

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

By Craig Caldwell

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck:

A quarry in Bluffton, **Allen**, hosted one from about 10 Oct to 12 Dec. Linda Houshower first reported and documented it for the OBRC.

Greater White-fronted Goose:

These were found in 11 counties and throughout the season. Killdeer had 50 to 60 on 04 and 11 Dec (Craig Moore and Ken Ostermiller, respectively) and there were two other counts in double digits.

Snow Goose:

Small numbers were present in the state all season. The high count of 26 was at Cowan Lake SP, **Clinton**, on 26 Feb (Rick Asamoto). Sightings came from 20 counties.

Ross's Goose:

Most of these were with snow geese. The 11 Dec record of two birds at **Mercer** WA (Leslie Houser and David and John Marvin) was the only one from that month; there were frequent sightings in Jan and Feb. The high count of five was at the Barrett Paving gravel pits, **Montgomery**, on 04 Feb (Rick Asamoto). Two at another gravel operation on Prairie Lane, **Wayne**, for much of Jan prompted Su Snyder to write, "I'm pretty sure this is a first Wayne County record, also my 244th Wayne County bird."

Cackling Goose:

These were scattered, with reports from 21 counties. Killdeer produced the high count of 20 on 04 Dec (Craig Moore). There were two other reports in double digits.

Canada Goose:

These were found statewide. There were many counts in the thousands with the highest being 6000 on the Great Miami River near Miamisburg, **Montgomery**, on 22 Jan (Rick Asamoto).

Mute Swan:

The East Harbor SP, **Ottawa**, marina had largest concentration on 19 Feb; 23 were there (eBird user "rs"). There were three other double-digit reports from 27 scattered counties.

Trumpeter Swan:

These were found in fewer counties than Mute Swans (21) but in larger concentrations. Cole DiFabio counted 32 during the 19 Feb ONWR auto tour and there were several other reports in double digits.

Tundra Swan:

These winter migrants and visitors were with us all season. The highest of the four counts in the hundreds was 400, found 23 Feb at Metzger Marsh, **Erie** (Craig Caldwell).

Wood Duck:

The high count of 20 was shared by Armleder on 23 Feb (Kirk Westendorf) and Spring Valley WA, **Warren**, on 26 Feb (Sue Tackett). They were also found in 26 other counties.

Gadwall:

There were many reports in the hundreds but the only one of four digits was the 1387 counted on the 19 Dec Kelleys Island census (Tom Bartlett and Sandy Tkach).

Eurasian Wigeon:

One made a single-day visit to Delaware SP on 24 Feb (Erin Shoffstall, Sean Williams). This bird might have become one of the many early Mar sightings at other sites.

American Wigeon:

Forty were reported at two widely separated sites, on 16 Feb at Camp Dennison, **Hamilton** (Robert Foppe) and on 23 Feb at Medusa Marsh, **Erie** (Craig Caldwell).

American Black Duck:

These were found in 48 counties in numbers up to the 611 counted on 20 Jan at Blendon Woods MP, **Franklin** (Sylvia Townsend).

[American Black Duck x Mallard]:

There were reports from six counties with a high count of 10 birds at Blendon Woods MP, **Franklin**, on 15 Jan (Patrick Johnson).

Mallard:

The 19 Dec Kelleys Island census found 1665 (Tom Bartlett and Sandy Tkach) and there were four other reports in the thousands.

Blue-winged Teal:

Two of the three reports bookended the season. Bruce Glick found one bird at Killbuck WA, **Wayne**, on 04 Dec, and Ed Neubauer et al. found two in Englewood MP, **Montgomery**, on 25 Feb. The other report was from the 27 Dec Wooster, **Wayne**, CBC (*file* Ned Keller).

Northern Shoveler:

A Christmas Day trip to the **Franklin** section of Hoover Reservoir yielded 66 of these for Gene Stauffer. They were found in 24 other counties as well.

Northern Pintail:

These were reported from 28 counties. Pleasant Hill Lake, **Richland**, had about 75 on 28 Feb (Gary Cowell).

Green-winged Teal:

Pickerington Ponds MP, **Franklin**, had 75 on 03

Dec (Dave Slager), but they were not reported there again until Feb. Numbers also reached 75 on 23 Feb (Gene Stauffer). They were found in 25 counties overall.

Canvasback:

These impressive ducks were favoring warm water: About 1000 were off the Bayshore power plant, **Lucas**, on 03 Feb (James Fox), and about 350 were near Avon Power on 12 Feb (Scott Rush).

Redhead:

About 500 of these accompanied the Canvasbacks at Bayshore on 03 Feb (James Fox). They were found in over 30 counties all told.

Ring-necked Duck:

This species was more widespread than most of the other ducks; it was reported from 39 counties. The high count of 400 was in the Delaware WA on 26 Feb (Sean Williams).

Greater Scaup:

Tom Bartlett and Sandy Tkach counted 166 during the 19 Feb Kelleys Island census. That report and the 150 seen off Avon Power on 02 Dec (Scott Rush) were the only triple-digit counts.

Lesser Scaup:

These are often present in huge numbers, but the high count was only 514. They were found during the 19 Feb Kelleys Island census (Tom Bartlett and Sandy Tkach).

Harlequin Duck:

Larry Rosche and Judy Semroc found one along the **Cuyahoga** waterfront west of Cleveland during the 26 Dec Lakewood CBC (*vide* Nancy Howell).

Surf Scoter:

Two were off Rocky River Park, **Cuyahoga**, on 28 Nov (Claire Kluskens). The other nine reports were all of single birds in **Cuyahoga** (2), **Lake** (3), **Lorain** (1), and **Lucas** (3). The sighting dates were scattered from the above 28 Nov to 30 Jan. From the date-location combinations there appeared to be at least nine different birds.

White-winged Scoter:

These were present throughout the season though not for long at any one site. **Ashtabula**, **Clermont**, **Cuyahoga**, **Erie**, **Lake**, **Lorain**, **Montgomery**, **Warren**, and **Wayne** produced reports. The high count of five was off Kelleys Island on 19 Dec (Tom Bartlett and Sandy Tkach).

