

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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Subscriptions

The subscription rate for one year (four issues) is \$25 including membership in the Ohio Ornithological Society. Please send all subscription requests to:

The Ohio Cardinal
c/o Edwin C. Pierce
2338 Harrington Road
Akron, OH 44319

Because it is sent as bulk mail, subscribers should remember that the Post Office will not forward this magazine to a new address. Please notify the Publisher promptly if you move.

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ISSN 1534-1666

On the Cover: Ohio hosted one of a legion of eastward-wandering western tanagers. Jay Lehman got this photo 9 January in Grandview, Ohio.



Winter 2006-2007 Overview and Reports

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It was a bitter winter season, but a short one. December began with some characteristically low temperatures, but in its second week started giving us well above normal ones. We marveled as unusually warm weather persisted week after week, into mid-January (with more daily highs exceeding 50 degrees F. than not), at which time we finally plunged into winter, with the third-coldest February ever recorded for the United States. Nevertheless, those warm December and January days made this winter---yes, once again---overall the country's warmest on record.

This set the stage for extended stays by the hardier migrants, and we got them. Observers found notably high numbers of geese, swans, and certain duck species. Record late dates were established for Nelson's sharp-tailed sparrow, spotted sandpiper, green heron, northern parula, and black-and-white and orange-crowned warblers. To set new late records for so many species in a single season is unprecedented. But such news is the order of the day lately, and it is sad in a way to see careful accumulations of records of birds superseded, and expectations of the "normal" on which we could agree for decades so easily swept aside. At any rate, we also witnessed unusually late stays for Eurasian wigeon, red-throated and common loons, least and American bitterns, sora, American white pelican, sandhill crane, purple sandpiper, white-eyed vireo, Nashville warbler (second-latest), rose-breasted grosbeak, and Baltimore oriole. One might have expected a few swallows, or hardy shorebirds like dunlins, to overstay normal departure dates, but perhaps the colder temperatures of early December were sufficiently discouraging to these highly gregarious migrants.

Overall, there was evidence that some hardier migrants, tempted day by day by the weather to remain longer in Ohio, stayed through a mere month or so of deep cold once periods of daylight lengthened. Not all survived, but quite early displaying by woodcocks showed that many did, as did much larger than normal numbers of wintering large waterfowl. Because winter temperatures were harshest toward the end of the season, so many late stays by southbound migrants were not matched by early appearances of northbound ones. Far from it. It seems that while warming trends are having very noticeable effects on bird occurrences in Ohio in winter, at this point they are mostly affecting the timing and length of stays by southbound migrants, who seem to be hanging around longer and in larger numbers. Effects on more conservative phenomena such as spring arrivals, and especially breeding, seem likely to take longer to appear. Should Breeding Bird Atlas work show a withdrawal of northern nesters (hermit thrushes, Canada and Blackburnian warblers, alder flycatchers, juncos, etc.) from the state there may be cause for more alarm than is occasioned by incremental changes in locales and durations of wintering by migrants. Most predict Ohio will lose many more northern breeders than southern ones we might gain in exchange.

Weather may also have influenced the migratory paths followed by some species. Certainly we saw increased numbers of cackling, snow, and

Ross's geese, normally users of the Mississippi flyway farther west, and our list of rarities was dominated by species more common in the west. Rarities (that is, OBRC review species) reported included many Ross's and cackling geese, as many as four king eiders, California gull, parasitic jaeger, western kingbird, western tanager, spotted towhee, and Harris's sparrow.

We present as usual a compilation of Ohio Christmas bird counts, official or at least conducted using official criteria; for this we all once again owe Ned Keller a debt of gratitude. As always they provide important regional information. Readers should bear in mind that several CBCs included in our state compilation report birds seen in other states or provinces. Accordingly, intriguing reports of a brant and two rose-breasted grosbeaks by the Lake Erie Island CBC came from Ontario's Pelee Island, and are thus not treated in the Reports.

Corrigenda: In last summer's issue Vol 29 No 4, six American bitterns were erroneously reported for Buck Creek SP on 4 Jun; please delete this from the record.

Mistakenly omitted from the fall issue was a semipalmated plover photographed by Delores Cole at Conneaut Harbor on 23 Nov 2006 for a new late Ohio record for the species.

Finally, a sentence in the second paragraph of the Dury article in the fall issue was transcribed in error. It should read as follows: "Approximately the southern two-thirds of Ohio drains into the Mississippi watershed, while the northern third drains into the Great Lakes, and thence, through Niagara and the St. Lawrence, into the Gulf of St. Lawrence."

The Reports follow the nomenclature and taxonomic order of the 7th edition of the AOU Check-list of North American Birds (1998), including the 47th Supplement (July 2006). 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. Where supplied, county names appear *italicized*. Unless numbers are specified, sightings refer to single birds. Abbreviations, conventions, locations, 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 NWR in *Lucas*; CVNP=Cuyahoga Valley Natl Pk in *Cuyahoga* and *Summit*; Dike 14=the Gordon Park impoundment in Cleveland; EFSP=East Fork SP in *Clermont*; eop=end of the period, in this case 30 Nov 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*; GLSM=Grand Lk St Marys in *Mercer/Auglaize*; HBSP=Headlands Beach SP in *Lake*; HBSNP=Headlands Beach SNP in *Lake*; HWSP=Hueston Wds SP (*Butler/Preble*); imm=immature; Killbuck=Killbuck Marsh WA in *Wayne/Holmes*; KPWA=Killdeer Plains WA in *Wyandot*; LSR=Lakeshore Reservation (MP) in *Lake*; Magee=Magee Marsh WA in *Ottawa/Lucas*; MBSP=Maumee Bay SP in *Lucas*; MCWS=Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary in *Mahoning*; MP=Metropark; m obs=many observers; MWW=Miami-Whitewater Wetlands in *Hamilton*; NWR=National Wildlife Refuge; OBBA=Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas, second edition; OBRC=Ohio Bird Records Committee; ODOW=Ohio Division of Wildlife; ONWR=Ottawa NWR in *Ottawa/Lucas*; ONWRC=monthly bird census at ONWR, reported by E. Pierce; PCWA=Pickerel Ck WA in *Sandusky*; ph=photograph, PP=power plant, Res=Reservoir; Res'n=Reservation; SCBC=Greater Akron Audubon Society Summit County Bird Count of 16-25 June; SF=State Forest; SNP=State Nature Preserve; SP=State Park; SVWA=Spring Valley WA in *Greene/Warren*; WA=Wildlife Area.

The Reports: Winter 2006-2007

Greater white-fronted goose: Eleven reports, totaling 32 birds, spanned the period, most from the western part of the state, though reports emanated from as far east as **Cleveland**, with one on the local CBC 16 Dec, and one, perhaps the same bird, at **N. Chagrin MP** the following day (K. Metcalf). Last winter's count was a record 116.

Snow goose: Up, with a total of 1092 reported on 34 occasions, nearly all from 17 counties in the western half of the state, though a couple were found as far east as **Trumbull** for the local CBC 17 Dec. Wintered as usual at **ONWR**, where the first were 50 noted 9 Dec (B. Warner), but very few others stayed put for long, with reports through the eop. The high count was ~180 (~60% white morphs) at **Caesar Ck SP** 8 Jan (B. Powell). On 16 CBCs, 147 were reported, the high 46 for **Elyria/Lorain** on 16 Dec.

Ross's goose: With a minimum of eight reported, reports eclipsed last year's record number, and emerged from **Fayette, Ross, Lucas, and Highland**. Apparently both of two apparent adults at **Deer Ck SP** 4 Dec (B. Royse) were not involved in subsequent sightings in NE **Ross** of two individuals, where a state-record six frequented a farm pond 14 (E. Reiner) through 20 Jan (D. Hess). V. Fazio reported one in **Highland** 24 Jan, and J. Pogacnik another near **CPNWR** 10 Feb. Interestingly, **West Virginia** observers reported a group of six in the eastern part of the state 13-15 Jan.

Brant: Tardy was one at **Fairport Hbr** in **Lake** 27 Dec (R. Hannikman); the one reported for the CBCs was in Canadian waters.

