

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

By Craig Caldwell

Greater White-fronted Goose:

Killdeer Plains hosted the largest flock, 25 on 11 Mar (Alex Greene). The last sighting was of two flying over Howard Road, **Lucas**, on 11 Apr (Kenn Kaufman). Reports also came from **Allen, Clark, Franklin, Greene, Pike, and Warren**.

Snow Goose:

Scott Meyers found the high count of 22 in the Thomas Wetlands, **Paulding**, on 11 Mar. Daniel Leifheit reported the latest, a single bird overhead in **Williams** on 31 Mar. **Allen, Coshocton, Franklin, Marion, Medina, Ross, and Wayne** also contributed sightings.

Ross's Goose:

On 09 Mar Rick Asamoto found three at Cowan Lake, **Clinton**, and later that day Laura Keene saw what she assumes were the same three at a smaller nearby pond. Rick also found three on Williams Reservoir, **Allen**, on 18 Mar. Doug Overacker reported one at Buck Creek SP, **Clark**, on several dates between 10 Mar and the season's latest sighting on 01 Apr. Other reports came from **Hancock, Hardin, Lorain, Ottawa, and Wyandot**.

Brant:

Both Tom Frankel and Jerry Talkington photographed a flock of 30 at Headlands on 12 May. There are very few previous spring records, and most of them are of fewer than five birds.



Jerry Talkington photographed some of the 30 Brant at Headlands during their short stay.

Cackling Goose:

James F. Yoder found one at Funk Bottoms on 10 Mar. Robert Sams doubled that number at Litzenberg Memorial Woods, **Hancock**, on 31 Mar.

Canada Goose:

All but five counties provided reports. The highest

count was 500, from Killdeer on 03 Mar (Charles Bombaci) and 10 Mar (Andy Sewell).

Mute Swan:

Sally Isacco saw four adults and 14 cygnets at Pipe Creek WA, **Erie**, on 21 May. Thirty-three other counties also had sightings.

Trumpeter Swan:

Sue Tackett wrote, "Actual count! Scary." when she reported 65 in the ONWR entrance pool on 16 Mar. Twenty-two counties as far south as **Marion** provided sightings.

Tundra Swan:

The 04 Mar ONWR census counted 1221, by far the largest number of the season (Ed Pierce *et al.*, *vide* Douglas Vogus). ONWR also hosted the season's last, one which Patrick Conrad saw during the 22 Apr auto tour. Funk Bottoms hosted up to 250 from winter to mid-Mar, and Bruce Glick commented, "I don't remember ever seeing so many of these beautiful swans in [*The Bobolink*] area, and for such an extended time." (*The Bobolink* covers 12 counties centered on Holmes.) Twenty-two counties in all provided reports.

Wood Duck:

The Winous Point Horseshoe Unit held about 75 on 31 May (Tom Bartlett). More than 70 counties had sightings.

Gadwall:

Daily sightings lasted until 19 May, and then stuttered to the last of the season on 26 May at Frohing Meadows (Cory Chiappone). Jeremy Ross posted the high count of 500 on 16 Mar at ONWR. Reports came from 45 counties.

[Gadwall x Northern Shoveler]:

Ethan Kistler reported one along Ottawa-Lucas Road on 15 Apr.

Eurasian Wigeon:

One arrived at Funk Bottoms on 29 Feb and stayed until 02 Mar; it or another was reported there 13 Mar as well. Cowan Lake, **Clinton**, hosted one from 09 to 11 Mar. Another was at Fernald from 11 through 14 Mar. Wright Marsh, **Wayne**, had one from 11 to 16 Mar. All of these birds were reported by multiple observers. Bob Lane found one on Evans Lake, **Mahoning**, on 16 Mar and the season's last on Guilford Lake SP, **Columbiana**, on 07 Apr.

American Wigeon:

These were seen in more than 40 counties. The high count was 300, from Killdeer on 10 Mar (Andy Sewell) and ONWR on 16 Mar (Jeremy Ross). Rob and Sandy Harlan found the last stragglers, two

males and a female in York Township, *Sandusky*, on 27 May.

American Black Duck:

High counts are frequent at Blendon Woods, where Sylvia Townsend noted from 50 to 139 on several Mar dates. The species was seen in 33 counties and throughout the season.

[American Black Duck x Mallard]:

The latest report was David Bell's from Maumee Bay on 05 May. *Cuyahoga, Franklin, Ottawa,* and *Summit* also provided sightings.

Mallard:

Almost 80 counties generated reports. Ed Pierce's ONWR census team counted 1188 on 04 Mar (*vide* Douglas Vogus). Killdeer (04 Mar, Charles Bombaci) and Funk Bottoms (06 Mar, Bruce Glick) each held about 1000 on the noted dates.

Blue-winged Teal:

Irina Shulgina found about 100 in the Darby Creek wetlands on 05 Apr. The species was seen throughout the season and in 64 counties.

[Blue-winged x Cinnamon Teal]:

Robert Sams saw one in Younger's Wetlands, *Hancock*, on 16 and 17 Mar.

Northern Shoveler:

The highest of the few triple-digit counts was 143, noted by Sheryl Young on 29 Mar at Medusa Marsh, *Erie*. Fifty-one counties provided sightings.

Northern Pintail:

David Weaver estimated at least 1800 were at Funk Bottoms on 14 Mar. Regina Schieltz watched two in the Woods Road wetlands, *Darke*, from 15 to 24 May; they were the last to leave the state. Thirty other counties also had sightings.

Green-winged Teal:

More than 50 counties provided reports, many of which were of counts in the hundreds. Ken Ostermiller estimated the high of about 1000 at Funk Bottoms on 09 Mar.

Canvasback:

There were many triple-digit counts in Mar, with the highest being 500 at ONWR on 15 Mar (Zachary DeBruine). Patrick Johnson saw the last on 20 May at Winous Point. Twenty-five counties had sightings.

Redhead:

These were present all season. The last were three in the Portage River estuary, *Ottawa*, on 31 May (Hugh DeMann) and there were no June reports. Ken Ostermiller found about 600 at Chippewa Lake, *Medina*, on 07 Mar and about 800 at Funk Bottoms two days later. Almost 40 counties produced reports.

Ring-necked Duck:

Killbuck Marsh hosted large numbers during the first half of Mar; Aden Yoder found 2000 there on 13 Mar. Sightings came from 53 counties and were regular to mid-May. The last of the season was at Mill Creek Sanctuary, *Mahoning*, on 31 May (Jeff Harvey) but there were a few Jun reports.

Greater Scaup:

These were scattered in 28 counties all the way to the Ohio River. Sue Tackett found about 200 on 16 Mar at the Bayshore power plant, *Lucas*. Allen Chartier saw the last on 11 May off Magee.

Lesser Scaup:

At least 5000 were in ONWR on 04 Mar (Ed Pierce *et al.*, *vide* Douglas Vogus) and Mark Shieldcastle estimated that 8000 were off Magee on 07 Apr. A trickle of solo sightings led to the last of the season, on 23 May at Metzger (Ethan Kistler).

Surf Scoter:

Rick Asamoto found seven at Caesar Creek SP, *Warren*, on 15 Apr; up to five were reported there on other dates from winter until 23 Apr. No more than two were reported at any other location. The last were two which lingered off Magee from 08 to 11 May (m. obs.). Other sightings came from *Auglaize, Delaware, Hancock, Lake, Lorain, Mercer, Ottawa, Portage,* and *Richland*.



This Surf Scoter fed close to shore despite nearby fisherman and photographers at Caesar's Creek SP, Warren, rewarding Allan Claybon with a beautiful photo on 18 Apr.

White-winged Scoter:

The Circleville Quarry, *Pickaway*, hosted three for Dave Slager on 04 Mar. They were still (or again) there on 02 Apr for Tom Bain but there were no reports from the site between those dates. Ed Pierce's ONWR census crew found one consorting with scaup on Lake Erie for the last sighting on 06 May. Other reports of single birds came from *Ashtabula, Columbiana, Cuyahoga, Highland, Lorain, Richland,* and *Warren*.

The Ohio Cardinal, Spring 2012

Black Scoter:

Three were reported. Kent Baker's was at Metzger on 04 Mar; Bruce Glick's at the *Ashland* end of Pleasant Hill Lake on 31 Mar, and Rick Asamoto's on Findlay Reservoir, *Hancock*, on 07 Apr.

Long-tailed Duck:

One flew past Lakeshore Park, *Ashtabula*, while John Pogacnik was watching from there on 04 Mar. Also on 04 Mar, Nancy Anderson saw one on the Cleveland lakefront; it might have been the same one which had been seen there several times in Jan. One showed up at Headlands on 22 May and was seen daily until it was found dead on 31 May. Dan Best, Geauga Parks naturalist, noted that "The keel of its breastbone is most prominent, indicating an emaciated condition. Perhaps illness accounts for its lingering presence in our locale..."

Bufflehead:

Tom Bartlett reported at least 75 off Kelleys Island on seven dates between 04 Mar and 18 Apr; the high count was 164 on 16 Mar. Cory Chiappone saw the last in Painesville, *Lake*, on 16 May. Reports came from 54 counties.

