

Spring 2008 Season Report

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The following conventions are used throughout all seasonal reports. Common names that have been underlined are on the Ohio Bird Records Committee (OBRC) Review List, meaning that observers should send supplemental documentation of these species to the OBRC for consideration. **County names** are in bold and italicized. Taxonomic order and nomenclature follow published guidelines from the North American Check-list Committee of the American Ornithologists' Union (1998: 7th edition), including published supplements complete through the 48th Supplement. The following abbreviations are used in these accounts:

Bobolink area = an area encompassed by 12 counties: Ashland, Carroll, Coshocton, Guernsey, Harrison, Holmes, Knox, Muskingum, Richland, Stark, Tuscarawas, and Wayne. This area is named for the quarterly ornithological journal

of the same name that serves this area.

Conneaut = Conneaut Harbor,
Ashtabula

CVNP = Cuyahoga Valley National Park, **Cuyahoga/Summit**
fide = "on the authority of"; typically a record submitted by a third party

Funk Bottoms WA = Funk Bottoms Wildlife Area **Ashland/Wayne**

Headlands = Headlands Beach State Park and Headland Dunes State Nature Preserve, **Lake**

Hoover = Hoover Reservoir and Hoover Nature Preserve
Delaware/Franklin

Killbuck = Killbuck Marsh Wildlife Area, **Holmes/Wayne**

Killdeer Plains = Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area, **Wyandot**

m. obs. = multiple observers

Magee = Magee Marsh Wildlife Area, **Lucas/Ottawa**

MP = Metropark

Navarre Marsh = a portion of the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, **Lucas**

Oak Openings = a region composed of multiple parks, including Oak Openings WA, spanning **Lucas, Henry, and Fulton**

ONWR = Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, **Lucas/Ottawa**

Shawnee SF = Shawnee State Forest, **Scioto**

Shawnee Lookout = Shawnee Lookout County Park, **Hamilton**

SP = State Park

WA = Wildlife Area

Zaleski = Zaleski State Forest, primarily **Vinton** and partly in **Athens**

Ruffed Grouse: Reported at Shawnee SF 25 Mar to 27 Apr, with some individuals drumming (Jay Lehman, Robert Royse, Brad Sparks). The only other one reported was flushed by Tracy Morman's dog in **Meigs** 09 Mar. Are birders overlooking this bird, or has it truly disappeared from much of its former range?

Wild Turkey: A bit of country birding turned up 46 in **Mahoning** 09 Mar for Craig Holt. Not-so-country was a single bird at Lower Shaker Lake, **Cuyahoga**, 14 Apr (Laura Gooch).

Northern Bobwhite: Game birds apparently have a knack for finding Tracy Morman, because two visited her **Meigs** property 28 Mar. Two other reports were submitted: one was heard at Pickerel Creek WA, **Sandusky**, 05 Apr (*fide* Paul Gardner) and another at Caesar Creek SP, **Warren**, 27 Apr (Phillip Ware).

Greater White-fronted Goose: About 60 reported, all in March. High counts of 12 at Funk Bottoms WA (15 to 16 Mar, Kevin Kline) and ten at Buck Creek SP, **Clark**, (02 Mar, Doug Overacker). The latest report came from Grand Lake St. Mary's, **Auglaize/Mercer**, with three on 31 Mar (Jill Bowers).

Snow Goose: About 50 reported in the state with single-digit reports from **Ashtabula, Clark, Erie, Hamilton, Paulding, Stark, Summit**, and **Wayne**, with a high count of 24 at ONWR during their monthly census on 02 Mar. A blue morph remained in **Summit** as late as 08 May (Gregory Bennett).

Ross's Goose: Two were in **Paulding** on 16 Mar (Doug and Micki Dunakin) and Gregory Bennett had a very late bird at Summit Lake on 24 May.

Cackling Goose: This spring brought an increase in records, all in March. The Clear Fork bird remained from winter to 09 Mar (John Herman). Rick Asamoto had six on 01 March at Cowan Lake, seven were at Pine Lake on 05 Mar (Craig Holt), and Robert Foppe had one at Indian Lake on 12 Mar.

Mute Swan: This species continues to increase, most notably in the northern counties, but it is being reported less frequently due to its regularity. Craig Holt had 14 in **Erie** on 27 May as the (not-so-high) high count.

Tundra Swan: All reports came from March, with the latest report of at least 90 at Killdeer Plains on 29 Mar (Bill Shively). The ONWR monthly census found 899 on 02 Mar, Jim Lucas had at least 600 at Mosquito Lake on 16 Mar, and Gary Meszaros had 600 at Pickerel Creek and 400 at ONWR on 17 Mar.

Wood Duck: First reported in **Mahoning** 05 Mar (Craig Holt), with high counts of 57 at Sandy

Ridge Reservation, **Lorain**, 22 Mar (Tim Colborn) and 79 at the same location the following day (Gabe Leidy).

Gadwall: The ONWR monthly census recorded 162 on 02 Mar. Kenn Kaufman had a high count of about 500 at Metzger on 13 Mar, and 20 remained between Maumee Bay State Park, **Lucas**, and Magee on 11 May (Doug Overacker).

Eurasian Wigeon: A single male was at Pine Lake, **Mahoning**, 12 Mar (Robert Lane). John Pogacnik had one on Stange Rd, ONWR 16 Mar. On 24 Mar, Ben Warner and Dan Sanders had one at Pleasant Hill Lake, and Kevin Kline had one at Funk Bottoms WA on 05 Apr.

American Wigeon: The high count of about 1,000 came from Pickerel Creek on 17 Mar (Gary Meszaros) and Kevin Kline had at least 250 at Funk Bottoms WA the day before. Two lingered between Maumee Bay State Park, **Lucas**, and Magee on 11 May (Doug Overacker).

American Black Duck: Robert Foppe had 65 at East Fork State Park on 03 Mar and an early high count of 150 came from Delaware WA on 06 Mar (Sean Williams). A single bird remained at CVNP 09 May (Dwight and Ann Chasar).

Mallard: The ONWR monthly census counted 253 on 02 Mar and Sean Williams had about 800 at Delaware WA on 06 Mar.

[Mallard x American Black Duck]: A male paired with a Mallard was at Orwell Marsh,

Mahoning, on 23 Apr (Craig Holt).

Blue-winged Teal: The first notable count came from Mosquito Lake, with 38 on 16 Mar (Carole Babyak). On 13 Apr, Mike Busam had 150 at Gilmore Ponds, **Butler**, and Rick Counts counted 112 at Hardin County Wetlands on 16 Apr. The high count of the season came from Big Island WA, **Marion**, with about 300 on 24 Apr (Jack Stenger).

Northern Shoveler: Reported in modest numbers except for 127 at Big Island WA, **Marion**, and 108 at Killdeer Plains on 29 Mar (Charles Bombaci). A single male lingered in **Richland** 25 May (John Herman).

Northern Pintail: Funk Bottoms WA was home to impressive high counts of at least 1,000 on 15 Mar and 1,138 the following day. One very late bird lingered at the same location until 31 May (Kevin Kline). Other high totals include 300 to 400 at Pickerel Creek on 17 Mar (Gary Meszaros), 800 at Big Island WA, **Marion**, and 400 at Killdeer Plains on 29 Mar (Charles Bombaci).

Green-winged Teal: Arrived on 02 Mar, with 20 to 25 at Deer Creek (Eric Reiner) and six at Englewood Metropark (Ed and Bev Neubauer). Killbuck had 72 on 05 Mar and Hardin County Wetlands had the high count of 214 on 16 Apr (Rick Counts). A highly noteworthy record of a 'Common Teal' came from near Station Road, CVNP, **Cuyahoga**, on 13 Apr (Joe Woznarowski *vide* Ben Winger) and remained until 20 Apr (Ethan Kistler); there was no sign of it on 22 Apr (Mike Sandy). 'Common Teal' (*Anas crecca*



An individual of the Eurasian subspecies of Green-winged Teal (known as 'Common Teal' throughout much of the world) was found consorting with typical American birds at Station Road in Cuyahoga Valley National Park (Cuyahoga County). Photograph by Andy Jones on 20 April 2008.

crecca) is the Old World subspecies of Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca carolinensis*), and they differ in several plumage features. Most of the world's ornithological organizations recognize it as a different species, called either 'Common Teal' or 'Eurasian Green-winged Teal.' If the American Ornithologists' Union Check-List Committee changes to conform with common global usage, this will become one of the few 'Common Teal' records for Ohio.

Canvasback: Around 200 were at Metzger on 12 Mar (Karl Overman). Robert Lane observed 450 at Berlin Reservoir on 17 Mar and 200 on 20 Mar. A straggler was at Spring Valley WA, **Greene/Warren** on 06 Apr (Doug Overacker).

Redhead: Unparalleled numbers

were reported this spring. Metzger had 2,000 on 12 Mar (Karl Overman), 2,800 on 13 Mar (Kenn Kaufman), and a whopping 5,100 on 16 Mar (Eric Tramer). D. Overacker had one lingering between Maumee Bay State Park, Lucas, and Magee on 09 May.

Ring-necked Duck: Diving ducks were represented in large numbers this spring, with large totals observed of Ring-necked Duck. Funk Bottoms WA had 1,500 on 13 Mar (Kevin Kline), Metzger had 1,750 on 16 Mar, Jack Stenger estimated 1,350 at Delaware WA on 17 Mar, and Su Snyder observed 1,100 at Funk Bottoms WA on the same day. Lake Milton had 1,500 on 22 Mar and Kevin Kline had a lingering female on 31 May at Killbuck.



No major storms preceded the arrival of this Brown Pelican at Buck Creek State Park in Clark County; this individual apparently appeared under its own terms and departed in the same fashion on 09 May 2008 (photographed by Larry Jeanblanc). Only a handful of records exist for the Buckeye State.

May (Doug and Micki Dunakin).

Pied-billed Grebe: Craig Holt observed 10 in **Mahoning** on 03 Apr. Buck Creek SP, Clark, hosted 15 on 05 Apr (Doug Overacker). A single bird was still present at Conneaut on 08 May (Craig Holt).

Horned Grebe: High counts include the following: 52 at Pleasant Hill Lake (15 Mar, Kevin Kline and Allen Troyer), 180 at Lake Milton and 130 at Hamilton Lake (22 Mar, Craig Holt). One was still present at Conneaut on 23 Apr (Craig Holt).

Red-necked Grebe: Five reported: 20 Mar at Hoover (Sean Williams and Jack Stenger), two at Pleasant Hill Lake on 24 Mar (Robert Hershberger and Levi Yoder), 05 Apr at Eastwood Lake (Greg Spahr), and 07 Apr off North Perry (John Pogacnik).

Eared Grebe: One was at Hoover

20 Mar (Al La Sala) through 24 Mar (Dan Sanders). Other singles were seen at Pleasant Hill Lake on 24 Mar (m. obs.), Mogadore Reservoir on 02 Apr (Janet Wertz and Phyllis Devlin) and Funk Bottoms WA on 12 Apr (Kevin Kline). Two were at the latter location on 15 Apr (Allen Troyer) with one remaining as late as 19 May (Su Snyder). Only one other May report came on 01 May at Magee (Mary Warren).

American White Pelican: First reported on 22 Mar at Winton Woods (Jerry Lippert) and four in Wayne (Jen Brumfield). Brian Menker observed three at Buck Creek SP, **Clark**, on 24 Mar that remained until 29 Mar (Rob Lowry and Dan Sanders). Hawk counters on the Magee observation tower recorded one on 15 Apr, five on 17 Apr, and another one on 30 Apr (Mary Warren). The three individuals Kevin Kline observed at Rocky Fork on 15 Apr were still present on 19 Apr (Ned Keller and Kathy McDonald).

Brown Pelican: A single bird appeared 09 May at Buck Creek SP, **Clark**. This is one of a handful of records for Ohio, and quite unexpected on this date since no major storms occurred before its arrival.

Double-crested Cormorant: While doing lake watches off North Perry, John Pogacnik counted 177 on 06 Apr, 234 on 12 Apr, 871 on 13 Apr, and 569 on 04 May. Other high counts include 240 at Berlin Reservoir (11 Apr, Robert Lane), 300 at Buck Creek SP, **Clark**, (12 Apr,

Doug Overacker), and 358 at Funk Bottoms WA (17 Apr, Su Snyder).

