

*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.

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Summer (June-July)-August 25	Columbus, OH 43202
Autumn (Aug.-Nov.)-December 25	<a href="mailto:billwhan@columbus.rr.com">billwhan@columbus.rr.com</a>

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## On the Cover:

Many photos were taken of the Anna's hummingbird, but this beauty from Chris Wood (4 Dec 2005 in Butler Co.) was part of the accepted documentation.

## Winter 2005-2006 Overview and Reports

**Bill Whan**

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We had a topsy-turvy season, as if December's weather had been swapped for January's. In the central part of the state through 22 December, five weeks of abnormal cold reigned, the first three weeks of the month having averaged nearly 10 degrees below normal. The last week of December and all of January were extraordinarily mild; January had 15 days with highs above 50°, and a low temperature of only 21°. February continued with normal temperatures and precipitation. On average, snow and ice cover were well below average, allowing half-hardy wintering landbirds—phoebes, catbirds, hermit thrushes, sapsuckers, etc. to do quite well, even though it seemed many had left in November, and returned in the mild days of January (tree swallows were a prominent example). Some water-loving birds—cranes, geese, night-herons, small gulls, and swans—all stayed beyond their normal times, but icing of reservoirs seemingly discouraged season-long stays by ducks, and their presence on Lake Erie, which froze only locally, was governed by the usual complex factors. We had a small incursion of snowy owls after several years of dearth. Rarer gulls put in a good show beginning during our mild January, showing that iced-in warm-water outflows are not necessary to concentrate them. Gannet reports came in into mid-February. Boreal raptors were sparse, especially during Dec, perhaps because of a low cycle in prey populations in grasslands. By the end of the season they were somewhat more numerous.

Review list species reported numbered ten: Ross's goose (eight), cackling goose (17), northern gannet (two, perhaps three), prairie falcon (two), jaeger sp (four), mew gull (two), California gull (three or four), Anna's hummingbird, rufous hummingbird (two, plus one *Selasphorus* sp.), and common raven (one or two).

For decades Peterjohn's *The Birds of Ohio* has served as the ready reference for the normal seasonal occurrences of our birds. Has global warming has advanced so quickly, even since the work's latest edition in 2001, that many of its statements, carefully derived from many decades of records, no longer apply? The season just past produced dozens of records that would have been exceptional, at least in the aggregate, only a few years ago. Many records fell into the categories of "casual" ("not observed annually"), "accidental" ("single records or a very small number of records"), or even unprecedented during this season alone. The warm waters at Castalia, famous for attracting numerous waterfowl in winter, were dull as dishwater this season. Tree swallows, black-and-white warbler, Baltimore oriole, summer tanager, hummingbirds, woodcocks—all in January? We had them.

Climate change cannot of course responsibly be invoked to explain a single season's anomalies. Still, of the world's twenty warmest years since data



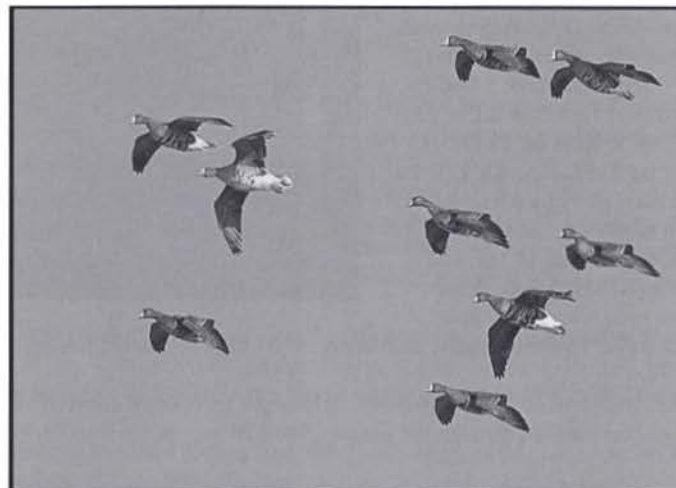
have been collected, nineteen have occurred since 1980. Category 4 and 5 hurricanes have doubled in frequency in the past 30 years. Last year thousands of residents of Papua New Guinea had to abandon islands swamped by rising ocean waters. Seven North American warbler species have shifted breeding ranges north by an average of 65+ miles in the past two decades. Still, only a few of our reported rarities are southern birds; look at the list above of the season's review species reported: there are birds from the east, the west, and the north, but none from the south.

We are grateful as always to Ned Keller for compiling all of Ohio's Christmas Bird Counts into a comprehensive tabular form. Because they are available in this form, CBC results are not the focus of the Reports, but we have at times enlisted them as evidence to support certain discernible trends.

The Reports follow the nomenclature and taxonomic order of the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the AOU Check-list of North American Birds (1998), including the 46<sup>th</sup> Supplement (July 2005). 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; CCE=Crane Ck estuary in ONWR; CPNWR=Cedar Point National Wildlife Refuge in Lucas; 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 30 Nov 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=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; 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=Pickerel Ck WA in Sandusky; ph=photograph, Res=Reservoir; Res'n=Reservation; SF=State Forest; SNP=State Nature Preserve; SP=State Park; SVWA=Spring Valley WA in Greene/Warren; WA=Wildlife Area.

## The Reports, Winter 2005-2006

**Greater white-fronted goose:** Unprecedented for winter, 116 were reported on 16 occasions throughout the season, in *Butler, Clark, Delaware, Erie, Fulton, Hamilton, Lucas, Marion, Pickaway, Wayne, and Wyandot*. High count 49 near *Circleville* 20 Feb (T. Bain), with the rest in single digits. Fifteen more were found by CBCs.



Nine of sixteen greater white-fronted geese found by photographer Brian Zwiebel at the Maumee Bay SP lagoon 6 Dec.

**Snow goose:** Statewide 510 reported, from *Champaign, Clark, Clinton, Defiance, Delaware, Erie, Franklin, Hamilton, Holmes, Licking, Lucas, Ottawa, Paulding, Stark, Tuscarawas, Warren, Wayne, and Wyandot*, and spanning the entire period. High count 75-100 near *Lebanon* 11 Dec (S. Carleton). The wintering flock at ONWR numbered only 33 (26 blues) on the 1 Jan census. CBCs contributed 95.

**Ross's goose:** A record year, with at least eight reported, most with details to the OBRC: one in *Erie* 18 Dec (ph), one in *Clinton* 21 Dec-7 Jan (E. Mitchell, ph), one in *Huron* (ph), one near *Circleville* 7 Jan, one in *Bay Village* 9 Jan (C. Caldwell), one in *Darke* 23 Jan (ph), one in *Lorain* 28 Jan (L. Hershberger, ph), and one in *Highland* Feb 16-21. Reports of apparent hybrids with snow geese, likely a growing ID problem, came from *Lucas* on 6 Feb (ph) and *Darke* on 11 Feb (ph).