Common Goldeneye:

Sue Tackett filed the high count of 500 from the Bayshore power plant, *Lucas*, on 16 Mar. Several other triple-digit reports came from Kelleys Island (Tom Bartlett *et al.*). The last sighting also came from Tom's island census crew, on 19 Apr. Twenty-five counties provided reports.

Hooded Merganser:

The 04 Mar ONWR survey counted 63 (Ed Pierce *et al.*, *vide* Douglas Vogus). Two reports of 60 came a week later, from Guilford Lake SP, *Columbiana* (Laura Dorman) and Mill Creek Sanctuary, *Mahoning* (Jeff Harvey). Nesting started in May: Elliot Tramer saw a female with three youngsters on 29 May in the Blue Creek Conservation Area, *Lucas*. Almost 60 counties had sightings.

Common Merganser:

The few triple-digit flocks were headed by the 400 off Kelleys Island on 05 Mar (Tom Bartlett). *Columbiana* remains our only regular breeding location; James Dolan found three families with 24 young while kayaking Little Beaver Creek on 23 and 24 May. Migration seems to have trickled into May.

Red-breasted Merganser:

Several reports exceeded 1000 birds; Rich and Karen Kassouf estimated 3200 were in Lorain harbor on 05 Mar. The season's last sighting was of five at Findlay Reservoir, *Hancock*, on 28 May (Robert Sams) though there were scattered singles reported in June.

Ruddy Duck:

The Navarre Unit of ONWR held 3500 on 15 Mar (Mark Shieldcastle). The highest count away from

Lake Erie was of 350 at Evans Lake, *Mahoning*, on 31 Mar (Craig Holt). Three off Headlands on 25 May were the last of the season (Sally Isacco) but as with Red-breasted Mergansers, a few single birds were seen in Jun. More than 50 counties provided reports.

Northern Bobwhite:

Though there were winter sightings, this spring's first was not reported until 10 Apr, by Bill Stanley at East Fork SP, *Clermont*. Margaret Bowman heard three males and saw four chicks at Tri-Valley WA, *Muskingum*, on 23 May. Other reports came from *Adams, Brown, Clinton, Gallia, Hamilton, Hancock, Highland, Mahoning, Pickaway, Vinton*, and *Warren*.

Ring-necked Pheasant:

Charles Bombaci and Kyle Brooks each found 12 at sites in *Pickaway*, on 22 Apr and 07 May respectively. Reports from other sites, in a total of 24 counties, were of six or fewer birds.

Ruffed Grouse:

Dave Slager and friends heard three drumming in different parts of Shawnee on 31 Mar; Christopher Dyer heard two there on 06 May. *Coshocton, Harrison, Hocking, Licking, Vinton*, and *Washington* also contributed reports.

Wild Turkey:

Gary Cowell *et al.* found 30 at the Mohican SP Gorge Overlook on 13 Mar. Dan Gesualdo edged them for the high count prize with 31 at the Brecksville Reservation nature center, *Cuyahoga*, on 06 Mar. Sightings came from 60 counties.

Red-throated Loon:

John Herman found one at the *Richland* end of Clear Fork on 29 Mar; it was hanging out with 28 Common Loons. One spent 08 and 09 Apr at Guilford Lake SP, *Columbiana* (m. obs.). A third stayed at Edgewater from 20 to 22 May for many chasers.



This female Red-breasted Merganser surfaced briefly at Eastwood MetroPark, *Montgomery*, allowing Allan Clayton a lovely close-up on 26 Apr.

Pacific Loon:

One stayed at the Findlay reservoirs, **Hancock**, from 22 to 28 May. Several observers posted photos; Robert Sams and Eric Mulholland formally documented it for the OBRC. Another was reported at Eastwood MP, **Montgomery**, in Apr; OBRC has documentation.



Laura Keene photographed the stunning Eastwood MP Pacific Loon in its near breeding plumage on 24 Apr.

Common Loon:

These were reported almost daily for the whole season, and from half of our counties. Reuben S. Erb counted 175 in migration near Walnut Creek, **Holmes**, between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm on 08 Apr. Donald Morse, Jr., counted 20 at East Fork SP, **Clermont**, on 21 Mar for the largest report of stationary birds.

Pied-billed Grebe:

Kenn Kaufman found the season's highest number of 65 at Metzger on 11 Apr. Almost 70 counties provided sightings.

Horned Grebe:

Springfield Lake, **Summit**, held 50 for Gregory Bennett on 24 Mar. Rob and Sandy Harlan watched one on and off in York Township, **Sandusky**, between 29 Apr and 27 May, a very late departure date.

Red-necked Grebe:

Robert Sams found two at Findlay Reservoir, **Hancock**, on 17 Mar. Levi A. Yoder saw one on Pleasant Hill Lake, **Ashland/Richland**, on 21 Mar and a second joined it by 24 Mar (Martha and Samuel Troyer). The last graced the Prairie Oaks unit of Darby Bend MP, **Franklin**, on 25 Mar (Chase Maxwell).

Eared Grebe:

Robert Hills found one on Fostoria Reservoir #5 (also called Lake Le Comte), **Hancock**, on 05 Apr. It remained at least until 13 Apr. That one or another appeared briefly at Findlay Reservoirs, also **Hancock**, for Linda Househower to find on 11 Apr.

Double-crested Cormorant:

Sightings were sparse in early Mar; by late Mar numbers jumped into four digits and stayed high as Apr progressed. Clear Fork held 1000 to 1300 on 31 Mar (Su Snyder, Bruce Glick), and Tom Bain found about 1000 at Conneaut, **Ashtabula**, on 15 Apr. Almost 60 counties had sightings.

Anhinga:

Martha and Samuel Troyer watched one soar for 15 minutes south of Mt. Eaton, **Wayne**, on 17 May and documented it for *The Bobolink* and the OBRC.

American White Pelican:

Craig Flockert broadcast the year's first sighting from Hoover Reservoir on 07 Mar. The largest flocks were of seven, at Killdeer on 07 Apr (Stephan Mozu Gleissbird *et al.*) and at Metzger on 26 Apr (Sherrie Duris). Other reports had counts of one to five birds and came from **Ashtabula**, **Erie**, **Mahoning**, **Ottawa**, and **Wayne**.

American Bittern:

Darlene Friedman saw the year's first at Pickerington Ponds MP, **Fairfield/Franklin**, on 22 Mar. One presented itself for many chasers between 03 and 05 Apr in the Rocky River Reservation, **Cuyahoga**. The Darby Creek wetlands held three on 06 and 11 May (Paul Hurtado, Deena Schmidt) as did Metzger on 13 May (Tom Bain). Twelve other counties also had sightings.

Least Bittern:

Darlene Friedman scored the first of this species as well when she heard one calling at Magee on 26 Apr. Paul Krusling found three on 26 May in the wetlands of Miami Whitewater Forest, **Hamilton**. Other reports came from **Ashtabula**, **Delaware**, **Ottawa**, **Pickaway**, and **Wayne**.

Great Blue Heron:

Almost every county (80) provided sightings. Larry Gara found 34 active nests on 17 Mar at a rookery by Cowan Lake, **Clinton**. Laura Dornan counted 96 birds and 85 nests at the CVNP Bath Road rookery on 02 May.

Great Egret:

One hundred or more were reported at ONWR between 06 and 12 May (m. obs.). More than 50 counties provided reports, but curiously **Wyandot**, home of Killdeer, was not among them.

Snowy Egret:

The year's first flew over Magee on 17 Apr (Kenn Kaufman). Dozens of reports, of up to 15 birds, came from Magee and ONWR by season's end. The only other sightings were of one bird at Dawes Arboretum, **Licking**, on 25 Apr (Margaret Bowman) and one at Wright Marsh, **Wayne**, from 01 to 05 May (m. obs.).

Little Blue Heron:

The earliest date was 04 May. On that day Micki and Doug Dunakin saw one in the Thomas Wetlands, **Paulding**. Another showed up at Magee for Nancy Mulder and apparently bounced between there and ONWR until 11 May (m. obs.). Craig Moore found three at Darby Creek on 28 May for the high count. Single birds also appeared in **Champaign, Erie, Lake, and Miami**.

Tricolored Heron:

One was reported at Conneaut on 26 May. Documentation is pending at the OBRC.

Cattle Egret:

Gary Cowell found the first, at Malabar Farm SP, **Richland**, on 17 Apr. Several reports of one or two birds came as usual from **Lucas** and **Ottawa**, and an extraordinary five stayed in Armleder Park, **Hamilton**, for most of 02 May (m. obs.).

Green Heron:

Mike Bracken found one in the Gordon Park basin, **Cuyahoga**, on 24 Mar, which is about three weeks earlier than a typical first sighting. The next report was on the “normal” date of 10 Apr at Hoover Meadows, **Delaware** (Liz Jagers and Luke Schrader). The meadows also provided the high count of nine, for Charles Bombaci on 19 May. Reports came from 50 counties in all.

Black-crowned Night-Heron:

Irina Shulgina counted 12 at the OSU Drake Center on the Olentangy River, **Franklin**, on 02 Mar for the highest number. Nineteen counties had sightings.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:

The first returned to the Preston Road, Columbus, sycamores on 29 Mar (*vide* Bill Whan). Up to three birds were reported there by the end of May. Two other single birds were seen in other parts of **Franklin**, one near Preston Road (Matthew and Rick Erickson) and one in Worthington (Bernie Master). Observers found up to three at Killbuck Marsh between 28 Apr and 19 May.

