

# Winter 2001-02 Reports

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**Red-throated Loon:** A juv offshore at Rocky River Pk persisted from at least 4 Dec (**J. Hammond** et al.) through 16 Dec (**C. Spagnoli**). One was at BCSP on 9 (**D. Overacker**) through 10 Dec (**L. Gara**), and another at HBSP on 22 Dec (**L. Rosche**) and at Fairport Hbr on 24 Dec (**B. Kovalsky** et al.). A returning migrant consorted with a submarine in Cleveland on 16 (**M. England**, m obs) and 17 Feb (**P. Lozano** et al.).

**Common Loon:** Migration continued throughout Dec. Inland highs were 18 on 3 Dec at Caesar Ck SP (**S. Reeves**) and 26 over *Holmes* on the 7<sup>th</sup> (**L. Yoder**), while on the *Erie* shore **J. Pogacnik's** LMP vigils tallied 84 on 9 Dec, 65 on 16 Dec, and 19 on the 30<sup>th</sup>. Making up the last hurrah were three on the Gypsum CBC of 1 Jan.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** Wintered in moderate numbers statewide, with high counts of 23 on the 21 Dec ONWRC and 17 at Fairport Hbr on 1 Jan (**L. Rosche**). In the Columbus area, as many as seven may have spent the season (**R. Thorn**), and seven at EFSP on 3 Jan (**B. Stanley**), four in Cleveland on 13 Jan (**B. Finkelstein**), one at the Independence Dam in *Defiance* 7-17 Jan (**J. Yochum**), five at LaDue Res 12 Jan (**A. Fondrk**), and one in *Clinton* 18-29 Jan (**L. Gara**) were unlikely to have been doing otherwise.

**Horned Grebe:** Unusually, statewide and winter-long. The high count was of 77 birds off LMP on 16 Dec (**J. Pogacnik**), and among mid-winter birds in the interior were one at Hoover Res in *Franklin* 22 Jan (**R. Thorn**), one at Wilmington Res 28 Jan (**E. Roush**), one at Wingfoot Lk, *Summit*, 30 Jan (**B. Morrison**), two at EFSP 31 Jan (**B. Stanley**), and three at Hoover 3 Feb (**Thorn**). A north-bounder was in Lk Kelso, *Geauga*, on 26 Feb (**J. Kolar**).

**Red-necked Grebe:** Three at Grand Lk St Marys on 10 Dec (**G. Miller**) were the last southbound migrants reported, but one at Caesar Ck SP on 9 Feb was more likely lost than heading north early (**S. Reeves**).

**Northern Gannet:** A juvenile that may well have been one that went rumored—but undocumented—for a week previous was seen on 28 Dec at Fairport Harbor and written up. Details are with the OBRC.

**Double-crested Cormorant:** Few showed up away from Lk Erie this season. Though as many as 860 occurred as late as 8 Dec at Bay View (**V. Fazio**), later only small Lakefront numbers were noted until the single most unusual sighting, 43 at Sandusky on 3 Feb (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**); no later evidence came to light to clarify if these were locals faithful to the roost during a mild winter.

**Great Blue Heron:** A concentration of 107 at EHSP on 4 Dec was notable (**V. Fazio**).

**Great Egret:** **E. Tramer** reported six remaining at CPNWR on 8 Dec, **J. Reyda** et al. had one at Firestone MP in Akron on 16 Dec, and one still hung on at Ottawa on the 24<sup>th</sup> (**J. Pogacnik**), the first day of the cold snap.

**Green Heron:** A very late bird remained on 15 Dec in *Holmes* to be documented by **A. Miller** et al. for the Millersburg CBC. December records are few and far between.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** The Toledo CBC tallied their traditional wintering birds, with 11 this time on 16 Dec. In Cleveland, 1-3 were along the Lakefront from 12 Jan (**A. Fondrk**) through at least 17 Feb (**P. Lozano**).

**Black Vulture:** Winter roosts seem established in the Cincinnati area (14' at EFSP 15 Dec by **R. Kolde**, 70 on the 30 Dec local CBC, 12 on 20 Jan at Miami Fort by **N. Keller**), in *Adams* (with 110 on its 15

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Dec CBC), in *Athens* (21 on the 16 Dec CBC), in *Holmes* (27 on 15 Dec near Lk Buckhorn by **E. Schlabach**, and 65 on the 15 Dec Millersburg CBC), in *Muskingum* (38 near New Concord on 3 Feb by **J. Larson**), and in *Licking* (63 in Granville on 13 Feb by **T. Nickerson**).

**Turkey Vulture:** A strong showing season-long. First, migrants straggled along in a balmy Dec, with individuals in *Paulding* on the 4<sup>th</sup> (**D&M Dunakin**) and *Geauga* on the 7<sup>th</sup> (**B. Royse**). Second, a few odd mid-winter birds were sighted, such as in *Erie* on 4 Jan (**B. Phillips**) and on 25 Jan in *Summit* (**D&A Chasar**). Third, winter roosts boasted robust numbers: 110 at Lk Buckhorn in *Holmes* on 15 Dec (**E. Schlabach**), 236 on the Athens CBC on 16 Dec, 220 on the 15 Dec Millersburg CBC in *Holmes*, 212 at a newly-reported roost near New Concord, *Muskingum*, on 3 Feb (**J. Larson**), 150 in *Hamilton* on 8 Feb (**E. Lotz**), and 271 (then no doubt including some migrants) on 13 Feb in *Licking* (**T. Nickerson**). Finally, migration was underway in mid-Feb, with a bird in *Lucas* on 16 Feb (**E. Tramer**), 10 in *Greene* on the 17<sup>th</sup> (**D. Overacker**), and one at Bedford MP on the 15<sup>th</sup> and on the 23<sup>rd</sup> in S. Chagrin MP (both in *Cuyahoga* by **L. Deininger**).

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** Nice numbers. One in *Paulding* stayed 4 Nov-3 Dec for **D&M Dunakin**. Two were in *Preble* on 30 Dec (**B. Pratt**), and six at Ottawa on 24 Dec (**J. Pogacnik**). Oddly, six passed 1-12 Jan in a *Clinton* quarry (**L. Gara**, m obs). Most unusual was a lengthy presence at Killdeer, with six 2 Feb (**T. Archdeacon**), then 15 by 9 Feb (**B. Conlon**) through 15 Feb (**M. England**, m obs) and well into Mar (**T. Shively**).

**Snow Goose:** Over 2500 reported, perhaps involving only half that many individuals, from 29 counties, most often from Dec, but good numbers wintered, with reports from every week of the period. High counts of passersby included ~75 in *Darke* (**R. Schieltz**) and ~30 over Cleveland on 2 Dec (**M. Krejci**), and 300+ on 8 Dec in Findlay (**B. Sams** *vide* **B. Hardesty**). Small numbers appeared in mid-winter statewide. In Jan alone, one was at BCSP on the 1<sup>st</sup> (**D. Dister**), four in *Richland* 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> (**T. Archdeacon**), three in *Clinton* (**L. Gara**) and 25 at Mosquito Ck WA 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> (ODOW), one in *Fairfield* on the 5<sup>th</sup> (**J. Fry**), eight in *Summit* on the 7<sup>th</sup> (**B. Morrison**), two in *Lucas* on the 10<sup>th</sup> (**E. Tramer**), one in *Butler* on the 11<sup>th</sup> (**S. Reeves**), two in *Lorain* on the 12<sup>th</sup> (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**), three in *Portage* on the 14<sup>th</sup> (**L. Rosche**), three at Mosquito Ck WA on the 16<sup>th</sup> (**C. Babyak**), six at Wellington Res on the 26<sup>th</sup> (**S. Snyder**), six at Hueston Wds SP on the 27<sup>th</sup> (**D. Russell**), and four at Killdeer on the 28<sup>th</sup> (**B. Royse**). Wintered in the western Lk Erie marshes as has become customary, with ONWRC counts of 42 on 2 Dec and 123 on both 6 Jan and 3 Feb.

**Ross's Goose:** A juv, found on 28 Dec near Newark, *Licking*, by **Jason Estep**, alternately evaded and satisfied others searching the area through at least 8 Jan (**B. Royse**).

**Canada Goose:** Doing quite well, thank you. Inland, 2150 were at Lk Rockwell, *Portage*, 9 Dec (**L. Rosche**), 2000+ south of Wooster, *Wayne*, 20 Jan (**S. Snyder**), and 1000+ at Hoover Res in *Franklin* 25 Jan (**J. Hammond**). Near the Lake, the Ottawa CBC of 6 Jan tallied a record 13,816 honkers, and the Cedar Pt Chaussee harbored 4600+ on 13 Jan (**V. Fazio**). ODOW aerial surveys of 2-3 Jan tallied 10,642 on Lk Erie and 8527 at seven inland sites.

**Brant:** **K. Miller** reported a small group passing by HBSP on 5 Dec (*vide* **G. Miller**), and **J. Hammond** two imm there on the 7<sup>th</sup>. **L. Rosche** had a bird at Fairport Hbr on 30 Dec. **J. Pogacnik** noted one off LMP in *Lake* on 24 Feb.

