

Loggerhead Shrike

Numbers still down; reports of single birds from Pickaway Co. (BP), Brown Co. (BP, TB, DT), and breeding pair from Adams Co. (BP, TB, DT, JP), and Clark Co. (BP).

Kinglets and Pipit

Not reported.

Starling

Status normal, unfortunately.

White-eyed Vireo

Stable in southern and central Ohio but seems to be increasing in the north. Northern Reports: Up to 3 at Irwin Prairie and Lucas Co. up to 6 (MA, TB, VF, JF); 1 at Rest Haven (Erie Co.) (JP, AT); 7 in Seneca Co. (TB), 2 in Lorain Co. (JP, SP); 4 in Summit Co. survey (fide CT).

Bell's Vireo

Second Ohio record. A singing male was discovered in early June at Irwin Prairie. It was observed by many throughout June and July. On July 12, a nest was discovered (DJH, MA) with 4 eggs, around July 23-25 the eggs hatched, and on August 1, 3 young fledged. (TK). This is an unusually late nest date according to Bent but it is also an unusual location being out of its normal range. See the separate article in this issue for more details.

Yellow-throated Vireo

Numbers are up from last year. It is reported from Lucas, Seneca, Summit, Portage, Cuyahoga, Clark, Erie, Hocking, Vinton, Lorain, Huron and Adams Co.

Solitary Vireo

6/11 Ashland Co. (SM); 6/27 5 territorial males at Stebbins Gulch (Geauga Co.) and 1 at Little Mountain (Geauga Co.) (BP).

Red-eyed Vireo

Conflicting reports; some felt it had increased and others decreased. Keep an eye on the populations next year.

Philadelphia Vireo

Not reported.

Warbling Vireo

Several reporters indicated a decrease.

Black-and-White Warbler

7 territorial males found in Shawnee S.F. 6/7 (BP); 13 territorial males at Clearcreek 5/28-6/10 (JC); 6/8 a male at Aullwood Center (CM, NC); 7/28 female or immature, Dayton (CM, PH).

Prothonotary Warbler

At least 7 pair were located in Ottawa Co. (ME, TB, JP, JF), 1 Sheldons Marsh (AT); 2 pair at Rest Haven (JP); 2 pair in Summit Co. (EE, LR); 1 Hocking Co. (JP).

Worm-eating Warbler

Status normal.

Golden-winged Warbler

2 pair at Irwin Prairie (m. ob.); pair at Tinker's Creek (Summit Co.) (EE).

Blue-winged Warbler

Numbers appear up around the state.

"Lawrence's Warbler"

1 male at Clearcreek (JC); 1 female at Clearcreek nested with male Blue-winged Warbler (JP); female also nested with Bl.-wg. Lorain Co. (JP).

"Brewster's Warbler"

1 at Clearcreek (JC); 1 at Irwin Prairie 7/5 (TL); 1 at Oak Openings 7/13 (MA).

Tennessee Warbler

A singing male was observed on the bird trail at Crane Creek S.P. on July 6 (BP, TB, LV, et al)

Orange-crowned and Nashville Warbler

Not reported.

Northern Parula

17 pair on the Clearcreek survey (JC); 6/6-18 Oxford (JI); Also observed in Adams, Vinton, Lorain, Scioto, and Geauga Cos.

Yellow Warbler

Status normal.

Magnolia Warbler

6/11 Mohican S.F. (late migrant?) (SM).

Cape May Warbler

Not reported.

Black-throated Green Warbler

11 pair on Clearcreek survey (JC); 6/27 7+ singing males at Stebbins Gulch (Geauga Co.); 6/27 4+ males and 1 fledgling at Little Mountain (Geauga Co.) (BP); 7/13 a singing male at Oak Openings (MA); also observed in Vinton and Richland Cos. (no dates) (JP).

Yellow-rumped Warbler

Not reported.

Cerulean Warbler

Slight increase in numbers.

