

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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Bill Whan, Editor

Edwin C. Pierce, Publisher

Troy Shively, Design Manager

The Ohio Bird Records Committee:

Tom Kemp, Secretary

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Toledo, OH 43617

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On the Cover:

Gary Meszaro's photo of this young female Kirtland's warbler at HBSP was taken on 24 May. Note the prominent split eyering, narrow wingbars, and pale gray upperparts. Three or perhaps four other Kirtland's joined this one at Headlands this spring, an unprecedented showing.



Spring 2006 Overview and Reports

Bill Whan

223 E. Tulane Rd., Columbus OH 43202

billwhan@columbus.rr.com

The spring's many interesting bird finds were not accompanied by dramatic weather events. March was damper and cooler than normal in the central part of the state, with 20 days of below-normal temperatures. April's middle half averaged nearly ten degrees above normal, but was bracketed by cool spells. May by contrast started out mild, but gave us a chilly mid-month with winds from the north and west, then temperatures reaching the 90s by its end. May's flood of northbound passerines took advantage of breaks in the weather, spiking just before and after the cold spell, but were most noticeable right in the middle of it, when rain and chilly temperatures occurred daily between the 10th and the 19th. Favorable weather for migrants is not necessarily good for observing them, and fall-outs entertaining for observers can represent danger for birds, or at best delays.

Waterfowl numbers were in general not spectacular. Some pretty nice raptor numbers came to sharp-eyed observers who chose their times and places with care and were patient. Herons, at least in the NW marshes, seemed down a bit, but a second yellow-crowned night-heron nest site in the state was a joyous occasion, as was what looks to be a new sandhill crane nesting site. You could have seen 28 species of shorebirds this spring in Ohio, but you'd have had to be pretty quick about it, and lucky too, as there were few big numbers and few reliable spots season-long with the exception of the Hardin Co. wetlands, where fully 23 species were found in a small area that was corn and beans just like the neighbors' only two years ago. Some nice finds were made among passerines, though some really late arrivals, especially among the flycatchers, led to some alarm.

It was an excellent season for rarities, with a few even persisting long enough for extra witnesses to come see them. Fully 25 individuals of 18 review species were reported, and we hope each was well documented for the records committee: Ross's goose (two), cackling goose, glossy ibis (two), white-faced ibis, short-tailed hawk (possible first state record), prairie falcon, ruff, jaeger sp., black-headed gull, California gull, Eurasian collared-dove (two), white-winged dove, white-throated swift (possible first state record), loggerhead shrike, Kirtland's warbler (five or six), Swainson's warbler, lark bunting, and Harris's sparrow.

The most dramatic action undertaken by our species on behalf of birds this season in Ohio was the shooting of nearly 6000 nesting double-crested cormorants by wildlife officials. One of the most aggressive cormorant control programs in the country, the shooting was intended to protect vegetation on Green Island and heron and egret colonies on West Sister and Turning Point islands. This is the first occasion on which large-scale lethal control of native

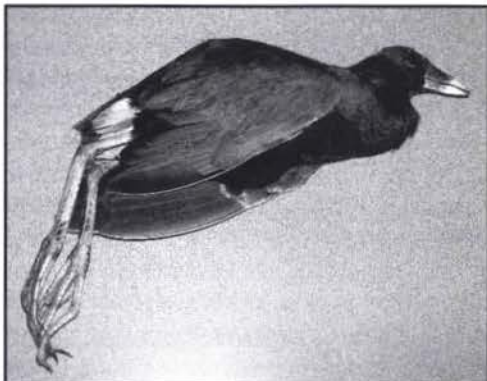
birds has been employed for these purposes in Ohio. No significant losses in numbers have been documented over the past decade at the largest colony of nesting herons and egrets at West Sister. Large as it is, the number killed represents less than 2% of the estimated Great Lakes cormorant population.

For the Record:

One additional Ohio specimen of **Smith's longspur** has come to light: #6086 at the Montana University Zoological Museum, a male collected by G. Austing on 20 Apr 1950 at the Oxford University Airport. Thanks to the efforts of R. Foppe, this is the 43rd Ohio specimen to be discovered.

A **purple gallinule** was found dead in Greenville, Darke County, on 9 January 2006. M. Beale kept the corpse and turned it over to J. McCormac on 20 April, who deposited it with the Cleveland Museum of Natural History's bird collection. This is Ohio's first known January record. There are at least ten other Ohio specimens of the species.

In the better-late-than-never category, B. Richter provided documentation of the nest of a **black rail** he examined 30 May 1966 in Mahoning Co., along with the captured bird that had been incubating three (at the time) eggs. A tractor mowing a wet meadow on a farm destroyed the nest, but Richter and the farmer suspected the birds re-nested, as they heard calling near the site until mid-July. This is the first confirmed nest of the species for Ohio, pending approval by the OBRC.



Purple gallinule found in Darke Co. 9 January 2006, saved by Magritte Beale and subsequently photographed and delivered to the Cleveland Museum of Natural History by J. McCormac.

The Reports follow the nomenclature and taxonomic order of the 7th edition of the AOU Check-list of North American Birds (1998), including the 46th 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 attributions (i.e., reporters' names) 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 31 May 2006; EHSP=East Hbr SP in *Ottawa*; *fide*= "in trust of," said of data conveyed on behalf of another person; Funk WA is in *Wayne*; 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=Pickrel 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, Spring 2006

Greater white-fronted goose: Way up, with 240 reported, all in Mar in the northern 2/3 of the state. High counts of 49 at Stage's Pond SNP in *Pickaway* 10 Mar (B. Sparks) and ~50 at *KPWA* 15 Mar (B. Zwiebel).

Snow goose: Scattered reports came from *Cuyahoga, Lorain, Lake, Ottawa, Paulding, Pickaway, Muskingum, Highland, and Delaware*, with a high count of only 5 at Deer Ck Lk 7 Mar (B. Sparks).

Ross's goose: One in *Paulding* 7 Mar may have been a first county record; one in *Pickaway* 19 Mar was not.

Cackling goose: One reported, with Canadas off *Lake* 2 Apr.

Mute swan: Somewhat disturbing were 86 reported, from *Summit, Warren, Sandusky, Lorain, Columbiana, Lucas, Ottawa, Clark, Erie, Summit, Cuyahoga, Wayne, and Ashtabula*, with many nests.

Tundra swan: Scantly reported, with 650+ from *Lucas, Ottawa, Trumbull, Hancock, Wayne, Geauga, and Lake* in the customary flyway. The ONWRC tallied 239 on 5 Mar, where 300+ were around 18 Mar (B. Whan), then only two on 3 Apr. C. Takacs bade the last two farewell in *Lake* 6 Apr.

Wood duck: First reported were 13 from the 5 Mar ONWRC, then 35+ at *SVWA* (M. Ream) and one in *Mahoning* (C. Holt) 7 Mar, then by 11 Mar ~100 were to be found in *Scioto* (J. McCormac).

Gadwall: At *Winton Wds* in *Hamilton*, 25 on 4 Mar remained 18 Mar (J&J Stenger), and the ONWRC found nine the following day, 321 on 2 Apr, and two on 6 May. Ninety visited *Killbuck WA* 19 Mar (S. Snyder).

Eurasian wigeon: Winter's drake at *Walborn Res* persisted through 8 Mar (K. Fenstermaker, m obs). A. Sewell spotted another at *Metzger* 18 Mar, with reports through the 25th (N. Fensler). Others were briefly at *Killbuck Marsh* 11 Apr (M. Yoder *fide* S. Snyder), and *Mallard Club Marsh* 16 Apr (J. Pogacnik).

American wigeon: Skimpy numbers reported. Down south, **Camp Dennison** harbored 25 on 1 Mar and 39 on 27 Mar (B. Foppe). The ONWRC count of 5 Mar was 37, with 59 on 2 Apr and a drake lingering 6 May.

American black duck: Observations from land never approach the true numbers of this species. The 5 Mar ONWRC tallied 125 for a high count, and in **Hancock** three lingered as late as 13 May (B. Hardesty).

Mallard: The ONWR census counted 3218 on 5 Mar, then but 56 on 6 May. **Funk** invited 475 on 19 Mar (R&S Harlan).

Blue-winged teal: The largest migrant concentration was ~200 at **BIWA** 19 Apr (C. Tucker). Later, a pair frequented **Tinkers Ck** 26 Apr (F. Losi), one or two possibly breeding pairs **Ashtabula** in May (C. Holt), seven **Magee** 17 May (R&S Harlan), one **Tuscarawas** 20 May (E. Schlabach), and 10 **Hardin** 20 May (D. Overacker).

Northern shoveler: Modest numbers were led by 60+ at **Killbuck Marsh** 16 Apr (S. Snyder), after the arrival of eight at **Winton Wds in Hamilton** 4 Mar (J&J Stenger). A pair lingered in **Hardin** 3 May (C. Caprette), and a male at **CPNWR** 20 May (P. Rodewald).

Northern pintail: Moved briskly through in Mar, with 111 on the ONWRC of the 5th, 105 in **Ashtabula** the 11th (J. Heflich), 80 in **Funk** the 19th (S. Snyder), and 175+ in **Hardin** the 26th (R. Counts).

Green-winged teal: **Camp Dennison** hosted 36 as early as 3 Mar (B. Foppe), and numbers grew to 150 in **Hardin** (R. Counts) by 26 Mar; on 22 May a pair was detected there (Counts). C. Holt reported possible breeding in **Ashtabula** 12 May. J. Pogacnik found one of the Eurasian race 12 Mar at **ONWR**.

Canvasback: A lackluster showing overall, with higher counts of 70+ at **W. Branch SP** 12 Mar (L. Rosche), ~25 at **Wellington Res** 16 Mar (C. Caldwell), and 50+ at **Archbold Res** in **Fulton** 26 Mar (J. Diller). A male was seen repeatedly off **Cedar Pt** through Apr and as late as 20 May (P. Rodewald).

Redhead: Passed through mostly in early Mar, with a high off **Huron** of ~1200 the 4th (N. Anderson), 921 for the 5 Mar ONWRC, then ~400 at **West Branch** (L. Rosche) and 333 in **Hancock** (B. Hardesty) the 7th. The last large flock, of ~400, was observed at **Caesar Ck SP** the 16th (J. Lehman). Two males and two females remained at **Ottawa NWR** 6 May (ONWRC).

Ring-necked duck: At **Killbuck**, numbers reached ~1000 19 Mar (S. Snyder) and 1025 on 1 Apr at **Funk** (B. Glick). Numbers tailed off quickly after that, but single laggards were noted in **Hancock** 16 May (B. Hardesty) and at **Gilmore Ponds** 27 May (C. Schooley).

