

quarters of all recent Ohio sightings have come from along the Lake as the birds move to the west or to the east along the shore, avoiding a long open water crossing. Lakefront observations seem to fall into two primary areas—the Ottawa/Lucas Co. area, which accounts for two thirds of all lakefront sightings, and the Lake/Ashtabula Co. area, which accounts for most of the other third. As is the case for northern goshawk, preferred sites in spring include the Magee Marsh hawk tower and the sledding hill at Maumee Bay State Park. Elsewhere in spring, at locations other than The Wilds, more recent goldens have been seen in Holmes County than anywhere else; the abundance of active and intrepid birders there probably has as much to do with this fact as do any other factors.

In the fall, you will also want to head to northern Ohio, as in the spring. But this season, head to the Toledo area, beyond the western end of Lake Erie. Fully two thirds of recent Ohio fall sightings (away from The Wilds, that is) emanate from the relatively small area including Toledo and points immediately west and south, with the Oak Openings area again being a local favorite. With such a large percentage of Ohio fall sightings coming from this sector, this clearly pinpoints the best area to search at this season, and since fully 90% of recent Ohio fall sightings have come between 16 October and 15 November, this is clearly the best time to make a search. The period between 24 October and 7 November is the best time of all, especially with cooperative weather conditions. Fall sightings elsewhere are very scattershot, other than in late November at The Wilds.

Given a decent look, the golden eagle should offer few identification worries, which is more than we can say for northern goshawk. Of those reports in which ages were provided, over 75% of goldens in Ohio are immatures (juveniles and subadults), which is to be expected given the preponderance of young over adults recorded at other northern and eastern hawk watches.

Overall plan—head to The Wilds of Muskingum County, and hope that wintering birds continue to appear there; or, head to the Lake Erie shore, preferably Magee Marsh or Maumee Bay State Park, between 8-23 April; or, head to the Oak Openings area west of Toledo between 24 October and 7 November. Sit down, look up, and wait. Bring binoculars.

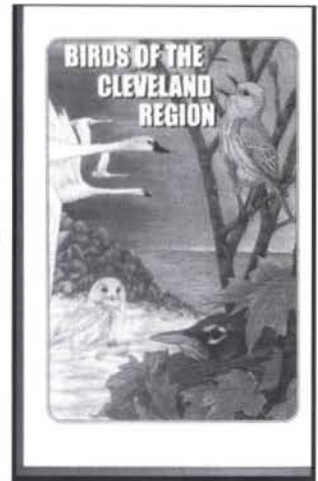
That will have to do it for this issue. To treat them adequately, northern goshawk and golden eagle have required more page space than expected, especially compared to the other species we've examined previously. But that seems only fitting for these two, which require more space in life as well. Considering the treatment they've received from humankind over the years, I think they've earned a little more space.

Book Review: *Birds of the Cleveland Region*

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Rosche, Larry, ed. 2004. *Birds of the Cleveland Region*. Kirtland Bird Club. Cleveland, OH. 187 + ix pp, illustrated. \$24.99.



Editor Larry Rosche's *Birds of the Cleveland Region* is described as the second edition of a work of the same name by Arthur B. Williams published in 1950 by the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. Williams's was the first authoritative and inclusive treatment of this avifauna. This new edition continues the tradition, taking account of records of birds recorded in the region since that time, as well as new species (both newly-observed and derived from taxonomic refinements) and new locales involved.

A respected authority among Ohio bird observers, Rosche edited the venerable *Cleveland Bird Calendar* for 16 years. He has studied this periodical's reports from the past 100+ years, and the result is a comprehensive and well-written portrait, much distilled and refined, of the region's bird life, updated to cover the period since Williams's work of more than half a century earlier. Williams used words alone to describe each species' status, habitats, and distribution, as well as local nesting information when appropriate. The species accounts in this edition add informative graphs depicting each species' seasonal status (nearly identical to those in Rosche's "A Field Book of Birds of the Cleveland Region" of 2004), and small outline maps showing accepted occurrences for each of the seven counties (Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, Portage, and Summit) in the region herein defined. The area covered by Williams was smaller, comprising roughly everything within 30 miles of Cleveland's Public Square, with an extension to include Akron; from Public Square to the eastern border of the area as currently defined is, by contrast, about 45 miles. Documentary photographs, many themselves rare, of 60+ rarities, a guide to productive birding sites in the region, as well as charming bird portraits by Jennifer Brumfield and Kevin Metcalf, are among the many welcome features of this work.