**Cackling goose:** Reports, one hopes with details to the Records Committee, came from 4 Dec at MBSP, BCSP on 11 Dec, three at *Hoover Res* 26 Dec, five near *Wooster* 1 Jan, two in *Lake* 3 Jan, three in *Clinton* 7 Jan, and two in *Fulton* 24 Feb.

**Canada goose:** The *maxima* race was ubiquitous as usual, with a record 6388 on the 17 Dec *Hoover Res* CBC, 11,681 for the 1 Jan ONWRC, and "thousands" in *Sandusky Bay* 3 Jan (J. Larson et al.). As for the CBCs, *Hocking* escaped with only four, and *Goll Woods* only two.



**Mute swan:** Five constituted a record for the **Lk Erie Isl** count on 18 Dec (J. Pogacnik). The CBCs reported 132 (239 last year).

**Tundra swan:** Continues to flourish as a wintering species, with 2100+ reported spanning the season. Three-figure totals included 100+ over **Holmes** 4-5 Dec (E. Schlabach), 200+ over **Stark** 5 Dec (W. Sarno), ~100 over **Harrison** 5 Dec (T. Ford), ~150 off **S. Bass Isl** 15 Dec (L. Brohl), a record 219 for the **Lk Erie Isl** count of 18 Dec (J. Pogacnik), and 445 for the 1 Jan **ONWRC**. C. Caldwell had 70 near **Sheldon Marsh** 14 Jan, and V. Fazio seven at **KPWA** 1 Feb. Other reports came from **Cuyahoga, Erie, Franklin, Geauga, Hancock, Lake, and Wood**. The CBCs reported a healthy 876.

**Wood duck:** Unlike some other waterfowl, did not put up unusual numbers, with 1-2 reported in eleven counties through the period. The CBCs came up with 49, however.

**Gadwall:** Persisted through Jan in good numbers at several locations, including double figures at **Camp Dennison** (B. Foppe); the CBCs tallied 264.

**Eurasian wigeon:** A drake discovered 27 Feb at **Walborn Res** in **Stark** (S. Jackson) persisted through the eop.

**American wigeon:** Small numbers were found in January—20 on the 28<sup>th</sup> at **Camp Dennison** (B. Foppe), and one at **Sheldon Marsh** the 14<sup>th</sup> (C. Caldwell), with 50 still at **Camp Dennison** 19 Feb (B. Foppe).

**American black duck:** Wintered in decent numbers, with 1153 on the **Hoover Res** CBC of 17 Dec, and 500+ nearby at **Blendon Wds MP** 21 Feb (R. Thorn). The CBCs tallied 3636, nearly all inland.

**Mallard:** Numerous, with 38,517 on CBCs across the state. Two thousand-plus crowded into ice-free areas at **KPWA** 26 Jan (B. Whan).



A cackling goose photographed at Castalia 11 Feb by John Pogacnik. Besides overall size, note head and bill shape and neck length.



One of a number of apparent hybrid Snow x Ross's geese in Ohio this winter, for the first time. Note that its size is larger than a mallard (compared to *maxima* Canada goose). The bill shows black both at the base and along the join of the mandibles. The bill is short, but shows the snow goose's convex join at the base.

**Blue-winged teal:** Two Dec records, at **Camp Dennison** (B. Foppe): one the 7<sup>th</sup>, and two the 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Northern shoveler:** Dec numbers peaked at 69 for the **Gypsum** CBC of the 26<sup>th</sup>; on 30 Jan 65 remained at Camp Friedlander in **Hamilton** (B. Foppe).

**Northern pintail:** **ONWR**'s count of 1943 for the 1 Jan CBC was remarkable for the date. Forty were at **Sandusky** 14 Jan (M&T Romito), 30 at **KPWA** 16 Jan (L. Gara), and 259 at **BIWA** 18 Feb (C. Bombaci).

**Green-winged teal:** The **Cincinnati** CBC's 39 of 26 Dec was a record. Groups of birds in the single digits apparently overwintered in the northeastern quadrant of the state. The CBCs tallied 71.

**Canvasback:** Inland, the **Cincinnati** CBC had a record 33 on 26 Dec. On Lk Erie, the **Ottawa** CBC had 1587 on 1 Jan, **Sandusky Bay** 1000+ on 3 Jan (S. Snyder), **Pt. Clinton** ~2900 9 Jan (V. Fazio); ~800 remained at **Huron** 28 Feb (S. Zadar).

**Redhead:** **Cincinnati**'s CBC had a record 29 on 26 Dec, and 87 paddled **Camp Dennison** 31 Jan. **Caesar Ck SP** hosted 244 on 22 Feb (L. Gara). At the Lake, ~400 were at **Pt. Clinton** 9 Jan (V. Fazio), and 1500 remained at **Huron** 28 Feb (S. Zadar).

**Ring-necked duck:** The CBCs tallied 546. Later, larger gatherings were led by 250 at **Wellington Res** 25 Feb (R&S Harlan).

**Greater scaup:** Reported were 380 on the CBCs. Distant views often hamper firm IDs of this rarer scaup on Lake Erie. Inland, interesting reports included small reports from the south, led by 18+ at **Deer Ck Lk** 28 Feb (T. Bain).

**Lesser scaup:** Only 654 reported on CBCs, with 6357 "scaup sp," 6200 of them 18 Dec from **Toledo**, where huge flocks congregate season-long in **Maumee Bay**.

**Harlequin duck:** J. Pogacnik saw one passing **LSR** 7 Dec, then L. Rosche a male and a female at **E 72** in **Cleveland** 17 Dec. S. Zadar discovered a female in the **Vermilion** estuary 26 Jan, and E. Bacik two at **Fairport Hbr** 18 Feb *fide* Rosche.

**Surf scoter:** Not many, with 16 season-long, most on Lk Erie, with a high count of 5 on 11 Jan at **Wellington Res** in **Lorain** (V. Fazio).

**White-winged scoter:** Fourteen reported, all in Dec, with a high of seven on the **Lorain-Elyria** CBC 30 Dec.

**Black scoter:** Flocks at **Sims Park** in **Euclid** numbered from 17 on 3 Dec to a singleton 14 Feb (N. Anderson, et al.). Twenty-seven more, with 20 of them on the **ONWR** CBC of 1 Jan, were spread over Dec-Jan, mostly on or close to **Lk Erie**.

**Long-tailed duck:** J. Larson found a drake at **The Wilds** 2 Dec, and a female at **Lorain** 3 Jan. J. Pogacnik spotted one at **Conneaut** 16 Jan, and another at **Fairport Hbr** 22 Jan. Four were reported on CBCs, three in **Cincinnati** 26 Dec (N. Keller), and one on the **Mentor** count of 18 Dec.



