

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

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

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

Seasonal Report Due Dates Winter (Dec.-Feb.)-March 25 Spring (Mar.-May)-June 25 Summer (June-July)-August 25 Autumn (Aug.-Nov.)-December 25	Please send all reports to: Bill Whan 223 E. Tulane Road Columbus, OH 43202 billwhan@columbus.rr.com
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On the Cover: This alternate-plumaged purple sandpiper, a very rare spring migrant in Ohio, was photographed 12 May on the Crane Creek SP beach by Jeff Moore.

Spring 2005 Overview and Reports

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A cold spring followed a warm winter. Eager northbound waterfowl, as usual, punched through wherever there was open water in March, and this spring very few lingered; a look at the reports will show the heyday (of observations, at least—it was a warm Saturday) as the 26th. Most passerines showed up on time in southern Ohio—in fact three record early arrival dates were set by warblers—but up north many seemed late. Many flycatchers came a week later than average; a few showed up on time, but only as isolated single birds, as if overshooting. Even the familiar eastern wood-pewee seemed sparser than usual; first reported 7 May this spring; last year several of their *nests* were reported by 11 May, and several observers mentioned hearing them less often later this spring. Other birds devoted to flying insects, like swifts, lagged behind in the north. Warbler movements were sluggish in starting up near Lake Erie, with diminished numbers into the first week of May. These delays may have been more than local, as many species that nest to our north stayed late with us. Spring migrants make slower progress in the face of northern winds, with fewer overflights and early arrivals in the north, and prevailing wind directions provide one possible explanation: on 35 of the 45 days from 12 March through 24 April winds were from the north, as they were on 18 of 21 days following 11 May; in between, from 25 April through 10 May, they relented, only five of those 16 days having northerly winds. Chilly temperatures were the norm from 10 April through the end of the period, during which interval temperatures averaged a substantial 4.78 degrees F below normal in the middle of the state. There were relatively few overshoots or early arrivals among migrants in the north.

A substantial snowfall on 24 April marked winter's final blow, and images from that day of black terns and hundreds of chimney swifts gamely seeking insects in mid-storm, and squadrons of golden-plovers and dunlins in alternate plumage standing as if patiently belly-deep in snow, are likely to remain with observers. As one might expect, a fair amount of mortality was noted among scouting species such as purple martins. Shorebirds of upland habitats—pectorals, golden-plovers, killdeers—fared well enough on grasslands and other open country. The more numerous species preferring mudflats found precious little habitat in Ohio this spring, but among those few able to adapt to sharing chilly spring beaches with humans were found a couple of endangered piping plovers and a locally extremely rare breeding-plumaged purple sandpiper. More than a few observers felt that many thrushes, flycatchers, vireos (especially our common red-eyed), and some of the commoner warblers like magnolia and yellow-rumped were somewhat late and seemed noticeably down in numbers.

Perhaps straining to locate tardy migrants made us more alert, but for whatever reason it was a good season for rarities, with 14 review species reported. They included fulvous whistling-duck (9), cackling goose (2), tricolored heron, glossy and white-faced ibises (an unprecedented 40 *Plegadis* ibises in total), Mississippi kite, yellow rail (2), black rail, piping plover (2), Eurasian collared-dove, red-naped sapsucker, black-throated gray warbler, Kirtland's warbler (3), and Swainson's warbler. A couple of other reported review species went undocumented, hence

unreviewed, and are not included in the reports here. There were also birds detected on unusual and even unprecedented schedules, as well as some remarkable numbers, both high and low. As stressful as it may have been for birds and observers alike, the season sorted itself out at last as a memorably interesting one.

Readers will find in this issue of the *Cardinal*, besides the dependable features, abundant evidence that the Ohio Bird Records Committee has emerged victorious from beneath a drift of paperwork, a review of a new book on Cleveland-area birds, and word that the "parulean warbler" returned to Toledo (statistics on hybrid viability notwithstanding). Bob Powell offers results from a study that's a model of how to learn from one's own patch. Finally, we present another piece of Ohio history from Jared P. Kirtland, who proves himself only the earliest of our naturalists to regret the passing of wild things.

Corrigenda:

In our Fall 2004 issue, a sighting of four merlins 24 Oct 2004 at MWW was recorded; these birds were in fact northern harriers.

We apologize for poor reproduction of the old map that accompanied Lynds Jones's article on Buckeye Lake in our Winter 2004-05 issue. This map, on page 87, was also misattributed, and is a 1900 production of the Ohio Canal Survey Commission.

Finally, the photo of mergansers on page 47 of the winter issue should have been attributed to Brian Zwiebel.

For the Record

A new late Ohio record for mourning warbler was established by Bob Foppe's discovery of a specimen at the Carnegie Museum of one collected 11 Dec 1988 in Beaver Twp of Mahoning County.

The Reports follow the nomenclature and taxonomic order of the 7th edition of the *AOU Check-list of North American Birds* (1998), including the 45th Supplement (July 2004). Underlined names of species indicate those on the OBRC Review List; documentation is needed to add reports of these species to official state records, or to attributed records in the Reports. When supplied, county names appear *italicized*. Unless numbers are specified, sightings refer to single birds. Abbreviations, conventions, and symbols used in the Reports should be readily understood, with the possible exceptions of the following: ad=adult; alt=alternate (breeding) plumage; BCSP=Buck Ck SP in *Clark*; BIWA=Big Isl WA in *Marion*; BSBO=Black Swamp Bird Observatory; CBC=Christmas Bird Count; CCE=Crane Ck estuary in ONWR; CVNP=Cuyahoga Valley Natl Pk in *Cuyahoga* and *Summit*; Dike 14=the Gordon Park impoundment in Cleveland; EFSP=East Fork SP in *Clermont*; eop=end of the period, in this case 31 May 2005; EHSP=East Hbr SP in *Ottawa*; fide="in trust of," said of data conveyed on behalf of another person; Gilmore Ponds is in *Butler*; GLSM=Grand Lk St Marys in *Mercer/Auglaize*; HBSP=Headlands Beach SP in *Lake*; HBSNP=Headlands Beach SNP in *Lake*; HWSP=Hueston Wds SP (*Butler/Preble*); imm=immature; Killbuck=Killbuck Marsh WA in *Wayne/Holmes*; KPWA=Killdeer Plains WA in *Wyandot*; LSR=Lakeshore Reservation (MP) in *Lake*; Magee=Magee Marsh WA in *Ottawa/Lucas*; MBSP=Maumee Bay SP in *Lucas*; MP=Metropark; m obs=many observers; MWW=Miami-Whitewater Wetlands in *Hamilton*; NCR=North Chagrin Res'n in *Cuyahoga*; NWR=National Wildlife Refuge; OBRC=Ohio Bird Records Committee; ODOV=Ohio Division of Wildlife; ONWR=Ottawa NWR in *Ottawa/Lucas*; ONWRC=monthly bird census at ONWR; PCWA=Pickereel Ck WA in *Sandusky*; ph=photograph, PP=Power Plant, Res=Reservoir; Res'n=Reservation; SF=State Forest; SNP=State Nature Preserve; SP=State Park; SVWA=Spring Valley WA in *Greene/Warren*; The Wilds=large reclaimed strip-mines with grasslands managed for exotic quadrupeds in *Muskingum*; VOA=the former Voice of America property in *Butler*; WA=Wildlife Area.

Spring 2005 Reports

Fulvous whistling-duck: Unrecorded in Ohio for over ten years, a flock of nine spent 9 through at least 12 May at **Mercer WA** (ph). Few got to see them. Details are with the OBRC.



Four of the nine fulvous whistling-ducks at Mercer WA this spring. Photo by Jill Bowers.

Greater white-fronted goose: K. Overman found four at **Killdeer Plains WA** 5 Mar, the Dunakins two in **Paulding** 18 Mar, and E. Bacik one at **Fairport** 3 Apr.

Snow goose: Four (three blue) stopped at **KPWA** 2 Mar (J. Kuenzli), where six were found 5 Mar (K. Overman). One at **Hoover Res** 16 Mar (B. Master) may have been the same there 15 Apr (C. Bombaci). The ONWRC counted eight 6 Mar and 21 on 3 Apr. S. Young reported a juv at **Pipe CK WA** 30 Apr, and a wounded bird passed at least 27 Mar-14 May near **ONWR** (R&S Harlan). Two were at **KPWA** on 5 May (L. Gara).



Brian Zwiebel shows how to photograph a cackling goose—right next to another species—in this image of the bird that spent 30 April-7

Cackling goose: Accepted to the official Ohio list on 20 Mar, this is now a review species requiring documentation, mainly because of its uncertain past records and future taxonomy. Reports of one at **KPWA** 5 Mar and another at **Castalia Pond** 30 Apr-7 May are with the OBRC.

Tundra swan: About 2000 reported, all but ten within the customary migratory corridor between the **western Lake Erie marshes ESE through the northeastern counties**. Most passed through during the first three weeks of Mar, with the latest big flock of 147 at **Walborn Res** in **Stark** 16 Mar (B. Morrison). High count 512 on the 6 Mar ONWRC.

Wood duck: By 6 Mar, 18 were present for the ONWRC. A count of as many as 100+ at KPWA 21 Mar was remarkable (R. Lowry).

Gadwall: By 5 Mar, 85 were at Funk WA in Wayne (J. Brumfield), and ~200 were at Metzger Marsh WA by the 27th (R&S Harlan). Few lingered, with one at Magee 8 May (G. Miller).

Eurasian wigeon: More than usual. Seemingly a drake remained from winter 10 Mar at Killbuck WA (B. Jackson), joined by another 16 Mar (R. Hershberger et al.), dwindling to one by 29 Mar (S. Snyder). J. Pogacnik found another at Mallard Club Marsh 27 Mar, and C. Bochmann one at Mosquito Ck WA on 3 Apr. Another drake, latish near Ottawa 27 Apr (T. Shively) was probably the same tallied by the ONWRC on 1 May.