Glossy Ibis:

A small group was reported from ONWR in mid-May; documentation is pending at the OBRC.

White-faced Ibis:

Killbuck Marsh hosted three from 02 to 07 May; they were documented by Su Snyder. Others were reported at Metzger and ONWR and the OBRC has documentation.

Black Vulture:

One which appeared at Malek Park on 16 Apr was only the second report of the species there (Bruce Glick). The high count of 50 was at Paint Creek SP, **Highland**, on 08 Apr (Mark Gilsdorf). Forty-one counties had sightings.

Turkey Vulture:

There were several Mar reports in triple digits with the highest count being 390 passing Edgewater on 18 Mar (Rich and Karen Kassouf). Bob Lane reported a “nest with egg with mummified cows” in **Harrison** on 21 Apr – the cows had apparently trapped themselves in an abandoned building. Reports came from 83 counties.

Osprey:

Hallie Mason recorded a rather early two on the **Stark/Tuscarawas** border near Ragersville on 08 Mar. Bruce Glick *et al.*'s hawk watch at Malek Park on 02 May yielded 51; his previous record there was 31. Kathi Hutton reported on 21 Apr that her “Oddest sighting of the day was the OSPREY, fishing in a small farm pond in a field of beef cattle” south of Felicity, **Clermont**. Sightings came from 54 counties.

Mississippi Kite:

What is presumed to be the pair which first nested at Hide-a-Way Hills, **Hocking**, in 2010 returned again this year. On 14 May Jim McCormac posted photos taken by community resident Melissa Krygier.

Bald Eagle:

Fifty-three counties provided reports. Chris West counted 35 at Winous Point on 04 May for the highest number. Tom Hay watched on 29 Apr as an Osprey made at least 10 attacks on an eagle at Atwood Lake, **Carroll/Tuscarawas**. And on 14 May at Sandy Ridge Leo Deininger witnessed an hour-long aerial battle between two Bald Eagles and two Red-tailed Hawks which concluded “with no victor evident!”

Northern Harrier:

Sightings came throughout the season but were sparse by late May; 37 counties were represented. The high count of 11 was achieved twice on 04 Mar. Charles Bombaci saw them at Killdeer, and Ed Pierce's ONWR monthly census crew saw seven males and four females “all standing in one field along Krause Road towards dusk” (*vide* Douglas Vogus).



Su Snyder photographed the three White-faced Ibis in beautiful plumage at Killbuck Marsh on 02 May.

Sharp-shinned Hawk:

Bruce Glick and friends again scored the high count at Malek Park on 02 May – 308 sharpies passed them. Forty-three counties provided reports.

Cooper's Hawk:

Dan and Lynn Gesualdo saw 11 pass Rocky River Park, *Cuyahoga*, on 15 Apr. Sightings came from 60 other counties as well.

Northern Goshawk:

The two reports came courtesy of *The Bobolink*. James F. Yoder saw one west of Walnut Creek, *Holmes*, on 01 Apr and Ed Schlabach saw a juvenile near Sugarcreek, *Tuscarawas*, on 15 Apr.

Red-shouldered Hawk:

Reports came from over 50 counties. Margaret Bowman counted the high of 84 passing Malek Park on 07 May. The second highest count was 39, from the Magee tower on 11 Mar (Ethan Kistler).

Broad-winged Hawk:

Margaret Bowman reported the first, from Scioto Trail SP, *Ross*, on 05 Apr. Migration was well under way by 15 Apr when Dan and Lynn Gesualdo estimated that 1200 passed Rocky River Park, *Cuyahoga*. The high count of 2085 came on 02 May at Malek Park (Bruce Glick). Forty-two counties provided sightings.

Red-tailed Hawk:

As expected, these were widespread; reports came from 78 counties. The only triple-digit count was the 103 from Malek Park on 07 Mar (Margaret Bowman).

Rough-legged Hawk:

Most of the sightings were in Mar with a trickle in Apr. The last were on 02 May, when Scott Pendleton saw one at The Bowl, *Harrison*, and Bruce Glick saw another at Malek Park. Sightings came from 10 other widely distributed counties as well.

Golden Eagle:

The Wilds and surrounding Ohio Power lands, Muskingum, provided many Mar sightings of one bird. Reuben M. Barkman reported two west of Farmerstown, *Holmes*, on 25 Apr. Other reports, all of single birds, came from *Ashtabula*, *Lorain*, and *Richland* and the last from *Lake* on 11 May (John Pogacnik).

American Kestrel:

Almost 60 counties provided reports. There were three double-digit counts: 12 at Killdeer on 04 Mar (Charles Bombaci) and 15 and 10 passing Malek Park on 16 Apr and 02 May respectively (Bruce Glick). Martha and Samuel Troyer reported to *The Bobolink* that “a pair nested in a straw shed [near New Bedford, *Coshocton*], resulting in 4 eggs which produced 2 young”.

Merlin:

Bruce Bojack saw the last migrant of the season at Maumee Bay on 13 May (One bird remained in *Harrison* for another month). Ethan Kistler noted four passing the Magee tower on 15 Apr and there were a few reports of two or three birds. Nineteen counties had sightings.

Peregrine Falcon:

The only location with reports of two birds was the Ohio Turnpike bridge over the Cuyahoga River in CVNP (m. obs.). Singles were reported in 15 counties.

Yellow Rail:

Robert Sams flushed one while mowing firebreaks in the Vogelsong Conservation Area, *Hancock*, on 05 May, and documented the sighting for the OBRC.

King Rail:

Wes Hatch heard and then saw one at Frohring Meadows on 16 Apr, an early date for the state, let alone so far north. Rob and Sandy Harlan found one at Metzger on 13 May and Tom Bain one at Mallard Club Marsh, *Lucas*, on 20 May. Deer Creek WA, *Fayette*, hosted one for Robert Roysse on 19 May and Craig Moore heard one at Darby Creek on 28 May.

Virginia Rail:

Geauga Parks naturalists reported one at Frohring Meadows on 05 Mar, another early date. What about the site was so attractive to adventuresome rails? The second sighting was of three at Spring Valley on 10 Mar (Mark Gilsdorf), still early even for southern Ohio. Wyatt Westercamp found 10 in a field along Round Bottom Road, *Hamilton*, on 30 Apr. Reports came from 25 counties.

Sora:

Tom Bartlett *et al.* reported the first, on 17 Mar at Springville Marsh SNP, *Seneca*. The only other record that month was a heard-only bird at Sandy Ridge on 21 Mar (Rich and Karen Kassouf). The high count, and only double-digit one, was of 12 at Navarre on 01 May (Mark Shieldcastle). Twenty-six counties had sightings.

Common Gallinule:

These were found in 15 scattered counties south to *Hocking*. The earliest were two at Springville Marsh SNP, *Seneca*, on 05 Apr (Tom Bartlett *et al.*). Sue Tackett counted 25 at Metzger on 10 May. *The Bobolink* provided this comic turn: “On 5/10 a strange encounter took place east of Apple Creek [*Wayne*] when 1 was found in a barn – in a horse stall – after dark.”

American Coot:

About 10 reports contained four-digit numbers. The highest were two of 3000, on 29 Mar at Big Island WA, *Marion* (Charles Bombaci) and on 11 Apr at Metzger (Kenn Kaufman). Sixty other counties also had sightings.

The Ohio Cardinal, Spring 2012

Sandhill Crane:

On 10 May Leo Deininger watched Division of Wildlife personnel attempt a helicopter roundup of 16 at Funk Bottoms in order to radio-collar some of them. Su Snyder counted 26 at Funk on both 26 and 31 May (with no mention of collars!). Reports came from 29 counties.

Black-bellied Plover:

The first of these handsome shorebirds was seen in ONWR's Boss Unit on 28 Apr (Ethan Kistler, Sue Tackett). Anne Mayrille made the high count of 30 at Oak Openings on 11 May. Twelve counties, all on or northwest of a line connecting **Lake** and **Hamilton**, provided sightings.

American Golden-Plover:

Ethan Kistler saw the season's first at the ONWR Boss Unit on 06 Apr. David Weaver estimated that he found at least 1800 (yes, eighteen hundred), in numerous flocks throughout **Mercer** on 18 Apr. The next highest count was 180 by Patrick Johnson, on 12 Apr at Winous Point. Eleven other widely scattered counties had sightings.

Semipalmated Plover:

Armleder Park, **Hamilton** (J.W. Rettig) and Sandy Ridge (Bruce Bezon) shared first sightings, but of course not the bird, on 06 Apr. Bruce Glick and David Weaver saw 60 or more at Funk Bottoms on 16 May. Reports came from 20 counties.

Piping Plover:

One was reported at the Conneaut for several days in late Apr. The OBRC has several reports in process.

Killdeer:

These were found in 80 counties. Susan Nash counted 50 at The Wilds, **Muskingum**, on 14 Mar and Caine Kolinski noted the same number at ONWR on 11 May. The 06 May ONWR census team found a nest with four eggs (Ed Pierce *et al.*, *vide* Douglas Vogus).