Greater scaup: In reporting 51 at **Winton Wds in Hamilton** 12 Mar, Jay Stenger remarked: "Until recent years greater scaups were seldom seen and reported in our area and were considered casual or very rare migrants. All scaups were pretty much assumed to be lessers. This has changed over the past few years. Each year we seem to be seeing more and more greater scaups, and I believe all scaups now have to be closely studied. They are an identification challenge, but separating them can be done. The introduction and proliferation of the non-native zebra mussel into some of our area's lakes (Brookville and Caesar's Creek to name a couple) and waterways may have something to do with this recent phenomena, as scaups love (to eat) mussels and other shellfish." Other substantial inland sightings included 20 at **Lk Dorothy in Summit** 9 Mar (R&S Harlan) and ~50 at **Caesar Ck SP** 16 Mar (J. Lehman).

Lesser scaup: Shallower-water reports peaked at 150 at **Caesar Ck SP** 16 Mar (J. Lehman) and 210 for the 2 Apr ONWRC, but as always it was offshore in **Lk Erie** that good numbers developed, led by ~1200 off **Huron** 4 Mar (N. Anderson), 12,000+ off **E. Hbr SP** 11 Mar, and 10,000+ in **Maumee Bay** 16 Apr (both J. Pogacnik). One straggled in **Portage** 7 May (C. Holt), and 10 still rafted off **Cedar Pt** 20 May (P. Rodewald).

Surf scoter: Twenty-nine reported over about a month, from **Cuyahoga, Delaware, Hocking, Lake, Lucas, Mahoning, Morrow, Summit, Wayne**. High count seven at **Caesar Ck SP** 27 Mar (L. Gara), the latest a male at **Delaware WA** 30 Apr (J&J Stenger).

White-winged scoter: One at **Sims Pk in Euclid** 6 Mar (N. Anderson), then six reported, all over 15 days: one 18 Mar at **Cowan Lk** (L. Gara), two at **BIWA** (R. Sempier); 19 Mar at **Conneaut** (J. Pogacnik)-31 Mar (C. Holt); 26 Mar **Caesar Ck Gorge** (D. Graham et al.), and 1 Apr at **HBSP** (P. Chaon).

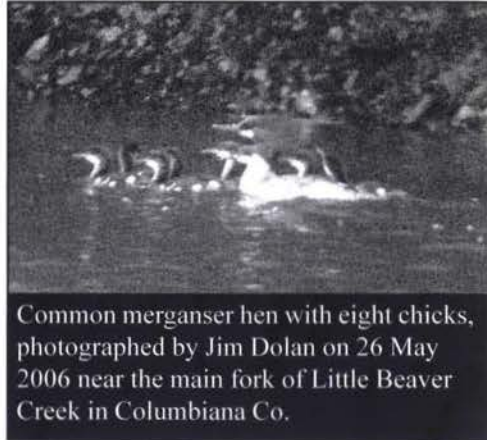
Long-tailed duck: Sightings clustered in the NE, with singles 24-26 Mar in **Richland** (G. Cowell), **Medina** 27 Mar (R&S Harlan), 28 Mar **Stark** (S. Jackson) and four in **Portage** (B. Bolton), 29 Mar eight in **Summit** and one at **Turkeyfoot Lk** (G. Bennett) plus a male at **Rocky River** (P. Lozano), and two males at **Conneaut** 31 Mar (C. Holt); the last showed up at **Mallard Club Marsh** in **Lucas** 16 Apr (J. Pogacnik).

Bufflehead: The multitudes off **Kelleys Isl** diminished to 343 for the 19 Mar count and 32 for that of 16 Apr (T. Bartlett). Other larger counts included 414 at **Camp Dennison in Hamilton** 1 Mar (B. Foppe), 114 at **Springfield Lk** in **Akron** 3 Apr (G. Bennett), and 100+ at **Wellington Res in Lorain** 12 Apr (C. Caldwell). Late birds included a female in **Maumee Bay** 25 May (P. Rodewald) and a bird, perhaps wounded, near **Wooster** as late as 27 May (S. Snyder).

Common goldeneye: **Kelleys Isl**'s large wintering numbers had fallen to 725 by 19 Mar (T. Bartlett), and the highest reported inland count was 60+ at **W. Branch Res** in **Portage** 7 Mar (L. Rosche). One in the Blanchard River in **Hancock** 13 May was loath to depart (B. Hardesty).

Hooded merganser: The largest migratory flock was only 175, at **Hoover Res** 7 Mar (C. Bombaci). Broods reported included females with seven young in **Vinton** 9 May (J. Fry), seven at **Funk** 6 May (S. Snyder), six at **Pipe Ck** 30 May (D. Sanders), four in **Ashtabula** 12 May (C. Holt), a nest 28 May at **Magee** (R&S Harlan), 13 in **Columbiana** 22 May (B&D Lane), young in **Hocking** 21 May (E. Fraser), and young seen in the CVNP 14 May (D. Chasar).

Common merganser: Physical evidence of breeding in **Columbiana** was at last procured (see photo), with hats off to Jim Dolan. The largest report of migrants was ~1600 for the 5 Mar ONWRC.



Common merganser hen with eight chicks, photographed by Jim Dolan on 26 May 2006 near the main fork of Little Beaver Creek in Columbiana Co.

Red-breasted merganser: Abandoned **Lake Erie** Mar-Apr, reinforced by birds from farther south. J. Pogacnik's **Lakeshore Res'n** observations included 3580 on 9 Apr, diminishing to 16 by 14 May. Inland, R. Thorn counted 600+ at Hoover Res 13 Mar, and B. Glick 1038 north-bounders at **Seneca Lk** in **Noble** the 25th; May sightings ended with four at a **Findlay** res the 16th (B. Hardesty).

Ruddy duck: No spectacular gatherings reported; favored spots like **Wellington Res** had ~200 16 Mar and 12 Apr (C. Caldwell), with 180+ in **Columbiana** 7 Apr (B&D Lane) and as late as 26 May ~200 at **Lk Milton, Mahoning** (G. Bennett). A few, even as pairs, lingered through the eop as usual.

Red-throated loon: Customarily sparse, with reports from Apr of a flyover at **HBSP** (R. Hannikman *fide* L. Rosche) and a basic adult at **Nimisila Res** in **Summit** 5 Apr (G. Bennett).

Common loon: Most passed late Mar, with high counts of 60+ in **Knox** the 29th (J. Larson) and 60 at **Pleasant Hill Lk (Richland/Ashland)** the 25th, where nonetheless 40 remained 19 Apr (B. Glick). At **BCSP**, ~50 present 26 Mar (B. Whan). Groups of one-three lingered at some reservoirs through the eop.

Pied-billed grebe: C. Witt counted 40 in **Cleveland** 7 Mar, B. Foppe 34 at **Camp Dennison** 2 Apr, and G. Bennett 42 at **Nimisila Res** in **Summit** 12 Apr. The 6 May ONWRC found 21.

Horned grebe: Passed Mar-mid-Apr, with a high count of 73, in Lake Erie off **Euclid** 29 Mar (N. Anderson). Inland numbers reached ~50 at **Deer Ck Res** 12 Mar (E. Reiner) and **Nimisila Res** 26 Mar (G. Bennett).

Red-necked grebe: Normal small numbers, with two reports on 19 Mar: basic-plumaged birds at **Alum Ck Res (Delaware, S. Tackett)** and **Beavercreek Res (Seneca, T. Bartlett)**.

Eared grebe: Five singletons in a short span: at **Conneaut** 19 Mar (J. Pogacnik), **Upper Sandusky Res** 25 Mar (R. Counts), one alt **Medina** 27 Mar (R&S Harlan), two nearly alt plumage off **LSR** 30 Mar (Pogacnik), and one in **Madison** the same day (*fide* R. Thorn).

American white pelican: Continues to increase, with as many as 28 reported throughout the period from the NW, as well as from SW reservoirs. High counts five at **EFSP** 24 Mar (J. Landon), eight near **Sandusky** 22 Apr (S. Young), six at **Magee** 3 May (C. Knoll); last one at **CPNWR** 4 May (P. Rodewald).

Double-crested cormorant: First spring migrant noted at **Caesar Ck SP** 5 Mar (J. Lehman), with numbers at a stopover site like **Hoover Res** of 400+ on 3 Apr (R. Thorn) and 275 on 27 Apr (C. Bombaci); the customary nonbreeding numbers were suggested by 35 there 17 May (Bombaci). **Lake Erie** numbers were radically disrupted by the shooting of nearly a quarter of the state's estimated nesting population by State and Federal wildlife personnel acting under a depredation permit intended to protect island vegetation and co-nesting heron and egret populations. Interviews with officials (M. Moore, *Ohio Outdoor News* 6/23/06) indicated that 5868 cormorants were reported killed: 4320 at **W. Sister Isl**, 80 at **Turning Pt Isl**, and 1468 at **Green Isl**. Data from subsequent studies, it was said, will guide additional permit applications for future controls.

American bittern: A good, or at least well-reported, flight, with sightings from eighteen counties, and May reports from five. High count four from **Clermont** 19 Mar (C&S Clingman).

Least bittern: No reports until May, with the first at **CPNWR** on the 4th (P. Rodewald), and an interesting high count of six from the burgeoning marshland in the **Conneaut** harbor 26 May (S. Wagner). The latter area is scheduled for radical alterations by the Corps of Engineers.



Bob Roach photographed this American bittern in the CVNP just north of the beaver pond 1 May.

Great blue heron: P. Rodewald reported the species as “somewhat low” in the ONWR-CPNWR area. The ONWRC count of 111 there on 6 May contrasted with 268 on the 13 May census of the rather less marshy CVNP (A. Chasar).



Paula Lozano photographed one of Conneaut Harbor's least bitterns 27 May.

Great egret: The first report came from **Portsmouth** 28 Mar (T. Bain). A number of observers regarded numbers as down during its breeding period. High count was 107 for the 6 May ONWRC. As usual, in May some were far from the breeding sites, including eight in the CVNP 13 May (A. Chasar), one at **SVWA** 25 May (L. Gara), and 20+ at **Sandy Ridge MP** in **Lorain** 24 May (C. Caldwell).

Snowy egret: One for the 2 Apr ONWRC was an all-time early record for this long-running census, but only one was found for the 5/6 census as well. The high count was five, at **ONWR** 16 Apr (J. Pogacnik, with very few other reports of multiple individuals. Two were seen at **Arcola Ck** in **Lake** 23 May (C. Takacs). C. Holt found one at **Conneaut** on the equally interesting date of 12 May.