**Bufflehead:** The traditional horde at **Kelleys Isl** yielded a count of 958 on 18 Dec, 1944 on 15 Jan, and 267 on 25 Feb (T. Bartlett). Double figures stayed at **Camp Dennison** through the period (B. Foppe).

**Common goldeneye:** While reservoir counts seldom reached double figures, the **Kelleys Isl** census found 3665 on 15 Jan, and 1831 on 25 Feb. Major CBC tallies included 1824 for the **Gypsum** count of 26 Dec, and 1058 for that at **ONWR** on 1 Jan.

**Hooded merganser:** Twenty was a record for the **Lk Erie Isl** CBC of 18 Dec (J. Pogacnik). At **Hoover Res**, 117 lingered on 7 Jan, and 170 occupied **Camp Dennison** two days later (B. Foppe). Only single figures were reported later; up to seven wintered in **Mahoning** (C. Holt).

**Common merganser:** J. Pogacnik counted 233 passing **LSR** 7 Dec, and the 2 Jan CBC at **ONWR** had the high count of 661 among pretty paltry numbers.

**Red-breasted merganser:** J. Pogacnik counted 5043 flying past **LSR** 4 Dec, and C. Caldwell ~2000 at **Eastlake**, a favorite haunt, on 6 Dec, but Pogacnik's **LSR** count fell to 271 on 11 Dec, then 31 by 30 Dec. The 31 Dec **Lakewood** CBC tallied but 14, and the **Kelleys Isl** census only three on 15 Jan, when **LSR** produced only one. All the CBCs combined for 806; last year it was 22,787, the year before 8223, and 15,935 the year before that, then 20,741 a year earlier. Probably they wintered farther offshore during a warm season.

**Ruddy duck:** CBCs counted 173, and a few were occasionally sighted at warm-water outlets. **Summit Lk** in **Akron** boasted 33 on 9 Feb, and **Camp Dennison** held double figures through the period, with a high of 42 on 16 Feb (B. Foppe).

**Red-throated loon:** Only one report, from **LSR** 10 Dec (J. Pogacnik).

**Common loon:** Seven reported in December, then one in **Clermont** 7 Jan (K. Robinson); singletons at **Cowan Lake** 2 Feb (L. Gara) and at **KPWA** 20 Feb (R. Sempier) were quite unusual.

**Pied-billed grebe:** Rarely winters, but this was a rare year. Thirty were at **EFSP** 31 Dec (B. Foppe), with seven at **Summit Lk** in **Akron** 30 Jan with three at the eop (G. Bennett). B. Hardesty reported 1-2 probably wintered at **Lake Cascades** in **Hancock**.

**Horned grebe:** Reported throughout the period in the southern counties, for example three in **Clermont** 7 Jan (K. Robinson) and 5 at **Wilmington Res** 12 Jan (L. Gara).

**Northern gannet:** Unusually persistent along the **NE lakefront**, with two or perhaps more immatures involved well into Feb, after two were noticed as early as 11 Nov at **Conneaut**. Both light and dark individuals were frequently identified, as well as birds with relatively intact and others with quite worn primaries. Two were seen simultaneously at **Eastlake** 14 (B. Master) and 18 Dec (M. Gallaway). Frequently seen in Jan, with the last report 12 Feb at E. 72<sup>nd</sup> St in **Cleveland** (D. Chasar).

**Double-crested cormorant:** Some wintered, especially at roosts on breeding sites. Eight were at E. 72<sup>nd</sup> in **Cleveland** 3 Jan (J. Larson), then 68 at **Turning Pt Isl** in **Sandusky** the 9<sup>th</sup> (V. Fazio), where 85 had assembled by 25 Feb (R&S Harlan). Inland, one was at **Hoover Res** 23 Jan (B. Shively), and another at **Caesar Ck SP** 27 Jan (C. Schooley).

**Great blue heron:** Notable concentrations were a record 53 for the **Hoover Res** CBC 17 Dec, 78 on 4 Jan on **Sandusky Bay** (B. Morrison), and 19 at **HWSP** 8 Jan (J. Stenger).

**Black-crowned night-heron:** Cleveland's **Merwin St** winter roost had 79 on 1 Dec, 50 on 9 Dec, 75-80 1 Jan, ~65 11 Jan, 95 on 3 Feb, and 90-100 at the eop (P. Lozano et al.). On 9 Jan 34 roosted on **Turning Pt Isl** in **Sandusky**, a breeding site. On the **Olentangy R** on the OSU campus, 5-10 were observed 6 Jan-eop (D. Horn, m obs).

**Black vulture:** Good numbers in southern strongholds, led by a record 232 on the 26 Dec **Cincinnati** CBC. At **Cowan Lk**, ~50 were seen 11 Jan (B. Foppe).

**Turkey vulture:** Reported season-long throughout the state (e.g., **Allen**, **Clinton**, **Coshocton**, **Franklin**, **Hancock**, **Jackson**, **Licking**, **Medina**, **Pickaway**, **Portage**, **Seneca**, **Wyandot**), with the largest numbers in the south, led by ~100 near **Cowan Lk** 11 Jan (B. Foppe).

**Bald eagle:** Apparently growing almost explosively in numbers, the informal mid-winter survey showing 554 eagles vs. 336 last year, sightings in 63 counties, and 107 in **Sandusky Bay** on a single occasion. Resurgent since the abolition of DDT, Ohio eagles are proving more adaptable to human presence than Ohio authorities have allowed in the past.

**Northern harrier:** High counts of 21 (9 ad males) 13 Jan, and 24 on 26 Jan, came from a **Hardin CRP** wetland (R. Counts).

**Northern goshawk:** A sub-adult haunted **EHSP** 8 Dec (J. McCormac), an adult **Logan** 31 Dec (T. Shively), and an immature bird **Jefferson** 25 Feb (S. Albaugh).

#### **Red-tailed hawk:**

Ubiquitous, but a pure-white (including tail) albino remained in **Logan**, and a few other red-tails in the area show some signs of albinism (T. Shively). A dark-morph individual was in **Butler** 11 Dec (P. Wharton).



This young northern gannet found E. 72<sup>nd</sup> St. in Cleveland to its liking 8 Dec. Photo by Sean Zadar.



**Rough-legged hawk:** Seemed down in numbers, especially early in the season, perhaps due to a low cycle in vole populations. High counts included 12 at **The Wilds** 26 Jan (S. Snyder) and ten in **Geauga** 12 Feb (T. Glassburner).

**Golden eagle:** At least two were present at **The Wilds** again through the eop; first seen was one 2 Dec (S. Landes), and Jan-Feb an ad and an imm were present (A. Parker). A sub-adult bird was well described at **KPWA** on 11 Feb (J. Estep).