Black-necked Stilt:

Mike Busan found and documented one at Ellis Lake, **Butler**, on 17 Apr; it remained two more days.

American Avocet:

A fantastic 33 at Sandy Ridge on 13 Mar outnumbered the viewers, but not by much. A still-respectable seven were at Maumee Bay on 15 Apr, also for multiple observers. A BRAS field trip found a single bird on 02 May, again at Sandy Ridge.

Spotted Sandpiper:

Tim Krynak found the first, on 02 Apr at South Chagrin Reservation, **Cuyahoga**. Winous Point hosted the high count of 35 on 10 May for Craig Moore. Rob Harlan reported "2 nocturnal migrants each night over Columbia Woods Park [**Summit**]

5/24 and 5/29, seems late for migrants". Sightings came from 57 counties.

Solitary Sandpiper:

Aaron E. Miller and David Weaver spotted one about two weeks earlier than usual, on 14 Mar at Funk Bottoms. Reports continued through the end of the season with a high of about 50 on 05 May at Camp Sabroske, **Ottawa**. Forty-two counties contributed reports.

Greater Yellowlegs:

Allison Bronchik found the earliest on 15 Mar at Pickerington Ponds MP, **Fairfield/Franklin**; one reached the ONWR Boss Unit by 19 Mar (Kenn Kaufman). Patrick Johnson found groups of five to 10, with a total of about 50 birds, at Winous Point on 12 Apr. Reports came from 46 counties.

Willet:

The first one, in a field on Roundbottom Road, **Hamilton**, attracted a host of viewers on 26 Apr. The Hoover NP boardwalk had as many as 124 roosting birds on 28 Apr. The previous record count was 83 on 01 May 2009 (*vide* Bill Whan). The season's last was at Headlands on 01 May (*vide* Jen Brumfield). **Clark, Lorain, Logan, Lucas, Ottawa, Pickaway, and Warren** also produced reports.

Lesser Yellowlegs:

Geauga Parks naturalists found another early bird at Frohring Meadows, this one on 05 Mar. Killbuck Marsh held 200 on 30 Apr (Bruce Glick), and there were several other reports in triple digits. Forty-six counties had sightings.

Upland Sandpiper:

Scott Pendleton saw two at the Bowl, **Harrison**, on 13 Apr and six on 14 Apr and several succeeding days. He found 11 breeding pairs in that general area by the end of May. Other reports of up to five birds came from **Clark, Franklin, Hardin, Lucas, Montgomery, and Ottawa**.

Whimbrel:

Three appeared briefly for David Weaver and Aaron E. Miller on 28 May at Funk Bottoms.

Marbled Godwit:

Bill Kinkead found the earliest, at Indian Lake SP, **Logan**, on 28 Apr. Nine were at Killbuck Marsh on 01 May for David Weaver and Andy R. Troyer. Sue Tackett reported the only other one of the season from the ONWR Boss Unit on 13 May.

Ruddy Turnstone:

Observers found from three to 10 at Funk Bottoms on 09 May; one was at Metzger on the same day (Dan and Lynn Gesualdo). Maumee Bay hosted up to 17 between 11 and 31 May (m. obs.). **Auglaize, Cuyahoga, Hamilton, Lake, and Ottawa** also provided reports.

Red Knot:

Marc Schroeder reported one at ONWR on 12 May and Ray Duffy reported two at Magee on 18 May.

Sanderling:

Cole DiFabio recorded a flyby flock of eight at Headlands on 29 Apr. The Grand Lake St. Marys hatchery, *Auglaize*, held 10 on 16 May. One or two were seen between these dates in *Licking*, *Lucas*, *Ottawa*, and *Sandusky*.

Semipalmated Sandpiper:

Aaron E. Miller found one on 03 Apr, a month earlier than expected, at Funk Bottoms. Other early birds appeared on 10 Apr at Funk (David Weaver), on 15 Apr at Killdeer (Charles Bombaci), and on 19 Apr at Ellis Lake, *Butler* (Jason Cade). The Horseshoe Unit of Winous Point hosted 75 on 31 May for Tom Bartlett's banding crew. Reports came from 16 counties in all.

Least Sandpiper:

Jason Cade started the season on 11 Mar with two at Ellis Lake, *Butler*; they might have wintered as close as southern Kentucky. Least got to the far north by 25 Mar when Ethan Kistler found one at the ONWR Boss Unit. Margaret Bowman filed the only three-digit report with an estimated 150 at Winous Point on 08 May. Twenty-nine counties had sightings.

White-rumped Sandpiper:

Metzger hosted the first, on 07 May (Margaret Bowman). Winous Point's Horseshoe Unit hosted seven for Tom Bartlett on 31 May. Reports also came from *Ashtabula*, *Butler*, *Franklin*, *Hamilton*, *Ottawa*, *Sandusky*, and *Wayne*.

Baird's Sandpiper:

Robert Hershberger found two at Funk Bottoms on 29 May for an extremely rare spring sighting.

Pectoral Sandpiper:

Frohing Meadows provided the first sighting for Geauga Parks naturalists, four birds on 05 Mar (a little earlier than usual). The next, three at Darby Creek, weren't found until 15 Mar (Irina Shulgina). Early Apr yielded many triple-digit reports but numbers dropped to a trickle during the second half of May. The high count was about 750 at Funk Bottoms on 03 Apr (Aaron E. Miller and David Weaver). Reports came from 35 counties.

Dunlin:

Laura Dornan found a single bird at Prairie Lane, *Wayne*, on 23 Mar, right at the beginning of their usual migration period. Numbers swelled to about 1000 on 09 May along Coonrod Road, *Sandusky* (Andrew Weber) and 10 May at Winous Point (Craig Moore). Almost 30 counties had sightings.

Stilt Sandpiper:

One bird at Prairie Lane, *Wayne*, on 24 Apr was

the first (David Weaver and Aaron E. Miller). One spent 28 and 29 Apr in a Millersburg, *Holmes*, wetland (Bruce Glick). One or two were in Wright Marsh, *Wayne*, between 04 and 06 May (m. obs.). Reports of a single bird in Killbuck Marsh came between 30 Apr and 05 May; because Wright is part of Killbuck it's not plain how many birds were present in the area. William Hull found the last on 15 May way down south in Riverside Park, Newtown, *Hamilton*.

Ruff:

One frequented Wright Marsh, *Wayne*, apparently from 30 Apr to 12 May. It was documented for the OBRC by Tom and Jackie Bain on 03 May.

Short-billed Dowitcher:

Kenn Kaufman saw the first two at the corner of Stange and Krause Roads, *Ottawa*, on 11 Apr, a week or so earlier than usual. Metzger held 125 on 12 May (m. obs.). Fourteen other counties also had sightings.

Long-billed Dowitcher:

Darlene Friedman found two in the ONWR Boss Unit on 22 Mar; it was joined by a third the next day (*vide* Ethan Kistler). Several other reports also had three birds. The last one, late for the species, was well described on Krause Road, *Ottawa*, on 13 May (Kirby and Sarah Adams). Sightings also came from *Delaware*, *Franklin*, *Hamilton*, *Hancock*, and *Wayne*.

Wilson's Snipe:

Paul Dubuc searched VOA Park, *Butler*, on 25 Mar and reported that he "flushed singles and groups of 2-23 every minute or so" for a total count of 117. The next highest count was by Brian Wulker; he found 75 at Fernald on 25 Mar. Over 40 counties produced sightings.

American Woodcock:

A BRAS field trip counted 20 in Charlemont Reservation, *Lorain*, on 07 Mar. Tom Bartlett *et al.* also found 20, at Springville Marsh SNP, *Seneca*, on 17 Mar. Reports came from almost 50 counties.



Allan Clayton photographed this preening American Woodcock from the Magee boardwalk on 14 May.

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Wilson's Phalarope:

Patrick Johnson recorded the first, on 30 Apr at Winous Point. Singles were at Magee on 11 May (Joy Barron), at Sandy Ridge on 12 May (Scott Moscovits), and at ONWR also on 12 May (Andrew Aldrich). The last posed for several observers at Metzger on 24 May.

Red-necked Phalarope:

One spent 15 and 16 May at Darby Creek (m. obs.). One visible from Clark Road in Killbuck Marsh on 15 May (m. obs.) was joined by a second on 18 May (James F. Yoder). The Grand Lake St. Marys hatchery, *Auglaize*, hosted one for Jill Bowers on 16 May. Regina Schieltz and friends found the last in the Woods Road wetlands, *Darke*, on 24 May.

Bonaparte's Gull:

These were present all season, and in 48 counties. Numbers peaked at 2500 on 24 Mar at Wendy Park (Jen Brumfield). About 1400 were on and around Kelleys Island on 26 Mar (Tom Bartlett) and about 1000 were off Rocky River Park, *Cuyahoga*, on 08 Apr (Jen Brumfield).

Little Gull:

John Pogacnik saw the only one of the season during his 01 Apr lakeshore water bird survey in *Lake*.

Laughing Gull:

The seven reports, all of single birds, are listed below.