Little blue heron: Other than a report of one at **ONWR** 16 Apr (J. Pogacnik) and an adult at **MBSP** 20 May (R&S Harlan), all reports came far from the occasional nesting site at **W. Sister Isl** (none reported, officially at least, last year): 4/9-4/15 **Columbia Res (Lorain)** D. Jones & D. Sheldon; ad **Conneaut** 12 Apr (B. Glick); ad **Clear Fk Res (Richland)** 23 Apr (R. Troutman); one at **SVWA** 1 May (D. Russell)-23 May (L. Gara); one in **Delaware** 3 May (K. Davis); and an ad at **Pipe Ck WA** in **Sandusky** 30 May (D. Sanders).

Cattle egret: The earliest showed up early near **Wilmington** 13-14 Apr (L. Gara, B. Mitchell), followed by one that reached **Mallard Club Marsh** the 16th (J. Pogacnik). J. Larson reported 6-8 in **Knox** 21 Apr, with two still there the 26th. Eleven touched down in a **Fairfield** field 22 Apr, with one remaining the 24th (J. Watts). One frequented **Lk Logan** in **Hocking** 25-26 Apr (J. Fry). One was seen at **ONWR** 13 May (R&S Harlan) and 17 May (C. Knoll). Birds numbering 18, probably of the **Turning Pt Isl** breeding contingent, were seen s. of **Sandusky** 13 May by S. Landes in a typical urban setting.

Green heron: First reported 10 Apr near **Marietta** (B. Thompson), numbers achieved five at **Hoover Res** 29 Apr (C. Bombaci) and seven for the 6 May ONWRC.

Black-crowned night-heron: While numbers in the **NW marshes** seemed down, with only four on the 6 May ONWRC, the **Spring Grove Cem** colony in **Cincinnati** prospered, with 16 birds present 3 May (J&J Stenger) and seven nests counted 28 May (F. Renfrow). The winter roost in **Cleveland's** flats counted out at 82 on 10 Mar (P. Lozano), and 41 as late as 13 Apr (C. Caldwell). Still farther east, one was at **Conneaut** on 24 Mar (S. Isacco), and five present at the **CVNP** 23 Apr (D. Chasar).

Yellow-crowned night-heron: Refreshingly more news than usual. Arrived in **Columbus** 30 Mar (A. Paschall), with 5 adults 3 Apr (B. Whan), where two nests produced six young (Paschall). S. Leatherman saw one at **Magee** 20 Apr, and one was reported from **Englewood MP** in **Dayton** 25 Apr. On 1 May, R. Royse found one at **Killbuck WA**, with two there later that day (S. Snyder). A. Oliver spotted yet another at **SVWA** 29 May.

Glossy ibis: One reported 1 May at **Slate Run MP** in **Pickaway** remained for m obs through the 3rd. Another was reported from **Killbuck WA** 7 May. Documentation should be with the OBRC.

White-faced ibis: A single bird in **Lucas** attracted m obs 16 May.

Black vulture: Observations from **Delaware**, not part of the species' customary haunts, came from 18 Mar (S. Landes) and 21 Mar (R. Thorn).

Turkey vulture: Having arrived widely in late winter, on 3 Mar 57 arrived at a **Chillicothe** roost that had been hosting 30-50 black vultures (T. Bain). B. Glick reported 1644 at **Conneaut** on the 31st, then but 162 on 22 Apr. B. Whan observed ~200 over **Athens** on 6 May.

Osprey: A bird seen as early as 12 Mar in **Wayne** (B. Glick) was remarkable, given that the famous Ohio osprey with a transponder device was known to have departed its wintering grounds in the Amazon Basin only that same week. Another was over **Bresler Res** near **Lima** 19 Mar (B. Zimmerman), and one at **Nimisila Res** the 31st (R&S Harlan). High count 17 over **Conneaut** 22 Apr (E. Schlabach).

Bald eagle: A kettle of 12 in various places is no longer remarkable, but at **KPWA** it was unusual 5 Mar (R. Sempier). We have no sure way of telling if this species has returned to its pre-DDT abundance, but probably so. ODOW reported a record 150 nests, 110 of them successful, with 205 chicks, 205 of them surviving 4 weeks of age.

Northern harrier: High count 30 at **Conneaut** 31 Mar (B. Glick). Along with a male carrying nesting material in **Ashtabula** 17 Apr (J. Heflich), all the following may be considered potential nesters: 6 May in **Brown** (J&J Stenger); one for the 6 May ONWRC; one at **ONWR** 13 May (R&S Harlan); one in **Hancock** 13 May (*vide* B. Hardesty); pair w/nesting material near **ONWR** 14 May (C. Caldwell); a female at **Funk WA** 24 May (S. Snyder); and two in **Summit** 27 May (D. Overacker).

Sharp-shinned hawk: E. Tramer reported the first migrants in the NW 5 Mar. Raptor watchers at **Conneaut** tallied 156 there 31 Mar and 117 on 22 Apr (B. Glick). J. McCormac had two territorial pairs in **Shawnee SF** 27 Apr. Birds seen 17 and 20 May at **Magee** were of interest (R&S Harlan).

Northern goshawk: An adult reported 23 Apr in **Miamitown** in far SW Ohio was unusual (J&J Stenger).

Red-shouldered hawk: High reported count was 21 at **Conneaut** 31 Mar (B. Glick). At **Magee**, one migrant passed over as late as 17 May (R&S Harlan).

Broad-winged hawk: First reported quite early 31 Mar in **Cuyahoga** (B. Roberts), with the next at **Scioto Trail SF** 9 Apr (J. Davis), the big movement came in Apr, with 72 over **Tuscarawas** on the 20th (E. Schlabach), a local-record 226 over **Holmes** the 21st, and 1073 lifting out of woodlots in the **Conneaut** area on the morning of the 22nd (both B. Glick). P. Chaon added 203 over his home in **Cleveland Hts** the 23rd.

Short-tailed hawk: On 17 May four observers, two of them familiar with the species, reported a light-morph short-tailed hawk passing overhead at **HBSP**. This would be a first Ohio record; Michigan's first of this semitropical raptor came just last November. Documentation is with the OBRC.

Red-tailed hawk: High count 114 over **Conneaut** 31 Mar (B. Glick). Individuals described or photographed as all white came from **Columbiana** 11 Apr (J. Dolan), M. Misplon in **Logan** since the previous period, and in **Stark** 13 Apr (E. Snively).

Rough-legged hawk: Low numbers versus last year in many locations, probably due to vole fluctuations. High count was 12 at **Conneaut** (B. Glick) on 31 Mar. Eight at **Funk WA** (10 Mar, H. Ostermiller) was a good number for 2006. P. Rodewald observed one over an active burn near **ONWR** 27 Apr, and one was reported at **Magee** 3 May (C. Knoll).

Golden eagle: One of what seemed to be two different juveniles was recorded at **The Wilds** 4 Mar (G. Crippen), and an adult 30 Mar (J. Larson). An adult was at **KPWA** 13 Mar (B. Warner), one at **BIWA** 2 Apr (K. Davis), one at **Conneaut** 22 Apr (B. Glick), and one at **Magee** 24 Apr (*vide* C. Knoll).

American kestrel: B. Glick reported migrants over **Conneaut** numbering 85 on 31 Mar and two on 22 Apr.

Merlin: Most reports of migrants, all of single birds, involved the NE during Mar.

Prairie falcon: S. Landes reported the last glimpse at the elusive bird of **The Wilds** 9 Mar.

Peregrine falcon: Save for one seen in **Holmes** 23 Apr, all migrant sightings came from Mar and early Apr. As for introduced birds, D. Scott reported 19 territorial pairs in the state, 18 of which produced eggs, 17 of which hatched at least one young, for a statewide total of 60 hatchlings; one wonders what the theoretical limits of these birds are: will every village eventually have a pair in a church steeple?

King rail: The 6 May ONWRC found two. On the following day m obs saw one just off the **Magee** causeway, which was joined 17 May by another; copulation ensued, and they stayed through the eop. One at **Killbuck** 11 May could not be refound later (B. Glick).

Virginia rail: T. Bartlett reported one calling as early as 12 Mar at **Springville Marsh SNP** in **Seneca**. The ONWRC found one on 2 Apr, by which time seven had already been banded in a trapping study. Reported in a number of wetlands, with young noted at **Sandy Ridge MP** in **Lorain** 24 May (M. Stetz).

Sora: Scantly reported, one hopes by happenstance. Early was one at **MWW** on 15 Mar (F. Frick). At **Mallard Club Marsh** in **Lucas**, 7-8 were heard 16 Apr (J. Pogacnik).

Common moorhen: The usual reports of one or two arose, along with a report of ~12 in **Columbiana** 20 May (B&D Lane), but quite unexpected were counts from **Killbuck Marsh** of 72 on 17 May (L. Yoder) and 125 on 27 May (E. Schlabach). Did sparse vegetation enable the detection of so many?

American coot: 3 Mar found 400 at **Caesar Ck** (F. Frick), and Apr brought 1400 to **Nimisila Res** the 6th (R&S Harlan) and 1000+ to **KPWA** the 11th (L. Powlick). At **ONWR**, by contrast, none were seen 5 Mar and only 19 on 6 May (ONWRC). C. Holt reported possible breeding at **Conneaut** by 25 May.

Sandhill crane: Fourteen observations totaling ~175 birds in the SW Mar-Apr were led by ~100 in **Hamilton** 28 Mar (P. Krushing). Out-of-the-way sightings came from **Magee** (two 3 May and one 10 May, C. Caldwell), **Columbus** (one 29 Mar, B. Conlon), and **Avon Lake** (two 15 Mar, C. Minsch). In customary spots, four were in **Medina** 6 May (G. Leidy) and a healthy 16 at **Funk** 27-31 May (S. Snyder). The **SVWA** pair returned 7 Mar (M. Ream) through the eop, and were observed courting 9 Apr (L. Gara).



One of the pair of king rails widely seen along the causeway through Magee Marsh, photographed by Brian Zwiebel 21 May 2006.

Black-bellied plover: Rain on 13 May brought this and other shorebird species to agricultural fields in *Lucas*, where, apparently not finding much in the way of food, few lingered long. R&S Harlan had ~100 there on 14 May. The tiny beach outside the *Metzger* dike attracted 60 on 16 May (D. Fisher). **Funk WA** harbored 13 on 17 May (S. Snyder). Last reported was one at **Conneaut** 29 May (M. Vass).

American golden-plover: Mostly reported from fields in western counties, such as one in *Hardin*, where G. Stauffer found two on 2 Apr, then R. Counts 145 on 6 Apr and 400+ on 21 Apr.