Cackling goose: Twenty-five reports, of 77+ birds, came to light, as with the previous three species mostly in western areas. One was reported for the **Mentor** CBC for the easternmost. High counts were ten for the **Adams** CBC 16 Dec, nine for the **Goll Wds** CBC the same day, eight in **Bowling Green** during Dec, and six in **Hamilton** 15 Jan. At least thirty-three were reported last fall, and more will come with the spring: The OBRC needs photos of all very small white-cheeked geese in case further splits are made.



This cackling goose, found 14 Jan at Englewood Reserve in Dayton, provides a good contrast with an accompanying Canada goose. Photo by Vic Fazio.

Canada goose: Often less worthy of mention at other seasons, the occurrence of as many as ~10,000 at **EFSP** on 21 Feb (D. Morse) must have represented, at least in part, wild migrant Canadas headed north. The CBCs dutifully recorded 67, 074 statewide for this fourth most numerous species.

Mute swan: This potentially harmful exotic species needs watching. Some alarming numbers emerged last fall in the NE (and 22 at **Congress Lake** in **Stark** reported by B. Morrison 30 Dec only increased them), and 19 on the **Ottawa NWR** CBC of 31 Dec was a new local high, as were four on the **Wooster** CBC of 3 Dec. The **Quail Hollow** CBC tallied 68; this year, 167 were found by CBCs overall. At **Medusa Marsh**, a count of 30 on 10 Feb (C. Caldwell) was not reassuring. In **SW Ohio**, 12+ in various locations seemed poised to reproduce.

Tundra swan: These swans continue to rewrite the record book. Reports of thousands of birds spanned the winter period, beginning with 1326 on 3 Dec for the **ONWRC**, with 1175 on the **CCE** alone 20 Dec (R. Shonkwiler). The high count was 3256 for the **ONWR** CBC on 31 Dec. In fields near **Fremont**, ~1300 were estimated 26 Jan (R. Morton, ph). Numbers away from the NW marshes were much lower, but swans apparently wintered in other areas, witness 64 at **KPWA** 3 Jan (B. Shively) where double-digit figures persisted (peaking at 90 on 2 Feb, B. Simpson) through the period, 17 at **Mosquito** 28 Jan (J. Heflich) likewise, even four in **Columbus** the following day (R. Royse). In **Portage**, 13 were found 10 Feb (G. Bennett) and 19 at **Huron** the 16th (J. Brumfield), with smaller but significant numbers at other spots through the eop. Tundra swans were far more numerous in spring than fall as late as 1981, and large fall numbers more likely in eastern than western Ohio. Since then larger migrant numbers have tended to come from fall, and in the western Lake Erie marshes, where over the last dozen years three-figure flocks have wintered at **ONWR**. This year's large numbers in the marshes were news, as were the duration of their stay there and in other areas of the state, as far east as **Trumbull**. CBC totals for earlier counts this decade were 126, 405, 52, 702, 907, and 100; this year, 3766.

Wood duck: Sighted in numbers as high as eight in Dec (**Kokosing Res** in **Knox** the 5th, B. Warner), January brought birds at **N. Chagrin MP** (F. Losi) and **Mosquito Res** (C. Holt) the 11th, **Adams** the 12th (V. Fazio), **Columbus** the 19th (G. Stauffer), two in **Madison** the 26th (D. Overacker), and in Feb two at **EFSP** the 10th (B. Stanley) and three in **Holmes** the 12th (K. Overman). The CBCs counted 54.

Gadwall: **Kelleys Isl** birds numbered 40+ the second week of Dec, 23 the 17th, 100+ the 28th, then 119 on 20 Jan (all T. Bartlett). In Jan, 25 plied **Pickerington Ponds** in **Fairfield** the 18th (G. Stauffer), and 60+ **Lk Logan** in **Hocking** the 27th (J. Fry). On 1 Feb 178 were at **Camp Dennison** (B. Foppe); **Castalia** harbored as many as 108 on 7 Feb (V. Fazio).

Eurasian wigeon: A drake spent 1-3 Feb at **Camp Dennison** in **Hamilton** (B. Foppe, m obs). No previous documented records exist of this species between early Jan and late Feb in Ohio other than in **Castalia**'s warm spring waters.

American wigeon: Persisted winter-long in small numbers statewide, led by **Castalia**'s 98 on 7 Feb (V. Fazio). Six were offshore in Lake on 23 Jan (R. Hannikman). Migrants probably swelled **Camp Dennison**'s count of 48 as early as 26 Feb (B. Foppe).

American black duck: The 3 Dec **ONWRC** found 307. The **Hardin** wetlands produced 135 on 7 Jan (R. Counts). Ice covered many favored **Sandusky Bay** and nearshore **Lake Erie** areas after mid-Jan. **Blendon Woods MP** near **Columbus**, a traditional spot with winter-long artificially open water, held 498 on 3 Feb and 807 on 12 Feb (B. Simpson). In the SW, 56 were the high count at **EFSP** 26 Feb (B. Foppe). CBCs deemed it the second-most numerous dabbler, with 2138 reported.

Mallard: At **Deer Ck SP**, ~2700 had gathered on 15 Dec (R. Royse), and ~1100 crowded the much smaller **Hardin** wetland 7 Jan (R. Counts). The CBCs tallied 28,472 statewide during the same span.

Northern shoveler: The **Cincinnati** CBC found a record 84 on 30 Dec. Fifteen in **Stark** 4 Jan were unusual (B. Morrison). This species is rare in Lake Erie in winter, so six (two drakes) in **Cleveland** on 14 Jan were remarkable (G. Leidy). At the major waterfowl refugia, **Castalia** held ~100 on 28 Jan (C. Caldwell) and 187 on 7 Feb (V. Fazio), and **Camp Dennison** 60 on the latter date (B. Foppe).

Northern pintail: Numbers were overall unremarkable, with 44 for the **Toledo** CBC 17 Dec, 22 at **The Wilds** 6 Jan (S. Snyder), 20+ at **ONWR** the following day (D. True), and 45 at the **Hardin** wetland 15 Jan (R. Counts). Sixty-two at **EFSP** hinted at spring migrant numbers by 26 Feb (B. Foppe).

Green-winged teal: Reported in single digits across the state during winter. By 22 Feb, 24 were at **SVWA** (J. Habig) and by the 28th 30 were in **Cincinnati** (B. Hull).

Canvasback: Large numbers appear along the Erie lakefront, often visible but for a short time. R. Lowry was lucky enough to encounter the high count, numbers "approaching, if not over ten thousand" off **Marblehead** on 11 Feb. Early on, J. Pogacnik counted 72 off **LSR** 2 Dec, and the high count in the southwest was 32 at **Camp Dennison** 22 Feb (B. Foppe).

Redhead: Only small numbers were reported, even on **Lake Erie** during the icy period. Inland reports were scattered; C. Holt had 27 at **Shalersville** in **Portage** 2 Feb. The seasonal high count was 115 at **Camp Dennison** in **Hamilton** on 22 Feb (B. Foppe).

Ring-necked duck: The CBCs tallied 1055, but fewer endured the winter, with six at the **Hardin** wetland 14 Jan (R. Counts), ~35 in **Columbus** 22 Jan (R. Royse), and 28 in **Portage** 2 Feb (C. Holt). At **Camp Dennison** 180 were seen 5 Feb, and by 19 Feb 1000+ were witnessed moving through **The Wilds** in **Muskingum** (G. Crippen), their numbers presumably augmented by migrants.

Greater scaup: Fewer were detected this winter than recently, especially inland. On 30 Dec eight were discovered in **Stark** (B. Morrison), and numbers only in the single digits were reported from the southwestern counties. Off **Kelleys Island**, 1603 were tallied for the local census on 23 Feb (T. Bartlett).

Lesser scaup: The **Cincinnati** CBC was happy with 25 seen 30 Dec. The **Kelleys Island** census of 23 Feb (T. Bartlett) found 1215 (along with ~1500 scaup spp).

Scaup, sp: Scaups are often indistinguishable in distant rafts offshore in Lake Erie. E. Tramer reported ~5000+ in **Maumee Bay** off the **Bayshore PP**'s warmer waters on 9 Feb.

