

HDSNP=Headlands Dunes SNP; HWSP=Hueston Woods SP in *Preble* and *Butler*; Killbuck=Killbuck Marsh WA in *Wayne*; KPWA=Killdeer Plains WA in *Wyandot*; LSR=Lakeshore Reservation in *Lake*; Magee=Magee Marsh WA in *Ottawa* and *Lucas*; 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; ONWR=Ottawa NWR in *Ottawa* and *Lucas*; ONWRC=monthly ONWR census; PCWA=Pickerel Creek WA in *Sandusky*; PP=power plant; Res=Reservoir; Resn=Reservation; SF=State Forest; SNP=State Nature Preserve; SP=State Park; SVVA=Spring Valley WA in *Greene* and *Warren*; WA=Wildlife Area; ~≈approximately.

### Corrigendum

The 29 Dec 2002 Lincoln's sparrow in Cincinnati was found by **D. Brinkman**.


### For the Record

Here are noteworthy reports from earlier dates that for one reason or another escaped our notice:

**Red-throated Loon:** One barely made it into last winter's season, at Eastlake PP 28 Feb 2003 (C. Holt).

**Brown Thrasher:** One apparently over-wintered at Mentor Marsh SNP (E. Bacik et al.).

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** Very unusual was one resorting to a *Logan* feeder 25 Jan-1 Feb 2003 (ph. T. Shively).

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** One was repeatedly seen at a feeder at Wolfcreek Environmental Center in *Medina* 29 Nov 2002 through 23 Feb 2003 (D. Bertsch of the WEC staff). 



This red-headed woodpecker represented one of four different species of woodpeckers seen on the morning of 11 March 2003 at North Chagrin Reservation in Cuyahoga County. Photo by Gary Meszaros.

## Spring 2003 Reports

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**Red-throated Loon:** Perhaps a single bird was involved at Eastlake 28 Feb and 2 Mar (C. Holt) through 22 Mar (K. Metcalf, m obs). J. Fry saw one at Lk Logan, *Hocking* 21 Mar, and S. Zadar another at E. 72<sup>nd</sup> St in Cleveland 14 Apr.

**Common Loon:** One cruised Newell's Run in *Washington* as early as 1 Mar (B. Placier). An astonishing 611 flew by LSR 5 Apr (J. Pogacnik), an all-time spring record. At least seven persisted into May, with birds in alternate plumage 17 May at Hoover Res (C. Bombaci) and 26 May at Lake La Su An WA in *Williams* (J. Grabmeier).

**Pied-billed Grebe:** One was at Lk Rockwell 1 Mar (B. Bolton), seven in the Great Miami R in *Butler* 2 Mar (M. Busam), and 20 at Camp Dennison in *Hamilton* 16 Mar (B. Foppe). P. Lozano noted a female with three downy young 27 May at Sandy Ridge MP.

**Horned Grebe:** Present from 1 Mar (Avon Lake, J. Brumfield) through 15 May (near Wooster, S. Snyder). An unusually high count was 50 at BCSP 23 Mar (D. Overacker).

**Red-necked Grebe:** The past winter's only red-necked grebe staged a remarkable stay at Camp Dennison in *Hamilton* 4-12 Jan. During the first week of the spring season, however, it became clear we were to witness a major influx reminiscent of the spring of 1994's. Rob Harlan treated that event in these pages (17(3):75-79) in detail, estimating 100+ individual birds statewide during the period 1 Feb-9 May 1994, based on reports from 24 counties. The high count of 28 birds came from Newell's Run in *Washington* on 14 Feb 1994.

This spring, an estimated 190+ individuals were reported, from at least 38 Ohio counties (*Allen* [1 bird], *Athens* [3], *Auglaize* [1], *Butler* [1], *Clark* [1], *Clermont* [1], *Cuyahoga* [5+], *Delaware* [1], *Erie* [1], *Fulton* [1], *Geauga* [1], *Greene* [3+], *Guernsey* [1], *Hamilton* [4+], *Hocking* [1], *Huron* [2], *Jefferson* [10+], *Lake* [89+], *Licking* [2], *Lorain* [18+], *Lucas* [5], *Monroe* [2], *Montgomery* [1], *Morrow* [2], *Muskingum* [1], *Ottawa* [1], *Pickaway* [2+], *Portage* [3], *Preble* [1], *Richland* [9], *Ross* [1], *Scioto* [1], *Stark* [2], *Summit* [2+], *Trumbull* [1], *Washington* [4], *Wayne* [4], and *Wyandot* [1]). The birds started showing up on the very first day of the season, with one in Newell's Run in *Washington* (B. Placier) and 18 at Avon Lk PP (J. Brumfield). The high count was 61 birds (L. Rosche, T. Beal), nr Eastlake PP 12 Mar. Later, the ONWRC had four breeding-plumaged birds 4 May, and S. Edinger the last two, one advanced in molt, in Athens 8 May.

In 2003 more observers were afield, and communications easier (60+ observers contributed to our 90+ reports), so comparisons as to the magnitudes of the incursions are difficult. In his summary, Harlan compared 1994's 100+ birds with only ~250 recorded in the entire previous history of Ohio ornithology, suggesting the 1994 phenomenon might have been unique at the time.



This red-throated loon posed for photographs at Eastlake Power Plant in Lake County on 16 March 2003. Photo by Gary Meszaros.



Since 1994, *Podiceps grisegena* reports remained fairly normal in Ohio, averaging fewer than two per winter season and fewer than five per spring—until 2003. Observers across the eastern US, south as far as the Carolinas, noted abnormally high numbers of red-necked grebes Feb-May this year.

On 28 Feb, 206 red-necked grebes appeared in the harbor at Dunkirk, NY, farther east along the Lake Erie shore. The next day only fifty were to be found, but that is the day they started to appear in Ohio. By 10 Mar, 717 grebes had been reported in 39 PA counties, and by 4 Apr in 52 counties for a total of ~900 birds. In some eastern states, a few grebes in full alternate plumage hung around well into May, and even into Jun. Ohio's latest report came from 8 May, just a day earlier than that of 1994. Unlike in 1994, we had no reports of grebes grounded by severe weather, only birds taking advantage of open Lk Erie water near power plants early on, then in larger rivers and reservoirs, sometimes in small ponds and quarries, after the general thaw. After warm temperatures dominated ~mid-Mar, most records were of single birds in inland counties, with a high count of only three at one location (*Greene*, 5 Apr, S. Reeves).

The most often heard explanation (see, for example *Field Notes* 48(2):173) for these periodic incursions posits the displacement of wintering grebes from the Great Lakes by ice. This hypothesis needs more testing. There is no direct evidence that red-necked grebes winter far offshore in the Great Lakes. Nor do we (at least in Ohio) have data that correlate the presence of abnormally large numbers of red-necked grebes with each and every freeze-up. Surely 1994 and 2003 are not the only years in which some of the Great Lakes largely froze over; where are comparable records for grebe incursions in other years? Do the five published Ohio records of red-necked grebe for 1934, or the sixteen birds reported in 1959—both memorably cold winters—document under-observed major incursions?

There is another intriguing theory, which Alan Wormington calls "two-tier migration." Applied to the red-necked grebe, it envisions birds migrating from wintering grounds in the Atlantic to the lower Great Lakes early, from mid-February to late March. Here they tarry long enough to build up fat deposits and attain alternate plumage, then resume migration in time to take advantage of the thaw on the breeding grounds in late April through May. Wormington describes red-throated loons and horned grebes as employing similar but not identical strategies in the Great Lakes. Other Canadian observers say southbound grebes in fall may stop and stage to fatten and molt in Georgian Bay in August and September before resuming their southeasterly route (similar to that of tundra swans) to the Atlantic coast. Under the "two-tier" hypothesis, this spring's grebes arrived to find their customary Lake Erie staging areas choked with ice, and improvised by staging temporarily on open water until Lake waters opened in mid-March, with stragglers through the remainder of the period.

**Eared Grebe:** One visited Avon Lk PP 14 (V. Fazio) and 15 Mar (W. Sarno), and another Thurston SP (*Henry*) 29 Mar (P. Chad). One spent 29 Mar (R. Hannikman *fide* H. Petruschke) through 6 Apr (L. Rosche) at Fairport Hbr. Birds in alternate plumage were seen at Kelleys Isl 14 May (Rosche) and 16 May at Funk Bottoms (E. Schlabach).

**American White Pelican:** A passel of pelicans. Three at BCSP 8 Mar (D. Overacker) grew to four 27 Mar (T. Shively), with two remaining 29 Mar (B. Heck). Four were in Higginsport, *Brown* on 17 (L. Brumbaugh)-18 Mar (C. Clingman), J. Holbrook (*fide* J. McCormac) had two at Rocky Fk SP, *Highland* on 24 Mar, and Z. Allen four



Rocky Fork State Park in Highland County hosted these four American white pelicans for several days. Digiscoped photo by Jay Lehman on 27 March 2003.

there later that day, which remained 29 Mar (B. Whan). Simultaneously, four were found at Caesar Ck SP 29 (J. Woolf, S. Reeves)-31 Mar (N. Smith). Two touched down at La Due Res 30 Mar (L. Rosche). A young bird found at BIWA 13 Apr (*fide* M. Misplon) remained through the period (m obs). S. Wright saw seven in maneuvers over Sandusky Bay on 28 Apr. A bird seen passing Burke Airport in Cleveland (ph, R. White) 15 May perhaps was the one that floated in the channel off Pipe Ck WA 15 (S. Young) through 18 May (G. Leidy). Two sailed over Sandusky Bay 23 May (S. Zadar), with a duo, perhaps the same, at ONWR 26 May (L. Gardella).

