

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

By Craig Caldwell

Greater White-fronted Goose:

Doug Overacker found the season's first in Honeywell, **Champaign**, on 11 Dec, though there were three Oct and Nov (fall) reports. John Hull counted 22 over Miami Whitewater Forest, **Hamilton**, at dusk on 25 Feb. Twelve counties hosted the species.

Snow Goose:

Thirty-one counties provided sightings of a total of perhaps 150 birds. The high count was 12, in **Wood** on 07 Jan (Sam Lause).



Snow Goose, Fernald NP, Butler/Hamilton, on 03 Jan, by Allan Claybon.

Ross's Goose:

Single birds were seen in 11 counties, all of them from **Franklin** north.

Brant:

Ruth Richards reported one at Castalia Pond, **Erie**, on 28 Feb.

Cackling Goose:

Sightings were scattered through almost 30 counties. The only double-digit count was 11, which Paul Hurtado made at Darby Bend section of Prairie Oaks MP, **Franklin**, on 30 Jan.

Canada Goose:

Killdeer Plains' Pond 27 attracted 3900 of these on 08 Jan (Victor Fazio III). As expected, only a few counties did not provide reports.

Mute Swan:

There were several reports in double digits but the only number higher than 20 was the 61 which Victor Fazio III noted in Catawba Island Slough, **Ottawa**, on 10 Jan.

Trumpeter Swan:

Tom Bartlett counted 47 in ONWR as part of the

01 Jan CBC centered there. Most of the other double-digit counts also came from ONWR and the nearby Metzger Marsh WA, **Lucas**, but Killdeer Plains also contributed. Reports came from 18 counties overall.

Tundra Swan:

Ed Pierce's ONWR census crew counted 1674 on 01 Jan (*vide* Douglas Vogus). There were several other reports of over 1000 birds from ONWR and many in the hundreds from there, Metzger Marsh WA (**Lucas**), Killdeer Plains, and a couple of other locations. Thirty-four counties had sightings.

Wood Duck:

Over forty counties provided sightings. Sylvia Townsend found the high count, 43, at Blendon Woods MP, **Franklin**, on 03 Dec.

Gadwall:

The 04 Dec ONWR census found 1264 (Ed Pierce *et al.* *vide* Douglas Vogus). The second highest count was "only" 500 which an OSU ornithology class field trip found at Killdeer Plains on 25 Feb. Forty-seven counties yielded reports.

Eurasian Wigeon:

Fernald NP, **Butler/Hamilton**, hosted one between 29 Dec and 09 Jan for multiple observers. Aaron E. Miller and David Weaver found one along State Route 95 at Funk Bottoms on 29 Feb and it remained into Mar.

American Wigeon:

Almost 50 counties hosted these. The OSU ornithology class (see Gadwall above) estimated 500 were at Killdeer Plains on 25 Feb.

American Black Duck:

Over sixty counties provided sightings. Kenn Kaufman made the high count of 3500 at the Winous Point Shooting Club marsh, **Ottawa**, on 31 Dec; he noted that the number probably included some hybrids. The next highest number was Silvia Townsend's 573 at Blendon Woods MP, **Franklin**, on 22 Jan.

[American Black Duck x Mallard]:

Andy Sewell picked out 25 among the blacks and Mallards at Blendon Woods MP, **Franklin**, on 14 Jan. The rest of the reports, from a dozen counties, were in single digits.

Mallard:

Reports came from more than 70 counties. The Winous Point Shooting Club marsh, **Ottawa**,

held about 13,000 on 31 Dec (Kenn Kaufman). Ethan Kistler estimated 4750 were at the Meinke Marina, **Lucas**, on 13 Feb for the second-highest number.

Blue-winged Teal:

Bob Powell found one at Cowan Lake, **Clinton**, on 03 Feb and Megan Shoemaker counted three in the Delaware WA on 18 Feb. Three CBCs found a total of 14.

Northern Shoveler:

Castalia Pond, **Erie**, held the season's high number of about 150 on 21 Jan (Craig Caldwell). About half of our counties provided reports.

Northern Pintail:

These were also found in about half of the counties. Ken Ostermiller estimated 2000 at Funk Bottoms on 09 Feb; this was the only four-digit report.

Green-winged Teal:

Craig Moore found about 100 at ONWR on 05 Dec for the high count. Thirty-eight counties had sightings.

Canvasback:

East Harbor SP, **Ottawa**, hosted about 1200 for Allen Chartier on 20 Feb. Reports came from 29 counties overall.

Redhead:

Half of our counties provided sightings; the highest count was 300 at Metzger Marsh WA, **Lucas**, on 18 Feb (Ken Ostermiller).

Ring-necked Duck:

Su Snyder found 500 at Killbuck WA, **Holmes/Wayne**, on 27 Feb. Funk Bottoms and Watermark Quarry, **Franklin**, shared second place with 250 on 09 Feb (Dave Slager and Ben Warner) and 27 Feb (Ken Ostermiller), respectively. Almost 60 counties had sightings.

Greater Scaup:

Allen Chartier carefully noted 673 at East Harbor SP, **Ottawa**, on 10 Jan. Reports came from 21 counties; most were northern but they were scattered all the way to the Ohio River.

Lesser Scaup:

East Harbor SP, **Ottawa**, was teeming with 6600 of these on 10 Jan (Allen Chartier). All of the other counts, from 46 counties, were below 1000.

Harlequin Duck:

John Pogacnik saw one during his 28 Dec lakeshore waterbird survey in North Perry, **Lake**.

Surf Scoter:

Reports came from a dozen counties including inland ones all the way to **Warren**. Sims Park,

Cuyahoga, twice offered the high count of 15, on 03 Dec (Andy Sewell) and 29 Dec (Nancy Anderson).



Surf Scoter, Caesar Creek SP, Warren, on 26 Feb, by Allan Claybon.

White-winged Scoter:

Every north coast county from **Erie** east to **Ashtabula**, plus inland **Franklin**, **Pickaway**, **Richland**, and **Warren** produced sightings. Sims Park, **Cuyahoga**, again hosted the high number, 10 on 07 Dec for Mike Bracken and George Coleman.

Black Scoter:

Reports came from **Ashtabula**, **Cuyahoga**, **Erie**, **Lake**, **Lucas**, **Lorain**, **Summit**, and **Warren**. Ten birds were at Sims Park, Cuyahoga, on 01 Jan (Ben Morrison) and at Lorain Harbor on 20 Jan (Kent Miller). Jen Brumfield saw the last of the season on 05 Feb off Rocky River Park, **Cuyahoga**.

Long-tailed Duck:

One flew past John Pogacnik's North Perry, **Lake**, survey site on 11 Dec. Duane Lee Yoder found one at Funk Bottoms on 22 Dec. Cleveland's East 72nd Street viewpoint (and occasionally the East 55th Street one) hosted a female between 06 and 15 Jan. Paul Krusling and Joe Kappa found two at Caesar Creek on 15 Jan. Brian McClain reported one at Beaver Creek Reservoir, **Seneca**, on 29 Feb. Two CBCs also reported the species.