Blackburian Warbler

6/27 2 singing males at Little Mountain (Geauga Co.) (BP); 6/28 Clearcreek (JP); 6/28 one female banded at Seiberling Nature Center (Summit Co.) (fide WS).

Yellow-throated Warbler

Increasing in central and northern Ohio but still not as common as in the southern part of the state. Northern-most record was a pair at the Milan Wildlife Area in Huron Co.

Chestnut-sided Warbler

3 pair at Clearcreek (JC, JP); 2 pair at Rest Haven (JP); 3 pair Lorain Co. (JP); 6/14 3 singing males at Oak Openings (SB); 6/15 1 singing male at Irwin Prairie (BP); and 7/16 a male at Schwamburger Prairie (TB).

Bay-breasted and Blackpoll Warbler

Not reported.

Pine Warbler

3 pair on Clearcreek survey (JC); 6/24 Fairfield Co. (JF); 6/13 singing male at Oak Openings (TB, LV); and also observed in Vinton, Adams and Pike Cos. (JP).

Prairie Warbler

Very good year; 95+ were in Adams Co. 6/7 (BP); 9 pair on Clearcreek survey (JC); 6 on Summit Co. survey (fide CT); small colony found near Oxford (JI); 1 bird at Germantown Reserve (CM, DB); and a singing male at Oak Openings (MA); also observed in Richland, Hocking, Licking, Fairfield, Vinton, Pike, Jackson and Brown Co. (JP, JF, TB).

Palm Warbler

Not reported.

Ovenbird

Very good year; 41 pair at Clearcreek survey (JC); 7 birds on Summit County survey (fide CT); and 5 on Seneca Co. survey (TB).

Northern Waterthrush

A pair at Ridgehill Cemetery in Lorain Co. (JP).

Louisiana Waterthrush

Status stable; 7 pair on Clearcreek survey (JC); 6/27 4+ (including young) at Stebbins Gulch and 3+ (including young) at Little Mountain (BP); 6/15 pair with young in Richland Co. (JHr); 5 pair in Lorain Co. (JP); also observed in Fairfield, Hocking, Vinton and Fayette Co. (JF, JP, MI).

Kentucky Warbler

11 pair on Clearcreek survey (JC); 1 singing at Germantown Reserve 6/29 (m. ob.); present at Hueston Woods S.P. all summer (JI); 1 at Rest Haven all summer (JP); 6/19 nesting pair at Seiberling Nature Center and with one fledgling (BSz) and the 1st nesting record for Seneca Co. (also only 3rd and 4th observation record) (TB).

Connecticut and Mourning Warbler

Not reported.

Common Yellowthroat

Status normal.

Yellow-breasted Chat

Slight increase in southern and central Ohio but stable in northern Ohio.

Hooded Warbler

17 pair on Clearcreek survey (JC); 6/27 9+ at Stebbins Gulch and 10+ at Little Mountain (BP); 7 singing males at N. Chagrin (DJH); also observed in Summit, Richland, Lorain, Vinton, and Montgomery Co.

Wilson's Warbler

Not reported

Canada Warbler

4 pair on Clearcreek survey (JC); 1 pair in Vinton Co. (JP); 6/27 9+ males (and 1 fledgling) at Stebbins Gulch (BP).

American Redstart
Status normal.

House Sparrow
All too common.

Bobolink
Status stable.

Eastern Meadowlark
Status normal.

Western Meadowlark

1-2 birds singing regularly at Irwin Prairie (m. ob.); 1 Ottawa Co. (JP); 1 Adams Co. (off Rte. 41) (JP); 1st male was present and singing in Seneca Co. 7/3-9 (TB).

Redwinged Blackbird
Status normal.

Yellow-headed Blackbird
2 territorial males at Cedar Point refuge in June but no nest and territories were abandoned (BP); 6/3 Magee Marsh (MS), 6/16 Ottawa NWR (JF).