**Double-crested Cormorant:** Canadian biologists estimate ~200,000 nesting in the Great Lakes. In 1990 none had re-established successful nests in Ohio, but by last year 2787 pairs were at ONWR's West Sister Isl, with smaller numbers at Turning Pt Isl in Sandusky and even fewer at GLSM. Non-breeders appeared at many reservoirs.

**American Bittern:** Reported at MWW 30 Mar-12 Apr (two, F. Frick), and at SVWA 16 (J. Shrader) through 22 Apr (L. Gara). At Magee 22 Mar (M. Anderson) through at least 8 May (E. Snively), three at Mallard Club Marsh WA 8 May (B. Morrison), at PCWA 11 (P. Chad) and 19 May (D. Sanders), and two for the CPNWRC 12 May. Seen at Sandy Ridge MP in *Lorain* 25 Apr (M. Stetz)-17 May (C. Caldwell).

**Least Bittern:** Reported at the customary spots, with two on the 12 May CPNWRC, one 18 May at *Lorain* (G. Leidy), two at Magee and singles at PCWA 19 May (R&S Harlan) and SVWA 22 May (B. Powell).

**Great Egret:** Early were birds at Rte 2 and the Portage R 17 Mar (R&S Harlan), at Cowan Lk SP 22 Mar (C. Becker), and at Shreve Lk 23 Mar (S. Snyder). Apparent non-breeders or deadbeat parents were at Mosquito Lk WA 26 May (D. Hochadel) and in Paulding the "end of May" (D&M Dunakin).

**Snowy Egret:** Seen as early as 15 Apr at Magee, with a peak there of five 28 Apr (both V. Fazio). Elsewhere, one was in Portsmouth 20 Apr (B. Sparks), one in Athens 22 Apr (B. Placier) with two there 8 May (S. Edinger), one at SVWA the same day (D. Johnson), and one at Prairie Oaks MP in *Madison* 23 May (J. Fry).

**Little Blue Heron:** An adult appeared in NW *Coshocton* 18 Apr (L.E. Yoder). At Magee, another adult stayed 4 (G. Miller) through 9 (D. Overacker) May. Another adult stalked SVWA 31 May (S. Reeves).

**Tricolored Heron:** Details of a 16 Apr report from *Cuyahoga* are with the OBRC. One from 24 Apr at Newell's Run backwater in *Washington* was described, including photo, for the OBRC as well.

**Cattle Egret:** A migrant was in *Stark* 5 Apr (C. Fenstermaker). Sandusky roosters were often spotted in the area, such as 23 on 12 May (K. Mock). More unusual were 14 May birds at LSR (J. Pogaenik) and at Gilmore Ponds, *Butler* (B. Lacker).

**Green Heron:** Arrived on schedule 17 Apr in *Hardin* (E. McElroy) and at Walborn Res (B. Morrison), and the 19<sup>th</sup> near Killbuck (S. Snyder) and at SVWA (S. Reeves).

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** P. Lozano's assiduous monitoring of the Merwin St roost in Cleveland yielded 10 birds on 10 Mar, 39 on 3/27, 44 on 3/29, 92 on 3/30, 93 on 1 Apr, 99 on 4/3, 154 on 4/5, 140 on 4/6, 166 on 4/7, 175 on 4/8, 180 on 4/9, 230 on 4/10, 165 on 4/14, 112 on 4/16, and 68 on 4/24. Elsewhere, of interest were 15 at PCWA 18 May (J. Hammond) and two in *Williams* 26 May (J. Grabmeier).

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** Once again reported only from Columbus, where birds arrived 26 Mar, with four adults and four nestlings by the eop (A. Paschall).

**Glossy Ibis:** A breeding-plumaged adult was reported feeding close to a road just south of Applecreek in *Wayne* 16 May; details are with the OBRC.



**White-faced Ibis:** On 17 May an alternate-plumaged bird was seen skulking at PCWA, where it was refound 19 May. Details are with the OBRC.

**Black Vulture:** S. Corbo counted 75 over Camp Dennison, Hamilton 1 Mar, and L.E. Yoder two in Coshoccon 8 Mar. On 17 Mar 200+ soared in Clermont (L. Brumbaugh). April sightings included one in Ross the 9<sup>th</sup> (J. McMahon), 22 in Shawnee SF the 19<sup>th</sup> (J. Shrader), and 35+ near Clear Ck MP in Hocking 21 Apr (B. Royle).

**Turkey Vulture:** Certainly migrants were one in Columbus 7 Mar (B. Royle), and two in Summit 9 Mar (K. Mock). V. Fazio reported good numbers of 214 at Magee on 17 Mar, 747 at MBSP the following day, and 587 at Magee 24 Mar.

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** Reports came of five at Camp Dennison 1 Mar (S. Corbo), one at Gilmore Ponds 8 Mar (A. Oliver), one at N. Chagrin Resn (K. Metcalf) 12 Mar, one 18-20 Mar near Wooster (S. Snyder), and one in Mantua Twp, Portage 19 Mar (L. Rosche).

**Snow Goose:** The ONWRC tallied 29 (15 blue) over-wintering birds 2 Mar, and a flock of 35 on 17 Mar at Magee (V. Fazio) may have been the same one. Thirty-two birds were scattered across the state in ones and twos (in Franklin, Clinton, Adams, Clermont, Clark, Scioto, Lake, Preble) the first half of Mar; the latest report came from BIWA, a single bird 20 Apr (C. Bombaci). High count of transients five in Ross 9 Mar (J. McCormac).

**Ross's Goose:** Two visited HWSP 7-9 Mar (D. Russell), accepted OBRC. For one at Lks Phippen and Rockwell in Portage 18-20 Mar (ph) details are with the OBRC.

**Tundra Swan:** Migration continued through Mar, with over 5200 reported in the migratory path ESE through the northern part of the state during the period. High count ~500 Funk Bottoms 17 Mar (B. Burnett). The only Apr report, of 122 birds, came from the wintering area by the ONWRC.

**Whooper Swan:** One visited Hebron Fish Hatchery in Licking 16 Apr (ph J. Stafford). Though the bird appeared wary and showed no obvious signs of captivity, chances of wild origin are likely close to zero. Details are with the OBRC.

**Wood Duck:** None reported wintering, so 16 in Dayton 7 Mar may have been first arrivals (N. Smith). Birds appeared the same day in the Cleveland area (K. Metcalf).



Cuyahoga County's North Chagrin Reservation hosted this greater white-fronted goose on 12 March 2003. Photo by Gary Meszaros.



Causing quite a bit of surprise, this whooper swan appeared at the Hebron Fish Hatchery on 16 April 2003. Photo by Jim Stafford.

**Gadwall:** J. McCormac had 100+ in Scioto 9 Mar. Seventy-six were off MBSP 18 Mar, then 165+ at KPWA 27 Mar (V. Fazio). The 6 Apr ONWRC counted 335, and one lingered 15 May at PCWA (G. Links).

**Eurasian Wigeon:** Drakes were found at Berlin Res 12 (B. Morrison)-15 Mar (J. Brumfield), at Benton/Carroll Rds south of Magee 28 (G. Links)-31 Mar (G. Klug fide V. Fazio), and near Upper Sandusky 30 Mar (R. Counts)-3 Apr (T. Daley).

**American Wigeon:** With the first 16 migrants at EFSP in Clermont 5 Mar (H. Armstrong), their numbers peaked statewide the fourth week of the month, with a high count of 1500+ at Metzger the 24<sup>th</sup> (G. Links). BIWA still harbored 105+ on 17 Apr (V. Fazio), and one lingered 15 May at PCWA (Links).

**American Black Duck:** Trickled in, with four at Lk Rockwell 1 Mar (B. Bolton), and 50+ on 5 Mar and 80 on 7 Mar at EFSP (H. Armstrong). Funk held 55 on 20 Mar (S. Snyder). The ONWRC had two on 2 Mar, then 137 on 6 Apr. One tarried 10 May at ONWR (J. Hammond).

**Mallard:** H. Armstrong counted ~1300 as early as 7 Mar at EFSP.

**Blue-winged Teal:** Seen earliest in the south, with one 8 Mar at BCSP (D. Overacker), 3 drakes 9 Mar in Portsmouth (J. McCormac), and one in Athens 10 Mar (B. Placier). By 23 Mar three were at HBSP (L. Rosche). High count 470+ at BIWA 17 Apr (V. Fazio). On 24 May T. Shively noted seven pairs, some with young, at Mercer WA.

**Northern Shoveler:** No earlier than the other ducks, with first report of eight 8 Mar at BCSP (D. Overacker). At KPWA 105 were present by 27 Mar (V. Fazio), and the ONWRC counted 202 on 6 Apr. T. Shively noted two pairs with three downy young at Mercer WA on 24 May.