American wigeon: Moved through briskly, with 225 at KPWA 7 Mar (R&S Harlan) and ~300 there 26 Mar (D. Overacker); ~80 remained 10 Apr (R. Sempier). A straggler was at Metzger Marsh 22 May (P. Chaon).

American black duck: The high count was early, 207 for the 6 Mar ONWRC. Fifty were at Funk WA 8 Apr (S. Snyder), and the last reported at Magee 8 May (G. Miller).

Mallard: Accustomedly numerous. The ONWRC tallied 3661 on 6 Apr, with 111 remaining for the count of 1 May.

Blue-winged teal: Pretty much on schedule, with two drakes the first near Wooster 6 Mar (S. Snyder). At Ottawa, 72 remained on 1 May (ONWRC).

Northern shoveler: First one reported at Funk WA 5 Mar (J. Brumfield), where numbers reached 150 by 3 Apr (R&S Harlan). Numbers by the ONWRC, including a nice high count, came out at 92 on 6 Mar, 230 on 3 Apr, and 19 on 1 May.

Northern pintail: Moved early as always, with 300 at Funk 5 Mar (J. Brumfield) and 418 the following day for the ONWRC. Twelve remained at Funk 13 Apr (S. Snyder).

Green-winged teal: Three arrived at Hoover Res 3 Mar (C. Bombaci), and numbers peaked at ~800 at Funk WA 3 Apr (R&S Harlan); 56 remained at Ottawa 1 May (ONWRC). L. Rosche reported a bird of the Eurasian race *A. c. crecca* near Aurora on 5 Apr; its origin is unknown.

Canvasback: The best numbers came from Ottawa, with 407 for the 6 Mar count (ONWRC), and Mosquito Ck WA, with ~500 on 20 Mar (D. Hochadel). One lingered for the 1 May ONWRC.

Redhead: Moved mostly in Mar, with ~400 at Funk the 5th (J. Brumfield), 367 on the 6th for the ONWRC, ~600 at Mosquito Ck WA the 20th (D. Hochadel), and 300+ at KPWA the 21st (R. Lowry). A lone drake loitered in Ross 9 May (D. Hess).

Ring-necked duck: Poured through in Mar, with a high count of ~1750 at Mosquito Ck WA the 20th (D. Hochadel). J. Estep observed a hen sitting quietly for 20 minutes on a well-concealed mound in Ottawa NWR 15 May. B. Hardesty reported two in Hancock 17 May, and R. Schroeder a drake in Dublin 22 May.

Greater scaup: Ice may have kept them out of view along Lake Erie, where reported numbers were low. Equally low but more interesting were numerous reports of small numbers at inland sites, led by 14 at Gilmore Ponds 5 Mar (M. Busam). Both scaups are in decline; one speculation is that the large numbers now spending time in the lower Great Lakes are susceptible to pollutants highly concentrated in a favored filter-feeder species, the zebra mussel.

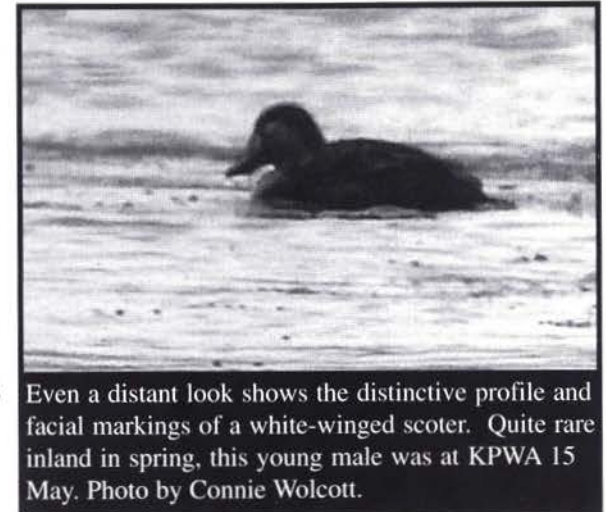
Lesser scaup: See above. Mar's high count was ~950 at Mosquito Ck WA the 21st (V. Fazio), and Apr's 526 by the ONWRC on the 3rd. A pair was at ONWR 14 May (D. Horn), and A. Boone spotted ~30 in Maumee Bay as late as 22 May.

Surf scoter: Forty-six reported statewide, mostly in Mar, with a high count of 19 at BCSP the 26th (D. Overacker). Two reports came from Apr, and quite late were a pair at Nimisila Res in Summit 7 May (R&S Harlan).

White-winged scoter: Six reported: on 26 Mar, one in Paulding (D&M Dunakin) and an ad female and first-winter male at Pleasant Hill Lk (S. Snyder); on 29 Mar two males at Caesar Ck SP (L. Gara), and late on 15 May, an imm male at KPWA (C. Wolcott, ph).

Black scoter: Quite rare in spring, a female at Nimisila Res, Summit 7 May, was apparently a first county record (R&S Harlan).

Long-tailed duck: All sightings inland. C. Bombaci had one at Hoover Res 15 Mar, and B. Master that or another the following day. Four visited Mosquito Lk 20 Mar (D. Hochadel), four Clear Fork Res marina 24 Mar (J. Herman *vide* S. Snyder), and two at Pleasant Hill Lk 26 Mar (Snyder). Killbuck WA harbored one 2 Apr (Snyder) and Wellington Res another 9 Apr (K. Ostermiller).



Even a distant look shows the distinctive profile and facial markings of a white-winged scoter. Quite rare inland in spring, this young male was at KPWA 15 May. Photo by Connie Wolcott.

Bufflehead: The **Kelleys Isl** concentration of winter dwindled to 156 by 19 Mar, then 61 by 17 Apr (T. Bartlett). **Charles Mill Lk** held the largest inland flock reported, ~45 on 26 Mar (S. Snyder). A female remained at **Slate Run MP** in **Pickaway** as late as 14 May (A. Haslage), and a drake remained in **Conneaut Harbor** through the eop (J. Pogacnik, m obs).

Common goldeneye: The **Kelleys Isl** census tallied 835 on 189 Mar (T. Bartlett), and the following day **Mosquito Cr WA** held ~550 (D. Hochadel).

Hooded merganser: Fifty-plus were on **Hoover Res** 3 Mar, then ~350 two days later (both C. Bombaci). Hens with young were noted in **Greene** 26 Apr (D. Shuler), **Licking** 27 Apr (C. Dusthimer), **Licking** 8 May (Dusthimer), **Brown** 14 May (J. Stenger), and **Hamilton** 21 May (A. Oliver).

Common merganser: Departed quickly with winter, as the **ONWRC** of 6 Mar counted 1615, but no double-figure reports emerged thereafter. One was at **Ottawa** 1 May (ONWRC).

Red-breasted merganser: **Lake Erie** counts persisted in four figures through 9 Apr (with 1145 at **LSR** by J. Pogacnik), augmented perhaps by others coming north from places like **Hoover Res**, with ~900 on 5 Mar, 435+ at **Mosquito Lk** 21 Mar (V. Fazio), and ~300 at **BCSP** 26 Mar (D. Overacker). On 21 May two were at **Pleasant Hill Lk** (S. Snyder), with six at **LSR** (Pogacnik) the following day.

Ruddy duck: No numbers larger than 9 Apr's 125 at **Wellington Res** (K. Ostermiller) were reported, and few lingered, except five who seemed determined to stay at **Metzger** through the eop (m obs).

Red-throated loon: Always scarce in spring, records came from **Caesar Ck SP** (C. Barnett, 26 Mar) and **LSR** (an imm late on 21 May, J. Pogacnik).

Common loon: Most seemed to have passed through during the last week of Mar and the first of April, mostly on reservoirs. High count 40+, at **Pleasant Hill Lk** (S. Snyder) and **BCSP** (D. Overacker), both on 26 Mar. Two on **N. Bass Isl** were almost to Canada by 18 May (P. Rodewald), but an ad and 3 imm at **Alum Ck SP** 21 May (K. Kasniyak *vide* J. Watts) reminded us of rumored but never-confirmed breeding there in 2003.

Pied-billed grebe: An unremarkable migration landed 15 at **ONWR** by 1 May (ONWRC) and 20+ at **Metzger Marsh** by 8 May (R&S Harlan).

Horned grebe: About 400 reported, nearly all of them during the last week of Mar, led by high counts of ~80 at **Long Lk** in **Summit** the 23rd (D. Kramer), and on the 26th at **Pleasant Hill Lk** (S. Snyder) and **BCSP** (D. Overacker). One tarried at a **Fostoria Res** 3 May (B. Hardesty).

Red-necked grebe: Five reported: at **HWSP** 13 Mar (B. Heck), at **Cowan Lk** 20 (J. Hickman) through 30 Mar (B. Powell), at **Caesar Ck SP** 24 Mar (J. Lehman), at **Paulding Res** 26 Mar (M&D Dunakin), and at **Mosquito Ck WA** 3 Apr (C. Bochmann).

Eared grebe: One was discovered at **Caesar Ck SP** 30 Mar (J. Lehman), one at **Prairie Oaks MP** near Columbus 2 Apr (D. Sanders), and another at **HBSP** 10 Apr (S. Wagner).

American white pelican: Three at **Delaware WA** were seen as late as 9 Apr (P. Gardner), then twelve at **BCSP** the following day with three remaining on the 16th (D. Overacker). One was offshore in **Ottawa** 14 Apr (E. Snively), one on the beach at **Indian Lk SP** 8 May (M. Misplon), and another as late as 28 May in **Lorain** (J. Pogacnik).

Double-crested cormorant: Arrived in Apr, with ~500 on the 3rd in **Cleveland** (P. Lozano) and 300+ at **Hoover Res** the 10th (C. Bombaci). Small non-breeding groups remained on inland lakes, such as 25 at **Meander Ck Res** 22 May (C. Holt), but breeding colonies are now established inland at **GLSM (Mercer)** and **Lk Rockwell (Portage)**.

American bittern: Fifteen reported, the earliest 6 Apr in **Lorain** (P. Lozano).