Bufflehead:

Almost 50 counties provided reports. Tom Bartlett *et al.* found 325 during their 18 Dec Kelleys Island census. The 11 Jan and 23 Feb censuses there produced 137 and 166, respectively, for the only other triple-digit reports.

Common Goldeneye:

The 23 Feb Kelleys Island census scored the highest count, 912 (Tom Bartlett *et al.*). Sightings came from 33 counties.

The Ohio Cardinal, Winter 2011-2012

Hooded Merganser:

Charles Bombaci provided the high count of 125 from along Oxbow Road, **Delaware**, on 12 Dec, and there were a few other counts over 100. Almost 60 counties generated reports.

Common Merganser:

Dick Lee estimated that 5000 were in Lorain Harbor on 21 Jan. Kent Miller had noted a mixed Common and Red-breasted Merganser flock of about 10,000 there the previous day. Thirty-five counties, mostly northern but south to **Butler** and **Warren** as well, had sightings.

Red-breasted Merganser:

The Lake Erie shore in **Cuyahoga** and **Lorain** generated several reports in the range of 10,000 to 15,000 birds (m. obs.) and there were many sightings in four digits. Thirty-one counties scattered statewide produced sightings.

Ruddy Duck:

Rick Asamoto estimated 1200 at Bressler Reservoir, **Allen**, on 11 Dec and then 1100 there on 08 Jan. Other sites had numbers to 500. Almost 50 counties provided reports.

Northern Bobwhite:

Irina Shulgina found one at the Marysville Reservoir, **Union**, on 01 Dec. Gary Cowell watched a raccoon chase two from a hedgerow along the B&O Trail, **Richland**. Three CBCs also recorded the species.

Ring-necked Pheasant:

We can never be sure how many pheasants we see are truly wild birds, but they are still fun to find. Brad Sparks counted 15 at the **Pickaway** Airport on 31 Dec and Robert Foppe and Jennifer Smolenski found the same number at Cricket Frog Cove, **Wood**, on 26 Jan. The other reports were all of fewer than 10 birds. More than 20 counties provided sightings; of them only **Adams** and **Athens** are in the unglaciated southeast.

Ruffed Grouse:

There were more than a dozen reports, with about half filed by Scott Pendleton from various sites in **Harrison**. Ironically, though Harrison SF in that county had the largest count, of three on 10 Dec, Dan Gesualdo provided it. The **Adams** CBC teams also found three on 17 Dec.

Wild Turkey:

More than 50 counties yielded reports. Gary Cowell made the high count of 80, at Malabar Farm SP, **Richland**, on 12 Feb.

Red-throated Loon:

One spent 15 to 18 Dec at Caesar Creek (m. obs.).

Mark Gilsdorf and Bill Stanley found a one-day wonder at East Fork SP, **Clermont**, on 07 Jan. Hans Klebsch studied a “freshly deceased” individual on the beach at Headlands on 08 Jan. John Pogacnik’s 29 Jan lakeshore survey from North Perry, **Lake**, yielded one flyby.

Common Loon:

The highest of many double-digit counts came from the eastern, **Richland**, part of Pleasant Hill Lake; John Herman noted 50 there on 06 Dec. (As many as 400 had been there in late Nov.) One spent the winter in Firestone MP, **Summit** (Rob Harlan). Thirty-four other counties also provided sightings.

Pied-billed Grebe:

Ken Ostermiller counted 40 on the Wellington Upground Reservoir, **Lorain**, on 28 Dec. Almost 60 counties had sightings.

Horned Grebe:

Alex Hughes estimated 100 at the Eastlake power plant, **Lake**, on 07 Dec. The next highest number was 35, off Cleveland’s East 55th Street on 02 Dec (Rich and Karen Kassouf). Reports came from 40 counties overall.

Red-necked Grebe:

Though there were several Oct and Nov sightings, the first of this season was Doug Overacker’s find on 18 Dec at Kiser Lake SP, **Champlain**. Dave Slager and Sue Tackett saw one on 03 Jan at the Eastlake power plant, **Lake**, and at Conneaut, respectively. One or two stayed in the Barrett Paving gravel pits, **Montgomery**, from 30 Dec to 15 Jan (m. obs.).

Eared Grebe:

Jerry Talkington found one at Fairport Harbor, **Lake**, on 04 Jan; it stayed two more days. One visited the Darby Bend section of Prairie Oaks MP, **Franklin**, from 06 to 08 Jan (m. obs.). Another graced Cleveland’s East 55th and East 72nd Streets vantage points from 08 to 10 Jan (Buster Banish *et al.*) and another was there on 24 Jan (George Coleman).

Double-crested Cormorant:

About 30 counties had sightings; most counties (and birds) were in the northern half of the state but some of each were scattered to the Ohio River. The only triple-digit report was Alex Hughes’s estimate of 100 at Wendy Park on 07 Dec.

American Bittern:

The single report was from Kelleys Island by Tom Bartlett’s combined census and CBC team on 18 Dec.

Great Blue Heron:

These were seen statewide throughout the season but most of the Feb sightings were in the southern half. Over 70 counties provided sightings. Margaret Bowman noted about 50 at Dillon Reservoir, *Muskingum*, on 05 Jan.

Great Egret:

The Toledo (*Lucas/Wood*) and Portsmouth (*Scioto*) CBCs each found two. One spent from 25 Dec to 09 Jan at a wastewater treatment plant outfall on the Cuyahoga River in that county (m. obs.). Single birds were reported from *Erie*, *Lucas*, *Sandusky*, and *Tuscarawas* on dates ranging from 23 Dec to 17 Feb.

Cattle Egret:

One remained from fall to 06 Dec southwest of Berlin, *Holmes* (fide Robert Hershberger).

Black-crowned Night-Heron:

Tom Bartlett and Victor Fazio III reported 86 at the Sandusky coal docks, *Erie*, on 01 Jan. *Ashtabula*, *Cuyahoga*, *Delaware*, *Franklin*, *Lorain*, *Lucas*, and *Montgomery* also contributed sightings.

Black Vulture:

As expected, most of the 31 counties with sightings were southern but *Delaware*, *Franklin*, *Holmes*, and *Richland* also contributed. Robert Foppe and Jennifer Smolenski estimated 200 in Batavia, *Clermont*, on 02 Jan. The second-highest count was 75, from Lake Buckhorn, *Holmes*, on 04 Jan (Bruce Glick).

Turkey Vulture:

By Jan most of the sightings were in the south, but northbound movement was again noted by the end of the month. Almost 70 counties provided reports. Tom Bartlett estimated 275 at New Concord, *Muskingum*, on 15 Jan and there were several other triple-digit reports.

Osprey:

Five (maybe six) of this scarce winter bird were reported. This is a higher number than the total of the previous three winters. What was probably the same bird was reported from two locations in *Richland* on 09 Dec (fide Victor Fazio III and John Herman). Four CBCs each tallied one bird. Only the latest of them, in the Mentor, *Lake*, circle on 18 Dec, was well documented to Audubon.