Orchard Oriole
Pair nested Ottawa NWR (m. ob.); adults with young observed at Pickerington Pond 7/10 (JC); Also nested in Clark, Seneca, and Adams Co. Numbers seemed to be increasing in the north.

Northern Oriole
Status stable.

Rusty Blackbird
Not reported.

Common Grackle
Too common

Brown-headed Cowbird
Too common.

Scarlet Tanager
Status stable.

Summer Tanager
5 pair on Clearcreek survey (JC); individuals were reported from Blackhand Gorge (RH), Columbus (JF), Scioto Co. (SB), Montgomery Co. (CM, DB), Fairfield, Adams and Vinton Cos. (HK).

Cardinal
Some areas report a decline but most feel it is stable.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Appears to be increasing in the north and expanding south. It was observed in Montgomery, Franklin, Licking, Butler and Adams Cos. in the central and southern parts of the state.

Blue Grosbeak

A pair were present in Adams Co. from late May through June (JC, BP, JF); a female with 2 young were observed in the same area 7/27 (JP).

Indigo Bunting

Status stable.

Dickcissel

Way down. 6/24 Lucas Co. (1st year male) (TB); 7/20 (2) Buck Creek S.P. (Clark Co.) (BP); 7/25 (2) Ottawa NWR (MS).

Evening Grosbeak

Not reported.

Purple Finch

3 pair raised 8 young in Lorain Co. (JP); 2 pair raised 2+ young in Richland Co. (JHr); an adult with 1 young in Aurora (Portage Co.) (EE); up to 6 on Summit survey (fide CT); an adult was observed and heard irregularly in Tiffin (Seneca Co.) (TB); 6/27 singing male in Lucas Co. (MA).

House Finch

Increasing and expanding. Up to 40 at Shaker Lakes (VF); 40 in Lorain (JP); other reports from Cleveland area, Lancaster (Fairfield Co.), Hocking Co. and Montgomery Co.

Common Redpoll

Not reported.

Pine Siskin

6/13 1 bird Oak Openings (TB).

American Goldfinch

Many reporters felt an increase.

Rufous-sided Towhee

Seemed more abundant.

Savannah Sp.

Seems to be increasing and expanding southward. Singing birds were observed in Clark, Montgomery, Butler and Adams Co.

Grasshopper Sparrow

Populations seemed to be stable but should be carefully watched in the future.

Henslow's Sparrow

This bird is either increasing or people are becoming more aware of it. It was heard or observed in Adams, Ross, Knox, Champaign, Portage, Franklin, Lake, Lorain, Butler, Licking and Hocking Cos.

Vesper Sparrow

Status stable.

Lark Sparrow

2 birds at Oak Openings 6/1 (BP) and 6/14 (SB), 7/13 (MA); 1 bird in Adams Co. 6/7 (BP, LR), 6/10 (JF), 7/9 (JP).

Dark-eyed Junco

6/27 territorial male at Stebbins Gulch and an adult with a fledgling at Little Mountain (BP); 6/1-16 an adult in Hocking Co. (late migrant or injured?) (JP).

Tree Sparrow: not reported; Chipping and Field Sparrow: status normal; White-throated, White-crowned, Fox and Lincoln Sparrow: not reported; Swamp Sparrow: slight increase at several inland areas; Song Sparrow: status normal.

Bird Report Contributors

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Shane Blodgett	(SB)	Bruce Peterjohn	(BP)
Jerry Cairo	(JC)	Cheryl and Ed Pierce	(CEP)
Nancy Cherry	(NC)	John Pogacnik	(JP)
Elinor Elder	(EE)	Larry Rosche	(LR)
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Notes

The last issue (spring migration, 1980) of The Cardinal was not indexed by volume and number. Please note on that issue that it was Volume 3, No. 1.