**Mute Swan:** Gathered in flocks for the winter. Nine were at Springfield Lk in *Summit* for **B. Morrison** on 3 Jan, and an equal number at Paulding Res for the **M&D Dunakin** on 5 Feb. On Lk Erie, **V. Fazio** counted 35 at EHSP on 4 Dec, and **R. Harlan** and **S. Wagner** 30 at Medusa Marsh on 3 Feb.

**Tundra Swan:** Arrived from the north two weeks late this fall, and stayed even later. Good numbers were 451 on 2 Dec's ONWRC and 127 at HBSP on 9 Dec (**L. Rosche**). Wintered as usual at western Lk Erie marshes, with 300 on the 6 Jan ONWRC; the 3 Feb census tallied 472 there, perhaps augmented by new arrivals. May well have wintered in small numbers elsewhere. **G. Leidy** had 35 in flight over Rocky River Res'n on 29 Dec., and **H. Hendrickson** 24 over *Geauga* on 7 Jan. ODOW aerial surveys 2-3 Jan found 88 swan spp. statewide, from 10 sites. Reports came from eight inland



counties during Jan, from one in *Defiance* through the 24<sup>th</sup> (**J. Yochum**), 32 on the 11<sup>th</sup> in *Portage* (**L. Rosche**), 3-8 through much of the period at Killbuck WA (**S. Snyder**), and two at Hoover Res on the 24<sup>th</sup> (**M. England**); at Killdeer 36 were present on 12 Jan (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**), then 38 on 13 Feb (**J. Lehman**). **D. Ferris** found 18 at Mosquito Ck WA on 8 Feb, by which time migration was apparently underway; observers in Ontario reported thousands passing through from the first through third weeks of Feb this year (**J. Miles**).

**Wood Duck:** Scattered widely in small numbers through the period, with a high count of 21 birds in *Clark* on 26 Jan—most of which had persisted at the site since 15 Dec (**D. Overacker**)—and all the way north, witness five at Lk Rockwell, *Portage*, also on 26 Jan (**L. Rosche**).

**Gadwall:** Good numbers persisted through Dec, with 640 on the 2 Dec ONWRC, 300 on the 16<sup>th</sup> at CPNWR (**E. Tramer**), and ~250 at Killdeer on the 20<sup>th</sup> (**B. Whan**), while 206 were still to be found on the 12 Jan census of Kelleys Island (**T. Bartlett**). Small numbers wintered locally, but migration—or at least restlessness—began early apparently, with 12 at MWW on 5 Feb (**N. Cade**), 34 at Wingfoot Lk, *Summit*, on 6 Feb (**L. Rosche**), and 30+ at Killdeer on 15 Feb (**M. England**).

**American Wigeon:** Scant numbers, with 354 on the 2 Dec ONWRC the high count. Small numbers wintered, as 3-6 at Hoover Res, *Franklin* (**R. Thorn**), and perhaps a few at Killdeer (with 15 there on 2 Feb, **D. Overacker**), as well as in *Wayne* (with one near Wooster 4-5 Jan and four at Killbuck WA on 2 Feb by **S. Snyder**). Ten were counted on the 3 Feb ONWRC. Fifty-plus at Killdeer on 15 Feb (**M. England**) were likely migrants, after “several” had been seen there on 28 Jan (**B. Royse**).

**American Black Duck:** Numbers were down, with 240 at the CCE on 24 Dec (**J. Pogacnik**) and a mere 250+ at Castalia Pond on 30 Dec (**V. Fazio**) the high counts. Inland, **E. Roush** had 45 at Cowan Lk SP on 14 Jan, **D. Overacker** 40 at BCSP on 26 Jan, and **N. Cade** five at MWW on 5 Feb. **B&D Lane** saw three on 7 Jan, 20 on 19 Jan, and 80 on 23 Feb in *Columbiana*. ODOW aerial surveys on 2-3 Jan found 3734 in Lk Erie and 275 in seven inland spots.

**Mallard:** Numerous, ubiquitous. The 6 Jan Ottawa CBC accumulated 26,735 birds.

**Blue-winged Teal:** Two loiterers were detected in *Portage* on 4 Dec (**B. Bolton**), and another was at Killdeer on the 11<sup>th</sup> (**H. Nagy**).

**Northern Shoveler:** The 2 Dec ONWRC found 237, and at CPNWR 70 remained on 16 Dec (**E. Tramer**), with 286 that day for the Toledo CBC. At the CCE, 38 remained on 24 Dec (**J. Pogacnik**). For this and other species, Castalia's warm waters did not concentrate customary numbers in this warm winter, with a high there of only ~80 on 13 Jan (**V. Fazio**). Seven were still at BCSP on 25 Jan (**D. Overacker**), and one at Ottawa for the 3 Feb census.

**Northern Pintail:** As with other species, seemingly persisted through the season. **V. Fazio** counted ~530 at Ottawa on 4 Dec and 155 on the 12<sup>th</sup>, where **J. Pogacnik** had 140 on the 24<sup>th</sup>. About 25 were at Killdeer on 28 Jan (**B. Royse**), and 50+ there on 2 Feb (**T. Archdeacon**) with 40 the same day at BCSP (**D. Overacker**) for some unusual records.

**Green-winged Teal:** As expected, larger numbers occurred early, with a high count of ~1100 at Ottawa on 4 Dec (**V. Fazio**), where 110 were more unusual on 24 Dec (**J. Pogacnik**). Still more unusual mid-winter reports included one at Mill Ck, *Hamilton* (**N. Keller**), another at Wildwood Pk, *Cuyahoga*, on 2 Jan (**D&J Hoffman**), one at Huron on 18 Jan (**B. Morrison**), two at Killbuck WA on 23 Jan and one on 2 Feb (**S. Snyder**), two on the 3 Feb ONWRC, and a male at LaDue Res on 8 Feb (**R. Rickard**). Eighteen at Magee Marsh WA on 17 Feb were likelier returning migrants (**H&S Hiris**).

**Canvasback:** Fewer than normal, with high counts of 700+ at CPNWR on 8 Dec (**E. Tramer**) and 200 on 30 Dec at Fairport Hbr (**L. Rosche**). Inland, high counts included 11 on 30 Dec at Wellington Res, *Lorain* (**V. Fazio**), and 13 at Fostoria Res on 19 Feb (**B. Hardesty**). ODOW aerial surveys 2-3 Jan found 2850 in Sandusky Bay, none elsewhere.

**Redhead:** Their numbers down with a warm Lk Erie (high count 400+ at Sheldon Marsh SNP on 13 Jan by **V. Fazio**), some persisted winter-long: **L. Rosche** had 75 at Fairport Hbr on 30 Jan. Inland, **R. Thorn** reported one at Alum Ck Res, *Delaware*, on 2 Jan and a pair 3 Feb at Hoover Res, *Franklin*; **S. Snyder** seven on 13 Jan, one on 22 Jan, two on 26 Jan, and 15 on 9 Feb at Wellington Res; **Snyder** also found three at Funk WA on 3 Feb and five on 16 Feb at Shreve, *Wayne*. **B&D Lane** had seven males in *Medina* on 18 Feb.

**Ring-necked Duck:** A remarkable season-long presence. 680 were at Wellington Res on 14 Dec, then 410+ on the 30<sup>th</sup> (both **V. Fazio**), but 288+ remained on 1 Feb (**B. Whan**). Both the Toledo CBC (16 Dec, with 424) and the Ottawa CBC (with 49 on 6 Jan) set all-time high records. Way over in *Muskingum*, 148 were at The Wilds on 21 Jan (**J. Larson**), and 13 were in Columbus on 5 Jan (**R. Thorn**), and at Killbuck WA in *Wayne* **S. Snyder** reported three on 27 Jan and 15 on 3 Feb. **D. Chasar** judged that several of a group of 3-12 wintered at Northfield, *Summit*. By 27 Feb migrants were passing through, with 1300 at Mogadore Res (**L. Rosche**).

**Greater Scaup:** Way down in numbers, with a high count of only 63 at Rocky River Pk on 10 Jan (**P. Lozano**), where 30 remained on 5 Jan (**G. Leidy**). Inland, one was at BCSP on 8 Dec (**D. Overacker**), and two at Killdeer on 15 Feb (**M. England**).

**Lesser Scaup:** Ditto, with a high count of 500+ at MBSP on 9 Dec (**T. Archdeacon**), and 165 at Port Clinton on the 12<sup>th</sup> (**V. Fazio**). Mid-winter counts topped out at 40 on 9 Feb at Wellington Res (**S. Snyder**).

**Harlequin Duck:** An imm male flew by LMP in *Lake* on 26 Dec (**J. Pogacnik**).

**Surf Scoter:** The season produced reports of 25+ birds, most in Lk Erie, but much farther inland were birds on 9 Dec: 5-6 at Clear Fork Res (**J. Herman**), and two at EFSP (**B. Stanley**). The latest came from Wellington Res on 23 Feb (**S. Snyder**).