Black Scoter:

The high count was also the first report of the season (though some were seen in Nov). Jen Brumfield found eight off Avon Power on 04 Dec. The last report was on 19 Feb in Lorain harbor (Clair Cogar and Mark Rozmarynowycz) but the species was seen several times in Mar. They were also found in

Cuyahoga, **Erie**, **Hamilton**, **Lake**, **Summit**, and **Warren**.

Long-tailed Duck:

There were no Nov reports so the many birds found on 09 Dec were the first of the season. On that day Tom Bartlett counted seven off Kelleys Island. However, the prize goes to Rick Asamoto and Robert Foppe, who found an impressive raft of 31 at Caesar Creek on the same day. Birds were there to 09 Jan, though the number dwindled to two at last report. They were seen elsewhere through the end of the season and in nine other counties.

Bufflehead:

These were present during the whole season. Tom Bartlett achieved the high count of 500 off Kelleys Island on 09 Dec. Smaller numbers in the hundreds were found there in Jan and Feb and elsewhere as well.

Common Goldeneye:

Kelleys Island again scored the highest count, 5264 on 09 Dec (Tom Bartlett). The 4100 which Tom and Sandy Tkach counted there on 19 Jan was the all-time high for the formal monthly censuses. They were also found in about 25 other counties.

Barrow's Goldeneye:

One appeared briefly for Jen Brumfield and Dan Gesualdo off Avon Lake's Veteran's Park, **Lorain**, on 23 Feb but was gone before the host of chasers Jen called could arrive.

Hooded Merganser:

Craig Holt had the high count of 125 at Evans Lake, **Mahoning**, on 04 Dec and there were three other triple-digit reports. They were seen in 40 counties.

Common Merganser:

Though they were present in Nov, the first report of this species for the winter season was on 09 Dec, a single bird at Caesar Creek (Rick Asamoto). The 19 Dec Kelleys Island census found 1959 for the high count (Tom Bartlett and Sandy Tkach). The only other large numbers were 900 at Veteran's Park, **Lorain**, on 23 Feb (Jen Brumfield) and 137 during the 09 Feb Kelleys Island census (Tom Bartlett and Sandy Tkach).

Red-breasted Merganser:

The high number was a magnificent 45,000 in Lorain Harbor on 04 Dec (Jen Brumfield). Tom Bartlett estimated flocks totaling 12,500 were around Kelleys Island on 11 Dec. There were several reports with numbers between 1000 and 10,000. Most of the 22 counties represented were in the northern third of the state though **Clermont**, **Clinton**, and **Hamilton** also had sightings.

Ruddy Duck:

Thirty-seven counties had reports, with a high number of 1000 on the Wellington Upground Reservoir, **Lorain**, on 04 Dec (Ken Ostermiller).

Northern Bobwhite:

Kirk Westendorf reported three in Clear Creek Park on 26 Dec and William Hull found another in Shawnee Lookout CP on 30 Jan. Both locations are in **Hamilton**. The **Adams** CBC found seven on 18 Dec. (*vide* Ned Keller).

Ring-necked Pheasant:

Gene Stauffer says that the eight birds he saw on River Drive, **Pickaway**, on 27 Jan are “presumed wild”. The 26 counties with sightings were well scattered but did not include the forested southeastern quadrant.

Ruffed Grouse:

On 22 Dec Scott Pendleton reported that he “flushed my 7th grouse of the last three months this a.m.”. Four were during this season: one on 12 Dec near Tippecanoe, two on 15 Dec north of Cadiz, and the last on 22 Dec in Harrison SF, all in **Harrison**. The only other specific report was of a female which flew across US 6 in front of Brenda Baber in Hartsgrove Township, **Ashtabula**. CBCs in **Adams**, **Ashtabula**, **Coshocton**, and **Harrison** found a total of eight (*vide* Ned Keller).

Wild Turkey:

Gary Cowell found over 100 at Malabar Farm SP, **Richland**, on several dates; the high count was 192 on 25 Dec. The remaining reports were all of fewer than 100 birds and they came from 60 counties.

Red-throated Loon:

The Bobolink reported that Ed Schlabach “sorted out two from amongst the throngs of Commons on his 12/4 skywatch” in **Tuscarawas**. One was present near Avon Power from 05 to 10 Feb (m. obs.).

Common Loon:

These were reported from 15 counties; most locations were in the northern half of the state but large impoundments in **Clermont**, **Clinton**, **Highland**, and **Warren** were also represented. Ed Schlabach counted a “whopping” 435 near Sugar Creek, **Tuscarawas**, on his 04 Dec skywatch (*vide* *The Bobolink*). Jacob Drucker reported flights of up to 40 passing to the southwest over the Oberlin Arboretum, **Lorain**, on 04 Dec; they totaled 155 birds.

Pied-billed Grebe:

Paul Krusling and Joe Kappa found 50 to 55 at East Fork SP, **Clermont**, on 30 Jan. Smaller numbers were scattered throughout 31 counties.

Horned Grebe:

These were not numerous; they were reported from only 18 counties. The highest number was 20, on Rocky Fork Lake, **Highland**, on 27 Feb (Rick Asamoto).

Red-necked Grebe:

Four were reported on Lake Erie off Cahoon Park, **Cuyahoga**, on 28 Nov (Claire Kluskens); one or two were at Caesar Creek from 09 to 12 Dec (m. obs.); one which Dave Slager found near the dam on Hoover Reservoir, **Franklin**, on 11 Dec stayed until 19 Dec; and one was at the Bayshore power plant, **Lucas** on 27 Feb (Mark Rozmarynowycz and Claire Kluskens).

Double-crested Cormorant:

The fall migratory flocks had passed, leaving a high count of 19 off Wendy Park, **Cuyahoga**, for the participants on BSBO’s 11 Dec cruise. Smaller numbers were scattered from elsewhere along the Lake Erie shore to the Ohio River.

American White Pelican:

Coe Lake in Berea, **Cuyahoga**, briefly hosted one on 17 Jan (Sharon Hosko). Another was seen in the Toledo area during the week surrounding the CBC date of 19 Dec (*vide* Ned Keller).

American Bittern:

Rob Thorn startled one from a small wooded creek in Big Run Park, **Franklin**, on 17 Dec. He admits being as surprised as the bird, given the date and location.