American Bittern: Reports came from nearly a dozen counties throughout the state this spring with a high count of five at ONWR on 10 May (m. obs.).

Least Bittern: First reported on 10 May at ONWR (Gabe Leidy). Two birds were seen at Spring Valley WA, **Greene/Warren**, on 13 May (L. Gruber), and all other reports were of single birds (**Butler, Hamilton, Hardin, Lorain, Richland, and Wayne**).

Great Blue Heron: The ONWR monthly census counted 20 on 02 Mar. Jill Bowers observed 100 at Mercer WA on 29 Mar and the CVNP spring census counted 171 on 10 May (Dwight and Ann Chasar).

Great Egret: Dan True reported the first of the season at Big Island WA, **Marion**, on 17 Mar. Birds reported in late May away from breeding sites included 15 at Sandy Ridge Reservation, Lorain, on 14 May (Craig Caldwell), five in **Mahoning** on 22 May (Craig Holt), and 15 at near Bellevue on 24 May (Rob and Sandy Harlan).

Snowy Egret: Only a dozen or so reported this spring. The earliest was a flyover at Magee on 26 Apr (Mary Warren). Curt Dusthimer had the high count of three at ONWR on 10 May. A single bird at Deer Creek on 31 May was noteworthy because of location and timing (Rick Asamoto).

Little Blue Heron: Four reported: 15 Apr at the Hebron Fish Hatchery (Curt Dusthimer), 02 May at Lake



This Little Blue Heron treated Toledo area birders to an extended stay 28 May through the end of the spring reporting season at the urban Detweiler Marsh. This photograph was taken 28 May by Mark and Sherry Plessner.

Logan (John Watts), a flyby off **Lake** on 04 May (John Pogacnik), and 27 to 28 May at Detwiler Park, **Lucas**.

Tricolored Heron: One was reported NW of Bellevue, **Sandusky**, on 24 May and was seen off and on into June.

Cattle Egret: Surprisingly only one was reported this spring; Caesar Creek on 30 Apr (Larry Gara).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: Rob Thorn had a high count of eight on 23 Mar in **Franklin**. Up to four were at Conneaut between 22 Apr and 08 May (Robert Lane and Craig Holt). Single reports also came

from **Clermont, Erie, Licking,** and **Lucas**.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:

First reported from Greenlawn Cemetery on 07 Apr (Richard Cressman), perhaps representing one of the individuals from the traditional breeding spot in Columbus. Three returned for the 12th consecutive spring on 08 Apr, and two more joined them a day or so later (Bill Whan).

Glossy Ibis: Henry Burton had a likely candidate at Sandy Ridge Reservation, **Lorain**, on 18 Apr. Two were along Benton-Carroll Road, **Ottawa**, on 09 May (m. obs.). Steve Landes observed one at Pipe Creek on 11 May and Gabe Leidy had two at the same location on 17 May. The last report came from Custer Road, **Wood**, on 19 May (Chuck Anderson).

White-faced Ibis: One was found in early May in ONWR. One or two were seen at the same location during the ONWR Auto Tour on 10 May (m. obs.).

Black Vulture: High counts include 23 at Lake Buckhorn, **Holmes**, (03 Mar, Bruce Glick), 25 at Hoover (12 Mar, Bill Heck), and 40 in Addyston, **Hamilton**, (30 Mar, Paul Krusling and Joe Kappa). A single bird in Geauga was north of its normal range on 17 May (Inga Schmidt).

Turkey Vulture: During hawk counts at Conneaut, Bruce Glick and others counted: 1,826 on 25 Mar; 669 on 26 Mar; 461 on 31 Mar; 1,302 on 07 Apr; 365 on 11

Apr; 120 on 21 Apr; 62 on 22 Apr; and 100 on 26 Apr. The CVNP spring census recorded 40 on 10 May (Dwight and Ann Chasar).

Osprey: The first report came on 20 Mar, with five pairs at Berlin Reservoir, Alliance, and Walborn Reservoir (Ben Morrison). Bruce Glick and others counted six on 07 Apr, 18 on 11 Apr, 12 on 21 Apr, seven on 22 Apr, and 19 on 26 Apr during their hawk counts at Conneaut.

Mississippi Kite: On 20 May, the Brass Ring Golf Course manager notified Jim McCormac that one of the kites had returned for the second year in row. A nonbreeder flew over Oak Openings on 24 May (Rick Nirschl).

Bald Eagle: Now widespread in Ohio and continuing to increase in numbers. ONWR had 12 on 15 Mar (Chris Pierce). A total of 17 were counted during hawk counts this spring at Conneaut (Bruce Glick). 2007 had a record number of nests in Ohio, totaling 164, and this number increased by 20 in 2008.

Northern Harrier: Six remained at ONWR on 02 Mar for the monthly census. Hawk counters at Conneaut counted a total of 218 migrants this spring with a high count of 75 on 11 Apr (Bruce Glick). Craig Holt observed likely nesters in **Ashtabula** on 02 May and 12 May.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: Migrants totaled 1,087 over Conneaut during hawk counts this season, with a high count of 304 on 26 Apr (Bruce Glick).

Cooper's Hawk: Migrants totaled 61 over Conneaut during hawk counts this spring, with a high count of 13 on 11 Apr (Bruce Glick).

Northern Goshawk: An immature continued in an Englewood backyard on 02 Mar (Ed and Bev Neubauer). Singles were observed in **Franklin** (08 Mar, Jessica Lowery) and Lake (24 Mar, Suzanne Wagner). The hawk counters at Conneaut observed singles on 25 Mar, 31 Mar, 11 Apr and 22 Apr (Bruce Glick).

Red-shouldered Hawk: Hawk counters at Conneaut counted 356 this spring, with a high count of 112 on 26 Mar (Bruce Glick). Carole Babyak observed nesting as early as 27 Mar in **Trumbull**.

Broad-winged Hawk: Bruce Glick and others counted five on 11 Apr; 918 on 21 Apr, 351 on 22 Apr, 727 on 26 Apr, and Willis Brubaker had 755 on 19 Apr, all at Conneaut. By 06 May, Dwight Chasar had found four nests in Brecksville Reservation.

Red-tailed Hawk: A total of 563 were counted during hawk counts this spring at Conneaut, with a high count of 120 on 31 Mar (Bruce Glick). The CVNP spring census recorded 22 on 10 May (Dwight and Ann Chasar).

Rough-legged Hawk: Ten birds remained at Killdeer Plains on 02 Mar (Charles Bombaci). Many reports came from the Lorain County Airport, including the high count of 15 on 10 Mar (Mike Sandy). The Conneaut hawk

counters recorded 30 migrants this spring, with the last report of two on 26 Apr (Bruce Glick).

Golden Eagle: Five reports this spring: 13 Mar at Lorain County Airport (Liz McQuaid), 16 Mar at The Wilds, **Noble** (Andy Sewell), 23 Mar in **Erie** (Rita Schneider and Laura Alldridge), 19 Apr in **Ashtabula** (Larry Rosche), and 25 Apr in **Champaign** (Jackie Brown).

American Kestrel: Mike Sandy observed five at the Lorain County Airport on 10 Mar. A total of 489 migrants were counted this spring during hawk counts at Conneaut (Bruce Glick).

Merlin: Birds continued from the winter at Greenlawn Cemetery until 20 Mar and until 03 Apr at Calvary Cemetery (Lou Gardella). The hawk counters at Conneaut counted 20 migrants this spring, with a high count of eight on 26 Apr (Bruce Glick). Single reports also came from: **Erie, Hamilton, Lake, Lucas,** and **Ottawa**.

Peregrine Falcon: Karl Overman had two at Bayshore Power Plant on 12 Mar. Burke Lakefront Airport, **Cuyahoga**, hosted three on 13 Mar (Hans Clebsch). The hawk counters at Conneaut recorded eight migrants this spring, with a high count of three on 26 Apr (Bruce Glick). Other reports came from **Holmes, Lorain, Ottawa, Richland, Summit,** and **Trumbull**.

King Rail: Earliest reports came on 07 May with one near Wright Marsh (Kevin Kline) and another at Killbuck (Bobolink Rare Bird

Alert). Rob and Sandy Harlan had two at Metzger on 10 May and Sean Williams heard two calling back and forth at Big Island WA, **Marion**, on 23 May. Reports of singles also came from **Hancock** and Mallard Club Marsh, **Lucas**.

Virginia Rail: Mary Warren reported the first for the season at Magee on 16 Apr. The CVNP spring census had a high count of eight on 10 May (Dwight and Ann Chasar).

Sora: The earliest report came from Spring Valley WA, **Greene/Warren**, with two calling on 07 Apr (Cindy Beckman). The season's high count was eight at Mallard Club Marsh on 10 May (Doug Overacker).

Common Moorhen: First noted on 20 Apr at CVNP (Dwight and Ann Chasar). High counts include five at ONWR on 10 May (Doug Overacker) and six at Big Island WA, **Marion**, on 23 May (Sean Williams).

American Coot: Metzger had 300 on 12 Mar (Karl Overman), Jill Bowers reported tens of thousands of individuals at Grand Lake St. Mary's, **Auglaize/Mercer**, on 22 Mar, and Doug Overacker estimated 400 at Buck Creek SP, **Clark**, on 23 Mar. A late or possibly nesting bird remained at Conneaut on 16 May (Craig Holt).

Sandhill Crane: At least 130 reported in the state this spring. High counts include: two flocks of 43 in **Paulding** (13 Mar, Scott Myers), 27 more in **Paulding** (14 Mar, Doug

and Micki Dunakin), 20 over Grand Lake St. Mary's, **Auglaize/Mercer** (22 Mar, Jill Bowers), and 14 at Funk Bottoms WA (30 Apr, Su Snyder). Migrants in northeast Ohio include: four on 03 Apr and three on 19 Apr over **Lake** (John Pogacnik), two over Parma Heights (6 Apr, J. Harlan), one over Summit (8 Apr, Rob and Sandy Harlan), two at Sandy Ridge Reservation, **Lorain**, (19 Apr, Sam and Bev Walker), and another single individual over Summit (29 Apr, Kathy Mock).

Black-bellied Plover: Singles were at Ellis Lake (26 Apr, Jay Lehman), Hancock (02 May, Betty Hardesty), and Conneaut (08 May, Craig Holt). Inga Schmidt had a high count of three at Frohring Meadows **Geauga** on 18 May.

American Golden-Plover: Arrived 26 Mar, with 10 at Deer Creek (Robert Royse). High counts were 270 at Hardin County Wetlands on 16 Apr and over 100 (680 a week earlier) in **Wyandot** on 24 Apr (Rick Counts). Last reported was one at Ellis Lake (26 Apr, Jay Lehman).

Semipalmated Plover: First reported this spring near New Holland, **Lucas**, (30 Apr, Robert Royse) and soon followed by high counts of 20 each at Kilby Road, **Hamilton**, (16 May, Jay and Jack Stenger and Jed Burtt), and Ellis Lake (19 May, Mike Busam). Mark Vass had 14 at Conneaut on 26 May.

Piping Plover: One was present at Headlands between 22 May and 24 May (Ray Hannikman).



Two Willet appeared, and one was photographed by Rick Asamoto, at Caesar Creek State Park's beach in Warren County on 29 April 2008.

Killdeer: The ONWR monthly census counted 13 on 03 Mar and the CVNP spring census counted 14 on 10 May (Dwight and Ann Chasar). The high count was in the hundreds at Grand Lake St. Mary's, **Auglaize/Mercer**, on 22 Mar (Jill Bowers).

Black-necked Stilt: Two reports: one at a private pond near Wellington on 14 May (Jim McCarty) and three at Big Island WA, **Marion**, 25 May to 26 May (Sean Williams). One remained on 27 May and Tim and Laura Dornan reported zero on 28 May.

American Avocet: The only report this spring was 12 at Alum Creek (20 May, Ken and Julie Davis).

Spotted Sandpiper: First reported at Armleder Park, **Hamilton** with

two on 16 Apr (Kirk Westendorf). The high count of the season was 10 at the Lorain Impoundment (19 May, Rob and Sandy Harlan).