**White-winged Scoter:** A plethora compared to fall, with a female at the Grand Lk St Marys hatchery on 9 Dec (**J. Perchalski**), a bird at LMP in *Lake* on 16 Dec (**J. Pogacnik**), another on the Gypsum CBC on 1 Jan, and two at Conneaut on 26 Jan (**Pogacnik**).

**Black Scoter:** Down from autumn, with one in *Clinton* on 28 Dec (**L. Gara**), two in Fairport Hbr on 1 Jan (**J. Pogacnik**), and a female at Lorain Harbor on 1 Feb (**B. Whan**).

**Long-tailed Duck:** **A. Fondrk** had two at LaDue Res on 7 Dec, and **J. Pogacnik** another duo at LMP in *Lake* on the 29<sup>th</sup>. The Gypsum CBC team found one on 1 Jan. **M. Anderson** found a male west of Toledo on 6 Jan, and **Pogacnik** another at LMP on 2 Feb.

**Bufflehead:** As usual, Kelleys and S. Bass Isl produced the largest rafts, with 1664 on the local CBC 14 Dec (**J. Pogacnik**) and 1122 on the 16<sup>th</sup>, 798 on 12 Jan, and 504 on 9 Feb (all Kelleys Isl, **T. Bartlett**). The inland high count was of 15 at EFSP, *Clermont*, on 19 Dec (**B. Stanley**). A handful appear to have wintered inland at Wilmington Res, with 1-5 present at each of eight visits spanning the period 3 Dec-25 Feb (**E. Roush**).

**Common Goldeneye:** High counts came in Jan, with 600+ off Catawba Isl on the 1<sup>st</sup> (**V. Fazio**) and a record high count of 1352 on the Ottawa CBC of the 6<sup>th</sup>. Harder to find in the Central Basin, with a high of only 79 at Rocky River Pk on 10 Jan (**P. Lozano**). Unusually scarce inland, and no notable numbers of Feb migrants reported.

**Hooded Merganser:** Seemingly hard to find on Lk Erie, small numbers were inland, as five in *Washington* 7 Jan (**B. Placier**), one in *Defiance* the 12<sup>th</sup> (**J. Yochum**), and 15 at LaDue 8 Feb (**R. Rickard**). At Hoover Res, however, 200+ on 2 Dec (**L. Powlick**) continued as ~100 25 Jan (**J. Hammond**), and **R. Thorn** estimated ~100 as present most of the winter there. At Pleasant Hill Lk on 19 Feb, 62 may have been returning migrants (**S. Snyder**).



**Common Merganser:** Among high counts, all on Lk Erie, 1328 were off LMP on 29 Dec (**J. Pogacnik**), 350 off Fairport Hbr on the following day (**L. Rosche**), and 3300 off Catawba Isl the day after that (**V. Fazio**), when 516 were off LMP (**Pogacnik**). Very few were noted inland until the start of northward movement on 23 and 24 Feb, when 10 were noted at BCSP (**D. Overacker**).

**Red-breasted Merganser:** No dramatic counts were reported from dry land, with **J. Pogacnik**'s tally of 8485 on 16 Dec at LMP the highest, and the high count for the Western Basin was only 685 at CPNWR the same day (**E. Tramer**). **R. Thorn** reported the first birds at Hoover Res on 3 Feb, an early date.

**Ruddy Duck:** Some quite unusual winter inland concentrations were noted. At Wellington Res, **Lorain**, **V. Fazio** had 290+ on 30 Dec (as well as 153 on nearby Oberlin Res), then 32 on 4 Jan; **S. Snyder** found 14 there on 22 Jan, and 25 on 9 Feb. Along the Lake, **L. Rosche** noted 65 at Fairport Hbr on 30 Dec, where **D. Chasar** had 25 on 5 Jan.

**Bald Eagle:** Recovering well from poisoning prior to the 70s, eagles were reported across the state this winter. An informal January survey by ODOW reported 259 birds (vs. 204 last year) in 44 counties.

**Northern Harrier:** Local as always, but in good numbers this season, the biggest reports came from extensively-birded Killdeer, where **A. Fondrk** tallied 40 for the area on 27 Jan, and **E. Tramer** 15 in a single field on 16 Feb. Observers are urged to try to confirm breeding later in some of these areas of winter concentration. An out-of-place bird at Rocky River Pk on 29 Dec (**P. Lozano**) must have been a very late migrant.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** One at the **Gilberts'** place in *Geauga* noted by **K. Metcalf** on 22 Dec and by m obs thereafter may have had something to do with the subsequent disappearance of Ohio's first brown-headed nuthatch.

**Cooper's Hawk:** Eight on 6 Jan was a record for the Ottawa CBC.

**Northern Goshawk:** Nearly all the reliable reports came from the brief mid-winter cold snap: one on the 1 Jan Gypsum CBC, two in the Marblehead area 2 Jan (**V. Fazio**), a sub-adult at Killdeer 3 Jan (**H. Nagy** et al., ph), and an adult at the Cincinnati Nat Ctr 4 Jan (**W. Appgar**). Later, **J. Pogacnik** reported an imm from Mosquito Ck WA on 20 Feb.

**Red-tailed Hawk:** *Geauga's* albinistic birds persist, one "along Aquila Rd not far south of Rte 322 in Claridon Twp" (**D. Best**), and another, described by **H. Hendrickson** as "snow white all over except red tail and a few colored feathers on his head," seen by Rte 6 near Rte 86.

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** In expected numbers, and continuing a steady advance into certain urban areas: **R. Thorn** reported five birds wintered in Columbus, with other birds in Granville and east of Newark in *Licking*.

**Rough-legged Hawk:** Seemed down in some traditional haunts, such as Killdeer and the Funk area in *Wayne*. High counts were of nine (w/ one dark morph) at The Wilds on 21 Jan (**J. Larson**) and eight (w/ one dark morph) on 5 Jan in *Geauga* (**A. Fondrk**). Farthest south were two in *Ross* on 15 Feb (**J. McMahon** et al.). The CBCs' total this year was 106, vs. 148 last year and 153 the year previous.

**Golden Eagle:** A [sub]human shot one, later discovered in *Morrow* on 8 Dec; still alive, its left wing required amputation (fide ODOW). **D. Graham** et al. discovered one over the Cincinnati Nat Ctr on 15 Dec, and **B. Kovalsky** et al. another at HBSP on 24 Dec. No reports documented the wintering bird at The Wilds this season, but see next issue.

**Merlin:** Twelve reports emerged from the northern counties, all from the first week of Jan or earlier. Interesting was the return, for the third winter, of birds to Spring Grove Cem in Cincinnati, where one was noted on 14 Jan (**J. Hays**), then two (apparently not last year's birds) on 31 Jan (**L. Brumbaugh** et al.), which then stayed through the end of the period (m obs).

**Peregrine Falcon:** *Avis peregrina* is what the Romans called a bird of passage, and that is the status of wild birds in Ohio. Introduced birds, on the other hand, are often resident here in winter and summer, and young of these birds cruising for territory (such as that **S. Edinger** reported from *Athens* on 2 Dec) may be seen anywhere. It is likely that the peregrine seen in the Lorain Harbor area from 24 Dec (**J. Pogacnik**) through at least 16 Feb (**M. England**) was another pioneering urban bird.

**Wild Turkey:** It seems only triple-figure reports of this successfully reintroduced species are newsworthy these days: **L. Deininger** saw 100+ near two *Holmes* locations on 12 Jan, Stillwell and Glenmont. **B. Placier** had 20 ~daily at his place near Athens, and says they have "essentially eliminated the herbaceous level flora of the woods" there.

**Virginia Rail:** One was found at Magee Marsh WA on 17 Feb (fide **M. Warren**), whether having overwintered or arrived unusually early is anyone's guess. Two showed up as usual for Millersburg CBC on 15 Dec at a spring-fed wetland, and the Wooster CBC reported one on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

**American Coot:** **H&S Hiris** counted a whopping 3564 at Magee on 16 Dec, the same day the Toledo CBC totaled a local record 272. At Wellington Res, 780+ remained on 30 Dec (**V. Fazio**) when the Cincinnati CBC found 502, and smaller numbers remained along the Lake winter-long, such as four at Bayshore, *Lucas*, on 27 Jan (**E. Tramer**), but 43 on the Cleveland lakefront on 13 Jan (**P. Lozano**) took the cake. The ONWRC of 3 Feb produced 32.