**Merlin:** One-day wonders were reported from many locations, the most interesting a male of the pale "prairie" race *richardsonii* photographed at **KPWA** 16 Jan (B. Mathys *fide* A. Boone). On 15 Feb, L. Gardella reported a male, perhaps the same bird as the previous three years, appeared at **Calvary Cem** in **Garfield Hts**, which was later joined by a female and another tiercel. At **Spring Grove Cem** in **Cincinnati**, a merlin seen 11 Dec (L. Brumbaugh) was later joined by another 1 Jan (M. Busam).

**Prairie falcon:** One was reported at **The Wilds** 2 Dec, and an ad in flight, probably a male, was seen in **Vinton** 21 Feb. The origin of such birds is a perennial question.

**Virginia rail:** Dedicated CBC counters produced three for **Millersburg** 17 Dec, two for **Wooster** 24 Dec, and one for **Lakewood** 31 Dec.

**American coot:** Weather persuaded many to winter. At **Camp Dennison**, 710 on 9 Dec were still ~600 on 26 Feb (both B. Foppe). A couple of dozen probably wintered at **Lake Cascades** in **Hancock** (B. Hardesty). Around 500 were in **Wellington Res** 22 Jan (T&M Romito), and ~120 wintered at **Summit Lk** in **Akron** (G. Bennett).

**Sandhill crane:** An excellent season, consistent with northward movement of wintering grounds in recent years, with over a thousand reported, from **Auglaize, Butler, Clark, Darke, Fairfield, Fayette, Fulton, Hamilton, Hancock, Hardin, Holmes, Knox, Lucas, Montgomery, Paulding, Preble, Wayne, Williams, Wood, and Wyandot**. The **Cincinnati** area had ~475 during the period, with the state high count of 125 on 2 Dec (K. Westendorf).

**Killdeer:** Sparingly but consistently reported season-long, witness sightings in midwinter of two in **Hardin** 30 Jan (R. Counts) and two in **Cincinnati** 1 Feb (R. Kolde).

**Purple sandpiper:** Persisting at **HBSP** were two 1 Dec (G. Meszaros) and one 6 Dec (C. Caldwell). One appeared at **Eastlake** 11 Dec (J. Talkington *fide* S. Wagner).



Sharp-shinned hawks sometimes show the field guides' subtle plumage distinctions from their larger cousins. Cooper's hawks; none of them is 100% reliable. This sharpie, photographed by Haans Petruschke this winter, shows more diagnostic morphological characters: a "gentler" look lent by the rounded crown and lack of ridge above the eye, a chestier look because of the smaller head, and a squared-off tail.

**Western Sandpiper:** B. Morrison saw two at **Berlin Res** quite late on 5 Dec.

**Dunlin:** Persisted inland at **Berlin Res**, with three on 5 Dec (B. Morrison). The rest were on the lakeshore, with one at **Bayshore PP** in **Lucas** 18 Dec (E. Tramer), and counts for the **ONWRC** of two on 4 Dec and a second-record one on 1 Jan.

**Wilson's snipe:** On 4 Dec, J. Bowers had four in **Mercer** and B. Shively two in **Delaware**. In **Cincinnati**, N. Keller found one 18 Dec, and the 26 Dec CBC found one. At **SVWA**, one was discovered at the seep 16 Jan (J. Lehman). The **Wilmot** CBC had 10, and **Millersburg** 12, on 17 Dec.

**American woodcock:** P. Whan reported woodcocks persisted in **Adams** through mid-Nov, then calling began in early Jan. D. Weber reported calling in late Jan in **Athens**. By 3 Feb, two were calling in **Greene** (K. Beers), one in **Montgomery** (D. Dister), and another in **Clermont** (C&S Clingman).

**Red Phalarope:** One was at **Eastlake** 11 Dec (J. Talkington *fide* S. Wagner).

**Pomarine jaeger:** Two were observed passing **LSR** 10 Dec and 20 Feb (J. Pogacnik).

**Jaeger, sp.:** P. Lozano witnessed two on 3 Dec and one on 8 Dec off **Rocky River**. The **Mentor** CBC reported one 18 Dec.

**Laughing gull:** Found on 21 Jan was an adult at **E. 72<sup>nd</sup> St** in Cleveland (*fide* J. Brumfield), with probably the same bird, in adult alternate plumage, in **Lorain** 25 Feb (J. Pogacnik).

**Franklin's gull:** E. Bruder reported one in **Lorain** 30 Dec, where J. Pogacnik found two first-winter birds 7 Jan. Pogacnik later found an adult at **LSR** 22 Jan.

**Little gull:** Despite lots of companion Bonaparte's through Dec in the NE, a good season for this species did not start until Jan. First was an ad at **Fairport Hbr** 28 Dec (L. Rosche); dozens of reports ensued, many of multiple birds (high count six ad and one 2<sup>nd</sup>-winter bird among huge throngs of bonies at **Fairport** 7 Feb by Rosche), between **Avon Lk** and **Fairport Hbr**.



Blake Mathys photographed this merlin, the locally scarce "prairie" race *F. columbarius richardsonii*, at **KPWA** 4 Jan (*fide* A. Boone); another was observed nearby 21 Feb 2005.



**Bonaparte's gull:** Many departed with cold temperatures; in central Ohio, ~1000 were at **Hoover Res** on 1 Dec. For the 17 Dec **Hoover** CBC 607 was an all-time record, while the **Cleveland** count on the same day still had 3300 (the only CBC count in four figures). Only four showed up for the **Lakewood** CBC on the 31<sup>st</sup>, and several observers along the lakefront found only one on 1 Jan. Within a week, reinforcements showed up from somewhere: on 7 Jan J. Pogacnik estimated 7-8000 at **Lorain**, and on the 11<sup>th</sup> S. Zadar ~5000 at **Avon Lk**. Numbers grew till L. Gooch reckoned ~50,000 were at **E 72<sup>nd</sup>** 27 Jan, and six-figure numbers were mentioned at **Fairport Hbr** early in Feb, perhaps the largest flocks ever seen there by very experienced observers. On 7 Feb, however, only 32 were at **Eastlake PP** (C. Holt). By 20 Feb, numbers had diminished to ~20,000 at **E 72<sup>nd</sup>** and ~15,000 at **Fairport** (B. Whan).

**Mew gull:** January's multitudes brought reports of a 2<sup>nd</sup>-winter bird to **Huron** 15 Jan (S. Zadar, ph), and a first-winter to **Eastlake** 23 Jan.

**Ring-billed gull:** Adults were present in huge numbers along the lakeshore; J. Pogacnik counted 15,430 passing **LSR** 30 Dec, and later 70-80,000 at **Lorain** 7 Jan, a number nearly equal to all the CBCs' total earlier. Oddly, except for migrants few showed up at inland haunts until mid-Feb.

**California gull:** According to reports, an ad showed up at **E 72<sup>nd</sup> St** 30 Dec (ph), one- two at **Conneaut** 16 Jan, one at **E 72<sup>nd</sup>** 22 Jan, and an ad at **Lorain** 26 Jan (S. Zadar, ph).