King eider: An imm female was reported off **Mentor Lagoons** in **Lake** 2 Dec. M. obs located an imm male there 9-23 Dec. Another young male was off **Sims Park** in **Euclid** 20 Jan, with two reportedly there the following day. Documentation has been completed for at least some of these.

Harlequin duck: After three fall sightings, first noted were four at **Mentor Lagoons** in **Lake** 2 Dec (R. Hannikman *vide* J. Brumfield), then two at **Perry Pk** 7 Dec (B. Warner). A pair off **Marblehead** 16 Dec (P. Wetzel) may have been the same pairs reported from **Kelleys Isl** 20 (T. Bartlett) and 30 Jan (J. Pogacnik). One in **Lorain Harbor** 27 Jan (G. Bennett) became two there 1 Jan (C. Priebe *vide* L. Rosche).

Surf scoter: Repeatedly reported from favorable spots, with at least sixty during the period. N. Anderson's counts from **Sims Park** in **Euclid** topped out at ~30 on 20 Jan. Three flew by **LSR** 2 Dec (J. Pogacnik), and ~10 accompanied the eider at **Mentor Lagoons** 9 Dec (S. Landes). G. Bennett found a male at **Lorain** 27 Jan, and the **Ottawa** CBC tallied its first 31 Dec. Inland, four were at **Clear Fork Res** 2-27 Dec with one imm remaining as late as 15 Jan (J. Herman), R. Asamoto found one at **Hoover Res** 27 Jan, and R. Thorn another in **Alum Ck Res** 2 Feb.

White-winged scoter: R. Hannikman reported 15 at **HBSP** 2 Dec, and a remarkable 27 flew past **LSR** the same day (J. Pogacnik) with two more on 4 Feb, and ~20 were off **Mentor Lagoons** the 9th (S. Landes). N. Anderson's **Sims Park** numbers reached 12-15 on 1 Jan. R. Asamoto found one in **Greene** near **SVWA** 3 Feb, and J. Williams one at **EFSP** 25 Feb. The **Cleveland** CBC tallied 18 on 16 Dec; actually outnumbered black scoters on the CBCs, with 20 total.



John Pogacnik had camera ready when this harlequin duck scooted out from the dock at his feet in Lorain on 27 Jan. An adult male, it was pretty far along in molt to alternate plumage.

Black scoter: Pogacnik had 18 off **LSR** and Hannikman 40 at **HBSP** 2 Dec, and Landes counted ~10 at **Mentor Lagoons** on the 9th. N. Anderson reported the following at **Sims Park**: 6+ on 7 Dec, 10-12 on 13 Dec, 3-4 on 1 Jan, three on 20 Jan. P. T. Bartlett found one off **Kelleys Isl** 28 Dec. P. Lozano saw two off **Rocky River** 27 Dec, then 3-4 on 1 Jan. Feb reports included one at **Alum Ck Res** the 2nd (R. Thorn), five at **Lorain** the 4th (G. Leidy), and one off **Cleveland** the 19th (B. Royse).

Scoter species: R. Hannikman et al. (*vide* J. Brumfield) reported hundreds of scoters, with surfs in the highest numbers, followed by blacks, and smaller numbers of white-winged scoters, at **Mentor Lagoons** 2 Dec.

Long-tailed duck: J. Pogacnik noted four off **LSR** 2 Dec, when "at least 20+" were reported at **Mentor Lagoons** (R. Hannikman et al., *vide* J. Brumfield). The following day C. Babyak found one at **Mosquito Res**, and G. Emmert three in **Medina** the 19th. T. Bartlett found two off **Kelleys Isl** between 7-10 Jan, and Lee Gruber one at **Camp Dennison** 26 Jan that persisted through 3 Feb for m obs. B. Royse found a drake at **Deer Ck SP** 4 Feb, P. Chaon a female at **Avon Lk** 10 Feb, and a bird at **MBSP** was seen 5 (B. Royse) and 11 Feb (Pogacnik). The **Firelands** CBC reported three on 16 Dec.

Bufflehead: Widespread on Lake Erie, with the largest numbers as always off **Kelleys Isl**, where T. Bartlett reported 1000+ by the second week of Dec, then 1098 the 17th, and 783 on 20 Jan.

Common goldeneye: Triple-digit numbers commenced with 116 off **Sims Pk** 8 Dec (N. Anderson). Off **Kelleys Isl**, T. Bartlett reported 1348 on 17 Dec and 1350 on 19 Jan. R. Lowry estimated "several thousand" off **Marblehead** 11 Feb. Inland the largest report was of 70+ at **Lake Milton, Mahoning**, 15-20 Jan (G. Bennett).

Hooded merganser: Large numbers were customarily hard to find this winter. C. Holt found 30 at Akron's **Summit Lk** 8 Feb. The high count was 125, for the **Cincinnati** CBC 30 Dec, while 81 at **EFSP** 26 Feb (B. Foppe) probably represented returning migrants.

Common goldeneye X hooded merganser: Four drakes of this attractive hybrid were reported: one 16 Feb at **Castalia Pond** (J. Brumfield), one 11 Mar at **Medusa Marsh** (A. Sewell), one at **South Bass Isl** 15 Mar (J. McWilliams), and another 17 Mar in **Lorain** (J. Pogacnik). Observers confirmed that more than one individual was involved.

Common merganser: Large mid-winter numbers included ~1000 in **Rocky River** 2 Feb (J. Edwards), then 500+ shoulder-to-shoulder in a lead of open water in **Lorain Harbor** 4 Feb (G. Leidy); the **Fremont** CBC tallied 1715 on 17 Dec. Waters off **HBSP/Fairport Hbr** hosted ~1000 on 28 Jan and ~2000 5 Feb (R. Hannikman). Good numbers inland included ~50, mostly drakes, on the Ohio side of **Pymatuning Res** 30 Dec (M. Vass), seven on **Lk Logan** in **Hocking** 4 Jan (J. Fry), and 360+ on **Meander Res** in **Mahoning** 11 Jan (C. Babyak).

Red-breasted merganser: Numerous as always early on, e.g. with ~14,000 reported on the 16 Dec **Cleveland CBC** (and a total of 26, 718 for all the counts), but reports plummeted with frozen nearshore water. The high count for Feb was ~100 at **Eastlake PP** and 80 at **E. 72nd St.** on the 8th (C. Holt). Inland numbers were small, mostly single digits in the SW, with a high of ~50 at **Berlin Res** 4 Jan (B. Morrison).

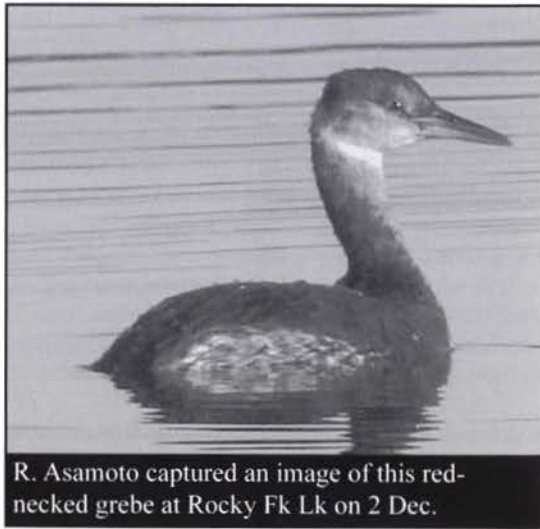
Ruddy duck: As usual, large numbers favored certain locations, such as **Wellington Res**, where 700 were found 2 Dec (K. Ostermiller), and ~1000 6 Jan (C. Caldwell). Severe cold limited their numbers later, when only 24 remained in **Summit Lk** 20 Jan (D. Vogus), and only five were off **Kelleys Isl** 21 Jan (T. Bartlett). In the south, thirty persisted at rapidly-freezing **Camp Dennison** on 5 Feb (B. Foppe).

Wild turkey: Continues to expand. The urban **Lakewood CBC** had five on 30 Dec.

Red-throated loon: Fall's good movement continued into Dec, with one at **Caesar Ck SP** the 2nd (R. Asamoto), when two were at **Mentor Lagoons** in **Lake** (R. Hannikman et al. *vide* J. Brumfield). J. Pogacnik noted three off **LSR** the following day, then one on 5 Dec. Unusual were birds found as late as 28 Dec, at **Kelleys Isl** (T. Bartlett), and an adult seen off **LSR** by Pogacnik 9 Jan; only a handful of later Ohio records exist for the winter season.