**Sandhill Crane:** Reported from 23 counties, mostly in the west, and over 2000 reported, 480 (some redundant) from *Hamilton* alone. Most birds were flighty, but three homebodies spent 23 Nov-8 Dec at Cowan Lk SP (**E. Roush**). *Geauga's* "Troy Trio" lasted locally through 14 Dec, then reappeared in the spring (**D. Ferris**). The Oxford CBC of 21 Dec found 200, and that for Grand Rapids/Waterville found 141 on 29 Dec. Movement, if not migration, apparently continued into the cold spell of early Jan, with 25 in *Clark* on the 1<sup>st</sup> (**D. Overacker**), 75+ over Cincinnati on the 3<sup>rd</sup> (**J. Hays**), ~50 over *Warren* on the 4<sup>th</sup> (**F. Glandorf**), and 60 over *Darke* on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 12 on the 8<sup>th</sup> (**R. Schieltz**). Stragglers or perhaps wintering birds were three in *Union* on 1 Jan then nine near the same location 22 Jan (**J. Watts**), and on 5 Feb two at MWW (**N. Cade**) and 1-2 north of Massillon (**E. Snively**). Northbound migration had clearly begun after mid-month, with 12 at MWW on the 18<sup>th</sup> (**A. Oliver**), then 39 there on the 21<sup>st</sup> (**F. Frick**), as well as ~18 on the 18<sup>th</sup> in *Darke* (**Schieltz**) and four over Toledo on the 27<sup>th</sup> (**E. Tramer**).

**Killdeer:** Off to a good start with 180 at Cowan Lk SP on 7 Dec (**E. Roush**) and ~250 at Killdeer on the 20<sup>th</sup> (**B. Whan**), much smaller numbers were reported from 10 counties during Jan, with a high count of four on Kelleys Isl on the 28<sup>th</sup> (**V. Fazio**). Feb records included a high count of 10 at Funk WA on the 2<sup>nd</sup> (**S. Snyder**), seven at Cowan Lk SP on the 6<sup>th</sup> (**E. Roush**), three at Dillon Res in *Muskingum* on the 9<sup>th</sup> (**C. Dusthimer**), one in *Fairfield* on the 12<sup>th</sup> (**J. Watts**), one at the CPNWR on the 23<sup>rd</sup> (**E. Tramer**), and two at Gordon Pk in Cleveland on the 25<sup>th</sup> (**S. Zadar**).



Fairport Harbor in Lake County played host to this merlin during the winter season. The bird posed for Joe Hammond's digiscope outfit on 4 December 2001.



**Black-bellied Plover:** The CCE harbored five 2 Dec and three 4 Dec (**V. Fazio**).

**Greater Yellowlegs:** **V. Fazio** found five at Metzger Marsh WA 4 Dec, and **J. Pogacnik** another at Kelleys Isl 15 Dec.

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** Eighteen seen at Metzger Marsh WA, **Lucas**, 12 Dec by **V. Fazio** and 26 the same day at Ottawa by **K. Miller** were likely overlapping sightings. Later, **J. Pogacnik** was to find four at the CCE on 24 Dec for an even later record. The latest published report in Ohio comes from 1 Jan 1995.

**Least Sandpiper:** On 4 Dec, **V. Fazio** had three at the CCE and four near Marblehead, and four were at CCE for him 12 Dec, where one remained 24 Dec for **J. Pogacnik**. Two observed at BCSP by **D. Overacker** 16 Feb may well have wintered at this spot, with three on the 15 Dec *Clark* CBC, where this species has seemed almost regular in winter.

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** The ONWRC found two lingering birds 2 Dec, and **B. Whan** a juv at Killdeer 20 Dec. **J. Pogacnik** found what may have been the same two Ottawa birds 24 Dec. Ohio's latest published record comes from 1 Jan 1995.

**Purple Sandpiper:** Hard to find this winter. One at HBSP on 1 Dec (**H. Petruschke**) grew to two, which persisted through at least 8 Dec (**J. Lehman**), and they may have been among the four reported just across the inlet at Fairport Harbor on 2 Jan (**B. Morrison**). During the Lake Erie Isl CBC of 14 Dec, a record 11 birds were on S. Bass Isl; the previous record was 6, also from the area.

**Dunlin:** A hardy species one might have expected to overwinter this year. **V. Fazio** counted 327 at the CCE on 4 Dec, and 73 there on the 12<sup>th</sup>. One was on Kelleys Isl on 15 Dec (**J. Pogacnik**), and the same observer found 54 on the CCE on 24 Dec, as well as a singleton at Conneaut on 26 Jan, a date suggestive of successful wintering.

**Long-billed Dowitcher:** Nine were found on the 2 Dec ONWRC, and eight two days later by **V. Fazio** there at the CCE. **Fazio** found five remaining there on 12 Dec, and **J. Pogacnik** three on 24 Dec; the dates of both these sightings surpass the latest published record, which comes from 8 Dec 1985.

**Common Snipe:** **D&J Hochadel** reported 11 on their *Trumbull* property on 8 Dec, with four remaining the 16<sup>th</sup>. Probable wintering birds included one 13 Jan and three 30 Jan in Richmond Hts, *Cuyahoga* (**P. Lozano**), one each in *Butler* 19 Jan (**M. Busam**), in *Stark* 20 Jan (**B. Morrison**), and at BCSP 27 Jan (**D. Overacker**). Two in **C. Anderson's** backyard in *Wood* on 20 Feb were in the vanguard of northbound migrants.

**American Woodcock:** **G. Miller** et al. saw a late one at Killdeer on 11 Dec. **R. Scheiltz** saw the first returnee on 27 Jan in *Darke*, the same day another was reported nearby in Indiana. Two days later **M. Busam** heard four at Gilmore Ponds, when at least two were at EFSP (*vide J. Lehman*), and another detected at The Wilds (**J. Larson**). Last year the first birds appeared in three different spots on 7 Feb.



Headlands Beach State Park in Lake County once again provided purple sandpiper photo opportunities. These two obliging birds were photographed there on 8 December 2001 by Jay Lehman.

**Red Phalarope:** A bird at the Huron impoundment ended an apparent stay of over five weeks with a final reported appearance on 12 Dec (**G. Miller**).

**Pomarine Jaeger:** Demonstrating why it's no longer a review species, this season generated 29 reports from perhaps as many as a dozen individuals. Five remained at Rocky River Pk through at least 3 Dec (**I. Kerns**), and two—light juv and dark juv—remained the following day (**J. Hammond**). One dark morph juv showed up at nearby Avon Lk PP 8 Dec (**P. Lozano**), with perhaps the same bird there the 14<sup>th</sup> (**Hammond**), and two not far away at Huntington Res'n on the 16<sup>th</sup> (**Lozano**); all may well have been from the same cohort. **J. Pogacnik** noted the following from LMP in *Lake*: three on 9 Dec, one 11 Dec, one 16 Dec, and a dark juv 1 Jan. Birds reported just to the east at HBSP included one on 11 Dec (**J. Fry**), two 24 Dec (**B. Kovalsky**), and a probable dark-morph bird 26 Dec (**K. Metcalf**). The show was not over, as **Pogacnik** spotted two far to the west at Sherod Pk near Vermilion, *Lorain*, on 3 Feb.

**Parasitic Jaeger:** An imm was seen at Avon Lk PP on 1 Dec, with details to the OBRC.

**Jaeger sp.:** **P. Lozano** had one in Rocky River on 5 Dec, and **V. Fazio** a distant flyby at Huron on 15 Dec.

**Franklin's Gull:** Two very unusual mid-winter occurrences: a first-winter bird at Lorain on 24 Dec (**J. Pogacnik** et al.), and an adult at Rocky River on 10 Jan (**P. Lozano** et al.).

**Little Gull:** A poor showing by this species, with three brief sightings this winter. An imm was at Kelleys Isl on 16 Dec (**T. Bartlett**), an adult at Lorain on 24 Dec (**J. Pogacnik** et al.), and an imm at Eastlake on 5 Jan (**Pogacnik**).

**Black-headed Gull:** A basic-plumaged adult on 20 Dec at Lorain harbor (**S. Zadar**) may well have been one seen for the local CBC on 24 Dec and the following day (**J. Pogacnik** et al.). Details are with the OBRC. Details were also furnished for another bird found 30 Dec at Fairport Hbr (**L. Rosche** et al.).



This apparent ring-billed X laughing gull hybrid spent over two weeks at Kelleys Island in Erie County during January. Vic Fazio took this photo on 12 January 2002, the day the bird was discovered.



**Bonaparte's Gull:** Defied convention by spending the winter in good numbers. **K. Metcalf** reported two birds in alternate plumage as late as 24 Dec among flocks of thousands of basic-plumaged birds at Fairport Hbr. Mid-winter numbers included 400+ at Huron and ~175 at Lorain on 1 Feb (**B. Whan**) and 400+ along the Cleveland lakefront on 15 Feb (**S. Zadar**).

**Ring-billed Gull:** The most imposing count was 18,280 from **J. Pogacnik** as they passed LMP on 17 Feb. **G. Miller** reported an odd leucistic individual from the Cleveland lakefront on 21 Feb, with all bare parts yellow and all plumage white except for "faint tea-stained colored wash on outer primaries."