**Herring gull:** Best count was ~5500 for the 17 Dec **Cleveland** CBC.

**Thayer's gull:** Present in small numbers mid-Dec to mid-Feb from **Avon Lk** east.



In such a mild winter, purple sandpipers may have stayed north; some winter above the Arctic Circle. Gary Meszaros still got this portrait at HBSP on 1 December.



Sean Zadar spotted this second-winter mew gull in the Huron harbor 15 Jan as it floated with ring-billed gulls. Note the short, narrow bill (hence its subspecies name '*brachyrhynchus*'), the heavy dark mottling on and near the head, the darker mantle, and the black markings on the tertials.

**Iceland gull:** Much as the preceding, except for three found at **Conneaut** (two 1<sup>st</sup>-winter and one 2<sup>nd</sup>-winter) 17 Jan (B. Coulter).

**Lesser black-backed gull:** Moderate numbers, with two counts of four: 7 Jan at **Lorain** (J. Pogacnik) and 26 Jan at **Avon Lk** (S. Zadar. One was found inland at **Mosquito Lk** on 22 Jan (C. Babyak).

**Glaucous gull:** Fair numbers, mostly immature, found along the "Gull Coast," though three adults were at **Eastlake** 16 Dec (*fide* J. Brumfield). Two occupied **Farnsworth Park** along the Maumee in **Lucas** 16 Dec (E. Tramer), one stayed at a **Findlay Res** 7-28 Feb (B. Hardesty), and a first record for **Dayton** was photographed 31 Dec at the end of a seven-day stay along the **Gt. Miami R** (D. Dister).

**Great black-backed gull:** The **Cleveland** CBC reported 650 on 17 Dec, and F. Losi estimated ~1000 at **E 72<sup>nd</sup> St** the 20<sup>th</sup>. An adult spent 11-12 Feb well inland at **Hoover Res** (D. Linzell).

**Black-legged kittiwake:** Three birds, all immatures, were good these days: one 17 Dec in **Cleveland** (L. Rosche), one at **Fairport Hbr** 1 Jan (J. Pogacnik), and another 2 Feb at **E 72<sup>nd</sup> St** (K. Beers).

**Snowy owl:** A moderate incursion began 3 Dec near **Oak Harbor** (P. Sherwood), followed by one in **Erie** 23 Dec (G. Brent *fide* S. Young), and a bird at **Lorain Harbor** 28 Dec (S. Zadar). After a hiatus, birds showed up 20 Jan in **Paulding** (dead), with a live one 23 Jan (both M&D Dunakin), one 22 (Zadar) through 27 Jan (S. Isacco) along the **E 72<sup>nd</sup> breakwall**, at least three at **Burke airport** in **Cleveland** 28 Jan (Zadar) with one through the eop, one in **Van Wert** 31 Jan-23 Feb (J. Perchalski), and one at **Lorain** Co airport 5 (J. Dunn) through 20 Feb (D. Sheldon).



Photographed for the Dayton CBC of 31 Dec by Dave Dister, this first-winter glaucous gull was a first local record. It spent several days at the confluence of the Mad and the Great Miami Rivers in downtown Dayton.



Sean Zadar, scanning gulls massed shoulder-to-shoulder on the Lorain Harbor marina docks on 26 January, picked out this basic-plumaged adult California gull.



**Long-eared owl:** Most reports came from December and January, totaling 42 birds, in *Lorain, Delaware, Wyandot, Holmes, Lucas, Tuscarawas, Cuyahoga, Erie, Ashland, Wayne, and Darke*. Six were at the **KPWA** roost as late as 31 Jan (W. Sarno).

**Short-eared owl:** In reduced numbers overall, perhaps due to prey shortages. The **KPWA** flock topped out at 15 birds 16 Jan (L. Gara). As many as three surprised snowy owl observers at **Burke** throughout Feb, and the **ONWRC** found one on 4 Dec. Small numbers reported from *Jefferson, Hardin, Marion, Union, Summit, Defiance, and Columbiana* rounded out modest reports.



This snowy owl put on a one-day show at Lorain Harbor 28 Dec. Photo by Sean Zadar.

**Northern saw-whet owl:**

Fewer than normal detected, though many were doubtless around. Only one **KPWA** report, a single bird as late as 23 Feb (D. Snapp). A confiding individual spent Jan and Feb next to the boardwalk at **Irwin Prairie SNP**, of which E. Tramer reported "dissection of pellets...revealed remains of a southern bog lemming *Synaptomys cooperi*."

**Caprimulgus, sp.:** One reported by the **Adams** CBC of 17 Dec, a bird seen bolting from the road in the headlights of a vehicle. A remarkable report, but not without precedent after last year's 12 Dec record of a chuck-will's-widow from **Clermont**.

**Anna's hummingbird:** Finally identified 4 Dec (C. Wood, R. Epstein, et al., m obs), the **West Chester** bird persisted till 24 Dec, whereupon it finally moved on. There seem to be no accepted records of this western species in adjoining states or provinces, though there are eastern records from New York, Tennessee, and Wisconsin.

**Rufous hummingbird:** Fall migrant *Selasphorus* hummingbirds stayed on average less than half as long as those in recent years (based on 34 birds rufous hummingbirds identified in hand 2002-05 *fide* A. Chartier). An imm male in **Wadsworth, Medina** found on 3 Nov (D&M Wagner) stayed until 5 Dec. A hatch-year female spent 29 Aug (J&S Brown) through 8 Jan near **Ironton** in **Lawrence** (Chartier).

**Selasphorus, sp.:** A female/imm at a **Franklin** feeder since 12 Nov was last seen 6 Dec.

**Yellow-bellied sapsucker:** Routine through mid-state, this winter many were found in the north, with birds reported in *Portage, Cuyahoga, Summit, Lucas, Hancock*, etc. Elsewhere, large numbers included 27 in the **Hamilton** parks count of 10 Dec. The CBCs reported 172, vs. 109 last year, and 91 the year before.

**Eastern phoebe:** Following, but not during, single-digit temperatures in December, phoebes were found widely, well north of their customary winter range. Northern records included birds in **Cleveland** 26 Dec (B. Finkelstein) and 12 Feb (a first Feb record for R&S Harlan), **Woodbury WA** 7 Jan (L. Dornan), 8 Jan in **Wayne** (A. Troyer), a first Jan record for J. Pogacnik in **Willoughby** on the 12<sup>th</sup>, one in **Erie** 2 Feb (B. Phillips), and another in **Lakewood** 26 Feb (P. Lozano). The CBCs reported 35, vs. 12 last year.