Bald Eagle:

These were widespread (reported in 65 counties) and numerous. Thank you, DDT ban! Allen Chartier counted 24 at East Harbor SP, *Ottawa*,

on 10 Jan and there were several other double-digit counts.

Northern Harrier:

Harrier sightings came from 60 counties. The *Hardin* Wetlands hosted 15 for Richard Counts on 24 Dec.

Sharp-shinned Hawk:

Rich and Karen Kassouf found two in ONWR on 17 Dec. The other reports, from a total of 50 counties, were each of one bird.

Cooper's Hawk:

Sightings significantly exceeded those of their smaller cousin; reports came from more than 70 counties. Two reports had three birds, those from *Lucas* on 18 Dec (Barry McEwen) and the OSU Waterman Farm, *Franklin*, on 11 Jan (Paul Hurtado and Dave Slager).

Northern Goshawk:

Tom Bartlett found and photographed an immature on Kelleys Island on 22 Feb and saw it again the next day.



Northern Goshawk, Kelley's Island, Erie, on 22 Feb, by Tom Bartlett.

Red-shouldered Hawk:

Most of the reports were of one or two birds, though about 20 observers found more. Jason Sullivan counted six in East Fork SP, *Clermont*, on 18 Jan. Over 50 counties provided sightings.

Red-tailed Hawk:

At least 75 counties produced reports. Julia Blyth counted 18 birds along her *Delaware* CBC route on 18 Dec, the highest of several double-digit sightings. Craig Holt noted a "nice count of 5 pairs around [Lowellville, *Mahoning*] 2/26". A hunter took Scott Pendleton to a *Harrison* site where a Red-tailed Hawk and a Great Horned Owl had apparently killed each other. Scott said, "Our working theory is the owl



Red-shouldered Hawk, Cowan Lake SP, Clinton, on 19 Dec, by Allan Claybon. (previous page)

tried to take the hawk off its night roost (there was a pine very near the birds) and both birds were killed in the battle!”

Rough-legged Hawk:

Participants in the OOS trip to The Wilds, **Muskingum**, on 14 Jan reported up to eight there and in the surrounding Ohio Power lands. Scott Pendleton and Laura Dornan found five at The Bowl, **Harrison**, (a much smaller area) on 10 Dec. Reports came from almost 40 other counties as well.

Golden Eagle:

Multiple observers found one or two in The Wilds’ vicinity, **Muskingum**, between 28 Dec and 03 Feb. Doug and Micki Dunakin saw one on 21 and 29 Dec near Antwerp, **Paulding**. Robert Sams noted one at the Reick Center for Habitat Studies, **Hancock**, on 02 Jan. Andrea Haslage saw one in Slate Run MP, **Franklin**, on 14 Jan. Jim McCormac reported that Joel and Valerie Moore photographed one east of Gambier, **Knox**, on 16 Jan; Jen Sauter reported what was probably the same bird nearby on 21 Jan. Roger Hickey saw one perched on a utility pole in **Highland** on 04 Feb; it’s the first known in that county. Ken Keylor reported the last of the season from Seneca Lake, **Guernsey**, on 20 Feb.

American Kestrel:

More than 75 counties provided sightings. Three reports shared the high count of 10. Craig Moore found that many at Killdeer Plains on 03 Dec and Big Island WA, **Marion**, the next day. Fred Losi and Elizabeth McQuaid tallied them at The Wilds and vicinity, **Muskingum** on 22 Jan.

Merlin:

Cemeteries were far and away the most-

reported sites in the 21 counties with sightings. **Cuyahoga’s** Calvary Cemetery topped the counts with three birds on 09 Feb (Jen Brumfield).

Peregrine Falcon:

Hope Orr watched three Peregrines chasing a gull in the Boston area of CVNP on 15 Dec. Reports came from 21 counties and several were of two birds.

Virginia Rail:

The Millersburg CBC reported one on 14 Dec at the “traditional **Holmes** spot”. Kent Miller saw two there on 05 Jan and Bruce Glick one on 06 Jan. Laura Keene turned up “at least four” in Spring Valley WA, **Greene/Warren**, on 10 Jan. One showed itself there to Brian and Gale Wulker on 25 Feb.

American Coot:

Ethan Kistler and Ken Ostermiller filed reports of 1000 to 2000 coots at Metzger Marsh WA, **Lucas**, between 16 and 22 Feb. Sixty counties provided sightings.

Sandhill Crane:

Micki Dunakin wrote, “December was an incredible month for Sandhill Cranes in our area. Throughout the month there were exceptional numbers. There were hundreds in [**Paulding**]. On the Oxbow Lake CBC [**Defiance**] 12/28 we estimated 2650.” Robert Foppe and Jennifer Smolenski counted 343 in three southbound flocks during a 03 Jan trip to Fernald NP, **Butler/Hamilton**. The **Bobolink** reported that cranes were “present at Funk [Bottoms] almost all winter”. Thirty other counties also had sightings.



American Kestrels, mating at Fernald NP, **Butler/Hamilton**, on 22 Feb, by Allan Claybon.

American Golden-Plover:

Rick Asamoto photographed one on the Caesar Creek beach on 09 Dec. This species is usually gone by early Nov; there are only a couple of previous winter records [*vide* Bill Whan].

Killdeer:

This plover sticks around all winter; almost 60 counties provided reports. Most were of one or two birds. The double-digit counts were headed by Margaret Bowman; she saw 50 along her 01 Jan CBC route in *Pickaway*.

Lesser Yellowlegs:

Gary Cowell found one in a flock of Killdeer along Wilderness Road, *Wayne*, during the Wooster CBC on 24 Dec. Another (or the same one?) was reported near Mt. Eaton, *Wayne*, on 02 Jan (*vide The Bobolink*). This species, too, has usually departed by mid-Nov.

Purple Sandpiper:

These started arriving in Nov and were reported until 19 Dec (this last at Headlands by Jerry Talkington). The other locations hosting this chubby winter visitor were Conneaut and Lake Shore Park in *Ashtabula*, Huron harbor and Kelleys Island in *Erie*, Lorain Harbor, and an unspecified Toledo-area site.

Dunlin:

Many observers noted an injured bird at Conneaut between 01 and 04 Dec. Three CBCs on 18 Dec together tallied six. Mark Rozmarynowycz found the last straggler at Pickerel Creek WA, *Erie/Sandusky*, on 26 Dec.

Wilson's Snipe:

The Bobolink noted that Ed Schlabach "found an amazing 105" near Barrs Mills, *Tuscarawas*, on 27 Dec during the Ragersville CBC. Nineteen other counties also provided reports; their counts were all in single digits.

American Woodcock:

These slightly edged snipe with 21 counties contributing. Wes Hatch found 20 in Frohring Meadows, *Geauga*, on 29 Feb.



American Golden-Plover, Caesar Creek SP, Warren, on 09 Dec, by Rick Asamoto.

Black-legged Kittiwake:

Jen Brumfield found one at Wendy Park on 20 Dec and refound it (or another) there on 03 Jan. John Pogacnik also saw one on 03 Jan during his lakeshore waterbird survey from North Perry, *Lake*.