04 Apr, Lorain harbor, by Cheryl Harner

05 Apr, Lorain harbor, by Dan and Lynn Gesualdo

04 Apr, Lakeshore Park, Ashtabula, by John Pogacnik

30 Apr, Alum Creek Reservoir, Delaware, by Rick Asamoto

30 Apr, Clear Fork, by John Herman

26 May, Conneaut, by Laura Keene

Franklin's Gull:

Jim Reid found one at the Grand Lake St. Marys hatchery, *Auglaize*, on 26 Apr. Another spent 15 and 16 May at Darby Creek (Jeffrey Pontius, Tom Bain).

Ring-billed Gull:

The highest of several four-digit counts were two of 4000, on 05 Mar at Lorain harbor (Kent Miller) and on 24 Mar at Wendy Park (Jen Brumfield). Fifty-five counties provided sightings.

California Gull:

Hoover Reservoir hosted one on 29 and 30 Mar. Several dozen people saw it, and Gene Stauffer, Alex Hughes, Paul Hurtado, Ben Warner, and Bill Whan provided thorough documentation.

Herring Gull:

Kent Miller estimated 2000 were in Lorain harbor on 05 Mar; that was the only number exceeding

500. Bob and Denise Lane found a nest in the Jet Ferry parking lot, Port Clinton, *Ottawa*, on 17 May. Reports came from 37 counties to the Ohio River.

Thayer's Gull:

Two were at Lorain harbor on 05 Mar for Kent Miller, and Sherrie Duris found one at Maumee Bay on 19 Mar.

Iceland Gull:

Many observers saw one at Lorain harbor between 04 and 10 Mar. John Pogacnik saw two during his water bird surveys in *Lake* on both 04 and 24 Mar. Gabe Leidy was surprised to find one in a flock of commoner gulls by the side of US 250 in *Erie* on 11 Mar.

Lesser Black-backed Gull:

Every county but *Sandusky* which adjoins Lake Erie had sightings. Inland *Delaware*, *Franklin*, *Mahoning*, *Richland*, and *Warren* also contributed. Kent Miller had the high count of 10, at Lorain harbor on 05 Mar. The latest report was John Herman's from the *Richland* end of Clear Fork.

Glaucous Gull:

The six sites which hosted this species are listed here. Note that half of them are well south of Lake Erie.

Clear Fork 13 Mar (John Herman)

Hoover NP boardwalk 08 May (Charles Bombaci)

Indian Lake, *Logan*, 27 Apr (Troy Shively *vide* Bill Whan)

Kelleys Island, 04 and 05 Apr (Tom Bartlett)

Lorain harbor, 03 to 05 Apr (m. obs.) and 26 Apr (Laura Keene)

Perry Township, *Lake*, 03, 11, 24 and 28 Mar (John Pogacnik)

Great Black-backed Gull:

As was the case with Lesser Black-backed, every Lake Erie county except *Sandusky* had sightings; *Auglaize* and *Mercer* also provided reports. Tom Bartlett counted 60 around Kelleys Island on 05 Mar.

Least Tern:

Sherrie Duris found and documented one at Maumee Bay on 16 May; it stayed until 24 May for multiple chasers.

Caspian Tern:

Jen Brumfield and Dan Gesualdo noted the first on 28 Mar at Wendy Park. Members of a BRAS field trip to the Lorain impoundment on 15 Apr counted 82 there. Twenty-four counties, all the way to *Hamilton*, had sightings.

Black Tern:

Chris West reported one and Jonathan Lautenbach two, the season's first, at Magee on 03 May. Metzger

hosted an impressive 18 on 10 May for Lee Adams. Other sightings came from **Clermont**, **Franklin**, **Hamilton**, **Hancock**, and **Wayne**.

Common Tern:

Dan and Lynn Gesualdo saw the first at Pickerel Creek WA, **Erie/Sandusky**, on 01 Apr. The high count of 70 came from Maumee Bay on 10 May (Todd Deal). Reports came from 16 counties.

Forster's Tern:

BRAS found two on 20 Mar at Oberlin Reservoir, **Lorain**; the next sightings were not until 31 Mar a several northern locations. Maumee Bay had about 100 on both 04 May (Kenn Kaufman) and 10 May (Doug Overacker). Twenty-eight counties had sightings.

Royal Tern:

One stayed at the Grand Lake St. Marys hatchery, **Auglaize**, from 29 Apr to 02 May. Several observers provided photos which OBRC gleaned; the decision is pending on what will probably be Ohio's third record of the species.



The Auglaize Royal Tern posed for Victor Fazio III on 30 Apr., and he was also the last to report it on 02 May.

Rock Pigeon:

No doubt there were many concentrations in the hundreds, but the largest reported was 100 at OSU's Waterman Farm, **Franklin**, on 11 Apr (Alex Hughes). Sixty four counties provided sightings.

Eurasian Collared-Dove:

OBRC decisions are pending on a few reports. However, many observers continue to report this species from Celina and Kidron, where they nest, and other locations as well but do not provide any details to the OBRC.

White-winged Dove:

Dave Clark documented one at his home feeder in Perkins Township, **Sandusky**, on 03 May. The Barber home in **Cuyahoga** hosted one for many visitors between 14 and 21 Apr. The OBRC has the accompanying photograph.

Mourning Dove:

Not surprisingly, almost every county provided at least one report. Desiree Narango found 60 at the OSU Waterman Farm, **Franklin**, on 05 May.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo:

Kyle Carlsen saw the first, two at Veto Lake WA, **Washington**, on 25 Apr. Hope Orr found six on 31 May in the Boston area of CVNP. Forty counties provided reports.

Black-billed Cuckoo:

Two sites shared the first sightings on 27 Apr. Alex Nickley found one at the West Side Prairie, **Athens**, and Brad Sparks the other in Shawnee. The high count was five, by Doug Gochfeld at Magee on 12 May. Sightings came from 27 counties.



A Black-billed Cuckoo perched low for good observation near the boardwalk at Magee for Laura Keene on 12 May.

Barn Owl:

County workers repairing a water tower at Atwood Lake, **Carroll**, on 11 Apr found a nest with six eggs. The eggs cooled before they got to veterinarian and birder Scott Pendleton; though he incubated them,



This White-winged Dove was a surprise for the Barber family, as their now grown son Nick had spent his childhood unsuccessfully searching for rarities in their Mayfield Heights back yard. This photo was captured by Victor Fazio III on 15 Apr.

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none survived. The other five sites which generated reports are:

Berlin Township, **Holmes**, 24 May (Margaret Bowman)

Higginsport, **Brown**, 16 May (Mark Gilsdorf)
Pickerington Ponds MP, **Fairfield/Franklin**,
20 May (Gene Stauffer)

Raptor, Inc. grounds, **Clermont**, 21 and 25
Mar (Susan Williams, Kathi Hutton)

Sugarcreek MP, **Greene**, 21 Mar (Mark Ruane)

Eastern Screech-Owl:

Chris Zacharias found a red morph adult with three fledglings in the Lake Hope SP, **Vinton**, campground on 27 May. One or two were reported almost daily in May along the Magee boardwalk. Twenty-one counties had sightings.

Great Horned Owl:

The 01 Apr ONWR census found five, which included an adult and two owlets in a nest (Ed Pierce, *et al.* *vide* Douglas Vogus). Observers found nests, each of two owlets with both adults in attendance, at the Bowl, **Harrison**, on 17 Apr (Scott Pendleton) and along Ginghamburg-Frederic Road, **Miami** (Robert Reed). Reports came from 40 counties overall.

Snowy Owl:

The five locations with sightings are:

Ashtabula (harbor area), 02 and 11 Mar (Ken Ostermiller, Cole DiFabio, Tom Frankel)

Findlay Reservoir vicinity, **Hancock**, 04 to 08
Apr (m. obs.)

Lorain harbor breakwall, 19 Mar (*vide* Brian Zwiebel)

Paulding, 07 Mar, Doug and Micki Dunakin *et al.*

Weston Road/Cygnets Road/Otsego Pike,
Wood, winter to 01 Mar (m. obs.)

Barred Owl:

The 19 May CVNP Spring Census found five (Dwight Chasar *et al.*). Five reports contained four birds. One of them, from **Harrison** by Scott Pendleton, included a begging owlet. Sightings came from 43 counties.

Long-eared Owl:

The five locations are:

Conotton, **Harrison**, 06 Feb to 22 Mar (Kelly Benish, Scott Pendleton)

TR 115, **Hancock**, 01 May (Robert Sams)
Hisey Park, **Warren**, 06 to 17 Mar (m. obs.)

Maumee Bay SP, 04 Apr (Kenn Kaufman)
ONWR, 04 Mar (Ed Pierce *et al.*, *vide* Douglas Vogus)

Short-eared Owl:

Scott Pendleton saw the season's last on 30 May in **Harrison** and speculated at the time that might be a breeder. (Summer preview - he found one or two in the same area through Jun but had no evidence

of actual nesting.) Bruce Simpson found 10 in the vicinity of The Wilds, **Muskingum**, on 11 Mar. Reports also came from **Franklin, Hamilton, Hardin, Holmes, Lorain, Lucas, Marion, Ottawa, Pickaway, Wayne**, and **Wood**.

Northern Saw-whet Owl:

Tom Bartlett found up to five on Kelleys Island between 04 and 25 Mar. Matt Anderson saw his new yard-list bird in Whitehouse, **Lucas**, on 25 Mar. Robert Sams heard and saw one in downtown Findlay, **Hancock**, early in the morning of 07 Apr.