Great Blue Heron:

These were found wherever there was open water. Barry McEwan’s 19 Dec Toledo CBC team found 60 on their route. Margaret Bowman saw one on a nest in **Muskingum** on 27 Feb.

Great Egret:

Avon Power provided the only report, one bird on 11 Dec (Brad Sparks).

Cattle Egret:

I quote from *The Bobolink* for the only records: “Two reports – both with unfortunate endings. One seen alive on 12/2 e. of Mansfield was found dead the next day (Jan Ferrell). The bird from the fall season [near] Barrs Mills [**Tuscarawas**] was found dead on 12/6 at 2:00 PM, two hours after being seen alive [Duane Lee Yoder]”.

Black-crowned Night-Heron:

Observers reported many throughout the period along the Olentangy River, **Franklin**, where it passes through the OSU campus (m. obs.). Craig Caldwell thought he had the high count, 75, at the mouth of Cold Creek, **Erie**, on 22 Jan, but Dan Gesualdo found 76 there two days later. A few were at other **Erie** sites and one site in **Lucas**.

Black Vulture:

As usual, most of the reports were from the southern third of the state, but there were roosts in **Holmes** and **Knox** and multiple sightings near them (*vide* *The Bobolink*). The high count was 80, made 03 Dec at Paint Creek SP, **Highland** (Dodd Deal), and there were several other double-digit reports.

Turkey Vulture:

Most of the counties with sightings were from Columbus south but there were Dec reports from *Holmes* and mid-Feb reports from *Cuyahoga*, *Ottawa*. Bill Stanley counted 137 along his CBC route near East Fork SP, *Clermont*, on 02 Jan; the second highest number was 52, found in *Pickaway* on 01 Jan (Andy Sewell).

Bald Eagle:

Over half of our counties produced sightings. The 61 which Tom Bartlett and Sandy Tkach found during the 19 Jan Kelleys Island census was an all-time high for any month there. Tom and Kelleys Island also had the second highest count, a relatively meager 13 on 10 Dec. Observers noted birds on nests or building them in *Hancock*, *Richland*, *Tuscarawas*, *Wayne*, and *Wood*.

Northern Harrier:

Richard Counts found 12, all male “gray ghosts”, at the *Hardin* wetlands on 30 Jan. There were several reports with 10 or 11 birds among the 53 counties represented.

Sharp-shinned Hawk:

These were fairly widespread, with reports from 48 counties. A CBC route in Newtown, *Hamilton*, produced three on 26 Dec for the high count (Kirk Westendorf).

Cooper’s Hawk:

Gary Cowell’s team found four on 17 Dec during the Wilmot, *Stark*, CBC, and there were seven reports with three birds. Craig Holt wrote, “Still thriving, seen at 16 different locations in the [northeast].”

Northern Goshawk:

The season provided three reports. Robert Sams saw one bird at Camp Berry, *Hancock*, on 18 Dec and Loren Hinz found another at the Miller Conservation Farm, *Seneca*, on 26 Dec. Byron Arnett noted that the one attending his feeder in *Greene* on 08 Jan was somewhat south of the species’ usual “zone”.

Red-shouldered Hawk:

About half of our counties had reports of this species. The highest count was nine, found around Berlin Reservoir, *Mahoning/Portage*, on 05 Jan (Ben Morrison). A CBC route in East Fork SP, *Clermont*, found six on 02 Jan (Bill Stanley).

Red-tailed Hawk:

These were reported from 80 counties, which is a tie with American Crow for the “most counties” prize. Of course there’s no doubt that both species are actually in all 88. Leeper-Perkins Road, *Union*, must have an especially high concentration of small mammals because Charles Bombaci found 34 Red-tails there on 02 Jan.

Rough-legged Hawk:

These winter visitors were recorded in 46 counties. The 15 Jan OOS field trip to The Wilds and adjoining Ohio Power lands, *Muskingum*, provided the high count of 14 (Christine McAnlis and Noah Comet).

Golden Eagle:

The Black Swamp CBC, which includes parts of *Defiance*, *Paulding*, and *Putnam*, recorded one on 14 Dec (*vide* Ned Keller). Another spent 28 and 29 Dec at Mosquito Creek WA, *Trumbull* (John Petrucci). One flew over the Ohio Wesleyan campus, *Delaware*, on 10 Jan (Sean Williams). Two, an adult and a juvenile, were reported at The Wilds and Ohio Power lands, *Muskingum*, from 15 Jan to 13 Feb (m. obs.). The last was seen along Freyman Road, *Wood*, on 23 Jan (Tom Kemp).

American Kestrel:

These were widespread but not numerous – except for the 20 which Kelly Ball found at Killdeer on 04 Dec. On 27 Feb, Wayne Wauligman found a *Wyandot* pair getting an early start on the mating season.

Merlin:

Twenty counties hosted these birds and all but four reports were of singles. The doubles, which were not necessarily together at the larger sites, were in Calvary Cemetery, *Cuyahoga*, on 26 Dec (Lou Gardella); at Beaty Landing, *Lake*, on 13 Feb (Rebecca Thompson); along Prairie Lane, *Wayne*, also on 13 Feb (Gabe Leidy); and in New Saint Joseph’s Cemetery, *Hamilton*, on 30 Jan (Paul Krusling and Joe Kappa). I suspect that the many sightings in cemeteries are due as much to the ease of seeing birds in those open environments as to Merlins’ habitat preferences.



Merlin. Always an exhilarating find, Allan Clayton froze this striking image on 10 Dec 2010 at Caesar Creek State Park, Warren.

Peregrine Falcon:

These also were reported from 20 counties, and many of the reports were of two birds.

Virginia Rail:

The Millersburg, **Holmes**, CBC recorded two on 14 Dec at the usual rail marsh (*fide The Bobolink*). There were four reports between 22 Jan and 06 Feb from another regular winter site near Lake Rockwell, **Portage**.

American Coot:

An impressive 1200 were on Rocky Fork Lake, **Highland**, on 03 Dec (Todd Deal). The next highest count was 400 from Camp Dennison, **Hamilton**, on 12 Dec (Kirk Westendorf). They were found in 33 other counties as well.