Least bittern: With the exception of one reported from **Conneaut Harbor** 31 May (M. Vass), all reports came from the **NW marshes** in May.

Great egret: Arrived 24 Mar in **Athens** (L. Andrews), **Wayne** (S. Hannan), **Franklin** (R. Cressman, C. Bombaci), and **Butler** (F. Frick). Thirty could be seen at **Metzger** by 9 Apr (R&S Harlan). About fifty nests were detected on **Sandusky's Turning Pt Isl** 27 Apr (S. Young). Interestingly late for **Funk WA** were five on 31 May (S. Snyder), and for **Gilmore Ponds** eight on 26 May (K. Phillips).

Snowy egret: Not many, it seemed. First spotted 13 Apr at **Magee** (B. Fambrough), with a high count of four 22 Apr there (K. Kaufman).

Little blue heron: First reported was an ad 20 Apr at **Pipe Ck WA** (P. Sherwood). Another ad spent 24 (J. Lehman) through 30 Apr (D. Dister) at **SVWA**. **Magee** hosted one from 30 Apr (S. Walker) through 7 May (D. Sanders), later joined 11 May by an imm (R&S Harlan). D. Chasar found one in the **CVNP** 4 May, and J. Pogacnik an adult at **LSR** the following day. One was at **Pickerington Ponds** 8 May (R. Rogers), and another at **Sandy Ridge MP** 11-14 May (C. Caldwell).

Tricolored heron: One briefly seen at **Mallard Club Marsh WA** 21 May could not later be relocated. Details are with the OBRC.

Cattle Egret: First reported in **Summit** 9-10 May (H. Norton). Eight were near **Sandusky** 13 May (K. Mock). The next day 36 alternate-plumaged adults were near the same spot, among the five largest Ohio spring gatherings on record (B. Whan).

Green heron: First seen 7 Apr in **Granville** (S. Woolard). One was at **Conneaut Harbor** 31 May (M. Vass).

Black-crowned night-heron: P. Lozano's surveys of this species in **Cleveland's Flats** included 22 (16 ad) on 4 Mar, 31 on 20 Mar, 53 on 25 Mar, 71 on 27 Mar, 131 on 3 Apr, and 91 on 14 Apr. The **ONWRC** of 1 May found five. On 29 May C. Sandman reported eight birds and three active nests in **Spring Grove Cem** in **Cincinnati**.

Yellow-crowned night-heron: By 9 Apr nest construction was already underway at the **Columbus** site for the ninth consecutive spring (A. Paschall). Two had eggs by the cop.

Glossy ibis: Reports by m obs (ph) of flocks as large as ten between 14 and 24 May came from **ONWR**, **Metzger Marsh WA**, and **Mallard Club Marsh WA**, often in company with the following species. Ohio's second-largest flocks on record, and the first flocks mixing this and the following species. Details with the **OBRC**.

White-faced ibis: As many as five were seen by m. obs (ph) 14-24 May at **ONWR**, **Metzger**, and **Mallard Club**. This number is Ohio's second-largest aggregation, after 6-7 seen 9 May 2004. Details with the **OBRC**.

Plegadis ibis species: Unexpected ibises were found in a number of states across the Midwest to Massachusetts. Part of this overall picture was a flight of 23 dark ibises seen over **Van Wert** 31 May. Two were briefly spotted in **Gallia** 29 Apr (R&S Harlan). Details with the **OBRC**.

Black vulture: Unusual records: 29 occupied an **Athens** roost 16 Mar (B. Whan). Fifteen were in **NW Coshocton** 27 Mar (L.E. Yoder). R. Hannikman reported one over **HBSP** 20 Apr. L. Smith saw one in **Richland** 14 May.

Turkey vulture: The **Clermont** roost had ~500 on 27 Mar (B. Stanley). On 30 Mar, J. Pogacnik counted 1057 migrants passing **LSR**; on the same day but at the other end of the lake at **MBSP**, E. Schlabach counted 1915 birds.

Osprey: The highly successful reintroduction program has led to pairs returning regularly to nesting sites; this spring the earliest returned to the **Beach City WA** backwaters on 21 Mar (W. Sarno), with many more to follow. Among new sites explored by osprey pairs—who apparently will often carry nesting material merely as a signal they will nest the following year—were sites like **The Wilds** in **Muskingum** and **Pickerington Ponds** in **Fairfield**.

Mississippi Kite: One was reported near **Shawnee SF** 1 May. Details with the **OBRC**.

Bald eagle: Now widespread. Again a record number of nests: 125 that produced an estimated 136 young (ODOW). Unusual concentrations included 10 at **BIWA** 30 Mar (C. Bombaci) and seven non-adults over **Lk Rockwell** 16 Apr (L. Rosche).

Northern harrier: May records included one on the **ONWRC** of the 1st, one at **Magee** on the 2nd (T. Martincic), five at **KPWA** and two at **BIWA** the 5th (L. Gara), a pair at **Funk** the 6th (S. Snyder), one in **Brown** the 14th, and one along **Stange Rd** the 21st (C. Dusthimer).

Northern goshawk: An immature bird in **NW Coshocton** 19 Mar was a local first (L.E. Yoder).

Red-shouldered hawk: B. Bosstic caught one coming to his suet feeder in **Ross** 3 Mar. At **MBSP** on 30 Mar, E. Schlabach had 85 migrants.

Broad-winged hawk: D. Riepenhoff had eight very early birds in **Scioto** 26 Mar. One was in **Athens** by 1 Apr (D. Weber). A pair was building a nest near **Brecksville** on 15 Apr (D. Chasar), and on 18 Mar in **Holmes** E. Schlabach counted 78 migrants, and E. Yoder 25. On 18 May, ~15 passed over **N. Bass Isl** (P. Rodewald, m obs).

Rough-legged hawk: May lingerers included one in **Lorain** the 1st (K. Mock) and two at **KPWA** the 5th (L. Gara).

Golden eagle: One passed over **MBSP** on 30 Mar (E. Schlabach), and another nearby **ONWR** on 8 Apr (M. Falconer). The last of the birds at **The Wilds**, an adult, was seen 18 Mar (K. Mock).

Merlin: The last day for the **Lakeview Cem** bird in **Cleveland** was 5 Mar (D&J Hoffman), but a bird was at **Spring Grove Cem** in **Cincinnati** 1 May (J. Stenger). In between migrants passed, with a high count of three at **HBSP** 17 Apr (S. Wagner).

Peregrine falcon: It is difficult to separate reports of wild birds from those of introduced birds and their progeny, but probably among the former were one at **Bay View** 3 Mar (S. Young) and another 12 Mar at **SVWA** (R. Asamoto).

Yellow rail: One was heard by m obs 5-22 May at **Irwin Prairie SNP**; details with the **OBRC**.

Black rail: One was heard and briefly seen in a remote area of **Sandy Ridge MP** in **Lorain** on 10 May. Details have been requested for the **OBRC**.

King rail: One was at last year's nest site in **Pickaway** 7 May (B. Morrison), and tracks thought to be of this species at that at **KPWA** on 11 May (R. Sempier). One called at **Irwin Prairie SNP** 9 May (M. Anderson) and another at **Mallard Club Marsh** 19 May (G. Links). M. Romito et al. had one at **Ira Rd** in the **CVNP** 23 May.

Virginia rail: One calling at **Mogadore Res** 26 Mar (G. Bennett) was early, as was one for the 3 Apr **ONWRC**.

Sora: Also on the early side were two at **Glacier Ridge MP**, **Union**, 9 Apr (D. Overacker). High count 10 at **Metzger Marsh** 8 May (R&S Harlan).

Common moorhen: First reported at **Herrick Fen** in **Portage** 29 Apr (L. Rosche), numbers were skimpy overall.

American coot: Large migrant flocks of 600+ were at **Metzger** 27 Mar and ~400 at **Killbuck** 3 Apr (both R&S Harlan), and 543 for the **ONWRC** of 3 Apr.

Sandhill crane: A total of 96 reported, with a high count of 30 (in *Paulling* 9 Mar, M&E Dunakin), from 20 counties. Late birds in *Lucas* (nine on 12 May, P. Rodewald), *Hancock* (14 May, B. Hardesty) and *Licking* (21 May, C. Dusthimer) were interesting, but a pair calling at *SVWA* 18 Apr (S. Tackett) that retreated to an invisible part of the marsh through the eop were suspicious; nesting has not been confirmed, however.

[Whooping crane: three birds from the released population touched down near Waite Hill in *Lake* 4 Apr (P. Morse). Identified via bands, #s 301, 309, and 318 were among those seen near *Celina* last year; they are renegades from the plane-led project, and had spent the winter in North Carolina and passed last summer in n. Michigan. They seem to be the wildest—because most disobedient—of the introduced population from Wisconsin.]

Black-bellied plover: Two were in *Scioto* 30 Apr (R&S Harlan), and one at *Conneaut* 29 May (M. Vass). In the interim were reports of an anemic 23 birds.

American golden-plover: About 1200 reported between 9 Apr (five at *BIWA*, B. Whan) and 14 May (30 near *ONWR*, Whan). All were in the western half of the state, save for 30 in *Lorain* on 18 Apr (L. Rosche) and 218 there 19 Apr (T. Fairweather).

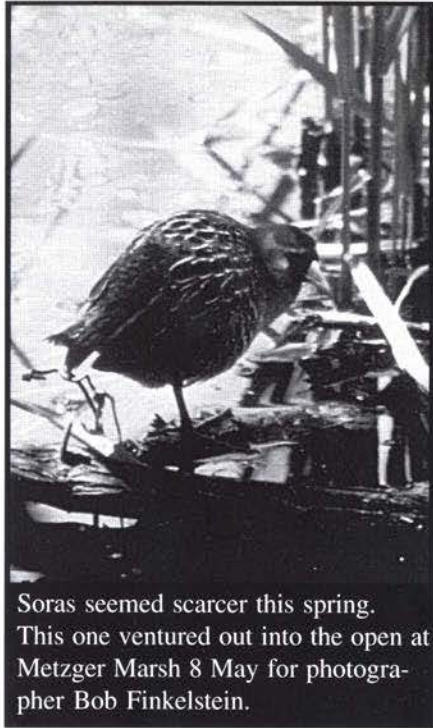
Semipalmated plover: Eight touched down at *Cowan Lk* 5 May (L. Gara), and seven were found at *Conneaut* 24 May (C. Holt); in between the high count was 38 in *Ottawa* 8 May (R&S Harlan).

