

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.

Seasonal Report Due Dates	Please send all reports to:
Winter (Dec.-Feb.) - March 25 Spring (Mar.-May) - June 25 Summer (June-July) - August 25 Autumn (Aug.-Nov.) - December 25	Bill Whan 223 E. Tulane Rd. Columbus, OH 43202 danielel@iwaynet.net

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On the Cover: Townsend's Solitaire - Holden Arboretum, Lake Co., 25 January 2001.

Photo by Gary Meszaros.

Winter 2000-01 Overview

by Bill Whan

Looking back over the winter, we recalled the old story of the naval gunner who in a practice session first put a round a thousand yards left of the target, and on his next attempt another a thousand yards to the right, whereupon a statistician present cried out "Bull's-eye!" So it was, *on average*, a more or less normal winter, according to the seasonal statistics, but it was more complicated than that. Autumn ended cold, but the weather moderated during the first half of December before single-digit temperatures set in for the latter half, for an average of 8-10 degrees below normal for the month, and November-December temperatures the coldest on record on average. January, never truly warm of course, began cold but nevertheless ended up averaging warmer than normal, and February was 5 degrees warmer than usual overall.

Temperatures are important, but don't tell a winter's whole story. Two days in February featured 50-mph winds out of the southwest, and ushered in untimely arrivals of birds: on the 9th, apparent migrant killdeers and turkey vultures began to show up, and on the 25th a number of other more or less premature occurrences were noted. The season's third windiest day, 12 December, may have influenced the remarkable appearance of a summer tanager in Butler County, a palm warbler in Hamilton County, and even two varied thrushes in the northwestern quadrant of the state.

Amid such flux, some surprising stability endured. Two rare species stayed so long that even the most dilatory of birders got to see them. One of the aforementioned varied thrushes found a Findlay back yard inviting enough to stay there well into the spring season, and Ohio's fourth verified Townsend's solitaire—unlike its predecessors—hung around, putting on a five-week show in Lake County. Harlequin ducks and Harris's sparrows may not be so rare, but they are seldom as accommodating as the Grand Rapids duck that stayed long enough to proclaim his sex by molting into male alternate plumage, or the sparrow that haunted the same stretch of hedgerow for at least ten weeks in Wayne County. Nor are long-tailed ducks normally sedentary in Ohio, but a young female liked the spa-like setting of Castalia Pond enough to pass week after week there this season. We continued to find good numbers of snowy owls during the winter, but few stayed long in one place, complicating an estimate of exactly how many there were; only the (apparently) imperturbable habitué of Accommodation Road in Clinton County remained, satisfying humans' paradoxical twin lusts for novelty and predictability, until 7 February.

Numbers of the commoner waterfowl—mallards and Canada geese, for example—were huge, and the puddle ducks in general didn't do badly, considering frozen water in many places at times. Diving ducks were down considerably in numbers reported, some drastically. With a few interesting small-scale exceptions, raptor numbers and variety were unremarkable. Among gulls, no rarities were reported, but warm-water outlets along the frozen lakeshore during December and January concentrated good numbers of the less common species, and offered

excellent opportunities for studying all their plumages—as well as more than a few interesting aberrations. Few meaningful generalizations could be made among the passerines—save for the near-absence of winter finches—but there were some interesting occurrences among them, all treated in the Reports below. Seven birds on the list of review species were seen during the period, and all were written up for the Records Committee.

In the following reports, we from time to time cite Christmas Bird Count numbers from around the state, though we never mix CBC data with those submitted directly to the *Cardinal* or gathered from other sources. For a full review of the CBC data, we invite readers to consult Ned Keller's excellent compilation in these pages. Christmas Bird Counts bring out legions of birders with varying skills, and their reports of scarcer birds—absent details vetted by compilers—occasionally merit skepticism, but no one doubts their data are of considerable significance overall. The most numerous species during this CBC period were, from #1 to #10: European starling, Canada goose, American crow, ring-billed gull, mallard, house sparrow, common grackle, red-breasted merganser, American robin, and mourning dove. The presence of two exotic species in this list is familiar, but not reassuring. The ranks of at least the starling, goose, gull, and merganser are higher than they would have been a hundred years ago, and a hundred years before that the mallard and the crow and the house sparrow would not have ranked so high.

The following reports follow the taxonomic order of the 42nd Supplement (July 2000) to the 7th edition of the *AOU Check-list of North American Birds* (1998). Underlined names of species indicate those on the OBRC Review List; adequate documentation is needed to add reports of these to official state records, or to attributed records herein. County names are supplied for certain locations, and appear *italicized*. Unless other numbers are supplied in the text, sightings cited refer to single birds of the species in question. Abbreviations, conventions, and symbols in the text should be readily understood, with the possible exception of the following: BCSP=Buck Creek State Park in *Clark*; BIWA=Big Island WA in *Marion*; CBC=Christmas Bird Count; CVNP=Cuyahoga Valley National Park in *Cuyahoga* and *Summit*; EFSP=East Fork SP in *Clermont*; EHSP=East Harbor SP in *Ottawa*; *fide*=“in trust of,” said of data conveyed on behalf of another person; GPI=Gordon Park Impoundment (Dike 14) in *Cleveland*; HBSP=Headlands Beach SP in *Lake*; Killbuck=Killbuck Marsh WA in *Wayne*; Killdeer=Killdeer Plains WA in *Wyandot*; Magee=Magee Marsh WA in *Ottawa*; MBSP=Maumee Bay SP in *Lucas*; Metzger=Metzger Marsh WA in *Lucas*; MP=Metropark; m obs=many observers; MWW=Miami-Whitewater Wetlands in *Hamilton*; NWR=National Wildlife Refuge; OBRC=Ohio Bird Records Committee; ONWRC=Ottawa NWR census, conducted monthly, and reported herein by E. Pierce; Ottawa=Ottawa NWR in *Lucas* and *Ottawa*; ph=photograph; Res=reservoir; Res'n=reservation; SF=State Forest; SNP=State Nature Preserve; SP=State Park; SVWA=Spring Valley WA in *Warren*; WA=Wildlife Area; ~≈approximately.

The Reports

- Red-throated Loon:** A latish migrant spent 3 Dec at Cowan Lake SP (D. Overacker, L. Gara).
- Common Loon:** Very few inland reports. Fewer than 30 were seen on Lake Erie, for that matter, with a high count of eight at GPI on 8 Dec (S. Zadar). A tough bird was observed at Avon Lake PP on 3 Jan (J. Hammond) and 29 Jan (N. Barber). Another appeared on newly-open water on Meander Res, *Mahoning*, on 13 Feb (C. Babyak).
- Pied-billed Grebe:** Migrants cleared out by the first week of Dec, with a high count of 18 at BCSP on the 2nd (D. Overacker). Mid-winter sightings included one lurking under an ice shelf at E. 72nd St in *Cleveland* 6 Jan (B. Whan), one at Hoover Res on 18 Jan (B. Graves), one in the CVNP on 27 Jan (D&A Chasar), one on the Scioto in *Columbus* on 11 Feb (B. Royse), and another the same day in *Hamilton* (J. Lehman). S. Snyder greeted the first returning migrant on 21 Feb in *Wayne*.
- Horned Grebe:** Most vacated Ohio during the first half of Dec, with a high count of 22 at Caesar Ck SP on 2 Dec. (D. Graham), where one remained on the 10th (D. Whiteley). Other than one seen at Eastlake PP on New Year's Day (N. Barber), the next observed were migrants, beginning on 24 Feb, with two at Mounds Rec'n Area (Graham) and two at GPI (S. Zadar).
- Red-necked Grebe:** D. Whiteley discovered one at Caesar Ck SP on 10 Dec, and J. Pogacnik another in *Lake* on 1 Jan.
- Double-crested Cormorant:** Migrants lingered until the first really cold weather, as at S. Bass Isl, where S. Wulkowicz noted the last two birds on 20 Dec. A few persisted later along Lk Erie, with several at Eastlake PP on 1 Jan (N. Barber), a healthy 25 off the Cedar Pt chaussee on 6 Jan (R. Harlan, S. Wagner), one at Lorain on 7 Jan (J. Larson), another at Avon Lk PP on 26 Jan (B. Royse). Inland reports included one in *Columbus* on 31 Dec (R. Cressman) and another in *Washington* on 14 Jan (B. Placier).
- Great Blue Heron:** Wintered in small numbers in many spots with open water, but a host of 70 birds off the Cedar Pt chaussee, *Erie*, on 6 Jan was notable (R. Harlan, S. Wagner).
- Black-crowned Night-Heron:** A few wintered along Lk Erie as far east as Avon Lk. The high count was four at Bayshore, *Lucas*, on 1 Jan (J. Rakestraw), and one was at the Avon Lk PP on 26 Jan (B. Royse). Remarkable was a mid-winter imm bird in *Dayton* on 1 Jan (D. Dister). The Toledo CBC again led the state with 30 birds, on 17 Dec.
- Black Vulture:** The Lk Buckhorn roost was represented by a Millersburg CBC count of 28 on 16 Dec, and a 3 Feb count of 11 in *Holmes* (E. Schlabach). The Hocking Hills flock mustered 44 (with a single turkey vulture) on 18 Jan (J. Fry). Adams had a healthy 73 on 30 Dec (P. Whan), and 70 were over *Brown* on 14 Jan (D. Styer). Roosting black vultures are increasingly taking advantage of chimney heat at rustic lodges in state parks: at the lodge at Hocking Hills SP, P. Gottschling and L. Aldrich noticed 15 on 1 Jan, and C. Dusthimer ~20 there on 8 Jan, and at Hueston Wds SP's lodge D. Dister observed two on 24 Dec. The Paint Ck CBC reported 223 on 17 Dec from *Highland* and *Ross*.
- Turkey Vulture:** One of the two big *Athens* roosts persisted for the local 17 Dec CBC, with a count of 126. The *Holmes* roost was represented by counts of up to 45 during the period near Sugarcreek (E. Schlabach), and a Millersburg CBC tally of 86 on 16 Dec. The Granville, *Licking*, flock was down in numbers, with 80-100 overhead in Jan and Feb (R. Thorn). TVs forage widely, so these roosts could account for sightings such as 12 in *Muskingum* on 26 Jan (J. Larson), 30-40 there on 7 Feb (L. Yoder), or 20+ in *The Wilds* on 4 Mar (B&A Toneff). Single-digit sightings in the Cincinnati area spanned the period (m obs). A big storm pumped warm winds into the state on 9 Feb, bringing in early migrants—or at least blowing around residents—such as two in *Columbus* (B. Royse). Two were in *Ashtabula* on the 10th (J. Pogacnik), and one in *Summit* on the 13th (A&D Chasar). A second pulse came on 19 Feb with two over Toledo (R. Nirschl) and one in *Defiance* (J. Yochum), then on the 20th with 16 in *Lawrence* (H. Slack) and six in *Hancock* (B. Hardesty).