The Cardinal would like to thank the Licking County, Audubon Society for its \$75.00 contribution in 1979. This donation, made at the request of its former president, James E. Fry, was a great help in offsetting expenses many of which were personally paid by John Herman. He joins us in our belated thanks for this gift.

Corrections for last issue (Vol. 3, No. 1): Page 18: the margled godwit reported at both Pickerington Pond and Wright Road Pond is the same bird and should be counted as only one bird. This is the same location known to the contributors by different names. Its correct designation is Pickerington Ponds. Page 30: delete King Rail, it was not seen; Page 30: Irwin Prairie is a State Nature Preserve administered by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Natural Areas and Preserves. It is no longer owned by the Nature Conservancy as reported. Page 31: the Ruffed Grouse should be deleted as it was not verified.

Louis W. Campbell writes:

". . . the unusual bird finds in Irwin shouldn't make birders too optimistic, the prairie varies greatly from year to year depending on the amount of rainfall. In some years the pond in the middle is completely dry. That's why our bird reports for the area vary so greatly."

THE BIG DAY
1980

Picture yourself at Irwin Prairie (Lucas County) at 4:30 A.M. or perhaps at a woodlot northeast of Lancaster (Fairfield County) at 4:40 A.M. or at Denney's restaurant in Westerville (Franklin County) at 4:00 A.M. looking and feeling out of place among the nite people going home, on your way to Tar Hollow State Park (Ross County). You are going to spend the next 12 to 14 hours with your companions trying to see as many species of birds in one day as possible. You'll all be crammed into one car with your equipment and bag lunch. In some cases, you'll be wet, you'll drive close to 400 miles, and be dog tired at the end. But its contagious. Each group participating this year said they'll try again next year professing anticipation and optimism in increasing their total count.

In 1971 the American Birding Association reported the results of the first "officially" held Big Days in nine states. Official because the ABA published for the first time, rules to standardize this event over the United States. The object is for a team of observers to see as many species in one day as possible. Not too scientific perhaps but challenging and lots of fun. The birds may be seen, or heard, and most, to conserve time, must be heard. The count can be held during any single 24-hour period during the year but must be on a single calendar day. In fact most Ohio counts must be timed to occur during a peak May migration day to insure a high count. The participants must remain within direct voice contact of each other during all travel and must travel in the same vehicle if motorized. This year the ABA, for the first time, required that there must be two or more participants on each count. This additional rule disqualifies retroactively, according to the ABA, the present Ohio record of 173 species set May 19, 1978 by Tom Thompson of Columbus and the previous record of 163 species seen May 21, 1974 by the same observer. Unfortunately, he was alone each time. The ABA now also requires, starting this year, that the total number of species seen must have been seen by at least 95% of the participants.

Tom Thompson is reported to have started his record run at 4:00 A.M. at Cantwell Cliffs State Park (Hocking County) and then on to Clear Lake Valley, Hocking County hills, Crane Creek State Park, Ottawa N.W.R. and ended at Little Cedar Point W.R. at 9:00 P.M. He traveled 370 miles by car and 13 on foot.

This year three counts are known which went over 150 species. Due to the new rules the "Kemp Count" will probably be the new record for Ohio.

Tom Kemp, Matt Anderson,
Eric Durvin, Pete Montion
May 12, 1980 166 Species

Our entire day was confined to Lucas and Ottawa Counties. We started at 4:00 A.M. at Oak Openings where Tom lives and drove to Irwin Prairie then Oak Openings again and then Irwin Prairie again. The remainder of the morning was spent at Secor Park. After one-half hour for lunch we went to the Bayshore Power Plant, then Ottawa N.W.R. (2:30 to 4:30) and Crane Creek State Park (4:30 to 7:45). We ended at the Anderson Farm in Maumee for the last one-half our of daylight (8:30 to 9:00). It rained intermittently until early afternoon and remained cloudy the rest of the day. Our species counted are listed below. We're looking forward to attempting to break our total of 166 next year and think it is very possible.