Common loon: The season's high count was 148, seen passing **LSR** 5 Dec (J. Pogacnik). Loons always grow scarce in Jan, but single birds were found at **Willard Res** in **Huron** 2 Jan (B. Phillips), at **Nimisila Res** in **Summit** 3 Jan (G. Bennett), on 20 Jan at **Sims Pk** (N. Anderson), in **Holmes** (L.E. Yoder *vide* B. Glick), and at **HBSP** (R. Hannikman) and **Rocky Fk SP** in **Highland** 24 Jan (V. Fazio). Late Jan records of uninjured loons are quite rare in Ohio.

Pied-billed grebe: Good numbers were common enough in Dec, led by 56 for the 3 Dec **ONWRC**. **Rocky Fork SP** harbored 24 on 2 Dec (R. Asamoto), and remarkably 24 remained there as late as 10 Feb (B. Stanley).



R. Asamoto captured an image of this red-necked grebe at Rocky Fk Lk on 2 Dec.

Horned grebe: Tailed off rapidly in numbers, with high counts of only five, at **Rocky Fk SP** 2 Dec and **Alum Ck Res** 6 Dec (B. Shively). Still, present in small numbers through the season, with January singletons at **Findlay Res** the 18th (B. Royse) and **Hoover Res** the 23rd (C. Bombaci), then on Feb 10 (B. Stanley) and Feb 21 (D. Morse) at **EFSP**, and on the Olentangy River in **Columbus** 28 Feb (A. Wolfe).

Red-necked grebe: All reports came from early Dec, with one at **Rocky Fork SP** the 2nd (R. Asamoto), one remaining from fall at **Clear Fork Res** 2-7 Dec (J. Herman), and another at **Caesar Ck SP** the 10th (L. Gara).

Eared grebe: One dallied as late as the first day of the period at **Camp Dennison** (K. Hutton).

American white pelican: Adding to recent winter records of this species was a bird frequenting **Deer Ck SP**, discovered 4 Dec by B. Royse and last seen 15 Jan (P. Gardner) just as the weather deteriorated.

Double-crested cormorant: A new high count for the **Toledo CBC** was 28 on 17 Dec; statewide, the CBCs found 86. Later, three were at **Clear Fork Res** 15 Jan (S. Snyder), ~two dozen at **Sandusky** 25 Jan (S. Young), and 30+ south of **Columbus** 28 Jan (J. Brown). As many as four shivered at E. 72nd St. in **Cleveland** 8 Feb (C. Holt).

American bittern: Extraordinary were four during the period well away from the NW marshes: one in **Knox** 12 Dec (*vide* J. Fry), another in **Adams** 4 Jan (accompanied by spring peepers, R. McCarty), one at **Killbuck Marsh** in **Wayne** 9-16 Jan (S. Weaver *vide* D. Kline) and another at a groundwater-fed slough in **Pickaway** 8-12 Feb (T. Bain, ph.), when it was truly frigid.

Least bittern: Also unprecedented away from the NW marshes in winter was a bird at **Winton Wds** in **Hamilton** 3 Dec (Jay Stenger, J. Bens).



This remarkable mid-winter inland American bittern was photographed in Pickaway Co 8 Feb by Tom Bain.

Great egret: Multiple records. R. Asamoto had one at **Rocky Fork SP** 2 Dec. On 3 Dec, egrets were found on the **ONWRC** and near **Wilmot** in **Stark** (P. Soehnen). Asamoto spotted another at **Caesar Ck SP** 10 Dec, V. Fazio two at **Medusa Marsh** 16 Dec, and the **Paint Ck CBC** had another on the 17th; J. Herman reported one 22-28 Dec near **Charles Mill Lake**. Still rarer Jan records came from **Bay View** 10 Jan (S. Young), **Deer Ck SP** from 7 (E. Reiner) to 12 Jan (B. Royse), and one in **Gallia** the 26th (V. Fazio), doubtless fleeing southward.

Green heron: Setting a new late record for the state, a green heron discovered at **Chilo Lock Pk** in **Clermont** 17 Dec (K. Robinson) lingered for m obs through 9 Jan (J. Lehman).

Black-crowned night-heron:

Winter roosts reported included the traditional Flats site in **Cleveland**, with as many as 110 birds on 12 Dec; it was vacated (probably due to frozen water) by 17 Feb, but the birds later returned (P. Lozano). The same thing happened with the small **Columbus** roost, which had 16 birds until 22 Feb, when none were found, but was later reoccupied. Fourteen adults and 2 imm were found at the warm-water outflow of the **Bayshore PP** in **Lucas** 17 Feb (D. Dister). No reports from Cincinnati, but **Sandusky** had as many as 28 on a partial count on 25 Jan (S. Young). Odd was one imm 21-22 Dec near downtown **Mansfield** (J. Herman). An imm at **HBSP** 3 Feb was a local record for the month (E. Bacik).



This green heron established a new late winter record date, with reports through 9 Jan. Photo taken 4 Jan, courtesy of B. Foppe.

Black vulture: Big CBC numbers included 133 for **Cincinnati** 30 Dec, and 89 for the 30 Dec **Hocking Hills** count, as well as the **Ragersville** count of 40 on 1 Jan. Traditional midwinter roosts in southern counties were reported: 21 in **Clermont** 6 Jan (K. Robinson), 43 in **Hocking** 15 Jan (P. Gardner), 26 in **Adams** 24 Jan (V. Fazio), 50+ in **Ross** 26 Jan (T. Bain), and 30 in **Preble** 23 Feb (C. Caldwell). Four at **Deer Ck SP** 4 Dec (B. Royse)-4 Feb (Bain), and three over **Hoover Res CBC** 16 Dec were of additional interest.

Turkey vulture: The high mid-winter count was 170 in **Brown** 10 Feb (B. Foppe), but TVs wintered across the state season-long. An imm, for example, was present all season as far north as **Kelleys Isl**, and several CBCs posted large numbers of vultures, such as **Cincinnati**, with 350 on 30 Dec, **Ragersville**, with 335 on 26 Dec, and **Millersbug**, with 470 on 1 Jan. The first obvious migrant group was five birds near **Chillicothe** 19 Feb (T. Bain). Reported from 25 CBCs overall.

Bald eagle: The ODOW's winter count recorded 359 adults and 121 immature birds in 53 counties; the total count of 480 fell short of last year's 554, but warm weather failed to concentrate birds. **Sandusky** had the highest numbers as usual, with 69 eagles. The CBCs found 238, with **Trumbull**, surprisingly enough, leading the way with 30.

Northern harrier: R. Counts's surveys of a **Hardin** wetland/grassland complex yielded 25 harriers on 2 Dec, 39 on 16 Dec, and 27 on 7 Jan. New Conservation Reserve Program lands in the **Pickaway Plains** area near **Charlie's Pond** yielded 12 for J. Fry on 15 Jan. The high CBC counts came from southern counties, with 23 for **Adams** 16 Dec, and 18 at **Paint Ck** 17 Dec.

Northern goshawk: One report, from J. Pogacnik, of an imm near his feeder in **Lake** 20 Jan.

Red-shouldered hawk: NW Ohio has not been a stronghold for this raptor, but the **Grand Rapids-Waterville** CBC had a record seven on 30 Dec, and an ad was seen 27 Jan and 12 Feb near **Toledo** (E. Tramer). Still doing rather well in the NE and SW.

Rough-legged hawk: Not a big year for this northern raptor, the high count was only 13 at **The Wilds** 19 Feb (G. Crippen). V. Fazio spotted two down along the **Adams/Highland** county line 24 Jan. The high count at **KPWA** was but eight, on 28 Feb (T. Shively).

Golden eagle: Reports at **The Wilds** began with one 3 Dec (G. Crippen), another 9 Dec (A. Parker), and various accounts of both an ad and an imm there throughout Feb (Parker et al.). The **Wooster** CBC got its first ever on 23 Dec. The ODOW eagle count reported three (one ad) during the season statewide. A juv was over **Deer Ck SP** 6 Dec (J. Kuenzli), one over **KPWA** 24 Dec (L. Saukko), one in **Wayne** 31 Dec (N. Saunders), and a young bird over **Kelleys Isl** 23 Feb was a local first for the season (T. Bartlett).