Greater White-fronted Goose: An unusual mid-winter inland flock of five was at Caesar Ck SP on 8 Feb (L. Gara). Seven were discovered at Funk WA on 11 Feb (S. Snyder), where 10 were seen the following day (V. Fazio), and four on the 24th (Snyder); two further west in Wayne on 27 Feb may have been from this flock (D. Horn). Elsewhere, one was in Columbiana on 22 Feb (B&D Lane), and one at Walborn Res on the 26th (B. Morrison).

Snow Goose: Wintered for the ninth year in a row in the western Lk Erie marshes, where the ONWRC had 75 on 3 Dec and 66 on 31 Dec, while V. Fazio found 33 there on 26 Feb. Inland, three were in Holmes on 25 Dec (L. Yoder), two in Warren on 28 Jan (D. Dister), and two to three at MWW during the first half of Feb (F. Frick, J. Lehman, m obs). By 18 Feb two migrants were at BCSP (D. Overacker), and another at Lk Rockwell on the 19th (L. Rosche).

Ross's Goose: One spent 18-20 Feb near BCSP in Clark for m obs, ph; details are with the OBRC, as are those for one reported at Hoover Res, Delaware, on 4 Feb.

Canada Goose: Numbers were even higher than usual this year, with all-time record highs on at least the Columbus and W. Hamilton CBCs. B. Morrison reported a bird of the Richardson's race at Walborn Res on 27 Feb. More than a dozen casual observations of over 500 birds were reported, other than from CBCs, with a high of ~6800 near Ottawa on 9 Feb (V. Fazio). The statewide CBC total was 71,494, our second most numerous species.

Mute Swan: Burgeoning. This exotic species promises to display here the same unpleasant habits it has shown to the east. Over 150 birds were reported, with a high count of 19 at Medusa Marsh on 28 Feb (J. Hammond). The CBCs found a total of 59.

Tundra Swan: During Dec more than 650 birds were reported, with a high count of 228 on the 3 Dec ONWRC, where some birds reportedly wintered for the ninth consecutive year. There were no Jan or early Feb reports. Earliest returning migrants were four at BCSP on 11 Feb (D. Overacker), and they continued in single-digit numbers throughout the state through the end of the period. A total of 100 came from the CBCs.

Wood Duck: Wintered at spots with habitat. Northward, B. Hardesty had one at Hancock's only open water, below a dam, on 6 Feb, and J. Yochum a pair in Defiance in similar circumstances on 20 Feb. B. Glick and M. Gingerich found six in Holmes on New Year's Day. K. Metcalf regarded two at N. Chagrin Res'n, Cuyahoga, on 10 Feb as early arrivals.

Gadwall: The high count of southbound migrants was 240 on 17 Dec at Magee (H&S Hiris). Some passed the winter at Castalia as usual, with a maximum of ~100 on 1 Jan (J. Hammond). Mid-winter numbers included 20 on 6 Jan at BCSP (D. Overacker), 12 at Farnsworth MP, Lucas, on 7 Jan (E. Tramer), and two at Killbuck on 24 Jan (S. Snyder); J. Lehman had 38 at Camp Dennison, Hamilton, on 11 Feb. Migrants were few in later Feb, with a high count of only 15 at BIWA on the 26th (V. Fazio).

American Wigeon: Good numbers wintered at Castalia, with 70 there on 7 Jan (Z. Baker); on the same day B&A Toneff found four in the Maumee River. R. Thorn reported 6-14 wintering below the dam at Hoover Res, Franklin. S. Snyder found two near Wooster on 1 Jan, and D. Conover one at Burnet Wds, Hamilton, on the 16th. Fifty-six birds were seen inland between 8 and 12 Feb, and may have been early migrants encouraged by strong SW winds, with a high count of 36 in Hamilton on the 11th (J. Lehman).

American Black Duck: Detected in decent numbers through the period. The high count was ~500 near Ottawa on 9 Feb (V. Fazio), but many good counts came from inland: ~400 at Castalia, of course, on 7 Jan (Z. Baker), ~150 at Caesar Ck SP on 3 Feb (S. Patterson), ~200 at Hoover Res on 5 Feb (J. Hammond), ~400 at BCSP on 10 Feb (D. Overacker), 250+ at Funk on 12 Feb (Hammond), and 520-560 during the period at Blendon Wds MP near Columbus (R. Thorn).

Mallard: Four-figure numbers observed included 1423 on the 3 Dec ONWRC, ~7000 at Killdeer on 13 Dec (B. Shively), ~1400 at Castalia on 7 Jan (Z. Baker), ~5000 near Ottawa on 9 Feb (V. Fazio), and ~2500 at BCSP on 16 Feb (D. Overacker). The CBC total was 36,561 statewide, good for fifth place among the most common birds.

Blue-winged Teal: A hen found on 6 Jan in the Gt Miami R in Dayton (D. Dister) was highly unusual for a species intolerant of cold weather. An early one was found on 19 Feb at Hueston Wds SP (N. Compton), and two migrants on 25 Feb were perhaps aided by SW winds of 50+ mph: one at BCSP (D. Overacker) and a drake at Oxbow Lk WA, Defiance (J. Yochum).

Northern Shoveler: Early Jan found ~40 at the traditional Castalia spot (J. Hammond) on the 1st, and two at Hoover Res on the 2nd (J. Dennison). Three to 10 wintered at BCSP (D. Overacker).

Northern Pintail: Very few reported in Dec, the last of them one in Euclid, Cuyahoga, on the 13th (T. LePage). The CBCs reported a total of 30. A few were scattered across the state in Jan, with 15 at Caesar Ck SP on the 17th (S. Reeves) and five at Killbuck on the 24th (S. Snyder). At BCSP ~50 were found on 3 Feb (D. Overacker). Like other puddle ducks, this species showed spikes after the big blow of 9 Feb, with 140 near Ottawa on that date (V. Fazio), ~70 at Funk on the 10th (Snyder), and eight in mostly-frozen Paulding on the 13th (D&M Dunakin). More on schedule were 400+ at Funk on 19 Feb (J. McCormac), 100+ at Killdeer on the 25th (R. Sempier), and 180 at BIWA on the following day (Fazio).

Green-winged Teal: Very small numbers passed through in Dec. Total for CBCs was 49. Mid-winter sightings included two in Holmes on 5 Jan (B. Glick) and five in Fairfield on 13 Jan (C. Dusthimer). Four were at Funk on 12 Feb (S. Snyder), and one at BCSP on 17 Feb (D. Overacker). Timelier migration began on 24 Feb, with one in Summit (R. Harlan, S. Wagner) and two the following day at BCSP (Overacker).

Canvasback: Lk Erie ice may have kept larger rafts out of sight, as the high counts were ~900 at Bay View (R. Harlan, S. Wagner) on 5 Feb and 830 in the area on 11 Feb (V. Fazio). L. Rosche found 55 on the Cuyahoga R in Cleveland on 27 Jan. Inland numbers topped out at 30 at Pleasant Hill Lk on 25 Feb (B. Glick).

Redhead: Scarce this winter. Six to seven spent most of the winter below the Hoover Res spillway near Columbus (R. Thorn). Three were at Castalia 1-3 Jan (J. Hammond), and one there on 6 Jan (D. Linzell); L. Rosche had 15 on the Cuyahoga R in Cleveland on 27 Jan. D. Overacker found four at BCSP on 4 Feb. On Lk Erie, 65 showed up on 9 Feb at MBSP (V. Fazio), but reported numbers of migrants thereafter failed to exceed that number.