Sandhill Crane:

Three flocks, each of 400 to 500 birds, flew over Evendale, **Hamilton**, on 06 Dec (Mike and Nancy O'Connor). Armleder, 15 miles southeast of Evendale, had at least 200 roosting or flying over on 05 Dec (Kirk Westendorf). There were two other reports of between 100 and 200 individuals.

Whooping Crane:

A flock was reported flying over a house in West Chester, **Butler**, on 12 Dec.

Killdeer:

Craig Moore made the high count of 100 in Deer Creek SP, **Pickaway**, on 03 Dec. The next highest count was at the other end of the season, 22 birds on 28 Feb at Pickerington Ponds MP, **Franklin** (Brad Sparks). In the Frozen North, birds were seen in **Lorain** into early Dec and then again only in late Feb.

Purple Sandpiper:

Lorain harbor had the first of the season on 02 Dec (John Pogacnik).

Another (or possibly the same bird) was on the Cleveland breakwall during the 11 Dec BSBO cruise (m. obs.). Two were off South Bass Island, **Ottawa**, on 07 Dec (*fide* Sean Williams). Jay Lehman found the last, far south of their usual haunts, at Caesar Creek on 12 Dec.

Dunlin:

Two stragglers were noted, during the 05 Dec ONWR census (Ed Pierce *et al.*, *fide* Douglas Vogus) and at Caesar Creek on 09 Dec (Rick Asamoto).

Wilson's Snipe:

These were found in 12 counties more or less on a wide diagonal from **Hamilton** to **Ashtabula**. Most sightings were of single birds but Michael Her-shberger found four near Mt. Hope, **Holmes**, on 15 Jan. Three were found at Fernald on 05 Dec (John Marvin) and at Riverside, **Butler**, on 23 Jan (Mike Busam and Charlie Saunders).

American Woodcock:

The sightings were fewer but more scattered than those of its snipe cousin. All of the reports were towards winter's end; the earliest were two birds in Armleder on 15 Feb (Mark Gilsdorf). Some were displaying soon after in **Hamilton** (19 Feb, Kirk Westendorf), **Mahoning** (17 Feb, Craig Holt), and **Washington** (18 Feb, Bill Thompson III). The high count was also at Armleder, 12 birds on 23 Feb (Kirk Westendorf).

Black-legged Kittiwake:

One apparently injured or ill bird was seen at East-lake Power on 21 Dec (*fide* Jen Brumfield).

Bonaparte's Gull:

Lorain harbor had the highest count, 6000 on 01 Dec (Ben Warner), and there were several other counts in the thousands there during the next few days. The only other large concentration was off Kelleys Island on 09 Dec (Tom Bartlett). While most of the sightings were on Lake Erie the birds ranged to the Ohio River.

Black-headed Gull:

Jen Brumfield discovered one crowd-pleasing individual at Lorain harbor on 27 Nov; it remained until 05 Dec.



Black-headed Gull. Jen Brumfield discovered one crowd-pleasing individual at Lorain harbor, Lorain, on 27 Nov 2010; it remained until 05 Dec. This image was captured by John Pogacnik on 03 Dec.

Little Gull:

One first-cycle bird at Lorain harbor on 02 Dec was joined by an adult on 06 Dec (both John Pogacnik). Similarly, the one bird at Fairport Harbor, **Lake**, on 02 Jan doubled on 05 Jan (both Jen Brumfield). The last sighted was a single bird flying west off North Perry, **Lake**, on 15 Jan (John Pogacnik).

Franklin's Gull:

One was reported from Lorain harbor on 02 and 04 Dec (John Pogacnik, Jen Brumfield, Irene Krise).

Mew Gull:

One was reported at East 72nd Street, Cleveland, on 23 Dec.

Ring-billed Gull:

Lorain harbor held 20,000 on 04 Dec (Jen Brumfield). The next highest number reported was 8000, found 01 Dec at Lorain (Ben Warner) and 14 Dec at Cleveland's East 55th Street Marina (Jen Brumfield). They were seen in 40 counties statewide.

Herring Gull:

Tom Bartlett and Sandy Tkach estimated 11,600 during the 19 Dec Kelleys Island census. Lorain harbor held 8000 on 04 Dec, the second highest number (Jen Brumfield). Most of the 20-odd counties with sightings are on or near Lake Erie but there were scattered reports in central and southern counties as well.

[Herring Gull x Glaucous Gull ("Nelson's Gull")]:

Wes Hatch picked one out of the crowd in Cleveland harbor during the 11 Dec BSBO cruise and another was at Eastlake Power on 30 Jan (Jen Brumfield and Irene Krise). A third was at East 72nd Street, Cleveland, on 09 Jan (John Pogacnik); it or another was there on 16 Jan (Paul DuBuc). No doubt there were more, either unreported or whose reports I didn't find!

[Herring Gull x Great Black-backed Gull]:

Jen Brumfield identified one at the East 55th Street Marina, *Cuyahoga*, on 15 Dec.

Thayer's Gull:

There were at least eight reports of up to 10 individuals on 06, 11, 12, and 21 Dec; 06, 09, and 30 Jan; and 26-27 Feb. Cleveland's harbor, East 55th Street Marina, and East 72nd Street viewing site; Lorain harbor; and Eastlake Power all had sightings.

Iceland Gull:

These were reported from a total of 10 sites in *Clermont* (1 site), *Cuyahoga* (5), *Erie* (1), Lake (2) and *Lorain* (1). Participants on the 11 Dec BSBO cruise from Cleveland found two; all other reports were of one. The *Clermont* bird was on the Ohio River shore at New Richmond.



Little Gull. Laura Keene teased this bird out of a large flock of Bonaparte's gulls at Lorain harbor, *Lorain*, on 06 Dec 2010.

Lesser Black-backed Gull:

Most of the sightings were on Lake Erie, in *Cuyahoga*, *Erie*, *Lake*, *Lorain*, and *Lucas*, and several sites had two birds. Single birds were also seen in *Clermont* and *Warren*.

Slaty-backed Gull:

One possible was reported at East 55th Street, Cleveland, on 14 Dec.

Glaucous Gull:

There were many reports, with up to four individuals, from the regular Lake Erie sites in *Cuyahoga*, *Lake*, and *Lorain*. Kevin Myers found one on 05 Feb far south of their usual haunts, on the Great Miami River in *Montgomery*. It remained at least one more day.