Common Nighthawk:

Mark Gilsdorf heard the first peenting in **Butler** on 28 Apr. Aden A. Yoder and Atlee A. Yoder counted 59 near Mt. Eaton, **Wayne**, on 20 May. Reports also came from 30 other counties.

Chuck-will's-widow:

Brad Sparks reported the first on 27 Apr from the Edge of Appalachia Preserve, **Adams**. The Ohio Brush Creek area of **Adams** remains a reliable location - Kent Miller heard 12 there on 02 May. Tracy Morgan heard and saw one at her Scipio Township, **Meigs**, home on 02 May; it was her first in 35 years there. Ed Schlabach *et al.* heard one calling at dawn on 19 May near Wills Creek, **Coshocton**, well north of their usual haunts.

Eastern Whip-poor-will:

The Edge of Appalachia Preserve, **Adams**, again provided the first record, for Laura Keene on 14 Apr. Sam Corbo found eight in Oak Openings on 19 May. Reports came from 19 counties.

Chimney Swift:

The Columbus Avid Birders watched the earliest, two working Lake White SP, **Pike**, on 31 Mar. The high count of 200 came from the OSU campus on 30 Apr (Stefan Mozu Gleissbird). Seventy counties provided reports.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird:

The first traversed half the state, to Huntsville, **Logan**, before being seen on 14 Apr (Shannon Dutridge). It took another two weeks for a Far North sighting by a BRAS field trip in Oberlin, **Lorain**, on 30 Apr. Charles Bombaci and Logan Kahle counted 11 in Blackhand Gorge SNP, **Licking**, on 08 May. Reports came from 59 counties.

Belted Kingfisher:

Many observers reported two, three, or four kingfishers during an outing. The high was six, by K.M. Miller in South Chagrin Reservation, **Cuyahoga**, on 22 Apr. Sixty-six counties had sightings.

Red-headed Woodpecker:

A BSBO field trip during the Biggest Week in American Birding counted a remarkable 16 in Oak Openings on 05 May. Sightings came from 53 counties over all.

Red-bellied Woodpecker:

These are practically ubiquitous – they were sighted in 80 counties. Dwight Chasar's CVNP Spring Census teams counted 108 on 19 May. The highest count by a single party was 21, also in CVNP, during the 02 Mar monthly Towpath Trail census (Douglas Vogus *et al.*).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:

Because some of these overwinter in the state, it's impossible to date the first migrant's appearance. The last migrant sightings from the far south were on 11 May in *Clermont* and *Hamilton*. The latest report overall was of two at a *Summit* home on 18 May (Thomas Haskins). Half of our counties had sightings.

Downy Woodpecker:

Not surprisingly, several censuses produced the highest counts. Tom Bartlett's team found 43 throughout Kelleys Island on 16 Mar. Reports came from 78 counties.

Hairy Woodpecker:

Tim Krynak found nine in North Chagrin Reservation, *Cuyahoga*, on 10 Apr. One was seen repeatedly along the Magee boardwalk between 15 Apr and 11 May; the species is very rare in that tiny woodlot. Sixty-six counties had sightings.

Northern Flicker:

The Erie Street Cemetery, *Cuyahoga*, hosted 27 on 25 Mar for Louise Quigley and George Coleman. Jen Brumfield counted 35 passing overhead at Edgewater on 28 Mar. Seventy-six other counties also produced reports.

Pileated Woodpecker:

The several census teams in the CVNP on 19 May found 30 of these (Dwight Chasar *et al.*). Several individuals and small parties each counted six on excursions in *Greene*, *Scioto*, *Ross*, and *Summit*. Sightings came from 67 counties over all.

Olive-sided Flycatcher:

J.W. Rettig found a slightly early pioneer on 27 Apr at Spring Grove Cemetery, *Hamilton*. One reached Magee by 07 May for multiple observers. Two reports had two birds, in Oak Openings on 08 May (m. obs.) and at Turtle Creek, *Ottawa*, on 24 May (Jill Bowers). The last of the season was at the *Hardin* Wetlands on 28 May (Richard Counts) though there was a trickle of sightings in Jun. Reports also came from *Clark*, *Cuyahoga*, *Franklin*, *Gallia*, *Hancock*, *Holmes*, *Lake*, *Pickaway*, and *Wood*.

Eastern Wood-Pewee:

Sixty-four counties produced reports. The earliest was by Chris Pierce in CVNP on 29 Apr. Andy Jones and Michelle Leighty counted 20 while kayaking a seven-mile stretch of the Cuyahoga River in *Geauga* on 28 May.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:

Sightings by Joseph Ford and Irene Krise shared the first date of 03 May at Sims Park, *Cuyahoga*, and Magee respectively, rather early for the north coast. Mark Shieldcastle's BSBO crew banded 12 at Navarre on 19 May. *Clermont*, *Franklin*, *Geauga*, and *Lucas* each had one sighting on 28 May, the last but for a couple of Jun stragglers. Reports came from 18 counties.

Acadian Flycatcher:

Charles Bombaci noted the first, in Hoover NP's Area N on 24 Apr. Charles also found the most by any single observer – 13 in Highbanks MP, *Franklin*, on 12 May. Fifty-six counties produced sightings.

Alder Flycatcher:

Four sites, in *Cuyahoga*, *Franklin* (2), and *Lorain* hosted the first of these on 02 May (m. obs.). Navarre (Mark Shieldcastle) and Magee (Kevin Seymour) each had four on 19 and 20 May, respectively. Twenty-two counties provided reports.

Willow Flycatcher:

The first appeared on 02 May, for Charles Bombaci in Blendon Woods. Mark Shieldcastle *et al.* banded 18 at Navarre on 19 May. Clyde Witt found 13 in the vicinity of CVNP Headquarters, also on 19 May. Reports came from 47 counties.

Least Flycatcher:

Robert Sams found the first in Oakwoods MP, *Hancock*, on 13 Apr. The next sightings were not until 26 Apr, at several locations. Tom Frankel had the highest single-observer count, 10, at Headlands on 12 May. More than 40 counties had sightings.

Eastern Phoebe:

The 25 Feb *Lorain* pioneer (see the *Cardinal*, Winter 2011-12) was closely followed by several 02 and 04 Mar sightings. Sam Corbo found 12 in OOPMP on 17 May. Reports came from more than 70 counties.

Say's Phoebe:

Jerry Talkington and Ray Hannikman discovered one at Headlands on 14 Apr and passed the word. Tom Frankel, Andy Jones, and others documented it for the OBRC and many more got a look between that date and 17 Apr. This is the sixth record of the species in Ohio. (Using editorial license, I am attributing these reports though the OBRC has not completed action on them.)

Great Crested Flycatcher:

Hoover NP Area N hosted the first, for Charles Bombaci on 12 Apr. Tom Frankel counted 18 at Holden Arboretum, *Lake*, on 20 May; one was gathering nesting material. Fifty-seven counties had sightings.

Eastern Kingbird:

Reports came from 64 counties. The first sighting

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was a bit early, at Charlie's Pond, **Pickaway**, on 12 Apr (Kyle Brooks) but sightings came thick and fast a few days later. The largest count by a single observer was Kenn Kaufman's 25 at Metzger on 03 May.

Northern Shrike:

One which spent most of the winter at Funk Bottoms was last seen 02 Mar (*vide Bobolink Area RBA*), though one was seen at nearby Killbuck Marsh on 13 (Aden A. Yoder) and 24 Mar (Irene Krise). The latest sighting was posted to the ONWR eTT on 26 Mar. **Geauga** and **Wyandot** also provided reports.

White-eyed Vireo:

Bruce Simpson found one along King Hollow Road in Zaleski on 06 Apr. The season's high count was 12. Atlee A. Yoder found that many at The Wilderness Center, **Stark**, on 05 May as did Charles Bombaci and Logan Kahle in Blackhand Gorge SNP, **Licking**, on 08 May. Fifty-five counties had sightings.

Bell's Vireo:

Kirk Westendorf was surprised to find one in Ault Park, **Hamilton**, on 29 Apr. He wrote, "It took me a few minutes to remember what the song was and probably 4 times as long to finally see the little sucker...Heard it sing constantly over the course of several minutes and ultimately saw it for a few minutes." Brian Walker found three at the Kilby Road, **Hamilton**, gravel pits on 12 May. Other sightings came from **Butler**, **Clermont**, **Franklin**, **Knox**, **Pickaway**, and **Wood**.

Yellow-throated Vireo:

James F. Yoder found one in Mohican SF on 07 Apr, a bit early for that latitude, but several other northeastern sites had them over the next week as well. The high count was seven, from three sites: Rocky Fork SP, **Highland**, on 18 Apr (Noel Cutright); Shawnee on 19 Apr (Kent Miller); and near Lake Hope, **Vinton**, on 29 Apr (Tom Bain). Almost 60 counties produced reports.

Blue-headed Vireo:

Donald Morse, Jr., heard an early arrival singing along a trail in East Fork SP, **Clermont**, on 26 Mar. James F. Yoder and Gary Cowell separately found four in the Hickory Ridge area of Mohican SF on 07 Apr. One had reached Bentleyville, **Cuyahoga**, by 10 Apr (Dan Gesualdo). Kenn Kaufman found six along the Magee boardwalk on 02 May for the single-observer high count. Sightings came from 39 counties.