Solitary Sandpiper: First report came from Armleder Park, **Hamilton** on 08 Apr (William Hull). High counts were 12 in **Mahoning** on 04 May and 11 in **Ashtabula** 02 May (Craig Holt). The CVNP spring census counted seven on 10 May (Dwight and Ann Chasar).

Greater Yellowlegs: Two at Orwell Marsh, **Ashtabula**, were the first of spring (31 Mar, Craig Holt). Tied for high count were 50 at Benton-Carroll Road, **Ottawa**, (05 Apr, Craig Caldwell), **Darke** (15 Apr, Regina Schieltz), and Funk Bottoms WA (17 Apr, Su Snyder).



This photograph, capturing 47 Red Knots (count them!), represents Ohio's fourth highest count for this species. Taken 24 May 2008 at Big Island Wildlife Area in Marion County by Rick Asamoto.

Willet: At least 111 reported this spring, including a record high count of 83 at Lake Logan (01 May, Jim Fry). The next best count was 14 at Funk Bottoms WA (01 May, Kevin Kline). Other reports came from: **Clermont, Delaware, Franklin, Pickaway,** and **Warren.**

Lesser Yellowlegs: First reported at Shreve Fish Pond, **Wayne,** (13 Mar, Kevin Kline). High counts include 90 in **Darke** (15 Apr, Regina Schieltz), approximately 200 at Big Island WA, **Marion,** (24 Apr, Jack Stenger), and approximately 100 near New Holland, **Lucas** (30 Apr, Robert Roysel).

Upland Sandpiper: One was at Hardin County Wetlands on 21 May (Rick Counts).

Whimbrel: At least 140 reported this spring: one at Buck Creek SP, **Clark,** (30 Apr, Doug Overacker), eight flyovers during the CVNP spring census (10 May, Dwight and Ann Chasar), 14 flyovers at Prairie

Lane, **Wayne,** (18 May, Kevin Kline), 39 at Frohring Meadows, **Geauga,** (22 May, Patricia Sampson), three flocks totaling 77 off North Perry (26 May, John Pogacnik), and one at Conneaut (28 May, Jen Brumfield).

Ruddy Turnstone: All reports came from May, with the first at Funk Bottoms WA on 01 May (Kevin Kline). High counts include 15 at Metzger on 16 May (Bill Shively) and 26 at Indian Lake on 26 May (Gabe Leidy).

Red Knot: One report: 47 at Big Island WA, **Marion** (24 May, Rick Asamoto).

Sanderling: Reported only inland, surprisingly, with two in **Hancock** (06 May, Betty Hardesty), one at Buck Creek SP, **Clark,** (12 May, Larry Gara), two at Hardin County Wetlands (21 May, Rick Counts), and 12 at Indian Lake (26 May, Gabe Leidy).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: The first report came on 28 Apr, with three in **Van Wert** (Shaune Skinner). High counts were 66 at Conneaut (Mark Vass) and 36 at Prairie Lane, **Wayne,** (Su Snyder) on 26 Apr. Surprisingly, the last reports came the following day with six in **Lorain** (Craig Holt) and one at Conneaut (Jen Brumfield).

Least Sandpiper: First reported at Ellis Lake on 13 Apr and the high count of 100 was at the same location on 04 May (Mike Busam). The last report was a single bird in **Lorain** on 27 May (Craig Holt).

White-rumped Sandpiper: One at Ellis Lake was the first reported this spring (16 May, Steve Bobinick) and was still there on 18 May (Mike Busam). High count of three was at Funk Bottoms WA on 26 May (Su Snyder). Other reports came from **Lake, Lorain, Marion,** and **Sandusky.**

Pectoral Sandpiper: First detected in **Hardin** on 16 Mar (Rick Counts). High counts were 75 at Funk Bottoms WA (22 Apr, Su Snyder), 140 at Big Island WA, **Marion,** (24 Apr, Jack Stenger), and another 80 at Funk Bottoms WA (1 May, Kevin Kline). One in Lorain was quite late on 27 May (Craig Holt).

Dunlin: All reports from May, with the first on 04 May at Ellis Lake (Mike Busam). High counts include 1,000 at ONWR (10 May, Bill Shively), 114 at Hardin County Wetlands (21 May, Rick Counts) and 112 in **Sandusky** (27 May, Craig Holt).

Stilt Sandpiper: Ellis Lake had 14 on 15 May (Jay Lehman and Steve Bobinick) and one remained on 19 May (Mike Busam).

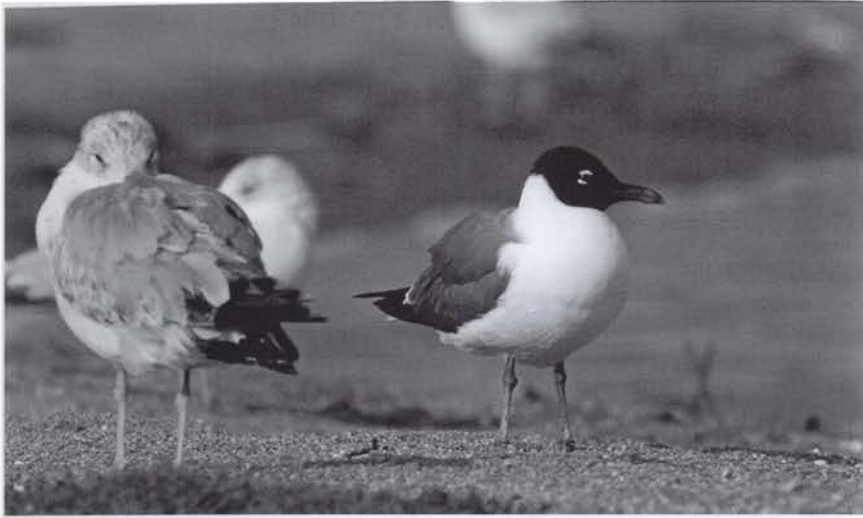
Short-billed Dowitcher: All reports from May. First were 40 at Funk Bottoms WA on 07 May (Kevin Kline). High counts include 50 at Pipe Creek (14 May, Craig Caldwell) and 40 at Ellis Lake (15 May, Jay Lehman and Steve Bobinick). The last two were in **Lorain** on 27 May (Craig Holt).

Long-billed Dowitcher: Two reports: five at Ellis Lake (14 May, Frank Frick) and "a mixed flock of 75 Dunlin and Long-billed Dowitchers" in **Clinton** (15 May, Ed Roush).

Wilson's Snipe: A few overwintered. Good numbers were 35 at Shreve Fish Pond (22 Mar, Su Snyder), 140 in **Clermont** (31 Mar, Robert Foppe), and 29 in **Darke** (15 Apr, Regina Schieltz).

American Woodcock: A few had probably overwintered, but migrants started to appear as early as February. The high count was only eight in **Mahoning** (17 Apr, Craig Holt).

Wilson's Phalarope: More than 30 were reported, all in May. The first appeared on 01 May at a private lake in **Lake** (John Pogacnik). A pair returned to Hardin County Wetlands on 21 May (Rick Counts). They have nested here in 2006. Up to 15 were at Big Island WA, **Marion,** between 25 May and 29 May (m. obs.). Low numbers were also reported from: **Butler,**



A Laughing Gull in breeding attire visited Buck Creek State Park's beach in Clark County on 30 April 2008 (Rick Asamoto).

Hardin, Lorain, Lucas/Ottawa, Mahoning, and Wayne.

Red-necked Phalarope: One report of two in **Warren** on 09 May (Robert Foppe and Bill Doss).

Laughing Gull: Four were at Medusa Marsh on 05 Apr (Bev Walker). Larry Jeanblanc observed one at Buck Creek SP, **Clark**, on 30 Apr and three adults were there on 03 May (Jene Stauffer); they were last seen the following day (Doug Overacker). One was at Headlands on 07 May and two on 22 May (Ray Hannikman). Other singles came from **Ashtabula, Logan, and Warren.**

Franklin's Gull: Reported were one at O'Shaughnessy Reservoir (01 Apr, Len Powick), three at Buck Creek SP, **Clark**, (10 May, Frank Frick), one at Conneaut 16 May

(Craig Holt), and 27 May (Walt and Dana Shaffer), one in **Hamilton** (17 May, Jay and Jack Stenger), and an immature in **Lake** (John Pogacnik).

Little Gull: Two reports of adults in March: one at E. 72nd St. on 27 Mar (Bret McCarty) and another off North Perry on 30 Mar (John Pogacnik).

Bonaparte's Gull: Between 23 Mar and 29 Mar, Doug Overacker estimated 200 at Buck Creek SP, **Clark**. Other high counts include 175 at Conneaut (9 Apr, Craig Holt) and at least 200 in **Sandusky** (14 Apr, Robert Morton).

Ring-billed Gull: On 02 Mar Bruce Glick and Ed Schlabach had a flock of 5,000 in Franklin. Berlin Reservoir had approximately 1,500 on 22 Mar (Craig Holt) and at least 8,000 on 28 Mar (Ben Morrison).

Herring Gull: The high count reported was at least 300 at Berlin Reservoir (28 Mar, Ben Morrison).

Iceland Gull: Four reported: E. 72nd St., **Cuyahoga**, (07 Mar, Hope Batchellar), Kelleys' Island (19 Mar, monthly census), Berlin Reservoir (24 Mar, Kent Miller and Ben Morrison) and North Perry (06 Apr, John Pogacnik).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: At least four individuals (two adults, one 2nd cycle and a 3rd cycle) were at Clear Fork between 09 Mar and 29 Apr (John Herman and Allen Troyer). John Pogacnik reported singles in **Lake** on 05 Apr, 12 Apr, and 04 May. Other reports came from: **Ashtabula, Hancock, Mercer, Richland, Stark, and Wayne.**

Glaucous Gull: Hancock had two on 17 Mar (J. Taber). A 1st cycle bird flew by North Perry on 06 Apr (John Pogacnik). Craig Holt had an immature on 06 Apr and a 1st summer on 16 May at Lorain Harbor and a first cycle at Conneaut on 08 May. Getting quite late were singles at Findlay Reservoirs (17 May, Robert Sams) and a bird in its second calendar year in **Lorain** (28 May, Craig Holt).

Great Black-backed Gull: Conneaut had 30 on 15 Apr; 62 on 24 Apr; 30 on 05 May; 40 on 07 May (Robert Lane); and 49 on 16 May (Craig Holt). Craig Holt also had a late bird at Lorain Harbor on 27 May.

Caspian Tern: The first report, of two birds, came on 26 Mar at Pleasant Hill Lake (John Herman).

High counts include 58 at Lorain Harbor (08 May, Craig Holt), more than 110 at Conneaut (15 Apr, Robert Lane) and 83 off North Perry (04 May, John Pogacnik).

Black Tern: Nearly 150 reported statewide, all in May. Lake Logan had the first on 08 May (Jim Fry). High counts include: 20 at Armleder Park, **Hamilton**, on 16 May (Allen Claybon) and 45 at Metzger on 19 May (Rob and Sandy Harlan). Other reports came from **Ashtabula, Delaware, Geauga, Hancock, Hardin, Lake, Logan, Marion, Ottawa, Wayne, and Wyandot.**

Common Tern: Reported in small numbers throughout the state, including 15 flybys at Killbuck on 20 May (Kevin Kline).

Forster's Tern: First reported on 09 Apr at Conneaut (Craig Holt). The high count was 74 at Mosquito Lake on 15 May (Carole Babyak).

Rock Pigeon: No specific highlights to report, though assumed to be thriving.

Eurasian Collared-Dove: Three reports of this now annual species. Most unusual was one from Lake 05 Apr, when John Pogacnik had a bird pass with migrant Mourning Doves, and then alight for scope views. One was also reported south of Baltic in Coshocton 09 May (*vide* Paul Gardner) and on 30 May, two were copulating on a telephone wire just south of Fort Seneca, **Seneca** (Joe Hammond).

Mourning Dove: Approximately 100 to 150 passed by North Perry, **Lake**, 05-06 Apr (John Pogacnik).

Black-billed Cuckoo: As was the trend this spring for Neotropical migrants, they were slow to arrive; Rob Thorn had the first at Tanager Woods Park, **Franklin**, on 02 May and one had reached Magee by 07 May (Rick Nirschl). Few reports overall.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: A bird was at Ault Park, **Hamilton**, 25 Apr (Eric Burkholder, Kirk Westendorf) and another at Lake Hope SP, **Vinton**, on 26 Apr (Bruce Simpson), but it was not reported again until 03 May at Magee (Chris Knolls). Rob and Sandy Harlan tallied seven at Magee on 26 May.