**Northern Pintail:** Eight arrived 8 Mar at BCSP (D. Overacker), 75+ in Scioto 9 Mar (J. McCormac), and 120 the 11<sup>th</sup> in Franklin (J. Watts). V. Fazio tallied 355 at KPWA 27 Mar and 192 at BIWA 17 Apr. High count 500+ among Funk's throngs 21 Mar (B. Morrison).

**Green-winged Teal:** J. Estep noted the first, a pair at Hoover Res 7 Mar. Numbered 214 at KPWA 27 Mar (V. Fazio). The ONWRC had 493 on 6 Apr, then seven on 4 May. Other May individuals included a drake at Funk the 12<sup>th</sup> (S. Snyder) and a bird at PCWA the 15<sup>th</sup> (G. Links). D. Sanders observed an alt male "Eurasian" form (*A. c. crecca*) at ONWR 6 Apr.

**Canvasback:** Small numbers lingered inland from winter, such as among 45 at Camp Dennison 9 Mar (A. Oliver), but 110 in Scioto the same day (J. McCormac), 30 in Fairfield 11 Mar (J. Watts) and 89 on the 2 Mar ONWRC were migrants. Frozen Lk Erie waters through much of Mar kept the high count at 92, at MBSP the 18<sup>th</sup> (V. Fazio).

**Redhead:** Like the previous species, mostly overleaping frozen water, with a high count of 400 in Scioto 9 Mar (J. McCormac). Somehow 220 found liquid at Mosquito Lk WA the same day (D. Hochadel). A drake dawdled at Medusa Marsh 19 May (R&S Harlan).

**Ring-necked Duck:** Again, a few had wintered in spots, but flocks in the hundreds developed at reservoirs through Mar, culminating in a high count of 750+ at Berlin Res on the 25<sup>th</sup> (B. Morrison).

**Greater Scaup:** Having wintered in many locations, migration was prolonged. The high count was 259 on the 18 Apr Kelleys Isl census (T. Bartlett), and 20 were at EHSP 30 Apr (G. Links). Noteworthy May records included one in Lorain the 11<sup>th</sup> (J. Pogacnik), one at Funk 13-17 May (ph, S. Snyder), and two on the 15<sup>th</sup> at PCWA (Links).

**Lesser Scaup:** 9 Mar in Scioto brought 770 (J. McCormac), and numbers swelled later in Mar, with ~1500 off HBSP the 23<sup>rd</sup> (L. Rosche) and ~3000 off MBSP the 28<sup>th</sup> and 2300+ on 16 Apr (both V. Fazio). G. Leidy reported two at Lorain 18 May.



- Harlequin Duck:** A female discovered 2 Mar at Eastlake (C. Holt) remained through 8 Mar (H. Petruschke, m obs).
- Surf Scoter:** Twenty-two reported, with one at Avon Lk PP 1 Mar (J. Brumfield) and the latest 18 May at LSR (J. Pogacnik). Records in *Lorain, Cuyahoga, Lake, Licking, Franklin, Ottawa,* and *Portage*. High count five at La Due Res 28 Apr (C. Holt).
- White-winged Scoter:** Thirty-two reported, with two at Avon Lk PP 1 Mar (J. Brumfield), and the latest two in Bucyrus 19 Apr (R. Counts). High count 12 at Eastlake 14 Mar (G. Meszaros). Records in *Lorain, Montgomery, Washington, Hamilton, Lake, Scioto, Clermont, Crawford,* and *Lucas*.
- Black Scoter:** All reports: 1 Mar Cleveland (J. Pogacnik), 2 Mar LSR (Pogacnik), female 2 Mar Eastlake (L. Rosche), 14 Mar Eastlake (R. Rickard) and female Eastlake 15 Mar (S. Zadar), two 15 Mar Avon Lk PP (Zadar), 2 Apr Cleveland (K. Metcalf), male offshore ONWR 11 May (P. Rodewald).
- Long-tailed Duck:** ~Sixteen reported, from *Trumbull, Lake, Cuyahoga,* and *Allen*. First reported were three in Mosquito Lk 9 Mar (D. Hochadel), the latest a male in Bresler Res near Lima 25 Apr (D. Dister). High count five at LSR 30 Mar (J. Pogacnik).
- Bufflehead:** Larger counts 100+ in *Cuyahoga* 6 Mar (L. Gardella), 110 at Eastlake 12 Mar (L. Rosche), and 352 near Kelleys Isl 18 Apr (T. Bartlett). Latest reported was a lone drake at ONWR 10 May (J. Hammond, m obs).
- Common Goldeneye:** A few wintered south, and were found into the period. At Eastlake 220 were present 12 Mar (L. Rosche), and ~350 at Avon Lk PP 16 Mar (C. Warren). Three remained off Kelleys Isl 18 Apr (T. Bartlett) and one off LSR 11 May (J. Pogacnik).
- Hooded Merganser:** No large numbers reported, with 40 at EFSP 7 Mar (H. Armstrong). Females with young were at Killbuck 17 May-eop (S. Snyder), and three with 24+ young at ONWR 28 May (P. Lozano).
- Common Merganser:** One remained as late as 30 Apr at EHSP (G. Links).
- Red-breasted Merganser:** At LSR, 3480 passed 23 Mar, then 143 on 11 May (J. Pogacnik). Other May records came from Shreve Lk the 5<sup>th</sup> (S. Snyder), 30-40 near Kelleys Isl the 16<sup>th</sup> (K. Metcalf), 18 the 18<sup>th</sup> at LSR (Pogacnik), the 24<sup>th</sup> at BCSP (D. Overacker), and a female at Hinckley Lk, *Medina* 28 May (R&S Harlan).
- Ruddy Duck:** Twenty-plus were at EFSP 5 Mar (H. Armstrong). S. Zadar had 200+ at Lk Medina 19 Apr, H&S Hiris 1434 at Magee 20 Apr, and L. Rosche 300 at Mogadore Res 27 Apr. The 4 May ONWRC had 47, S. Snyder an alt male at Shreve Lk 21 May, F. Frick 2 at MWW 24 May, and P. Lozano 11 at Sandy Ridge MP 27 May.
- Osprey:** The ODOW reintroduction project has already exceeded its 2010 project goals, with 22 nests and 31+ nestlings this spring. Ospreys established three new nests, in *Delaware, Mahoning,* and *Tuscarawas*. Interestingly, the success of Ohio's project is increasingly due to infusions of apparently wild (or at least unmarked) birds; only 10 of the current 22 nests involve marked birds (D. Sherman). A similar project was launched this year to re-establish the species in Indiana.
- Bald Eagle:** ODOW monitors counted 88 Ohio nests, 59 of them successful, and 105 young surviving ≥4 wks. Noted were 12 new pairs, the southernmost in *Morgan*.
- Northern Harrier:** High count of migrants 13 at MBSP 15 Mar (E. Schlabach). Of interest during breeding season were a male in *Marion* 30 Apr (B. Whan), one at Dike 14 and one at HBSP on 10 May (both G. Leidy), a pair constructing a nest at Mosquito Lk WA 26 May (D. Hochadel), and single individuals on 31 May in *Gallia* (J. Fuller) and *Coshocton* (L. Deininger).

- Northern Goshawk:** An ad was at LSR 24 Mar (J. Pogacnik), when another was at Magee (V. Fazio). B. Morrison observed one in *Stark* 2 Apr.
- Red-shouldered Hawk:** Healthy. At MBSP 86 passed over on 15 Mar (E. Schlabach). Seven were in the air at once over CVNP the same day (D. Chasar).
- Broad-winged Hawk:** Moved on schedule. One was in Shawnee SF 15 Apr (B. Royse), and one in *Portage* 18 Apr (B. Bolton). E. Schlabach counted 116 over *Holmes* on 19 Apr, and B. Murphy 153 over *Lakewood* 20 Apr. On 28 Apr, V. Fazio tallied 313 over Magee, with a single kettle of 277 birds.
- Red-tailed Hawk:** Single dark morphs passed over MBSP 18 Mar and Magee on 28 Apr (V. Fazio). An 80% albino nested near Walborn Res during the period (B. Morrison).
- Rough-legged Hawk:** High count six at The Wilds, *Muskingum* 10 Mar (L. Brumbaugh). The latest to depart was at KPWA 26 Mar (R. Sempier).
- Golden Eagle:** Wintering birds at The Wilds consisted of an ad and two imm (15 Mar, B. Conlon), where the last sighting was of an ad and an imm 20 Mar (J. Benedetti et al.). Migrants spied included an ad at MBSP 15 Mar (E. Schlabach), an imm in *Lake* 14 Apr (D. Seman), an ad in NW *Coshocton* 19 Apr (L.E. Yoder), and an imm at Magee 21 Apr and a sub-ad there 28 Apr (V. Fazio).
- Merlin:** Twenty-nine reported. As many as four were observed at Calvary Cem in *Cuyahoga*, with a tercel apparently wintering 11 Dec through 31 Mar (L. Gardella, m obs). The latest report came from Mallard Club Marsh WA on 13 May (L. Rosche).



These two bald eagles surveyed Turtle Creek Wildlife Area in Ottawa County on 15 March 2003. Photo by Gary Meszaros.