Jerry Cairo, Chuck Hocavar
May 16, 1980 153 Species

We met in Lancaster (Fairfield County) and started at 4:40 A.M. by trying unsuccessfully for a screech owl in a wood lot northeast of town. We then went to Clearcreek Valley. It was dawn. We got a whip-poor-will and were successful with the following species which would be hard to tally later in Northern Ohio: phoebe, acadian flycatcher, red-bellied and pileated woodpeckers. Carolina chickadee, grasshopper and Henslow's sparrows, ruffed grouse, bluebird, yellow-throated and white-eyed vireos. We also saw the following warblers: worm-eating, blue-winged, parula, cerulean, pine, prairie, chat, hooded, kentucky, yellow-throated and Louisiana waterthrush. Many of these species are essential for a 150 plus Ohio day. I had hoped for close to 70 birds by the time we left Clearcreek and we had 72.

Our next planned stop was a brief one: Pickerington Marsh. We had hoped for a few ducks but the water was abandoned. Here we did see the day's only mockingbird and willow flycatcher. We had 85 species when we headed for the Northern Ohio Counties at 11:20 in the morning.

Chuck really knows the Lake Erie Counties much better than I do so under his direction we visited Castalia Pond where we tallied ring-necked and lesser-scaup ducks. At Resthaven, we were able to flush up from a damp meadow, a woodcock. From there we went to Sandusky Bay where we found pied-billed and horned grebes and a surprise: a red-breasted merganser.

We then went to the top birding spot in Ohio: Ottawa County. Near the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Plant we added bank and cliff swallows. Then on to Metzger Marsh and Chuck spotted great-black-backed gulls and a rare species for Ohio: a snowy egret.

Then to the Crane Creek area and it was quite obvious that it was not a wave-day. With much hard work we were able to add golden-winged, orange-crowned, magnolia and other more common warbler species. Also tallied were a few hard ones such as yellow-bellied flycatcher, gray-cheeked thrush and olive-sided flycatcher. Next, a try for shorebirds at the Ottawa Wildlife Refuge. Semi-plover, black-bellied plover, greater and lesser yellowlegs and dunlin were found all over and an uncommon marbled godwit was seen. Also, in the same area was a bald eagle, little blue heron and a few more ducks. Back at the parking lot we added our species -- 146. We were so close to 150 we decided to try for it. Back to Metzger Marsh, where No. 147 flew over the road, a normally easy green heron. Then with much scope-scanning we found a ruddy duck, bonapart's gull and No. 150, a black-crowned night heron. We quit around 7:00 in the evening and our final count was 153. In total we tallied: 11 ducks (very important on a big day), 14 shorebirds, 6 gulls and terns, only one owl, 5 woodpeckers, 9 flycatchers, 6 swallows, only 2 gleavers, 2 wrens, 3 mimics, 6 thrushes, 4 vireos, 32 warblers, 9 blackbirds, 4 finches and 9 sparrows.

Next year Chuck and I are planning to try it a different way: start at the Oak Openings area, go to all the high spots of Ottawa County and then end at Clearcreek.

