent number, especially for 29 May, at HBSP (**H. Petruschke**).

Cerulean Warbler: Quite early was one at Shawnee Lkout on 18 Apr (**L. Peyton**) and another at Lk Hope SP, *Vinton*, on the following day (**D. St. John**). One reached Metzger on 4 May (**R. Harlan**, **S. Wagner**). 32 were on the CVNRA census of 13 May.

Black-and-white Warbler: An overshooting bird—one of few this spring—hit a window at MBSP on 6 Apr (**G. Links**). Two were noted at Zaleski SP on 12 Apr (**D. St. John**). High count from **R. Harlan** and **S. Wagner** again, 10 at Magee on 4 May.

American Redstart: Thirteen at Zaleski SF on 24 Apr were quite early (**D. St. John**), and one reached HBSP by 4 May (**L. Rosche**, **R. Hannikman**). Traffic jammed later, with 43 at Magee on 10 May (**L. Yoder**), and 50 there on the 20th (**R. Harlan**, **S. Wagner**).



Not hampered by rain, this prairie warbler was photographed at Crown City Wildlife Area on 29 May 2000. Photo by Bob Royse.

- Prothonotary Warbler:** A 22 Apr return to SVWA was comfortably routine (C. Mathena), but one in Wayne on the 18th (V. Fazio) was earlyish that far north. By 6 May eight were firmly ensconced at Killbuck (L. Yoder); by the end of the month, 10 pairs nesting in *Geauga* MPs resulted in 7 pairs with young, the rest disrupted by house wrens (D. Best).
- Worm-eating Warbler:** Distinguished by being pretty much on schedule, with the first on 18 Apr in Adams (M. Zloba). Like many others, no overflights reported further north.
- Ovenbird:** First noted in Adams on 17 Apr (M. Zloba), with a day count of 63 at Shawnee SF by 2 Apr (D. Sanders *et al.*). R. Harlan remarked there "seemed to be fewer at Magee."
- Northern Waterthrush:** The first appeared at the MWW on 21 Apr (J. Lehman), and they reached the CVNRA by 1 May (M. Zehnder) and HBSP (L. Rosche) and Magee (R. Harlan, S. Wagner) by the 4th. The latter observers "didn't remember better numbers at Magee," with 10 on 4, 8, and 20 May, and 15 on 13 May.
- Louisiana Waterthrush:** Early arrivals were at EFSP by 25 Mar (B. Stanley). An unusual local record was one near Antwerp, Paulding, on 9 May (M. Dunakin).
- Kentucky Warbler:** On 27 Apr, one in Columbus was a nice find (H. Nagy). L. Rosche had one at the RTLS, Portage, on 3 May. One was at Silver Ck MP in Summit on 12 May (R. Harlan, S. Wagner).
- Connecticut Warbler:** Eighteen reports only, beginning 12 May (at Magee by J. Miller, in Lake by J. Pogacnik) through the end of the period, mostly at the popular birding venues. Unusual was one in northern Holmes on 19 May (P. Yoder).
- Mourning Warbler:** Earliest was one at Magee on 4 May (R. Harlan, S. Wagner), who later reported the high count of 10 on 20 May. 22 May was big day, too, with five at HBSP (L. Rosche, R. Hannikman) and eight at Magee (G. Miller).
- Common Yellowthroat:** One was at Magee on 14 Apr (M. Warren), another in Cincinnati on 15 Apr (S. Pelikan), and by the 29th 20 were found in Highland (D. Overacker). One reached Killbuck by 24 Apr (R. Harlan, S. Wagner).
- Hooded Warbler:** J. Fry reported the first, from Hocking, quite early on 14 Apr. Three were found at Magee on 4 May (R. Harlan, S. Wagner). The CVNRA census of 13 May tallied 54 birds there.
- Wilson's Warbler:** An unremarkable migration by all accounts. Ten was the high count on both 14 and 24 May at Magee (R. Harlan, S. Wagner).
- Canada Warbler:** First noted 26 Apr in Cincinnati (S. Reeves), one was at a traditional nest site in Clear Ck MP by the 29th (E. Pierce *et al.*), with five there the following day (B. Conlon). Two at Magee on 7 May mounted to 15 by the 20th (R. Harlan, S. Wagner). D. Chasar noted for the species "the best movement in years in the CVNRA."
- Yellow-breasted Chat:** Early was one at EFSP on 30 Apr (J. Lehman). One was at the RTLS by 3 May (L. Rosche). One was singing at GRWA on 30 May where it is a scarce breeder (J&D Hochadel).
- Summer Tanager:** One reached SVWA by 29 Apr (M. Swelstad). A male reached last year's Delaware nest site on 3 May (B. Conlon), it or another remaining on territory, with a female, through the end of the period (J. Hammond, m obs). J. Pogacnik had one in Lake on 5 May, three were at Magee on 21 May (N. Barber *et al.*), R. Harlan and S. Wagner noted one on territory in Mohican SP on 29 May-4 Jun, and M. Anderson reported one singing in Lucas on 31 May.
- Scarlet Tanager:** Early arrival was in Cincinnati on 19 Apr (S. Pelikan). E. Schlabach had one in Tuscarawas on 30 Apr, and by 5 May they had reached HBSP (L. Rosche).
- Eastern Towhee:** 475 were reported on CBCs last winter. Likely migrants appeared on 6 Mar (M. Zehnder) at the CVNRA, two on 11 Mar in Holmes (E. Schlabach), and on the 26th at HBSP (L. Rosche, R. Hannikman).