Williams's accounts total 330 taxa (including 314 full species, 14 extra subspecies and two hybrid forms). Rosche's, covering a larger area and with 54 extra years of accumulated data, total 376, including three species

added as split since 1950, and three hybrid forms. His list is authoritative and complete. He does not treat subspecies.

Rosche's accounts are less detailed than Williams's. Most consist of a few concise sentences, augmented by the graphic presentations of expected abundances, schedules, and distributions as to county. They mention nesting status for each, but eschew the detail Williams offers on timing, numbers of eggs, etc. Though they cover 55 additional years of records, their 128 pages fall short of Williams's 165. By and large, they accomplish much in a narrow space. Pithy as they are, however, the accounts risk being perfunctory. The longest of them, that for Sabine's gull, extends just over half a page, whereas Williams devotes a page and a half of equally well-chosen words to the hooded warbler. They mention only the most remarkable records if any. Citations to the literature are few. Presumably a reader seeking references or additional detail must consult Williams, or search back issues of *The Cleveland Bird Calendar**. The List of References (p. 7) contains only nine rather disparate items, and represents only a fraction of the works the editor must have consulted.

For whom is this work most helpful, and in what ways? Among birders, newcomers and visitors to the region will value the descriptions of prime spots in the section entitled "Birding the Cleveland Region." Finding some of these, however, requires resources this work does not offer (for just one example, a reader new to the area will have trouble getting to the enticing Mentor Lagoons using only the information in the text and the recommended atlas). For the same readers, the "Birding Calendar" is an excellent distillation of decades of experience with the ebb and flow of bird life in the region. All observers will have much use for the species accounts, headed by bar-graph representations, mapped over thirds of each month, of the known local occurrence of each species. Researchers will find the data offered reliable, if terse.

Because they do not indicate numbers of records, the maps of occurrences by county are mostly of interest to listers, who may find there information about which of the scarcer species has been found where. Otherwise they are of little importance for a relatively small region in illustrating local ranges, though the text under "Distribution" sometimes provides additional information. The laconic descriptions under the "Habitat" heading are not detailed enough to present more than rudimentary bird-finding hints.

No doubt this edition will serve well as a reference for another fifty-five years, but readers may regret that the editor's wit, capacious store of knowledge, and skill with words have been given so little compass. However we may assess the relative value of pictures versus words, in a work of only 187 pages graphic presentations, including something like 30 pages of illustrations, plus maps and histograms, constitute a large proportion of the total. This is in addition to an inordinate amount of empty white space that invades the species accounts here, in part caused by an apparent decision not

to let any account appear on more than one page. Graphic elements have also no doubt added substantially to this book's price, which has been an obstacle to some.

The information in *Birds of the Cleveland Region* is reliable, thoroughly researched, and well presented. It is also not a bit more detailed than it had to be. By no means superficial, it still will not satisfy the curious reader, as it is obvious that concision required much to go unsaid. One is likely to say "well done," then hope that Mr. Rosche has another book in store in which we may learn more of what he has to share, and in a less telegraphic style.

All quibbles aside, this work represents a much-needed continuation of the ongoing story of the Cleveland area's numerous and very interesting bird records. It confirms the avifauna of the Cleveland area as consistently the best-documented in the state. No doubt many readers familiar with the region's birds may yearn for more than merely occasional glints of the editor's insights into his decades of intimate and extensive experience with the region's avifauna and their observers, but anyone interested in these birds will want to have this scrupulously edited and attractive book.

* *The Cleveland Bird Calendar*, important as it is for bird records, has never circulated widely, and back issues are not easy to find. Commendably, the Kirtland Bird Club, with considerable assistance from the editor of *Birds of the Cleveland Region*, has set out to make the entire 100+-year history of this periodical available on the internet. Once completed, this project will make important material in the *Bird Calendar* available to all.



One of three "Gambel's" white-crowned sparrows (*Z. l. gambelii*, a western subspecies), at feeders at LSR in Lake County on 5 May. The bill is pinkish-orange, and the underparts uniformly gray; note that the black eye-line does not extend across the lores to meet the base of the bill (photo courtesy of John Pogacnik).