**Peregrine Falcon:** The ODOW introduction project reported 12 successful nests, with 30 young banded statewide. New field mark: an ad with a satellite antenna attached to its back was flying west along the shore at ONWR 30 Apr (**P. Rodewald**).

**King Rail:** Few reports. The CPNWRC found one as late as 15 May (**G. Links**).

**Virginia Rail:** As expected. Wintering birds at SVWA numbered 2-3 on 16 Mar (**L. Theriault**).

**Sora:** First noted at MWW 5 Apr (**F. Frick**), seven were at SVWA 17 Apr (**J. Shrader**).

**Common Moorhen:** Three at Magee 20 Apr grew to seven 18 May (**H&S Hiris**) and two at Killbuck 21 Apr to four 14 May (**S. Snyder**). Five BIWA 9 May (**D. Horn**). High count seven 4 May ONWRC. One was seen at Mosquito Lk WA 30 May (**D. Hochadel**).

**American Coot:** Fifteen toughed it out at Avon Lk (**J. Brumfield**) and 150-200 at Camp Dennison in *Hamilton* (**S. Corbo**), both on 1 Mar. High count 2600+ BIWA 17 Apr (**V. Fazio**).

**Sandhill Crane:** ~250 reported, mostly in Mar in the western counties. As many as four were repeatedly reported from the NW marshes 28 Apr (**V. Fazio**) through 19 May (**R&S Harlan**, m obs). Seven the maximum reported from the Killbuck area 5 Apr (**S. Snyder**), with several through the eop, with a frequent duo in *Mahoning* 17 May (**B. Jones**).

**Black-bellied Plover:** Two arrived at ONWR 17 Apr (**E. Snively**), and plovers appeared in ones and twos through 26 May (*Wyandot*, **R. Counts**), with two large concentrations noted in *Lucas*: 115 over Whitehouse 10 May (**M. Anderson**), and ~150 in a Jerusalem Twp field 17 May (**D. Russell**).

**American Golden-Plover:** A good flight began on 27 Mar with four at KPWA (**V. Fazio**) and ended 3 May with 15 between Columbus and SVWA (**J. Hammond**). In the interim, reports came of 7500+ birds in fields in western counties, the high count a near-record ~4100 in *Marion* s. of KPWA 23 Apr (**M. Bolton**).

**Semipalmated Plover:** First two in *Scioto* 26 Apr (**B. Whan**), the last six at SVWA 30 May (**S. Reeves**). High count ~100 at PCWA 15 May (**G. Links**).

**Piping Plover:** Two were photographed 3 May along the beach of Magee WA; details are with the OBRC.

**American Avocet:** Only two, at Paulding Res 29 Apr (**D&M Dunakin**).

**Greater Yellowlegs:** Quite early was one 3 Mar on the Little Miami floodplain (**S. Hedeem**). Ninety at Funk 14 Apr (**S. Snyder**) was a good count, though short of the highest of 120 at BIWA 23 Apr (**M. Bolton**).

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** Earliest were 14 at BCSP 16 Mar (**E. Snively**). Many double-figure reports ensued in Apr, the highest of 80 at BIWA on the 23<sup>rd</sup> (**M. Bolton**). **J. Yochum** reported one in *Williams* as late as 30 May.

**Solitary Sandpiper:** Early was one in *Pike* 3 Apr (**P. Whan**). On 29 Apr 22 gathered at Gilmore Ponds (**S. Reeves**) and 22 at Killbuck 4 May (**G. Miller**), with 20 counted on the ONWRC of the latter date. Last seen at Sandy Ridge MP in *Lorain* 27 May (**P. Lozano**).

**Willet:** A remarkable 25 reported, an even more remarkable 15 of them inland. One *Scioto* 26 (**B. Sparks**)-29 Apr (**B. Royse**), two Lk Logan in *Hocking* 2 May with one there 6 May (**J. Fry**), two in Jerusalem Twp *Lucas* 7 (**C. Tucker**)-8 May (**P. Rodewald**), one at Magee 9 May (**S. Snyder**), two at Lorain 11 May (**J. Pogacnik**), one nr Medusa Marsh 11 (**D. Linzell**)-14 May (**G. Links**), nine (**S. Reeves**) then 11 (**L. Gara**) at Caesar Ck SP 12 May, three at Magee 14 (**T. Simmons**)-16 May (**R. Nirschl**), one at HWSP 15 May (**C. Betrus**), and one at Conneaut 21 May (**J. Sedransk**).

**Spotted Sandpiper:** Early at EFSP 30 Mar (**B. Stanley**). High 13 at Cowan Lk SP 3 May (**L. Gara**).

**Upland Sandpiper:** Two pairs were seen in fields in Jerusalem Twp, *Lucas* through the period (**G. Links**, m obs). **C. Holt** reported a May pair in Dorsett Twp, *Ashtabula*.

**Whimbrel:** Fly-by reports came from Lorain (**G. Leidy**, 18 May), from LSR (11 birds, **J. Pogacnik**, 26 May), and from Crane Ck SP beach 26 May (**C. Caldwell**).

**Hudsonian Godwit:** A rare spring migrant, a female was along the entry road at ONWR 4 May (**L. Gardella**, m obs).

**Ruddy Turnstone:** Two were at Funk 12 May (**S. Snyder**). About 100 worked a Jerusalem Twp field 17 May (**D. Russell**), and "hundreds" the Crane Ck SP beach for the midge hatch 24 May (**R. Nirschl**), with 45 remaining the 28<sup>th</sup> (**P. Lozano**).

**Red Knot:** One was at Conneaut 12-13 May (**C. Holt**). Another joined flocks of dunlins for the Magee midge fiesta 24 (**R. Nirschl**) to 26 May (**L. Gardella**).

**Sanderling:** Sparse as expected, with singles at HBSP 20 May (**L. Rosche**), among the flocks at Magee 25 May (**D. Sanders**), and 30 May in *Williams* (**J. Yochum**).

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** Late, with scanty numbers. One was at SVWA 18 May (**S. Reeves**), and the high count only 17 in *Williams* 30 May (**J. Yochum**).

**Western Sandpiper:** **R. Counts** found one at a reservoir near Upper Sandusky 25 May.

**Least Sandpiper:** Two at BCSP 1 Mar (**C. Buechele**) could only have wintered at this traditional location. Migrants were at Turtle Ck by 28 Mar (**V. Fazio**), but mudflats were hard to find. High count ~150 in *Williams*, of all places (**J. Yochum**, 15 May), and two lingered through 30 May at SVWA (**S. Reeves**).

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** First report from SVWA 4 May (**J. Stenger**). One was at Conneaut 12-13 May (**C. Holt**). A couple haunted the isolated mudflats at Pipe Ck WA 16 (**E. Schlabach**) through 25 May (**D. Sanders**). On 20 May **J. Fry** had one at Pickerington Ponds, *Franklin*. Found in small numbers through the rest of the period.

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** Damp fields were plentiful, as were pectorals. Over 18,000 birds reported, with four four-figure and 23 three-figure counts. First were 25+ at SVWA 14 Mar (**S. Reeves**), with high counts of ~1100 in n. *Wyandot* 11 Apr (**R. Counts**) and at BIWA of ~6100 on 23 and ~2100 on 27 Apr (both **M. Bolton**).

**Dunlin:** First reported early by the 6 Apr ONWRC, where 2097 later found a sliver of habitat 28 Apr (**S. Zadar**). Elsewhere often seen in bewildered flocks overhead looking for a place to dine, ~2000 dominated the midge-maddened throngs at Magee 24 May (**R. Nirschl**), actually venturing by the hundreds into the busy parking lot 25 May (**P. Gardner**). On 30 May 17 lingered at SVWA (**S. Reeves**).

**Stilt Sandpiper:** Always scarce in spring, two in nuptial finery tarried in *Wayne* 17 (**S. Snyder**, ph) through 22 May (**E. Snively**).

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** High count ~150 nr Bryan in *Williams* 15 May (**J. Yochum**). First at KPWA 30 Apr (**J. Hammond**), the latest nr Upper Sandusky (**R. Counts**) 26 May. One at ONWR 25 May (**D. Sanders**) was the only report from the w. Lake Erie marshes. Among fewer than 30 others inland, high counts were 15 at Funk 14 May (**E. Schlabach**) and five in *Mahoning* 17 May (**B. Jones**).

**Long-billed Dowitcher:** Rare in spring, one at SVWA on 10 Apr lacked orange tones below, but had fresh scapulars and wing coverts (**S. Reeves**).

**Wilson's Snipe:** One 3 Mar in *Hamilton* may have over-wintered (**S. Hedeem**). Twenty migrants were in *Scioto* 15 Mar (**B. Sparks**), 25 in Oxford 11 Apr (**D. Russell**), and 41 in Mantua Twp in *Portage* 13 Apr (**L. Rosche**) for the high count. **D. Hochadel** noted courtship flights as early as 23 Mar in *Trumbull*, with 15 flushed from meadows 27 Apr.



**American Woodcock:** First noted 1 Mar (C. Bedel *fide* P. Whan) in Adams, eight were at Gilmore Ponds 4 Mar (M. Busam). High 10 at Jaite, CVNP 16 Mar (D. Chasar).