Ring-necked Duck: Numbers tailed off steeply in Dec. Three Jan reports: L. Rosche had one on the 1st and eight on the 21st of Jan at Lk Rockwell, and D&A Chasar one in Northfield, Summit, on the 24th. Again, perhaps wild weather brought a spate of birds on 9 Feb (11 on the Henry/Williams county line by J. Yochum), 10 Feb (one at BCSP by D. Overacker and three in Funk by S. Snyder), and 11 Feb (163 in Hamilton by J. Lehman). No further Feb reports were made until more normal dates of 25 Feb, with 150 on Clark Lk, Clark (Overacker) and 150 at Killbuck on the 26th (R. Harlan, S. Wagner).

Greater Scaup: Where were they? Many veterans reported none. J. Pogacnik's frequent surveys from Lakeshore MP in Lake totaled 12 birds during the period. Neither the Magee nor the Ottawa censuses had any to report. The high count was a puny 20 birds, from the last day of the period, at Oberlin Beach (D. Sanders et al.). All the CBCs combined came up with 110 birds—with two on the Lake Erie Isl count of 30 Dec, 15 from Cleveland on 16 Dec, and a high count of 75 from the 23 Dec Mentor count. The ODOW aerial surveys, counting scaup spp, estimated 40,000+ on 1 Dec, 6000 on 15 Dec, and 8000 on 15 Jan. One knowledgeable observer remarked that huge numbers often gather in western Sandusky Bay areas where few birders have access...could be.

Lesser Scaup: More reported than of greater scaup, but still drastically down from normal—or at least out of sight somewhere. We had a total of 2212 from all the CBCs, and a high count otherwise of ~100 at Clark Lk in *Clark* on 25 Feb (**D. Overacker**).

Harlequin Duck: A first-year male was discovered in the Maumee R at Grand Rapids, *Wood/Lucas*, on 30 Dec (**C. Anderson**), and stayed, displaying a near-complete sequence of molt into alternate plumage, well into the next period for m obs.

Surf Scoter: A poor winter for scoters. All records of this, normally the most numerous scoter, follow: on 2 Dec, three were in *Lake* (**J. Pogacnik**) and one at S. Bass Isl (**S. Wulkowicz**); on 1 Jan one was in Cleveland (**J. Hammond**) and one at Eastlake PP (**N. Barber**). Two on CBCs.

White-winged Scoter: Both reports came from New Year's Day: one in *Lake* (**J. Pogacnik**), and two ad males at Eastlake PP (**N. Barber**). One on CBCs.

Black Scoter: All reports: a female was at Wellington Res, *Lorain*, on 9 Dec (**J. McCormac**), and one in Painesville on 10 Dec (**L. Rosche**). Eight birds flew by Lakeshore MP, *Lake*, on 21 Jan (**J. Pogacnik**), and another on 10 Feb. Another female was found in *Lake* on 4 Feb (**McCormac**). Two were off Kelleys Isl on 24 Feb (**T. Bartlett**). None on CBCs.

Scoter sp.: Three scoters of indeterminate species passed Vermilion on 2 Dec (**J. Hammond et al.**).

Long-tailed Duck: Fifteen were reported, with a high count of four off MBSP on 25 Feb (**G. Links**). All were in Lk Erie save for a bird **D. Overacker** found at BCSP on 16 Dec, and a female who spent 1 Jan (**G. Miller**) through the period among the throngs at Castalia Pond (m obs).

Bufflehead: As usual, the largest numbers congregated off the Lk Erie Isls, where **S. Wulkowicz** reported 600+ off S. Bass Isl on 1 Dec. A good count at Avon Lk PP was ~150 on 6 Jan (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**). Off Kelleys Isl, 87 remained on 24 Feb (**T. Bartlett**).

Common Goldeneye: Not a big season for goldeneyes, or for any diving duck. High count was of migrants off Kelleys Isl, of 1267 on 24 Feb (**T. Bartlett**). Fall migrants peaked at 300+ off S. Bass Isl on 13 Dec (**S. Wulkowicz**). For this species, as for others, there was a curious spike on 9 Feb and ensuing days: 80+ at MBSP on the 9th (**V. Fazio**), 155 off *Lake* on the 10th (**J. Pogacnik**), 26 at Hoover Res the same day (**R. Thorn**), then on the 11th 115 in Sandusky Bay (**Fazio**), 221 off *Lake* (**Pogacnik**), and 15 at BCSP (**D. Overacker**).



This first-winter male harlequin duck lingered on the Maumee River, Wood and Lucas Cos., from late December 2000 well into the next season. Photo by Bill Whan on 6 January 2001.



Taking advantage of open water, this female long-tailed duck delighted many at Castalia Pond, Erie Co. Photo by Joe Hammond on 8 January 2001.

Hooded Merganser: A big late push of southbound migrants produced 235 at Hoover Res on 10 Dec (**R. Thorn**). Mid-winter reports included two at Avon Lk PP on 1 Jan (**J. Hammond**), one at Bayshore on 9 Jan (**A. Osborn**), five in the Cuyahoga R in Cleveland on 27 Jan (**L. Rosche**), a male at Avon Lake PP on 28 Jan (**D. Rickard**), three at Hoover Res on 5 Feb (**Hammond**), 14 at Camp Dennison, *Hamilton*, on 11 Feb (**J. Lehman**), and 10 at Ashtabula on 12 Feb (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**). On the return migration, 60+ were in *Columbiana* on 24 Feb for **B&D Lane**.

Common Merganser: Much less numerous than usual. Fall migrants peaked at 326 on the 17 Dec Magee census (**H&S Hiris**), then 800+ in Cleveland on the 24th (**S. Zadar**). No numbers so large were reported in Jan. Some peaks occurred in the now-familiar surge of birds on and just after 9 Feb, with ~1700 on the 9th at MBSP (**V. Fazio**), and at Lakeshore MP with 480 on the 10th and 566 on the 11th (**J. Pogacnik**). More timely migrants were seen in the last week of Feb, such as ~45 at Pleasant Hill Lk on the 28th (**S. Snyder**). A huge majority of birds reported as to sex were males.

Red-breasted Merganser: Very scarce during mid-winter, according to reports. The fall migration still produced 2000+ off S. Bass Isl on 1 Dec (**S. Wulkowicz**). The last inland reports during mid-winter came from the mouth of the Little Miami R, with nine birds on 6 Jan (**F. Renfrow**), and EFSP, with two birds on 11 Jan (**H. Armstrong**). By late Feb, migrants were again passing through, with 17 birds at Findlay Res on the 27th (**B. Hardesty**), and ~75 birds at Pleasant Hill Lk on the following day (**S. Snyder**).

Ruddy Duck: Passed south before the period, and north afterward for the most part. Mid-winter birds were few, with one on the 31 Dec ONWRC, four at Lk Rockwell on 16 Dec (**L. Rosche**), and a bird at Cowan Lk SP on 8 Feb (**L. Gara**).

Osprey: One was reliably described from the Hamilton-Fairfield CBC of 16 Dec for a very unusual winter record (**M. Busam et al.**). Oddly enough, this CBC holds the all-time record for ospreys—two birds in 1997; see Tom Kemp's article in this issue.

Bald Eagle: Over 120 reported, and from some unusual locales. Good luck came in thirteens, it seemed, as 13 eagles were seen at Mosquito Lk WA on 3 Dec (**J. Heflich et al.**), on 6 Dec in Athens (**S. Moody**), and on 7 Jan on the Maumee R in *Wood* (**J. Smithers**). By the end of the period, 66 nests had been discovered statewide, according to DOW, and the period's last survey found 204 eagles. The CBCs found 104.

Northern Harrier: About 140 reported, with a high count of 19 at Killdeer on 28 Jan (**R. Sempier**). Nine were at The Wilds on 15 Jan (**J. Bens**), and ~10 at Woodbury WA on 1 Feb (**B. Royse**). Six were in *w. Hamilton* on 20 Dec (**P. Wharton**).

Sharp-shinned Hawk: Thirty-two reported, with 102 for the CBCs.

Cooper's Hawk: Eighty-eight reported, with 241 for the CBCs.

Northern Goshawk: The only report came from *Paulding* on 7 Feb, an imm bird (**D&M Dunakin**).

Red-shouldered Hawk: A hundred years ago and earlier this was Ohio's most numerous hawk, and **D. Best** pointed out that its numbers in the northeast have rebounded so well that they rival those of red-tails: on the Burton CBC 53 red-shoulders were counted, and 76 redtails. **R. Thorn** described a "slow recolonization of Columbus riparian areas." **E. Tramer** noted single birds in *Lucas* on 1, 15, 17, and 19 Jan, and 27 Feb. Overall 122 statewide in the CBCs.

Red-tailed Hawk: **D. Dister** reported a "western intermediate adult" in *Preble* on 6 Jan. The CBCs tallied a respectable 1670.