Bonaparte's Gull:

These were present all season but quite scarce in Feb. Kent Miller estimated 7500 at Wendy Park on 07 Dec and there were many other four-digit counts into early Jan. Thirty-three counties provided sightings. Not surprisingly, most were from Lake Erie and the large heavily birded inland lakes such as Caesar Creek (*Warren*), Clear Fork (*Morrow/Richland*), and Pleasant Hill (*Ashland/Richland*).

Black-headed Gull:

One which was documented at Conneaut in late Nov was last seen 01 Dec.

Little Gull:

John Pogacnik saw one from during his *Lake* waterbird surveys on each of 28 Dec and 02 Jan. Jen Brumfield found one off Wendy Park on 03 Jan.

Laughing Gull:

Rick and Karen Kassouf filed the only report, on 21 Jan from Lorain Harbor.

Franklin's Gull:

Charlotte Mathena and Sue Tackett found one at the Caesar Creek beach on 19 Feb; it stayed one more day.



Franklin's Gull, Caesar Creek SP, Warren, on 20 Feb, by Allan Clayton.

Black-tailed Gull:

Craig Holt found this marvelous bird on 16 Nov (See the Fall 2011 *Ohio Cardinal*). It was seen almost daily until mid-January and less frequently after that through the end of the season.

Ring-billed Gull:

More than 70 counties provided sightings. Alex Hughes and friends estimated a minimum of 10,000 and perhaps as many as 50,000 were along the lower Black River and in Lorain Harbor (both **Lorain**) on 07 Dec. There were several other reports in the tens of thousands from there and Wendy Park in Dec and Jan. Numbers along the Lake Erie shore decreased to mere thousands in Feb. Several inland sites also had four-digit counts and many had numbers in the hundreds.

California Gull:

Two sightings were documented directly to the OBRG. Andy Sewell, Paul Gardner, and Bill Whan found one at the Lorain marina on 10 Dec. Gabe Leidy picked out one on the lower Black River in **Lorain** on 12 Feb. Two others were well documented on Rarebird.org: John Pogacnik and Gabe Leidy found birds of different ages in the Lorain harbor area on 21 and 22 Jan respectively. Others were reported but not documented.

Herring Gull:

The many four-digit reports from Lake Erie peaked at 8000 at Wendy Park on 03 Jan (Jen Brumfield). The highest inland count was 15, at Berlin Lake, **Portage**, on 28 Dec (Scott Hannan). Larry Gara noted that the 14 which he found on 20 Feb at Caesar Creek was “an unusually large number for here”.

[Herring x Glaucous Gull]:

Rich and Karen Kassouf reported one at Lorain Harbor on 13 Feb.

Thayer's Gull:

At least 15 and probably more than 20 individual birds were reported. Jen Brumfield noted the season's first at Wendy Park on 20 Dec. John Pogacnik counted eight at Lorain on 25 Jan and nine on 13 Feb. The latter was the highest count and the latest report; single birds were also reported at Lorain from 08 Jan to that date. Other Lake Erie sightings came from Huron harbor (**Erie**), Lakeview Park (**Lorain**), and North Perry (**Lake**). Inland sightings are usually rare but were relatively plentiful this winter. One was seen during the week of 17 Dec in **Wood** (a CBC report). Albert A. Troyer and John Herman found one at the **Richland** end of Clear Fork Reservoir on 14 Jan and 09 Feb respectively. John Herman and Paul Hurtado found one near the SWACO landfill (next to I-71 in **Franklin**) on 28 Jan and others saw it there the next day.

Iceland Gull:

A crowd saw the earliest, on 07 Jan at Wendy Park. Paul Hurtado saw one at Alum Creek Reservoir; **Delaware**, on the next day. Two Dec CBCs (in **Ashtabula** and **Lorain**) each found one. A BRAS field trip found one at Oberlin Reservoir; **Lorain**, on 11 Jan and sightings there continued until 16 Jan. Lorain Harbor hosted up to four between 20 Jan and 13 Feb. John Pogacnik noted flybys in **Lake** on 02 and 03 Jan and 04 Feb. Tom Bartlett recorded the last of the season on 23 Feb from Kelleys Island.

Lesser Black-backed Gull:

Most of the 17 counties with sightings are in the northern third of the state but **Franklin**, **Logan**, and **Warren** also contributed. Mark Rozmarynowycz made the high count of 10 at Lorain on 25 Feb.

Glaucous Gull:

Only **Ottawa** of the counties bordering Lake Erie did not provide any sightings. Inland **Clermont**, **Delaware**, **Franklin**, and **Richland** also had reports. Rich and Karen Kassouf counted the high of four on 23 Jan at Lorain.

Great Black-backed Gull:

Every Lake Erie county had sightings, some of very large numbers. Huron harbor, **Erie**, produced about 100 for Kent Miller on 20 Jan and Tom Bartlett *et al.* counted 86 during the 23 Feb Kelleys Island census. A single bird at Clear Fork Reservoir; **Richland**, on 07 Jan (John Herman and Gary Cowell) was the only sighting from a county south of the lake.

Common Tern:

One lingered from Nov to 04 Dec at Conneaut (m. obs.). This is rather late but not a record; Peterjohn notes “December sightings every two or three years” and lists a 30 Dec 1892 specimen from **Lorain**.

Pomarine Jaeger:

Chuck Slusarczyk, Jr., found one off Euclid Beach, **Cuyahoga**, on 01 Dec. Rich and Karen Kassouf saw one at Lorain on 02 Dec. Scott Loss noted an adult at Wendy Park on 05 Dec, and an immature bird camped there from 11 Dec to 04 Jan (m. obs.). Nick Barber saw one at Headlands on 22 Dec and John Pogacnik's lakeshore survey on 07 Jan noted one (both **Lake**).

Jaeger sp.:

Rich and Karen Kassouf spotted two off Edgewater SP, **Cuyahoga**, on 02 Dec that they narrowed to Pomarine or Parasitic. This winter

was unusual in that it produced no sure records of either Parasitic or Long-tailed jaegers.

Rock Pigeon:

What can I say? They're pretty much everywhere. Gary Cowell counted 410 along Mt. Zion Road, **Richland**, on 07 Feb.

Eurasian Collared-Dove:

None were documented for the ORBC. Birds were reported in **Clark, Mercer, Wayne, Williams**, and **Wood**.

Mourning Dove:

The high counts were by CBC teams on 18 Dec. Dave Slager *et al.* found 441 at OSU Waterman Farm, **Franklin**, while Paul Krusling and Joe Kappa noted 360 in New Baltimore, **Hamilton**. Eighty counties overall provided sightings.

Barn Owl:

Gene Stauffer saw one in the Pickerington Ponds, **Franklin**, maintenance barn on 03 Dec. Several reporters visited stakeouts at **Holmes** farms during Dec; Kent Miller recorded two adults and three juveniles at one of them on 05 Jan. (Winter breeding is rare but not unprecedented.) Clyde Witt and three friends found one on 18 Feb in Killdeer Plains' CedarOak Farm owl grove, which is better known for Long-eared Owls. It was still there the next day for Bob Baran. Participants in three CBCs which include parts of **Coshocton, Holmes, Stark, Tuscarawas**, and **Wayne** found a total of eight.