**Northern shrike:** Reported 2 Dec (S. Landes) and 21 Jan (S. Snyder) at **The Wilds**, 11 Dec-1 Feb in the **CVNP** (D. Chasar), 18 Dec in **Kent** (L. Rosche), 22 Dec at **Bath Nat Pres** in **Summit** (W. McQueen), on the **Grand Rapids-Waterville** CBC and the **Mohican** CBC on 31 Dec, 21 Jan at **KPWA** (D. Horn), 21 Feb near **Carey** (E. Mullholland), and 22 Feb at **Magee Marsh** (P. Sherwood).

**American crow:** D. Overacker estimated the **Springfield** roost at 20,000 on 16 Dec, F. Renfrow that at **Cincinnati** at 15,000 on 7 Jan, and the **Mansfield** CBC estimated theirs at 14,000 on 17 Dec.

**Common raven:** One or perhaps two were well described from **Jefferson** 29 Jan and 1 Feb, with one re-found 3 Feb. The location is close to known nesting locales in PA. Details are with the OBRC.

**Horned lark:** Larger counts included 100+ in six inches of snow in **Mahoning** 8 Dec (B. Jones), on 11 Dec 300 in **Clermont** (B. Stanley) and 250 in **Butler** (P. Wharton), and a county count of 507 in **Hancock** 17 Dec (*fide* B. Hardesty).

**Tree swallow:** Seems to have withdrawn on schedule, but reappeared after the cold snap, with a bird at **Glacier Ridge MP** in **Union** 4 Jan-9 Feb (J. Watts), and three over the entry pond at **ONWR** on 3 Feb (P. Sherwood) for new late (or early?) records. T. Smart reported 24 on 30 Dec at Pte Mouillee not far north in Michigan. The **KPWA** CBC reported one 1 Jan.

**Black-capped chickadee:** After fall premonitions of a big flight, some observers remarked upon large numbers in the north (e.g., 41 at the **CVNP** 29 Jan, P. Coy), but few mentioned them farther south: S. Snyder reported two 1 Jan at Camp Buckeye in **Tuscarawas**, C. Schooley reported a possible diagnostic vocalization at **Caesar Ck SP** 27 Jan, and J. Stenger a single bird in **Butler** 8 Jan.

**Red-breasted nuthatch:** Seemingly inhabited most sizeable clumps of conifers in the state this season, and frequently seen at feeders. J. Stenger found 32 at **Winton Wds** 12 Jan, and the 17 Dec **Hancock** county census tallied 41 (*fide* B. Hardesty). New CBC records were set on 17 Dec in **Cleveland** with 20, and at **Hoover Res** with 23. The CBCs found 869 statewide, vs. 207 a year ago.

**Brown creeper:** Numerous. Jack Stenger recorded 19 on a walk through **Winton Wds** in **Hamilton** 12 Jan. Statewide CBCs reported 875.

**Carolina wren:** L. Rosche tallied a healthy 20 on a jaunt in **Kent** 28 Dec.

**House Wren:** One as late as 18 Dec was a great find in w. **Hamilton** (N. Keller).



**Winter wren:** Statewide reports included 118 for the Christmas Bird Counts.

**Marsh wren:** Few reported. A. Troyer noted up to four wintering at **Killbuck Marsh** in **Wayne**.

**Golden-crowned kinglet:** High count was 108 on the **Kelleys Isl** census of 19 Dec (J. Pogacnik).

**Ruby-crowned kinglet:** January records included one on the first in **Defiance** (J. Yochum), one on the 22<sup>nd</sup> at **Stage's Pond SNP** (E. Reiner), one in **Logan** on the 29<sup>th</sup> (D. Overacker), and one in **Hancock** 31 Jan (B. Hardesty). The **Cincinnati** CBC found seven on 26 Dec, and that for **Cuyahoga Falls** an equal number on 18 Dec.

**Hermit thrush:** Widely reported, even in the northern tier of counties. The **Grand Rapids-Waterville** CBC posted a record seven, and the **Hoover Res** CBC a record 14, but a new record for the 18 Dec **Lake Erie Isl** count, by virtue of 73 found on **Kelleys Isl**, took the cake—95 hermit thrushes. The CBCs had 290, vs. 64 last year.

**American robin:** The **Cincinnati** CBC tallied 18,301 on 26 Dec, over 40% of the state total.

**Gray catbird:** Another half-hardy species well-reported this season, with ten in the northern tier of counties alone. Feb records included one in **Trumbull** the 1<sup>st</sup> (E. Kistler) and one in **Erie** the 2<sup>nd</sup> (B. Phillips). The CBCs' total was 17, vs. 11 last year.

**Northern Mockingbird:** Near **Lowellville** in up in **Mahoning** ~10 was a good number, even for recent years (C. Holt).

**Brown thrasher:** Not as frequently reported as other half-hardies. The CBCs had but 15, vs. 10 last year.

**American pipit:** Not numerous, with a high count of only 14, in **Delaware** 4 Dec (B. Shively), and the latest a single bird at Lake Milton, **Mahoning** 16 Jan (G. Bennett). A CBC total of 51 was led by 23 reported in the **Mansfield** area 17 Dec.



This "Audubon's" warbler, the distinctive western subspecies of yellow-rumped warbler, and a rare Ohio visitor, was photographed 19 Feb at Castalia Pond by Brian Zwiebel. In black and white, you'll have to take our word for its brilliant yellow throat and flanks.

**Yellow-rumped warbler:** Forty-two on **Kelleys Isl** helped boost the 18 Dec **Lk Erie Isl** CBC total to 53. J. Watts found 12 at **Conkle's Hollow** SP 23 Jan. B. Zwiebel photographed one of the western subspecies, "Audubon's" warbler, at **Castalia** 19 Feb. The CBCs tallied 861, led by 123 in **Adams** and 124 in **Cincinnati**.

**Pine warbler:** Unusually frequent after Dec. One visited B. Zwiebel's feeder in **Lucas** 4 Dec-eop. In **Columbus**, another was below the Greenlawn Dam 1 Jan (R. Thorn), and one at **Green Lawn Cem** 30 Dec-1 Jan (P. Unger), with two photographed there 10 Jan (D. Tumblin). One came to a feeder in a **Cincinnati** suburb 10 Jan-10 Feb (C. Skowlin *vide* J. Stenger). J. Fry's feeder in **Hocking** hosted birds 14 Dec and 25 Feb, with one 15 Jan. S. Pelikan found two in **Cincinnati** 23 Feb.

**Black-and-white warbler:** Totally unexpected was one in trees outside The Nature Conservancy office in **Dublin** 10 Jan (A. Froehlich, G. Popotnik), probably a first Jan record for the state.

**Common yellowthroat:** Two were in **Killbuck Marsh**, with the last sighting 6 Jan (A. Troyer, S. Weaver).

**Summer tanager:** One was photographed in **Columbus** during a stay from late Dec-8 Jan (*vide* J. McCormac). It had only one precedent, a bird that spent three weeks at a feeder in **Lorain** in Jan 2002.