Rough-legged Hawk: Over 150 were reported other than on CBCs, with nearly all birds in the northern half of the state. High count was 14 birds at The Wilds on 10 Feb (J. Larson). D. Best reported an exceptional showing in Geauga, with 29 sightings during the period; D. Ferris found them at nine locations in the southern part of the county alone. At times, counts of rough-legged hawks at Funk and Killdeer WAS showed nearly half dark-plumaged birds, an unusually high proportion. Southward, one was in Hamilton on 25 Dec (N. Cade et al.), and another in Warren on 20 Jan (J. Habig et al.).

Golden Eagle: J. McCormac spotted a subadult, probably a second-year bird, at The Wilds on two occasions: on 30 Dec (w/ M. Lynd, H. Nagy, J. Switzer) and on 27 Jan (w/ B. Master, M. Woo-Lun, K. Archibald). The Chandlersville CBC of 30 Dec reported one.

Merlin: Only nine reports other than from CBCs, most far to the north, with one at the traditional Bath, Summit, location on 14 Jan (L. Rosche). High counts were two (an ad and a female/imm) in Parma on 8 Dec (G. Leidy) and two (ad male and ad female) seen wintering at Spring Grove Cem in Cincinnati from 24 Dec (L. Brumbaugh) through the period (J. Hays, m obs).

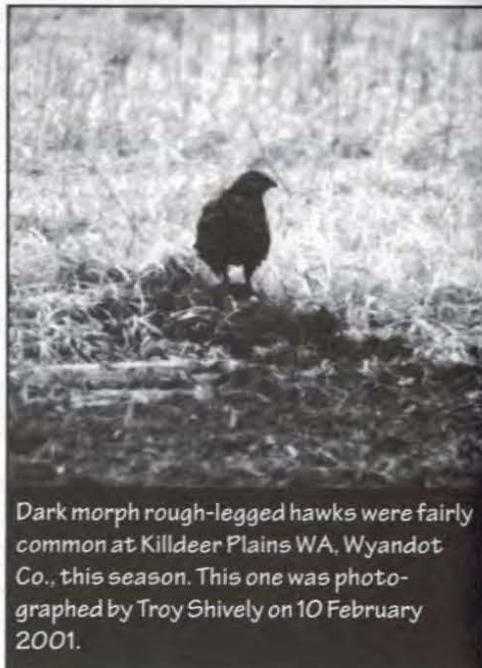
Peregrine Falcon: Few birds demonstrably outside the introduced population were reported. F. Renfrow saw one with prey in Warren on 21 Jan.

Wild Turkey: On 16 Dec, the Millersburg CBC found 430 in central Holmes. The Cleveland CBC had turkeys for the first time ever, 13 on 16 Dec.

Virginia Rail: Several interesting records. On 13 Dec J. Pogacnik found a personal first for Lake. The Millersburg CBC found two on 16 Dec, as in recent years, and the birds remained through at least 5 Jan (B. Glick). M. Tawse described two in Richland on 16 Dec for the Mansfield CBC. D. Dister had one at SVWA on 1 Jan, and N. Cade one at MWW on 4 Feb.

American Coot: D. Tensmeyer found a good flock of ~1000 at Camp Dennison in Hamilton on 2 Dec. Birds found in mid-winter included three in Cleveland and two at Avon Lk on 1 Jan, then three at Castalia on 3 Jan (all J. Hammond). B. Glick saw 15 on 15 Jan in Zanesville, and L. Rosche 21 on the Cuyahoga R in Cleveland on 27 Jan. Migrants included 112 on 24 Feb at Killbuck (S. Snyder).

Sandhill Crane: Thirty-eight reports, totaling nearly 700 birds, mostly between 1 and 27 Dec and after 19 Feb, and nearly all in the western half of the state. Later, one was near Ottawa on 14 Feb and another at Killdeer the following day (both J. Hammond), the latter remaining through the end of the period. 19 Feb brought birds in several places, one at Hueston Wds SP (N. Compton et al.), three in Hamilton (A. Fix), and 20 in Clermont (T. Stanley), then another 20 over Paulding on the 20th (M&D Dunakin), after which apparent migrants peaked at ~40 in Lucas (fide G. Links) on the last day of the period. The CBCs reported a total of 28.



Dark morph rough-legged hawks were fairly common at Killdeer Plains WA, Wyandot Co., this season. This one was photographed by Troy Shively on 10 February 2001.

Killdeer: The latest fall migrants reported came from 17 Dec, 16 birds at EFSP (D. Brinkman). The only mid-winter report was of a New Year's Day bird at The Wilds (D. Horn, B. Conlon). The big SW winds of 9 Feb brought the first returnees: one in Holmes (E. Schlabach), one in Geauga (K. Metcalf), and 13 at MBSP (V. Fazio).

Purple Sandpiper: Five to 10 birds were found and reported, most in Dec. One found during the fall at HBSP grew to two on 2 Dec (J. Hammond et al.), then three on 9 Dec (J. McCormac et al.), and one remained as late as the 25th (R. Hannikman fide B. Winger). C. Holt discovered one at Walnut Beach, Ashtabula, on 3 Dec, where J. Pogacnik found one on the 10th. A bird was at E. 72nd St in Cleveland on 23 Dec (Hannikman fide L. Rosche), and apparently remained on 6 Jan (C. Wolcott). Two were at Avon Lk PP on 28 Dec (J. Pogacnik), and the same observer had another in Ashtabula on 1 Jan.

Dunlin: Birds lingered into Dec, with eight at Walnut Beach, Ashtabula, on 3 Dec (C. Holt) and five at Bayshore, Lucas, for the CBC on 17 Dec and on the 18th for G. Links.

Common Snipe: Perhaps settled in were five on 2 Dec at BCSP (D. Overacker), but three at the Cuyahoga County airport on 16 Dec may have come to regret their choice (P. Lozano). Deep-winter birds were found in small numbers in the southern counties, such as on 30 Dec in Hamilton (N. Keller et al.), 18 Jan at SVWA (K. Beal), two in Hamilton on 28 Jan (M. Busam), and one at MWW on 28 Feb (Keller et al.). Two seen in Washington on 27 Feb may have been returning (B. Placier).

American Woodcock: A rash of reports came from the early date of 7 Feb: four calling in Clermont (C&S Clingman), one calling in Adams (L. Miller), and another at Gilmore Ponds, Butler, where 12 were present by the 22nd (M. Busam). By the 16th a bird had reached Lake (J. Pogacnik) and by the 19th Geauga (K. Metcalf).

Little Gull: All reports came from Dec, with two at HBSP (H. Petruschke) and two at GPI (S. Zadar) on the 17th, later three on the 30th in Lakewood (P. Lozano), then two ad and two 2nd-yr birds in Lake on the 31st (J. Pogacnik).

Bonaparte's Gull: Pretty much on schedule, with most departing in mid-Dec, as with ~150 seen at Hoover Res on 10 Dec (R. Thorn), though a count of 685 in Lake on 31 Dec was unusual. A few singletons were seen in early Jan, on the 1st at Avon Lk (D. Sanders), and on the 4th (B. Winger) and the 7th (G. Leidy) at E. 72nd St in Cleveland. On the rebound, two were seen on 28 Feb at GPI (S. Zadar).

Iceland, Thayer's, glaucous, and lesser black-backed gulls were all present in autumn, but none was reported during the first half of Dec. Between late Dec and mid-Jan, good numbers of birds of these species were conveniently observed at warm-water outlets in Cleveland (E. 55th - E. 72nd Sts to GPI) and at the Avon Lk power plant. Reports from places like HBSP, which in the following period were Meccas for gull-watchers, were pretty much non-existent during this period. Before and after this period of colder weather and iced-over shorelines elsewhere, a few were seen at spots to the west as far as the Toledo area and east to Lake and sparingly Ashtabula. Among the white-winged species, glaucous gulls were the most numerous, followed closely by Thayer's gulls, with Icelands least numerous. Still more lesser black-backed gulls were found, and while they too concentrated at the warm waters, they were distributed more widely across the lakefront in warmer weeks, and even inland on three occasions.

Estimating the true numbers of these gulls involved determining, by numbers of each age reported, a minimum number of each species at each location, then subtracting from the total number thus arrived at those seen during warm days on waters later or earlier frozen, and gulls likely to have been seen in transit from roosts to foraging areas.

All in all, it seems numbers of these species were not as large as they might have seemed, but that opportunities to observe a large portion of those present closely and repeatedly made for excellent gull-watching.

Ring-billed Gull: Probable migrants numbering ~1200 were a record for Winton Wds, *Hamilton*, on 7 Dec (**J. Stenger**). **J. Pogacnik** counted ~8500 at Lorain on 16 Dec. **H. Slack** noted a northbound movement in *Lawrence* on 11 Feb. On 7 Feb, **E. Tramer** drove 20+ mi from Maumee to Grand Rapids in *Lucas* along the river without seeing a single ring-billed, but over in *Lake J. Pogacnik* counted 14,880 passing Lakeshore MP on the 10th. Two thousand at BCSP on 25 Feb was a good count of migrants (**D. Overacker**), perhaps aided by strong SW winds.

Herring Gull: Large numbers included ~6500 at Lorain on 16 Dec (**J. Pogacnik**), then 5000+ at E. 72nd St in Cleveland on 31 Dec (**B. Winger**), and 10,000+ at Avon Lk the following day (**J. Hammond**).