**Ring-billed X Laughing Gull hybrid:** An apparent hybrid involving these two species was repeatedly seen and photographed 12 Jan through at least 28 Jan at Kelleys Isl (**V. Fazio**, **T. Bartlett**, et al.).

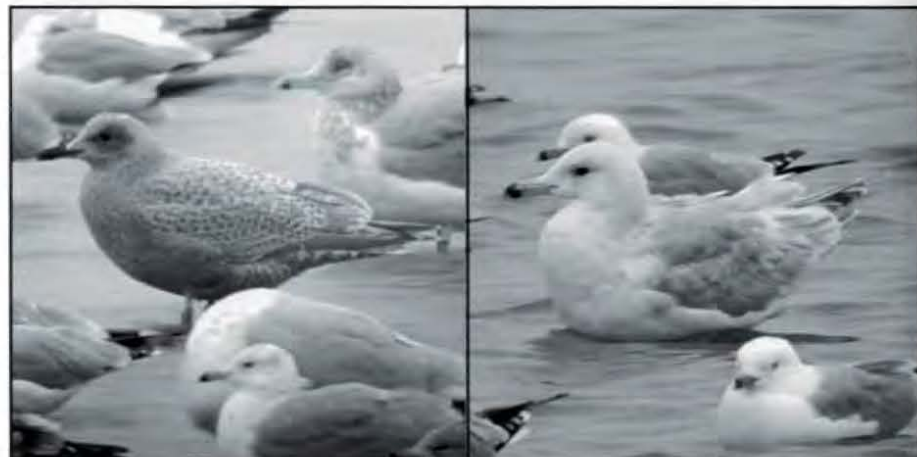
**California Gull:** An adult in basic plumage at the Avon Lk PP 20 Dec was written up for the record.

**Thayer's Gull:** Over thirty reports, involving perhaps half that number of individuals, most adults, with fewer first-year birds, and a couple of second-years. Spanning the period, all reports came from the Central Basin of Lk Erie from Huron east, with the exception of an adult at Kelleys Isl on 15 Dec (**J. Pogacnik**) and a first-winter bird near MBSP on the following day (**G. Links**).

**Iceland Gull:** Twelve reported, among perhaps 6-8 individuals, all in the Lake's Central Basin. **S. Zadar** found two (an adult and an imm) on two occasions, 15 Feb in Cleveland and 25 Feb in Avon Lk.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** About three dozen reports, of perhaps 20 birds. Nearly all came from the Central Basin of Lk Erie, with a high count of six at E. 72<sup>nd</sup> St in Cleveland on 15 Feb (**S. Zadar**). Two were found on the 16 Dec Toledo CBC, however, and **V. Fazio** had a third-winter bird as far inland as Oberlin Res on 30 Dec.

**Glaucous-winged Gull:** A bird thought to be of this species was found at Huron on 26 Jan (ph), and subsequently studied and written up by another party of observers on 29 Jan. Details are with the OBRC.



Numerous opportunities to study Thayer's gulls presented themselves at Huron Harbor in Erie County. The bird on the left, a first-winter, was photographed on 4 December 2001; the bird on the right, a second-winter, was photographed on 16 February 2002. Both photos were digiscoped by Joe Hammond.

**Glaucous Gull:** About thirty reports, with perhaps half that many individuals involved, about half and half adult and imm birds. All save a report from the 16 Dec Toledo CBC came from the shore of Lake Erie's Central Basin.

**Great Black-backed Gull:** Widespread, with open waters in the Lake. At Huron, 137 were around on 13 Jan, then 180 on the 20<sup>th</sup> (**V. Fazio**), and in Lake 207 were counted on 17 Feb (**J. Pogacnik**). The Gypsum CBC of 1 Jan tallied 258. Scarce inland, one flew over W. Ck Preserve in Parma on 24 Dec (**G. Leidy**), one was at the Independence Dam in Defiance on 13 Jan (**J. Yochum**), and on 30 Dec **Fazio** witnessed no fewer than 41 on Oberlin Res in Lorain, where he found 26 on 4 Jan, 12 mi south of the Lakefront.

**Forster's Tern:** A few were widely seen, with two between Port Clinton and Fremont on 2 Dec (**T. Manley**), one the same day for the ONWRC, then Port Clinton sightings of three on both 4 and 12 Dec (**V. Fazio**). Usually common terns are the late ones.

**Barn Owl:** ODOW reported 49 pairs producing 111 owlets during the breeding season, though the latter number must be enlarged to include the fledging close to Christmas of four owlets in *Tuscarawas*; the cold snap killed three of them within a week (**E. Schlabach**). Elsewhere, **R. Kolde** had one in *Adams* on 28 Dec, and **C. Clingman** another in adjacent *Clermont* on 28 Jan.

**Snowy Owl:** Twenty-five reported, nearly all in Dec, spanning the Lakefront from Toledo to Painesville. The most spectacular concentration was at Cleveland's Burke Lakefront Airport, where five were intermittently seen for a few days after the initial report of 5 Jan (*vide* **M. Hendrick**); **J. Minch** (*vide* **P. Lozano**), an airport employee, described having seen eight owls on one day during the period; **Lozano** reported the last owl there on 19 Feb. Inland reports came from *Medina* on 2 Dec (**M. Krejci**), *Licking* on 4 Dec (**G. Buckley**), *Auglaize* on 11 Dec (**D. Stanley**), and *Holmes* on 21 Feb (**D. Hershberger** *vide* **A. Burkholder**).

**Long-eared Owl:** Up to 21 spent the period at Killdeer, beginning with a single bird on 4 Dec (**T. Shively**). **S. Richards** found 13 there in four distinct locations on 10 Jan, and **R. Schieltz** et al. 13 in just one on 2 Feb. These long-suffering Killdeer owls help take birding pressure off others elsewhere. **B. Morrison** reported one in *Stark* 6 Dec through the end of the period.

**Short-eared Owl:** The Killdeer short-ears too performed rites of self-sacrifice on behalf of their kin: 20+ were seen on 1 Jan there (**R. Schieltz**), and on 16 Feb 18 carloads of birders, over 60 humans, were observed awaiting their evening arrival (**B. Whan**). Through the period the VOA property in *Butler* hosted as many as six, where its future as an undisturbed grassland seems assured for at least the next few years. Flocks of short-ears were reported from *Columbiana*, *Defiance*, *Tuscarawas*, and *Coshocton* as well, and one haunted the Lorain harbor on 24 Dec (**J. Pogacnik**).

**Northern Saw-whet Owl:** Only a few detected. Killdeer's showcased owls satisfied most seekers, and individuals were happened upon at Gilmore Ponds on 14 Dec (**M. Busam**), near Akron on 23 Dec (**D&A Chasar**), in *Mahoning* on 31 Jan (**L. Warren**, **N. Brundage**), and in *Fulton* on 12 Feb (**J. Hildreth**). **S. Zadar** reported wintering at Gordon Pk's Dike 14, with two on 5 Dec, two on 15 Dec, and one on 29 Jan.



Standing head-and-shoulders above the crowd, this first-winter glaucous gull made its presence known at Lorain Harbor in Lorain County on 5 January 2002. Digiscoped photo by Joe Hammond.



**Selasphorus sp.:** A hummingbird of this genus was quite faithful to a Cincinnati feeder from the first week of Dec (P. Hill) through at least 22 Dec (fide N. Keller), and studied and photographed by m obs. Details are with the OBRC.

**Belted Kingfisher:** Twenty on the 15 Dec Cleveland CBC was an all-time high count.

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** D. Chasar reported 1-5 wintering at the CVNP, and ~15 at Killdeer on 11 Dec was a good winter number as well (H. Nagy).

**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** The Cleveland CBC amassed a record-high 89 on 15 Dec. Compare with Lou Campbell's observations (p. 52 of last issue) the following: all-time records were set by CBCs this winter also for Toledo (30) 16 Dec, Grand Rapids-Waterville (86) 29 Dec, and Ottawa (11) on 6 Jan.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** Twenty-six reported. More numerous in the southern half of the state, with a one-day total of eight in Cincinnati on 2 Dec (N. Cade). Further north, birds were in Geauga on 15 Dec (A. Fondrk), four in Columbus 22 Dec (B. Master), one in Lucas 24 Dec (E. Tramer), three in Tuscarawas 26 Dec (E. Schlabach), one at Arcola MP in Lake 2 Jan (J. Pogacnik), one 9 Jan at Dawes Arb in Licking (C. Dusthimer), and one in Coshocton 29 Jan (L. Deininger).

**Eastern Phoebe:** Scantly reported, even in this warm season. One in Hocking 10 Feb (D. Horn) and one through the period as far north as Licking (D. Balsler fide J. McCormac) suggest at least a few wintered.

**Vermilion Flycatcher:** The Ottawa census team was astonished to find this bird on 2 Dec just where it had been found on 4 Nov, with its molt into adult plumage noticeably advanced. The area was not opened again to public access, but a few patient birders with spotting scopes were able to see this bird by standing outside the gate, the latest of them K. Miller on 12 Dec.