Merlin: Numerous reports of transients came to light, but wintering birds were the news. Extended stays at urban cemeteries with mature conifers continued in **Cleveland** (Lakeview and Calvary cemeteries), **Columbus** (with as many as three individuals at Green Lawn Cemetery), and several sites in **Cincinnati**. A bird first reported at the **Parma** CCC campus 4 Jan (P. Lozano) was, according to local observer G. Leidy, appearing for the seventh consecutive year at this location.

Peregrine falcon: Introduced birds have confused the traditional winter status of this species in Ohio. For example, observers of gulls and waterfowl at warm-water outflows at sites such as **Avon Lake** and **Eastlake** noted peregrines season-long where they would probably have been seen on only a few occasions under natural conditions not too many years ago. Diminished migratory traditions among human-fostered falcons parallel similar phenomena among introduced Canada geese and trumpeter swans.

Virginia rail: Persisted at seeps and spring-fed wetlands in several spots, with six found at **Springville Marsh** for the **Carey** CBC 1 Jan, and one found there 10 Feb (D. Dister). T&M Romito heard one at **Ira Rd** in the **CVNP** on 1 Jan as well.

Sora: **J. Pogacnik** spotted three at **Chagrin River Pk** in **Lake** 14 Dec, a very late date.

American coot: On 2 Dec, 900 paddled **Rocky Fork Lk** in **Highland** (R. Asamoto), and ~2000 **Wellington Res** in **Lorain** (K. Ostermiller). At the latter location, ~1000 remained on 6 Jan (C. Caldwell), and at the former 610 persisted through 24 Jan (V. Fazio). At **Camp Dennison**, 610 jammed a shrinking area of unfrozen water as late as 7 Feb (F. Renfrow). By 20 Feb, L. Gara found 60 alive and 31 apparently frozen to death at icebound **Caesar Ck Lk**.

Sandhill crane: Cranes' wintering areas have been shifting north with warmer winters, and with the peculiar conditions of this season broke all the rules. **Kelleys Isl** recorded its first winter record with four birds on 11 Dec (T. Bartlett). The following Jan-Feb records would have been unthinkable in the aggregate even ten years ago: on 10 Jan, 11 at **Deer Ck SP** (B. Royse); on 19 Jan, 15 in **Summit** (C. Johnson); on 22 Jan, 21 in **Cincinnati** (B. Hull); on 28 Jan, 19 in **Clermont** (C. Clingman); on 5 Feb, 7-10 in **Morrow** (T. Wheat); on 8-10 Feb, 83-112 in a field in **Fulton** (E. Tramer); 15 near **Xenia** on 10 Feb (E. Roush); 8 at **ONWR** 10 Feb (J. Pogacnik); ~60 in **Delaware** 12 Feb (M. Flynn *fide* M. Packer). Over 1400 were reported in the **Cincinnati** area, mostly in Dec. Interestingly, only one was found on the season's CBCs.

Killdeer: The CBCs reported 210 statewide. Persisted through the season at numerous locations, with a mid-winter high count of 16 in **Butler** 7 Jan (M. Busam).

Spotted sandpiper: A new late record for Ohio was established with the discovery by D. Dister of a bird on the east side of the **Great Miami River** on 31 Dec for the **Dayton** CBC.

Purple sandpiper: **Headlands Beach SP's** lighthouse breakwall was the hot spot, with three showing up 2 Dec (*fide* J. Brumfield), as many as five there 17-18 Dec (Mentor CBC, *fide* N. Barber), and sightings of single birds 4 Jan, 6 Jan, 10 Jan, and the last by R. Hannikman on 23 Jan; there are only a handful of later historical records. One on the beach at **MBSP** 3 Dec was unexpected (B. Zwiebel). **Kelleys Island** hosted one 13 Dec (L. Brohl), a record four 17 Dec, and one 30 Dec (J. Pogacnik). J. Estep spotted one at **Lorain Harbor** 9 Dec.

Dunlin: Has overwintered in the state, so having only two reports was surprising: one at **BCSP** 10 Dec (D. Overacker), and three at the **CCE** in **ONWR** 21 Dec (R. Shonkwiler).

Wilson's snipe: Found in suitable habitat throughout the season, with a high count of 19 in **Cuyahoga** 3 Dec (P. Lozano). The CBCs reported 44 statewide. The **Cincinnati** area produced 17 during the period. Mid-winter birds included one in **Erie** 7 Jan (B. Phillips), five at **Cowan Lk SP** 29 Jan (L. Gara), and one in **Pickaway** 12 Feb (T. Bain).

American woodcock: Like snipes, woodcocks were able to survive the season in fair numbers. Though CBCs reported only one, the unexpectedly mild first half of January induced many to begin displaying: reports came from **Ross** on 1 Jan (J. McCormac), **Muskingum** (B. Thompson) 6 Jan, **Adams** (two seen in display 13 Jan by R. McCarty, one 18 Jan by S. Wilson), and **Clermont** 24 Jan (B. Stanley).

Little gull: Not many this time. In **Lake** on 7 Dec, B. Warner had two at **Perry Pk** and three at the **Eastlake PP**. On 16 Feb, J. Brumfield found an adult and a first-year bird at **Avon Lk PP**.

Bonaparte's gull: Fair numbers stayed through mid-Jan, though most moved south, including 100+ at **Berlin Res** 4 Jan (B. Morrison), 25 at **Deer Ck Lk** 10 Jan (B. Royse), and 60 at **Clear Fk Res** and as many at **Pleasant Hill Res** on 13 Jan, with five at the latter spot 25 Jan (J. Herman). Last reported were four at **E 72nd St** in **Cleveland** 20 Feb (J. Brumfield).

California gull: An adult was photographed on **Kelleys Isl** 17 Dec for a third local record.

Thayer's gull: At least half a dozen individuals of several age classes were reported along the lakefront in **Cuyahoga** and **Lake** through the period. Farther west, one was at a dump in **Wood** 9 Jan (T. Kemp), and another in **Ottawa** 10 Feb (J. Pogacnik).

Iceland gull: Much as the previous species, with sightings in the west coming from **Kelleys Isl** on 17 Dec (first CBC record), and three or more at the **Wood County** dump during mid-January (T. Kemp).

Lesser black-backed gull: Widely reported along the lakefront from **Huron** east. Multiple birds haunted **E 72nd St** in **Cleveland** in early Feb, with a local high count of six the 10th (J. Brumfield). Inland records included a 3rd-winter bird 16/17/20 Dec at **Clear Fk Res**, a first for the **Mansfield** CBC (A. & L. Troyer, J. Herman) and probably the same bird there again 13 Jan, joined by two adults 20 Jan (J. Herman), one at **Charles Mill Lk** 18 Dec (G. Cowell), up to eight at the **Wood County** dump on 9 Jan (T. Kemp), one 10 Feb at the **Ottawa Co dump** (J. Pogacnik), and one along the **Maumee River** in **Lucas** 18 Feb (D. Dister).

Glaucous gull: Well-represented along the lakefront from **Huron** east through the period, with a high count of three at **E 72nd St** 18 Feb (J. Pogacnik). Two reports from inland: two adults at the **Wood Co dump** 24 Dec (T. Kemp), and one adult 31 Jan (G. Cowell)-8 Feb (m obs) at **Charles Mill Lk**, establishing first county records for both **Richland** and **Ashland**.

Great black-backed gull: Seen only in fair numbers along the lakefront, with a high count of 266 passing **LSR** on 20 Jan (J. Pogacnik). One was reported well inland at **Deer Ck SP** 4 Feb (E. Reiner)

Black-legged kittiwake: Two reports of first-year birds (perhaps a single individual) came 7 Dec, at **E 72nd St** (B. Warner) and off **Willoughby** (J. Talkington *fide* L. Rosche).

Pomarine jaeger: Flybys at **LSR** were one on 3 Dec and two on 7 Jan (J. Pogacnik).