**Eastern towhee:** As befits a mild winter, fairly numerous. High count 100+ on a hike in **Hocking** 18-19 Feb (L. Deininger). Seven was a record for the **Hoover Res** CBC 17 Dec. V. Fazio reported 23 in a couple of hours in **Pike** 19 Jan. The CBCs tallied 1055 vs. 570 last year, led by Millersburg's 148 on 17 Dec.

**American tree sparrow:** Present in normal numbers in many places, though seemed skimpy in **KPWA**. The 1 Jan **ONWRC** tallied 226, and N. Cade reported 60 at **Shawnee Lookout** in **Hamilton** 25 Feb. The state had 14,759 via CBCs.

**Field sparrow:** In normal winters this species is often seen in the south, but only rarely in the north. As our notion of "normal" evolves, we may more often have numbers more like this season's, when eleven could be found in **Kent** 18 Dec (L. Rosche), with individuals at **HBSP** 3 Jan (J. Larson) and in **Willoughby** 12 Jan (J. Pogacnik); the dedicated field workers of the **Ragersville** CBC found 101 on 26 Dec.

**Savannah sparrow:** Seen mostly in the south, with eight in **Butler** 11 Dec (P. Wharton), and five in **Cincinnati** 20 Dec (B. Hull). Three were found in **Columbus** for the 18 Dec CBC (A. Boone et al.).



This American pipit spent a chilly 18 Dec day near the Bayshore power plant's hot water outflow. Photo by Brian Zwiebel.



**Grasshopper sparrow:** Always quite rare in winter, one was detected in **Columbus** for the CBC of 18 Dec by A. Boone & co.

**Fox sparrow:** Nice numbers in the south, with 18 on the **Hamilton** MP count of 10 Dec, and seven at **Gilmore Ponds** 29 Jan (M. Busam). Three at **Hoover Res** tied a CBC record high on 17 Dec, though seven showed up at **Green Lawn Cem** alone on 7 Jan (J. Larson et al.). Mostly singletons in the north.

**White-throated sparrow:** Present in good numbers this season, with, for example, 80 in **Clark** 16 Feb (D. Overacker) and 115 at **Gilmore Ponds** 18 Feb (B. Wulker). L. Rosche called it "as numerous as any winter I can recall." The CBC total was 7922, vs. last year's 6055.

**Lapland longspur:** Snow-free fields may have prevented more reports. A record 754 (60% of the state CBC total) were tallied on the **Grand Rapids-Waterville** CBC of 31 Dec, ~250 in n. **Wyandot** 15 Jan (R. Counts), and "several hundred" in **Wood** 28 Jan (B. Rinehart). Farther south, 11 Dec brought reports of 15 from **Butler** (P. Wharton) and of 13 from three **Preble** townships (D. Dister).

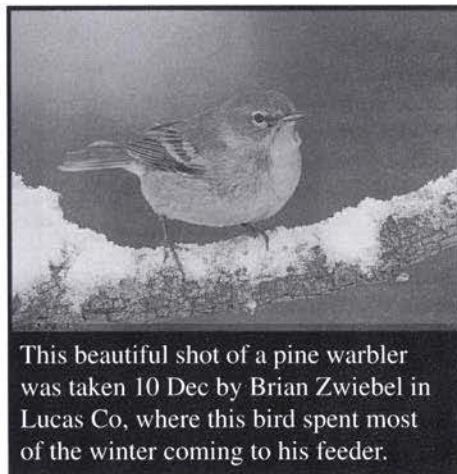
**Snow bunting:** Seemed normal in numbers, but seldom detected in the Jan warm stretch. The **ONWRC** had 380 on 4 Dec, then 92 on 1 Jan. On 12 Feb, J. Pogacnik saw 200+ in **Ottawa** for the month's high count.

**Red-winged blackbird:** This species winters in Ohio in appreciable numbers, mostly in the NW marshes and in the southern counties. The first reports of displaying males came from late January in the **Columbus** area, probably an artifact of observer density. B. Glick reported a flock of 25-40 thousand black birds in **Wayne** 16 Feb, estimating 25% were red-wings.

**Eastern meadowlark:** Sparingly reported. High count 33 in **Butler** 11 Dec (P. Wharton). Statewide, the CBCs found 400. This diminishing species has now been out-numbered by eagles in reports; in 1971 the **Kingston** CBC alone found 263.



This Baltimore oriole posed for J. Barkley during its stay at his feeder 27 Dec-eop.



This beautiful shot of a pine warbler was taken 10 Dec by Brian Zwiebel in Lucas Co, where this bird spent most of the winter coming to his feeder.

**Rusty blackbird:** First reported were two 7 Jan in **Wayne** (E. Snively). Other numbers were similarly small for this imperiled species, but an estimated 2500-4000 birds in **Wayne** 16 Feb (B. Glick) were heartening.

**Brewer's blackbird:** As always sparingly reported, with one far to the east near **Orrville** 2 Dec (S. Hackett), and a high count of 11 at **KPAW** 1 Feb (V. Fazio).

**Common grackle:** Widely tallied in CBCs, with a fairly low total this year of 25,342. B. Glick estimated its share of a large 16 Feb **Wayne** black bird flock at 6000-10,000, and D. Morse reported numbers in five figures in **Clermont** during Feb.

**Baltimore oriole:** A male showed up at J. Barkley's feeder in **Dayton** 27 Dec, and stayed off and on through the eop. One was reported on the **EFSP** CBC of 2 Jan.

**Purple finch:** Except for 20 at a **Stark** feeder 25 Feb (B. Morrison), all double-figure reports came from the southern half of the state in Jan and Feb, led by 55 from the **Adams** CBC of 17 Dec.

**House finch:** Continuing to diminish in numbers apparently. D. Chasar reported 25 at a **Summit** feeder as the "most in a long time" on 17 Jan.

**White-winged crossbill:** A single record, from the **Grand Rapids-Waterville** CBC 31 Dec.

**Common redpoll:** Reported from **Lake**, with feeder birds 28 Dec and 5 Feb (J. Pogacnik), and the **Ashtabula** CBC of 17 Dec, with seven birds.

**Pine siskin:** Seemed down in numbers, with a high count of 20 on the **Hocking** CBC of 2 Jan.

**Evening grosbeak:** The sole report was of three birds 8 Feb at an **Ashtabula** feeder (T. Glassburner).



Staying in Columbus from late Dec till at least 8 Jan was this summer tanager. Report *fide* J. McCormac.



Five fox sparrows were in photographer Brian Zwiebel's back yard on 18 Dec. Even in black and white, this one stands out.