Warbling Vireo:

Kirk Westendorf commented about his 08 Apr report of one in Avoca Park, **Hamilton**, "About 2 weeks earlier than I usually get them but heard it several times". Bill Stanley estimated 50 were along the Magee boardwalk on 12 May. Sixty-three counties provided reports.

Philadelphia Vireo:

Harris Abramson found one in Winton Woods CP, **Hamilton**, on 01 May. Chris Zacharias and Jason Sullivan saw one along Reigate Road, **Montgomery**, on the same day. One made it to Magee by 03 May (Chris West). Navarre produced seven for Mark Shieldcastle *et al.* on 19 May. The last (but for a single Jun report) were seen on 28 May in Zaleski (Irina Shulgina), and at Shaker Lakes NC, **Cuyahoga** (Laura Gooch). Sightings came from 25 counties all told.

Red-eyed Vireo:

Shawnee hosted the first, for Laura Keene on 14 Apr. The first far-north sighting was Mark Rozmarynowycz's in Wintergarden/St. Johns NP, **Wood**, on 22 Apr. Mark Shieldcastle's crew banded 46 at Navarre on 19 May. Sixty-nine counties had sightings.

Blue Jay:

Eighty-one counties provided reports (and surely these birds were present in the other seven). Jen Brumfield, Kenn Kaufman, and Ethan Kistler spent varying amounts of time at Magee on 03 May and separately estimated that between 1000 and 10,000 jays passed overhead during their watch periods.

American Crow:

These, like jays, were reported in 81 counties and surely present in all. Margaret Bowman counted 200 passing Malek Park on 07 Mar and Mark Shieldcastle noted 240 at Navarre on 14 Mar. These were the only double-digit reports.

Fish Crow:

Andy Jones and Michelle Leighty discovered one in a Shaker Heights, **Cuyahoga**, grocery parking lot on 22 Apr and followed it into the nearby residential area. There they found Ohio's first nest of this species, with a presumed family group of six at or near it. Andy, Michelle, and many others documented the family. Reports continued into summer.

Common Raven:

Two reports were documented, and several were not. Scott Pendleton watched one pace him along a road near Cadiz, **Harrison**, on 08 Mar. Andy Sewell saw one sharing a road kill with a crow near Conesville, **Coshocton**, on 18 May.

Horned Lark:

One pair of this year-round resident species had already produced a family by 16 Apr when David Russell saw the youngsters near Oxford, **Butler**. Ethan Kistler made the high count of 300 along Howard Road, **Lucas**, on 17 Mar. Fifty-two other counties also produced sightings.

Purple Martin:

The first report came more than a week earlier than expected, from near Walnut Creek, **Holmes**, on 14

Mar (David Miller). Several reports from other parts of the state came in during the next week, so this spring's weather and insect crop was martin friendly. Craig Moore counted 145 at the nest structures on several farms along Force Road, **Wayne**, on 15 Apr. More than 50 counties had sightings.

Tree Swallow:

These began arriving in Feb, and numbers built to the high of 3600 which Rob and Sandy Harlan found at Nimisila Reservoir, **Summit**, on 11 May. Reports came from 78 counties.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow:

The first was a bit early; Richard Hall found it on 18 Mar in Scioto Audubon MP, **Franklin**. The next report was not until 24 Mar, from the Bowl, **Harrison** (Scott Pendleton). Jen Brumfield noted about 400 passing Edgewater on 29 Apr. Sixty-six counties provided reports.

Bank Swallow:

Megan Shoemaker and Geoff Winningham saw the first, a single bird at Delaware WA on 04 Apr. This is an early date, but more reports followed soon after. Dave Slager found about 200 at the Lake Logan SP, **Hocking**, fishing pier on 26 Apr. Margaret Bowman counted 133 nest holes in a **Coshocton** gravel operation's sandbank on 12 May, and noted 100 to 200 birds swirling around the area. Sightings came from 43 counties.

Cliff Swallow:

Early birds showed up on 31 Mar. One was at Lost Bridge, **Hamilton** (Mark Gilsdorf), and two at Lake White SP, **Pike** (Dave Slager). The next sighting was 10 Apr at Pleasant Hill Lake, **Ashland** (Gary Cowell). Matthew and Rick Erickson noted the high of about 100 near the dam at Alum Creek Reservoir, **Delaware**, on 25 Apr. Half of our counties provided reports.

Barn Swallow:

Debbie Sabine noted an early bird "flying, soaring, overhead alone" in Elyria, **Lorain**, on 08 Mar. Other early reports came from Killdeer on 11 Mar (*vide* Tim Colborn) and Frohring Meadows on 15 Mar (Joseph Ford). Edgewater produced the high count of 2000 for Jen Brumfield on 29 Apr. Seventy-five counties had sightings.

Carolina Chickadee:

Tracy Brewer found an early nest with five eggs on 01 May in New Richmond, **Clermont**. Mark Gilsdorf noted about 50 at both Rocky Fork SP, **Highland**, on 08 Apr and Shawnee Lookout on 21 Apr. Reports came from 61 counties.

Black-capped Chickadee:

Not surprisingly, the high counts came during censuses. Dwight Chasar's crews tallied 119 in CVNP on 19 May. Tom Bartlett's counts on Kelleys Island found 99 on 16 Mar and 88 on 19

Apr. The highest single-observer number was 50, by Tom Frankel in Holden Arboretum, **Lake**, on 25 Mar. Atlee A. Yoder found two on 05 May at The Wilderness Center, **Stark**, which is south of the usually-accepted dividing line between Black-capped and Carolinas. Thirty-four counties had sightings.

Tufted Titmouse:

Tom Frankel counted 53 at Penitentiary Glen, **Lake**, on 31 Mar. Tracey Brewer found another early nest, this one with three hatchlings, in New Richmond, **Clermont**, on 01 May. Seventy-nine counties provided reports.

Red-breasted Nuthatch:

Sightings were scarce after 10 May (though they increased again in Jun at their few breeding sites). The high count of four was shared; Bill Deininger found them on 04 Mar in Rocky River Reservation, **Cuyahoga**, and Gary Cowell *et al.* in Mohican SF's Discovery Forest, **Ashland**, on 14 Mar. Reports came from 29 counties.

White-breasted Nuthatch:

Wintergarden/St. Johns NP, **Wood**, hosted 11 to 15 on several dates between 27 Mar and 09 Apr (Jeremy Ross). They are rare along the Magee boardwalk, but one or two spent most of May there. Seventy-one counties produced sightings.

Brown Creeper:

Migrants were mostly gone by mid-May, leaving a scattering of breeders. Peak activity was early in the season; Tom Bartlett *et al.* counted 16 on Kelleys Island on 16 Mar and Mike Bracken found 11 in Cleveland Lakefront NP on 24 Mar. Sightings came from 47 counties.

Carolina Wren:

John Bryan SP, **Greene**, hosed 15 for Doug Overacker on both 25 Mar and 08 Apr. Seventy counties had sightings.

House Wren:

One in Joshua Eastlake's **Hamilton** yard on 19 Mar was about three weeks early. Another pioneer made it all the way to Avon Lake, **Lorain**, by 23 Mar (Spencer Ryan). The 06 May ONWR census turned up 29 of them (Ed Pierce *et al.*, *vide* Douglas Vogus), and there were several other double-digit counts. Reports came from 70 counties.

Winter Wren:

Cole DiFabio saw the last migrant at Headlands on 20 May, leaving later sightings only in their **Ashland**, **Gauga**, and **Summit** breeding locations. Tom Bartlett *et al.* found nine at Springville Marsh NP, **Seneca**, on 31 Mar and there were three reports of six birds elsewhere. Thirty-six counties provided sightings.

Sedge Wren:

J.W. Rettig saw and heard a very early bird in Spring Valley on 27 Mar. Margaret Bowman saw the next one, also quite early, at the Hebron state fish hatchery, **Licking**, on 03 Apr, for the only sighting that month. Victor Fazio III found the third on 02 May in the **Ottawa** section of Magee and on 04 May four were in the Charlie's Pond, **Pickaway**, area (Kent Miller). Other sightings came in **Coshocton, Hamilton, Lucas, Marion, Sandusky**, and **Wayne**.

Marsh Wren:

Though the first, on 15 Mar in Spring Valley was about two weeks early (Sam Corbo), one showed up at Magee the next day (Zachary DeBruine). Amy and Noah Kearns found 25 in ONWR on 05 May and there were several other double digit counts there and at other nearby marshes. Reports came from 29 counties.

Golden-crowned Kinglet:

Sam Corbo saw the last (but for one Jun record) on 17 May, at Oak Openings. Dave Slager noted that the one he saw and heard at the Vinton Furnace Experimental Forest headquarters, **Vinton**, on 16 May was quite late for southern Ohio. James E. Yoder found at least 100 in Mohican SF and SP on 07 Apr. Fifty-two counties had sightings.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet:

Two sites shared the first birds on 11 Mar. Kathi Hutton saw one at the Williamsburg Wetlands, **Clermont**, and Sue Tackett found hers in Spring Valley. Beth Fonville saw the last, along the Magee boardwalk on 28 May. The two high counts of 50 at Magee were also shared, by Ethan Kistler on 15 Apr and Amy and Noah Kearns on 05 May. Almost 50 counties produced reports.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:

Tom Bartlett *et al.* saw the first during the 16 Mar Kelleys Island census. Bill and René McGill counted 45 in Spring Grove Cemetery, **Hamilton**, on 05 May. Seventy counties provided sightings.