Piping plover: One was at Moore's Lane in *Scioto* for m obs 30 Apr. Another spent 29 Apr-4 May on the beach at *Caesar Ck SP* (ph, m obs); it had been banded in 2004 as a chick west of Michigan's Straits of Mackinac.

Killdeer: Spring's first at *Oberlin* must have found it inhospitably cold on 12 Mar (D. Sheldon). The high count for the spring was 40, on 2 Apr in *Wyandot* (R. Counts).

American avocet: More often a bird of autumn in Ohio, one was inland at *Caesar Ck SP* on 1 May (B. Foppe).

Greater yellowlegs: Three dropped into the *Shreve* fish pond 23 Mar (S. Snyder). Forty were at *BIWA* 9 Apr (B. Whan), and one lingered at *Conneaut* 24 May (C. Holt).



Soras seemed scarcer this spring. This one ventured out into the open at Metzger Marsh 8 May for photographer Bob Finkelstein.

Lesser yellowlegs: At *Funk*, three were found 25 Mar (J. Brumfield). In *Gallia* on 29 Apr 25 showed up for R&S Harlan, and a *Darke* wetland produced 85 on 2 May (C. Ploch).

Solitary sandpiper: The first was detected in *Wyandot* 18 Apr (R. Counts), and the latest 29 May at the Coliseum site in the *CVNP* (C. Caldwell).

Willet: At the *VOA*, 20-30 passed over on 30 Apr (B. Wulker). L. Hershberger found a flock of 36 in *Holmes* on 3 May (fide S. Snyder). Three stalked the *Caesar Ck SP* beach 5 (L. Gara)-6 May (J. Lehman). One alit on a dock on *Kelleys Isl* 15 May (D. Cole, ph).

Spotted sandpiper: First reported at the *Shreve* fish pond 8 Apr (S. Snyder).

Upland sandpiper: One took to the *VOA* grasslands 14 Apr (T. Jackson fide M. Busam) where two were observed flying together 26 Apr (J. Lehman). One was at a traditional *Clark* site 29 May (D. Overacker). Two or three were seen by m obs along *Stange Rd* in *Ottawa* 14-15 May, and one hopes they returned to other favored sites.

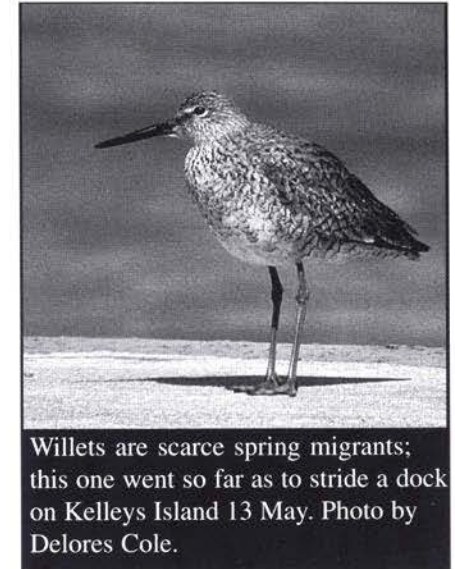
Whimbrel: As usual in spring, seen in long lines during a short period. A flock of 75 passed over *Conneaut* 24 May (C. Holt), one of 35-40 passed *LSR* on 25 May (J. Pogacnik), and a first *Gallia* record came from ~50 over *Cheshire* 28 May (H. Slack).

Marbled Godwit: Ten seen in *Greene* 2 May (R. Foppe et al.) had almost certainly been among the 16 seen earlier that day not far away at *Caesar Ck SP* (K. Braun).

Ruddy turnstone: Early in migration, seen mucking about in plowed fields, the first 9 May near *ONWR* (A. Boone), but with the midge hatch attracted to what little remains of the *Lake Erie shoreline*, where on 21 May up to 35 walked the sand and zebra-mussel debris at *Crane Ck SP* (J. Brumfield) and 38 the tiny "beach" outside the *Metzger Marsh WA* dike (P. Gardner). Last seen 30 May at *HBSP* (R. Hannikman).

Red knot: None to report. We never see many in spring, but the Nearctic-nesting race *rufa* is getting hard to find even along its main route north, as our species continues to degrade stopover sites along the migratory route.

Sanderling: In the customary small numbers (this time 11) of spring, with the first at *EFSP* beach on 4 May (D. Morse), the high count four in *Hancock* 24 May (fide B. Hardesty), and one at *Conneaut* 29 May (M. Vass).



Willetts are scarce spring migrants; this one went so far as to stride a dock on Kelleys Island 13 May. Photo by Delores Cole.

Semipalmated sandpiper: Arrived 7 May in *Hamilton* (J. Stenger), but most were later, and in skimpy numbers, with a high count of 20 at *Conneaut* on 31 May (M. Vass).

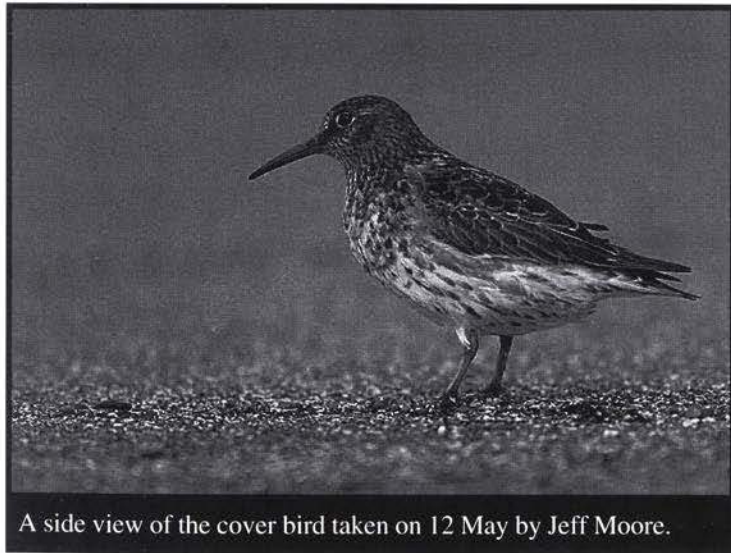
Western sandpiper: J. Pogacnik was prevented from photographing one at *Conneaut* on 29 May by a heedless beach driver. In our humble opinion, a number of reports received of least sandpipers between 20 Mar and 10 April were more likely of this species.

Least sandpiper: Most numerous of the season was a flock of 50 in a flooded *Ottawa* field 8 May (R&S Harlan). One remained at *Conneaut* 24 May (C. Holt).

White-rumped sandpiper: First two reported 7 May in *Hamilton* (J. Stenger), but most came much later and in small numbers. Two were at *Conneaut* 29 May (M. Vass).

Pectoral sandpiper: Over 5600 reported, with arrivals of single birds on 19 Mar at *ONWR* (m obs) and *BCSP* (D. Overacker). ~1650 were at *BIWA* 9 Apr (B. Whan), and 1500+ in *Wyandot* 24 Apr, where 32 remained 9 May (both R. Counts). Last reported were eight at *Caesar Ck SP* on 18 May (L. Gara). Few of these birds were found on neatly plowed fields.

Purple sandpiper: L. Schlabach discovered one on the beach at *Crane Ck SP* on 12 May (ph, m obs) for an exceedingly rare record, Ohio's second documented spring occurrence; M. Trautman collected the other on *Starve Isl, Ottawa*, 6 May 1944.



A side view of the cover bird taken on 12 May by Jeff Moore.

Dunlin: First reported from *ONWR* by the census team, with two early birds on 3 Apr; they had 851 on the 1 May count, and *Ottawa*, which actually had some open mudflat habitat (but limited observer access) had the high count of 1000+ on 14 May (R&S Harlan). Three remained at *Conneaut* 31 May (M. Vass).

Short-billed dowitcher: First, and the high count, were 130 at *Prairie Oaks MP* in *Madison* 12 May (J. Watts). On days when the back of *Ottawa* was open, 20 were found on 14 May (J. Duerr) and 25 on 15 May (R&S Harlan). One was at *Conneaut* 31 May (M. Vass).

Long-billed dowitcher: Rare in spring, one was near *Killbuck* on 27-30 Mar (S. Snyder). We are inclined to think that several reports received of short-billeds through mid-Apr were actually of this species, a very difficult ID.

Wilson's Snipe: Near *Shawnee SF* were two on 18 Mar (B. Royse), with 30 there on the 26th (B. Sparks). High count ~100 at *Pickerington Ponds MP* near *Columbus* 20 Apr (J. Watts). One was in *Cuyahoga Falls* 17 May (L. Rosche).

American woodcock: As usual, spring displays lasted into mid-May in the north, with five at *Irwin Prairie SNP* on the 15th (R&S Harlan).

Wilson's phalarope: One appeared at a *Darke* wetland 2-4 May (R. Schieltz, m obs), and one 6 May and two 11-12 May in flooded fields in *Wyandot* (R. Counts). An adult female frequented an impoundment at *ONWR* 10 (C. Tucker) through 14 May (J. Duerr). Another was found at *Sandy Ridge MP* in *Lorain* 24-30 May (T. Fairweather), and finally a male in *NE Putnam* on 29 May (R. Schroeder).

Red-necked phalarope: B. Deininger photographed an adult at *ONWR* 20 May.

Laughing gull: An adult appeared at a favored spot, *Caesar Ck SP beach*, on 14 Apr (L. Gara). Another adult visited *Lorain Harbor* 28 May (J. Pogacnik).