Tom Bartlett, Bruce Peterjohn,
 Don Tumblin, Ed Pierce
May 17, 1980 155 Species

After a short night on the floor of Bruce Peterjohn's apartment in Westerville (Franklin County) we joined Don Tumblin and had breakfast at Denneys about 4:00 A.M. Bruce and Don (the singles of the group) looked over some interesting "birds" among the diners. Here were people who were still finishing Friday while we were just beginning Saturday. We drove in the dark to Tar Hollow State Park (Ross County). One unsuccessful stop on the way for rails showed us it was raining hard. Dawn began at Tar Hollow. The rain was heavy but would periodically lessen so walking was possible. At 11:00 A.M. we started back to Columbus working several areas along the route. I remember being awakened just in time to see a solitary sandpiper disappearing in the distance as the car sped onward. Some birds were pure luck. A nighthawk flew over the car and an upland sandpiper ran across the road in front of it. Allen Creek Reservoir produced our first division, three out of four heard the yellow-billed cuckoo. I was alone in the car eating my lunch. Later only Bruce would see a pectoral sandpiper otherwise we all saw or heard each bird. Seventy-five percent of the identifications at Tar Hollow were done by sound. By noon we had stopped for lunch supplies and were leaving Columbus for northern Ohio. A small pond at the Crawford and Seneca County line produced shore birds including hite-rumped and western sandpipers. Seneca County was dead as usual. The rain stopped about 10:30 A.M. but began again once we were in Ottawa County. Touissant gave us two least bitterns and a female hooded merganser. The rain and wind was terrific around the Ottawa dikes. We huddled under an old golf umbrella but didn't miss the flock of 43 red knots nor the 5 spring plumaged northern phalaropes later at Crane Creek. The day ended ignominiously with four soaked men sitting in the dark in a car waiting to hear the "sure" barred owl in Seneca County which never arrived.

<u>Species</u>	<u>Kemp et al</u>	<u>Bartlett et al</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Kemp et al</u>	<u>Bartlett et al</u>
Pied-b. Grebe	X	X	Red-tld. Hawk	X	
Gr. Bl. Heron	X	X	Broad-wng Hawk	X	
Green Heron	X	X	Bald Eagle	X	X
Lit. Bl. Heron	X	X	Am. Kestrel	X	X
Cattle Egret	X	X	Ruffd. Grouse		X
Great Egret	X	X	RN Pheasant	X	
Snowy Egret	X		Virginia Rail	X	
Bl.-cr. N. Heron	X	X	Sora	X	
Le. Bittern	X	X	Co. Gallinule	X	X
Canada Goose	X	X	American Coot	X	X
Mallard	X	X	Smpal. Plover	X	X
Gadwall	X	X	Killdeer	X	X
Pintail	X	X	Bl.-be. Plover	X	X
Gr. wng. Teal	X	X	Turnstone		X
Bl. wng. Teal	X	X	Am. Woodcock	X	
Am. Widgeon	X	X	Common Snipe	X	
Shoveler	X	X	Up. Sandpiper		X
Wood Duck	X	X	Sp. Sandpiper	X	X
Ring-nk. Duck		X	So. Sandpiper	X	X
Ruddy Duck	X		Willet	X	
Hd. Merganser		X	Gr. Yellowlegs	X	X
RB Merganser		X	Le. Yellowlegs	X	X
Turk Vulture	X	X	Red Knot		X