Semipalmated plover: Arrived on schedule at **SVWA** 27 Apr (R. Asamoto). **BCSP** produced 95 on 6 May (D. Overacker) and **Funk WA** 42 on 17 May (S. Snyder). Present season-long, with eight at **Conneaut** 29 May (M. Vass) and another in *Williams* the following day (J. Yochum).



This killdeer nest in *Ashtabula* contains the four eggs typical of shorebirds. Photo by Paula Lozano on 27 May.

Killdeer: Present in small numbers winter-long. N. Anderson noted a dozen westbound over Lake Erie in **Euclid** 10 Mar, and B. Hull counted 70 at a **Cincinnati** park two days later.

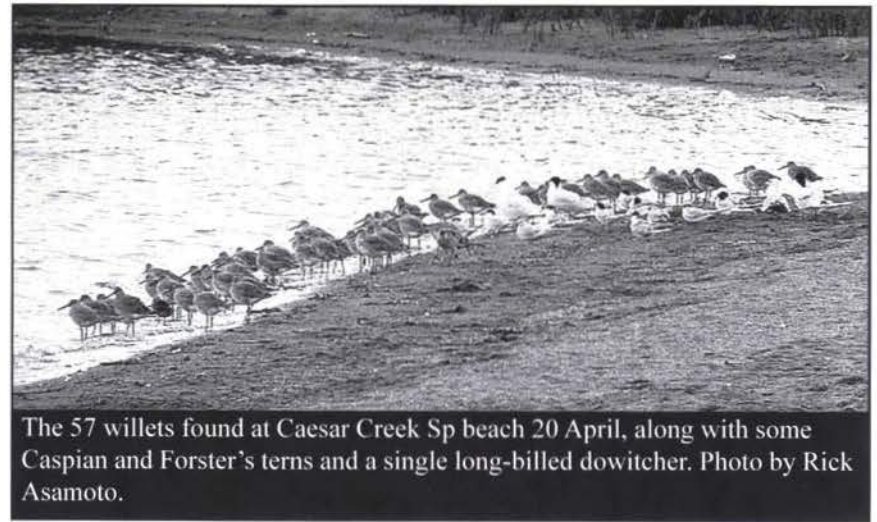
American avocet: Only one report, of five breeding-plumaged birds at **BCSP** 22 Apr (D. Overacker).

Greater yellowlegs: First noted at **The Wilds** in *Muskingum* 10 Mar (J. McCormac). The 2 Apr ONWRC had the fairly small high count of 23. One remained at **Conneaut** 25 May (C. Holt).

Lesser yellowlegs: Arrived in **Scioto** 13 Mar (B. Sparks). The *Hardin* wetlands served up 28 on 31 Mar, and 38 on 16 Apr (R. Counts). On 6 May the ONWRC ran into 133. Five lingered at **Conneaut** 25 May (C. Holt).

Solitary sandpiper: First noted in **Cincinnati** 11 Apr (M. Stigler), and last at **SVWA** 22 May (R. Asamoto). Remained largely true to its name, though the ONWRC tallied seven on 6 May.

Willet: After half a dozen appeared at **Caesar Ck Lk beach** 28 Apr, a state record 57 appeared there on the 30th (L. Gara, R. Asamoto, ph). One in molt was at **GLSM** 15 May (D. Dister), and another at **Conneaut** 21 May (J. Pogacnik). *Fide* B. Hardesty, five visited *Hancock* on 13 May (J. Taber), two on 16 May (B. Sams), and two on 30 May (S. Ross). Last spring's total surpassed this one's, and its recent trend is up. No reports from the western marshes, however.



The 57 willets found at Caesar Creek Sp beach 20 April, along with some Caspian and Forster's terns and a single long-billed dowitcher. Photo by Rick Asamoto.

Spotted sandpiper: *Adams* hosted one as early as 15 Apr (J. Lehman).

Upland sandpiper: A pair returned to the **VOA** site 18 Apr (S. Egleston). The ONWRC noticed one on 6 May. Three were finally reported at the traditional **Krause Rd** haunts near **Ottawa NWR** 28 May (R&S Harlan). This species is not increasing in Ohio, or even holding its ground: over-zealous attempts at airports to reduce bird/aircraft collisions, and to discourage observers as an anti-terrorism measure, combine to minimize both birds and bird observations.

Whimbrel: On 22 May, J. Sedransk found one at **Conneaut**, and R. Counts another at the *Hardin* wetlands. At the latter location two days later, B. Warner encountered a flock of 47+ for the high count.

Ruddy turnstone: First noticed were fifteen in *Lucas* fields 13 May (D. Overacker). The high count was 30 nearby on the canal breakwall near **Lk Metzger** on 16 May (D. Fisher). Twenty were on the **Crane Creek** beach 23 May.

Red knot: None reported at Lake Erie's western end, but on 25 May two were at **HBSP** (R. Hannikman) and five at **Conneaut** (C. Holt).

Sanderling: Only one report (!), of one on the beach at **BCSP** 23 May (D. Snuffer).

Semipalmated sandpiper: First reported 6 May with a single bird for the ONWRC, then 14 May, with one in *Hamilton* (J. Lippert) and another in *Lucas* (R&S Harlan), its numbers grew to 150 at **Conneaut** 29 May (M. Vass). J. Yochum found the season's last duo, in *Williams* on the 30th.

Least sandpiper: Arrived rather early at **BCSP** 7 Apr (D. Overacker), where on 6 May the rather anemic state high count of 70 was made (both Overacker). The same observer reported the last of them, a pair in **Ashtabula** 27 May.

White-rumped sandpiper: First noted were a brace at **Killbuck** 14 May, a number that inexplicably enough tied for the high count with two in **Williams** 30 May (J. Yochum).

Pectoral sandpiper: First touched down in **Butler**, with eight on 25 Mar (J. Rowe). Numbers did not live up to potential, with three-digit high counts only at the **Hardin** wetlands by R. Counts (147 on 31 Mar and 258 on 9 Apr), and 189 at **Sandy Ridge MP** in **Lorain** 27 Apr (D. Wilton *vide* M. Vass). Still around at **Cowan Lk** 28 May (L. Gara).

Dunlin: The 2 Apr ONWRC had an early singleton, then 1543 on 6 May. Numbers dropped onto flooded **Lucas** fields nearby in mid-month, where 1000+ on 14 May had dwindled to 15 by the 28th (R&S Harlan).

Stilt sandpiper: Quite rare in spring, one was at **Hardin** wetlands earlyish 14 and 16 Apr (R. Counts).

Ruff: Quite accommodating for a retinue of observers was one discovered at **Sandy Ridge MP** 16 Apr (J. Mizanin); this molting male accompanied a flock of pectorals through 20 Apr (S. Zadar).

Short-billed dowitcher: Disappointing numbers, first appearing as a single bird for the 6 May ONWRC, with a high count of 90 at **Killbuck Marsh** 11 May (B. Glick). Last was one in **Lucas** the 28th (R&S Harlan).

Long-billed dowitcher: Always quite scarce in spring, one showed up with the horde of willets at **Caesar Ck SP** (R. Asamoto, ph) on 30 Apr, and another not far away at **BCSP** on 6 May (D. Overacker).

Wilson's snipe: A few had overwintered, but one in **Adams** 4 Mar (N. Keller) was likely an early arrival. Large numbers included 51 on 12 Mar in **Cincinnati** (B. Hull), 110 at **MWW** 21 Mar (F. Frick), 50+ in **Columbiana** 30 Mar (B&D Lane), and 120+ at **ONWR** 15 Apr (N. Gilbert). One in **Ashtabula** 7 May was a probable local breeder (C. Holt).



On 30 April, Rick Asamoto took this portrait of a long-billed dowitcher on the Caesar Creek SP beach.

American woodcock: One in **Washington** 7 Mar (B. Thompson) was in the northbound vanguard, even though small numbers had been found in the state through most of the winter. As many as 40 displaying males mounted the air at **KPWA** 23 Apr (J. McCormac).

Wilson's phalarope: N. Gilbert reported one near **ONWR** 6 May, and S. Landes one in the refuge 13 May. A male and a female were in **Williams** 22 May (J. Yochum)...hmmm. A male appeared at the **Hardin** wetlands 6 May, accompanied by a female 22 May (both R. Counts), then three birds on 23 May (D. Sanders), and two pairs were reported through the eop (m obs) leading to hopes of a nest or two.

Red-necked phalarope: A surprise was one at **MWW** 29-30 Apr (J. Michael, m obs). Two passed 12 (G. Hostetler) through 15 May (B. Glick) at **Killbuck Marsh**. Two were at **CPNWR** 13 May (D. Overacker, m obs), and another at **HBSP** 14 (P. Keefe *vide* S. Wagner) through 15 May (m obs).

Jaeger, sp.: E. Tramer reported a pomarine or parasitic jaeger well inland at Whitehouse in **Lucas** 10 Apr.

Laughing gull: An adult at **Lorain** 5 Mar (J. Pogacnik) was likely the one that had frequented the central basin shore since February; another report here on 17 Apr (G. Bennett) might have been the same bird as well. Elsewhere, an adult was in **Conneaut Harbor** 21 May (M. Vass), and 23 May brought a second-year bird to **Caesar Ck SP** (L. Gara). D. Sanders had another adult at **MBSP** 30 May.

Franklin's gull: M. Misplon discovered one in molt at **GLSM** 23 May, and J. Fry another at **Lake Logan, Hocking**, on the 26th.

Little gull: A spate of these birds appeared over a two-week span along the central basin, with two 16 Mar at **Fairport Hbr** (R. Hannikman *vide* L. Rosche), an ad at **Conneaut** 19 Mar and adults at **LSR** 26 and 30 Mar (all J. Pogacnik), 12 at **Mentor Lagoons** 31 Mar (J. Talkington *vide* Rosche), an ad at **LSR** 1 Apr, and six at **HBSP** both 1 Apr (P. Chaon) and 2 Apr (Hannikman *vide* Rosche).

Black-headed gull: One at E 72 St in **Cleveland** in near-breeding plumage was an extraordinary find 2 Apr; documentation is presumably with the records committee.

Bonaparte's gull: Some remained from winter in the central basin, but three at **Caesar Ck SP** on 3 Mar (L. Gara) must have been arriving. **Conneaut** harbored ~400 by 19 Mar (J. Pogacnik), and **Rocky River** an equal number the 29th (P. Lozano); by 17 Apr 1400+ were in **Lorain Hbr** (G. Bennett). A basic-plumaged bird was found at **Caesar Ck** 19 May (L. Gara), and five lingered at **Conneaut** the 26th (M. Vass).

California gull: Documented was a mostly-basic adult at **Conneaut** 31 Mar.