Great Black-backed Gull:

A rare inland sighting was at Meldahl Dam, *Clermont*, on 18 Feb (Paul Krusling) but unless it was on or over Ohio dry land it counts as a Kentucky bird because of the state line's location. All of the definite Ohio birds were on or very near Lake Erie, in *Ashtabula*, *Cuyahoga*, *Erie*, *Lake*, *Lorain*, *Lucas*, and *Ottawa*. Avon Lake's Veteran's Park, *Lorain*, produced the sight of 200 on 23 Feb (Jen Brumfield).

Pomarine Jaeger:

What was probably the same bird was seen at Lorain harbor on 02 Dec (John Pogacnik) and 03 Dec (Wes Hatch). On 02 Jan, one was seen at each of East 72nd Street and Rocky River Park (both *Cuyahoga* and both m. obs.). These sites are about 20 miles apart so the sightings could have been of different birds. Also on 02 Jan, one flew by John Pogacnik's *Lake* house.

Parasitic Jaeger:

One was reported off Huron harbor on 05 Dec.

Jaeger sp.:

Tom Bain suspected his sighting at Eastlake Power on 22 Feb was a Parasitic.

Rock Pigeon:

Were it not for the CBCs, this species would vie with House Sparrow for the dubious distinction of "least reported relative to occurrence"; only 51 counties were represented without the 22 which the CBCs added. Mike Busam and Charlie Saunders estimated 400 were at Riverside, *Butler*, on 02 Jan.

Eurasian Collared-Dove:

Up to six were reported at the Celina, *Mercer*, grain elevators on several dates. One was reported from Oct into Dec near Sugar Creek, *Tuscarawas*. I will again remind readers that this is a review species and sightings should be documented for the OBRC.

Mourning Dove:

Paul Krusling found 400 on his Cincinnati CBC route on 26 Dec. The second highest number reported was 169 on 01 Jan in *Pickaway* (Andy Sewell).

Barn Owl:

One was recorded on an Amish property near Millersburg, *Holmes*, on 17 Jan (Irene Krise, Dan Gesualdo, and Lynn Gesualdo). Chase Maxwell found two in Plain City, *Madison*, on 26 Feb. Five CBCs found a total of seven birds, one of which was probably an overlap of the above *Holmes* bird. (*vide* Ned Keller).

Eastern Screech-Owl:

The earliest report was on 09 Dec, two birds at Kelleys Island (Tom Bartlett), though they're on the island (and statewide, for that matter) year round. Tom and Sandy Tkach counted six during the 19 Dec census on the island.

Great Horned Owl:

These were reported from over half of our counties. They were seen on nests in *Columbiana*, *Fairfield*, *Holmes*, *Lorain*, and *Wood*, and Bob Placier found a nest with young in *Vinton* on 10 Feb. Linda Gilbert reported a hoot-fest of two males and a female on 25 Dec in *Geauga*.

Snowy Owl:

One was reported on Duff-Washa Road, *Ottawa*, on 29 Dec. Four days later and less than five miles west, other observers reported a distant view of a possible Snowy. This bird was soon determined to be a leucistic Red-tailed Hawk and I suspect the Dec sighting was of the same bird.

Barred Owl:

These were reported from 50 counties, mostly as singles. Three were recorded on both 19 Dec and 15 Jan at Blacklick Woods MP, *Franklin* (Kristi Rowland).

Long-eared Owl:

The first was found 16 Jan at Fernald and sightings there continued until 27 Jan. Killdeer is still the favored area (favored by seekers, anyway, though not necessarily by the owls); there were several Jan reports and six were there on 22 Jan (Irene Krise and Dan Gesualdo). Other reports came from *Coshoc-ton*, *Franklin*, *Lorain*, and *Wood*.

Short-eared Owl:

Killdeer is also a prime spot for Short-eareds. They were present there all season and the area had the high count, 25, on 26 Feb (Anne Crary). The Wilds and Ohio Power lands, Fernald, and Darby Creek also had many sightings. All told, they were reported from 24 counties.

Northern Saw-whet Owl:

The first of the season was found at Fernald on 03 Dec (Leslie Houser). Between 19 and 27 Dec, CBCs in *Lucas*, *Wayne*, and *Wood* found a total of five. On 30 Dec Douglas Vogus and Michelle Zager found one at Cleveland Lakefront SP (Gordon Park) and it was seen on and off through the end of the period. One was also seen in *Wyandot*. One was discovered dead, apparently of a car strike, in *Geauga*.

Rufous Hummingbird:

Allan Chartier reported that an adult female which he had banded in Oct, 2009, in *Ashland* was recaptured on 18 Dec, 2010, in Pensacola, FL.

Belted Kingfisher:

These were widespread. The high count of eight was on a CBC route in Newtown, *Hamilton*, on 26 Dec (Kirk Westendorf).

Red-headed Woodpecker:

Gary Cowell found 10 in the Mohican SP lodge area, *Ashland*, on 01 Jan. Elliot Tramer wrote, "A group overwintered in a mixed oak grove in [Oak Openings, *Lucas*]; nine counted there on December 11." They were found in 42 other counties as well.

Red-bellied Woodpecker:

These were reported from over three-quarters of our counties. There were many reports in double digits, capped by the 42 along Kirk Westendorf's CBC route in *Hamilton*.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:

Most of the reports were from the southern half of the state, but counties in the rest of the state were also represented. The high count was eight, found 11 Dec around the Caesar Creek reservoir (Jonathan Frodge).

Downy Woodpecker:

These, like Red-bellieds, were reported from over three quarters of the counties. The 49 which Tom Bartlett and Sandy Tkach found on Kelleys Island during the 19 Jan census was an all-time high; they had found "only" 41 during the 19 Dec census. The Newtown, *Hamilton*, CBC route produced 42 on 26 Dec (Kirk Westendorf).

Hairy Woodpecker:

Chase Maxwell counted 22 in Plain City, *Madison*, on 25 Feb. They were found in over 50 counties.

Northern Flicker:

There were several reports in the 20s, and Jonathan Frodge reported "at least 40" feeding on poison ivy berries at Armleder on 15 Jan.

Pileated Woodpecker:

Over 50 counties produced sightings. The high was eight, found 11 Dec around the Caesar Creek reservoir (Jonathan Frodge).