Franklin's gull: L. Gara found one on the *Caesar Ck SP beach* 26 Mar, where *fide* Gara D. Graham had seen two earlier that day. One was in *Wyandot* 15 Apr (R. Counts), and another at *ONWR* 16 and 17 Apr (J. Pogacnik). Another adult visited the *Mohawk Dam (Coshocton)* on 1 May (L.E. Yoder).

Little gull: J. Pogacnik observed adults at *LSR* 31 Mar, near *Painesville* 5 Apr, and at *Fairport Hbr* 13 Apr. R. Hannikman had three at *HBSP* 3 Apr. D. Overacker spotted another inland at *BCSP* on 10 Apr.

Bonaparte's gull: Seen as early as 8 Mar at *Caesar Ck SP*, where four remained 16 May (both L. Gara). At *LSR*, J. Pogacnik counted 733 on 31 Mar and 682 on 9 Apr. The *ONWRC* tallied 937 for the 1 May census. Some seemed loath to leave *Conneaut*, with two there on 24 May (C. Holt), 22 on 29 May (Pogacnik), and four on 31 May (M. Vass).

Ring-billed gull: Large flocks moved swiftly up river corridors in Mar, e.g. with ~500 in *Tuscarawas* on the 5th (S. Snyder) and ~2000 at *Cowan Lk* on the 25th (B. Powell).

Herring gull: At *LSR*, 588 passed by on 30 Mar (J. Pogacnik). Three adults lingered at *Caesar Ck SP beach* 21 May (L. Gara). As last year, several pairs again nested successfully along the Ohio River in *Gallia* (H. Slack, J. McCormac).

Thayer's gull: Lingering at **Cleveland's E 72nd St** was an adult spotted 3-5 Mar (J. Pogacnik).

Iceland gull:

Reports of a first-winter bird at **E 72nd St** spanned 3 (V. Fazio) through 30 Mar (J. Pogacnik); the latter observer had two there on 5 Mar.

Lesser black-backed gull:

With other wintering gulls, an ad and a first-winter bird stuck around through 6 Mar at **E. 72nd St** (V. Fazio, J. Pogacnik). Adults were reported on 13 Mar at **HWSP**

(B. Heck et al.) and **BCSP** (D. Overacker) at different times of day, suggesting they might be one and the same; an adult persisted at **BCSP** through 25 Mar. Pogacnik found an ad at **Fairport Hbr** 13 Apr that looked dark enough to be of the European race *intermedius*. Third-year birds were found at **Conneaut** on 24 May (C. Holt) and at **Lorain** on 28 May (Pogacnik).

Glaucous gull: A third-winter bird was at **E 72nd St** 3 Mar (V. Fazio), with three (two adults, one third-winter) there 5 Mar and an adult on 6 Mar (both J. Pogacnik). Elsewhere, one was found at a **Findlay reservoir** 29 Mar-4 Apr (B. Hardesty) and an ad at **Fairport Hbr** 13 Apr (Pogacnik).

Great black-backed gull: The **Kelleys Isl** census of 19 Mar turned up 71 (T. Bartlett). In the east, 19 were at **LSR** on 30 Mar, and 26 there on 9 Apr (J. Pogacnik). Six young birds at **Conneaut** on 24 May were sitting out the breeding season at the beach (C. Holt).

Herring X great black-backed gull: An adult was at **E 72nd St**. 6 Mar; observer J. Pogacnik believed it to be different from another present there in January.

Caspian tern: The world's largest tern species can do as it pleases, and one showed up early at **Conneaut** on 31 Mar (J. Pogacnik). At **Cleveland**, 43 were to be seen on 10 Apr (P. Lozano) and 70+ at **Conneaut** on 9 May (Pogacnik), where the latest was reported on 29 May (M. Vass).

Common tern: Two reached **Hoover Res** 26 Apr (C. Bombaci), and 35 for the 1 May **ONWRC** suggested the size of the artificially supported breeding colony there this year.



This handsome adult lesser black-backed gull, still in winter feathers around the crown, nape, and throat, stalked the ice off Cleveland's E. 72nd St. on 15 Mar. Photo by Gary Meszaros.

Forster's tern: L. Gara had two at **Caesar Ck SP** 12 Apr. Nine were down in **Scioto** on 30 Apr (R&S Harlan). **Mosquito Lk** had good numbers again, with 57 on 17 May (C. Babyak). Gara still had four at **Caesar Ck** 20-21 May.

Black tern: One scout hunted in falling snow at **Alum Ck SP** 25 Apr (R. Thorn), and ~90 were reported during May north and west of there. On 15 May G. Miller counted 42 adults feeding over **Metzger Marsh**, and on 21 May A. Boone noted ~15 carrying small fishes from the lake into the marsh at **CPNWR**, suggesting a good-sized breeding population. Late birds were noted on 28 May at **Pickerington Ponds** (J. Konst) and **KPWA** (R. Sempier).

Eurasian collared-dove: Reported seen and heard in **Hamilton** 9 May, with details to the OBRC.

[Monk Parakeet: H. Nagy reported three in flight in **SE Columbus**. This species has nested there and elsewhere in the state before but has never approached status as established. However, it has recently been added to the Indiana list, and bears watching.]

Black-billed cuckoo: First seen 3 May at **SVWA** (D. Sanders), and reported in modest numbers through the eop.

Yellow-billed cuckoo: First reported from **Spring Grove Cem** 1 May, this species was unusually numerous this spring. High count five in **Clark** 30 May (D. Overacker).

Great horned owl: An injured owl picked up 24 Mar in **Hamilton** (J. Wiesman) proved to be a North American record 28 years old, via a band placed on it only six miles distant in March 1977 by Jack Holt, who was reunited with his owl for a photo.

Long-eared owl: As many as seven persisted between two frequently visited spots in **KPWA** through 27 Mar (K. Tanquist). The **ONWRC** had two on 6 Mar, and T. Bartlett one on **Kelleys Isl** 19 Mar. Latest was a migrant at **HBSP** 17 Apr (S. Wagner).

Short-eared owl: J. Benedetti reported 25 still at **The Wilds** 4 Mar, and D. Chasar one in **Northfield** the 7th. Three or four were at **Magee** 13 Mar (S. Young), and two at **Glacier Ridge MP** in **Union** 23 Mar (R. Lowry). No May reports.

Northern saw-whet owl: The **ONWRC** had one on 6 Mar. **KPWA** birds topped out at two on 13 Mar (G. Stauffer). K. Sieg netted one in **Ross** 17 Mar which she'd banded 3 Dec 2004 about 2 mi NW.

Common nighthawk: First reported from **Columbus** 5 May (S. Landes). Encouraging numbers were seen in May over wetlands: 40 at **Tinkers Ck SP** in **Portage** the 18th (F. Losi) and 30 at **Highbanks MP** in **Delaware** the 21st (R. Lowry).

Chuck-will's-widow: First heard on 21 Apr in its **Adams** haunts (P. Whan).

Whip-poor-will: Heard with the above the same night. Another was at **CPNWR** by 14 May (D. Small).

Chimney swift: An eager scout showed up in *Holmes* 5 Apr (E. Schlabach). Ten migrants appeared in *Clermont* 11 Apr (D. Morse), but none reached snowbound northern counties till the very end of the month, and R. Counts estimated 200+ hunting in a 24 April snowstorm at **Upper Sandusky Res.** P. Coy counted "well over a thousand" at a **Chillicothe** roost 2 May.

Hummingbird sp: Reported 11 Apr at **Pataskala** (H. Nagy).

Ruby-throated hummingbird: First two seen in **Columbus** 19 Apr (R. Lowry, B. Royse).

Yellow-bellied sapsucker: The first certain migrants were 10 at **Columbus's Green Lawn Cem** 7 Apr (R. Lowry). J. Pogacnik photographed one with a red nape at **Magee** on 16 Apr. Last reported 3 May in *Hamilton* (J. Lippert).

Red-naped sapsucker: A bird said to be of this species spent 3-8 Apr in a woodlot in **NE Holmes**. Extensively photographed and studied by m obs, this would be a first state record; in fact, there is no known precedent for this species this far east. Observers, as well as those who were able only to see photos on the internet, differed as to whether it was (1) this species, (2) the far rarer hybrid *varius* X *nuchalis*, or (3) within the range of variation for yellow-bellied sapsucker. Given the AOU taxonomy, no other options seem available. The problem has been passed on to the long-suffering OBRC.

Olive-sided flycatcher: First reported at **Clear Ck MP** (J. Laughbaum) and *Hancock* (B. Hardesty) 14 May. High count 2-3 near **Ravenna** 23 May (L. Rosche). The latest was near **Berlin Res** 26 May (B. Morrison).

Eastern wood-pewee: First seen as a duo at **MWW** 7 May (B. Foppe). Some said its numbers seemed down; at **Navarre**, BSBO banded 53 last spring but only 16 this time, less than half the average over the past six years; their first was handled 10 May.

Yellow-bellied flycatcher: First showed up latish 16 May in *Tuscarawas* (B. Jackson), staying into the next period. Peak 15 at **CPNWR** on 29 May (M. Falconer).

Acadian flycatcher: Showed up at **Shawnee Lkout** in **Cincinnati** 30 Apr (L. Peyton). At **Black Hand Gorge** in *Licking* D. Overacker found 15 on 28 May.

Alder flycatcher: G. Bennett reported the first, at **Mogadore Res** 15 May, where four were singing by the 21st.

Willow flycatcher: Individuals showed up on time at **SVWA** (B. Foppe) and **Clear Ck MP** (B. Morrison) on 6 May, yet none were found at a favored spot like **Crown City WA** farther south on the 11th (B. Royse). By 27 May, 15 were at **BCSP** (D. Overacker).

Least flycatcher: When a first report comes from the lakeside, an overflight is often involved, but on 5 (Navarre, BSBO) and 6 May (Magee, K. Kaufman)? Plenty arrived eventually, with 10 at Magee on 11 May (R&S Harlan). Most unusual were five singing males in one field at **Clear Ck MP** (where one male lingered through 19 Jun last year) 26-May eop (J. Watts).