Thayer's gull: Lost, or at least late, was a first-year bird at the **Gordon Park** marina 30 Apr (S. Zadar).

Iceland gull: A second-winter bird at **Conneaut** on 18 Mar (J. Pogacnik) was not unexpected, but reports of a first-year at **HBSP** 4 and 15 Apr (R. Hannikman *vide* L. Rosche) and 19 April (G. Cudworth) were unusual. A first-year Iceland at **LSR** on 7 May (J. Pogacnik) seems to have been, by a day, on a record late date.

Lesser black-backed gull: Seven first- and second-year birds gathered at **Conneaut** 19 Mar (J. Pogacnik), and an adult and two second-winter birds at **Fairport Hbr** 19 Apr (G. Cudworth). Pogacnik had an adult at **LSR** 26 Mar. A first-summer bird tarried at **Conneaut** 25 May (C. Holt).

Glaucous gull: One was found at a **Findlay** res 7 Mar (B. Hardesty), and a first-year bird was in **Conneaut Hbr** 19 Mar (J. Pogacnik). R. Hannikman (*vide* L. Rosche) found a third at **HBSP** 4 Apr.

Great black-backed gull: Around 60 occupied **Conneaut** 19 Mar (J. Pogacnik). Quite unusual was an adult on 23 May down at **BCSP** (D. Snuffer), but then so were 21 at **Conneaut** two days later (C. Holt).

Caspian tern: Early were two at **Conneaut** on 31 Mar (C. Holt), and another at **Hueston Wds SP** 1 Apr (D. Russell). High count 117 at **Lorain** 17 Apr (G. Bennett).

Common tern: First reported 13 Apr at **Indian Lk** in **Logan** (T. Shively), by 6 May 62 were at 11 nesting platforms at **ONWR** (ONWRC).

Forster's tern: Also first seen 13 Apr at **Indian Lk** (Shively). Birds seen during the breeding period included one 18 May at **Caesar Ck SP** (L. Gara) and another 27 May at **Lake Logan** in **Hocking** (J. Fry).

Black tern: Only 23 reported in the state, all in May. At recent nest sites like **CPNWR** and **Metzger** sightings in late May were of single birds.



This bird, thought to be a Eurasian collared-dove, spent mid-April until at least 24 May visiting a Licking County yard, *vide* J. McCormac. Photo by N. Surrat.

Eurasian collared-dove: One was reported on a utility line in **Bay View, Erie** 7 May. Another frequented a feeder in **Licking** mid-Apr through at least 24 May. If accepted by the OBRC, these would be the second and third records of this species for the state.

White-winged dove: Documentation was received for an appearance at a feeder in **Pataskala** of this species on 21 May.

Black-billed cuckoo: First reported from **Shawnee Lookout** in **Cincinnati** 29 Apr (F. Frick), and still passing through 28 May, with a bird at **Magee** (R&S Harlan). The 13 May **CVNP** census found five, and P. Rodewald banded eight at **CPNWR** from 10-31 May.

Yellow-billed cuckoo: Early was one in **Hamilton** 22 Apr (J. Hays). Proceeded fitfully on migration, with R. Nirschl reporting as many as 20 at **Magee** by 28 May.

Barn owl: Outside well-known areas, one was found in **Brown** 12 May (J. Lippert), and another called in the **MBSP** campground 20 May (P. Rodewald).

Snowy owl: One persisted at **Burke airport** in **Cleveland** through 5 Apr (B. Finkelstein); on 11 Mar at least two were present there (D. Horn).

Long-eared owl: In northwest **Coshocton**, six were present at a site 30 Mar where one was still to be found 14 May (L.E. Yoder). An apparent migrant was found roosting in a pine at **Magee** 31 Mar (K. Kaufman).

Short-eared owl: Two persisted at **Burke airport** in **Cleveland** as late as 23 Apr, with one still there as late as 24 May (P. Lozano). Nine were counted at **KPWA** 15 Mar (B. Zwiebel), and smaller numbers were reported from **Tuscarawas, Columbiana, Summit, Union, Pickaway, Hardin, and Wayne**.

Common nighthawk: R. Schieltz reported one early on 27 Apr in **Darke**. In **Hamilton**, the first was noted 1 May (B. Hull). These birds have disappeared from many former urban haunts.

Chuck-will's-widow: First noted in **Adams** 23 Apr (P. Whan). Farther afield, one was heard in **Hocking** 11 May (G. Coovert *vide* J. Fry), as was another way up in **Holmes** 31 May (*vide* B. Glick).



Paula Lozano photographed this snowy owl at Burke airport in Cleveland just as the sun set on 19 Mar.

Whip-poor-will: First reported 12 Apr, from *Clermont* (B. Stanley) and *Washington* (B. Thompson).

Chimney swift: The first migrant appeared 7 Apr in *Cincinnati* (J. Brown). H. Clebsch reported "thousands" in *Cleveland* 47 Apr, and R&S Harlan 1000+ at the *Wadsworth* post office chimney 23 May.

White-throated swift: At least four participants in the ONWRC described a sighting of this species on a chilly, cloudy 2 Apr day at *Ottawa NWR*. Documentation is with the OBRC for what would be a first state record; there are single accepted records in the region from Minnesota, Missouri, and Michigan.

Ruby-throated hummingbird: Early was one in *Ross* 12 Apr (D. Hess). K. Arnett reported one on eggs by 29 Apr in *Highland*.

Yellow-bellied sapsucker: Early to arrive were birds in *Darke* 5 Mar (R. Schieltz), in the *CVNP* 7 Mar (T&M Romito), at *Black Hand Gorge* 11 Mar (M. Bowman), and in *Marion* 18 Mar (R. Sempier); it is of course also conceivable these birds overwintered at these more northern climes this year. R. Nirschl estimated 11 sapsuckers at *Magee* 11 Apr at the outset of a good mid-month movement. One remained at *Magee* as late as 19 May (E. Tramer).

Hairy woodpecker: Seldom seen at *Magee*, one was present 8 May (R&S Harlan).

Northern flicker: Several careful observers remarked that flickers' numbers seemed depressed.

Olive-sided flycatcher: Decidedly early was one at *Clear Ck MP* in *Hocking* on 30 Apr (R. Thorn). As unusual were three reports of two birds at single locations: *CVNP* 13 May (*vide* A. Chasar), *HBSP* 25 May (S. Wagner), and *Berlin Res (Portage)* 27 May (B&D Lane).

Eastern wood-pewee: Harder than usual to find, especially early. One was early at *MWW* on 22 Apr (E. Baumgardner), but overall their arrivals were quite late farther north. Only four in a census of the *CVNP* on 13 May is alarming.

Yellow-bellied flycatcher: The first reported flew into BSBO's nets at *Navarre* on schedule 11 May, but the species was, like the other flycatchers, reported late overall. The high count was eight, at *Magee* 26 May (C. Knoll). P. Rodewald reported having banded 36 between 16 and 30 May at *CPNWR*, ~80% of them between the 25th and 30th.

Acadian flycatcher: Three touched down at *MWW* on 30 Apr (J. Bens), but they were late, not arriving at strongholds like *Clear Ck MP* in any numbers before 12 or 13 May.

Alder flycatcher: Earliest reported in *Hamilton* 15 May (J. Valente). High count five, at *Magee* 28 May (R&S Harlan). Territorial males at the southern edge of the range were two singing males at *Clear Creek MP* (last noted 28 May, P. Rodewald) and two or three at *Cedar Bog* in *Champaign* (J. McCormac 25 May). One was in *Holmes* 27-28 May (E. Schlabach).

Willow flycatcher: Unusually early was one 23 Apr in *Hocking* (D. Horn). Two were at *Magee* 8 May (R&S Harlan), but R. Royse found none at *Woodbury WA*, normally a stronghold, on 9 May. Many seemed to show up late. The high count of 13 came at *Magee* 23 May (C. Knoll).

Least flycatcher: In a familiar pattern, the first (22 Apr near *Toledo* by M. Anderson), was apparently a local early record, but there were few reports until a wave in mid-May, with 30 at *CPNWR* on the 13th (E. Tramer) and 24 on the 16th at *Magee* (C. Knoll). Males were singing on 30 May in the *CVNP* (D. Chasar) and down in *Hocking* through the eop (J. Watts).

Eastern phoebe: Present this winter in many locales, and well established in the north by mid-Mar.

Great crested flycatcher: 21 Apr brought news of one in *Cincinnati* (S. Pelikan) and two at *Shawnee SF* (J&J Stenger). By the following day one was at *La Su An WA* up in *Williams* (J. Yochum).

Eastern kingbird: Another flycatcher whose numbers seemed down, but summer will tell. It was at least on schedule, reported in *Butler* 19 Apr (B. Hull) and at *Magee* 28 Apr (C. Knoll).

Loggerhead shrike: One was reported from the *Oberlin* area 22 May. This is now a review species.

Northern shrike: Birds from winter stayed through through 4 Mar at *Carey* (E. Mulholland), *Auglaize* through 12 Mar N. Fensler), through 17 Mar near *Cleveland* (C. Witt). 18 Mar at *Jaite* (D. Chasar), *Bath* through 23 Mar (L. Rosche), and *ONWR* through 25 Mar (Fensler).

Shrike, sp: Two distant shrikes had to go unidentified, one 16 Mar in *Medina* (C. Spagnoli) and another 25 Mar at *CPNWR* (E. Tramer).

White-eyed vireo: Showed up 12 April in *Coshocton* (L.E. Yoder) and at *GLSM* (J. Bowers). High count was 15 at *Zaleski SF* 24 Apr (R. Royse).



Fred Losi got this photo of a clutch of eastern phoebes at Tinker's Creek Gorge on 25 May 2006.

Bell's vireo: Though absent from a few traditional spots, many were found. Much the earliest was one on the OSU campus in **Columbus** 8 May (A. Boone); it was later joined by a female, with a nest under construction 29 May (B. Winger). R. Schieltz discovered a singing male in **Darke** 20 May that had not found a mate by the eop. J. Karlson reported a pair in **Greene** 25 May. N. Cade spotted one in **Hamilton** 27 May. L. Powlick had a singing male in **Pickaway** 31 May. A silent migrant was discovered at **Magee** 14 May (M. Kraus, R&S Harlan) for a highly unusual record at the site.

Yellow-throated vireo: First found at **Shawnee SF** 15 Apr (J. Lehman), twelve were on station in **Zaleski SF** by the 24th (R. Royse). Scarce in the area, when the first was at **Magee** (C. Knoll), and P. Rodewald reported singing males at **CPNWR** 4 May and **Magee** 20 May.