***Empidonax* sp.:**

One visited a Sagamore Hills, **Summit**, feeder on 21 Jan (Clyde Witt).

Eastern Phoebe:

A few of these, our hardest flycatcher, were scattered throughout the season. Reports come from **Adams, Athens, Butler, Delaware, Greene, Hamilton, Harrison, Holmes, Muskingum, Perry**, and **Pike**. The **Perry** bird roosted in Joe Faulkner's yard for almost the whole season.

Northern Shrike:

These were reported from 16 counties. Most were singles but two were in the vicinity of The Wilds on 28 Jan (Ben Morrison) and two others were at Killdeer on 30 Jan (Charles Bombaci).

Blue Jay:

A CBC route in **Portage** yielded 48 birds on 18 Dec (Allan Twaddle, Jr.). Second place reports, both on 02 Jan, listed 45. They were of Bill Stanley's East Fork SP, **Clermont**, CBC route and Charles Bombaci's trip along a stretch of Leeper-Perkins Road in **Union**.

American Crow:

As noted before, this species and Red-tailed Hawk were reported from the most counties, 80, and were undoubtedly present in the other eight. There were two reports of about 3000 birds: in **Mahoning** on 04 Dec (Craig Holt) and in **Fairfield** on 25 Feb (Jeff McIntyre). Holt noted that 2000 of his were *en route* to a Youngstown roost.

Common Raven:

One bird was apparently first seen in northern **Knox** in Oct. It was next reported by *The Bobolink* area RBA on 31 Jan and then posted on Ohio-birds by Jen Brumfield on 13 Feb. Sightings continued well into spring. Jen Sauter watched one flying and soaring for several minutes near Gibsonville, **Hocking**, on 06 Jan.

Horned Lark:

There were many reports with triple digits; the highest number at one location was 1000 east of Mt. Hope, **Holmes**, on 22 Jan (Robert Hershberger). Jay and Jack Stenger found about 1300 in three hours of rural birding in western **Butler** and adjoining parts of Indiana.

Tree Swallow:

The 05 Dec ONWR census found nine, the last of the year (Ed Pierce *et al.*, *fide* Douglas Vogus). The first one of the new year was at Deer Creek SP, **Pickaway**, on 22 Feb (Robert Royse). There two later Feb reports, both of two birds.

Barn Swallow:

A single bird was at Lorain harbor for about a week ending 01 Dec (Ben Warner).

Carolina Chickadee:

On 19 Dec, a CBC route in New Baltimore, **Hamilton**, yielded 200 (Paul Krusling and Tim Rice). Another route, in eastern **Hamilton** on 26 Dec, had 110 (Kirk Westendorf). All of the reports were from the species' normal range.

Black-capped Chickadee:

The only count exceeding 100 was the 148 found during the 19 Dec Kelleys Island census (Tom Bartlett and Sandy Tkach). In addition to the expected reports from the northern part of the state, one was reported from each of **Pickaway** and **Union**.

Tufted Titmouse:

Mike Bracken found the most, 55 in Rocky River Reservation, **Cuyahoga**, on 15 Jan. Michael Minium saw one early bird carrying nesting material on 11 Feb in **Preble**.

Red-breasted Nuthatch:

The 52 counties with sightings were well distributed but most of the reports were from the northern part of the state. Nevertheless, Sean Williams found six on the Ohio Wesleyan campus, **Delaware**, on 13 Dec, and smaller numbers were found to the Ohio River.



Common Raven and American Crow. After making an initial appearance back in Oct 2010, this raven continued to be observed through the reporting period. Caught here on 14 Feb 2011 along College Hill Road, Knox, by Laura Keene, the raven towers over its smaller cousin.

White-breasted Nuthatch:

The high count was 32, found on 25 Feb in Plain City, **Madison** (Chase Maxwell).

Brown Creeper:

About half of the counties had sightings. Tom Bartlett found 12 on Kelleys Island on two Dec dates and Paul Krusling's **Hamilton** CBC route yielded 16 on 26 Dec.

Carolina Wren:

These were found statewide though more reports came from the southern half. Armleder had 20 on 11 Dec (Kirk Westendorf and Mark Gilsdorf) and Kirk's Newtown, **Hamilton**, CBC route had 18 on 26 Dec. These were the only two double-digit reports.

Winter Wren:

These were reported from 29 counties, with distribution being weighted to the north. Some were noted in Nov away from their few in-state breeding areas but the first of this season were two at Shawnee Prairie Preserve, **Darko**, on 07 Dec (Rob Clifford). Lake Catherine SNP, **Jackson**, had two on 18 Dec (Dave Slager) and the 19 Dec Kelleys Island census also counted two (Tom Bartlett and Sandy Tkach).

Marsh Wren:

The 27 Dec Wooster, **Wayne**, CBC reported the only one of the season (*vide* Ned Keller).

Golden-crowned Kinglet:

These were widespread. Dave Slager found 45 at Lake Catherine SNP, **Jackson**, on 18 Dec and the second highest count, 25, was found a day earlier in Delaware SP (Sean Williams).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet:

Six were reported with specific locations. Two were in Armleder on 27 Dec (Beth Fonville). Singles were at a Madison Place, Cincinnati, feeder on 18 Dec (Linnett Leisner); in Avoca Park, **Hamilton**, on 26 Dec (Paul Krusling and Joe Kappa) and 18 Feb (Joshua Eastlake); and in Mohican SP, **Ashland/Richland**, on 13 Feb (Dan Gesualdo and Irene Krise). Eight CBCs recorded one each.

Eastern Bluebird:

Reports were fewer in Jan than in Dec and Feb but not substantially so. There also was no notable geographic trend. The high count of 67 was on a **Hamilton** CBC route on 19 Dec (Paul Krusling and Joe Kappa); Mosquito Creek WA, **Trumbull**, had 42 on the same date (Carole Babyak).

Hermit Thrush:

These were well distributed, with reports from 37 counties. Kelleys Island had the highest concentration, 10 birds on 19 Dec (Tom Bartlett and Sandy Tkach).