**Loggerhead Shrike:** Now rare at any season in Ohio. T. Shively alertly IDed one at Killdeer on 11 Dec, along with a northern shrike, and while it remained through at least 16 Dec (Z. Baker) observers were able to compare the species within a mile of one another.



*Selasphorus* hummingbirds almost always cause a stir wherever they appear. This one frequented a Cincinnati feeder in Hamilton County during December. Photo by Frank Renfrow on 19 December 2001.



This loggerhead shrike appeared at Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area in Wyandot County this season and was digiscoped on 12 December 2001 by Joe Hammond.

**Northern Shrike:** Over twenty reported, with birds discovered on fourteen days in December. As usual, most were in the northern counties, but two occurred south of Killdeer's latitude, a bird 7 Dec (and it or another on 11 Dec—B. Shively) and 3 Feb in Delaware WA (both M. England), and one near Xenia, Greene, 7 Jan (K. Beal).

**Tree Swallow:** One was found on the 2 Dec ONWRC.

**Swallow sp.:** J. Games, R. Sempier, et al. spotted a swallow at Castalia, Erie, on 12 Dec that was variously thought to be a tree swallow or a rough-winged. The former is slightly more likely, but either species is remarkable at the date.

**American Crow:** The western Hamilton CBC had a record 18,182 on 23 Dec, and the Mansfield CBC and Clark CBC both estimated 10,000 on 15 Dec, all at urban roosts.

**Horned Lark:** Normal numbers. The Hancock census of 8 Jan produced a local high count of 938. K. Metcalf noted the first migrants, at HBSP on 9 Feb.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** Promising fall numbers led to a good winter presence, and many feeders supported birds through the period. J. McCormac and E. Wolford found 15 in Jackson on 15 Dec, remarking that "every fairly large stand of native pitch and Virginia pine that we worked had some individuals, and since this habitat is frequent throughout this region, there were undoubtedly many more in this and adjacent counties." CBC numbers were well up from last year with 433 statewide, but not significantly greater than those of the preceding winter's 395.

**Brown-headed Nuthatch:** The *avis mirabilis* of this season and last was not seen after 15 Jan in its S. Russell, Geauga, haunts (L. Gilbert). Let's hope it survived to set new records somewhere else.

**Brown Creeper:** Widely reported. N. Cade had one singing on 3 Dec in Spring Grove Cem in Cincinnati. High count was 7+ in one spot in Columbiana on 7 Jan (B&D Lane).

**Carolina Wren:** Remarkable for its continuing comeback in the north. In Hancock, 29 birds for the winter count of 15 Dec was good news, and the Cleveland CBC tallied 28 (breaking a record held since pre-blizzard 1975) on the same day. The Toledo CBC's 27 on 16 Dec was also a new record, as was the 22 of the Ottawa CBC of 6 Jan. Even further south, the Columbus CBC's 100 was their third-highest total ever. The overall tally for Ohio CBCs of 2649 was up significantly from last winter's 1793 and the previous year's 1250.

**House Wren:** A belated bird found at GRWA, Trumbull, on 16 Dec was well described by D. Hochadel.

**Winter Wren:** Widely reported south, but in the north others came from Lucas, with one on 3 Dec and one on 8 Dec (E. Tramer), three on the 15 Dec Hancock census (fide B. Hardesty), and one at North Chagrin MP in Cuyahoga on 15 Jan (K. Metcalf).



Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area in Wyandot County was shrike central this season. This northern shrike was present at the same time as a loggerhead and provided a nice comparison. It was digiscoped by Joe Hammond on 12 December 2001.



**Marsh Wren:** No mid-winter reports. Three at SVWA on 5 Dec were a good find (**E. Roush**), the marshes of western Lk Erie produced one on 8 Dec (**E. Tramer**), and **D. Kline** contributed one to the Millersburg CBC on 15 Dec.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** A mere 15 were at Spring Grove Cem on 2 Dec (**N. Cade**), and up in *Portage* **L. Rosche** called it a "very poor winter" for the species. **B. Winger** had one in the CVNP on 2 Jan, **D. Chasar** one there on 6 Jan, **T. Manley** a pair in *Ottawa* on 20 Jan, and **A. Fondrk** another in *Geauga* on 9 Feb in the northern counties. All the same, the Grand Rapids/Waterville CBC of 29 Dec had 44, and the high count of 142 came from the Millersburg CBC of 15 Dec.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** Mid-winter reports came from EFSP (**J. Lehman**), with one on 12 Jan and two on 27 Jan. **B. Placier** found one in *Washington* on the latter date.

**Eastern Bluebird:** Flourished even in the north. **L. Rosche** cited "remarkable numbers in the *Portage* area," and **E. Tramer** reported small numbers wintering in the Oak Openings of *Lucas*. **D. Chasar** reported eight at the CVNP on 21 Dec, and even the 6 Jan *Ottawa* CBC found three. All-time high CBC records came from Columbus (50 birds) and Cleveland (85 birds).

**Swainson's Thrush:** A recently-expired bird was found on **B. Kaplan's** porch in Peninsula, *Summit*, on 25 Dec, and the remains deposited with the Cleveland Museum of Natural History (*vide M. Romito*, ph); there are three well-documented published December records of this species in the state; this is the only specimen.

**Hermit Thrush:** Scattered reports spanned the period, most from the southern counties. In the north, **D. Chasar** had one in Sagamore Hills, *Summit*, on 4 Jan.

**American Robin:** Large numbers surprised observers here and as far away as California this winter. **L. Deininger** had 1000+ on 8 Dec in *Coshocton*, and **L. Rosche** reported "hundreds, if not thousands, roosted in Mentor Marsh/HBSP this winter." This winter's CBC numbers, on the other hand, were not much more than half those of 1999-2000's.

**Gray Catbird:** In the northernmost realms, **D. Linzell** had one in *Erie* on 8 Dec, **J. Reyda** one in *Summit* on 18 Dec, **S. Kaufman** et al. one near Painesville on 24 Dec, **D&J Hoffman** one at Wildwood Pk, *Cuyahoga*, on 26 Dec, and **J. Pogacnik** another in Willoughby on 3 Jan. The Millersburg CBC of 15 Dec found three.

**Northern Mockingbird:** More or less parallel with Carolina wren, becoming so much more common in the north that only exceptional reports bear repeating. This winter one was reported at a feeder in inland Labrador at 53° north latitude on 7 Feb (*vide T. Boland*). The Cleveland CBC recorded a record-high 12 birds on 15 Dec. Males were in song as early as 28 Jan in Columbus (**B. Whan**) and Cincinnati (**S. Pelikan**).

**Brown Thrasher:** Surprisingly few reports this winter. Birds in the north included one at Willoughby on 3 Jan (**J. Pogacnik**) and another at Villa Angela in Cleveland on 13 Jan (**P. Lozano**).



Providing Ohio's first December specimen, Barb Kaplan scooped this deceased Swainson's thrush off her Summit County porch on 25 December 2001. Photo by Mary Anne Romito.

**American Pipit:** Reports spanned the period, with three at MBSP 24 Dec (**J. Pogacnik**), a flyby in *Tuscarawas* 27 Dec (**E. Schlabach**), 45 in *Paulding* for a second local Jan record on the 1<sup>st</sup> (**M&D Dunakin**), 23 at EFSP 6 Jan (**B. Stanley**), four in *Stark* 20 Jan (**B. Morrison**), and six+ in *Lake* 6 Feb (**J. McCormac**). The high count came from *Delaware* 11 Dec (**B. Shively**)—a nicely-described flock of 80+.

**Cedar Waxwing:** Scantily reported overall this season. The high count was 200+ at Arcola MP in *Lake* on 2 Jan (**J. Pogacnik**). CBC totals were about 12% of last winter's, and little more than a third of those of the previous winter.

**Nashville Warbler:** A new late record in the north, a bird was found during the Cleveland CBC of Dec 15 in N. Chagrin MP by **J. Talkington** and **R. Kish** (*vide T. LePage*). There is a 24 Dec 1964 record from *Hamilton*.

**Yellow Warbler:** The very late bird **A. Troyer** found gleaning insects from his eaves on 19 Nov amazingly persisted through 24 Dec for Ohio's latest record; seen throughout its stay by observers who documented yellow spots in the rectrices, pinkish legs, and diagnostic vocalizations (*vide E. Schlabach, L.E. Yoder, et al.*). Compounding the amazement was a well-described bird found during the Cuyahoga Falls CBC on 16 Dec (**M. Morgan, et al.**). Both birds postdate the "incredibly late" 7 Dec record cited by Peterjohn. Most yellow warblers are out of here by Sept. Go figure.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** Sizeable finds included 65 on the Kelleys Isl census of 16 Dec (**T. Bartlett**), and 10 at Oxbow Lk, *Defiance*, on 21 Jan (**J. Yochum**).

**Pine Warbler:** This, one of the more durable warblers, was found as late as 15 Dec in *Holmes* (**J. Miller**) and 22 Dec in *Franklin* (**J. Grabmeier et al.**). A male in song in *Adams* on 25 Feb (**B. Lund**) had arguably wintered there, and continued into the spring.