Barn Owl: These reports outside of this species' known breeding range were unusual: a calling migrant at Columbia Woods Park, **Summit**, the night of 24 Mar (Rob and Sandy Harlan), and one at Crooked Run Preserve, **Clermont**, 15 Apr (Chris and Suzanne Clingman).

Eastern Screech-Owl: Aaron Boone located this species in three of four atlas blocks in urban **Franklin**. All other reports consisted of singles and pairs from scattered locations statewide.

Great Horned Owl: Active nests were reported from many areas, including two at opposite ends of Medusa Marsh, **Erie** (Sheryl Young).

Snowy Owl: Only report was one video recorded atop a roof in West Toledo, **Lucas**, 18 Mar (Teresa Hagedorn).

Long-eared Owl: It was quite a year for migrants, especially in

the northeast. April winds brought three to Headlands on 01 April and four more birds on 07 April (Ray Hannikman). Nearby, John Pogacnik had singles at Lakeshore MP, **Lake**, on 21 Mar and 08 Apr, and two were reported farther west in **Darke** in mid-April (Robb Clifford). Five birds wintering at Killdeer Plains were last seen by Charlie Bombaci on 02 Mar.

Short-eared Owl: The high was 12 near Bunker Hill, **Holmes**, on 12 Mar (Kevin Kline), but most birds were reported from their wintering sites through mid-April. Paralleling the Long-eared trend, the high for migrants came 09 Apr, when four put on a show at Headlands (Ray Hannikman).

Northern Saw-whet Owl: Five reports: singles were at Magee 09 to 10 Apr (Karl Overman, Mary Warren) and 02 May (Sean Williams). An injured bird was found in Lakewood, **Cuyahoga**, on 16 Apr and rehabilitated and released later that month by the Lake Metroparks Wildlife Center. Kelly Williams-Sieg noted one behind her home in Chillicothe, **Ross**, and a late bird was at Headlands 18 May (Ray Hannikman).

Common Nighthawk: Another dismal season; some observers reported no sightings at all. Arrived 01 May in **Hamilton** (Paul Wharton) and 08 May in Toledo (Elliot Tramer), but there were NO reports of multiple birds.

Chuck-will's-widow: Reported from traditional **Adams** haunts only. Ben Warner had three there

on 27 Apr and talked to a local homeowner who said that they had been present for about a week. On a follow up visit, John Habig reported four birds 04 May.

Whip-poor-will: First reported 07 Apr down in **Hamilton** (Paul Wharton). On 20 Apr at Shawnee SF Jim McCormac observed a half-dozen vocal "Whips". The bulk of the migrant reports came from Magee, but also 20 Apr in **Cuyahoga**, when one responded to a tape (Lou Gardella) and 23 Apr in **Summit** (Dwight and Ann Chasar).

Chimney Swift: Arrived 07 Apr in **Hamilton** (Kirk Westendorf, Paul Wharton), but stalled, not reaching the northern counties until 16 Apr in **Portage** (Gregory Bennett). 1,000 were along the Little Miami River in **Hamilton** 29 Apr (William Hull).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: A bird in **Hamilton** 15 Apr was the first reported (Anne Clifford), followed by a feeder visitor 22 Apr in **Medina** (Dave Yoo).

Belted Kingfisher: On 11 Apr, hawk watchers at Conneaut counted 25 kingfishers moving fairly high with the vultures and hawks (Bruce Glick).

Red-headed Woodpecker: Continues to thrive in suitable areas; 14 were in the Oak Openings 15 Apr (Elliot Tramer) and six at Station Road, CVNP 29 Apr (Dwight and Ann Chasar).

Red-bellied Woodpecker: 79 were tallied on the CVNP Spring Census on 10 May (Dwight and Ann Chasar), far outpacing other



An injured Northern Saw-whet Owl was discovered at the intersection of Detroit Road and Lauderdale Avenue in Lakewood (Cuyahoga County) after an apparent window collision on 16 April 2008. After being stabilized at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, the bird was taken to Lake Metroparks Wildlife Center for further rehabilitation, and was released a few weeks later. The bird was photographed by Harvey Webster on 26 April.

woodpeckers.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Migration peaked in mid-April. High counts: 09 Apr six birds at West Creek Reservation, **Cuyahoga**, (Gabe Leidy) and five on 14 Apr at Shawnee Prairie Preserve in **Darke** (Robb Clifford). No news of nesting this season.

Downy Woodpecker: Doug Vogus's comprehensive surveys of CVNP birdlife turned up 13 on 19 Apr.

Hairy Woodpecker: A species all too infrequently reported; most accounts were of feeding station visitors, though a pair was observed trading places at a nest 30 Apr at Shaker Lakes, **Cuyahoga** (Laura Gooch).

Northern Flicker: Largest migrant concentration reported: 12 to 15 at Erie Street Cemetery, **Cuyahoga**, 11 Apr (Tim Colborn).

Pileated Woodpecker: The CVNP Spring Census tallied 24, a healthy number (Dwight and Ann Chasar), while in the northwest, where they are locally uncommon, birds were seen 04 May at Oak Openings and 19 May at Secor MP, **Lucas** (both Matt Anderson).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Quite the spring for this uncommon Ohio migrant, with at least 26 birds reported. A well-described individual 27 Apr near Mount Hope, **Holmes**, may well constitute the record early date for our state (Michael Hershberger). Peterjohn (2001) writes, p. 305: "No reliable April records exist, though a few early individuals return during the first week of May." Birds by separate observers (Elaine Snively, Pat Soehnen) 05 May in **Stark** are more what we are accustomed to seeing. The high count of two occurred three times – 15 May at Maumee Bay State Park, **Lucas** (Rick Nirschl), 25 May at Ravenna Arsenal, **Portage** (Jen Brumfield), and 26 May at North Perry, **Lake** (John Pogacnik).

Eastern Wood-Pewee: Arrived at Miami-Whitewater Wetlands,

Hamilton, 04 May (David Brinkman) and in **Franklin** two days later (Rob Thorn).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: First reported from the mist nets of Navarre Marsh 14 May (where 149 total were banded this season, down 30 from a year ago [BSBO]). They were not otherwise reported until 16 May at Spring Grove Cemetery, **Hamilton** (Jack and Jay Stenger), or from the rest of the state until 23 May, when birds arrived at Blendon Woods MP, **Franklin** (Robert McNulty) and Hogback Road, **Delaware** (Sean Williams).

Acadian Flycatcher: Bruce Simpson heard the first "peet-sah," in Zaleski, **Vinton**, 26 Apr.

Alder Flycatcher: Waited until 15 May to appear; that day, two were at Spring Grove Cemetery, **Hamilton** (Neill Cade), and another at Clear Creek MP, **Fairfield/Hocking** (Aaron Boone). Seven at Magee 26 May was a great migrant tally (Rob and Sandy Harlan).

Willow Flycatcher: Birds at Englewood MP, **Montgomery**, 25 Apr (Ed and Bev Neubauer) and at Killbuck 26 Apr were a shade early (Jen Brumfield, Gabe Leidy). High count was 12 at Buck Creek SP, **Clark**, 25 May (Doug Overacker).

Least Flycatcher: A bird shot up to Magee 23 Apr (Rick Nirschl); otherwise a routine migration. A bird was on territory in Coitsville, **Mahoning**, 15 May (Craig Holt).

Eastern Phoebe: The first barely made it into the spring reporting period 03 Mar in **Highland** (Bruce

Lombardo). They were not reported widely until 21 to 22 Mar. Twelve migrants found their way to Magee 07 Apr (Rick Nirschl).

Great Crested Flycatcher: One was quite early 13 Apr in Turcotte, **Hamilton** (Ned Keller). First at Magee was seen 23 Apr (Rick Nirschl).

Eastern Kingbird: Three were already in **Adams** 13 Apr (Lori Brumbaugh, Lou Gardella), but then were slowed down somewhere along the way, because it was not until 26 May that John Pogacnik had an incredible 174 pass by North Perry, **Lake**.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: A bird photographed at C. J. Brown Dam in Buck Creek SP, **Clark**, appeared 11 May 2008, two days after the Brown Pelican sighting from the same location. Brian Menker spotted the bird in the planted prairie while driving by and called Larry Jeanblanc, who arrived quickly and took some good photographs. It disappeared shortly thereafter. If accepted by the Ohio Bird Records Committee, this will become one of few records for Ohio, most of which have come during the month of May.

Loggerhead Shrike:

A cooperative bird was discovered hanging out on a wire along Route 19, just south of Route 2 and east of Magee Marsh, **Ottawa**, 17 May and remained the following day (Rob and Sandy Harlan, Gabe Leidy). The bird seemed oblivious to passing traffic and onlookers and was viewed by many who were in the area.



On 11 May 2008, Brian Menker spotted this attractive Scissor-tailed Flycatcher while driving by Buck Creek State Park (Clark County), and it was photographed soon thereafter by Larry Jeanblanc. A species prone to wandering, it had already vanished by early afternoon, but would constitute the eleventh state record.

Northern Shrike: Nine birds from the winter season persisted into March. With the exception of at least one bird at Killdeer Plains (Ed and Bev Neubauer, Steve Landes) and another 21 Mar at Voice of America Park, **Butler** (fide Paul Gardner), all reports came from traditional locales in the northern counties. Inga Schmidt had the latest, 01 Apr at her property on the **Geauga/Cuyahoga** line.

White-eyed Vireo: Arrived simultaneously 09 Apr in **Hamilton** (David Brinkman) and **Meigs** (Tracy Morman).

Yellow-throated Vireo: Jim McCormac had the first birds – five 19 Apr on a sweep through southeast Ohio, and Dwight and Ann Chasar found one at CVNP 22 Apr. The CVNP Spring Census racked up its highest numbers ever, 20 on 10 May, though the Chasars noted that they



A Bell's Vireo, our rarest and most diminutive vireo species, was photographed at Deer Creek Wildlife Area on 10 May 2008 by Robert Royse.

have been increasing in the park since 1995.

Blue-headed Vireo: On 10 Apr, there were 10 singing males at Shawnee SF (Robert Royse), and by 16 April, Aaron Boone witnessed a pair nest building there. This species' migration seemed prolonged this year, with greater than average numbers reported during May and many tarrying late into the month; last migrant reported 27 May at Magee (Mary Warren). Five were at Shaker Lakes, **Cuyahoga**, 27 Apr (Laura Gooch) and at West Creek Reservation, **Cuyahoga**, 04 May (Gabe Leidy).

Warbling Vireo: Brown (Bill Stanley) and **Clermont** (David Fankhauser) saw the arrival of this

species 19 Apr, but northern Ohio not until 25 to 26 Apr.

Philadelphia Vireo: One 26 Apr at Magee was a major overflight (Rick Nirschl). A bird in **Delaware** 01 May (Sean Williams) registered a more typical arrival date. High count was three along the Magee boardwalk 19 May (Bill Shively).

Red-eyed Vireo: Arrived in the southeast 19 Apr (Jim McCormac) and in northern Ohio 23 Apr at Magee (Rick Nirschl).

Blue Jay: Though they undoubtedly moved along the lakeshore in numbers, no reports were received exceeding the 43 seen in a five-minute span over South Bass Island 27 Apr (Lisa Brohl).

American Crow: A couple of large flocks were reported: 350 to 400 in **Cuyahoga** 01 Mar (Paula Lozano) and on 04 Mar, 1,000 in Boardman Township, **Mahoning** (Craig Holt).

Common Raven: After tantalizing reports of this species in **Jefferson** in recent years, Aaron Boone and Ethan Kistler investigated the situation more thoroughly on 25 Mar and provided us with perhaps the biggest news of the season. Upon arrival at their first stop they encountered a pair of agitated ravens and soon thereafter a nest that ended up fledging four birds. This is a species that is poised for expansion within Ohio eventually, and one that eastern Ohioans should keep an eye to the sky for.

Horned Lark: The March passage was about average. High counts: 01 Mar 350 in southwest **Lucas** (Elliot Tramer) and 31 Mar 300 in northern **Trumbull** (Craig Holt).