Blue-headed vireo: R. Royse reported four males and a female 30 Mar in **Shawnee SF**, most on known territories from last year. Five northbound migrants were at **Magee** 20 May (R&S Harlan), by which date two were at a nest in **Columbiana**, then two at another spot in the county 25 May (both B&D Lane). One remained in **Columbus** 24 May (R. Thorn). J. McCormac reported six territories at **Crane Hollow Preserve** in **Hocking** 30 May.

Philadelphia vireo: First reported from **Spring Grove Cem** in **Cincinnati** 3 May (J&J Stenger) and pretty scantily reported thereafter through the eop.

Red-eyed vireo: First reported 19 Apr at **Winton Wds** in **Cincinnati** (Jack Stenger), and five days later R. Royse counted 121 in **Zaleski SF**.

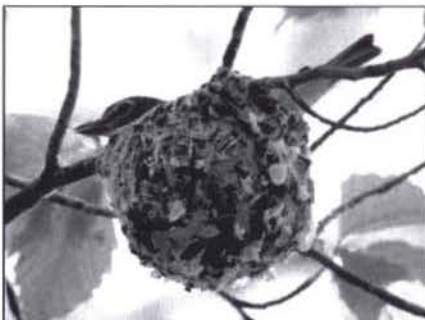
Blue jay: J. Pogacnik had ~1000 moving east past **LSR** on 7 May.

American crow: K. Hoover reported ~500 crows migrating east along the **Cleveland** shoreline on 9 Mar.

Horned lark: B. Phillips observed an adult feeding two young 2 Apr in **Milan Twp, Erie**.

Purple martin: First scouts reported from **Holmes** 1 Apr (R&S Harlan).

Tree swallow: First sighted 1 Mar at **MWW** (F. Frick), and widespread the following week.



Photographer Delores Cole found this yellow-throated vireo on a nest near the Moonville Marsh in Vinton Co. 5 May.

Northern rough-winged swallow: B. Zimmerman saw one at **Spring Grove Cem** in **Cincinnati** 29 Mar.

Bank swallow: Four arrived at **MWW** 16 Apr (J&J Stenger). The **Conneaut** flock topped out at ~200 on 25 May (C. Holt). No maxima reported from the oft-observed colony across the canal from **Metzger**.

Cliff swallow: Six showed up in **Hamilton** 16 Apr (J&J Stenger). 300+ had showed up at Perry Yoder's place in **Holmes** 7 May (*vide* B. Glick), with many more to come. At **Mosquito Lk** were 100+ on 12 May (C. Holt).

Barn swallow: First reported 31 Mar at **Killbuck WA** (S. Hackett).

Black-capped chickadee: Rare at **Magee**, one was singing there 21 May (R&S Harlan).

Red-breasted nuthatch: E. Kistler noticed 12+ in a walk in the **CVNP** 3 Mar, and B. Glick called them "numerous" at **Mohican** 1 Apr. On 23 May a pair was probably nest-building at **S. Chagrin** (R. Rickard).

Brown creeper: Eight were seen on **Kelleys Isl** 19 Mar (T. Bartlett). R. Royse noted a probable territorial male in the **Zaleski SF** 28 Apr. A nest was at **Hoover Res** 12 May (S. Landes). Singing males were in **Poland, Mahoning** 25 May (C. Holt) and in **Mohican** 29 (R&S Harlan); a pair was at **Killbuck** 29 May (G. Bennett).

House wren: First reported from **Mahoning** 13 Apr (C. Holt). The 6 May **ONWRC** found 46.

Winter wren: **Ira Rd** in the **CVNP** had one 13 Mar (T&M Romito). One at **Magee** 17 May (B. Zwiebel).

Sedge wren: First reported 13 May in **Pickaway** (B. Whan), then one in **Lucas** (*vide* G. Links) 20 May and one in **Coshocton** the same date (L.E. Yoder), one in **Rocky River** 21 May (P. Lozano), and one at **Funk** 31 May (S. Snyder).

Marsh wren: First appeared early, on 18 Apr in **Clermont** (L. Bradley). **Magee Marsh** boasted seven on 8 May (R&S Harlan), but only four for the **ONWRC** two days earlier was disappointing. D. Chasar reported 4-5 from the relatively tiny marsh at **Jaite** in the **CVNP** 21 May. S. Snyder found six at **Killbuck** 31 May.

Golden-crowned kinglet: Twenty could be found at **Firestone MP** in **Akron** 31 Mar (R&S Harlan), but by 13 May only two were reported on the **CVNP** census (*vide* A. Chasar). A likely territorial male was in **Mohican** 11 May (B. Glick).

Ruby-crowned kinglet: First reported from the **Shaker Lks** 30 Mar (P. Chaon), with two the following day in **Hamilton** (N. Keller, N. Cade), by 21 Apr V. Fazio could report 171 from the former location for the high count. At **Magee**, 15 were still around 20 May (R&S Harlan) and three 23 May (C. Knoll).

Blue-gray gnatcatcher: B. Thompson reported the first, in **Washington** 28 Mar. Two showed up in **Clermont** 1 Apr (K. Hutton), one in **Tuscarawas** by the 8th (E. Schlabach). and spread quickly thereafter.

Eastern bluebird: The first up along **Lake Erie** was reported 5 Mar by the ONWRC.

Veery: Reports on 21 Apr came from **Shaker Lks** (V. Fazio) and **Cincinnati** (two, J&J Stenger). One remained in **Hamilton** as late as 22 May (B. Wulker). High count 10 at **Mohican** 29 May (R&S Harlan).

Gray-cheeked thrush: Reportedly depressed in numbers. Reported early at **Dike 14** on 30 Apr (S. Zadar), but its meager numbers were highest the last week of May.

Swainson's thrush: Also reported as scarce, the first came from **Shawnee Lookout** in **Cincinnati** 18 Apr (J&J Stenger). High count reported was 15 at **Magee** 20 May (R&S Harlan).

Gray catbird: Migrants were led by one in **Cincinnati** 21 Apr (J&J Stenger); two days later S. Snyder had one at **Killbuck WA**. The 6 May ONWRC encountered 84.

American pipit: Unreported since Jan, one was in **Hamilton** 10 Mar (B. Hull); by 25 Mar 150 could be found in **Butler** (J&J Stenger) and 200+ in **Ross** (D. Hess). Five persisted at **Conneaut** 25 May (C. Holt), in warm beach habitat hardly reminiscent of their alpine/arctic breeding grounds.

Cedar waxwing: E. Snively reported 12 from **Massillon** 7 Mar, and T. Bartlett 28 on **Kelleys Isl** 19 Mar, but most reports came from late May.

Blue-winged warbler: First reported from **Ross** (T. Bain) on 11 Apr. High count 10 in **Scioto** on 29 Apr (D. Overacker).

Golden-winged warbler: Good numbers, or at least densities. G. Covert (*vide* J. McCormac) reported a territorial male in **Hocking** from late Apr through most of May. B. McNulty had one at a **Columbus** park 3-4 May. One was singing a blue-winged song in **N. Olmsted** 4 May (S. Wright). A male was at **HBSP** 4 May (R. Hannikman). P. Rodewald banded one at **CPNWR** 4 May. The Dunakins saw one in **Paulding** 7 May. J. Valente found one in **Hamilton** 9 May. On 10 May, R. Lowry found two in **Delaware** and R. McNulty two in **Franklin**. Each day from 10-14 May **Magee** had from 1-3 birds, with as few as three or as many as nine involved; **Magee** also had another two on 17 May (all m obs). R. Hannikman had another at **HBSP** 24 May. BSBO banded seven at **Navarre** 3-28 May, and one at **Shaker Lks** 22 May. A minimum of 28 individuals.

Hybrids of the previous: B. Master studied an individual in **Worthington** on 4 May singing a golden-winged song, described as "black throat and auricular patch on a gray face, gray underparts, gray back and wings and two medium, white wingbars. Dark bill, small pale golden crown...seemed very washed-out except for his throat and earpatch." After analysis, he decided it was most likely a golden-winged x "Brewster's" with recessive gene for black throat and auriculars, or perhaps a "Brewster's" x "Brewster's" with this recessive gene (only four known examples in Dunn & Garrett), or even less likely a "Lawrence's" x "Brewster's" with the same gene (no known examples).

P. Rodewald described a different bird the previous day, a "Lawrence's" warbler also in **Worthington**, 5/3/05. "This bird looked strongly like a female golden-winged. Indeed, I thought that's what it was for a minute or two. Once I had a better look, I saw that the bird had a faint, but distinct yellow wash to the breast and belly. Female golden-wings should not have such coloration to the underparts. To me, this can be nothing but some sort of back-cross (F2 generation), and thus, a Lawrence's Warbler."

L. Powlick reported a female "Lawrence's," presumably a far less complicated one, from **Dublin** 9 May. BSBO reported a "Brewster's" banded at **Navarre** 5 May. A. Boone had a "Brewster's" (singing a golden-winged song) in **Columbus** 3 May, seen by J. Grabmeier as well 4 May. S. Wright heard a blue-winged, but saw an apparent golden-winged, in **N. Olmsted** 4 May. Rodewald netted a "Brewster's" at **CPNWR** 10 May.

Tennessee warbler: Arrived at **MWW** 29 Apr (A. Scruggs), where one was seen as late as 27 May (A. Oliver).

Orange-crowned warbler: Seen first early at **Slate Run MP** in **Pickaway** 12 Apr (R. Thorn). P. Rodewald banded 16 at **CPNWR** 4-23 May. Last reported 22 May **Shaker Lks** (R&S Harlan).

Nashville warbler: Newly arrived in **Cincinnati** 14 Apr (L. Romine), by 4 May the high count of 15 was made in **Coshocton** (L.E. Yoder).

Northern parula: L. Gara had the first, at **SVWA** early on 9 Apr. Five migrants were at **Magee** on 21 May, and three probable breeders in **Mohican SF** 29 May (both R&S Harlan).

Parula x cerulean warbler: This extremely rare hybrid, locally dubbed "Nirschl's warbler" after its discoverer and describer, appeared in **Wildwood Park** in **Toledo** for the third consecutive year 24 Apr (R. Nirschl).

Yellow warbler: Appeared 14 Apr at **MWW** (F. Frick), then in **Coshocton** the following day (E. Schlabach). The 6 May ONWRC tallied 121 at the refuge.

Chestnut-sided warbler: First reported from **MWW** 29 Apr (A. Scruggs), with a first Apr record for the **Cleveland** area the following day at **HBSP** (L. Rosche). R&S Harlan tallied 20 at **Magee** 17 May. Several singing males were at **Clear Ck MP** in **Hocking** 22 May (J. Watts), and another 29 May in **Greene** was interesting (D. Overacker).