Eastern Screech-Owl:

At least 45 counties yielded reports. Alum Creek Park, **Franklin**, hosted up to three for most of the period (m. obs.). Tom Bartlett's Kelleys Island census crew also found three on 11 Jan.

Great Horned Owl:

These were also found in at least 45 counties. Margaret Bowman and friends heard two pairs counter-calling in Tri-Valley WA, **Muskingum**, on 06 Feb. The ONWR census of 06 Feb found three (Ed Pierce *et al.*, *fide* Douglas Vogus). Several observers reported females on nests beginning in early Feb.

Snowy Owl:

These visitors were widespread compared to many winters, with perhaps 20 birds sighted. Reliable reports came from 15 counties as far south as **Pickaway**. (See the accompanying map). Two birds showed up in Ashtabula (city) where Black-tailed Gull chasers kept tabs on them into Mar. At least one stayed in **Wood** from 12 to 21 Dec (m. obs.). Sherrie Duris found it or another on 05 Jan. Another, first sighted

28 Dec in **Hardin**, was found dead on 12 Jan. Unfortunately this was probably the fate of many of the snowys which pushed south this winter.

Barred Owl:

The many reports, all of one or two birds, came from over 50 counties.

Long-eared Owl:

Jeff Robinson found the season's first on 04 Dec, at the Killdeer Plains pine grove behind CedarOak Farm. One was seen there off and on until 13 Jan. Hisey Park, **Warren**, hosted one from 10 Jan into Mar (m. obs.). All of the sightings, from 13 counties, were of single birds.

Short-eared Owl:

Susan Williams recorded 20 during the OOS event at The Wilds and adjoining Ohio Power lands on 14 Jan. There were several other double-digit counts and reports came from almost 30 counties scattered statewide.

Northern Saw-whet Owl:

Dave Slager and Ben Warner started the season with one in Walnut Woods MP, **Franklin**, on 01 Dec. Tom Bartlett *et al.* found two during the 18 Dec Kelleys Island census (which doubled as a CBC route). Three other Dec CBCs counted a total of six. Wes Hatch turned up one at Headlands, also on 18 Dec. Chase Maxwell reported one from Plain City, **Madison**, on 20 Dec. Sherrie Duris found one at Maumee Bay SP, **Lucas**, on 08 Jan. Jen Brumfield and Dan Gesualdo provided the last winter sighting on 16 Jan from the South Chagrin Reservation, **Cuyahoga**.



Snowy Owl distribution, courtesy of Ethan Kistler.

Rufous Hummingbird:

The data in this table were furnished by Allen Chartier. He banded all of them except the *Greene* bird, which Tim Tolford banded. All of the birds were females. A tilde (~) preceding a date means the exact date is unknown. Oct to Dec dates are 2011 and Jan dates are 2012 unless noted otherwise.

City and County	Age	First Observed	Banded	Last Observed
Beavercreek, <i>Greene</i>	Immature	19 Nov	26 Nov	09 Dec
Millersburg, <i>Holmes</i>	Adult	14 Oct	22 Oct	02 Jan
Canfield, <i>Mahoning</i>	Immature	28 Nov	30 Dec	unknown
Damascus, <i>Mahoning</i>	Adult	10 Nov	22 Nov	03 Jan
Near Blake, <i>Medina</i>	Immature	~15 Sep	21 Dec	12 Jan
Mansfield, <i>Richland</i>	Adult	~01 Nov	20 Oct 2009	14 Jan
Peoria, <i>Union</i>	Adult	~01 Nov	10 Dec	10 Dec

The Mansfield bird had been banded near Loudonville, *Ashland*. It was recaptured in Mansfield on 04 Jan; it had previously been recaptured in Dec 2010 in Pensacola, Florida.

Belted Kingfisher:

These found open water in 68 counties. Most sightings were of single birds but three observers counted four.

Red-headed Woodpecker:

How I would like to see five of these in a day, as three parties did. Leon N. Miller had them overwinter in a woodlot near Walnut Creek, *Holmes*. Jeremy Ross and Mark Rozmarynowycz found theirs in Oak Openings Preserve MP, *Lucas*, on 10 Jan as did Dan Gesualdo and Irene Krise on 05 Feb. Over 30 other counties provided sightings.

Red-bellied Woodpecker:

Kyle Carlsen found 19 in *Washington* along his Parkersburg, West Virginia, CBC route on 17 Dec. There were several other double-digit numbers among the 76 counties providing reports.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:

About half of our counties hosted these, if only briefly, and they were present throughout the season. Wyatt Westerkamp found four in Crooked Run NP, *Clermont*, on 07 Jan. Charles Bombaci counted the same number along Old Sunbury Road, *Delaware*, on 05 Feb. There were also a few reports of three birds.

Downy Woodpecker:

Eighty counties provided sightings; no doubt this species was also in the other eight. Paul Krusling and Joe Kappa counted 76 on 18 Dec along their New Baltimore, *Hamilton*, CBC route.

Hairy Woodpecker:

These were likely present in every county as well, though the reports came from “only” 71. The

high count was six, achieved twice. Dave Slager found his in Lake Catherine SP, *Jackson*, on 17 Dec. The 06 Feb ONWR census counted the others (Ed Pierce *et al.*, *vide* Douglas Vogus).

Northern Flicker:

Thomas Slemmer found 24 of this species on 17 Dec at Blendon Woods MP, *Franklin*. They were found in 75 counties and throughout the season.

Pileated Woodpecker:

Sixty-eight counties had enough woodland to support these. The high count was the six which Bill Stanley and David Helm found during their CBC efforts in *Adams* on 17 Dec.

Eastern Phoebe:

About 20 reports trickled in, spanning the season. Most of them came from the southern half of the state but *Lorain* and *Summit* each had one sighting. The former was an early migrant which Mark Rozmarynowycz found on the Community College grounds on 25 Feb.

Eastern Kingbird:

Bob Hinkle watched one fly past him into a tangle of grape vines in the Garfield Reservation, *Cuyahoga*, on 08 Dec. There have been very few Oct and Nov reports but this appears to set the record for latest sighting.

Northern Shrike:

Twenty-seven counties, all the way south to the Ohio River, hosted these. All but one of the reports were of single birds. Scott Pendleton found two about three miles apart in Egypt Valley WA, *Belmont*, on 18 Feb. Many birds were seen repeatedly for weeks.

White-eyed Vireo:

Aaron E. Miller found one in Secrest Arboretum, **Wayne**, during the Wooster CBC on 24 Dec. Audubon received a photograph confirming the identification. Sightings this late are rare but not extraordinarily so.

Blue Jay:

Joe Kappa and Paul Krusling scored the high count of 75 on their New Baltimore, **Hamilton**, CBC route on 18 Dec. Over 80 counties provided reports.