Thayer's Gull: Twenty-five reports totaling 40 birds, with fifteen individuals probably involved. The greatest concentrations were at the power-plant outflows in Cleveland and Avon Lk, with a high count of three birds at Cleveland on 24 Feb (**S. Zadar**) and four at Avon Lk on 2 Jan (**J. Pogacnik**). The first and last of the period were reported from Cleveland, a 1st-winter bird on 24 Dec (**H. Petruschke**) and **Zadar's** adults of 24 Feb.

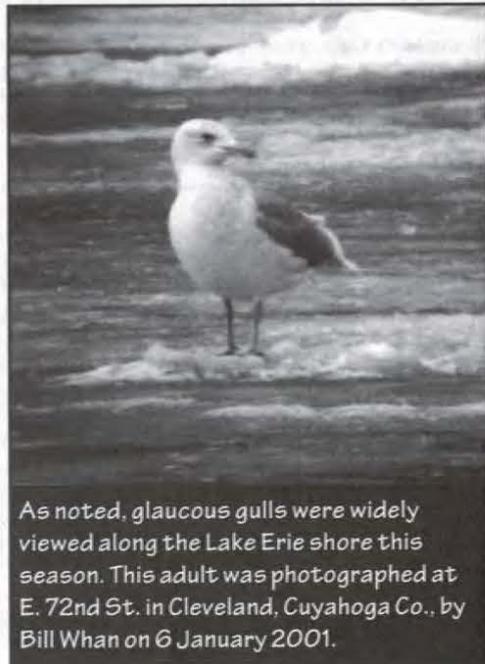
Iceland Gull: Twenty-four reports, of 32 birds. As many as seven or eight individuals were probably involved. By far the majority were found near E. 72nd St in Cleveland, where the high count was four on 2 Jan (**S. Zadar**), and the latest of the period were of a 1st-winter and a 2nd-winter bird there on 28 Feb (**B. Whan et al.**). A good find elsewhere was an imm bird in Toledo on 2 Jan (**A. Osborn**).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Forty-one reports totaled 92 birds. As many as 20 individuals were probably involved, almost completely at Cleveland and Avon Lk between late Dec and the end of Jan. Demonstrating the erratic wanderings of gulls—and the consequent ease of overestimating their numbers—was the discovery of an odd and distinctive pink-legged adult in three locations over two weeks: on 16 Dec at Lorain (**J. Pogacnik**), near E. 55th St in Cleveland on 29 Dec (**D. Sanders**), and at the Avon Lk PP on 30 Dec (**B. Winger**). High count at Avon Lk was five on 3 Jan (**J. Hammond**), and nine in Cleveland on 28 Jan (**V. Fazio**). In the west, **E. Tramer** found two on the Maumee River in *Lucas* on 28 Jan. Other unusual inland sightings came from Walborn Res on 1 Dec (**B. Morrison**) and Oberlin Res (two adults) on 9 Dec (**J. McCormac et al.**).

Glaucous Gull: Forty-nine reports totaled 89 birds. As many as 15 birds were probably involved, the lion's share frequenting Cleveland and Avon Lk between 21 Dec and mid-Jan; the high count was five at the former location, on 4 Jan (**B. Winger**), and seven at the latter, on 8 Jan (**E. Schlabach**). The species persisted through the period, with a 1st-winter bird at E. 72nd St on 28 Feb (**D. Sanders et al.**).

Great Black-backed Gull: The statewide CBC total was 503.

Black-legged Kittiwake: An adult bird was reported from Caesar Ck SP on 2 Dec; details were sent to the OBRC for this much less frequently-seen plumage. An imm bird was seen at Bayshore on 18 Dec (**M. Anderson fide G. Links**) after having been counted the previous day for the CBC.



As noted, glaucous gulls were widely viewed along the Lake Erie shore this season. This adult was photographed at E. 72nd St. in Cleveland, Cuyahoga Co., by Bill Whan on 6 January 2001.

Snowy Owl: Somewhat more numerous than in the fall, and no more faithful to most locations. One at Pt. Clinton on 3 Dec (**H. DiCarlo**) stayed only through the next day (**A. Osborn**). One was at HBSP on 3 Dec, and two there on the 10th (**L. Rosche**). A bird from the previous period continued at Conneaut through 4 Dec (**H. Petruschke**), and that at Kelleys Isl till 6 Dec (**B. Coleman fide B. Phillips**). **J. Pogacnik** saw one at Lorain on 16 Dec, **G. Links** one at Bayshore on the 18th, and **F. Greenland** another at Burke airport in Cleveland on the 21st. **V. Fazio** reported one at Resthaven WA, *Erie*, on the 27th, and one in *Wyandot* 28 Dec-11 Jan at least. **Pogacnik** found one in Ashtabula on 1 Jan. The owl near Wilmington ended an epic stay of 9+ weeks on 7 Feb (**L. Gara**). Latest reports were of one at HBSP on 9 Feb (**K. Metcalf**) and one the following day in Ashtabula (**Pogacnik**). How many observers are just guessing whether darker birds are females or immatures, and how many are looking carefully at tail markings?

Barn Owl: Some wintered, as five were counted by the Millersburg CBC. **E. Schlabach** reported a pair wintering in a nest box near Sugarcreek in *Holmes*, as well. **S. Snyder** discovered one at Killbuck, *Wayne*, on 10 Jan, and **J. Larson** another in *The Wilds, Muskingum*, on 10 Feb.

Long-eared Owl: Three tried to avoid the crowds in the Killdeer pine grove by roosting in a cedar tree along the county road; the crowds followed (period, m obs). Otherwise no Dec owls were reported except for one that stayed 16 Dec through the period at GPI (**S. Zadar**). **R. Thorn** found one in *Franklin* on 1 Jan, **L. Rosche** one in *Akron* on 2 Jan and one in Cleveland on 14 Jan, and **D. Overacker** one in *Clark* on 7 Jan. Two were in *Stark* 4-11 Feb (**B. Morrison**), and another duo near the Ottawa parking lot on 25 Feb (**G. Links**).



Long-eared owls at Killdeer Plains WA, Wyandot Co., sought refuge in a roadside cedar tree. This one, however, did not escape the camera of Troy Shively as he took this photo on 10 February 2001.

Short-eared Owl: Over 85 reported, from the following counties: *Darke, Fairfield, Geauga, Wyandot, Lucas, Ross, Wayne, Portage, Defiance, Hamilton, Columbiana, Holmes, Coshocton, Madison, Licking, Butler, and Cuyahoga*. High counts were 13 at Killdeer on 26 Feb (**B. Royse**) and 12+ near Elkton in *Columbiana* through the period (**B&D Lane**).

Northern Saw-whet Owl: Fewer than usual were found at Killdeer, where 1-4 were present through the end of the period. **S. Zadar** detected two at GPI on 14 Dec that persisted through 25 Feb; he inferred from pellets etc., that as many as 8-10 migrants frequented the area during the period. One was at the Cinci Nature Ctr on 11 Dec (**E. Bonkamp**), and another at Caesar Ck SP 17-20 Jan (**S. Reeves, J. Habig**).

Rufous Hummingbird: Persisting since early Nov at a feeder in Union Twp in *Clermont* was a hummer reported as this species (see photo in previous issue), and last seen on 12 Dec (**M. Arn, M. McCarty fide N. Keller**). Details are with the OBRC.

Red-headed Woodpecker: M. Hershberger on 1 Jan found 31 in *Holmes*, a remarkable 23 of them in a single 12-acre woodlot. In the north, K. Metcalf noted 3-4 wintering in N. Chagrin Res'n, and B&D Lane 6 ad and an imm at Berlin Res on 13 Feb.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: 15 at Ira Rd in the CVNP (T&M Romito) on 1 Jan, then 9 on 26 Feb.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Beyond the more-expected reports from southern counties, birds in the central counties included 3-4 in Columbus between 17 Dec and 13 Jan (R. Thorn), and a female in Westerville, *Franklin*, on 19 Dec (J. Howard). In Lakewood, P. Lozano found one on 10 Dec, L. Deininger one in *Coshocton* on 11 Dec, and K. Metcalf an imm at N. Chagrin Res'n on 27 Dec. In the Toledo area, E. Tramer had a male and female daily 1-7 Jan, and C. Gajewicz a bird in the Oak Openings 28 Jan. Statewide CBC total was 60.

Downy Woodpecker: The 31 Dec ONWRC found 36. CBC total statewide was 3879.

Northern Flicker: Among others, wintering in northern counties through the period were birds in the Ravenna Training and Logistics Site, *Portage* (L. Rosche), S. Bass Isl (S. Wulkowicz), and Holden Arboretum, *Lake* (D. Rickard).

Eastern Phoebe: Southern birds included one on 25 Dec at Shawnee Lookout (N. Cade) and 23 Jan in Milford (W. Hull), both in *Hamilton*. B. Placier reported one overwintered in *Hocking*, commencing song on 3 Mar. The 16 Dec Millersburg CBC found one, and one was in Painesville on 8 Dec (J. Pogacnik), with another in *Trumbull* on 17 Dec (L. Warren, C. Babyak).