American Robin:

There were several reports of up to 3000. Paul Krusling and Tim Rice recorded that number on 19 Dec along a CBC route in New Baltimore, and William Hull estimated that Spring Grove Cemetery held that many on 01 Feb. Both locations are in **Hamilton**. Elliot Tramer commented, "Large flocks, almost all males, moved into the Whitehouse [Lucas] area the last week of January (e.g. 130 on Jan. 25). The non-native callery pears favored by

subdivision developers are distained by naturalists because they are becoming invasive, but the robins (and waxwings) sure find them attractive."

Gray Catbird:

Nine were reported at specific locations. Three were in different parts of **Summit** and one was in each of **Clark**, **Clermont**, **Mahoning**, **Richland**, **Tuscarawas**, and **Wyandot**. Two of the **Summit** sightings were in Feb; the other six were in Dec. CBCs contributed seven more (*vide* Ned Keller).

Northern Mockingbird:

Almost half of the counties had sightings. A CBC route on the Wilmot, **Stark**, count produced seven birds (Gary Cowell *et al.*). Craig Holt commented that he found 15 birds among nine sites in **Mahoning**.

Brown Thrasher:

Six CBCs recorded seven birds (*vide* Ned Keller). Ten other individuals were reported, a duo and a single in **Hamilton** and singles in **Clermont**, **Holmes**, **Lorain**, **Warren**, **Wood**, and **Wyandot** (2). Ten reports were in Dec, four in Jan, and three in Feb.

European Starling:

Tom Bartlett found between 20,000 and 25,000 on Kelleys Island on three dates in Dec. The next largest concentration noted was of 10,000 in Miamisburg, **Montgomery**, on 07 Jan (Scott Hutchings).

American Pipit:

Sightings were fairly evenly spaced throughout the season; reports came from about 20 counties. The high counts were of 15 flyovers at Fernald on 22 Feb (Paul Severs) and of 12 on the 04 Dec CVNP census (Douglas Vogus *et al.*).



Hermit Thrush. Our only widely distributed Catharus thrush in winter, this individual posed with its favorite berry in a snow storm for Laura Keene at Caesar Creek State Park, Warren, on 11 Jan 2011.

Bohemian Waxwing:

Tom Bartlett and Sandy Tkach found one during their 19 Dec Kelleys Island census and got some excellent photographs; Tom saw it again on 20 Dec. Another was reported in *Hancock* on 18 Dec.

Cedar Waxwing:

Sean Williams saw a flock of 85 in Delaware SP on 17 Dec and there were many reports in the 50 to 80 range.

Lapland Longspur:

These were reported from 34 counties. Ellis Lake, *Butler*, had the largest flock, 100 on 06 Feb (Charlie Saunders). Reports were fairly evenly spread throughout the season.

Snow Bunting:

There were few reports during the first week of Dec but they were fairly numerous after that. The many triple-digit counts peaked on 19 Dec at 620 along a road in *Williams* (Marshall Iliff).

Yellow-rumped Warbler:

These were seen in almost 50 counties statewide but reports were weighted to the south. The high count was 68, on an eastern *Hamilton* CBC route on 26 Dec (Kirk Westendorf). Half of them were in a single flock. Another large flock, 35, was in West Branch SP, *Portage*, on 14 Jan (Aaron Bartley).

Yellow-throated Warbler:

The Bobolink provided this account: "The same bird that over-wintered last year was again present this winter on the David Kline farm [near Fredricksburg, *Wayne*]"

Pine Warbler:

After Yellow-rumped, this is our hardest warbler. Thirteen were reported, five of them specifically at feeders. They were accompanying American Goldfinches at a Dover, *Tuscarawas*, feeder on 06 Dec (Dan Kramer) and "hanging out with yellow-rumps" in Mitchell Memorial Forest, *Hamilton*, on 11 Dec (Jason Cade). The others were in *Athens*, *Clermont*, *Coshocton*, *Cuyahoga*, *Delaware*, *Franklin*, *Holmes*, *Preble* (two birds), and *Stark*, and *Wayne*.

Palm Warbler:

One visited an Apple Creek, *Wayne*, feeder on 22 Dec (*vide The Bobolink*).

Eastern Towhee:

This bird, common in summer, was still found in almost 50 counties throughout the state this winter, though sightings were more common in the south. Defying this generalization, three regularly visited Carole Babyak's feeders and brush piles in Warren, *Trumbull*, all through the season. The high count was 17, on 08 Jan in Crooked Run SP, *Clermont* (Laura Hoople), and "a dozen or so" were in Steam-

boat Bend Park, *Hamilton*, on 13 Feb (Jonathan Frodge and Samantha Sayre).

American Tree Sparrow:

There were many flocks numbering in triple digits. The high was 400, seen in *Wyandot* on 26 Feb (Jeff McIntyre), and they were seen in nearly 60 other counties.

Chipping Sparrow:

These were seen more in Jan and Feb than in Dec, but the high count of four was on 14 Dec in *Hamilton* (eBird user Tessa K). They were found at almost 30 locations in 17 counties.

Field Sparrow:

Small to moderate numbers were present in over 30 counties. The high count was 30, found on 18 Dec in *Jackson* (Dave Slager).

Vesper Sparrow:

One was noted during the Western *Hamilton* CBC on 19 Dec (*vide* Ned Keller).

Savannah Sparrow:

These were reported from over 20 locations. Five locations were in *Hamilton*, two in each of *Cuyahoga*, *Holmes*, and *Lorain*, and one in each of *Brown*, *Butler*, *Clermont*, *Coshocton*, *Franklin*, *Holmes*, *Lucas*, *Ottawa*, *Scioto*, *Union*, *Tuscarawas*, *Wayne*, and *Wyandot*. The high was seven, found 26 Dec on a CBC route in *Hamilton* (Kirk Westendorf).

Fox Sparrow:

These were scattered statewide though southern counties had more sites reported. Three counts tied for the highest: Jay and Jack Stenger found "5+" around the Winton Woods, *Hamilton*, settling ponds on 04 Dec; Dennis Kline found five near Holmesville, *Holmes*, on 30 Dec; and Jonathan Frodge saw five on the Indian Creek Golf Course, *Hamilton*, on 16 Jan.

Song Sparrow:

Hamilton again had the highest counts, both on CBC routes. In the northwest of the county, 120 were around New Baltimore on 19 Dec (Paul Krusling and Tim Rice) and in Newtown, on the east side, Kirk Westendorf counted 211 on 26 Dec. They were found in over 70 other counties as well.