- Spotted Towhee:** The BSBO banders trapped a second-year female in Navarre Marsh on 2 Apr (*fide* T. Bartlett).
- American Tree Sparrow:** Why they hung around, who can say? Late records: 13 Apr in Holmes (E. Schlabach), 15 Apr in Wayne (L. Yoder), two at HBSP 16 Apr (L. Rosche), 25 Apr in Hancock (*fide* B. Hardesty), and 5 May at Gordon Pk (S. Zadar).
- Chipping Sparrow:** Another strong early trend. One was singing on 6 Mar in Wayne (R. Harlan, S. Wagner); D. St. John had one at an Athens feeder on the 12th; one was at Killbuck (S. Snyder) and another in Tiffin (Z. Baker) on the 24th, and L. Rosche found one 6 Apr at Lk George, Portage.
- Clay-colored Sparrow:** A healthy five reports. S. Zadar reported three—two at Gordon Pk on 7 May, and one at Kelleys Isl on the 16th. J. Lesser found one singing in the lot at Metzger on 13 May, and another bird was singing in Bacon Wds MP, Lorain, from 11 May (L. Richardson) to at least 25 May (D. Sanders).
- Field Sparrow:** Migrants showed up in Holmes on 11 Mar (E. Schlabach), in Portage on 23 Mar (L. Rosche), and in Clark on 25 Mar (D. Overacker). D. Graham counted 25 at SVWA on 9 Apr.
- Vesper Sparrow:** Birds were in Holmes (E. Schlabach) and Hamilton (D. Styer) on 25 Mar, and three the following day in Clark (D. Overacker). On schedule.
- Lark Sparrow:** On schedule for return to Oak Openings nest sites. Odd was one near Calamus Swamp, Pickaway, on 15 Apr (J. McMahon *et al.*); a migrant, it was not refund.
- Savannah Sparrow:** Some apparently wintered, but likely migrants included one in Hancock on 7 Mar (B. Hardesty), one singing at Mallard Club Marsh on 8 Mar (G. Links), one in Holmes on 25 Mar (E. Schlabach), and one the following day at BCSP (D. Overacker).
- Grasshopper Sparrow:** Four returned to The Wilds, Muskingum, on 13 Apr (J. Larson). N. Barber found one in the dunes of HBSP on 24 Apr. V. Fazio noted 45 territories at Big Island WA by 27-28 Apr. Three were in the grasslands along Exchange Rd in Huron from 29 Apr-4 May at least (R. Harlan, S. Wagner).
- Henslow's Sparrow:** Six were at The Wilds on 13 Apr (J. Larson, who notes this is the same date they showed up last year). J. Lehman noted one on 21 Mar at the MWW, and one was a surprise at Lake La Su An WA on 30 Apr (J. Grabmeier), as was one at Gordon Pk on 5 May (S. Zadar).
- Fox Sparrow:** Thirty-two reports on last winter's CBCs. One was in Hocking on 4 Mar (D. Horn), eight at HBSP on 26 Mar (L. Rosche, R. Hannikman), and one at the Shaker Lks on 27 Mar (B. Winger).
- Song Sparrow:** Large concentrations of migrants included 40 at MWW 9 Apr (N. Cade), 42 at HBSP on 14 Apr (L. Rosche), and 82 at Gordon Pk on 19 Apr (S. Zadar).
- Lincoln's Sparrow:** Widespread agreement that the species was unusually down. First was one 3 May at BCSP (D. Overacker), and singles were in Holmes on 6 and 20 May (E. Schlabach), but R. Harlan called them "scarce," and the Dunakins reported "only one" in Paulding this spring.
- Swamp Sparrow:** Some wintered, but apparent migrants included 12+ at Springville Marsh on 13 Mar (T. Bartlett), one at BCSP on 7 Apr (D. Overacker), and 11 in the CVNRA on 14 Apr (M&T Romito).
- White-throated Sparrow:** Ninety-two were at Gordon Pk on 4 May (S. Zadar), and one as late as 24 May at Magee (J. Hammond *et al.*), and a 30 May Hancock survey yielded a single remaining bird (*fide* B. Hardesty).
- White-crowned Sparrow:** Still in Gordon Pk on 4 May were 122 (S. Zadar). At least one stayed till 20 May in Paulding (M&D Dunakin), and five till the 23rd in Hancock (*fide* B. Hardesty).