Purple Martin: The first scouts were spotted 24 Mar in **Holmes** (Steve Landes) and 31 Mar from the tower at Magee (Mary Warren).

Tree Swallow: 03 Mar brought six to Spring Valley WA, **Greene/Warren** (Paul Dubuc), and two over **Holmes**, a new early date for that county (Bruce Glick). By 12 Apr, 100 were at Buck Creek SP, **Clark** (Doug Overacker), and 217 showed up on the Kelleys' Island monthly census 20 Apr (Tom Bartlett).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: Eight were at Cowan

Lake SP, **Clinton**, 28 Mar (Frank Frick), but did not reach the northern tier until 09 Apr (m. obs.). Buck Creek SP, **Clark**, had the high count – 100 on 12 Apr (Doug Overacker).

Bank Swallow: Arrived a bit later than the other swallows. First reported at Armleder Park, **Hamilton**, 18 Apr (William Hull), and a day later at Killdeer Plains (Jay Lehman). Thirty were at Hardin County wetlands 21 May (Richard Counts) and there were "lots, everywhere" at Killdeer Plains 18 May (Ben Warner).

Cliff Swallow: On 07 Apr, a dozen or so had returned to a colony in Jasper, **Pike** (Robert Royse). Reports from Bacon Woods MP, **Lorain**, on 05 May (five individuals) and 15 May (one) are of local interest, as they may represent birds looking to colonize a new area (Craig Caldwell).

Barn Swallow: Kirk Westendorf had two in **Hamilton** 05 Apr and Karl Overman had three at Metzger 09 Apr.

Black-capped Chickadee: A pair nested on the Magee boardwalk trail for the first time (Chris Knoll).

Carolina Chickadee: Richard Counts reported both Carolina and Black-capped Chickadees at his **Hardin** feeders 09 Mar.

Tufted Titmouse: One on the Kelleys' Island monthly census 20 Apr was only the third or fourth record for the island in over 11 years (Tom Bartlett).

White-breasted Nuthatch: This species was present in expected numbers.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: A bumper crop of this species made it a hot topic on listserves and elsewhere this year. It seemed like every feeder had a bird or two throughout the winter; most of these birds carried over into the spring season — many of them well into May. Some of the last reports of migrants were 22 May at **Licking** (Curt Dusthimer), 23 May at Blendon Woods MP, **Franklin** (Robert McNulty), and 28 May at Magee (Mary Warren). High counts included eight at Horseshoe Pond, CVNP 07 May (Dwight and Ann Chasar) and seven at Magee 10 May (Bill Shively). In addition, nesting confirmation was received from Nimisila Reservoir, **Summit** (Jack Hickson).

Brown Creeper: Sharp-eyed observers discovered nests at Brecksville Reservation, **Cuyahoga** (Ethan Kistler), Killbuck (Craig Caldwell, Su Snyder), and Zaleski (Bruce Simpson). Sixty migrants were counted at Magee 07 Apr (Rick Nirschl) and the last bird passed through there on 20 May (Mary Warren).

Carolina Wren: Well reported around the state.

House Wren: An overflight was west of Holmesville, **Holmes**, 13 Apr (Kevin Kline). Two birds made it up to Magee a few days later, on 18 April (Kenn Kaufmann, Rick Nirschl). Thirty-two at Shawnee Lookout 03 May was a good count

(Jay Stenger), and BSBO captured 101 at Navarre Marsh, doubling last year's total.

Winter Wren: Twenty were at Magee 07 Apr (Rick Nirschl). An extremely late bird was banded in Tiffin, **Seneca**, by Don Plotts 28 May.

Sedge Wren: A migrant was at West Creek Reservation, **Cuyahoga**, 07 May (Gabe Leidy). Potential breeders: 05 May two at Killdeer Plains (Ben Warner); 06 May one at Irwin Prairie State Nature Preserve, **Lucas** (Rick Nirschl); 10 May two on the CVNP Spring Census (Dwight and Ann Chasar); 23 May one at **Clark** (Doug Overacker); and 29 to 30 May a bird singing at night in **Knox** (John Herman).

Marsh Wren: Extremely early was one at Spring Valley WA, **Greene/Warren**, 07 Apr (Cindy Beckman). Two nesting pairs near Shiloh provided a rare **Richland** record (J. Herman). This species is thriving in the western Ohio marshes.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: One hundred were at Magee 07 Apr (Rick Nirschl). Birds at Horseshoe Pond, CVNP 20 May (Craig Caldwell) and Ravenna Arsenal, **Portage**, 25 May (Jen Brumfield) were at known breeding grounds. The latest migrant left Magee 20 May (Mary Warren).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: A bird at Greenlawn Cemetery, **Franklin**, 16 Mar, was early enough to make one wonder if it had overwintered (Gene Stauffer). The top count was of 45 at Firestone MP, **Summit**, 04

May (Brad Wilkinson), and the last reported bird was 21 May by Don Plotts, who banded one in Tiffin, **Seneca**.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Arrived 01 Apr in **Meigs** (Tracy Morman) and by the next day several were at Shawnee SF (Jim McCormac). Sixty-eight on the CVNP Spring Census was a healthy number (Dwight and Ann Chasar).

Veery: 26 Apr saw the arrival of birds from Miami-Whitewater Forest (Paul Wharton) and Winton Woods (Eric Baumgardner, Jerry Lippert), both in **Hamilton** — to Magee (Rick Nirschl). On 03 May, 15 were along the Magee boardwalk trail (Rick Nirschl) and on 25 May, at least eight breeders were seen at Ravenna Arsenal, **Portage** (Jen Brumfield).

Gray-cheeked Thrush: This species showed up with the rest of the thrushes 26 Apr, when a bird was in Columbus' Clintonville neighborhood (Andy Sewell). The next day, Sean Williams found one in nearby **Delaware** and Laura Gooch saw another at Shaker Lakes, **Cuyahoga**. High count was of five at Magee 19 May (Rob and Sandy Harlan).

Swainson's Thrush: Two were at Magee 25 Apr (Rick Nirschl) and by the next day they were fairly widespread around the state. No major concentrations were reported; the highest count anywhere was six or seven at Wildwood SP, **Cuyahoga** (Nancy Anderson).

Hermit Thrush: Some nice

concentrations this spring. Mentor Lagoons, **Lake**, saw 40 on 09 Apr (Ray Hannikman) and 100 were at Magee on the same day (Karl Overman). There were at least 60 at Magee on 18 Apr (Kenn Kaufmann). Late May brought reports of nesting activity from CVNP — a territorial songster was in a new spot along Scobie Road, 19 May (Rob and Sandy Harlan) and Jen Brumfield witnessed an adult carrying food at Ledges 29 May.

Wood Thrush: Quite early was an 11 Apr bird at Shawnee SF (Brad Sparks); this species did not arrive in the Cincinnati area until April 15 at Winton Woods (Jay Stenger). Twenty-three at Shawnee Lookout was a nice tally (Jay Stenger).

Gray Catbird: Steve Landes saw a bird (that most likely overwintered) at Killbuck 24 Mar. Returnees were at Grant Lake, **Brown**, 19 Apr (Bill Stanley) and Clear Creek MP, **Fairfield/Hocking**, the following day (Ann Cramer).

Brown Thrasher: One in Wooster, **Wayne**, 07 Mar probably made it through the winter (*vide* Su Snyder). High counts of six birds at Headlands 19 Apr (Gabe Leidy), and 11 at Sharon Woods MP, **Franklin**, 01 May (Charlie Bombaci).

European Starling: Thriving in the state, by all accounts.

American Pipit: A few nice flocks were reported: 150 in a **Brown** fallow field 12 Apr (Paul Gardner), at least 140 at Delaware Water Plant, **Delaware** (Bill Shively), and

87 at the off-limits Hardin County Wetlands 16 Apr (Richard Counts).

Cedar Waxwing: A massive 1,700 passed by North Perry, *Lake*, on 26 May (John Pogacnik).

Blue-winged Warbler: Returned to Shawnee SF on 17 Apr (Robert Royse). Plentiful in the northeast — 54 were on the CVNP Spring Census 10 May, on which they actually outnumbered European Starlings (47 — Dwight and Ann Chasar). At least 15 were on the 25 May Ravenna Arsenal, *Portage*, tour (Jen Brumfield).

Golden-winged Warbler: Plenty of these jewels passed through Ohio this spring, and all but one by 14 May — a female at Magee 21 to 22 May (*vide* Paul Gardner, George Sydlowski). The 20 reports were fairly well distributed throughout the state and all were of single birds. Males at Highbanks MP, *Delaware*, 25 Apr (Robert Lowry) and Mogadore Reservoir, *Portage*, 26 Apr (Gregory Bennet, Denise Powers Kissel) were the firsts.

[Golden-winged x Blue-winged Warbler]: Seven Brewster's and two Lawrence's were reported. Brewster's — all reports: 01 May at Magee (Mary Warren), 01 May at Mock Park, *Franklin*, (Rob Thorn), 05 May at Blendon Woods MP, *Franklin* (Robert McNulty), CVNP Spring Census 10 May (Dwight and Ann Chasar), 19 May another at Blendon Woods MP (Bruce Simpson), and two banded at Navarre Marsh (BSBO). As for Lawrence's — the rarer of the hybrids — one was widely viewed at Blendon

Woods MP 04 to 05 May (m. obs.) and the other was at Magee 14 May (Mary Warren).

Tennessee Warbler: This species invaded the state 26 Apr, with reports coming from Miami-Whitewater Forest, *Hamilton*, (Paul Wharton) to Magee (Chris Knolls, Dennis Vollmar), Kelleys' Island (Pat Hayes, Shane and Laura Roberts), and Mogadore Reservation, *Portage* (Denise Powers Kissell). Twenty-three were at Shawnee Lookout 17 May (Jack and Jay Stenger).

Orange-crowned Warbler: An awesome spring for this species. At least 39 birds were seen away from Magee — where this species was a nearly constant presence for a solid month — 23 Apr to 25 May (m. obs.). Arrived in BSBO's nets even earlier on 18 Apr and at Shawnee Lookout on 20 Apr (Jay Stenger). Two birds were at *Hancock*, 10 May (Betty Hardesty) and six were banded at Navarre Marsh, 18 May (BSBO).

Nashville Warbler: A pair of overflight birds was at Magee 17 Apr (Kenn Kaufmann, Rick Nirschl). By 01 May, 25 were there (Rick Nirschl) and 35 were in *Hancock* 03 May (Betty Hardesty) and 20 at Buck Creek SP, *Clark*, on 04 May (Doug Overacker).

Northern Parula: Firsts were seen 11 Apr at United American Cemetery, *Hamilton* (Kirk Westendorf), and Spring Valley WA, *Greene/Warren* (John Habig), and 17 Apr at Magee (Chris Knolls, Rick Nirschl).

Yellow Warbler: 17 Apr brought them to both *Licking* (Manon VanSchoyck) and Magee (Chris Knolls). On 10 May, the CVNP Spring Census tallied 166 (Dwight and Ann Chasar) and a similar effort in *Hancock* that date netted 141 (Betty Hardesty).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: Many observers reported the first at Magee 26 Apr, and 10 were there 06 May (Linnea Saukko).

Magnolia Warbler: Showed up around the state 01 May (m. obs.), with a total of 10 noted at Magee on 02 May (Rick Nirschl). Not a great showing for this species overall. Only a third of last year's total banded at Navarre Marsh (BSBO).

Cape May Warbler: First birds were reported 25 Apr at Highbanks MP, *Franklin* (Rob Lowry), 26 Apr at Armleder Park, *Hamilton* (Frank Frick), and 27 Apr at Cedar Point NWR, *Lucas*, (Elliot Tramer). Twenty individuals were at Magee on 07 May (Rick Nirschl).

Black-throated Blue Warbler: A bird at Magee 26 Apr was leading the pack (Chris Knolls). A partial albino bird wowed birders at Magee 07 to 09 May (Rick Nirschl).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: Staged a strong, more prolonged migration than usual — with typical April numbers remaining into May at many migrant traps. Peak counts: 100 on 26 Apr at Spring Valley WA, *Greene/Warren* (Jay Lehman), 100 on 29 Apr at Armleder Park, *Hamilton* (William Hull), and 300 at Magee/Metzger 03 May (Gabe Leidy). A 21 May bird at Spring

Valley WA was fairly late (Bob Powell, Bob Thobaben). BSBO could not keep them out of their nets, banding an all-time record 1,082 at Navarre Marsh, the last on 23 May.