Magnolia warbler: Tying an early record for the **Cleveland** area was one at **HBSP** 20 Apr (L. Rosche). Two apparent breeding males were present on a trail at **Clear Ck MP** 28 May (P. Rodewald)

Cape May warbler: 21 Apr brought one to **Cincinnati** (S. Pelikan) for our first, with the latest there 20 May at **Spring Grove Cem** (N. Keller). High count 7 at **Magee** the following day (R&S Harlan).

Black-throated blue warbler: One hit **Brecksville Res, Cuyahoga**, as early as 30 Apr (D. Chasar). The high count also came from the NE, with 20 at **HBSP** 31 May (L. Rosche).

Yellow-rumped warbler: On 21 Apr, when many warblers were just arriving singly, 75 were to be found in **Clermont** (B. Foppe), and 25 remained at **Magee** 20 May (R&S Harlan), with two in **Columbus** 24 May (R. Thorn). J. Perchalski reported one of the western "Audubon's" race 16 Apr in **Van Wert**.

Black-throated green warbler: R. Royse found the first at **Shawnee SF** 30 Mar. Fifteen-plus territories were located at **Crane Hollow** in **Hocking** 17 May (J. McCormac), and five of this species in **Mohican SF** 29 May were likely nesters (R&S Harlan).

Blackburnian warbler: G. Crippen found one, likely a local breeder, at **Conkle's Hollow** in **Hocking** 16 Apr. Two territories were found at **Crane Hollow** not far away 17 May (J. McCormac). One was singing at **Clear Ck MP** 24 May (J. Watts). Latest migrant was at **HBSP** 28 May (C. Caldwell).

Yellow-throated warbler: First found 30 Mar in **Shawnee SF** (R. Royse), where 31 were around by 18 Apr (J&J Stenger). In the north, one reached **HBSP** 11 Apr (R. Hannikman *vide* L. Rosche), and another near **Toledo** 4 May (M. Anderson). Evidently not "sycamore warblers," fourteen at **Spring Grove Cem** in **Cincinnati** were distributed in pines 28 May (F. Renfrow), as were territorial males even at **Nimisila Res** in **Summit** 16&22 May (R&S Harlan).

Pine warbler: Had arrived the previous period. Largely a nester of the south, of interest was a territorial male in the **Oak Openings** 6 Apr (E. Tramer), ~10 at **Nimisila Res** in **Summit** at the eop (R&S Harlan), and two singing males at **Mohican** 1 Apr (B. Glick).

Kirtland's warbler: This species' small breeding and wintering grounds make its migratory path correspondingly narrow, with Ohio having more accepted records than any other state—even Michigan—of birds en route. Even here, their path tends to lie in the NW, but this spring **Lake Co.** took the cake, with four or perhaps five seen at **HBSP**: two males 10 May (R. Hannikman, S. Wagner); imm female 22 May (A. Fjelstad); 24 May imm female (Hannikman); 26 May imm female, possibly the same bird (Hannikman)—an amazing coincidence. Intense coverage at **Magee** produced a singing male 21 May (R&S Harlan, m obs). No bands were reported on any of these birds.

Prairie warbler: With the first two found 15 Apr in **Adams** (J. Lehman), and 32 there the 28th (D. Overacker), this is a southern species. Outposts in **Hocking** (with seven pairs on one trail at **Clear Ck MP** 29 May—J. Watts), and **Woodbury WA** (with another seven the same date—R&S Harlan) are well known. Less predictable were a male at the **Oak Openings** 29 May (E. Tramer), a migrant at **HBSP** 21 May (D. Chasar), and one singing as early as 27 Apr in the **CVNP** (A. Webb).

Palm warbler: First were two in **Cincinnati** 15 Apr (J&J Stenger), with the latest report from **Ashtabula** 27 May (D. Overacker). High count 38 on the 6 May ONWRC. One of the eastern yellow race was banded by the BSBO at **Navarre** 21 Apr.

Bay-breasted warbler: B. McNulty found the first on 30 Apr in **Reynoldsburg**. E. Schlabach detected two at **Mohican** as late as 27 May.

Blackpoll warbler: Seemed down in numbers to some observers. First discovered 3 May in **Cincinnati** (J&J Stenger) and at **Magee** (R. Nirschl), with two the next day at **CPNWR** (P. Rodewald).

Cerulean warbler: One arrived in **Hamilton** 15 Apr (K. McDonald), and by the 24th 31 occupied **Zaleski SF** (R. Royse). Two reached the **CVNP** by the 26th (D. Chasar). Two migrants were at the **CPNWR** 4 May (P. Rodewald).

Black-and-white warbler: R. Royse discovered the first at **Shawnee SF** 30 Mar, and by the 18th the Stengers counted 41 there. Fifteen were at **Magee** as late as 20 May (R&S Harlan).

American redstart: J. Lehman found one at **Shawnee SF** 15 Apr, where D. Overacker had 40 by the 29th. High count 15 at **Magee** 20 May (R&S Harlan).

Prothonotary warbler: On schedule, with one at **Black Hand Gorge** 14 Apr (M. Bowman), one **SVWA** 16 Apr (L. Gara), one at **Hoover Res** 17 Apr (C. Bombaci—who had 68 territories there by 29 May), one at **Meander Res** 24 Apr (C. Babyak), and four at Ira Rd in the **CVNP** the 30th (T&M Romito).



This Swainson's warbler was photographed by John Pogacnick on 20 May at HBSP.

Worm-eating warbler: Two were in **Zaleski SF** 15 Apr, and 28 by the 28th (R. Royle). An overshooting bird was at **LSR** 4 May (J. Pogacnik). L.E. Yoder had three in **Coshocton** 12 May, B&D Lane reported three nesting locations along Beaver Creek's north fork in **Columbiana** 20 May, and R&S Harlan two territories in **Mohican** 29 May.

Swainson's warbler: A singing male was found 19 May at **HBSP**. M obs were able to see it through 22 May, a first for the site.

Ovenbird: First reported from **Ross** 13 Apr (T. Bain), by 18 Apr 61 were tallied at **Shawnee SF** (J&J Stenger). J. Watts reported a female with four eggs in a ground nest 1 May in **Fairfield**.

Northern waterthrush: An overflying bird was the first reported, from **Springville Marsh** in **Seneca** on 15 Apr (T. Bartlett). The ONWRC of 6 May counted 10. E. Schlabach had three in **Tuscarawas** 20 May.

Louisiana waterthrush: First seen in **Hocking** 25 Mar (K. Davis), another was already in **Lake** by the 28th (J. Pogacnik). In the NW, where scarcest, one was at **CPWNR** 9 Apr and another in the **Oak Openings** 17 May (both E. Tramer).

Kentucky warbler: Up, or at least better reported this spring. Seen in **Cincinnati** 21 Apr (J&J Stenger). One was in **Lake** by 3 May (J. Pogacnik). Later well represented in its range.

Connecticut warbler: The *Oporornis* warblers seemed down overall this spring. First reported 17 May at **CPNWR**, among five banded there 17-26 May (P. Rodewald). High count two, at **HBSP** 23 May (D. Chasar).

Mourning warbler: One early overflier was found at **Magee** 4 May (R. Nirschl). Fitful reports through the rest of the month never exceeded two per day except for C. Knoll's report of six at **Magee** on 26 May.

Common yellowthroat: Reported 14 Apr in **Cincinnati** (L. Romine) and 15 Apr in **Coshocton** (L.E. Yoder), by 23 May 44 were at **Magee** (C. Knoll).

Hooded warbler: First reported from **Athens** 13 Apr (J. Duerr), by the 28th 76 were detected at **Zaleski SF** (R. Royle). Rarish there, on 28 May a male was still singing at **Magee** (R&S Harlan).

Wilson's warbler: An overshooting bird hit the ground first at **Magee** 3 May (R. Nirschl), where as many as 22 were present by the 23rd (C. Knoll). Seemed a bit down in numbers to several observers.

Canada warbler: Seemed late to arrive to many: nesters at southern spots in **Hocking** were tardy, but eventually got there. Five were at **Mohican** 29 May (R&S Harlan).

Yellow-breasted chat: Two seen at **Shawnee Lookout** in **Cincinnati** as early as 21 Apr (F. Frick).

Summer tanager: First appeared at both ends of the state on 23 Apr: in **Hamilton** (J. House) and in **N. Olmsted** (T. Colborn). The **Oak Openings** birds were first seen 4 May (M. Anderson), and one was found in **Portage** 13 May (L. Rosche). Several experienced observers remarked its numbers seemed down.

Scarlet tanager: Arrived in **Cincinnati** 14 Apr (L. Romine). Sixty-one were counted in **Zaleski SF** two weeks later (R. Royle).

Western tanager: Peterjohn (2001) says of a 16 May 1996 record at **Magee** that it "provided one of very few confirmed spring records from eastern North America." This spring, adult males were photographed in **Greene** 19 Apr and in **Lucas** 12 May; another was well observed in **Sandusky** 7 May. Documentations are with the OBRC.

American tree sparrow: The 5 Mar ONWRC tallied 180. Last reported for the season were four at **MWW** 15 Apr (N. Cade).

Chipping sparrow: First report of the season 1 Mar in **Chillicothe** (T. Bain). High counts included ~100 2 Apr near **Lowellville**, **Mahoning** (C. Holt) and 65+ at **Dike 14** in **Cleveland** 12 Apr (S. Zadar).

Clay-colored sparrow: The 6 May ONWRC found one, but most of the action came from the **Cleveland** area: two near **Dike 14** on 30 Apr (S. Zadar), one in the **Erie St Cem** 3 May (T. Colborn), another at the **Rocky River Nat Ctr** 20 May (fide K. Metcalf) and three downtown 23 May (S. Wright, ph).



This western tanager appeared briefly in a tree in a residential yard in Oregon, Ohio (Lucas Co.) on 12 May. Photo courtesy P. Henry



One of a remarkable three clay-colored sparrows found in a small park in downtown Cleveland 23 May. Photo by Scott Wright.

Field sparrow: Forty-eight on the 2 Apr ONWRC must have been migrants, but not the 28 there 6 May.

Vesper sparrow: Probably more common than many think. First reported from **Cincinnati** 29 Mar (F. Frick), widely reported from agricultural settings, with one as far south as **Brown** 6 May (J&J Stenger).

Lark sparrow: Three records from **Cincinnati**: one 6 Apr at **MWW** (D. Sibley *vide* D. Russell), one 3 May **Spring Grove Cem** (J&J Stenger), one 14 May in **Hamilton** (J. Lippert). The reliable colony at the **Oak Openings** was singing by 20 Apr (E. Tramer).