Parasitic jaeger: One was reported from **Eastlake PP** 2 Dec, perhaps the same reported from **Mentor Lagoons** the same day (both *fide* J. Brumfield).

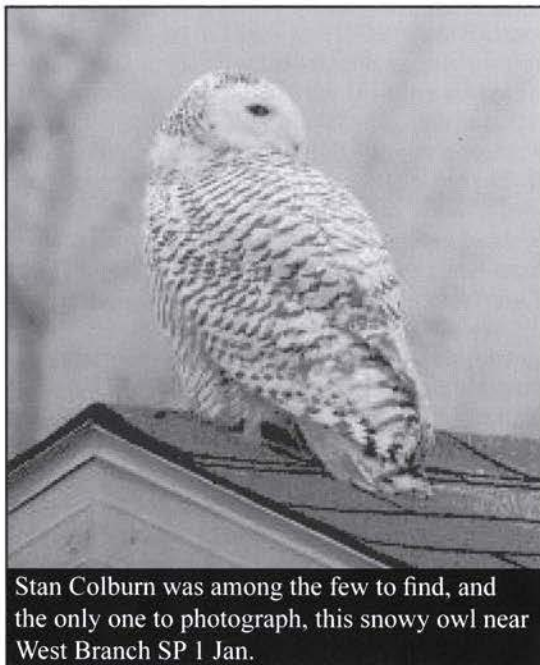
Jaeger, sp.: unidentified as to species were jaegers at **Perry Pk** 7 Dec (B. Warner) and at **Mentor Lagoons** 2 Dec (R. Hannikman *fide* J. Brumfield).

Snowy owl: Few and flighty. Three reported from **Hancock:** 5 Dec (B. Von Stein), 10 Jan (M. Richards), and 16 Jan (B. Hardesty). An owl spent 21 (S. Drew) through 26 Dec (C. Rieker) in rural **Pickaway**. Another was photographed near **W. Branch SP** 2 Jan (S. Colburn).

Long-eared owl: Found unreliably at **KPWA**, peaking at six on 11 Feb (T. Shively). Reports of others came from **Ottawa, Muskingum, Darke, Wood, Holmes, Lucas,** and **Ashland.**



Sam Walker caught a great black-backed gull and a herring gull this winter engaged in prospective hybridization.



Stan Colburn was among the few to find, and the only one to photograph, this snowy owl near West Branch SP 1 Jan.

Short-eared owl: Present in traditional areas, though perhaps in smaller numbers than recently. CBCs reported 25 statewide. At **KPWA**, 13 was the high count, on 19 Dec (J. Kuenzli), and reported numbers at the **Wilds** never reached double figures. Seven-plus were on **Kelleys Isl** in late Dec (T. Bartlett). The **Hardin** wetlands harbored as many as 12 on 14 Jan (R. Counts), but what looked like predation by great horned owls was taking its toll.

Northern saw-whet owl: Seldom detected, all reports coming from December, with CBC records on the 17th from **Kelleys Island** (with a count of seven calling 28 Dec) and three from **Toledo**, as well as a bird calling in **Youngstown** 4 Dec (C. Holt) and another at **Kelleys Isl** 11 Dec (T. Bartlett). None reported from **KPWA**.



A long-eared owl found in Holmes County on 25 Feb. Photo courtesy of Bruck Glick.

Red-headed woodpecker: A CBC count of 148 was low by recent standards, considering 42 of those came from **EFSP** alone (17 Dec). Is much to be learned from CBC totals over the preceding seven years (329, 139, 129, 293, 154, 115, 198)?

Yellow-bellied sapsucker: Reports throughout the period came from **Athens, Delaware, Trumbull, Fairfield, Franklin, Ottawa, Lake, Cuyahoga, Lucas, Warren, Montgomery, Summit, Clark, Ashland, Coshocton, Richland, Ashland, Preble, Highland, Washington, Scioto, Stark,** and **Holmes**. Eight came after the coldest weather arrived.

Eastern phoebe: Twenty-four showed up for CBCs, with a record high of nine in **Cincinnati** 30 Dec. Overall, reports came from **Hamilton, Clermont, Stark, Lucas, Warren, Hocking, Ross, Wayne, Holmes, Jackson, Scioto, Gallia, Lawrence, Licking, Delaware, Columbiana, Cuyahoga, Muskingum, Butler,** and **Coshocton**. D. Vogus reported one found dead in the snow at **ONWR** for the 4 Feb census.

Western Kingbird: Reported by two observers was one near **MBSP** 10 Dec; documentation is with the records committee.

Northern shrike: Fall shrikes from **Lucas, Lorain, Pickaway** (the southernmost), and **Trumbull** persisted. Joining them in a more or less normal showing were two birds in **Muskingum**, two in **Wyandot**, two in **Stark**, another in **Lucas**, another in **Trumbull**, and others in **Tuscarawas, Geauga, Butler, Stark, Ottawa, Cuyahoga, Lake, Portage, Wayne, Mentor,** and **Coshocton**.

White-eyed vireo: J. Yoder reported one in southern *Holmes* 3 Dec, at close range with excellent details (*fide* D. Kline). A very late record.

Blue Jay: On 17 Dec in **Rocky River**, E. Bruder witnessed "a huge flight of blue jays moving through the treetops in a direction from west to east. I stopped counting when I hit 200 jays, which took roughly 10 minutes. More jays continued to stream across for another 10-15 minutes after I stopped counting. The birds were calling as they moved." Another seasonal oddity, this unusually large movement was probably a migratory one, delayed or prolonged by mild weather.

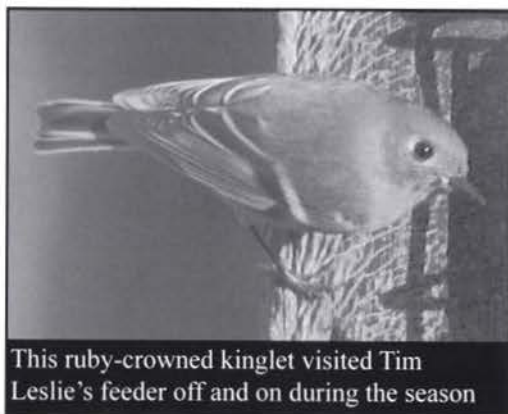
American crow: At traditional urban roosts, **Springfield** had ~20,000 on 15 Dec (D. Overacker) and **Cincinnati** ~10,000 23 Feb (F. Renfrow); the **Mansfield** roost was estimated at 15,000 on 16 Dec (CBC).

Horned lark: For the high count, B. Royse reported a vast flock of "easily two to three thousand" in **Licking** 12 Feb, just as a big snowstorm was gathering.

Red-breasted nuthatch: Reports were scanty statewide; the CBCs tallied 77, with a high count of ten for the **Cleveland** count of 16 Dec. The **Cincinnati** CBC had but one, versus a record-setting 258 white-breasted nuthatches.

Brown creeper: The Christmas counts reported 1119, with highs for **Millersburg** of 139 on 1 Jan, and for **Grand Rapids-Waterville** 100 on 30 Dec; only three counts failed to find any.

Carolina wren: CBC counts totaling 5200 seemed to bear out subjective impressions of the continuing health of this species' numbers, after a total of 3188 last year. The New Year's Day count at **Millersburg** was far and away the highest, with 678. Every Ohio CBC reported Carolina wrens.



This ruby-crowned kinglet visited Tim Leslie's feeder off and on during the season

House wren: The CBC total of six was in view of the mild weather perhaps not astonishing. An individual different from that reported for the **Millersburg** CBC on 1 Jan was carefully observed by K. Kline in n. *Holmes* the previous day, *fide* D. Kline. One responded to a tape in **Adams** 27 Dec (P. Whan).

Winter wren: The CBCs tallied 99, with 15 for **Millersburg** 1 Jan and 13 for **Toledo** 17 Dec. On **Kelleys Isl**, three were found for the 17 Dec census (T. Bartlett).

Marsh wren: Seven statewide for the CBCs was about normal, with a high of two for the **Wooster** count of 23 Dec, which were observed there as late as 31 Jan (S. Weaver *fide* D. Kline).

Golden-crowned kinglet: The CBCs tallied 3287, led by the assiduous observers of **Millersburg**, with 470 on 1 Jan. The **Wooster** CBC count of 129 was a local high. All but two counts reported some.