Lincoln's Sparrow:

Five were found, all on CBCs (Ned Keller). The counts names were Ashland (*Ashland/Richland*) and Ohio River (OH/KY/IN) on 18 Dec, Toledo on 19 Dec, Ragersville (*Coshocton/ Holmes/ Tuscarawas*) on 28 Dec, and Grand Rapids-Waterville (*Lucas/Wood*) on 02 Jan. The Ohio River count bird, of course, might not have been in our state.

Swamp Sparrow:

The highest of the four double-digit counts was 35, on 26 Dec along the Newtown, **Hamilton**, route (Kirk Westendorf). Forty-three counties had sightings.

White-throated Sparrow:

The highest two-digit count was 60, in Delaware SP on 17 Dec (Sean Williams). However, it was more than doubled – 147 – during the 19 Dec Kelleys Island census (Tom Bartlett and Sandy Tkach).

Harris's Sparrow:

Young birder Andy Troyer discovered one on 22 Dec at his feeders near Apple Creek, **Wayne**. The Troyer family's hospitality enabled many to see the bird before its late Apr departure.

White-crowned Sparrow:

These were found in over half of our counties. The high count was 53, on 11 Dec in Armeleder (Kirk Westendorf).

Golden-crowned Sparrow:

This visitor from the west, who was first seen in Apr 2009, returned to **Hancock** for another winter. Robert Riggs and friends viewed it on 30 Jan.

Dark-eyed Junco:

These were found statewide. The high count of 262, made 19 Dec on Kelleys Island, included one of the "Oregon" group usually found in the far west (Tom Bartlett and Sandy Tkach). Two CBCs and four other individuals each reported one "Oregon".

Northern Cardinal:

Our state bird was not, alas, reported from more counties than any other, but 75 is still a respectable number. The 19 Dec Kelleys Island census counted 96 (Tom Bartlett and Sandy Tkach).

Dickcissel:

One patronized a feeder at a private inholding in CVNP until at least 05 Dec (*vide* Dwight Chasar).

Red-winged Blackbird:

Several sites had counts in the thousands. Craig Holt found a mixed flock on 26 Feb in **Ashtabula**; of the estimated 3000 birds most were Red-wingeds. Chase Maxwell reported 2100 from Plain City, **Madison**, on 28 Feb.

Eastern Meadowlark:

These were reported from 30 counties from the river to the lake. The high count was 61 near the Killdeer Sportsman's Center on 14 Jan (Sue Tackett).

Yellow-headed Blackbird:

One flew over Farmerstown, **Holmes**, on 09 Jan (*vide* The Bobolink Area RBA). What was probably a different bird was in a large mixed blackbird flock southeast of Apple Creek, **Wayne**, on the same date (Craig Caldwell). On 16 and 17 Jan, it or another was seen about five miles away on the other

side of Apple Creek (m. obs.). The last of the season visited a multi-feeder yard in Marlboro Township, **Stark**, on 26 Feb (Shari Jackson and Ronnie Macko).

Rusty Blackbird:

There were several double-digit sightings with the highest count being 15. These were on Secret Road, **Wayne**, on 22 Jan (Ryan Steiner). They were found in 31 counties.

Brewer's Blackbird:

Three were found on the 18 Dec Ohio River CBC, whose area includes parts of Indiana and Kentucky as well as Ohio. The Cincinnati CBC, which is wholly within Ohio, had one on 26 Dec (both CBCs *vide* Ned Keller). Lastly, Vic and Lois Harder reported one in their Oak Harbor, **Ottawa**, yard on 17 Jan.

Common Grackle:

About 6400 invaded a stretch of Gravel Washer Road, **Pike**, on 18 Dec (Tom Bain) and there were at least seven more reports in the thousands.

Brown-headed Cowbird:

The highest number reported was 3000, found at L&M Animal Farms in **Warren** on 08 Feb (Robert Foppe and Jennifer Smolenski). The next highest count was the 450 on Honeytown Road, **Wayne**, on 19 Feb (Jen Brumfield).

Purple Finch:

Forty-five counties had sightings. Four reports had double digits with the highest count, 32, coming from Plain City, **Madison**, on 25 Feb (Chase Maxwell).

House Finch:

The highest count of this ubiquitous species, 62, was also in Plain City, **Madison**, on 25 Feb (Chase Maxwell).

White-winged Crossbill:

It is hard to believe, but only two were reported. One was seen on the Cuyahoga Falls, **Summit**, CBC on 19 Dec (*vide* Ned Keller) and Robert Sams saw the other in Camp Berry, **Hancock**, on 24 Dec.

Common Redpoll:

These were reported in 22 counties. Though they began arriving in late Oct, there was only one report in the first half of Dec and five during the rest of the month. The high count of 60 was at Conneaut, **Ashtabula**, on 05 Jan (Craig Holt).

Hoary Redpoll:

One was reported at a **Sandusky** feeder between 20 and 26 Feb (*vide* Jen Brumfield). The record is pending with the OBRC.



Common Redpoll. Always a welcome visitor to the thistle feeder, these individuals were photographed by Steve and Yumiko Cornett on 27 Feb 2011 in Canton, Stark.

Pine Siskin:

Siskins were plentiful and found in 44 counties. Mark Rozmarynowycz estimated 100 were in Woodlawn Cemetery, **Franklin**, on 28 Dec, and Barb Partington had “too many to count” at her **Geauga** feeders on 25 Feb.

American Goldfinch:

The intersection of County Roads 37 and 38 in **Wyandot** must be very attractive to them – Richard Counts found 276 there on 20 Feb and many smaller triple-digit numbers on other dates. The only other big count was 100, found along Leeper-Perkins Road, **Union** on 02 Jan (Charles Bombaci).

Evening Grosbeak:

Levi Yoder saw one fly past east of Sugarcreek, **Tuscarawas**, on 28 Dec during the Ragersville CBC (*vide The Bobolink*).

House Sparrow:

John Moore counted 343 in his section of the Greenville, **Darke**, CBC on 19 Dec for the highest report.

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The Species Accounts could not be written without the data provided by these contributors either directly to the Editors or by posting to an on-line venue. We thank you.

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