**Wilson's Phalarope:** An ad female was at SVWA 7 May (S. Reeves). Two were at the Funk Bottoms 14 May (E. Schlabach), three near Bryan in Williams 15 May (J. Yochum), and one at Pipe Ck WA on 27 May (M. Warren).

**Red-necked Phalarope:** A female was in a Williams wetland 19-22 May (J. Yochum), three (two females) at Pipe Ck WA 23 May (D. Linzell), a female at Funk Bottoms 23 May (S. Snyder), and a female and a male near Upper Sandusky 26 May (R. Counts).

**Laughing Gull:** An ad was at Lorain 5 Apr (J. Pogacnik), another at BIWA 17 Apr (V. Fazio), another in Hebron, Licking 9-10 May (C. Dusthimer), and yet another near Toussaint WA 17 May (E. Durbin *fide* G. Links).

**Franklin's Gull:** An ad with pinkish underparts was at the GLSM fish hatchery 22 Apr (M. Misplon).

**Little Gull:** The first open water at LSR brought an ad 22 Mar (J. Pogacnik), then perhaps the same to HBSP 23 Mar (L. Rosche). LSR hosted another 19 Apr (Pogacnik).

**Bonaparte's Gull:** K. McDonald spotted one in Hamilton 7 Mar, D. Overacker six at BCSP the following day, and by the 28<sup>th</sup> V. Fazio 600+ at Magee. J. Pogacnik counted 10,880 passing LSR 19 Apr. Two remained at PCWA 18 May (J. Hammond).

**Thayer's Gull:** On 1 Mar J. Pogacnik had a first-year, a third-year, and an ad at E. 72 St in Cleveland, variously seen by other observers over the next few days. L. Rosche found one at HBSP 6 Apr, and Pogacnik an ad at LSR as late as 26 Apr.

**Iceland Gull:** On 1 Mar, J. Brumfield picked out two at Avon Lake PP, and J. Pogacnik 8-10 at E. 72<sup>nd</sup> St in Cleveland. L. Rosche found four at HBSP 3 Mar. Pogacnik noted a single bird at LSR 2 Mar, and Rosche one remaining at E. 72<sup>nd</sup> St 7 Mar.



Ashtabula County's Conneaut harbor hosted numerous terns this spring. This Forster's tern was photographed there by Gary Meszaros on 15 May 2003.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** Two were at E. 72<sup>nd</sup> St on 1 Mar (J. Pogacnik) and one on the 22<sup>nd</sup> (K. Metcalf). One was inland at La Due Res 30 Mar (L. Rosche). May birds included one at Lorain on the 11<sup>th</sup> (J. Pogacnik) and at Conneaut on the 12<sup>th</sup> (C. Holt).

**Western Gull:** Reported as this species, a second-winter bird at E. 72<sup>nd</sup> St in Cleveland was well photographed at close range 1 Mar. What was apparently the same individual was observed at Avon Lk PP 11 Mar. Details are with the OBRC.

**Glaucous Gull:** Six were counted at E. 72<sup>nd</sup> St and six at Avon Lk on 1 Mar (J. Pogacnik). Fifteen other reports (m obs) ensued along the Lakefront, with the final sighting an adult on 3 May at LSR (Pogacnik).

**Great Black-backed Gull:** High spring count 150 at Avon Lk 1 Mar (J. Pogacnik).

**Black-legged Kittiwake:** Very rare in spring, an imm was at LSR 19 Apr (J. Pogacnik).

**Caspian Tern:** First three reported at Rocky Fork SP 29 Mar (J. Lennon), one was in Cleveland the next day (C. Spagnoli). High count 119 at LSR 19 Apr (J. Pogacnik) and 62 was a noteworthy number as late as 12 May at Conneaut (C. Holt).

**Common Tern:** Small numbers were off the Crane Ck SP beach as early as 25 Apr (V. Fazio). Inland, 26 were seen nr Wooster on 16 May (S. Snyder).

**Forster's Tern:** First noted 6 Apr near Wapakoneta (J. Hammond) and in Cleveland (S. Zadar), migrants passed through mid-May. Unusual numbers from the northeast included 50 at HBSP on 8 May (L. Rosche) and 174 at Conneaut 12 May (C. Holt).

**Least Tern:** An adult in alternate plumage was reported from Metzger in Lucas on 17 May; details are with the OBRC.

**Black Tern:** Only twenty-four reported, nineteen from inland spots, ranging in time from 8 (Paulding, D&M Dunakin) to 30 May (Williams, J. Yochum). High count only three, at KPWA 17 May (R. Sempier).

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** First at Spring Grove Cem in Cincinnati 4 May (J. Stenger), with eight more arrivals reported in the ensuing week as far north as Magee.

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** First reported at Scioto Tr SF 27 Apr (B. Royse).

**Barn Owl:** On 4 May, at least nine pairs were known to be incubating eggs at nests in Wayne, Holmes, and Tuscarawas (G. Miller).

**Long-eared Owl:** KPWA birds lasted until 25 Mar (R. Sempier), but one in Wayne persisted from mid-winter through 14 Apr (*fide* S. Snyder). S. Zadar noticed one at Dike 14 in Cleveland 15 Mar. A migrant was at HDSNP 19 Apr (H. Petruschke). One found caught in barbed wire in Clermont 22 Apr was later released (G. Fantetti).

**Short-eared Owl:** Rodent numbers were low at KPWA this winter, where the last owl was seen 2 Mar (M. Kraus). One was at the VOA property in Butler 12 Mar (J. Brown). On 19 Apr, S. Zadar spotted one at Dike 14, and H. Petruschke another at HDSNP.

**Northern Saw-whet Owl:** One at KPWA lasted through 8 Mar (S&R Harlan), and the Gilmore Ponds bird from the winter was reported through 11 Mar (L. Theriault). One was at Magee 24 Mar (R. Nirschl), and one at Dike 14 in Cleveland 3 Apr (S. Zadar).

**Common Nighthawk:** First appeared over Cincinnati 29 Apr (W. Hull), where 45 were around by 8 May (J. Brown). Alarming absent in many traditional urban haunts.

**Chuck-will's-widow:** First Adams report 20 Apr (J. Lehman). Only one reappeared in Hocking, singing south of the previous stronghold 7 May (P. Knoop *fide* J. Fry).



**Whip-poor-will:** First heard were several in *Scioto* 11 Apr (**Z. Allen**). **P. Rodewald** recorded whips at ONWR 1 May, at Crane Ck SP 10 May, and at CPNWR 20 May.

**Chimney Swift:** Two were seen in NE *Holmes* on 15 Apr (**E.A. Yoder**) for the first. By the 27<sup>th</sup>, "thousands" were over Portsmouth (**B. Royle**).

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** First seen 20 Apr, in *Clermont* (**F. Kidd**) and *Hamilton* (**J. Watkins**).

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** One in Clear Ck MP 20-21 Mar (**J. Watts**) may have, and two in Columbus 26 Mar (**R. Thorn**) probably had, over-wintered. Fifteen to 20 migrants were at Magee 4 Apr (**G. Links**). One lingered on 10 May there (**D. Horn**).

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** On the early side was one at ONWR 9 May (**B. Morrison** et al.). Numbers peaked with three birds reported around the state on 22 May, the last report coming from Winton Wds in *Hamilton* the following day (**S. Corbo**).

**Eastern Wood-Pewee:** Early arrivals came to *Franklin* 20 Apr (**R. Thorn**), *Hamilton* 27 Apr (**J. Stenger**), *Parma* 28 Apr (**G. Leidy**), and *Scioto Trail SF* 30 Apr (**B. Royle**).

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** In no hurry, the first was netted by BSBO at Navarre Marsh 10 May, but they were customarily plentiful thereafter through the period.

**Acadian Flycatcher:** Arrived 3 May, at BCSP (**D. Overacker**) and MWW (**A. Oliver**).

**Alder Flycatcher:** First reported in *Pickaway* 13 May (**G. Miller**). Territorial birds were at Hinckley MP in *Medina* 27-28 May (**R&S Harlan**) and two-three at Irwin Prairie SNP in *Lucas* 28 May (**G. Links**); on 30 May, two were at Shenango WA and five at Mosquito Lk WA in *Trumbull* (**D. Hochadel**).



This whip-poor-will obligingly posed for a photograph in Oak Openings Preserve Metropark in Lucas County. Digiscoped photo by Joe Hammond on 14 May 2003.

**Willow Flycatcher:** A calling bird was first at Irwin Prairie SNP on 9 May (**G. Miller** et al.); by the following day, three were to be found on the CVNP (**D. Chasar**).

**Least Flycatcher:** **D. Morse** discovered the earliest migrant 18 Apr in *Clermont*, and the high count was 20 on 16 May at Magee (**E. Schlabach**).

**Eastern Phoebe:** Though over-wintering was not confirmed this year, this durable species was first reported from *Hocking* 4 Mar (**J. Fry**).

**Great Crested Flycatcher:** First touchdowns were recorded on 20 Apr, in Spring Grove Cem in Cincinnati (**N. Cade**) and at LSR in *Lake* (**J. Pogacnik**).

**Eastern Kingbird:** A bird in *Butler* 16 Apr (**M. Busam**) was earlyish. The high count was a swarm of 43 at LSR in *Lake* 11 May (**J. Pogacnik**).