Northern Shrike: A shrike at Ottawa on 3 Dec (ONWRC) persisted through at least 11 Jan (M. Warren). One at Killdeer 13 Dec (B. Shively) through at least 24 Feb (L. Gara) was erratically seen. A bird reported by E. Durbin at Irwin Prairie, *Lucas*, on 28 Feb had apparently spent the period there (E. Tramer). J. Heflich saw one at Mosquito Lk on 3 Dec. Two birds were discovered in *Hancock* spots about ten miles distant, one on 6 Feb (B. Hardesty) and another on 23 Jan (W. Seiler *vide* Hardesty). There was a shrike around Fairport most of the period, reported 10 Dec (H. Petruschke), then 21 and 28 Jan and 11 Feb (L. Rosche). J. Pogacnik saw one in *Ashtabula* on 10 Dec, and another in *Lake* on 15 Dec. T. Shively found one in *Logan* on 21 Jan, and A. Fondrk one in *Geauga* on 28 Feb. Nine found on the CBCs.

American Crow: F. Renfrow (see note in this issue) estimated 70,000 in the Cincinnati roost. A roost of at least 20,000 defied municipal noisemakers to remain in Springfield through the period (D. Overacker).

Horned Lark: Widespread as usual. Large counts included 300+ in *Hamilton* 17 Dec (L. Peyton), ~100 in *Champaign* on 31 Dec (D. Overacker), 250+ in *Columbiana* on 19 Jan (B&D Lane), 250 in *Tuscarawas* on 27 Jan (E. Schlabach), and ~200 near Ottawa on 14 Feb (J. Hammond), but the clear winner was ~2000 reported by P. Wharton from western *Hamilton* on 20 Dec, where the CBC of 23 Dec reported 2676 birds. K. Metcalf reported 25+ migrants at HBSP on 9 Feb.

Black-capped Chickadee: One was out of range in *Hocking* on 2 Jan (D. Horn).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Smallish numbers wintered in the northeast, where high counts came from Lk Rockwell, with 12 on 3 Dec and 10 on 21 Jan (L. Rosche). F. Renfrow noted several in *Hamilton*, at Spring Grove Cem 17 Dec-22 Feb, and at Indian Hill 12 Dec-2 Feb. Birds frequented feeders in the glaciated counties through the period in *Hancock* (B. Hardesty) and *Lucas* (E. Tramer). Statewide, CBCs found 166.

Brown Creeper: Twenty-one were counted on S. Bass Isl on 2 Jan (S. Wulkowicz). Wintered elsewhere around the state in much smaller numbers. D&A Chasar noticed the first in song in the CVNP on 25 Feb. CBC total was 387.

Carolina Wren: Many reported in the north, where they have apparently recovered from mortalities in the late 70s. Eight relished balmy S. Bass Isl on 18 Dec (S. Wulkowicz), and four were found in Lakewood on 30 Dec by T. LePage and T. Leiden (*vide* P. Lozano).

Winter Wren: Few reports, mostly from the far south, with a high count of two at Gilmore Ponds, *Butler*, on 7 Jan (M. Busam). T&M Romito saw one in the CVNP on 8 Jan. P. Lozano had one in Lakewood on 10 Dec.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: Some veterans regarded them as reduced in numbers this winter. High counts came from southern areas, and before the holiday freeze-up, as 17 at EFSP (D. Brinkman) on 17 Dec and 22 at Spring Grove Cem, *Hamilton* (N. Cade) on 23 Dec. The Millersburg CBC of the previous day tallied 54. Odd were two who fed on suet crumbs at a feeder in *Holmes* through the period (L. Yoder).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Eleven reports, all singles, throughout the period outside of CBCs was excellent: 3 Dec on the ONWRC, *Hamilton* 23 Dec (N. Cade), another there the 30th (J. Stenger), Salt Fork SP on 2 Jan (J. Larson), in *Washington* on 14 Jan (B. Placier), 21 Jan in *Hamilton* (B. Stanley et al.), 1 Feb on S. Bass Isl (S. Wulkowicz), 4 Feb at Crown City WA (P. Gottschling), and birds on 20 Feb at GPI (S. Zadar), EFSP (H. Armstrong), and Camp Berry, *Hancock* (B. Hardesty). CBCs claimed 21 birds.

Eastern Bluebird: Twenty-five in Antwerp, *Paulding*, on 10 Dec before the cold weather was a good number for the area (D&M Dunakin), and 20 at Woodbury WA, *Coshocton*, on 1 Feb a good one for afterwards (B. Royse).

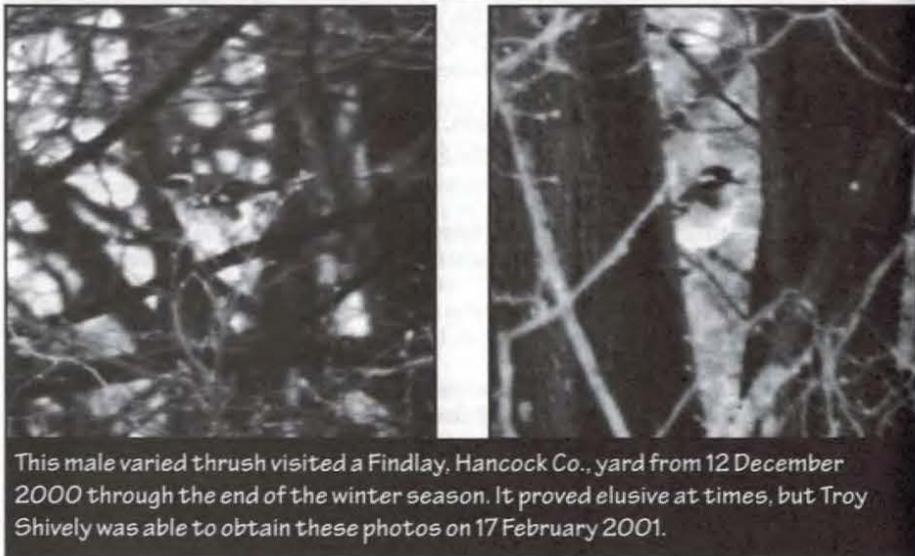
Townsend's Solitaire: Most birders in the state, and not a few from elsewhere, swelled the modest winter crowds at Holden Arboretum, *Lake*, to see a solitaire sharing the *Ilex* and winterberry plantings with a resident mockingbird. Discovered by I. Adams on 17 Jan, it ended a record stay on 21 Feb (J. Gause *vide* L. Rosche). It was Ohio's fourth confirmed record, or perhaps the fifth, as belated documentation has surfaced supporting an old report, not accepted by the OBRC, of a bird of this species at the "owl grove" at Killdeer in Nov of 1998; the OBRC is recirculating both.

Hermit Thrush: Found as usual in more southern locales, as well as in the Lk Erie Islands, where a healthy 37 were found on the 30 Dec CBC. Further north, and before the coldest weather, two were in the Oak Openings on 2 Dec (E. Tramer) and one in Bowling Green on 6 Dec (C. Gajewicz). One was in *Delaware* on 6 Jan (J. Hammond), and the hardest of all was observed 7-13 Jan in *Geauga* (A. Fondrk). The CBC statewide total was 121.

American Robin: Nearly universally described as more numerous than usual; E. Tramer called their numbers the highest he'd ever seen overwintering in the Toledo area, for example. There and elsewhere, reports of triple-figure flocks through the period were widespread. CBCs counted 19,434 statewide.

Varied Thrush: A. Wymer discovered a male coming to her feeder in Findlay on 12 Dec, a day with winds gusting to 50 mph+, and she and her family—and the bird—graciously put up with a host of observers through the end of the period. A second varied thrush was less outgoing, coming to a yard in *Lucas* only from 14-17 Dec (J&D Smith *vide* G. Links). For the first time, Ohio CBCs reported two. See photographs on the following page.

Northern Mockingbird: Continues to gain ground northward. One at Ottawa on 3 Dec was rather unusual. Forty were tallied on the Millersburg CBC of 16 Dec, and eight were seen for the Cleveland CBC on the same day.



This male varied thrush visited a Findlay, Hancock Co., yard from 12 December 2000 through the end of the winter season. It proved elusive at times, but Troy Shively was able to obtain these photos on 17 February 2001.

Brown Thrasher: One was found in Spring Grove Cem in Cincinnati on 17 Dec (N. Cade), J. Fry had one in *Hocking* on 26 Dec, and T. Fitzpatrick another through the period at his *Clermont* farm. D. Styer had one in the Mt. Airy Forest in *Hamilton* on 11 Jan, and one was discovered at the Oak Openings, *Lucas*, on 24 Jan (A. Osborn). One at a feeder in Lakewood on 30 Dec was a nice find (N. Klamm *vide* P. Lozano).

European Starling: 132,922 counted on the CBCs took first place for most numerous species of the season. Hooray.

American Pipit: Most reports came from December; 12 on the 2nd in *Holmes* (E. Schlabach), one the 9th at BCSP (D. Overacker), two the 19th in *Holmes* (L. Yoder), and seven in Cincinnati on the 25th (N. Cade). D. Dister found a bird in Dayton on 31 Jan, and Overacker three at BCSP on 11 Feb. The CBCs reported 59.