Ruby-crowned kinglet: Present in locally small numbers statewide. CBCs reported 45. Feb reports included birds on the 7th in **Oxford** (B. Heck) and at **Highbanks MP** in **Delaware** (K. Graham). T. Leslie had one at feeders in **Ashland** intermittently from 2 Dec through the eop



Bruce Glick got a shot of this hermit thrush near Millersburg in Holmes County this winter.

Hermit thrush: A mainstay at **Kelleys Isl**, 50+, some still singing, were there 6-12 Dec (T. Bartlett), and 107+ were recorded by the local census on the 17th. The CBCs found 208 statewide. Subsequent reports were of one-two birds, but spanned the period, and came from nine counties.

Eastern bluebird: Every CBC save one reported this species, for a total of 6122 statewide.

American robin: Many did not migrate further south this winter, lingering in large numbers into late January. Several CBCs set new records for the species. As a very cold February compelled some to move, and some to perish, places to our south experienced record influxes. A single roost in **St. Petersburg, Florida**, was estimated to contain 522,000 robins on 28 Feb (D. Margeson).

Gray catbird: Apparently did not linger with the weather in appreciable numbers, with only 12 reported on the CBCs, and only a few thereafter, the northernmost in **Stark** 30 Dec (E. Snively) and at **Woodbury WA** 10 Jan (S. Jackson).

Northern mockingbird: Several CBCs in the northern half reported record numbers, as 18 at **Grand Rapids-Waterville** 30 Dec, 13 for **Wooster** on 23 Dec, and 17 at **Mohican** 30 Dec. The CBCs totaled a healthy if unspectacular 1138.

Brown thrasher: Thrashers seemed immune to the lure of a mild winter. The CBC total was only seven, and other reports amounted to seven of single birds Jan and Feb.

European starling: See observations from **Kelleys Island** by T. Bartlett elsewhere in this issue.

American pipit: A CBC total of 314 signaled a decent showing. Later, an apparent migrant flock of 125 was in s. *Holmes* 18 Jan (N. Schlaback *vide* D. Kline), and on 24 Jan 53 were in *Hocking* (J. Watts) along with 115 in *Adams* the same day (V. Fazio). W. Hull observed 35 at *Armleder Pk* in *Cincinnati* 10 Feb.

Orange-crowned warbler: One appeared at a feeder in *Hilliard, Franklin*, on 13 Feb (N. Nye, ph), for an apparent new late record for Ohio.

Nashville warbler: L. Brumbaugh observed an individual of this species on her property in *Hamilton*, obtaining photographs, between 3 and 13 Dec. This is Ohio's second-latest record.

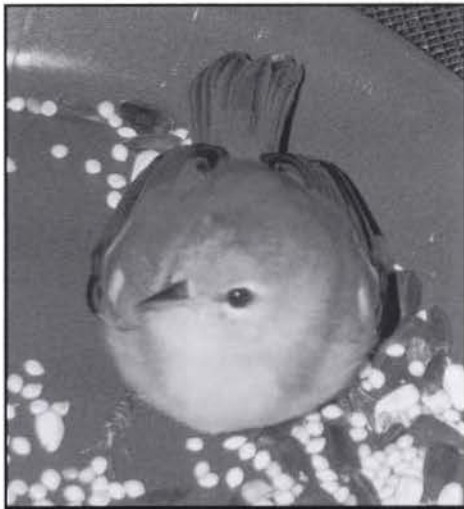
Northern parula: One was present at Wolf Ck Environmental Center in *Medina* 7-10 Dec (D. Bertsch, ph M. Ludwig), and succumbed in captivity on the latter date for a new late record for the state.

Yellow-rumped warbler: The high counts for a single observer were 56, on the *Kelleys Isl* census of 17 Dec (T. Bartlett), and on 27 Jan by V. Fazio at *Buckeye Furnace, Jackson*. Present winter-long.

Pine warbler: Birds coming to feeders included one 10 Dec in *Pickaway* (E. Reiner), one 12 Dec in *Columbus* (R. Thorn), one in *Greene* 1 Jan-12 Feb (G. Spahr, ph), one in *Hamilton* 25 Jan-eop (L. Keene, ph), and another in *Stark* 4 Feb (R. Macko). Other mid-winter observations included one at *Walborn Res* on 2 Feb (B. Morrison).

Black-and-white warbler: D. Hayhurst documented one feeding in *Clear Ck MP* in *Hocking* on 25 Feb, a new wintering record for Ohio.

Common yellowthroat: CBCs reporting this species included *ONWR, Caesar Ck., Dayton, Grand Rapids-Waterville*, three for *Toledo*, and two for *Wooster* tying a local all-time high. E. Tramer reported two at *CPNWR* on 17 Dec, and Allen Troyer one at *Killbuck Marsh* 14&16 Jan (*vide* D. Kline).



This record-late northern parula appeared at the Wolf Creek Environmental Center in *Medina*, and was photographed 7 Dec by Mark Ludwig.



Laura Keene got a lot of photos of a pine warbler that frequented her feeder in Jan and Feb.

Western tanager: R. Thorn discovered a drab-plumaged female or young male in *Grandview Hts*, a Columbus suburb, on 4 Dec. The bird called and fed on berries in urban yards through 20 Dec (D&J Hoffman). This was an unusual winter for this species in the east, with 20 others reported, in Connecticut, Maine, Georgia, Michigan, South Carolina, Nova Scotia, Pennsylvania, New York, Massachusetts (3), North Carolina (2), New Jersey (2), and Florida (5).

Spotted towhee: J. Dixon alertly noticed this western bird at her feeders in *Holland, Lucas* on 28 Feb. Ohio's fifth record remained for m. obs. well into the next period.

Eastern towhee: The CBCs had 708, led by 141 at *Cincinnati* on 30 Dec.

American tree sparrow: Seventy years ago the second-most common bird for the CBCs, this year, though reported on all counts, it ranked seventeenth, with 10,537 found.

Field sparrow: The CBCs reported 440, the bulk of them in southwestern counties and in farm country in or near *Holmes* and *Wayne*.

Vesper sparrow: Only one reported by the CBCs.

Savannah sparrow: Thirty-two reported for the CBCs, with 15 in *Cincinnati* 30 Dec. J. Yoder had good numbers winter-long in a field in s. *Holmes*, with a maximum of 14 on 11 Feb (*vide* D. Kline). Other midwinter reports included one in *Preble* 23 Jan and two in *Lawrence* 25 Jan (V. Fazio), and two in *Seneca* 11 Feb (T. Bartlett).

Nelson's sharp-tailed sparrow: Quite rare in winter, one was located in *Ross* during the *Kingston* CBC on 1 Jan (D. Linzell, m obs), apparently a record late date for Ohio.

Fox sparrow: Total for the CBCs was 62, led by ten at *Caesar Ck* 14 Dec. Birds in the colder period included five at *SVWA* 22 Jan (J. Lehman), one in *Geauga* 26 Jan (E. Kistler), and ten in *Montgomery* 10 Feb (E. Baumgardner).

Song sparrow: P. Wharton reported 200+ in *NW Hamilton* 29 Dec. The CBC count was nearly ten thousand.

Swamp sparrow: The Toledo CBC led the state with 151 on 17 Dec.

White-throated sparrow: The CBCs found an unremarkable 8640, on all but six counts.



Oft seen, but seldom so well photographed, was this Harris's sparrow in *Holmes Co* this season. Photo courtesy of Bruce Glick on 27 Jan.

Harris's sparrow: On 25 Jan, W. Miller discovered a basic-plumaged adult male with a flock of white-crowned sparrows in *Holmes*, which was fairly reliably refound through the cop.

White-crowned sparrow: The CBCs found 3542, about normal.

Lapland longspur: The CBC total was 1396, led by *Carey* with 819 on 1 Jan. Found in decent numbers rather far south, witness ~100 near *Caesar Ck SP* 18 Feb (S. Egleston).

Snow bunting: The high count came from *Lorain* on 14 Feb, with a flock of 200+ (L. Romaniuk); about a hundred were near *Caesar Ck SP* 18 Feb (S. Egleston), and smaller numbers were found in other SW counties thereafter. Without much snow to concentrate them, only 133 were reported on the CBCs, 103 of them at *ONWR*.