Black-throated Green Warbler: Back at Shawnee SF 07 Apr (Robert Royse) and another added a dash of color at Magee 09 Apr (Karl Overman). Fifteen were at Magee's boardwalk 06 May (Linnea Saukko).

Blackburnian Warbler: Arrived with the 25 to 26 Apr crowd: at Alum Creek SP, Delaware (Sean Williams) and Magee (Mary Warren) 25 Apr, and then at Firestone MP, Summit (Greg Emmert) and Winton Woods, *Hamilton*, the following day (Eric Baumgardner, Jerry Lippert). Four were at Shawnee SF 27 Apr (Ben Warner).

Yellow-throated Warbler: 02 Apr brought them back to Shawnee SF (Jim McCormac) and Winton Woods in *Hamilton* (Jay Stenger). By the time one bird had made it up to CVNP (12 Apr — Doug Vogus), 46 had already been reported from Shawnee on 17 Apr (Robert Royse). Some interesting behaviors were also associated with this species this spring: both Bruce Lombardo and Robert Royse reported birds visiting their sunflower feeders and Lori Brumbaugh and Lou Gardella observed a bird feeding in a plowed field with a flock Chipping Sparrows in *Adams*. Obvious migrants were reported multiple times from Magee (m. obs.), Metzger (Kenn Kaufmann, Elliot Tramer), and West Creek Reservation, *Cuyahoga* (Gabe Leidy).

Pine Warbler: Showed up at a feeder in Lucas, **Richland**, 05 to 17 Mar (John Herman), at Oak Openings 06 Mar (Elliot Tramer), and 07 Mar at Jim Fry's **Hocking** property. High counts were six at Shawnee SF 07 Apr and 30 singing males at Zaleski the next day (both Robert Royse). Quite a few migrants were also detected during this species peak April passage, including four or five at Magee 18 Apr (Rick Nirschl) and seven at Ira Road, CVNP 28 Apr (Tom and Mary Anne Romito).

Prairie Warbler: Appeared on 12 Apr at Shawnee SF for Brad Sparks and 13 Apr in Adams for Lori Brumbaugh and Lou Gardella. At least 20 were on territory at Shawnee 27 Apr (Ben Warner) and five at Clear Creek MP, **Fairfield/Hocking**, 10 May (Charlie Bombaci). A few individuals showed up in northern areas: 25 Apr at Metzger (Rick Nirschl), 26 Apr at Killbuck (Jen Brumfield, Gabe Leidy), 03 May at Magee's beach (Gabe Leidy), and 07 May both at Magee (Rick Nirschl) and West Creek Reservation, **Cuyahoga** (Jen Brumfield, Gabe Leidy).

Palm Warbler: One rode the 18 Apr wave all the way to Magee, to be the first arrival (Rick Nirschl). Fifty birds were streaming through the treetops at West Creek Reservation, **Cuyahoga**, 02 May and 65 were present at Magee/Metzger WA the following day (both Gabe Leidy). Very bright birds of the eastern subspecies *D. p. hypochrysea* were at West Creek 22 Apr (Gabe Leidy) and Magee, again, 25 Apr (Rick Nirschl).

Bay-breasted Warbler: Arrived 29 Apr. at Magee (Karl Overman), but most observers felt they never truly "arrived." This was the only species universally regarded as down in numbers this spring; some regulars reported only one sighting. A quick look at the BSBO banding data backs this notion up: a mere 17 birds were banded at Navarre Marsh this spring versus last spring's 71. Doug Overacker did manage to find eight 18 May at Buck Creek SP, **Clark**, while Magee numbers topped out at only five 18 to 19 May (Rob and Sandy Harlan). Reports from the next few years will help us determine whether this was a weather-related phenomenon or a general decline in this species' overall population.

Blackpoll Warbler: The season's first Blackpoll was at Magee 25 Apr (Rick Nirschl). The high count of at least 18 came in from North Perry, **Lake**, 26 May (John Pogacnik).

Cerulean Warbler: Two singing males were at Zaleski 17 Apr (Bruce Simpson) and another returned to Secor MP in **Lucas** the following day (Luke Rosen). Counts of at least 20 at Shawnee SF 27 Apr (Ben Warner), 10 along Cemetery Ridge Trail at Clear Creek MP, **Fairfield/Hocking**, 21 May (Bill Shively), and 25 from **Holmes** and northern **Coshocton** 25 May (Kevin Kline) were encouraging.

Black-and-white Warbler: First appearances nicely progressed from south to north: one was at Shawnee Lookout 30 Mar (Frank Frick), four at Shawnee SF 07 Apr (Robert



This male Cerulean Warbler came down from the canopy to pose for Brian Zwiebel's lens at Zaleski State Forest in Vinton County on 05 May 2008.

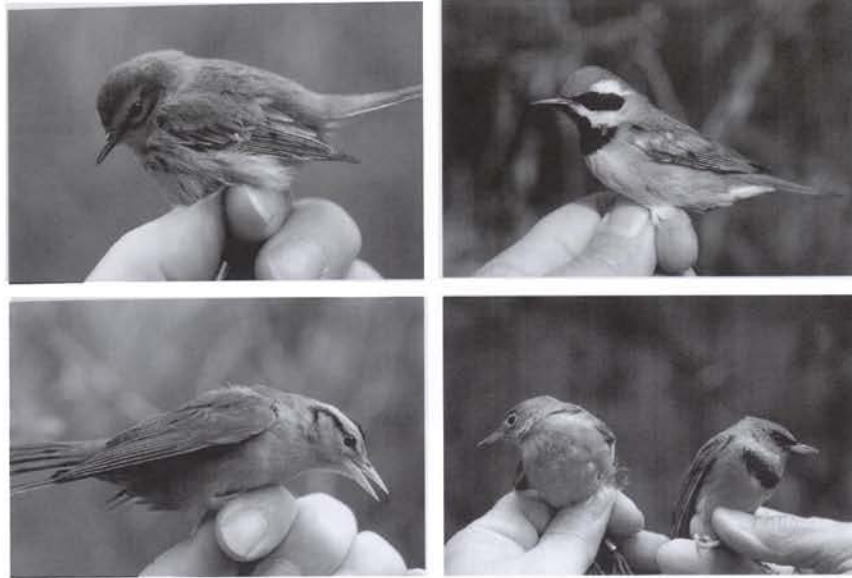
Royse), one at Veteran's Park, **Lake**, 13 Apr (Ray Hannikman), and two or three at Magee 17 Apr (Chris Knolls, Rick Nirschl). By 21 Apr, 21 were counted at Zaleski (Robert Royse).

American Redstart: Returned to Shawnee SF 12 Apr (Brad Sparks), while one at Magee 17 Apr was exceptionally early for the area (Chris Knolls, Rick Nirschl). Thirty-one were on breeding grounds at Clear Creek MP, **Fairfield/Hocking**, 10 May (Charlie Bombaci) and another 35 or more were at Ravenna Arsenal in **Portage** 25 May (Jen Brumfield).

Prothonotary Warbler: Quite early was one at Crooked Run

Preserve, **Hamilton**, on 09 Apr (Suzanne Clingman). The next reports came from Magee, where one was present 17 Apr and two the following day (Chris Knolls, Rick Nirschl). BSBO banded 11 at Navarre Marsh, including six on 02 May and another migrant was at Pipe Creek WA, **Erie**, 17 May (Gabe Leidy). On 26 Apr, 44 singing males had returned to Hoover Nature Preserve, **Delaware**, but it was not until 30 Apr that the first females appeared (Charlie Bombaci). Seven were at Killbuck the last day of the period (Su Snyder).

Worm-eating Warbler: The first arrival was at John Bryan SP, **Greene**, 19 Apr (Doug Overacker)



The bird banders from Black Swamp Bird Observatory process hundreds of birds every season, affording opportunities for in-hand study of Ohio's less common warblers. Highlights this season included Prairie Warbler (top left), Golden-winged Warbler (top right), Worm-eating Warbler (above left) and this rare opportunity to compare Mourning and Connecticut Warblers (above right). All photographs from Navarre Marsh, taken by Mark Shieldcastle.

and an overflight showed up at West Creek Reservation in **Cuyahoga** the next day (Gabe Leidy). Five at Zaleski 21 Apr provided the season's high count (Robert Royse). Quite a few migrants were detected this season: sightings from Magee marsh included one on 25 to 26 Apr, three on 30 Apr, and two on 08 May (Kenn Kaufmann, Rick Nirschl, Mary Warren), with another bird noted 26 Apr in **Holmes** (Kevin Kline) and another individual that lingered 17 to 19 May at Secor MP, **Lucas** (Matt Anderson, Elliot Tramer). A bird on the CVNP Spring Census 10 May at Kendall Lake may have been the same bird

that summered at nearby Wetmore Road last year (Dwight and Ann Chasar).

Ovenbird: One was at Shawnee SF 11 Apr (Brad Sparks) and a strong flyer at Magee the same day (Rick Nirschl). Seventy-four were at Zaleski 21 Apr (Robert Royse) and 20 at Magee 02 May (Rick Nirschl) and 06 May (Linnea Saukko).

Northern Waterthrush: This species lived up to its name, appearing in the northern parts of the state first – 18 Apr at Magee (Rick Nirschl) and 19 Apr at CVNP, **Cuyahoga** (Doug Vogus). Seven were at Magee 25 Apr (Rick Nirschl)

and 10 on 03 May (Gabe Leidy). A late bird was at Miami-Whitewater Forest, **Hamilton**, 25 May (Steve Pelikan).

Louisiana Waterthrush: First was at Nine Mile Valley, **Clermont**, 20 Mar (David Fankhauser), then Lancaster, **Fairfield**, 27 Mar (Dawn McCoy), Highlands Nature Sanctuary, **Highland**, 29 Mar (Bruce Lombardo), and finally, the boardwalk at Magee the week of 31 Mar to 04 Apr (Mary Warren). Twenty-three were tallied at Shawnee SF 07 Apr (Robert Royse). Birds at **Paulding** 17 Apr (Doug and Micki Dunakin) and Oak Openings 07 May (Matt Anderson) were unusual for the region.

Kentucky Warbler: First located 19 Apr on a broad sweep through **Jackson, Lawrence, and Vinton**

(Jim McCormac). By 27 Apr, 10 males were vocalizing at Shawnee SF (Ben Warner). Not many migrants detected; three were banded at Navarre Marsh (BSBO) and birds were seen in different areas of Magee 14 to 15 May (Mary Warren). Breeders and potential breeders included one singing from a wooded ravine in Oak Openings MP 04 to 17 May (Matt Anderson, Elliot Tramer) and two males that returned to the Ledges at CVNP, **Summit** (Jen Brumfield, Craig Caldwell).

Connecticut Warbler: An awesome spring for this species. At least 19 birds were seen away from Magee, with eight more banded at Navarre Marsh (BSBO). Two birds showed up on 06 May – one in **Hancock** (Betty Hardesty) and another at Magee (Elliot Tramer)



Rarely seen so well, or by so many, this Connecticut Warbler was singing along the road at Magee Marsh Wildlife Area in Lucas County. Photographed 18 May 2008 by George Sydlowski.

– but then, due to unusual weather patterns, no more were reported until 15 May at Blendon Woods MP, **Franklin** (Robert McNulty). Two birds were reported on three separate occasions – 20 May at Taylorsville MP, **Montgomery** (Brian Menker), 21 May at Oak Openings (Elliot Tramer), and two females 26 May at Magee (Kenn Kaufmann).

Mourning Warbler: Plentiful throughout the latter half of May. Similar to Connecticut, birds arrived 07 May in **Ottawa** (BSBO), 08-09 May in **Franklin** (Nathaniel Nye) and also in **Holmes** 09 May (K. Kline), but then none were reported until 14 May at Magee (Craig Caldwell). When the weather broke and the south winds let loose 26 May, 10 birds were seen at Magee (Kenn Kaufmann) and BSBO banded 17 at Navarre Marsh.