**American Redstart:** **B. Royse** found a female in his Columbus back yard on 22 Dec, establishing a new late record for the species in Ohio; one was in Cleveland on 8 Dec 1973.

**Louisiana Waterthrush:** Astonishing was one was found snowbound by **L. Rosche** in Idlewood Pk in Twinsburg, *Summit*, on 29 Dec (ph). There are only two other published Ohio reports for the winter season: 9 Dec 1961 in Cleveland, and 30 Dec 1956 in Portsmouth (CBC, including some documentation).

**Common Yellowthroat:** No reports established overwintering, with a young male at North Chagrin Res'n 3-28 Dec (**K. Metcalf**), another young bird at Gilmore Ponds 15 Dec (**M. Busam**), one in *Hamilton* on 23 Dec (*vide N. Keller*), and one in *Tuscarawas* on 26 Dec (**M. Gingerich**).

**Summer Tanager:** Continuing the out-of-season trend was one that spent 4-25 Jan at the North Ridgeville, *Lorain*, feeder of **R. Lang** (**L. Rosche**). This far surpasses last winter's record late stay of one through 23 Dec in *Butler*, itself over a month later than the previously published late record.

**American Tree Sparrow:** Robust numbers, with 1111 on the 6 Jan *Ottawa* CBC exemplary.



Setting a record late date for Ohio, this summer tanager lingered around Ron Lang's Lorain County feeder for three weeks in January. Photo by Larry Rosche on 8 January 2002.



**Field Sparrow:** Reports from the northern half of the state this season included one through the period at W. Ck Pres in Parma (**G. Leidy**), three at Hebron, *Licking*, on 9 Jan (**C. Dusthimer**), six at Jaite in the CVNRA on 26 Jan (**D. Chasar**), and a male in full song at Lk George, *Portage*, when temperatures reached the 50s on 26 Jan (**L. Rosche**).

**Savannah Sparrow:** The high count was 12 on 5 Feb at MWW (**N. Cade**). In *Marion* near Killdeer, **B. Shively** found four on 31 Dec, **C. Dusthimer** one on 4 Jan, **S. Snyder** three on 9 Jan, **R. Harlan** and **S. Wagner** three on 12 Jan, and **D. Overacker** four on 2 Feb, collectively presumptive evidence of overwintering there. Elsewhere, **B. Morrison** had three in *Stark* on the mid-winter date of 10 Jan.

**Fox Sparrow:** Close to 30 reported. Not unexpected were six in the south at Gilmore Ponds on 15 Dec, where one remained on 19 Jan (**M. Busam**), but the Cleveland CBC had a remarkable four on the same Dec date. Elsewhere in the north, four were tallied on the Gypsum CBC of 1 Jan, and one was in Lakeview Cem on 10 Feb (**J. Spendelow**). **D. Chasar** had birds at Jaite in the CNVP on 23 Dec, 6 and 26 Jan, and 17 Feb. The latter may have been an early migrant, as might two seen in *Darke* on the 16<sup>th</sup> (**R. Schieltz**).

**Swamp Sparrow:** In the north, Jaite in the CVNP harbored 10 on 6 Jan (**D. Chasar**) and four 25 Jan (**G. Leidy**). In a traditional spot, the Ottawa CBC tallied 100 on 6 Jan.

**Dark-eyed Junco:** Apparent migrant flocks of ~25 each were noted on 16 Feb both in Columbus (**B. Royse**) and in *Summit* (**K. Mock**).

**Lapland Longspur:** Excellent numbers, considering the lack of snow cover. **B. Winger** et al. had 175 in *Marion* 2 Jan, and the 51 total for the 6 Jan Ottawa CBC was a record high. **J. Yochum** had ~50 in *Defiance* on 20 Jan. By 11 Feb the *Marion* field near Killdeer produced ~200 for **B. Royse**, then 500+ for **K. Metcalf** on the 21<sup>st</sup>. A count of 152 on 26 Feb was good for *Hancock* (**S. Ross**).

**Snow Bunting:** The holiday cold spell concentrated good numbers in traditional areas with reports of 750 in *Paulding* on 4 Jan (**D&M Dunakin**) and 1000+ in *Fulton* on 8 Jan (**J. Yochum**). No three-figure reports or larger emerged from after mid-January.

**Red-winged Blackbird:** **L. Yoder** counted 1200 southbound birds in *Holmes* on 7 Dec, and many reports of newly-arrived migrants arose on 24 Feb statewide. In between, however, thousands wintered as usual in the western Lk Erie marshes, with 3000+ on 12 Dec at Ottawa (**V. Fazio**) and 13,987 on the 6 Jan Ottawa CBC. Elsewhere, 28 were in *Trumbull* on 17 Jan (**D&J Hochadel**), and singing males were noted on 3 Feb at both N. Chagrin MP in *Cuyahoga* (**K. Metcalf**) and at Hoover Res in *Delaware* (**R. Thorn**).

**Eastern Meadowlark:** The largest reports of flocks came from traditional areas during the cold snap: 40+ at Killdeer on 2 Jan (**B. Winger**), 13 at EFSP on 5 Jan (**D. Dister**), 32 at VOA in *Butler* on 6 Jan (**M. Busam**), and 10 in *Delaware* on 7 Jan (**J. Hammond**).

**Yellow-headed Blackbird:** Several were found at NW spots, with two near MBSP on 16 Dec (**G. Links**) and one in *Lucas* on 6 Jan (**V. Fazio**). More unusual was a female coming to a feeder in Cincinnati on 20 Jan (**D. Goodman**, ph).

**Rusty Blackbird:** Scattered records through the season. **V. Fazio** counted 300+ at Metzger Marsh WA on 4 Dec, then 850+ at Ottawa on the 12<sup>th</sup>, and **E. Tramer** 700+ at CPNWR on 16 Dec and then 300 on 23 Feb. Other apparent spring returnees included 20-25 at Mentor Marsh on 10 Feb (**K. Metcalf**) and 20 at Lk Rockwell, *Portage*, on 20 Feb (**L. Rosche**).

**Common Grackle:** **E. Tramer** made a conservative estimate of 6000 birds at CPNWR on 16 Dec, and an all-time record 7052 appeared for the 6 Jan Ottawa CBC, with only one on Ottawa proper.

**Brown-headed Cowbird:** Included on a big day for black birds were a record 10,770 on the 6 Jan Ottawa CBC.



Two Baltimore orioles were present in Ohio this winter. The first was an adult male (left) at a Cuyahoga County feeder on 25 December 2001 photographed by Lou Gardella. The second, an immature male (right), visited a Montgomery County feeder from 23-30 January 2002 and was photographed by Karen MacAulay.

**Baltimore Oriole:** This species has many late records, and **L. Gardella** photographed an adult male at his Cleveland-area feeder on 25 Dec. A Jan bird is more exceptional: a young male frequented a feeder in Centerville, *Montgomery*, from 23-30 Jan (**K&J MacAulay**, ph).

**Purple Finch:** Small numbers were noted at northern feeders during Dec, but with the exception of five at a *Hancock* feeder on 15 Jan (**W. McClanahan** *vide* **B. Hardesty**) the rest of the reports came from southern counties, with a high count of flocks numbering as many as 18-20 at a Nature Conservancy feeder in *Adams* from 5 Dec through the end of the period (**P. Whan**).

**White-winged Crossbill:** Perhaps more will pass through on a presumed northward return journey, as only isolated birds briefly showed up: a male in Oak Hbr 7 Dec (**L. Harder** *vide* **K. Mock**), two in Tiffin 8 Dec (*vide* **T. Bartlett**), a young bird in Peninsula 14-20 Dec (**K. Tanquist**), a female in *Paulding* 18 Dec (**D&M Dunakin**), a pair seen off and on at a *Wayne* feeder from 25 Dec through Feb (**T. Ross**), and one at N. Chagrin MP 28 Dec (**K. Metcalf**). Only three other birds reported in Jan or Feb: one at **S. Young's** feeder in Sandusky on 16 Jan, one in *Mahoning* on 20 Jan (**L. Warren**), and one at a feeder in *Holmes* on 8 Feb (*vide* **L. Miller**).

**Common Redpoll:** Fickle. Nearly all reports came from the Lakefront counties, and all were present but briefly. Most birds occurred in the coldest period, between 24 Dec and 5 Jan, tailing off quickly thereafter: five were at Fairport Hbr on 24 Dec (**B. Kovalsky**) where five had been found two days earlier (**L. Rosche**), up to 10 were at Lakewood Pk 1-4 Jan (**P. Lozano**, **S. Wright**), several flocks totaling 165+ made landfall at Arcola MP in *Lake* on 2 Jan (**J. Pogacnik**), one was at Woodlawn Cem in Toledo 6 Jan (**J. Larson**), six at Calamus Swamp in *Pickaway* on 8 Jan (**D. Horn**), and five at **A. Fondrk's** home in *Geauga* on the 9<sup>th</sup>. The Dec high count was 15 at HBSP on the 2<sup>nd</sup> (**L. Rosche**), and the latest report was of a single bird at **S. Young's** feeder in Sandusky on 21 Jan.