Cedar Waxwing: Three- and four-figure reports came from Dec: 220 in *Lucas* on the 1st (E. Tramer), 300+ in *Hamilton* the 13th (P. Wharton), 294 in *Hancock* on the 16th (B. Hardesty), 1389 at EFSP on the 17th (D. Brinkman), 2346 on the Cincinnati CBC, and 2092 on the *Adams* CBC (see note in this issue). In Jan, the high count was 70 in *Wayne* (L. Yoder).

Black-throated Blue Warbler: The last report of the remarkable Rocky River male of last fall came from 10 Dec (P. Lozano).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: The high counts were 57 in *Clermont* on 9 Dec (*vide* V. Brannen) and 34 birds at EFSP on 17 Dec for a bumper crop of red cedar fruit (D. Brinkman), followed closely by 33 on 24 Feb in *Washington* feeding on equally-abundant poison ivy berries (B. Placier). S.

Wulkowicz counted 26 on S. Bass Isl on 20 Dec at a traditional winter haunt. Other flocks were 14 on 2 Jan in *Delaware* (B. Shively) and 15 at Stage's Pond SNP in *Pickaway* on 24 Feb (B. Royse).

Palm Warbler: Undaunted, two persisted into December. One apparently sheltered near a light bulb left lit to keep a pump from freezing at a water plant in *Delaware* through at least 5 Dec (B. Shively). Another stuck it out on B. Stanley's front porch in *Hamilton* through 12 Dec.

Summer Tanager: A female established an extraordinary record by occupying a cracked-peanut feeder at a home in *Fairfield, Butler*, from at least 13 Dec through 23 Dec (F&M Krisher *vide* D. Styer). The bird was closely observed and described by Styer and duly tallied for the Hamilton-Fairfield CBC.

Eastern Towhee: Widely seen in the south, with a high count of nine at EFSP on 17 Dec (D. Brinkman). Records to the north were sparser, but included a bird in *Mahoning* on 2 Dec (B&D Lane) and one in N. Chagrin Res'n on 31 Dec (K. Metcalf).

American Tree Sparrow: The Lk Erie Isl CBC of 30 Dec tallied 942, but Ottawa's 31 Dec CBC had the high count of 1434. Eighty-five were in *Holmes* on 27 Jan (E. Schlabach), and ~300 in Killbuck on 10 Jan (S. Snyder). The 31 Dec census counted 550 at Ottawa, and 125 were at Sparrow Central at GPI on 27 Dec (S. Zadar).

Chipping Sparrow: Three reports, all from Dec: one on 2 Dec in *Clermont* (D. Morse), one at GPI on 8 Dec (S. Zadar), and one at a feeder in Chillicothe, *Ross*, on 26 Dec (*vide* J. McMahan).

Field Sparrow: Dec birds included one on 1 Dec in the Oak Openings (E. Tramer), one at HBSP the following day (H. Petruschke), one at a *Hancock* feeder on the 5th (M. Dailey *vide* B. Hardesty), and four at BCSP on the 29th (D. Overacker). One was at a feeder in *Hancock* on 2 Jan (S. Ross *vide* B. Hardesty) for the only mid-winter record. Mid-Feb brought the high count of 10 at EFSP on the 20th (H. Armstrong).

Savannah Sparrow: Six reports came from *Hamilton* through the period, led by 15 at MWW on 17 Dec (N. Cade). The Millersburg CBC found two on 16 Dec, and L. Yoder two in *Holmes* three days later. On the Lk Erie shore, S. Zadar noted birds among the sparrow throngs at GPI on 17 and 27 Dec, and R. Harlan and S. Wagner discovered one near Ottawa on 7 Jan.

Fox Sparrow: On 10 Dec, M. Busam found one at Gilmore Ponds, and B. Shively one in *Delaware*. An unusual number of Jan reports ensued, including a bird in *Hamilton* on 2 Jan (D. Hedeon), birds in *Hocking* on the 7th and 23rd (B. Placier), one at Caesar Ck SP (L. Gara) and one at Killbuck (L. Yoder) on the 13th, and another at Gilmore Ponds (Busam) on the 28th.

Swamp Sparrow: Traditional winterers in the Lk Erie marshes, six were tallied on the census of 31 Dec at Ottawa, and two were found on the Kelleys Isl census of 21 Jan (T. Bartlett). Fifteen at Jaitte in the CVNP were notable on 3 Dec (D&A Chasar), as was a bird at Lk Rockwell on 1 Jan (L. Rosche). High count was 30 in *Butler* on 30 Jan (J. Habig).

White-throated Sparrow: Notable flocks were 60 at BCSP on 16 Dec (D. Overacker) and 40 at Spring Grove Cem in Cincinnati on 22 Feb (F. Renfrow).

Harris's Sparrow: A 1st-winter bird found welcome forage near Apple Creek in *Wayne* from at least 1 Jan (A. Yoder), and the property owners also welcomed mobs from around the state through the end of the period.



Cavorting with other *Zonotrichia*, this Harris's sparrow (right) was enjoyed by many throughout the season near Apple Creek, Wayne Co. Photo by Troy Shively on 24 February 2001.

White-crowned Sparrow: A notable flock was one of 110 at Gilmore Ponds on 16 Dec (M. Busam).

Dark-eyed Junco: The Millersburg CBC of 16 Dec tallied 629. Three birds of the Oregon race were reported: HBSP on 26 Dec (L. Rosche), 1 Jan through the period at Hartsville (B. Morrison), and 26 Jan in Findlay hanging out with the varied thrush (V. Fazio). Rumors persist that this species may be resplit, so notes should be taken of sightings of other races of dark-eyed junco, although the Oregon race seems least likely to become a species in itself.

Lapland Longspur: The largest mid-winter flock was one of 200+ in Lucas from 24-26 Jan (E. Tramer). In Hamilton remarkable numbers were observed in the western part of the county, 130 on 20 Dec (P. Wharton) then 200 on 31 Dec (Wharton) and on 1 Jan (M. Busam et al.); careful scouting yielded a record 3034 for the 23 Dec Western Hamilton CBC. 140 were at Shawnee Lookout on 24 Dec for N. Cade, as well. Seldom numerous in Holmes in mid-winter, four were near Sugarcreek on 14 Jan and five near Ragersville on the 27th (both E. Schlabach). Riding the big blow of 9 Feb over MBSP were what could only have been early migrants—voluntary or involuntary—, 400 of them (V. Fazio). On a more regular schedule were 100+ along Washburn Rd near Killdeer on 24 Feb (J. McCormac).

Snow Bunting: Triple-figure counts included: 262 on the 3 Dec ONWRC, 259 in Hancock on 16 Dec (B. Hardesty), 150+ on S. Bass Isl 20 Dec (S. Wulkowicz), 150+ in Columbiana on 6 Jan (B&D Lane), ~500 in Hancock on the same day (J. Kuenzli), 150 at Killdeer on 8 Jan (R. Harlan, S. Wagner), 150+ on 24 Jan in Defiance (J. Yochum), and ~800 in a mowed field in Lucas 24-36 Jan (E. Tramer). The 50-mph+ SW winds of 9 Feb probably stirred up 300+ in Geauga (D. Ferris) and 140 overhead at MBSP (V. Fazio), as well as 120 in Ashtabula on the 10th (J. Pogacnik) and 83 at HBSP on the 11th (L. Rosche). 698 were on the Lk Erie Isl CBC of 30 Dec. One was far south in Ross on 2 Jan (J. Fry).

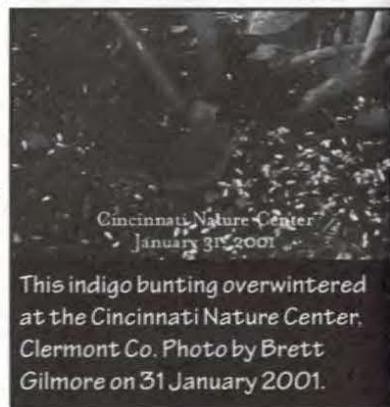
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: In a very rare winter appearance, one came to a feeder in Holmes, where L. Yoder saw it on 9 Dec.

Indigo Bunting: A male was noted at the Cincinnati Nature Center on 17 Jan (D. Tennant et al., ph) and remained, growing bluer and bluer, through the period. It was the second record of a well-documented overwintering indigo bunting, the other having occurred just last winter in Columbus.

Red-winged Blackbird: CBCs reported a modest total of 2529. No reports were received of large wintering flocks in the Lk Erie marshes; 700 overhead at MBSP on 9 Feb may have been local wintering birds or arrivals riding SW winds (V. Fazio). Most flocks characterized as freshly arrived dated from the second and third weeks of Feb: L. Rosche noted arriving flocks in Portage on the 12th, S. Zadar 84 at GPI on the 20th, and R. Royse arriving flocks numbering ~500 on 23 Feb in Columbus.

Eastern Meadowlark: Appreciable numbers appeared in Killdeer (30+ on 17 Jan, J. Hammond), Holmes (21 in the northeast on 1 Jan, L. Yoder; 25 near Walnut Ck on 4 Feb, J. Miller), and in Ross (15 on 3 Jan, J. Fry). Six were singing in the MWW on 11 Feb (M. Busam).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: Earlyish were two birds found in Lucas by G. Links on 24 Feb.