Lark bunting: A female was briefly observed 20 May at CPNWR. Details are with the OBRC.

Savannah sparrow: Not well reported, with the earliest two 14 Mar in **Hamilton** (B. Hull).

Grasshopper sparrow: Arrivals on 15 Apr included two in **Coshocton** (L.E. Yoder) and one in **Prairie Oaks** MP near **Columbus** (R. Schieltz). R. Royse counted 47 at **Crown City WA** 6 May.

Henslow's sparrow: Did well in appropriate habitat statewide. Early appearances included two in **Adams** 9 Apr (D. Helm), **The Wilds** on 11 Apr (J. Larson), and various **Hocking** spots 15 Apr (J. Fry).

Le Conte's sparrow: Always elusive, still more so in spring, one was found at **Dike 14** in **Cleveland** 20 May (S. Cagan et al. *vide* L. Rosche).

Nelson's sharp-tailed sparrow: Both of its appearances came on 25 May, one in **Tuscarawas** (E. Schlabach) for a first local spring record, and the other at **Conneaut**, with 2-3 in the marsh there (S. Wagner).

Fox sparrow: An early migrant was at the CVNP 13 Mar (T&M Romito). Migration peaked in late Mar statewide. E. Schlabach had eight in **Tuscarawas** 8 Apr.



Connie Wolcott snapped this portrait of a swamp sparrow in not uncharacteristic habitat 1 May.

Lincoln's sparrow: Timely arrivals came in **Clermont** 27 Apr (B. Foppe) and in **Hancock** 30 Apr (B. Sams *vide* B. Hardesty). N. Anderson had seven in **Cuyahoga** 2 May. P. Rodewald banded 59 during the month of May at CPNWR.

Swamp sparrow: Appeared at SVWA 5 Mar (J. Lehman). R&S Harlan counted 15 at **Magee** 8 May.

White-throated sparrow: The ONWRC tallied 32 on 6 May. Reported on 24 May as far south as **Butler** (D. Russell) and as late as 25 May by banders at **Navarre** (BSBO).

White-crowned sparrow: N. Anderson found 45 in **Cuyahoga** 2 May. R&S had 25 at **Magee** 17 May. Last reported at **Conneaut** 25 May (C. Holt).

Harris's sparrow: Several observers found and photographed one at MBSP 20 May. Details are with the OBRC. Any self-respecting Harris's would be 1500 miles north at this date.

Dark-eyed junco: S. Zadar reported 400+ at **Dike 14** in **Cleveland** 12 Apr. The last report from **Hocking** came 15 Apr (J. Fry), but one was way down in **Brown** 6 May (J&J Stenger). Nests were in **Orange, Cuyahoga** 24 May (R&S Harlan), with three singing males in **S. Chagrin** 31 May (R. Rickard); S. Young saw one as late as 30 May in **Sandusky**.

Lapland longspur: Not widely reported. M. Gordon had 20-30 near ONWR 30 Apr, but reports emanated most regularly from the **Hardin** grasslands via R. Counts: 200+ on 13 Mar, 180 on 9 Apr, 120+ on 14 Apr, 200+ on 16 Apr, ~20 on 21 Apr, 70+ on 29 Apr, and still five on 6 May.

Snow bunting: Milder temperatures perhaps induced them to stay to the north, as the most momentous spring report was of one at ONWR on 11 Mar (J. Pogacnik).

Rose-breasted grosbeak: Arrived in Ohio 20 Apr in **Hamilton** (J. Rowe). Apparently a good year, as 80 exceeded 70 indigo buntings on the 13 May CVNP census in **Summit/Cuyahoga** (*vide* A. Chasar).

Blue grosbeak: Numerous reports from the southern tier of counties, plus three birds in **Ross** 31 May (D. Hess), and one or more returning to the **Oak Openings** in **Lucas** beginning 3 May (G. Links).

Indigo bunting: On a normal schedule, with the first report in **Cincinnati** 19 Apr (B. Foppe).

Dickcissel: Arrived latish as usual, with first reports from **Warren** (B. Hull) and **Brown** (J. Lehman) on 5 May. Much better than an average year, with numerous reports from predictable western counties, plus **Cuyahoga** and **Lorain**.

Bobolink: First noted 17 Apr early in *Logan* (T. Shively), with decent numbers across the state later in the month. Their nests suffered grievously from hasty haying as always.

Red-winged blackbird: Thousands wintered in the NW marshes as usual, with 4045 on the 5 Mar ONWRC, but by 19 Mar 20 appeared at BCSP (D. Overacker), and 1200 in *Hamilton* by 25 Mar (J&J Stenger).

Eastern meadowlark: Not well reported, but ~20 were at the VOA in *Butler* 10 Apr (F. Renfrow).

Western meadowlark: Is it retreating somewhat from Ohio along the eastern edge of its range? Reports in May came from the 17th way over in *Wayne* (B. Glick), and *Paulding* the 29th (M&D Dunakin).

Yellow-headed blackbird: The only reports emerged sporadically from, or near, the reputed breeding site of last year at ONWR.

Rusty blackbird: A fairly normal movement, with 33 on the 5 Mar ONWRC, 50-100 at *Killbuck* 12 Mar (S. Hannon), 65 at *Tinker's Creek* 5 Apr (F. Losi), and 40-50 in *Ashtabula* 16 Apr (J. Heflich).

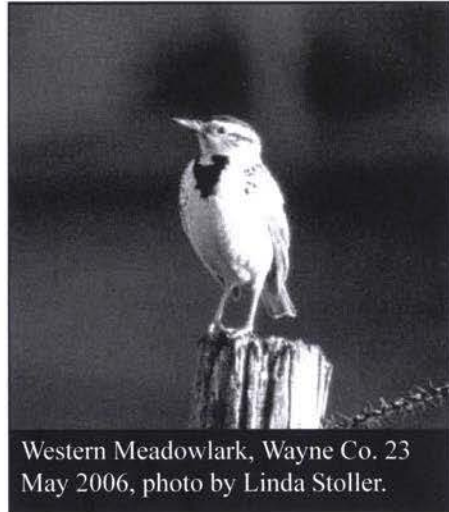
Brewer's blackbird: A single report of four, from a field in rapidly suburbanizing *Jerusalem Twp* in *Lucas*, on 11 Mar (J. Pogacnik).

Common grackle: Many wintered as usual in the southern counties, and by 5 Mar the ONWRC had 4237 in the north.

Orchard oriole: First sighted 15 Apr at EFSP (L. Romine). The 6 May ONWRC had six.

Baltimore oriole: First reported 15 Apr at *Caesar Ck Sp* (J. Lehman). The 6 May ONWRC had 33.

Purple finch: Moved north in Apr. Eleven were in *Butler* 21 Mar (B. Schlake), six in *Zaleski SF* 15 Apr (R. Royse), 10 in *Tuscarawas* 20 Apr (E. Schlabach), then one singing in *Mohican* 1 Apr (B. Glick) and six on 20 May (S. Snyder). Favored feeders in *Coshocton* had one-six daily from 1 Mar through 18 Apr (L. Deininger) and two to 31 daily from 14-24 Apr in *Hocking* (J. Fry).



Western Meadowlark, Wayne Co. 23 May 2006, photo by Linda Stoller.

Pine siskin: A few, some of which had wintered, lingered at feeders in the south as late as 22 Apr (J. Fry, *Hocking*). Last reported 21 May at HBSP (R&S Harlan), but two singing at *Mohican* 1 Apr (B. Glick) bear watching.

American goldfinch: J. Pogacnik noted 500+ heading east along the shoreline at LSR 7 May.

Evening grosbeak: D. Plant had a female at a feeder in *Ashland* 25 Mar. L. Rosche reported one at HBSP 23 Apr.

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This young golden eagle was found in the flats west of the old white barn at BIWA 18 Mar, Photo by Ron Sempier

Further Afield

Robert Harlan

3361 Columbia Woods Dr. Apt. F, Norton, Ohio 44203

kiskadee96@hotmail.com

I don't know how they manage it. Some people seem so confident, so authoritative—it's as if they speak in proclamations, and walk through life with some sort of Enlightened Vision Statement plastered on their foreheads. I am not one of these people. My vision statements usually refer to some branch that's blocking my view—and these statements tend not to be very enlightening.

By nature, I like to contemplate, to assess, to question. But society often pressures us to act quickly. I, on the other hand, like to do things at my own pace, and have the satisfaction of a job well done. Society often compels us to be "on the cutting edge;" this works well for some, but not for those of us who sometimes feel armed with only a butter knife. Society compels us to "think outside the box;" this is fine advice for some, but maybe not for those of us who find that we really kind of like it in there.

Occasionally, I too have been known to place needless pressure on myself. This spring, for instance, I voluntarily hoisted on the yoke in search of what has become known as The 38th Warbler. Although this may sound vaguely like a so-so Antonio Banderas movie, it actually pertains to the unusual opportunity to see 38 warbler species in Ohio in the same spring season. We have 36 warbler species that occur regularly in Ohio, and it's actually a fairly challenging task to record each of these in any given spring. As a late May migrant, the rare and demure Connecticut warbler is typically the last to be located.

For reasons unknown to mortal man, this spring both Kirtland's and Swainson's warblers were discovered in Ohio; more importantly, they both settled in long enough for many birders to catch up with one or the other. A few intrepid warbler-fiends even saw both, which, when coupled with finding the 36 regular warblers, would have provided these exalted seekers with the legendary 38th Warbler.

In my travels this spring, I encountered many birders embarked on this same quest. Some were to succeed splendidly; others, not so much. Count me in the "not so much" category, as the rare and despicable Connecticut warbler refused to appear when I needed it most. Although I was looking forward to holding a lifelong irrational grudge against all Connecticut warblers, this soon wore off when I discovered that as recently as Spring 2005, one could have seen 39 species of warblers in Ohio, when Kirtland's, Swainson's, and Black-throated gray warblers all were found here. So, as I cried myself to sleep on May 31, I tried to convince myself that missing The 38th Warbler wasn't so bad after all.

So I missed a Connecticut warbler. No big deal—and maybe it was even for the best. But naturally, this crushing grief forced me to look back and assess my entire birding career, and examine the state of mankind in general. I found that people change; that places change; that birds change; that goals are met or abandoned. I found that something exotic one day may become tiresomely familiar the next, and that something commonplace may soon fade away into nothingness, or into tender nostalgia. I thought far too much; it made my head hurt, so I stopped.

But at least this exercise inspired a premise for this column. I present you now with my nostalgic look back at birding the way it was, at least for me. Your memories may differ.