American Crow:

At least **Mahoning's** population seems to have recovered following the species' initial devastation by West Nile Virus. Leslie Warren estimated more than 1100 were near her home on 17 Dec. Evan Schwartz noted about 1400 on 25 Feb. Craig Holt reported "thousands seen flying over Boardman going to a night roost on 12/22". Almost 80 other counties provided smaller numbers.

Common Raven:

Scott Pendleton documented four on Ross Ridge, near Steubenville, **Jefferson**, on 04 Jan. A single bird has continued in the Koppert and College Hill Roads area of **Knox** all year.

Horned Lark:

Megan Shoemaker found about 500 at Cygnet Road and Otsego Pike, **Wood**, on 24 Dec. Charles Bombaci estimated that a flock on Leeper-Perkins Road, **Union**, on 02 Jan contained 750 birds. Doug and Micki Dunakin noted in **Paulding** "large mixed flocks – 100's – with Lapland Longspur & Snow Bunting... not unusual to see 500-1,000." Sixty counties provided sightings.



Northern Shrike distribution, courtesy of Ethan Kistler.

Tree Swallow:

Charlotte Mathena found one pioneer at Spring Valley WA, **Green/Warren**, on 22 Feb. Brian and Gale Wulker saw two foraging over the lake there on 25 Feb; the birds "appeared to be catching something occasionally." These dates are about a week earlier than the species' usual arrival time.

Carolina Chickadee:

Almost 60 counties provided reports. David Carr and Kirk Westendorf counted the high of 174 in their Newtown, **Hamilton**, sector of the Cincinnati CBC on 26 Dec.

Black-capped Chickadee:

Reports came from almost 40 counties; most are in the northern tier but **Jefferson** and **Tuscarawas** were also represented. Tom Bartlett *et al.* found the most during the 11 Jan (152) and 23 Feb (103) Kelleys Island censuses.

Tufted Titmouse:

Once again the Newtown, **Hamilton**, CBC route garnered the high count, 70 on 26 Dec (David Carr and Kirk Westendorf). More than 75 counties had sightings.

Red-breasted Nuthatch:

Thirty-four counties produced reports; about a quarter of them are south of Columbus. A BRAS field trip counted five in Findley SP, **Lorain**, on 09 Jan. There were several counts of three and four during the season.

White-breasted Nuthatch:

David Carr and Kirk Westendorf again found the most, 28 of them around Newtown, **Hamilton**, on the 26 Dec CBC. Over 75 counties had sightings.

Brown Creeper:

Three quarters of our counties hosted creepers. Tom Bartlett's census crew found 28 during the 11 Jan Kelleys Island census.

Carolina Wren:

The mild winter no doubt helped observers find these in 69 counties. The Newtown area, **Hamilton**, yielded 47 for David Carr and Kirk Westendorf on their 26 Dec CBC route.

Winter Wren:

Dec sightings were sparse, Jan and Feb ones less so. The 33 counties represented were statewide but weighted to the south. Brian Wulker found three of these sprites in Sycamore Park, **Clermont**, on 26 Dec. Lake Catherine SNP, **Jackson**, hosted two for Dave Slager on 17 Dec as did Kelleys Island for Tom Bartlett *et al.* on 11 Jan. The other reports were of single birds.

Marsh Wren:

Irina Shulgina found two at Battelle-Darby Creek MP, *Franklin*, on 03 Dec and one was still there a week later. Four CBCs tallied 10 in Dec. Kent Miller turned up one at Funk Bottoms, *Wayne*, on 27 Jan, which was probably a holdover from the Wooster CBC's five.

Golden-crowned Kinglet:

Three observers each counted 11 birds: Dave Slager at Lake Catherine SNP, *Jackson*, on 17 Dec; Paul Tuck at and near Old Man's Cave, *Hocking*, on 02 Jan; and Tom Bartlett *et al.* on Kelleys Island on 11 Jan. Sixty counties provided sightings.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet:

At least thirteen counties produced sightings; because several CBC circles include multiple counties, the number may be higher. Mike Bracken found two in the Rocky River Reservation, *Cuyahoga*, on 30 Dec. CBCs found up to seven. Charlie Saunders saw one in Riverside Park, *Butler*, on several Dec dates and on 26 Feb, the only sighting in that month.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:

A sighting on the 18 Dec Delaware Reservoir CBC was documented to Audubon.

Eastern Bluebird:

These appeared in more than 70 counties. Kirk Westendorf counted 40 along his route during the *Hamilton* CBC on 18 Dec.

Hermit Thrush:

These hardy birds appeared in almost 30 counties. Tom Bartlett's crew found seven during the 11 Jan Kelleys Island census.

American Robin:

Winter concentrations of about 500 were noted in the New Baltimore area on 18 Dec (Joe Kappa and Paul Krusling) and Spring Grove Cemetery on 19 Jan (Neill Cade). Both locations are in *Hamilton*.

Gray Catbird:

Single birds were reported by seven CBCs and several independent observers. Sherrie Duris discovered two in Woodlawn Cemetery, *Lucas*, on 31 Jan. Sightings were scattered in about a dozen counties statewide in Dec and Jan; there were no Feb reports.

Northern Mockingbird:

Sixty-six counties, weighted to the south but statewide, provided sightings. Kent Miller counted 12 on his Wilmot, *Holmes*, CBC route on 16 Dec.

Brown Thrasher:

Ten to 15 were reported, depending on how many of the independently reported birds were also found on the five CBCs. One lingered at a feeder near Berlin, *Holmes*, from fall until 25 Jan (Kent Miller). That was the last sighting before the very early arrival of one at Caesar Creek on 25 Feb (Brian and Gale Wulker). Another early bird showed up at Ben Warner's *Delaware* home on 29 Feb.

European Starling:

Sightings came from 80 counties. Paul Hurtado reported 30,000 at the big SWACO landfill south of Columbus on 28 Dec and added, "Underestimate(!). At least an order of magnitude more starlings than gulls."

American Pipit:

Sightings were thinly distributed among 27 counties and through the whole season. A site south of New Bedford, *Coshocton*, had about 50 birds through 31 Dec and smaller numbers after that date (*vide The Bobolink*). Margaret Bowman and Susan Nash counted 35 in Chandlersville, *Muskingum*, on 14 Jan. *The Bobolink* also noted, "Of interest was [Hallie Mason's] report of 8 huddled in fresh manure in 7-degree weather. For warmth?"

Cedar Waxwing:

Almost 40 counties hosted these nomads. David Weaver found the high number of at least 75 at Secret Arboretum, *Wayne*, on 14 Jan. Fred Losi counted 56 along his CBC route in *Summit* on 18 Dec.

Lapland Longspur:

The trickle of early Dec reports swelled by the middle of the month and sightings continued to be frequent through the rest of the season. Thirty-three counties provided reports. The highest of several triple-digit numbers was 200, from Howard Road, *Lucas*, on 12 Dec (Kenn Kaufman) and Cygnet Road at Otsego Pike, *Wood*, on 24 Dec. (Dave and Emily Slager).