**Pine Siskin:** Faithful to some locations, their numbers winding down from fall. Most big numbers, therefore, came from Dec, with 20 remaining at **D. Morse's** feeders in *Clermont* on 2 Dec, 40 at LaDue on 8 Dec in alders (**G. Leidy**), 100+ at Oak Openings feeders 13 Dec (**B. Shively**), 20 in *Summit* feeders on 22 Dec (**D. Chasar**), 32 at Mohican SP on 29 Dec (**L. Deiningner**); 40-60 appeared sporadically Dec-Jan at a *Geauga* MP feeding station (**D. Best**). Smaller numbers persisted at many of these sites through all or part of the period. Overwintering birds were noted in Orange, *Cuyahoga* (**R. Harlan**, **S. Wagner**) and in *Franklin* (**D. Linzell**). The Grand Rapids/Waterville CBC had the high count of 251 on 29 Dec.

**House Sparrow:** Last and perhaps least, the 6 Jan Ottawa CBC's count of 6199 was an all-time high.



## Contributors

We are grateful to the following observers whose reports of their sightings during the winter season contributed to these reports: Chuck Anderson, Matt Anderson, Wanda Apgar, Thomas Archdeacon, Hank Armstrong, Bob Arthurs, Carole Babyak, Zac Baker, Dan Balsler, Dorothea Barker, Tom Bartlett, Marje Baughman, Leanna Beachy, Miriam Beachy, Kathy Beal, Jacob Beechy, Kyle Becker, Brad Bergstrom, Dan Best, Roger Beuck, Todd Boland, Brad Bolton, Bill Bosstic, Margaret Bowman, David Brinkman, Nancy Brundage, Lori Brumbaugh, Gina Buckley, Atlee Burkholder, Don Burlett, Mike Busam, Jason Cade, Neill Cade, Don Chalfant, Ann Chasar, Dwight Chasar, Chris Clingman, Suzanne Clingman, Tim Colborn, Bob Conlon, Rich Cressman, Sharon Cummings, Dave Dister, Kurk Dorsey, Doug Dunakin, Micki Dunakin, John Dunn, Eric Durbin, Curt Dusthimer, Steve Edinger, Marcus England, Jason Estep, Ben Fambrough, Vic Fazio, Duane Ferris, Bob Finkelstein, Andy Fondrk, Bob Foppe, Jim Fowler, Frank Frick, Jim Fry, Chris Gajewicz, Mike Gallaway, Larry Gara, Lou Gardella, Linda Gilbert, Ted Gilliland, Brett Gilmore, Matt Gingerich, Frank Glandorf, Donna Goodwin, Ed Groneman, Jeff Grabmeier, Darlena Graham, Brett Graves, Elayna Grody, Joe Hammond, Tim Haney, Christine Hanley, Ray Hannikman, Lois Harder, Betty Hardesty, Andrea Haslage, Becky Hatfield, Debra Hausvath, Jeff Hays, Stan Hedeon, Michele Hendrick, Helen Hendrickson, John Herman, Dan Hershberger, Michael Hershberger, Joe Hildreth, Price Hill, Hank Hiris, Sally Hiris, Dave Hochadel, Judy Hochadel, Dick Hoffman, Jean Hoffman, Chuck Holliday, Dave Horn, Bill Hull, Bill Jackson, Barb Kaplan, Stan Kaufman, Ned Keller, Tom Kellerman, Jack Kemp, Tom Kemp, Isaac Kerns, Ron Kish, Dennis Kline, John Kolar, Ron Kolde, Joe Komorowski, Brenda Kovalsky, Marian Kraus, Mary Krejci, Bob Lane, Ron Lang, Denise Lane, Jason Larson, Gabe Leidy, Jay Lehman, Greg Links, Doreene Linzell, Jean Long, Edie Lotz, Paula Lozano, Barb Lund, John MacAulay, Karen MacAulay, Trevor Manley, Bernard Master, Winnie McClanahan, Jim McCormac, Cal McCormick, Brian McGuire, Joe McMahon, Gary Meszaros, Kevin Metcalf, John Miles, Aaron Miller, Greg Miller, Jeremiah Miller, Kent Miller, Jonas E. Miller, Jonas P. Miller, Leon Miller, Jim Minch, Mary Misplon, Scott Moody, Marie Morgan, Ben Morrison, Donald Morse, Heather Nagy, Tami Nickerson, Junior Nisley, Ann Oliver, Doug Overacker, Karl Overman, Steve Pelikan, Jean Perchalski, John Perchalski, Haans Petruschke, Brad Phillips, Ed Pierce, John Pogacnik, Len Powlick, Bill Pratt, Hein Prinsen, Steve Rapien, Scott Reeves, Frank Renfrow, Jim Reyda, Steve Richards, Richard Rickard, Bill Rinehart, Paul Rodewald, Larry Rosche, Sue Ross, Thomas Ross, Ed Roush, Bob Roysse, Dave Russell, Bob Sams, Dan Sanders, Regina Schieltz, Ed Schlabach, Leroy Schlabach, Wilma Seiler, Joe Sedransk, Judy Semroc, Bill Shively, Troy Shively, Elaine Snively, Su Snyder, Chris Spagnoli, Brad Sparks, Jacob Spendelow, Barb Sponseller, Terry Sponseller, Bill Stanley, Don Stanley, Gene Stauffer, Jerry Talkington, Karen Tanquist, Rob Thorn, Cheryl Tindira, Elliot Trauer, Andy A. Troyer, Tom Uhlman, Leslie Warren, Mary Warren, John Watts, Mark A. Weaver, Marlin Weaver, Bill Whan, Pete Whan, David Whiteley, Ben Winger, Edie Wolford, Scott Wright, Stan Wulkowicz, John Yochum, Leroy E. Yoder, Perry Yoder, Sheryl Young, Sean Zadar, Brian Zweibel. We also received valuable assistance and information from the editors of *The Bobolink* and internet resources managed by Vic Fazio, Ned Keller, and Chuck Anderson. 🐦

## Further Afield

### Rob Harlan

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Prepare yourself for what awaits as we descend, step by step, into the forbidden realms of the politically incorrect. A new taboo has arisen: a pursuit formerly celebrated is now, at least in some circles, cast aside with only a supercilious backward glance as acknowledgment. It would seem that I have become something of a birding dinosaur, and perhaps you have too, for you see, I have always been, and always hope to be...please forgive me...a state lister. Yes, a lister of birds seen in Ohio! And horror of horrors, I enjoy it! I gain knowledge and satisfaction from it! The challenge drives me to broaden my birding horizons, and I offer no excuses for it. True, I may be a dinosaur, but at least I know I am not the only one surviving. So, for those nonconformist souls who remain, who have read thus far without running screaming into the night, in this column I hope to pass along some tips based on my 30 years of Ohio listing experience, so that others might build substantial state lists of their own. If they dare.

In truth, I fail to understand what I sense as a negative undercurrent about listing. This undercurrent is far from pervasive, but it does exist, and its existence baffles me. After all, listing is really nothing more than record keeping. Goal-oriented record keeping, perhaps, but still only an accounting of what has been accomplished. There is much to be gained from listing, but listing only for listing's sake seems a rather hollow pursuit to me. Seen for what it *can* be, as an impetus to furthering our knowledge and understanding, listing is truly a means to an end. But a fun one. I happen to like fun.

So what is entailed in a "good" Ohio list? A good list is whatever you have right now. A better list is what you will have after adding another species to it. And some more after that. I believe the best goal to have is always to resolve to want *more*. Be happy with whatever total you're at, but always acknowledge that it can be better. At the moment, the official Ohio Bird Records Committee list stands at 410 species, representing all wild bird species reliably known to have occurred in Ohio. At about three-quarters of that total, 300 species is a natural and traditional goal for many Ohio birders. To reach the 300 plateau shows a solid level of accomplishment; if you reach 300, and know how you did it, consider your dues paid. But to me, 300 should only be the first goal, not the primary goal. Some folks might reach 300 and then sit back and relax, propping their feet up on the purple sandpipers and Connecticut warblers that have already passed through their binocular fields. Any further enjoyment and challenge (and brown-headed nuthatches) might pass them by because they have already reached their goal of 300 species. But let us not stop there. Once past 300, how high might an Ohio list grow? I feel 325 is a better standard for the true veteran; and every five species thereafter get proportionally more difficult. 330? I would say at least 15 birders have lists of that magnitude. 340? The air is getting thin. 350? Yes, a few, but only a few, are out there. 360? Maybe someday.

If 300 sets a standard initial goal, how long might it take to reach this level? Of course, that would depend on how active, how determined, and how fortunate we might be. Five years of active birding, with this goal in mind, should be enough,