Dark-eyed Junco: One was in *Tuscarawas* on 10 May (E. Schlabach), one in the CVNRA on 15 May (D&A Chasar), one in Parma on 23 May (C. Rieker), and one in *Hancock* on the 30th (B. Hardesty). R. Harlan and S. Wagner found a territory in the Mohican SF 4 June.

Lapland Longspur: Seen in *Lucas* on 24 Mar were 250+ (M. Anderson), and 408 were at Big Island WA on 30 Mar (V. Fazio). D. St. John estimated 2000 near Killdeer on 17 Apr, and R. Harlan and S. Wagner found 25 on Darsch Rd in *Ottawa* on 29 Apr.

Snow Bunting: Lingerers included one in *Paulding* on 11 Mar (D&M Dunakin), 20 near Metzger on 15 Mar (B. McGuire), and one on a Findlay dike on 21 Mar (B. Hardesty).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Many agreed its numbers seemed low. First report from Zaleski SF on 24 Apr (D. St. John), arriving in *Portage* on the 29th (L. Rosche). Max 12 in *Tuscarawas* on 6 May (E. Schlabach).

Blue Grosbeak: Reported in nine counties. One was near Maumee SF on 28 Apr (T. Bartlett) and one on 3 May at EFSP (D. Chaffin). One was in a Youngstown suburban yard on 6-7 May (C. Keppler, *vide* N. Brundage). J. Fry had one at his *Hocking* feeders on 6 May, and P. Honsey saw one in *Crawford* the same day. One was singing in Columbus on 11 May (J. McCormac), and another was in *Holmes* for the third straight year (E. Schlabach). One was in *Hamilton* on 13 May (D. Brinkman), and up to 15 singing males were reported during the period at Crown City WA, *Lawrence* (B. Royse, 29 May).



This female painted bunting entertained many at Magee Marsh Wildlife Area, Ottawa Co., on International Migratory Bird Day (13 May 2000). Showing how documentation photos can be obtained without bulky camera equipment, this shot was taken with a point-and-shoot camera held up to the eyepiece of a Nikon Fieldscope set at 45X. Photo by Bill Whan.