Snow Bunting:

Their sightings generally mirrored those of longspurs but came from fewer counties (26). Ken Kaufman's 12 Dec longspur flock on Howard Road, *Lucas*, also included about 400 buntings.

Ovenbird:

Jennifer Kleinrichert posted this to Ohio-birds on 07 Dec: "Yes, there is currently an ovenbird (appears to be a first year) walking under the bushes and around the deck near our bird feeders behind the Innis House." The site was

Inniswood MP, *Franklin*; the bird was last seen 14 Dec. An ovenbird this late is of course rare, but there have been at least 14 winter birds since 1965.

Northern Waterthrush:

Rob Thorn found one on 03 Jan in Duncan Glen on the east side of Hoover Reservoir, *Delaware*. The bird "was actively feeding in a small stream..." This is the first winter record since Feb 1998.

Nashville Warbler:

One was reported on the 21 Dec Wilmot, *Holmes*, CBC. Details were provided to Audubon. Previous Dec records are from 1969, 1980, and 2006.

Common Yellowthroat:

Gary Cowell saw one at Charles Mill Lake, *Ashland*, on 16 Dec. Mark Gilsdorf found another in the river bottoms of Shawnee Lookout CP, *Hamilton*, on 17 Dec. Wooster, *Wayne*, CBC participants counted three that same day. The last of the year was near Armleder Park, *Hamilton*, on 27 Dec, "eating honeysuckle berries" (Dan Striley). Sherrie Duris saw a "Great Jan record!" in Ravine Park, *Lucas*, on 29 Jan. Su Snyder found one at Killbuck Marsh WA, *Holmes/Wayne*, on 05 Feb. Whether these last two were fall stragglers or spring pioneers is an open question.

Yellow Warbler:

Bruce Glick photographed one at a Farmerstown, *Holmes*, home on 03 Dec. The only previous Dec records are on 07 Dec 1983 and from Nov to 25 Dec 2003.

Palm Warbler:

The Bobolink's correspondents contributed reports of single birds near Bunker Hill, *Holmes*, on 06 Dec (Emory Yoder); near Sugarcreek, *Tuscarawas*, on 19 Dec (Keith Schlabach) and 03 and 07 Jan (Ed Schlabach); and one all the way through Dec to 12 Jan near Fredericksburg, *Wayne* (Andy Troyer). Timothy Spahr discovered one on the Huffman Prairie flying field, *Greene*, on 26 Dec. The Grand Rapids/Waterville CBC (parts of *Fulton*, *Henry*, *Lucas*, and *Wood*) counted one on 30 Dec. At least one of this species was reported in five of the previous eight winters.

Pine Warbler:

This hardy warbler has stayed into, and sometimes through, winter every year since at least 2002-03. *The Bobolink* provided three reports. One was at Duane Lee Yoder's feeder near Sugarcreek, *Tuscarawas*, on 18 Dec.

Another turned up in Wooster, *Wayne*, on 19 Jan (Kisa Weeman). Ivan J. Miller found the third one dead on his porch near Mt. Hope, *Holmes*, on 02 Feb. The Cincinnati CBC also tallied one on 26 Dec.

Yellow-rumped Warbler:

More than 50 counties provided reports. Tom Bartlett's Kelleys Island census crews found 25 on 11 Jan and 28 on 23 Feb.

Yellow-throated Warbler:

One which arrived at the Milan Wengard residence, *Holmes*, on 22 Nov remained into Dec. It or others spent this winter and the previous two on the David Kline farm near Fredericksburg, *Wayne* (*vide The Bobolink*). These sightings provide our eighth through eleventh winter records for the species.

Wilson's Warbler:

Jeremy Ross saw one in St. John's NP, *Wood*, on 02 Jan. Mark Rozmarynowycz found it again on 03 and 08 Jan. Peterjohn notes an undocumented Jan record (without noting the year); the only other winter sighting was on 18 Dec 2004.

Spotted Towhee:

Sue Evanoff discovered and documented one at The Wilderness Center, *Stark*, on 20 Jan; it remained until 29 Jan. This is the sixth Ohio record, and the first mid-winter one, that I could find. (The most recent previous record was first reported 28 Feb 2007.)

Eastern Towhee:

Almost 50 counties provided reports. The high count was 15, by Aden A. Yoder near Mt. Eaton, *Wayne*, on 15 Feb.

American Tree Sparrow:

More than 10 triple-digit reports were submitted; the highest number was the 400 in the bottomlands of Shawnee Lookout CP, *Hamilton*, on 17 Dec (Mark Gilsdorf). Seventy-five counties had sightings.

Chipping Sparrow:

Oddly, there were more reports in Jan than in either Dec or Feb. Paul Hurtado found six birds at Griggs Reservoir, *Franklin*, on 14 Jan. Sightings came from 17 counties.

Field Sparrow:

Jason Cade and Bill Stanley each found flocks of 20. Jason's were in Miami Whitewater Forest, *Hamilton*, on 03 Jan, and Bill's were at the Cincinnati Nature Center's Rowe Woods, *Clermont*, on 25 Feb. Half of our counties produced reports.

The Ohio Cardinal, Winter 2011-2012

Vesper Sparrow:

Ben Hershberger reported one west of Trail, **Holmes**, on 14 and 15 Jan using *The Bobolink* area RBA.

Savannah Sparrow:

David Carr and Kirk Westendorf counted 25 along their eastern **Hamilton** CBC route on 26 Dec. Sightings came from 21 counties as far north as **Hardin** and **Stark**.

Grasshopper Sparrow:

One camped at Robert Hershberger's house near Mt. Hope, **Holmes**, from 11 Dec to 09 Feb. Winter records are rare and this appears to be the latest sighting.

Fox Sparrow:

About half of the sightings were of single birds. David Carr and Kirk Westendorf found seven during their 26 Dec CBC efforts in **Hamilton**. About 30 counties produced sightings.

Song Sparrow:

Mark Gilsdorf and Jack Stenger estimated that the bottomlands of Shawnee Lookout CP, **Hamilton**, hosted 450 on 17 Dec. The second-highest count, 160, came from eastern **Hamilton** on 26 Dec (David Carr and Kirk Westendorf). Reports came from almost 80 counties.

Lincoln's Sparrow:

Four were reported. The Toledo CBC (**Lucas/Wood**) found one on 18 Dec as did Wes Hatch at Frohring Meadows, **Geauga**, on 29 Feb. Between those singles, Leslie Houser and John Marvin saw two at Armleder Park, **Hamilton**, on 21 Jan.

Swamp Sparrow:

The Newtown, **Hamilton**, area produced 41 for David Carr and Kirk Westendorf along their 26 Dec CBC route. Over 50 counties had sightings.

White-throated Sparrow:

Newtown, **Hamilton**, provided another high count, 66, for David Carr and Kirk Westendorf on 26 Dec. Almost 70 counties produced reports.