<u>Species</u>	<u>Kemp et al</u>	<u>Bartlett et al</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Kemp et al</u>	<u>Bartlett et al</u>
Pec. Sandpiper	X	X	Yell. Warbler	X	X
Wh-ru Sandpiper	X	X	Magn Warbler	X	X
Le. Sandpiper	X	X	Cp. My. Warbler	X	X
Dunlin	X	X	BTB Warbler	X	X
Sh-bi Dwtchr	X	X	Ye. R. Warbler	X	X
Smpal Sandpiper	X	X	BTG Warbler	X	X
Ws. Sandpiper		X	Ceru. Warbler	X	X
Marbd Godwit		X	Bl. bur. Warbler	X	X
Wi. Phalarope	X		Ye. tr. Warbler		X
Nor. Phalarope		X	Ch. sd. Warbler	X	X
G. bl. bc. Gull	X	X	By. br. Warbler	X	X
Herring Gull	X	X	Pine Warbler		X
Ring-bi. Gull	X	X	Prair. Warbler		X
Bonapart. Gull	X	X	Palm Warbler	X	
Common Tern	X	X	Ovenbird	X	X
Black Tern	X		No. Watrthruh	X	X
Rock Dove	X	X	La. Watrthruh		X
Mourning Dove	X	X	Kent. Warbler	X	X
Yel. bi. Cuckoo	X	X	Co. Yelothrot	X	X
Bl. bi. Cuckoo	X	X	Yell. br. Chat	X	X
Screech Owl	X		Hood Warbler	X	X
Great Horned Owl	X	X	Wils. Warbler	X	X
Barred Owl	X		Canada Warbler	X	X
Whip-por-will	X		Am. Redstart	X	X
Nighthawk	X	X	House Sparrow	X	X
Chimney Swift	X	X	Bobolink	X	X
Ru. th. Huminbd	X	X	Ea. Meadowlark	X	X
B. Kingfisher	X	X	We. Meadowlark	X	
Com. Flicker	X	X	Red-wng Blbd.	X	X
R. be. Wodpecr	X		Orch. Oriole	X	X
R. he. Wodpecr	X	X	North. Oriole	X	X
Ha. Woodpecker	X	X	Rusty Blackbd	X	
Do. Woodpecker	X	X	Comm. Grackle	X	X
Eas. Kingbird	X	X	Brn. hd. Cowbd	X	X
G. Cs. Fycatcr	X	X	Scar. Tanager	X	X
East. Phoebe	X	X	Summ. Tanager	X	X
Ac. Flycatchr	X	X	Cardinal	X	X
Wi. Flycatchr		X	Ro. br. Grosbk	X	X
Le. Flycatchr	X	X	Indi. Bunting	X	X
Eas. Wd. Pewee	X	X	Purple Finch	X	X
Horned Lark	X	X	Am. Goldfinch	X	X
Tree Swallow	X	X	Ru. sd. Towhee	X	X
Bank Swallow	X	X	Sava. Sparrow	X	X
Ro. wng. Swalo	X	X	Gras. Sparrow	X	X
Barn Swallow	X	X	Vesp. Sparrow	X	X
Cliff Swallow	X	X	Lark Sparrow	X	
Purpl Martin	X	X	Chip. Sparrow	X	X
Blue Jay	X	X	Field Sparrow	X	X
Common Crow	X	X	Wh. cr. Sparrow	X	X
B. cp. Cickadee	X		Wh. th. Sparrow	X	X
Car. Chickadee		X	Linc. Sparrow	X	
Tuf. Titmouse	X	X	Swamp Sparrow	X	X
North Parula	X	X	Song Sparrow	X	X

Fall Trip

Portage County Lake Rockwell

Here's an opportunity to see a Eurasian Widgeon. An adult male in eclipse plumage has been at Lake Rockwell since September 13, 1980. Last year an Eurasian Widgeon arrived at this spot on September 15 and remained until October 26. Each year the birds arrived on the same day of the week, Saturday. This assumes that the date of discovery is the date of arrival but that may be true since Larry Rosche, who discovered both birds, checks this area frequently.

The bird has remained on the north side of Ohio Route 14 (See diagram) in a flock of about three hundred American Widgeon. The bird's most distinguishing feature is its nearly solid dark red head. When the bird faces the viewer some gold coloring can be seen beginning to appear on the crown of the head. The bird's back and tail are gray but its sides are rusty rather than the gray depicted for the breeding plumage male.

Lake Rockwell is accessible from U.S. 77, 71 or the Ohio Turnpike. If arriving from the Turnpike take exit 13 on to Ohio Route 14. Continue on Route 14 southeast through Streetsboro, Ohio for 5 to 6 miles until you see the causeway where Route 14 crosses Lake Rockwell. Park in the parking areas immediately west of the causeway and scan the water north of Route 14 until you find the Widgeon flock. Then scan the flock until you find the dark red headed Widgeon. On a sunny day it is clearly visible.

If arriving by U.S. 77 or 71 take U.S. 76 East until it exits at Ohio Route 43. Drive north on Route 43 until it intersects with Ohio Route 14 in Streetsboro, Ohio. Turn right onto Route 14 and drive to causeway described above.

A double-crested cormorant has also been present for at least two months so don't forget to look for it also.