**Loggerhead Shrike:** A duo was reported from *Adams* 9 May, and nesting verified 13 May; details including photos are with the OBRC.

**Northern Shrike:** The latest in the NE hunted *Ashtabula* 23 Mar (**J. Pogacnik**). A bird at Spencer Lk WA, *Medina* was faithful through 16 Mar (**R&S Harlan**). One reported at Magee 3 Apr (**N. Bixler**) and at Crane Ck SP 4 Apr (**A. Spencer**).

**White-eyed Vireo:** First seen at Shawnee SF 15 Apr (**B. Royle**).

**Bell's Vireo:** One was at MWW 3 May (**H. Armstrong**). **D. Overacker** found two pairs near one another in a traditional location at BCSP on 16 May, and another singing male at a different BCSP location 30 May. **S. Richards** discovered a singing male at a park in Hilliard, *Franklin* 18 May; it remained through at least 27 May (**J. Meara**).

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** Arrived *Scioto* 15 Apr (**B. Royle**) and Magee 19 Apr (**C. Caldwell**).

**Blue-headed Vireo:** Heard and seen was a possible earliest-record male at Girdled Rd Resn in *Lake* 28 Mar (**J. Pogacnik**), an apparent overflyer. Another early individual was at Shawnee SF on 5 Apr (**B. Sparks**).

**Warbling Vireo:** Early arrival at Gilmore Ponds 18 Apr (**M. Busam**), and by 7 May 10+ were to be seen in Columbus (**R. Thorn**).

**Philadelphia Vireo:** First reported from Columbus 8 May (**J. Glover**), by 20 May six were netted at Navarre Marsh (BSBO), with three in Columbus 24 May (**P. Rodewald**).

**Red-eyed Vireo:** Appeared Shawnee 15 Apr, where 161 were counted 28 Apr (**B. Royle**).

**Blue Jay:** Seventy at EFSP 7 Mar were of interest (**N. Cade**). **J. Pogacnik** had 511 at LSR in *Lake* 11 May, then "several hundred" as late as 24 May. Magee observers during mid-May reported many migrant jays, most often paradoxically eastbound.



Representing a very rare event these days, a pair of loggerhead shrikes nested in Adams County this year. This individual was digiscoped there by Jay Lehman on 9 May 2003.



- American Crow:** If their numbers were reduced by WNV, they are bouncing back; **R. Thorn** reported "low numbers, but quite a few pairs, including many with 1-2 juveniles."
- Purple Martin:** Early scouts arriving during favorable weather included one at Winton Wds, *Hamilton* (**S. Corbo**) 21 Mar, and two in *Fairfield* 3 Apr (**J. Fry**).
- Tree Swallow:** Showed up first on 9 Mar, with two in *Scioto* (**J. McCormac**) and one in *Hamilton* (**S. Reeves**).
- Northern Rough-winged Swallow:** **J. Brumfield** saw one in *Wayne* 22 Mar, **T. Bartlett** another 23 Mar in *Seneca*, and **D. Brinkman** two at MWW 25 Mar.
- Bank Swallow:** Cowan Lk SP hosted the first on 13 Apr (**D. Unger**). **J. Pogacnik** had 1092 at LSR on 11 May, by which time banks were spread across the Lk Erie shore.
- Cliff Swallow:** An apparent state record early arrival was a bird in *Fredericksburg, Wayne* 24 Mar (**A.A. Troyer** *vide* **E. Schlabach**). More arrived 14 Apr in *Holmes* (**W. Sarno**), where **P. Yoder's** 394 nests were down from last year's 482. Nonetheless continued newly to colonize human structures statewide.
- Barn Swallow:** First reported *Seneca* 23 Mar (**K. Roush** *vide* **T. Bartlett**), with another in *Coshocton* 28 Mar (**L.E. Yoder**). High count 363 at LSR 11 May (**J. Pogacnik**).
- Red-breasted Nuthatch:** Sparse. All reports: 2 Mar on the ONWRC, 9 Mar HWSP (**E. Baumgardner** et al.), 18 Apr *Franklin* (**R. Thorn**), 12 Apr nr Columbus (**B. Sparks**), 13 Apr two nests under construction *Brecksville Resn* (**D. Chasar**), two in the CVNP 10 May (**L. Rosche**), pair nesting *Hocking Hills SP* 19 May (**F. Renfrow**), one at *Hinckley MP, Medina* 27 May (**R&S Harlan**).
- Brown Creeper:** First two migrants reported by **G. Leidy** at the CVNP 5 Apr, who had the high count of eight in *Parma* 9 Apr. **D. Chasar** noticed a nest under construction near *Station Rd* in the CVNP 4 May; **S. Snyder** had a bird at *Killbuck* 25 May, and **J. Kuenzli** another at *Hoover Res* 29 May.
- Winter Wren:** Probable migrants were in *Hamilton* 16 Mar (**D. Brinkman**), and two in *Columbus* 27 Mar (**P. McSweeney**). The BSBO captured one at *Navarre Marsh* 12 May.
- Sedge Wren:** The VOA property in *Butler* hosted one as early as 30 Apr, with six there 21 May (**M. Busam**). Singletons were detected at the *SVWA* 8 May (**J. Perry**), *KPWA* 16 May (**G. Stauffer**), and *Funk Bottoms* 17-30 May (**S. Snyder**); on 30 May, two others were nr *Berlin Res* (**B. Morrison**).
- Marsh Wren:** Three were heard at *SVWA* 16 Apr (**J. Shrader**). The high count was only seven, at *Magee* 25 May (**R&S Harlan**).
- Golden-crowned Kinglet:** A high count of 55 came from *Columbus* 11 Apr (**B. Royse**), and persisted through 11 May at *Lk Rockwell* (**L. Rosche**). One was at the usual nesting area at *Hinckley MP, Medina* 28 May (**S&R Harlan**).
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** Early at *Magee* 24 Mar (**V. Fazio**). On *Kelley's Isl*, the 18 Apr census counted 80 (**T. Bartlett**). A straggler was at *Magee* 25 May (**R&S Harlan**).
- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** First detected in *Clermont* 30 Mar (**N. Cade**), their numbers had swelled to 126 in *Scioto* by 15 Apr (**B. Royse**).
- Townsend's Solitaire:** One was discovered at the *Shaker Lakes* 4 Mar (**L. Deininger**), and seen by m obs through at least 12 Mar (**J. Lehman**). The sixth accepted Ohio record.
- Veery:** Late like most of the thrushes, first reported 1 May at *Navarre* (BSBO). Still, at times the only thrush seen at migrant traps, with 12+ at *Magee* 10 May (**J. Brumfield**).

**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** Must have largely overflowed the state, as few were detected. One sang at *Gilmore Ponds* 19 Apr (**M. Busam**) for an unusually early record. High count was only three, n. of *Columbus* 15 May (**P. Rodewald**). Last seen *Holmes* 29 May (**E. Schlabach**).

**Swainson's Thrush:** Apparent overflights occurred in *Whitehouse, Lucas* 20 Apr (**M. Anderson**) and at *Navarre Marsh* the following day (BSBO). Observed numbers were noticeably depressed, with a high count of 12+ at *Magee* 15 May (**J. Brumfield**).

**Hermit Thrush:** One was early, or had overwintered, in *Zanesville* 14 Mar (**B. Whan**). The BSBO netted one at *Navarre* 14 Apr, and by the 19<sup>th</sup> **G. Leidy** was to have 10 in *Parma*. High count 33 at *Magee* 28 Apr (**V. Fazio**).

**Wood Thrush:** Arrived 15 Apr in *Shawnee SF* (**B. Royse**), with a local record high count of 40 for the CVNP census of 10 May (**D. Chasar**).

**Gray Catbird:** One in *Hocking* 19 Mar could have overwintered (**D. Horn**), but one in *Clermont* 12 Apr was on a migrant's schedule (**D. Morse**).

**Northern Mockingbird:** As usual, reported in greater numbers at higher latitudes each year, e.g., one unusual in n. *Trumbull* 19-20 Apr (**D. Hochadel**).

**American Pipit:** Some apparently overwintered, but 50 at *KPWA* 26 Mar (**R. Sempier**) were migrants. At *Hebron, Licking* from six to 20 were regularly found 1 Mar through 17 May (**C. Dusthimer**), and one was at *HBSP* the latter date (**L. Rosche**). High count 75+ in *Tuscarawas* 8 Apr (**E. Schlabach**).

**Cedar Waxwing:** Not reported widely until May this year. High count "hundreds" at *Magee* 25 May (**R&S Harlan**).

**Blue-winged Warbler:** Two arrived at *Shawnee SF* 14 Apr (**R. Royse**), and another was at *Cowan Lk SP* the following day (**E. Roush**). The CVNP census tallied a local record 128 on 10 May (**D. Chasar**).

**Golden-winged Warbler:** Thirty-two reported overall, from 29 Apr in *Darke* (**S. Miller** et al.) to the eop, with most 1-10 May. High count three 10 May CVNP (*vide* **D. Chasar**).