**Contributors:** We are indebted to the following individuals and organizations who contributed sightings data to the Reports: Scott Albaugh, Phillip Allman, Matt Anderson, Nancy Anderson, Rick Asamoto, Tom Bain, Zac Baker, Tom Bartlett, Greg Bennett, Joe Bens, Andy Bess, Ned Bixler, Charlie Bombaci, Aaron Boone, David Brinkman, Jeff Brown, Erik Bruder, Lori Brumbaugh, Jen Brumfield, Mike Busam, Neill Cade, Steve Cagan, Craig Caldwell, Steve Carleton, Paul Chad, Philip Chaon, Allen Chartier, Dwight Chasar, Hans Clebsch, Chris & Suzanne Clingman, Denis Conover, Rick Cottrell, Rick Counts, Patrick Coy, Glen Crippen, Ben Crow, Becky Cullen, Jeff Cullen, Donna Daniel, Lois Day, Leo Deininger, Gary Dietz, Chris Distel, Dave Dister, Jim Dolan, Andy Doll, Laura Dornan, Doug Dunakin, Micki Dunakin, John Dunn, Shane Egleston, Jason Estep, Bob Faber, Tim Fairweather, Joe Faulkner, Vic Fazio, Tom Ford, Bob Foppe, Frank Frick, August Froehlich, Jim Fry, Chris Gajewicz, Mike Gallaway, John Games, Brian Gara, Larry Gara, Paul Gardner, Neil Gilbert, Tom Glassburner, Bruce Glick, Laura Gooch, John Habig, Scott Hackett, Scott Hannan, Lois Harder, Betty Hardesty, Rob Harlan, Sandy Harlan, Bob Harter, Jeff Hays, Bill Heck, Jim Heflich, Michele Hendrick, Dave Hess, Jean Hoffman, Craig Holt, Ken Hoover, Dave Horn, Nancy Howell, William Hull, Sally Isacco, Shari Jackson, Bill Jones, Lynn Josefson, Ned Keller, Tom Kemp, Kenn Kaufman, Cynthia Kelly, Ethan Kistler, Everitt Kitchen, Ron Kolde, Judy Kolo-Rose, John Kuenzli, Steve Landes, Bob Lane, Denise Lane, Jason Larson, Tom Le Page, Jay Lehman, Gabe Leidy, Greg Links, Doreene Linzell, Fred Losi, Rob Lowry, Paula Lozano, Bernard Master, Pat McCarthy, Rich McCarty, Jim McCormac, Eric McElroy, Joe McMahon, Brian Menker, Bob McNulty, Kevin Metcalf, Gary Meszaros, Bruce Miller, Kathy Mock, Ben Morrison, Donald Morse, Eric Mulholland, Scott Myers, Jim O'Boyle, Helen Ostermiller, Doug Overacker, Al Parker, John Perchalski, Haans Petruschke, Lester Peyton, Brad Phillips, Ed Pierce, Cindy Ploch, John Pogacnik, Gary Popotnik, Bob Powell, Len Powlick, Eric Reiner, Frank Renfrow, Richard Rickard, Craig Rieker, Bill Rinehart, Paul Rodewald, Randel Rogers, Mary Anne Romito, Tom Romito, Larry Rosche, Bob Royse, Dan Sanders, Winnie Sarno, Jen Sauter, Kevin Schieltz, Regina Schieltz, Ed Schlabach, Carlton Schooley, Jim Scott, Ron Sempier, Andy Sewell, Jon Seymour, Dan & Wanda Schmitz, Dean Sheldon, Douglas Sheldon, Paul Sherwood, July Shieldcastle, Amy Shipley, Bill Shively, Troy Shively, Randy Shonkwiler, Darlene Sillick, Bruce Simpson, Carol Skowlin, Doug Snapp, Su Snyder, Chris Spagnoli, Brad Sparks, Bill Stanley, Gene Stauffer, Jack Stenger, Jay Stenger, Steve Stockman, Matt Studebaker, Sue Tackett, Karin Tanquist, Rob Thorn, Elliot Tramer, Dan Tumblin, Pam Unger, Manon Van Schoyk, Mark Vass, Doug Vogus, Suzanne Wagner, Sam Walker, John Watts, Wayne Wauligman, Dan Weber, Kirk Westendorf, Bill Whan, Pete Whan, Paul Wharton, Clyde Witt, Chris Wood, Susan Woolard, Scott Wright, Brian Wulker, John Yochum, Sheryl Young, Sean Zadar, Bill Zimmerman, and Brian Zwiebel. We also gratefully acknowledge information received from the editors of the *Bobolink*, the *Cleveland Bird Calendar*, the Ohio Division of Wildlife, the Black Swamp Bird Observatory, and internet resources managed by Chuck Anderson, the Ohio Ornithological Society, and Ned Keller.

## Further Afield

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Just like clockwork, turkey vultures return to Hinckley, Ohio on precisely March 15 each and every year. And just as reliably, once a year I venture out to my garage, dust off my trusty time machine, and travel back in time at 10-year intervals to sample the Ohio birding scene of days gone by.

For established *Cardinal* readers, the existence of my time machine should by now be a matter of unquestioning certainty and enduring doctrine. Even so, I must admit that an insignificant and presumably envious handful of crabby readers continue to deny its existence, preferring to believe that instead of using a time machine, I actually consult old ornithological journals and history books and web sites to gather my facts. But to these surly readers, and to newcomers to my columns, let me offer reassurance that the existence of my time machine is every bit as dependable and unimpeachable as the regular and punctual return of the buzzards to Hinckley. Right? Right. Good.

It is always something of an adventure just to be able to reach the time machine in my garage, as another year's worth of detritus must first be cleared away to allow access. This year, and for unknown reasons, someone had piled (not one, but three!) croquet sets, a set of lawn darts (unused, and in their original box!), a fine assortment of tiki-themed citronella candles, and even one of those metallic, spheroid gazing balls, complete with pedestal, in front of or atop my precious time machine. Not to be denied, however, I overcame these indignities, brushed off the year's thickness of accumulated stray lawn clippings, sawdust, and desiccated fly carcasses, and filled 'er up with a leftover can full of Sohio's Super Cetron gasoline. So, I'm ready if you are—just remember, the first several stops may be a tad rough and uneven, as our balky conveyance gains its composure. Our first stop is.....

### Winter 1875-76

*Jack London, author of The Call of the Wild and White Fang, is born on January 12. On January 24, Bat Masterson is badly wounded in a gunfight in Sweetwater, Texas. Competitors Elisha Gray (of Barnesville, Ohio and Oberlin College) and Alexander Graham Bell both apply for the first patents for the telephone on February 14.*

As usual, a fogged windshield dims our view of these early stops. Please be patient....there, that's better. Now we can see J.M. Wheaton collecting a lapland longspur in Columbus on February 19. Wheaton doesn't know it at the time, but in the 1940s Alexander Wetmore will identify this specimen (#203070 in the U.S. National Museum) as *Calcarius lapponicus alasensis*, the "Alaskan Longspur," a subspecies of lapland longspur that nests in Alaska and the Yukon Territory, and normally winters in the western U.S. and Great Plains. It may still be the only record