Common Yellowthroat: Arrived 13 Apr in **Adams** (Lori Brumbaugh, Lou Gardella), 18 Apr at East Fork SP, **Clermont** (Bill Stanley), and 19 Apr in **Ottawa** (BSBO). Twenty-two were seen at Shawnee Lookout 03 May (Jay Stenger) and at least 30 at Clear Creek MP, **Fairfield/Hocking**, 10 May (Charlie Bombaci).

Hooded Warbler: Arrived 15 Apr at Zaleski (Robert Royse) and 18 Apr at Wintergarden Green, **Wood** (Becky Cullen) and Magee (Kenn Kaufmann, Rick Nirschl). Twenty-six were at Zaleski 21 Apr (Robert Royse) and at least 20 at Clear Creek MP, **Fairfield/Hocking**, 10 May (Charlie Bombaci). A singing male

at Wildwood SP **Cuyahoga** 31 May was quite late (Nancy Anderson).

Wilson's Warbler: The only bird reported before May was at Magee 27 Apr (Lisa Romaniuk). No high counts received other than the 24 banded on 17 May at Navarre Marsh (BSBO).

Canada Warbler: Always arriving late in the spring, the first birds appeared at Magee 07 May (Rick Nirschl) and 09 May (Chris Knoll), and one at Wildwood SP, **Cuyahoga**, 12 May (Nancy Anderson). By 30 May, there were “many” at the Magee boardwalk (Mary Warren).

Yellow-breasted Chat: Reported from four locations in the Cincinnati area 26 Apr (*vide* Ned Keller), as well as at North Perry, **Lake** (John Pogacnik). Migrants were seen at Magee 30 Apr – 15 May (Gabe Leidy, Rick Nirschl, and Mary Warren), with two present 02 May (Rick Nirschl). Other migrants included one at Sheldon's Marsh State Nature Preserve, **Erie**, on 05 May (Craig Caldwell) and a quite late bird 26 May at North Perry (John Pogacnik). Top counts were eight at Shawnee Lookout 03 May (Jay Stenger) and six at Clear Creek MP, **Fairfield/Hocking**, 10 May (Charlie Bombaci).

Summer Tanager: Returned to East Fork SP, **Clermont**, 24 Apr (Robert Foppe) and John Bryan SP, **Greene**, the next day (Greg Spahr). On 26 Apr, an ambitious young male was photographed at Rocky River Reservation, **Cuyahoga** (Phil Chaon), and another out-of-range

male took such a liking to Kathy Mock's offerings of sunflower seeds and sugar water that he spent 30 Apr to 02 May on her **Summit** property. Good numbers at traditional spots – 11 at Highbanks MP, **Franklin**, 22 May (Sean Williams) and they were reported back at multiple locations within Oak Openings (Matt Anderson, Rick Nirschl). Rob Thorn reported seeing three second-year birds at new locations around Columbus in mid-May and theorized that they were setting up new territories, as the established birds had been in place for several weeks.

Scarlet Tanager: Robert Royse had the first at Zaleski 21 Apr, and by 23 Apr they were along the lake – at Wildwood SP, **Cuyahoga** (Nancy Anderson), and Magee (Rick Nirschl). Thirteen were at Shawnee Lookout 03 May (Jay Stenger).

Eastern Towhee: At least 40 were at Salt Fork SP, **Guernsey** (Su Snyder), and 33 at Shawnee Lookout 03 May (Jay Stenger).

American Tree Sparrow: Elliot Tramer counted 105 at Cedar Point NWR, **Lucas**, on 01 Mar and the ONWR monthly census on 02 Mar tallied 191 (Doug Vogus). That number diminished to 70 on the 06 Apr census (Doug Vogus), and the last was reported at Maumee Bay State Park, **Lucas**, 09 Apr (Karl Overmann).

Chipping Sparrow: Earliest reports: 02 Mar at a **Highland** feeder (Bruce Lombardo), 03 Mar in New Richmond, **Hamilton** (Donald Morse Jr.), and 08 Mar



Only a handful of Clay-colored Sparrows appeared this season; this one showed up at John Pogacnik's feeders in North Perry, Lake County, on 04 May 2008.

at Dayton, **Montgomery** (Phillip Ware). A county-wide census of **Hancock** 10 May turned up 194 (Betty Hardesty) and 117 showed up on the Kelleys' Island monthly census 20 Apr (Tom Bartlett).

Clay-colored Sparrow: Few reports: 01 May at Tom Kemp's Wood residence, 02 to 04 May in North Perry, **Lake**, (John Pogacnik), a singing male at Quail Hollow SP, **Stark**, 16 May (Kent Miller), and one bird discovered on the first Bobolink area Big Day 17 May (*vide* Bruce Glick).

Vesper Sparrow: First reported were two 24 Mar in **Fairfield** (Greg Emmert). Not mentioned again until 07 Apr outside the Dike 14 fence in **Cuyahoga** (Ben Winger). The next day, Robert Royse reported them back in their usual haunts near Deer Creek Reservation, **Fayette**. On 25 Apr, Doug Overacker had 10 in **Fayette**.

Lark Sparrow: Expanding quite rapidly, not only within the Oak Openings region, but statewide as well. The traditional Girdham

and Reed Road birds were the first back 20 Apr (Matt Anderson), and on 13 May Rick Nirschl reported them from three other areas within the Oak Openings. On 03 May, Paul Wharton discovered these striking sparrows at three gravel pits in western **Hamilton**, including three singing males at a particular pit on Kilby Road. Other sightings included a bird at Oak Quarry, **Greene**, 13 May (Marie Schatz), another near Mohawk Dam, **Coshocton**, 17 May (*vide* Bruce Glick), and two at Taylorsville MP, **Montgomery**, 20 May (Brian Menker). Coming soon to a gravel pit near you!

Savannah Sparrow: On 16 Mar, 13 were at Armleder Park, **Hamilton** (William Hull), and 01 Apr one in a Lakewood, **Cuyahoga**, backyard. Thirty-two at the Hardin County Wetlands 21 May was the high (Richard Counts).

Grasshopper Sparrow: The first reports were at Hardin County Wetlands 16 Apr (Richard Counts) and **Darke** Apr 18 (Regina Schieltz). Only a moderate number of sightings this spring, probably because warblers garner so much of the attention. Birds on territory were reported at Kramer Nature Preserve, **Licking** (Curt Dusthimer), Hardin County Wetlands (Richard Counts), Ravenna Arsenal, **Portage** (Jen Brumfield), Big Island WA, **Marion** (Charlie Bombaci, Jack Stenger), and Glacier Ridge MP, **Franklin** (Nathaniel Nye, Rob Thorn).

Henslow's Sparrow: Again few reports, first from **Vinton** just north

of Zaleski 16 Apr (Robert Royse). All accounts of single birds: 23 Apr at Highbanks MP, **Franklin** (Rob Lowry), 24 Apr at Voice of America Park, **Butler** (Mike Busam), 29 Apr through end of period at Sager Road west of Toledo Airport, **Lucas** (Karl Overman, Elliot Tramer), 04 May at Miami-Whitewater Forest, **Hamilton** (David Brinkman), 21 May at Hardin County Wetlands (Richard Counts), and 24 to 30 May at the former Richfield Coliseum site, now CVNP (Craig Caldwell, Robert Jackson).

Le Conte's Sparrow: Spring reports of this species are always a treat, and this year there were four birds: 11 Apr at Mentor, **Lake** (Suzanne Wagner), two at Miami-Whitewater Forest, **Hamilton**, 26 Apr (Jay Stenger), and 07 May at Headlands (Ray Hannikman).

Fox Sparrow: Near the beginning of the spring reporting period, these large, colorful sparrows were already pushing north. On 02 Mar, Bruce Lombardo saw the firsts – two at his **Highland** feeder. A bird showed up on the ONWR monthly census the following day (Doug Vogus). Migration peaked in early April, with more than 20 noted at Magee (Karl Overman) and 18 at West Creek Reservation, **Cuyahoga**, on 09 Apr, and 14 more in **Cuyahoga** the following day (both Gabe Leidy).

Song Sparrow: Migration was evident 06 Apr, when the ONWR monthly census tallied 131 birds (Doug Vogus).

Swamp Sparrow: Fifty at Hueston Woods SP, **Butler/Preble**, 22 Mar



Another highlight from the spring banding activities of Black Swamp Bird Observatory was this opportunity to compare two subspecies of White-crowned Sparrow. The Gambel's subspecies (*Zonotrichia leucophrys gambelii*; right) breeds in the high Arctic west of Hudson Bay and into Alaska, and has pale lores. Most White-crowned Sparrows seen in Ohio are of the nominate subspecies (*Zonotrichia leucophrys leucophrys*; left), coming from northeastern or north-central Canada or the Rocky Mountains, and have black lores. Photograph from Navarre Marsh by Mark Shieldcastle.

probably included both migrants and wintering birds (Jack and Jay Stenger).

White-throated Sparrow: Maximum abundance: 250 at East Fork SP, **Clermont**, 18 Apr (Bill Stanley) and 200 at feeders in **Lake** 25 Apr (John Pogacnik). One was banded in Tiffin, **Seneca**, 28 May (Don Plotts) and another singing at Headlands, where they seem to linger yearly, 30 May (Craig Caldwell).

Harris's Sparrow: Vernon Kline hosted a full breeding-plumaged bird at his feeders west of Holmesville, **Holmes**, 27 Apr to 05 May (Kevin Kline).

White-crowned Sparrow: Lingering winter birds were reported during Mar (m. obs.). Greg Emmert saw "hundreds" at Firestone MP, **Summit**, 26 Apr, while 20 were at Erie St. Cemetery, **Cuyahoga**, 01 May (Steve Cagan) and 18 at Conneaut 08 May (Craig Holt). One was in **Lorain** 25 May (Gregory Bennet).

Dark-eyed Junco: Erie St. Cemetery, **Cuyahoga**, hosted 50 to 75 on 11 Apr (Tim Colborn, John and Ann Edwards). Birds at Magee 19 May (Mary Warren) and Ohio and Erie Canal Reservation, **Cuyahoga**, 29 May (Jo Ann Kubicki) were running late. Bob Hinkle reported active nests at

Cleveland Metroparks Brecksville and South Chagrin Reservations, **Cuyahoga**, and Jen Brumfield saw a bird at Ledges, CVNP 29 May.

Lapland Longspur: No reports along the lake (nor were any Smith's Longspurs reported). **Wyandot** once again had the highest longspur count; Richard Counts reported that several hundred were staging at CH-112 and Jay Lehman found 120 at Washburn Road near Killdeer Plains 19 Apr. Fifty were at Miami-Whitewater Forest near Cincinnati 09 Mar (Andy Bess).

Snow Bunting: Decent numbers reported this spring. Peak counts: at least 100 on 02 Mar in **Wyandot** (Charlie Bombaci), 60 on 02 Mar at Hayes Road, **Geauga**, (Dave and Sally Isaaco), 110 on 05 Mar over Parma, **Cuyahoga**, (Jen Brumfield), and 30 on 07 Mar in rural **Lucas** (Elliot Tramer).

Northern Cardinal: Doug Vogus counted 34 in CVNP 19 Apr.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Arrived in **Hamilton** (Jeff Rowe) and southeast OH (Jim McCormac) 19 Apr and showed up at **Mahoning** 23 Apr (Craig Holt) and **Summit** 25 Apr (Patrick Coy). Twelve were at Whetstone Park, **Franklin**, 01 May (Paul Gardner).

Blue Grosbeak: A very early feeder bird in **Montgomery** 13 Apr was much photographed, as was another backyard bird in the same county 19 Apr (*fide* Ed and Bev Neubauer)! One at Gilmore Ponds, **Butler**, 26 Apr exhibited a more typical arrival date (Jay Lehman). Migrant males were at Magee 04 to

05 May (Troy Shively, Mary Warren) and The West Woods, **Geauga**, 07 to 09 May (Linda Gilbert, Ethan Kistler, Suzanne Wagner), though others reported from **Columbiana** 04 May (Jay Salem), **Trumbull** 11 May (Arthur Foreman) and one on the first Bobolink area Big Day 17 May (*fide* Bruce Glick) were harder to categorize. Perhaps a northern range expansion is underway? Most established breeding birds were reported back at their traditional haunts.

Indigo Bunting: First noted in **Hocking** 20 Apr (Ann Cramer), but not until 27 Apr in **Lorain** (Dorothy and Doug Dawson-Sheldon). Jay Stenger counted 24 at Shawnee Lookout 03 May.