**Hybrids of above:** "Brewster's" warblers—a bird at *Magee* (**R. Nirschl**) and a male banded at *ONWR* 1 May (**P. Rodewald**), one at *Shaker Lakes* 3-4 May (**B. Finkelstein**), one in *Holmes* 8 May (**M. Yoder** *vide* **E.A. Yoder**), one banded at CVNP 8 May, then recaptured in breeding condition 16 May, with a different individual banded 23 May (**G. Fowler**), and one discovered in *Perry* 16 May (**L. Andrews**). "Lawrence's" warblers—**D. Johnson** found one at *Novak SNP* in *Portage* 6 May, then another there 19 May that persisted through 21 May (**M. Tenney**). One was in *Parma* 2-3 May (**S. Zadar**).



Remaining elusive for many photographers at Cuyahoga County's lower Shaker Lake area, this Townsend's solitaire provided Ohio with its sixth record. It was finally captured on film by Bob Finkelstein on 8 March 2003.



**Tennessee Warbler:** One at Magee 21 Apr was an early overflight (V. Fazio), as was one singing in Columbus 28 Apr (J. Kuenzli). Seventeen at Shawnee SF (B. Royle) on 30 Apr were still earlyish.

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** Often arrives earlier, but this year the first report came from 30 Apr in Hocking (J. Fry). The high count was of four birds banded at ONWR on the extraordinary migratory day of 10 May (P. Rodewald).

**Nashville Warbler:** Early reports came from Delaware 19 Apr (R. Thorn), nw Coshocton 20 Apr (L.E. Yoder) and Navarre Marsh (BSBO) 22 Apr. High count 12 on 10 May in Tuscarawas (E. Schlabach).

**Northern Parula:** A singing male was repeatedly heard by two observers familiar with the species in Washington 28 Mar (H. Nagy). Another very early individual was in Adams 4 Apr (P. Whan). High count 10 at Magee 17 May (R&S Harlan).

**Yellow Warbler:** First reported from Shawnee SF 15 Apr (B. Royle), one had reached N. Chagrin Resn in Cuyahoga by 20 Apr (K. Metcalf). On 10 May, a total of 159 at the CVNP was a local record (fide D. Chasar).

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** Two were in the Shawnee SF 30 Apr (B. Royle), and their numbers peaked on schedule, with a high count of 25 on 19 May at Magee (R&S Harlan), and a few remaining through the eop.

**Magnolia Warbler:** Present as a migrant from 26 Apr at Shawnee Lookout in Hamilton (N. Cade) through the eop, with a high count of 20 at Magee on 19 May (S&R Harlan). Likely staying to nest were three males at Conkle's Hollow on 19 May and another at Ash Cave (both in Hocking) on 20 May (both F. Renfrow).

**Cape May Warbler:** First reported in Wayne 4 May (G. Miller), last in Coshocton 24 May (E. Schlabach), numbers peaked at 10 on 11 May at Magee (R&S Harlan).

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** 30 Apr brought one to Licking (T. Nickerson) and two to Scioto Trail SF (B. Royle). Ten were at HBSP on 20 May (L. Rosche).



The lower Shaker Lake area of Cuyahoga County produced this stunning golden-winged warbler in early May. Photo by Laura Gooch on 4 May 2003.



A "Brewster's" warbler joined the ranks at Cuyahoga County's lower Shaker Lake area this season. Photo by Laura Gooch on 4 May 2003.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** The ONWRC racked up 173 on 4 May. On 16 May, five were still at Winton Wds, Hamilton (S. Reeves). The last spring record was a bird banded at Navarre by BSBO 28 May. A female of the western "Audubon's" race was found in Franklin 4 Apr, with details to the OBRC, and would be a fourth or fifth state record.

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** Exceptionally early was one photographed in Fairfield 28 Mar (T. Sheley fide M. England); three were in Shawnee SF 6 Apr (B. Royle). The CVNP census tallied a record 42 on 10 May (fide D. Chasar).

**Blackburnian Warbler:** The earliest to appear was at Metzger on 28 Apr (J. Sawvel fide V. Fazio). Three singing males at Conkle's Hollow in Hocking 19 May (F. Renfrow) were probably on territory.

**Yellow-throated Warbler:** Arrived in Ross 2 Apr (K. Sieg), in Adams 4 Apr (P. Whan), and way up in LSR on 14 Apr (J. Pogacnik). In Shawnee SF, 59 were present 14 Apr, and 82 on 15 Apr (B. Royle). One was a good find at Magee 11 May (R&S Harlan). D. Chasar discovered a nest near Station Rd in the CVNP 15 May.

**Pine Warbler:** One was photographed at a suet feeder on a cold 7 Mar day in Adams (P. Whan), and it was not till 15 Mar at Shawnee SF that another was found (J. Hammond). High count 13 at Zaleski SF on 3 Apr (B. Royle).

**Prairie Warbler:** A possible early-record individual was heard and seen in Adams 22 Mar (P. Whan). Another was in Fairfield 28 Mar (T. Sheley fide M. England), and the high count came from Adams, as always—45 on 20 Apr (J. Lehman). Farther north than most were one netted at Navarre Marsh 21 Apr (BSBO), one in Lucas 30 Apr (M. Anderson), and two in Columbiana 7 May (B. O'Toole).

**Palm Warbler:** Quite early was one at the CVNP 29 Mar (F. Dinkelbach). Peaked in early May, with 125 on the 4 May ONWRC, and 60+ there 5 May (M. Bakermans fide P. Rodewald). Individuals of the much yellower eastern race *D. p. hypochrysea* were seen 20 Apr at LSR (J. Pogacnik) and banded at Navarre 22 Apr (BSBO).

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** Arrived a bit late across the northern counties 10 May, though a pioneer was in Franklin 1 May (R. Thorn). High 20 at Magee 19 May (S&R Harlan).

**Blackpoll Warbler:** First reported from Hocking on 1 May (J. Fry), by 20 May 20+ could be found at HBSP (L. Rosche). Present through the eop.

**Cerulean Warbler:** First noted 15 Apr at Shawnee SF, where there were 48 by 4 May (B. Royle). Two males were at ONWR 1 May, and one at MBSP 13 May (P. Rodewald). 11 May brought one to Magee (R&S Harlan), while a pair was building a nest in the CVNP the same day (D. Chasar).

**Black-and-white Warbler:** Arrived early, at least at Shawnee SF, with two on 6 Apr and nine by 14 Apr (B. Royle).

**American Redstart:** At Shawnee SF, seven were around on 15 Apr, and by 28 Apr 106 were tallied at Scioto Trail SF (both B. Royle). Migrants passed through the eop.

**Prothonotary Warbler:** First at Tar Hollow SP 20 Apr (C. Barnett), by 6 May 14 males were at Hoover Res (C. Bombaci). At Magee, two were seen 29 May (D. Friedman).

**Worm-eating Warbler:** First found at Shawnee SF 15 Apr (B. Royle), with males heard at most stops in appropriate habitat 26 Apr (B. Sparks et al.). Many records north of their customary haunts, with two at Magee 25 Apr (V. Fazio) and one there 28 May (D. Friedman), one at Mentor 29 Apr (L. Rosche), one in Parma 1 May (S. Zadar), one in Columbiana 7 May (B. O'Toole), one way out in Paulding 10 May (M&D Dunakin), and one at Spencer Lk WA, Medina 17 May (J. Brumfield).