Indigo Bunting: The overwintering bird at B. Royse's feeder in Columbus returned on 10 Mar, and remained till at least 9 Apr, its alternate plumage emerging. The Dunakins beat the *Paulding* record by four days with a bunting on 21 Apr.

Painted Bunting: A female appeared at the Magee HQ's feeders—unaccustomedly stocked with seed, perhaps for International Migratory Bird Day—on 13 May. The bird was apparently not found the following day. The record, now with the OBRC, would be Ohio's second if accepted.

Dickcissel: Large incursions occurred this year in nearby states and Ontario. The first report came from Big Island WA on 4 May (D. St. John). One was at Woodbury WA on the 12th (E. Schlabach). Three were in *Pickaway* on 18 May (J. Fry), two at SVWA on the 25th (L. Gara), two the same day at MWW (F. Frick) then four on the 29th (P. Wharton). B. Royse counted 45 at Crown City WA by the 29th.

Bobolink: First report came from *Paulding* on 26 Apr (D&M Dunakin). Singles were in *Hancock* on 2 May (B. Hardesty), at BCSP on 5 May (D. Overacker), and HBSP on the 7th (L. Rosche). D. St. John found 31 on 3 May at The Wilds; for some reason, none were reported at very similar-looking habitat at Crown City WA.

Red-winged Blackbird: Migrants preceded the period; H. Nagy reported the first female for 21 Mar at The Wilds. The rest of the reports mostly contested for numbers: the winner was V. Fazio, with a report of ~40K at Medusa Marsh, *Erie*, on 7 Mar.

Western Meadowlark: The only report was of a singing male in western *Holmes* from 23 May to the end of the period (V. Kline).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: E. Durbin spotted one along Turtle Ck on 4 Mar. Birds returned to Metzger in Apr (m obs), with at least three males and a female accounted for. One was in *Defiance* on 10-12 Apr (D&M Dunakin), and a male showed up at a feeder way down in *Jackson* on 25 May (G. Thompson, *vide* P. Zito).

Rusty Blackbird: 500+ were at Springville Marsh on 13 Mar (T. Bartlett). One was in the *Geauga* MP system on 7 May (C. Skinner *et al.*).

Brewer's Blackbird: R. Schlabach had a singing bird on 3 Apr in *Tuscarawas*, and J. Games reported five at Killdeer on 9 Apr.

Orchard Oriole: The first report came from *Clermont*, for 22 Apr (B. Foppe). By the 29th, E. Schlabach had one in *Tuscarawas*, and four were at HBSP on 5 May for N. Barber. Though no remarkable high counts were recorded, Harlan said it "seemed significantly up."

Baltimore Oriole: First was in Columbus on 22 Apr (B. Royse). J. Pogacnik had 137 in *Lake* by 7 May, and the CVNRA census totaled 251 on 13 May.

Purple Finch: Fifteen probable migrants were in the Zaleski SF on 4 Mar (D. St. John). Widely reported otherwise, with 29 on 9 and 12 Apr in *Hocking* and birds till the 29th (J. Fry) and 10 in *Tuscarawas* on 20 Apr (E. Schlabach). L. Rosche reported "an excellent spring" for the species. R. Harlan and S. Wagner noted several territories at Mohican SF during the period.

White-winged Crossbill: After a good winter, a good spring. L. Gooch found at least eight birds in Cleveland Hts on 13 Mar. B. Creasey had five in Cincinnati on 21 Mar. K. Metcalf reported 2+ in Cleveland Hts on 13 Apr—Gooch's birds?—and L. Deininger three not exactly a million miles away near the Shaker Lks on the same day.

Red Crossbill: Unpredictable as always. J. Fry in *Hocking* had from four to six birds at feeders between 16 Mar and 3 Apr, with one remaining till 8 Apr. J. Pogacnik had one on 11 Mar in *Lake*. T. Bartlett reported one in the Maumee SF on 31 May.