Eastern phoebe: By 18 Mar 18 could be found at **Shawnee SF** (B. Royse). Two at the **Shaker Lks** 5 Apr were greeted by more snow than flies (L. Gooch).

Great crested flycatcher: Earliest in **Cincinnati** 18 Apr (S. Pelikan).

Eastern kingbird: Arrived 16 Apr at **SVWA** (C. Barnett).

Northern shrike: One persisted at **KPWA** for m obs through 16 Mar (R. Lowry), and in the NE one was found as late as 27 Mar at the **CVNP** (D. Vogus); the **ONWRC** had an April bird, on the 3rd, and R. Hannikman one at **HBSP** the 5th, both late dates.

White-eyed vireo: Appeared 18 Apr in **Granville** (S. Woolard) and in *Vinton* (D. Weber). Five were in **Shawnee SF** the following day (B. Royse).

Bell's vireo: Not found at the traditional **BCSP** site. A male appeared at **Gilmore Ponds** 28 May (M. Busam) however, where a pair was present by the 31st (J. Habig).

Yellow-throated vireo: First discovered at **Shawnee SF** 10 Apr (B. Royse).

Blue-headed vireo: Four males detected at **Shawnee SF** 5 Apr by B. Royse, who remarked that "Shawnee's nesting blue-headed vireos are found along narrow slopes with trees that are mostly entirely deciduous." Twelve+ territorial males were found in the **Hocking SPs** 13-16 May by F. Renfrow, in coniferous trees. A late migrant showed up in *Holmes* 20 May (E. Schlabach).

Warbling vireo: Arrived at **Winton Wds** (J. Stenger) 17 Apr and **Pike** 18 Apr (B. Royse), and by 11 May a stronghold like **Magee** harbored ~30 (R&S Harlan).

Philadelphia vireo: First noted 6 May in **Columbus** (C. Caprette).

Red-eyed vireo: First appearances came on 15 Apr in **Shawnee SF** (B. Royse) and 17 Apr at **MWF** (L. Peyton). Several observers reported its overall numbers seemed down; at **Navarre**, BSBO banded 222 last spring, but only 140 this year.

Blue jay: At **LSR**, J. Pogacnik counted over 5000 lakeside migrants on 9 May and 8000+ on the late date of 21 May.

American crow: R&S Harlan found 500+ migrants roosting across from the nuclear plant in **Ottawa** 27 Mar. F. Renfrow estimated the **Cincinnati** roost at ~20,000 on 1 Mar.

Purple martin: Three scouts were in **Cincinnati** 27 Mar (J. Stenger), and several in **Hebron** in *Licking* two days later (C. Dusthimer).

Tree swallow: By 5 Mar two forerunners had reached **Gilmore Ponds** (M. Busam), and on the 18th 10 were near **Shawnee SF** (B. Royse) and two up at **Killbuck** (H. Ostermiller).

Northern rough-winged swallow: On 27 Mar five were observed in *Clermont* (D. Morse) and one at **Slate Run MP** in *Pickaway* (R. Rogers).

Bank swallow: Two reached **Columbus** 12 Apr (R. Thorn). The colony near **Metzger Marsh** reached 110 on 13 May (A. Boone), and many nested at **Conneaut Hbr** (m obs).

Cliff swallow: First noted at **Jasper, Pike** on 11 Apr (B. Royse). Continues to spread, with a new colony in the culvert along the **Magee** causeway this year (m obs).

Barn swallow: Very early birds reached **Medina** 20 Mar (J. Wert *vide* L. Rosche) and **Wingfoot Lk** in **Portage** the next day (Rosche).

Red-breasted nuthatch: Widely reported at feeders through early Apr, then in migration, when P. Rodewald reported seven in late Apr-19 May in the **western Lk Erie marshes**. F. Renfrow had a pair incubating eggs in mid-May at **Old Man's Cave** in **Hocking**.

Brown creeper: B. Royse reported a singing male, locally his first, at **Shawnee** Apr 5, re-found 3 May, suggesting nesting. The ONWRC tallied 28 on 3 Apr. Nesting confirmed in **Delaware** 27 May, near the site of two nests last year (C. Bombaci).

Winter wren: Not reported till 6 Apr, with seven at **Magee** (S. Young), where one remained 20 May (B. Morrison). Fifteen were at **Green Lawn Cem** in **Columbus** 16 Apr (C. Bombaci). Interestingly, singing males were at **Firestone MP** in **Akron** 10 May (R&S Harlan) and in **Cuyahoga Hts** 31 May (J. Brumfield).

House wren: Early reports came from **Hamilton** 26 Mar (N. Keller) and 30 Mar (J. Hovekamp). Fifteen were found at **Magee** 11 May (R&S Harlan).

Sedge wren: On 4 May, **R&S Harlan** had three at ONWR and M. Busam one at the **VOA** site in **Butler**. Two showed up in **Ross** on the 9th (D. Hess).

Marsh wren: One at **Magee** 13 Apr was early (B. Fambrough). One sang at **Black Hand Gorge** in **Licking** 8 May (C. Dusthimer). The **Killbuck** population was normal at five 26 May (S. Snyder), and a pair apparently continued at **Conneaut Hbr** 24 May (C. Holt).

Golden-crowned kinglet: **Magee** had 17 migrants 6 Apr (S. Young), and the latest report came from the **CVNP** on 7 May (D. Chasar).

Ruby-crowned kinglet: First migrant reported was at **N Chagrin MP** 3 Apr (K. Metcalf), with no remarkable numbers reported thereafter.

Blue-gray gnatcatcher: Rather late, with five at **SWVA** 4 Apr (J. Brown) and only one at **Shawnee SF** 5 Apr, where there were nonetheless 50 by 11 Apr (both B. Royse)
Veery: A. Boone counted 30 at **ONWR** 10 May, and L. Rosche et al. 30+ at **HBSP** the 19th. One was at **Magee** 30 May (K. Kaufman).

Gray-cheeked thrush: First banded at **Navarre** 5 May (BSBO), and seen sparingly through the eop.

Swainson's thrush: Netted at **Navarre** 8 May (BSBO). High count on the ground ~30 at **Green Lawn Cem** in **Columbus** 14 May (B. Master), but not numerous overall.

Hermit thrush: Seen 5 Mar in the **CVNP** (D. Chasar). An early migrant reached **Ross** 7 Apr (K. Sieg), and by 26 Apr 75 were counted at **CPNWR** (P. Rodewald). On surveys at **Hocking SPs** 13-16 May, eight were seen and 25 heard singing (F. Renfrow).

Wood thrush: One found in **Holmes** on 17 Apr was early (E. Schlabach).

Varied Thrush: The **Carroll** bird was last seen 31 Mar (C. Ickes).

Gray catbird: B. Powell reported one from **Cowan Lk SP** as early as 30 Mar.

Northern mockingbird: Two at **Crane Ck SP** 10 May were unusual (D. Friedman).

Brown thrasher: First reported from **Cincinnati** 13 Mar (S. Pelikan), with a high count of eight at **Killdeer Plains** 8 May (R. Sempier).

American pipit: Seen in small numbers past mid-May, but large counts came from 27 Mar (~60, N. Cade, **MWW**), 3 Apr (75, B. Morrison, **Walborn Res**), and 6 Apr (80+, R. Counts, **Wyandot**).

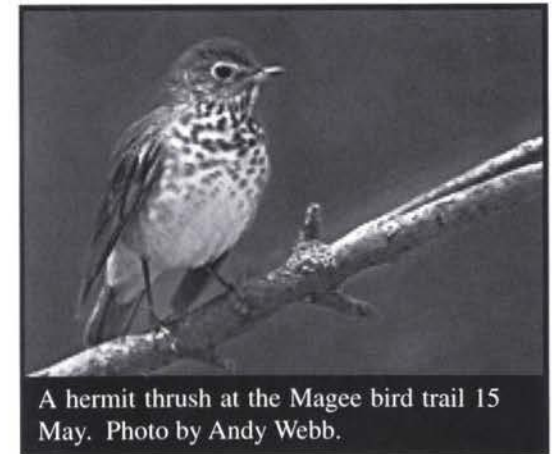
Cedar waxwing: Many reports of 100+ came from the last three days of the period.

Blue-winged warbler: Four reached **Shawnee SF** by 18 Apr, and grew to 22 by the next day (B. Royse). The **CVNP** census of 7 May found 68 (D. Chasar).

Golden-winged warbler: First reported from **Columbus** 6 May (P. Rodewald), then banded at **Navarre** the following day (BSBO). Seven were reported on 9 May across the state. Fourteen reported in all, the latest at **Magee** 17 May (T. Martincic).

Hybrids of the above: J. Duerr saw a Brewster's at **Magee** 14 May, R&S Harlan it or another there the following day, and B. Master a male F1 there on 16 May. No Lawrence's reported.

Tennessee warbler: R. Royse had the first at **Shawnee** 20 Apr, with 75 there 11 May; R&S Harlan counted 10 at **Magee** the same day.



A hermit thrush at the Magee bird trail 15 May. Photo by Andy Webb.

Orange-crowned warbler: First seen at HBSP 29 Apr (R. Hannikman) rather late, with seemingly small numbers reported thereafter.

Nashville warbler: One at **Magee** 16 Apr was one of the season's rare overflights. Next seen in **Cincinnati** 17 Apr (J. Stenger). High count 30 at **Magee** 8 May (Harlans).

Northern parula: Early was one in **Ross** 4 Apr (K. Sieg). Remarkable were ~20 at the **Magee** bird trail 11 May (R&S Harlan).

Northern parula X cerulean warbler: see short note in this issue.

Yellow warbler: First report from **Pike** 11 Apr (B. Royse). Sixty found at **Magee** 8 May (R&S Harlan), and 45 banded at **ONWR** 17 May (P. Rodewald).