- Ovenbird:** Arrived 14 Apr at Shawnee SF, where 70 were present 19 Apr and 104 on 28 Apr (all **B. Roysse**). Forty or more migrants were at Magee 10 May (**J. Brumfield**).
- Northern Waterthrush:** Appeared 26 Apr in *Highland* (**D. Overacker**) and at Navarre Marsh 30 Apr (BSBO). High count seven, at Magee 19 May (**S&R Harlan**).
- Louisiana Waterthrush:** First reported from the Cincinnati Nat Ctr 23 Mar (**B. Lacker**) with another in *Ross* 24 Mar (**K. Sieg**). High count 18 on 14 Apr at Shawnee SF (**B. Roysse**).
- Kentucky Warbler:** Three noted first at Shawnee SF 19 Apr (**J. Shrader**), where 20 could be heard 3 May (**B. Roysse**). One was a surprise in *Paulding* 1 May (**M&D Dunakin**), as was another that flew into BSBO's nets at Navarre 6 May.
- Connecticut Warbler:** Several dozen reported, none nearly so early as a male banded at ONWR 10 May (**P. Rodewald**). The high count came from Magee, with three on the more expected date of 19 May (**R&S Harlan**).
- Mourning Warbler:** First reported 8 May at Magee (**E. Snively**), their numbers peaked there at seven on the 19<sup>th</sup> (**S&R Harlan**). A male at Walborn Res in *Stark* 7 May oddly continued singing through 31 May (**B. Morrison**).
- Common Yellowthroat:** Seen in *Pike* 17 Apr (**Z. Allen**) and in *Coshocton* 20 Apr (**L.E. Yoder**). The CVNP census of 10 May found a local record 222 (**D. Chasar**).
- Hooded Warbler:** Appeared 15 Apr at Shawnee, where 61 could be heard the 28<sup>th</sup> (**B. Roysse**). One was at Sheldon Marsh 24 Apr (**P. Dwight**), another at Navarre 1 May (BSBO), and one at Metzger 16 May (**J. Hammond**). A local record 61 were tallied for the 10 May CVNP census in *Cuyahoga* and *Summit*.
- Wilson's Warbler:** First reported as banded at Navarre by BSBO 4 May, then seen through the period, with a high count of 20 at Magee 25 May (**S&R Harlan**).
- Canada Warbler:** First migrants not reported until 10 May at Magee (**J. Brumfield**), when another bird was banded at Navarre (BSBO). Curiously, a fledgling was out of place in Washington TWP, *Clinton* and early on 24 May (ph and other details to OBRC).
- Yellow-breasted Chat:** First reported from Shawnee SF 23 Apr (**B. Roysse**).
- Summer Tanager:** Arrived quite early 18 Apr in *Clermont* (**B. Lacker**). Three were at the Oak Openings 6 May-eop (**M. Anderson**), one at Magee (**J. Brumfield**) and one at ONWR (**L. Rosche**) 15 May, and one banded at ONWR 20 May (**P. Rodewald**).
- Scarlet Tanager:** Also early, with the first reported 15 Apr at Shawnee SF (**B. Roysse**).
- Eastern Towhee:** A healthy 84 were counted for CVNP's census 10 May (**D. Chasar**).
- American Tree Sparrow:** The ONWRC tallied 254 on 2 Mar. Late were a 12 Apr bird in BSBO's nets at Navarre, one at N. Chagrin Resn the next day (**K. Metcalf**), and a true laggard at Dike 14 in Cleveland on 1 May (**S. Zadar**).
- Chipping Sparrow:** Migrants appeared in *Clermont* 20 Mar (**M. Wessel**), *Athens* 25 Mar (**L. Andrews**), *Lucas* 29 Mar (**M. Anderson**), and *Lake* 30 Mar (**L. Rosche**).
- Clay-colored Sparrow:** First discovered at a S. Euclid feeder 3 May (**B. Finkelstein**) then in Willoughby 6 May (**N. Anderson**). Five were seen on the big migration day of 10 May: two at HBSP (**G. Leidy**), one at Magee (**T. Bartlett**), one at LSR (**J. Pogacnik**), and a singing male in Norton, *Summit* (**R&S Harlan**).
- Vesper Sparrow:** In *Clermont* by 25 Mar (**B. Stanley**), in *Pickaway* 29 Mar (**B. Conlon**), and in *Lake* 30 Mar (**L. Rosche**). Nine at N. Chagrin Resn 6 Apr (**K. Metcalf**).

- Lark Sparrow:** Arrived at the Oak Openings 29 Apr (Toledo MP staff). **G. Links** glimpsed a migrant just west of PCWA the following day.
- Savannah Sparrow:** One in *Fairfield* 2 Mar may have wintered locally (**J. Watts**). The high count was 24 on 1 May at Dike 14 in Cleveland (**S. Zadar**).
- Grasshopper Sparrow:** One was in *Franklin* by 20 Apr (**R. Thorn**), then *Stark* by 24 Apr (**W. Sarno**), and six at Crown City WA on 27 Apr (**B. Roysse**). Returned to the Oak Openings 1 May (**G. Links**), and one was banded at ONWR 2 May (BSBO).
- Henslow's Sparrow:** First reported from the VOA fields in *Butler* 23 Apr, where 10 were on station 28 May (**M. Busam**). **J. Grabmeier** counted 25 in *Williams* 26 May.
- Fox Sparrow:** First reported 6 Mar from *Harrison* (**D. Smith**), they peaked at ~70 at Magee on 5 Apr (**G. Links**). Last reported 12 Apr at the CVNP (**D. Chasar**).
- Song Sparrow:** **N. Cade** saw 65 at EFSP 7 Mar, and **J. Pogacnik** 90+ at LSR 24 Mar.
- Lincoln's Sparrow:** First 28 Apr at Magee (**V. Fazio**); 1 May brought 20 to Magee (**R. Nirschl**) and 16 to Dike 14 (**S. Zadar**). The latest report from *Hocking* 22 May (**J. Fry**).
- Swamp Sparrow:** Several sang in balmy weather 27 Mar at Killbuck (**W. Sarno**).
- White-throated Sparrow:** The ONWRC of 4 May tallied 102, with several times that number at Magee on 10 May (m obs). Last reported at Navarre 28 May (BSBO).
- White-crowned Sparrow:** **P. Rodewald** reported a "very heavy flight on 1 May with literally hundreds in vegetation along the roads at ONWR" (where **A. Boone** *vide* **J. Kuenzli** counted ~400 that day), and **S. Zadar** 200 at Dike 14 on 3 May. Last reported 23 May at Navarre (BSBO). **K. Metcalf** had a *gambelii* bird at N. Chagrin Resn 3 May, and **Rodewald** banded two, one 13 May at ONWR and one 20 May at CPNWR.
- Dark-eyed Junco:** Larger numbers included 100+ in *Scioto* 5 Mar (**B. Roysse**) and 150 at KPWA 25 Mar (**R. Sempier**). Odd was a male 14 May on territory in suburban Orange, *Cuyahoga* in a "perfectly flat residential area with old conifers" (**R&S Harlan**).
- Lapland Longspur:** A flight of ~7400 over MBSP 16 Mar (**V. Fazio**) is Ohio's second-largest count, next to **H. Mayfield's** "crude estimate" of 10,000 in Toledo 1 May 1949. Also from the Toledo area were this spring's final four, seen over Whitehouse during the huge migrational movement of 10 May (**M. Anderson**). Few near KPWA this season.
- Smith's Longspur:** On 8 Apr, an adult male was repeatedly observed by m obs near Sugarcreek in *Tuscarawas* in an agricultural field. Details are with the OBRC.
- Snow Bunting:** Last reported 8 Mar, in *Paulding* (**D&M Dunakin**).



Grassland species were plentiful at the VOA grounds in Butler County this season. This Henslow's sparrow was digiscoped there on 29 April 2003 by Bill Hull.



- Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** A migrant was early at Camp Dennison in *Hamilton* 10 Apr (**B. Foppe**). Nesting in *Hocking* 4 May (**J. Watts**) and in *Logan* 6 May (**T. Shively**). By 10 May, 89 were in the CVNP for the local census (**D. Chasar**).
- Blue Grosbeak:** The first reported was a male in Clear Ck MP in *Hocking* 2 May (**J. Fry**), then one was found at Crown City WA 3 May (**B. Royse**); the latter observer found a pair in *Pickaway* 8 May (nested with 3 young in June, **T. Shively**). A second-year male was banded at Navarre Marsh 11 May (BSBO). A female was at Caesar Ck SP 12 May (**S. Reeves**), and the first report from *Adams* came the following day (**G. Miller**). A male was at LSR 14 May (**J. Pogacnik**), and a pair in Starr Twp in *Hocking* 29 May (**L. Andrews**).
- Indigo Bunting:** A wintering male persisted at **N. Keller's** feeder through at least 19 Mar, and **Keller** also reported the first migrant, at MWW 27 Apr.
- Dickeissel:** Premonitory appearances: one in *Paulding* 30 May (**D&M Dunakin**), and 31 May in *Butler* (**P. Wharton**), with 15+ at Crown City WA in *Gallia* (**J. Hammond**).
- Bobolink:** The VOA had its first 23 Apr, then 30+ by 13 May, and 41 by 22 May (**M. Busam**). The first noted at ONWR came on 30 Apr (**P. Rodewald**).
- Eastern Meadowlark:** Fifty were at *Butler's* VOA grasslands 12 Mar (**J. Brown**), and the observed number among breeders leveled out at 34 there 22 May (**M. Busam**).
- Western Meadowlark:** At ONWR, what was probably a single male was noted 29 Apr and 5, 6, and 10 May (**P. Rodewald**, m obs). Two were discovered 30 Apr, one on Buena Vista Rd in *Hocking* (**B. Morrison et al.**) and one near Whitehouse, *Lucas* (**E. Tramer**).
- Rusty Blackbird:** High count 50, in *Geauga* 30 Mar (**K. Metcalf**). Quite late was a male banded at CPNWR 20 May (**P. Rodewald**).
- Brewer's Blackbird:** Groups of five and 12 were in Jerusalem Twp, *Lucas* 22 Mar (**G. Links**). **B. Morrison** had two in Hartville, *Stark* with a flock of grackles and rusties 31 Mar. Unexpected was one that provided prolonged looks at LSR 24 May (**J. Pogacnik**).
- Orchard Oriole:** Arrived 23 Apr at Shawnee (**B. Royse**). The high count was 10+ at Kelleys Isl 16 May (**K. Ketcalf**).
- Baltimore Oriole:** Earliest in *Tuscarawas* 15 Apr (**E. Schlabach**), with a high count of 164 at LSR 10 May (**J. Pogacnik**).
- Purple Finch:** Sparse. **J. Fry** had one in *Hocking* 9 Mar, and one was in *Adams* 27 Mar (**P. Whan**). High count four on the CVNP census 10 May (**D. Chasar**). One was in Akron 15 May (**R&S Harlan**), a male at Hartville in *Stark* 26 May (**B. Morrison**), and males on territory at two Mosquito Lk WA sites 30 May (**D. Hochadel**).
- Pine Siskin:** Very scarce, with two at LSR 11 May (**J. Pogacnik**) and one at pine-free PCWA 19 May (**S&R Harlan**).

### Contributors

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