White-crowned Sparrow:

Over 50 counties provided reports, many of which were in double digits. The high count of 60 came from the Kilby Road, **Hamilton**, gravel pits on 19 Dec (Brian Wulker). Shari Jackson and Ronnie Macko again hosted one of the western *gambellii* subspecies at their feeders in Alliance, **Stark**, for most of the winter. They assume the same bird has returned for several years in a row.

Golden-crowned Sparrow:

This visitor to Findlay, **Hancock**, from the west was first seen in Apr 2009 and banded soon thereafter. It returned for its third successive winter in mid-Dec and was reported until mid-Feb.

Dark-eyed Junco:

These were reported in 80 counties. Three birds of the *oreganus* ("Oregon") group of subspecies were reported but not to the OBRC. Gary Cowell counted 80 juncos in a series of farm fields in **Richland** on 14 Jan. Elliot Tramer wrote, "The very mild winter (and March) of 2011-2012 had a noticeable effect on juncos visiting my yard. I generally have overwintering flocks of 25-45 juncos, about 80% of which appear to be males. But this winter the flocks were smaller, and the percentage of apparent females was about 50%."

Northern Cardinal:

Our state bird was reported everywhere except in eight scattered counties. David Carr and Kirk Westendorf again provided a species' high count; they found 143 on their eastern **Hamilton** CBC route on 26 Dec.

Dickcissel:

A Toledo CBC participant found one in Pearson MP, **Lucas**, on 18 Dec, and it remained at least until 05 Jan. Caine Kolinski watched and listened to a singing male on Seaman Road, Lucas, on 10 Jan. Quite possibly the Pearson bird moved there. A feeder near Berlin, **Holmes**, hosted one from 15 Feb into Mar (Bruce Glick).

Blackbird spp:

Rather than paraphrase, I quote from *The Bobolink*, with its abbreviations expanded: "Several huge flocks of blackbirds were reported from Wayne County...Aaron E. Miller had the highest estimate on 12/11 with 300,000-500,000, noting that the flock was made up of 50 percent grackles, 40 percent Redwings, with some starlings and cowbirds mixed in...Su Snyder estimated 200,000 north of Smithville on 12/18 and David Weaver had 30,000+ from 12/8-12/11 at his home near Kidron."

Red-winged Blackbird:

Flocks were smaller away from **Wayne**. Robert Foppe estimated one of about 3000 "streaming to the west" over Loveland, **Hamilton**, on 05 Dec. Kenn Kaufman handily topped that count with 12,300 in "flocks...streaming eastward, clearly headed towards a roost" in Sandusky on 28 Feb. Sixty-five counties provided reports.

Eastern Meadowlark:

Irina Shulgina found 30 at Battelle-Darby Creek MP, *Franklin*, on 15 Jan. Sightings came from 34 counties.

Yellow-headed Blackbird:

Dave Slager found the season's sole one on Haughn Road, *Franklin*, on 02 Jan.

Rusty Blackbird:

Reports came from 30 counties. Dave Slager hit a bonanza in a harvested cornfield along Winchester Pike, *Franklin*, on 02 Jan; he estimated the flock had 2650 Rustys. The only other count exceeding 50 was Kent Miller's 140 during the Wilmot CBC on 16 Dec. That circle includes parts of *Holmes*, *Stark*, *Tuscarawas*, and *Wayne*.

Brewer's Blackbird:

The Buckeye Lake CBC (*Fairfield/Licking/Perry*) recorded one on 17 Dec and the Cincinnati CBC reported six on 26 Dec. Ivan Troyer's home near Fredericksburg, *Wayne*, hosted two males and two females on 13 and 14 Jan. Bruce Glick found two at a nearby farm on 22 Jan.

Common Grackle:

The highest count away from *Wayne* (see **Blackbird spp** above) was the 5500 which Kenn Kaufman found in *Sandusky* on 28 Feb. Over 60 counties provided sightings.

Brown-headed Cowbird:

Several flocks were estimated to be in the 1000 to 1500 range. Reports came from more than 50 counties.

Baltimore Oriole:

An immature bird (opinions of the sex differ) spent from late Nov into Mar visiting a jelly feeder in *Holmes*; it was not publicized until late Jan. (Bruce Glick, with further details from *The Bobolink*). Perry Yoder's son found an adult male on 14 Dec during the Millersburg, *Holmes*, CBC (details fide *The Bobolink*).

Purple Finch:

Kelleys Island censuses provided the two highest counts, 16 on 11 Jan and 23 on 23 Feb (Tom Bartlett *et al.*). Thirty-seven counties had sightings.

House Finch:

Kirk Westendorf estimated 120 at Armleder Park, *Hamilton*, on 10 Dec in the only triple-digit report. Over 70 counties provided sightings.

Red Crossbill:

Irene Krise made the first report, of two birds in Cadiz, *Harrison*, on 10 Dec. Sherrie Duris, Jeremy Ross, and Mark Rozmarynowycz found

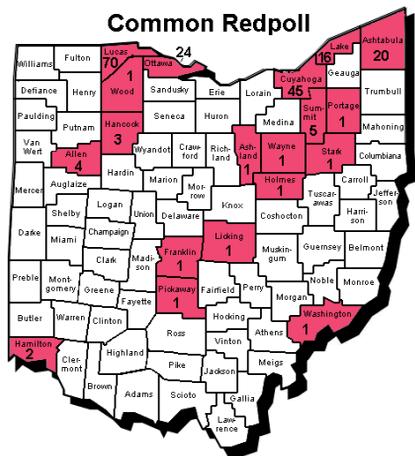
18 to 20 in Oak Openings Preserve MP, *Lucas*, on 10 Jan. Four other reports, each of one bird, came from *Erie*, *Franklin*, *Lucas* (Woodlawn Cemetery), and *Hamilton*.

White-winged Crossbill:

Tom Bartlett reported the first, 23 in Woodlawn Cemetery, *Lucas*, on 01 Jan. Peter Aldag and Ben Warner counted 60 there on 06 Feb. Fourteen other counties all the way south to *Hamilton* had sightings.

Common Redpoll:

The first of the season were a flock of 17 in Woodlawn Cemetery, *Lucas*, on 01 Jan (Tom Bartlett). The largest count, 70 was also from Woodlawn, on 05 Feb (Ethan Kistler). Eighteen other counties also produced reports.



Common Redpoll distribution, courtesy of Ethan Kistler.

Pine Siskin:

Forty counties hosted these and they were found throughout the season. The high count was 85, in Woodlawn Cemetery, *Lucas*, on 16 Dec by a CBC team. The second highest number was 35, in Oak Openings Preserve MP, *Lucas*, on 04 Feb (Wes Hatch) and from home feeders in *Licking* on 19 Feb (Anne Rau).

American Goldfinch:

The high count was 106, on 18 Dec by Joe Kappa and Paul Krusling along their CBC route near New Baltimore, *Hamilton*. Seventy-six counties had sightings.

House Sparrow:

Though only 65 counties provided reports, it's safe to assume that the species lives in all 88. Charles Bombaci estimated 500 were in a flock on Leeper-Perkins Road, *Union*, on 02 Jan, and there were many other triple-digit counts.

CONTRIBUTORS

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

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