Chestnut-sided warbler:

First reported 27 Apr (**Stark** by E. Snively, **Mahoning** by C. Babyak), large movements involved 25 at **Magee** 11 May (R&S Harlan) and 18 in **Holmes** 14 May (E. Schlabach). Three were singing at **Clear Ck MP** 28 May (J. Watts).

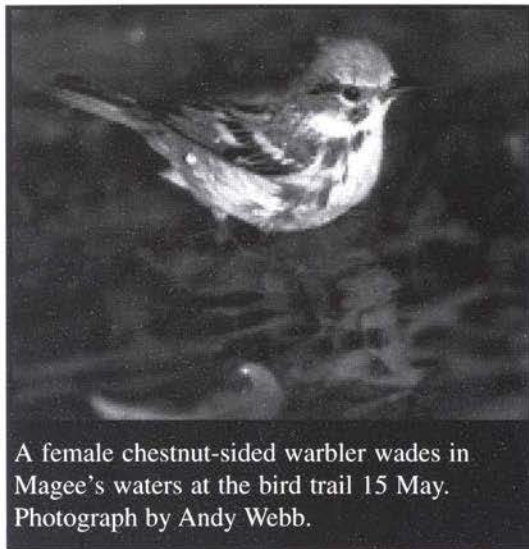
Magnolia warbler: High count 26 in **Holmes & Coshocton** 14 May (E. Schlabach), but said to be down in numbers; at **Navarre**, BSBO banded 719 last spring, but only 268 this year. Five territorial males were found 13-16 May in **Conkle's Hollow** and **Ash Cave** in **Hocking** (F. Renfrow).

Cape May warbler: Early was one in **Stark** 27 Apr (E. Snively). The high count was 10 at **Magee** 11 May (R&S Harlan).

Black-throated blue warbler: Reportedly scarcer than usual. K. Kaufman reported "several" at **Magee** 4 May. Six was the high count, reported 14 May in **Coshocton** and **Holmes** (E. Schlabach) and at **Spring Grove Cem** in **Cincinnati** (L. Brumbaugh).

Yellow-rumped warbler: Not as numerous as usual. J. Pogacnik had 300+ at **LSR** on 5 May, and R&S Harlan ~50 at **Magee** 14 May, with the latest 22 May in **Holmes** (E. Schlabach). Last spring BSBO banded a record 719 at **Navarre**, and this spring 268.

Black-throated gray warbler: A report with photos came from **Kelleys Island** 9 May; details are with the OBRC.



A female chestnut-sided warbler wades in Magee's waters at the bird trail 15 May. Photograph by Andy Webb.

Black-throated green warbler: First sighted 5 Apr in **Shawnee SF** (B. Royse). In the **Hocking Hills** parks F. Renfrow heard more than 50 probable breeders 13-16 May.

Blackburnian warbler: A singing bird at **Shawnee SF** 11 Apr set a new state record early date by several days (B. Royse). Fifteen were at **ONWR** on 9 May (A. Boone), and on 13-16 May the **Hocking** parks yielded three territorial males at **Old Man's Cave**, three at **Conkle's Hollow**, and one at **Cedar Falls** (F. Renfrow).

Yellow-throated warbler: Quite early was one in **Clermont** 30 Mar (M. Wessel). At **Shawnee SF** B. Royse counted 23 on 5 Apr, then 60+ on 10 Apr. On 7 Apr, F. Renfrow found at least 11 at **Spring Grove Cem**, most singing from white pines. R&S Harlan found one in the **CVNP** on 15 Apr, and M. Falconer one at **ONWR** 29 Apr. **Navarre's** first ever was banded 26 Apr (BSBO).

Pine warbler: A bird that had wintered in **Rocky River** departed 9 Mar (J. Andes). A migrant appeared at a **Vinton** feeder 4 Mar (B. Crow), and ten were singing at **HWSP** 1 Apr (J. Stenger). Seven were near **Nimisila Res** 7 May (R&S Harlan).

Kirtland's warbler: Three reports are with the OBRC: a male in **Adams** on the record-tying early date of 30 Apr, a male at **Magee** 5/16, and a female 25 May at **Magee**.

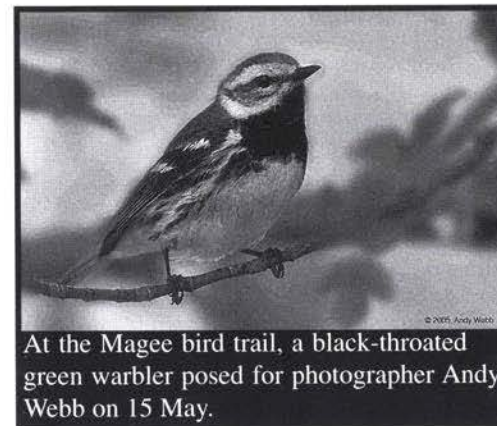
Prairie warbler: One was found 15 Apr in **Scioto** (B. Royse), with others in **Montgomery** (C. White) and **Hamilton** (S. Pelikan) on the 18th. P. Rodewald banded one way up in the **CPNWR** 16 May.

Palm warbler: One was early in **Brown** 3 Apr (J. Landon). The 7 May **CVNP** census found 31 (D. Chasar). A bird of the yellow race was at **LSR** on 9 Apr (J. Pogacnik), and another was netted at **Navarre** 16 May (BSBO).

Bay-breasted warbler: Two were at **Killdeer** 8 May (R. Sempier), and the following day their numbers were estimated at 75+ at **Magee** (K. Kaufman).

Blackpoll warbler: **Columbus** hosted one 6 May (C. Caprette), and by 11 May ~50 were at **Scioto Trail SF** (B. Royse). One remained in **Hocking** 30 May (D. Horn).

Cerulean warbler: The first reported came from **Shawnee Lookout** in **Cincinnati** 15 Apr (A. Bess). Birds were up at **CPNWR** 23 and 24 May (P. Rodewald).



At the Magee bird trail, a black-throated green warbler posed for photographer Andy Webb on 15 May.

Black-and-white warbler: One showed up as early as 1 Apr, at **Shawnee SF** (D. Riepenhoff), where 46 were tallied 18 Apr (B. Roysel). In a survey of *Coshocton* and *Holmes* 14 May, ten were found (E. Schlabach).

American redstart: Two males singing at **Shawnee SF** 11 Apr set a new state early record; there were ~40 there by the 19th (both B. Roysel, ph). **MBSF** held 25 on 15 May (R&S Harlan).

Prothonotary warbler: Arrived at the **SVWA** breeding site 16 Apr (C. Barnett); at **Hoover Res**, the first showed up 26 Apr, with nine on 4 May, 17 on 7 May, 21 on 8 May, and 34 on 13 May (C. Bombaci) and 50+ pairs by the eop. At least nine reported at **Magee**, with two males on 21 May (J. Brumfield) and three on 15 May (R&S Harlan).

Worm-eating warbler: First noted in *Hocking* 14 Apr (D. Horn), while at **Magee** 1-2 were present 16 Apr (J. Pogacnik). At **Shawnee** two were around on the 18th, then six on the 19th (B. Roysel). One was banded at **ONWR** 9 May (P. Rodewald).

Swainson's warbler: One at **Mohican SP** was seen and heard by several observers 21 May, and written up for the OBRC.

Ovenbird: One arrived at **Shawnee SF** 10 Apr (B. Roysel), where 72 had joined it by the 19th. Still moving on 19 May, when 15-18 were at **HBSP** (L. Rosche).

Northern waterthrush: Early was one banded at **Navarre** 28 Apr (BSBO). As many as seven were at **Magee** 14 May (R&S Harlan).

Louisiana waterthrush: Two had arrived at **Shawnee SF** 26 Mar (B. Sparks); on the same day one was at **Magee** (J. Pogacnik). Interesting was one banded at the **Turtle Ck** unit of **Magee** 10 May (P. Rodewald).

Kentucky warbler: Two-three early birds were found in **Oxford** 17 Apr (J. Stenger), with another at **Shawnee** the 19th (B. Roysel).

Connecticut warbler: About two dozen reported, the first out of the way in **Paulding** 13 May (M&D Dunakin), then one the next day one in *Champaign* (D. Overacker) and two at **Indian CK WA** in *Brown* (J. Stenger). BSBO banded seven at **Navarre** during the period.

Mourning warbler: J. McCormac found an early singing male in **Columbus** 4 May, and four were at **Magee** on the 9th (K. Kaufman). At **CPNWR** on the 30th, 12 were present (A. Boone), on which date D. Horn had one in *Hocking*.

Common yellowthroat: Arrived at **MWW** 20 Apr (J. Jaskula).

Hooded warbler: First reported at **Shawnee SF** 15 Apr; by the 19th 30 were present (both B. Roysel), and one reached **N Chagrin MP** in *Cuyahoga* by the 17th (K. Metcalf). The **CVNP** census of 7 May counted 43 (D. Chasar).

Wilson's warbler: One of very few early ones was at **Blendon Wds** in **Columbus** 4 May (D. Linzell). K. Kaufman estimated "two dozen or more" at **Magee** on 30 May.

Canada warbler: Isolated was an early arrival in **Columbus** 8 May (J. Grabmeier). Nesters at **Clear Ck MP** were down (J. Watts). F. Renfrow found no breeders this spring along the "improved" pathway at **Conkle's Hollow**. A dozen migrants was the peak at **Magee** 30 May (K. Kaufman).

Yellow-breasted chat: Early birds were in **Logan** 17 Apr (T. Shively) and in **Montgomery** the following day (C. White).

Summer tanager: First reported 21 Apr at **Scioto Trail SF** (B. Roysel). T. Kemp estimated as many as 10 pairs in **Toledo** this spring.

Scarlet tanager: First found 13 Apr by J. Van Coney in **Hamilton**. B. Roysel encountered four on 15 Apr at **Shawnee SF**, where there were eight on the 18th and 30 on the 19th. One near **Toledo** the 20th was locally quite early.

American tree sparrow: Last reported 30 Apr at **HBSP** (R. Hannikman).