Cincinnati Nature Center
January 31, 2001

This indigo bunting overwintered at the Cincinnati Nature Center, Clermont Co. Photo by Brett Gilmore on 31 January 2001.

Rusty Blackbird: The Wilmot team had by far the high CBC count, 347 of the state's total of 409, on 16 Dec. Otherwise reported in small numbers throughout the period, with a high count of 50 birds near Funk WA on 25 Feb, which may have been early migrants (S. Snyder).

Common Grackle: Can be the most numerous bird in Ohio during the season (see Tom Kemp's article in this issue), but with a statewide CBC total of only 28,586 this year. Unusual was a bird coming regularly to a feeder through the period in Paulding (D&M Dunakin).

Purple Finch: Very few reports from the southern counties, oddly, as they generally have the greater part of these birds in the winter. CBC total was 133, led by Grand Rapids-Waterville's count of 43 on 30 Dec. L. Rosche emphatically reported none this winter from his area, and the high counts were only of duos, two males in Mahoning on 18 Dec (B&D Lane), two males in Hocking on 3 Dec (B. Placier), and a pair seen on four dates in mid-Feb in Coshocton (L. Deininger).

Red Crossbill: A flock of 2-3 birds at Holden Arboretum, first seen on 23 Dec (H. Petruschke) stayed through the period for many obs. One of the birds, a female, was found injured and taken to Penitentiary Glen across the street on 14 Jan (N. Barber), where it later expired; it was supposedly prepared as a specimen but apparently has since been lost (T. Mullen). These birds were repeatedly seen eating seeds of ponderosa pine *Pinus ponderosa* in Arboretum plantings. This food preference, and opinions of some observers that these birds possessed markedly large bills, fueled speculation that they might be of an unusual subspecies of this eminently—perhaps imminently—splittable bird. Elsewhere, L. Rosche found 1-2 at Lk Rockwell on 2 Dec, N. Cade had a female in Cincinnati on 9 Dec, and J. Pogacnik found two in Lorain on 2 Jan, then later on 10 Jan a flock of at least seven in Lake—observed feeding on hemlock seeds, more customary fare for Ohio crossbills. High count from CBCs was eight for Mentor on 23 Dec.



Two to three red crossbills appeared at Holden Arboretum, Lake Co., on 23 December 2000. These birds remained throughout the remainder of the winter season feeding on ponderosa pine cones. The male (left) and female above were photographed in February 2001 by Troy Shively.

Common Redpoll: A wretched season for winter finches, and redpolls especially. H. Petruschke reported a single bird at Holden Arboretum on 23 Dec. Eight reports from the CBCs statewide.

Pine Siskin: Sparingly found. All reports other than CBCs: one was in Granville, Licking, on 13 Dec (R. Thorn), "several" in Hocking Hills SP on 1 Jan (P. Gottschling), 10 the same day at Mohican SF (B. Glick), six near Wooster on 10 Jan (J. Larson) and seven there on the 13th (S. Snyder, L. Yoder), three in Lake on 21 Jan (J. Pogacnik), and one the same day in Lucas, then on 18 and 26 Feb (E. Tramer). J. Fry's feeders were the hot spot: he had 46 on 14 Dec, 1-4 from 15-22 Dec, three on 20 Jan, nine on 21 Jan, one on 3 Feb, five on 17 Feb, and one on 18 Feb.

American Goldfinch: J. Fry had 90-100 in *Hocking* on 20 Jan.

Evening Grosbeak: Virtually absent. D. Horn had two flyovers in *Hocking* on 18 Dec. One was found on the Lk Erie Isl CBC of 30 Dec, and two on the Gypsum CBC.

House Sparrow: Lamentably, the high CBC count of this exotic species came from Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, with 3442 birds.

CONTRIBUTORS: We are indebted to the help of the following birders who shared reports of their observations around the state and other data this winter: Ian Adams, Pam Adams, Lynne Aldrich, Chad Amos, Chuck Anderson, Matt Anderson, Keith Archibald, Hank Armstrong, Marilyn Arn, Carole Babyak, Zac Baker, Nick Barber, Dorothea Barker, Tom Bartlett, Erich Baumgardner, Sue Baxter, Kathy Beal, Andy Bens, Joe Bens, Andy Best, Adam Blank, Elmer Bonkamp, Bill Bosstic, Veronica Brannen, Liz Brennan, David Brinkman, Lori Brumbaugh, Jen Brumfield, Donald Burton, Mike Busam, Jason Cade, Neill Cade, Ann Chasar, Dwight Chasar, Chris Clingman, Suzanne Clingman, Delores Cole, Bill Coleman, Annie Collins, Nathan Compton, Bob Conlon, Denis Conover, Rich Cressman, Mable Dailey, Andrea Daily, Sarah Dalton, Donna Daniel, Jeff Davis, Tim Davis, Leo Deininger, Jen Dennison, Harry DiCarlo, David Dister, Doug Dunakin, Micki Dunakin, Eric Durbin, Curt Dusthimer, Elinor Elder, Marcus England, Bob Faber, Joe Faulkner, Vic Fazio, Duane Ferris, Doug Fisher, Tim Fitzpatrick, Andrew Fix, Andy Fondrk, Frank Frick, Jim Fry, Chris Gajewicz, John Games, Larry Gara, Lee Garling, Judie Gause, Ted Gilliland, Tami Gingrich, Bruce Glick, Peter Gottschling, Jeff Grabmeier, Darlena Graham, Bret Graves, Frank Greenland, John Habig, Don Hadley, Joe Hammond, Betty Hardesty, Rob Harlan, Paul Haskins, Jeff Hays, Dave Hedeon, Jim Heflich, Helen Hendrickson, Michael Hershberger, Hank Hiris, Sally Hiris, Dick Hoffman, Jean Hoffman, Chuck Holliday, Craig Holt, Gabe Hostetler, Dave Horn, Judy Howard, William Hull, Ned Keller, Kelley Kelley, Tom Kemp, Doug Kinslow, Nancy Klamm, Dorothy Kohl, Ron Kolde, Fred Krisher, Mary Ellen Krisher, John Kuenzli, Bob Lane, Denise Lane, Jason Larson, Amy Lavy, Jay Lehman, Tom Leiden, Gabe Leidy, Tom LePage, Ernie Limes, Greg Links, Doreene Linzell, Jerry Lippert, Jean Long, Paula Lozano, Mitch Lynd, James Marshall, Bernard Master, Winnie McClanahan, Jim McCormac, Kathy McDonald, Brian McGuire, Joe McMahon, Gary Meszaros, Kevin Metcalf, Greg Miller, Jeffrey Miller, Lucy Miller, Steve Miller, Mary Misplon, Scott Moody, Ben Morrison, Donald Morse, Tammy Mullen, Heather Nagy, Patti Niehoff, Rick Nirschl, Art Osborn, Ken Ostermiller, Doug Overacker, Maryellen Parlier, Shane Patterson, Steve Pelikan, Haans Petruschke, Lester Peyton, Brad Phillips, Ed Pierce, Brad Phillips, Bob Placier, John Pogacnik, Len Powlick, John Rakestraw, Barb Redmer, Scott Reeves, Grant Rettig, Steve Richards, Frank Renfrow, Jim Reyda, Steve Richards, Richard Rickard, Bill Rinehart, Roxanne Rinehart, Craig Reiker, Randel Rogers, Mary Anne Romito, Tom Romito, Larry Rosche, Sue Ross, Bob Royse, David Russell, Dave St. John, Dan Sanders, Winnie Sarno, Charlie Saunders, Gary Saxton, Regina Schieltz, Ed Schlabach, Wilma Seiler, Ron Sempier, Rod Sharpnack, John Shrader, Bill Shively, Troy Shively, Carol Skinner, Mark Skinner, Darlene Sillick, Harry Slack, Dave Smith, Jane Smith, Steve Smith, Su Snyder, Bill Stanley, Tammy Stanley, Gene Stauffer, Jay Stenger, Dave Styer, John Switzer, Merrill Tawse, David Tennant, Dave Tensmeyer, Tom Thomson, Rob Thorn, Elliot Tramer, Jack Volker, Janet Volker, Sandy Wagner, Leslie Warren, Mary Warren, Bob Welch, Ben Winger, Bill Whan, Pete Whan, Paul Wharton, David Whiteley, Ben Winger, Connie Wolcott, Marlene Woo-Lun, Scott Wright, Stan Wulkowicz, Arlene Wymer, John Yochum, Abe Yoder, Leroy Yoder, Norman Yoder, Sheryl Young, Sean Zadar, Kim Ziegel. We also received valuable assistance and information from the editors of *The Bobolink* and internet resources managed by V. Fazio, N. Keller, and C. Anderson.



An adult Ross's goose, discovered on 18 February 2001 at Old Reid Park, Clark Co., lounged around for several to enjoy over the next two days. Its small size, when directly compared to a Canada goose, is very apparent in the photograph. Photo by Joe Hammond on 18 February 2001.