Dickcissel: Only four reports; hopefully the summer issue will bring more. One bird was reported 06 May at Armleder Park, **Hamilton**, (Eric Burkholder), multiple birds 09 May at Seip Earthworks, **Ross**, (Bruce Lombardo), one on 20 May at **Darke** (Regina Schieltz), and another single 26 May at **Clinton** (Bob Powell).

Bobolink: A bird was at CVNP grasslands 21 Apr (Bob Faber) and two at Voice of America Park, **Butler**, 24 Apr (Mike Busam). Twenty were at the Coliseum field, CVNP 20 May (Craig Caldwell) and 18 at Hardin County Wetlands 21 May (Richard Counts).

Red-winged Blackbird: High counts: 477 on 06 Apr ONWR monthly census (Doug Vogus) and 668 at Kelleys' Island during the 20 Apr census (Tom Bartlett).



Evening Grosbeaks are uncommon in Ohio any time of year, and this female that appeared at the Black Swamp Bird Observatory's feeders by Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge on 04 May 2008 was a real surprise. Photograph by Hugh Rose.

Eastern Meadowlark: Jim Moore reported their return to **Highland** 05 Mar and Dorothy Dawson-Sheldon saw her first on 12 Mar in Wakeman, **Lorain**. No large counts received; 10 wintering birds were still at The Wilds, **Noble**, on 17 Mar (Andy Sewell) and 15 at the Hardin County Wetlands 20 Apr (Richard Counts).

Western Meadowlark: Returned to **Wood** 06 Apr, where this year there were two singing males to choose from, approximately 6.5 miles apart off Cygnet Road (Becky Cullen, m. obs.).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: Many observers were able to see one or more of at least four that frequented Krause Road near ONWR 17 Apr to 17 May. Likewise, multiple parties reported up to two males on the ONWR driving tour 10 May.

Other reports came from the Magee causeway 05 May (Mary Warren) and Carol Cartaino's property on the **Highland/Adams** line 13 Apr.

Rusty Blackbird: Two-hundred at Rocky Fork Lake, **Highland**, 15 Mar (Ron and Tim Kolde) far outshone other reports. Elsewhere, 74 were on the ONWR monthly census 06 Apr (Doug Vogus) and at least 60 at Wingfoot Lake, **Portage**, 10 Apr (Gregory Bennet). Peaked at only 20 on the Magee bird trail 18 Apr (Kenn Kaufmann), where the last bird was seen 03 May (Mary Warren).

Brewer's Blackbird: Hard to come by this year; three reports of three individuals: 13 Mar along the Metzger entrance road (Kenn Kaufmann), 16 Mar among a huge blackbird flock in Ryan Steiner's yard in Smithville, **Wayne**, and a female

at Delaware WA, **Delaware**, 20 Mar (Jay Stenger, Sean Williams).

Common Grackle: The ONWR monthly census had the top count 06 Apr with 966 (Doug Vogus). Charles Bombaci, however provided the most memorable observation. He observed a grackle wade into the water, and spear a five-inch fish; it smacked the fish's head on a log, and took off with its aquatic prey.

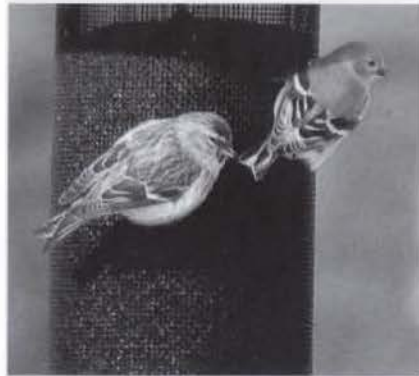
Orchard Oriole: Ann Cramer had birds in **Hocking** 20 to 21 Apr and Jay Stenger one at Shawnee Lookout 20 Apr, where he encountered a total of 13 on 03 May. Bob Hinkle reported three nesting pairs at Jackson Road Picnic Area, **Cuyahoga**.

Baltimore Oriole: Back 17 Apr in **Clermont** (Chris Clingman), 19 Apr in the southeast (Jim McCormac), and by 26 Apr it was widespread across the northern part of the state. Twenty-seven were part of the 03 May fallout at Shawnee Lookout (Jay Stenger).

Purple Finch: Deep snow brought an incredible 65 to Bruce Lombardo's feeders in **Highland** 08 Mar. On 22 Apr, 13 visited Jim Fry's feeders in **Hocking** and 10 migrants were at West Creek Reservation, **Cuyahoga**, 04 May (Gabe Leidy). A singing male at CVNP's Oak Hill 29 May was a probable nester (Jen Brumfield).

House Finch: Eighty-nine on the Kelleys' Island monthly census 20 Apr was the high count (Tom Bartlett).

Red Crossbill: This species



This Hoary Redpoll (left) continued from the winter season through 15 March 2008 in Holmes County. Thanks to Levi Yoder's hospitality, many Ohio birders were able to tick this species on their state/life lists. Photograph by Nancy Anderson.

was involved in one of the most unexpected sightings of the season. On 24 May, the Big Day team of Aaron Boone, Josh Kuenzli, Steve Landes, and Paul Rodewald had great looks at a bird of this species feeding *alongside* a White-winged Crossbill on Girdham Road in Oak Openings. They watched both feed at the top of a lone conifer for several minutes, before they took flight together and headed for a different pine stand. How many May Big Day teams can claim both crossbills?

White-winged Crossbill: One was seen in the company of a Red Crossbill 24 May at Oak Openings – see Red Crossbill account (Aaron Boone, Josh Kuenzli, Steve Landes, Paul Rodewald).

Common Redpoll: Plenty of birds remained from the late fall/winter invasion. The vast majority of reports consisted of small groups

at feeders in the northern part of the state, though birds were found as far south as **Delaware** (Tom Bain) and **Auglaize** (Jill Bowers). Two dozen was the high count at Barb Partington's feeders in **Geauga** 05 Mar, while John Pogacnik had a dozen in **Lake** 12 Apr, Sally Isaaco 11 in Chardon, **Lake**, 03 Apr, and Mike Sandy had 10 at his Rocky River, **Cuyahoga**, residence 30 Mar. A few birds stayed record late, including one in Toledo through 22 Apr (Greg Links), a bird in **Mahoning** until 25 Apr (Bob Lane), and the final bird left Pogacnik's home 27 Apr.

Hoary Redpoll: The bird that visited Levi Yoder's feeders near Trail, **Holmes**, was last reliably reported 15 Mar (Jay Lehman).

Pine Siskin: Widely reported this spring, with scattered reports coming in through the end of May. Will this translate into a banner nesting season? The high count was 80 at Oak Openings 01 Mar, where nesting was later suspected but had not been confirmed (Elliot Tramer). Likewise, Jay Lehman observed a bird at Rowe Arboretum near Cincinnati with a feather in its bill, stripping bark off a cedar tree, but could not locate a nest. Jim McCormac had a late migrant at the ODNR headquarters in Columbus 23 May.

American Goldfinch: Several hundred accompanied a redpoll and two siskins at John Pogacnik's feeders in **Lake** 27 Apr.

Evening Grosbeak: Four females present at a private residence near

Mohican SP, **Ashland**, dwindled to one on 03 Apr for Ryan Steiner, though the owner reported that all four birds were still visiting daily. John Pogacnik had four at North Perry, **Lake**, 19 Apr, one 19 May, two on 21 May, and one on 26 May. Big news was a female that dropped by BSBO headquarters at Magee 04 May and was viewed and photographed by many that day (Kenn and Kim Kaufmann).

House Sparrow: Did not make it onto any reports, but this species is undoubtedly thriving in the state.

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Adams, Matt	Chasar, Ann	Foppe, Robert	Keene, Joe	Nye, Nathaniel	Snivley, Elaine
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Anderson, Chuck	Claybon, Allen	Frick, Frank	Kemp, Tom	Lucas, Jim	Soehnen, Pat
Anderson, Nancy	Clebsch, Hans	Fry, Jim	Kissel, Denise	Morman, Tracy	Spahr, Greg
Asamoto, Rick	Clifford, Robb	Gara, Larry	Powers	Ostermiller, Ken	Sparks, Brad
Babiyak, Carole	Clingman, Chris	Gardella, Lou	Kistler, Ethan	Overacker, Doug	Stanley, Bill
Bain, Tom	Clingman, Suzanne	Gardner, Paul	Kline, Dennis	Overman, Karl	Stanley, Tammy
Bartlett, Tom	Colborn, Tim	Gilbert, Linda	Kline, Kevin	Partington, Barb	Stauffer, Jene
Bartley, Aaron	Corbo, Sam	Glick, Bruce	Kline, Vernon	Pawlowski, Sharon	Steiner, Ryan
Batchellar, Hope	Corbo, Sam	Gooch, Laura	Knolls, Chris	Pelikan, Steve	Stenger, Jack
Baumgardner, Eric	Counts, Rick	Graham, Darlena	Kolde, Rob	Petrucha, Mike	Stenger, Jay
Beckman, Cindy	Cowell, Gary	Habig, John	Kolde, Tim	Phillips, Ken	Sydowski, George
Bennett, Gregory	Coy, Patrick	Hagedorn, Teresa	Krajeski, Bob	Pierce, Chris	Thobaben, Bob
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Bombaci, Charles	Davis, Julie	Harlan, Sandy	Lane, Robert	Powick, Len	Troyer, Allen
Boone, Aaron	Davis, Ken	Hayes, Pat	Landes, Steve	Reiner, Eric	True, Dan
Bowers, Jill	Dawson-Sheldon, Dorothy	Heck, Bill	Lehman, Jay	Roberts, Laura	VanSchoyck, Manon
Brinkman, David	Dawson-Sheldon, Doug	Helm, David	Leidy, Gabe	Roberts, Shane	Vass, Mark
Brohl, L.	Delininger, Leo	Herman, John	Links, Greg	Robinson, Keith	Vogus, Doug
Brown, Jackie	Devlin, Phyllis	Hershberger, Michael	Lippert, Jerry	Romaniuk, Lisa	Vollmar, Dennis
Brown, Jeff	Dornan, Laura	Hershberger, Robert	Lombardo, Bruce	Romine, Linda	Wagner, Suzanne
Brubaker, Willis	Dornan, Tim	Hickson, Jack	Lowery, Jessica	Romito, Mary Ann	Walker, Bev
Brumbaugh, Lori	Doss, Bill	Holt, Craig	Lowry, Rob	Romito, Tom	Walker, Sam
Brumfield, Jen	Dubac, Paul	Husband, Jason	Lozano, Paula	Rosen, Luke	Ware, Phillip
Burkholder, Eric	Dunakin, Doug	Hutton, Kathi	Lundberg, James	Rosche, Larry	Warner, Ben
Burton, Henry	Dunakin, Micki	Isaaco, Sally	Marsh, Dan	Roush, Ed	Warren, Mary
Burt, Jed	Dusthimer, Curt	Jackson, Robert	Martin, Don	Royse, Robert	Watts, John
Busam, Mike	Edwards, Ann	Jeanblanc, Larry	Master, Bernie	Rowe, Jeff	Wauligman, Wayne
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Cartaino, Carol	Emmert, Greg	Kappa, Joe	McDonald, Kathy	Sams, Robert	Whan, Bill
Chaon, Phil	Faber, Bob	Kaufman, Kenn	McNulty, Robert	Sanders, Dan	Wharton, Paul
	Fankhauser, David	Kaufman, Kim	McQuaid, Liz	Sandy, Mike	Wilkinson, Brad
	Finkelstein, Bob	Kavouras, Peter	Menker, Brian	Saukko, Linnea	Williams, Sean
			Meszaros, Gary	Saunders, Charlie	Williams, Suzanne
			Miller, Kent	Schatz, Marie	Williams-Sieg, Kelly
			Mock, Kathy	Schmidt, Inga	Winger, Ben
			Morrison, Ben	Schneider, Rita	Woznarowski, Joe
			Morse, Donald Jr.	Scruggs, Albert	Yoder, Levi
			Neubauer, Bev	Shieldcastle, Mark	Yoo, Dave
			Neubauer, Ed	Shively, Bill	Young, Sheryl
			Nirschl, Rick	Shively, Troy	