Clay-colored sparrow: One sang at **LSR** 7 May (J. Pogacnik), another at **Magee** the same day (D. Sanders, B. Finkelstein) and the next (R&S Harlan), and a third at **Glacier Ridge MP** in **Union** 26 May (C. Bombaci).

Vesper sparrow: Seven migrants were at **EFSP** 27 Mar (L. Romine), and by 3 Apr four were at **ONWR** for the census team.



The Canada warbler is among our most beautiful migrants. This male was caught on film on 20 May at the Magee Bird Trail by Linda Stoller.



This lark sparrow looks satisfied with the breeding habitat in Toledo's Oak Openings MP. Photo by Linda Stoller 20 May.

Lark sparrow: Two different birds were in *Hamilton*, one on the 1st (J. Stenger) and one on the 4th (D. Brinkman). On 12 May H&J Schlotman found a bird in *Warren*, when the first was reported from the **Oak Openings** breeding site (K. Miller). J. McMahon et al. found one in *Ross* 31 May.

Savannah sparrow: Wintering birds at E. Schlabach's feeders in *Holmes* numbered as many as seven through 13 Mar. A migrant came to *Scioto* 26 Mar (B. Sparks). Ten were present at the CVNP's Coliseum site 25 May (D. Chasar).

Grasshopper sparrow: Appeared on schedule 21 Apr W of *Columbus* (R. Thorn), with six at ONWR 8 May (R&S Harlan). In a *Hocking* reclaimed strip mine, 20+ were heard 25 May (B. Barchus).

Henslow's sparrow: Singing at **The Wilds** by 11 Apr (S. Albaugh), four were in *Delaware* the 18th (J. Watts), and 12-15 males in *Hocking* 25 May (B. Barchus).

Fox sparrow: A bird in *Licking* 1 Mar (H. Nagy) must have been a migrant, and the first was seen in *Sandusky* 8 Mar (S. Young). Numerous by 20 Mar, with 28 on the 3 Apr ONWRC, one lingered as late as 15 May in *Holmes* (E. Yoder).

Lincoln's sparrow: Always a lurker, first reported from the **Shaker Lks** 4 May (L. Gooch), with many arrived the following week. Late birds were singing in *Holmes* 21 May (E. Yoder) and one in *Lorain* 24 May (P. Lozano).

Swamp sparrow: Movement at the **Magee** migrant trap peaked with 10 there 6 Apr (S. Young) and 20 on 9 Apr (R&S Harlan).

White-throated sparrow: One 13 Mar at **BCSP** was wintering, but migrants were slow to appear, with the first big influx at **Magee** the first week of May; on 7 May at **LSR** J. Pogacnik had over 300 at his feeders.

White-crowned sparrow: The largest numbers followed those of its congener by only several days. Among throngs at his **LSR** feeders, J. Pogacnik photographed three of the locally scarce white-lored *gambelii* race of the west on 9 May.

Dark-eyed junco: One at **Shawnee SF** 16 Mar must have been a migrant (B. Sparks), and by 11 Apr 70-80 could be seen at J. Pogacnik's feeders at **LSR**. Late were one in *Holmes* 5 May (E. Yoder) and another at **LSR** 21 May (Pogacnik).

Lapland longspur: Spots stocked with cracked corn and regularly monitored in N. *Wyandot* (R. Counts) produced ~700 on 2 Mar, "hundreds" with many in alt plumage on 23 Mar, 250-300 on 17 Apr (C. Spagnoli), and 100+ on 24 Apr. In *Ottawa*, 45 were discovered on 21 Apr (A. Boone).

Snow bunting: Large flocks persisted as late as 8 Mar in *Wyandot*, with ~200 (R. Counts), and 185 for the 4 Mar **ONWRC**.

Rose-breasted grosbeak: Early arrivals were in *Clermont* 13 Apr (F. Kidd) and in *Scioto* 20 Apr (B. Royse). J. Pogacnik had 15 migrants at feeders in **LSR** 9 May, and ~25 near **Ravenna** 23 May (L. Rosche) was a good count.

Blue grosbeak: Five males were at **Crown City WA** 6 May (B. Morrison), and another at the **VOA site in Butler** the 13th (M. Busam). One appeared in *Ross* 12 May, where on 31 May two males and a female were present (D. Hess). T. Shively spotted one in *Logan* 20 May. A male was near **Cedar Falls** 25 May (B. Crow). P. Wharton had one in *Hamilton* 29 May.

Indigo bunting: Two arrived near *Dayton* on 19 Apr (C. Hawley).

Dickcissel: Appeared in good numbers, mostly in western fields, CRP lands, or in reclaimed strip mines in the east with grasslands. B. Royse had five at **Crown City WA** 11 May, where H. Slack counted eight in song 20 May, noting that only one had been present last year. Attesting to good stewardship for birds on agricultural lands in the area was a male that visited a feeder in *Holmes* 11-15 May (E. Schlabach). One was found in *Ottawa* 14 May (G. Miller). Always late, with more expected in June.

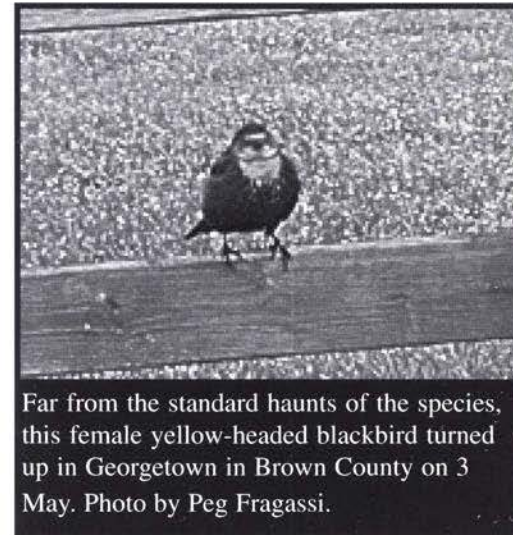
Bobolink: The vanguard arrived at the **VOA** 25 Apr (M. Busam), where as many as 70 males were present 15 May.

Eastern meadowlark: The **VOA site** continued as a haven for this beleaguered grassland bird, with 20+ on 25 Apr (M. Busam).

Western meadowlark: Oddly, none reported this spring.

Yellow-headed blackbird: A stray female showed up in *Brown* 3 May (P. Fregassi). A small colony was seen by m obs in the **western Lake Erie marshes**, first noticed by B. Master at **Mallard Club Marsh** 7 May, with several of each sex seen through the eop there, at **Metzger Marsh**, at **ONWR**, and **CPNWR** (m obs).

Rusty blackbird: Seems to be getting harder to find, as befits its precipitous decline. Ten were at **Magee** 10 Apr (K. Kaufman), ~300 at **Magee's Turtle Ck** unit 20 Apr (P. Rodewald), with ~40 still around at **SVWA** 6 May (B. Foppe).



Far from the standard haunts of the species, this female yellow-headed blackbird turned up in Georgetown in Brown County on 3 May. Photo by Peg Fragassi.

Orchard oriole: Showed up first at **Shawnee Lookout** in **Hamilton** 18 Apr (L. Peyton), then in **Holmes** 20 Apr (E. Schlabach). High count seven at **LSR** 21 May (J. Pogacnik).

Baltimore oriole: First reported 20 Apr in **Columbus** (R. Thorn). High counts 25 at **LSR** 9 May (J. Pogacnik) and at **Magee** 14 May (S&R Harlan).

Purple finch: Wintering birds in the southern counties were joined by others in Apr moving north. The high count of 22 at **Kelleys Isl** 17 Apr (T. Bartlett) may have included birds that often winter there. Ten were in **Tuscarawas** 19 Apr (E. Schlabach). By 21 May seven had settled into **Mohican SF** (S. Snyder).

Pine siskin: The wintering flocks at D. Morse's feeder in **Clermont** still numbered ~20 on 26 Apr, and 40 migrants were at J. Pogacnik's feeders at **LSR** on 5 May. Two were in **MBSF** 15 May (R&S Harlan) and three at **Magee** the next day (S. Landes). Strange was one in **Morgan** 28 May (J. McCormac et al.).

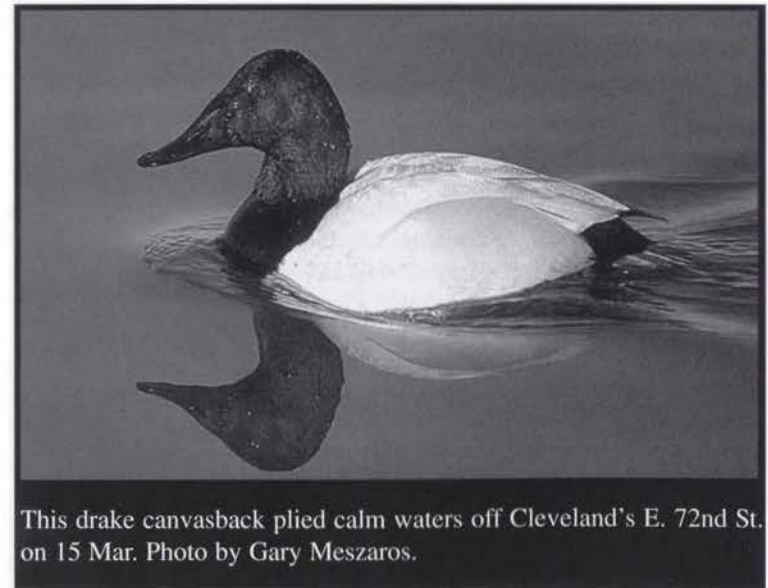
American goldfinch: While on 6 Mar the **ONWRC** had none for only the seventh time in 300 counts, J. Pogacnik estimated 1500+ on 5 May and ~5000 9 May at **LSR**.

Evening grosbeak: A lamentable trend continues, with none reported.

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This drake canvasback plied calm waters off Cleveland's E. 72nd St. on 15 Mar. Photo by Gary Meszaros.