Common Redpoll: D&J Hoffman found 14 at Lorain on 7 Mar, and S. Zadar four in Parma Hts on the 11th. D. Linzell had a female at her *Franklin* feeder on 14 Mar. S. Wagner had three at her Wadsworth feeders from 6-23 Mar. R. Miller reported one at a thistle feeder in *Holmes* on 23 Mar. J. Pogacnik in *Lake* reported three on 23 Mar, and two each on 8 and 9 Apr.

Pine Siskin: J. Pogacnik had 56 in *Lake* on 6 May. R. Harlan and S. Wagner reported that five per day were findable at Magee during mid-May, as well as an abandoned nest site at Hinckley MP, *Medina*, late in the month. One was at Lk Hope SP, *Vinton*, on 20 May (D. St. John) and one was at a feeder in *Hancock* on 23 May (*vide* B. Hardesty).

American Goldfinch: Big numbers included 2230 on 6 May and 6270 on 7 May in *Lake* (J. Pogacnik).

Evening Grosbeak: One was seen on 18-19 Apr in *Stark* (P. Soehnen), and four in *Lake* on 5 May (J. Pogacnik).

CORRIGENDUM: In the previous issue, a report of an orange-crowned warbler in *Erie* on 20 Jan 2000 was in error, and should be disregarded.

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Enjoying a nap, this willet was captured on film on 15 May 2000 at Caesar Creek State Park, Warren Co. Apparently, it was oblivious to the larid show that day. Photo by Tom Uhlman.

Further Afield by Rob Harlan

When it's their time to go, most folks would probably prefer to push up daisies in a peaceful, manicured Woodlawn, Green Lawn, or Spring Grove. Some of the more adventurous among us might request their ashes be spread over a lofty crag, an ancient shrine of desert solitude, or perhaps over a tranquil turquoise sea. But when it's my turn to go, it would suit me just fine if they shoved me under the boardwalk at the Magee Marsh Bird Trail.

I'm crazy about the place, and have been for years. It's the crown jewel of Ohio birding, and whether it's known as Magee Marsh, Crane Creek, or simply The Bird Trail, the name is synonymous with Midwestern spring birding at its most delicious. I offer no apologies to other prime Ohio birding sites—I've tried them all, and I do like them. Each has its own uniquely outstanding qualities and rarities bragging rights. But they simply can't stack up against the Bird Trail when it comes to consistent variety and numbers. And if you've been to the Trail on a good day, then I'm preaching to the choir.

I'm probably safe in assuming that most everyone reading this column has visited the Trail at least once or twice, or maybe once a year for many years, or even dozens and dozens of times throughout the years. I'm thankful to say I fall into the last category. Shame on you if you've never birded the Trail; if you fall into *this* category, please take a moment right now to remove five birds (of your choice) from your life list. You may have them back once you've made your first visit. Thank you for your cooperation.

So what makes the Trail so special? There are any number of reasons of course, but some of the most frequently-cited might be: lots of birds, lots of colorful birds, lots of colorful singing birds, and lots of *good* colorful singing birds, all in a delightful lakefront environment and shared with the company of old birding friends. But even more intriguing to me is the fact that we can have all of the above in a comfortable framework of predictability, based on the collective knowledge gained in a century of spring fieldwork. In our instinctive efforts to make order out of seeming chaos, we have come to know what to expect and when, and in what numbers, all with a reasonable degree of accuracy. But each spring always throws in enough wildcards to keep us off balance, to force us constantly to redefine the dimensions of our predictable framework. You can be sure that just as soon as we think we have all the answers, nature will change the questions. But that makes it fun.

This past spring was really no different from most other springs at the Bird Trail. Some individual birds were early, most were on time, and some were late. Some species were in low numbers, most were in expected numbers, and some were more plentiful than usual. And rarities were found. All of which serves to reinforce our framework of predictability. But when boiled down in this manner, it makes spring 2000 seem dry and lifeless, which it most assuredly was not. And so I offer some of my personal reflections regarding the May 2000 Bird Trail season. Let's start on...

May 4—Everything's early! Well, perhaps not everything, but enough things to be of special note...one Cape May, three Blackburnians, one bay-breasted, one blackpoll, three Wilson's, and even a mourning warbler. Plenty of early returnees, all riding