Rose-breasted grosbeak: A male was found at *Glen Helen Nature Ctr* in *Yellow Springs* 8 Dec (N. Boutis, ph). There are not more than a dozen other Ohio winter records for this species.

Red-winged blackbird: Large numbers wintered in the NW marshes, and numerous males arrived elsewhere in Feb: C. Holt reported that in a 22 Feb flock in *Mahoning* females and immatures already outnumbered adult males.

Eastern meadowlark: Wintering birds at the *Hardin* wetland numbered 47 on 16 Dec, and 47 on 7 Jan (R. Counts). Over half the CBC's 272 came from three locales: 16 Dec with 59 in *Adams* and 37 in *Tiffin*, and on 26 Dec 60 for *Ragersville*. Few were reported at *KPWA* this winter.

Rusty blackbird: The CBCs reported 412, with a high of 146 on the 17 Dec *Toledo* count. Later, interesting counts were 38 in *Jackson* 27 Jan (V. Fazio) and 50-75 in *Knox* 5 Feb (A. Newman). One on *Kelleys Isl* 24 Jan (T. Bartlett) was a local late record. This species seems to be in trouble, and no one is sure why.

Brewer's blackbird: Remarkably far east was one near *Walborn Res* on 15 Jan (B. Morrison). None were reported from the CBCs, and many searches by experienced birders in the usually productive fields of *Jerusalem Twp* in *Lucas* were unavailing, but then those fields have more housing all the time.

Common grackle: The CBCs reported 61,215 this year. Later accumulations amounted to ~7000 in *Wooster* 3 Jan (S. Snyder), and 5000+ further south in *Wayne* 15 Jan (L. Deininger).

Brown-headed cowbird: The season's CBCs reported 4821 this time.

Baltimore oriole: A first-fall male came to a feeder near *Woodsfield* in *Monroe* mid-Dec, and was seen regularly through mid-Feb (H. Freeman, B. Heins, ph), for a rare mid-winter record, and a likely first for the county. The *Cuyahoga Falls* CBC of 17 Dec reported one.

Purple finch: Few reports, mostly from the southern counties. B. Morrison had one in *Noble* 18 Jan for the northernmost. The CBCs reported 43, with a high count of ten in *Cleveland* 12/16.

Common redpoll: A poor year for this species in Ohio. The only winter report came from well south, in *Preble*, where C. Mathena and S. Tackett found one with Lapland longspurs in a field on 18 Jan.

Pine siskin: Quite scantily reported, with most of its few reports emerging from the southwestern counties. Only 33 recorded for CBCs.

Evening grosbeak: During the CBCs, three were announced from *Preble* 15 Dec. and one from *Columbus* 17 Dec. No other reports were received.

Contributors: We are indebted to the following 250+ individuals and organizations who contributed sightings data to the Reports: Scott Albaugh, Matt Anderson, Nancy Anderson, Rick Asamoto, Carole Babyak, Emil Bacik, Nick Barber, Tom Bartlett, Erich Baumgardner, Jon Benedetti, Greg Bennett, Joe Bens, Dan Bertsch, Andy Bess, Charlie Bombaci, Aaron Boone, Steve Borgis, Nick Boutis, Jill Bowers, Jenny Bowman, David Brinkman, Lisa Brohl, Jeff Brown, Willis Brubaker, Erik Bruder, Lori Brumbaugh, Jen Brumfield, Eric Burkholder, Mike Busam, Neill Cade, Steve Cagan, Craig Caldwell, Paul Chad, Phil Chaon, Allen Chartier, Ann Chasar, Dwight Chasar, Hans Clebsch, Chris Clingman, Stan Colburn, Delores Cole, Ernie Cornelius, Karla Corzett, Ben Coulter, Rick Counts, Gary Cowell, Bill Creasey, Glen Crippen, Greg Cudworth, Becky Cullen, Jeff Cullen, Donna Daniel, Leo Deininger, Dave Dister, Jan Dixon, Steve Drew, Doug Dunakin, Micki Dunakin, Elinor Elder, Dave English, Jason Estep, Bob Evans, Tim Fairweather, Ginny Fantetti, Joe Faulkner, Vic Fazio, Scott Felker, Mike Fialkovich, Bob Finkelstein, Bonnie Fish, Haley Fitzpatrick, Doug Fisher, Mike Flynn, Andy Fondrk, Bob Foppe, Joan Frederick, Hazel Freeman, Frank Frick, Darlene Friedman, Jim Fry, Ross Gallardy, Brian Gara, Larry Gara, Paul Gardner, Karen Gerker, Jeff Grabmeier, Darlene Graham, Lee Gruber, Gary Haase, John Habig, Scott Hannan, Ray Hannikman, Betty Hardesty, Rob Harlan, Sandy Harlan, Lana Hays, Bill Heck, Jim Heflich, Bob Heins, Michele Hendrick, John Herman, Dave Hess, Rebecca Hinkle, Dick Hoffman, Jean Hoffman, Craig Holt, Dave Horn, Nancy Howell, Joe Hudick, William Hull, Kathi Hutton, Sally Isacco, Kenn Kaufman, Matt Kemp, Tom Kemp, Laura Keene, Ned Keller, Ethan Kistler, Dennis Kline, Judy Kolo-Rose, Marian Kraus, Mike Kravitz, John Kuenzli, Carl Johnson, Steve Landes, Jay Lehman, Gabe Leidy, Greg Links, Fred Losi, Rob Lowry, Paula Lozano, Mark Ludwig, Pat McCarthy, Jim McCormac, Joe McMahan, Jerry McWilliams, Charlotte Mathena, Cheri Medlin, Kevin Metcalf, Gary Meszaros, Wayne Miller, Kathy Mock, Andrew Morrison, Ben Morrison, Donald Morse, Rick Nirschl, Nat Nye, Ann Oliver, Helen Ostermiller, Ken Ostermiller, Doug Overacker, Michael Packer, Al Parker, David Patick, Steve Pelikan, John Petrucci, Lester Peyton, Brad Phillips, Ed Pierce, Deb Plotts, John Pogacnik, Bob Powell, Frank Renfrow, Jim Reyda, Richard Rickard, Craig Rieker, Keith Robinson, Paul Rodewald, Randel Rogers, Linda Romine, Lisa Romaniuk, Mary Anne Romito, Tom Romito, Larry Rosche, Hugh Rose, Ed Roush, Jeff Rowe, Bob Roysse, Dave Russell, Bob Sams, Dan Sanders, Winnie Sarno, John Sawvel, Regina Schieltz, Norman Schlaback, John Schoenlein, Carlton Schooley, Ryan Schroeder, Joe Sedransk, Ron Sempier, Andy Sewell, Paul Sherwood, Julie Shieldcastle, Bill Shively, Troy Shively, Randy Shonkwiler, Darlene Sillick, Bruce Simpson, Dennis Smoyer, Su Snyder, Greg & Tim Spahr, Chris Spagnoli, Brad Sparks, Bill Stanley, Gene Stauffer, Jack Stenger, Jay Stenger, Laura Stiefel, Steve Stockford, Jake Straub, Jerry Talkington, Karin Tanquist, Keith Tarvin, Rob Thorn, Elliot Tramer, Roger Troutman, Albert Troyer, Allen Troyer, David True, Tom Uhlman, Manon Van Schoyk, Mark Vass, Doug Vogus, Suzanne Wagner, Sam Walker, Ben Warner, John Watts, Samuel Weaver, Kirk Westendorf, Geoff Westerfield, Bill Whan, Pete Whan, Paul Wharton, Tammie Wheat, John Williams, Steve Wilson, Ben Winger, Scott Wright, James Yoder, Leroy Yoder, Norman Yoder, Sheryl Young, Teresa Yowler, Sean Zadar, Bill Zimmerman, and Brian Zwiebel. We also gratefully acknowledge information received from the editors of the *Bobolink*, the *Cleveland Bird Calendar*, the Ohio Division of Wildlife, the Black Swamp Bird Observatory, and internet resources managed by Chuck Anderson, the Ohio Ornithological Society, and Ned Keller.