Eastern Bluebird:

Sam Corbo scored the highest single-observer count, 25 at Oak Openings on 19 May. Reports came from 76 counties.

Veery:

The first was very early on 07 Apr at Guilford Lake SP, **Columbiana** (Bob and Denise Lane). Joe and Matt Woyma picked seven of them out of a crowd of warblers and other thrushes in Cleveland's Public Square on 26 Apr. Banding operations and censuses tallied counts of 12 to 14 at CVNP and Navarre on several May dates. Thirty-seven counties had sightings.

Gray-cheeked Thrush:

The first got all the way north to Fox Glen Park,

Richland, before being seen on 02 May (Gary Cowell). Mark Shieldcastle's crew banded nine at Navarre on 12 May and five on 19 May, and Magee hosted two or three for much of that month. Shane Myers found the last, in **Hancock** on 31 May. Sixteen scattered counties produced reports.

Swainson's Thrush:

Jen Sauter at her **Hocking** farm and Robert Sams at Oakwoods MP, **Hancock**, shared first sightings on 13 Apr. Observers tallied up to 20 at Magee in May and the BSBO crew banded 42 at Navarre on 12 May (Mark Shieldcastle). Forty-three counties had sightings.

Hermit Thrush:

Migration's peak produced counts of 35 at Villa Angela SP, **Cuyahoga**, on 15 Apr (Nancy Anderson) and Navarre on 30 Apr (Mark Shieldcastle). Stragglers were seen on 26 May at Scioto Audubon MP, **Franklin** (Ryan Eldridge) and Magee (Craig Moore). Half of our counties provided sightings.

Wood Thrush:

On 15 Apr, about when we expect them to be crossing the Ohio River from Kentucky and West Virginia, Brad Sparks saw four in Blacklick Woods MP, **Fairfield/Franklin** and Linda Pilla found one all the way up in Cleveland Lakefront SP's Wildwood section. BSBO banded 18 at Navarre on 03 May (Mark Shieldcastle) and single observers each found 15 at multiple sites in May. Reports came from 70 counties.

American Robin:

The highest count of many in triple digits was 350, shared by Tom Bartlett *et al.* on Kelleys Island on 05 Mar and Jeremy Ross in ONWR on 16 Mar. Eighty-four counties had sightings.

Gray Catbird:

But for one which apparently overwintered in Woodlawn Cemetery, **Lucas**, the first of the season showed up at Fernald on 10 Mar (Ethan Kistler and Liz Rising). Perhaps it overwintered just across the river in Kentucky? The highest count by a single observer was Mark Peck's 60 in ONWR and Magee on 10 May. Rob Harlan noted one "repeatedly and accurately mimicking an Am. Robin's song at Magee" on 13 May. Seventy-five counties provided reports.

Northern Mockingbird:

Bob Powell found 20 at Fernald on 14 Mar, one of only a few double-digit counts. Sightings came from 59 counties.

Brown Thrasher:

A couple of late Feb reports preceded this season's. It took until 18 Mar for one to reach a North Coast county at Carlisle Reservation, **Lorain** (BRAS). Margaret Bowman counted 11 in Blackhand Gorge SNP, **Licking**, on 21 Apr. Sixty-seven counties yielded reports.

European Starling:

Only *Defiance* and *Morgan* had no sightings, though 11 counties produced only one or two reports. Irina Shulgina estimated 2000 at the Honda Wetlands, *Union*, on 13 Mar and there were a few other counts in the thousands.

American Pipit:

There were a few Feb sightings, but the first of spring was a group of nine at Killdeer on 06 Mar (Jeff Harvey). The last of spring was in the Horseshoe Unit of Winous Point on 31 May (Tom Bartlett) and there were no summer reports. Robert Sams counted 93 at the Findlay Reservoirs, *Hancock*, on 25 Apr and 69 were still there four days later. Reports came from 29 counties.

Cedar Waxwing:

On 12 May Doug Gochfeld reported, "Very noticeable influx. The CEDW bomb definitely went off overnight." He counted 350 at Magee, the highest single-observer total. Sightings came from 62 counties.

Lapland Longspur:

Ethan Kistler was wowed by the sight of about 3000 in the fields along Howard Road, *Lucas*, on 17 Mar. Several hundred were still being reported there in mid-Apr (m. obs.). Alex Lamoreaux saw the last, about 40 during the ONWR auto tour on 06 May, though often a few linger to the middle of the month. Thirteen counties, mostly northern but including *Brown* and *Clark*, had sightings.

Snow Bunting:

The five reports are:

Six at the Ashtabula River overlook, *Ashtabula*, on 02 Mar (Ken Ostermiller)

One at Metzger on 02 Mar (Mark Rozmarynowycz)

Three at Pickerington Ponds MP, *Fairfield*/*Franklin*, on 03 Mar (Cory Chiappone)

Two at the Maumee Bay marina, *Lucas*, on 07 Mar (Sherrie Duris)

Five in Barkcamp SP, *Belmont*, on 12 Mar (Janet Jakubic)

Ovenbird:

J.W. Rettig and Matthew Bockey shared the earliest date of 11 Apr, at Sharon Woods CP, *Hamilton* and Blendon Woods, respectively. One reached Lake Erie at the Wildwood unit of Cleveland Lakefront SP on 15 Apr (Linda Pilla). The highest count by other than a banding team was 15. Robert Foppe and Jennifer Smolenski saw them along Pond Lick Road in Shawnee on 19 Apr; and Paul Drescher saw his in the Five Forks area of Wayne NE, *Lawrence*. Fifty-eight counties provided reports.

Worm-eating Warbler:

Bruce Simpson saw the first on 13 Apr, two along the King Hollow Road in Zaleski, a regular breeding site. Tom Bain counted eight in the nearby Lake

Hope area on 29 Apr. Both sites are in *Vinton*. The "first far north" was at Secor MP, *Lucas*, on 20 Apr (Kevin Wilbur). Reports came from 22 counties.

Louisiana Waterthrush:

John Pogacnik saw the season's first at *Lake* Farmpark on 20 Mar. Brad Sparks counted 10 in Shawnee on 31 Mar. Fifty-one counties yielded sightings.

Northern Waterthrush:

J.R. Rettig saw the first, on 11 Apr in Sharon Woods CP, *Hamilton*. Three days later Patrick Johnson found one at Winous Point. Magee provided two high counts of eight, by Chris West on 03 May and James Valimont on 06 May. Jason Cade saw the last migrant on 25 May; also at Magee. Reports came from 32 counties.

Golden-winged Warbler:

Cincinnati Nature Center staffers reported the first one from their Rowe Woods, *Clermont*, on 20 Apr. It took until 01 May for one to reach Lake Erie at Wendy Park for several observers. Kevin Seymour found the last migrant, at Magee on 25 May. Magee hosted two on both 11 and 12 May (m. obs.) as did Pond Lick Road in Shawnee, also on 12 May (Dan and Lynn Gesualdo). The rest of the reports were of single birds in *Franklin*, *Hocking*, *Lake*, *Licking*, *Medina*, *Ottawa*, *Preble*, *Stark*, *Wayne*, and *Wood*.

[Golden-winged X Blue-winged ("Brewster's") Warbler]:

Keith Schlabach found one in northeastern *Coshocton* on 01 May. Jeff Grabmeier found one in Whetstone Park, *Franklin*, on 02 May, and noted that it was singing a Golden-winged song.

[Golden winged X Blue-winged ("Lawrence's") Warbler]:

Three were reported, one each from Spring Valley on 02 May (Nina Lapitan), at CVNP's Oak Hill area on 19 May (*vide* Dwight Chasar), and at Goosefeather Pond in CVNP on 31 May (Kent Miller). The last two reports might be of the same bird, given how close those sights are to each other in time and place.

Blue-winged Warbler:

The earliest were two along the Williamsburg bike trail, *Clermont*, on 09 Apr (Donald Morse, Jr.); the first far north were in the Lake Isaac Waterfowl Sanctuary, *Cuyahoga*, on 15 Apr (Karen and Rich Kassouf). Robert Foppe and Jennifer Smolenski counted 21 along Shawnee's Pond Lick Road, *Scioto*, on 19 Apr. Forty-eight counties provided reports.

Black-and-white Warbler:

The Columbus Avid Birders saw and heard two in Shawnee on 31 Mar. The birds took until 20 Apr to reach Lake Erie, when m. obs. first saw them

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at Magee. Magee also hosted the last-reported migrant on 29 May (Mark Mahnke) and the season's high count of 18 on 05 May (Jack Halibozek). Fifty-two counties had sightings.

Prothonotary Warbler:

John Zahnen was "entertained by 2 male prothonotaries" at Armleder Park, **Hamilton**, on 04 Apr, about a week earlier than expected in the state. Ethan Kistler found one at the Green Creek Hunt Club, **Sandusky**, on 17 Apr for the first far north sighting. Andy Jones and Michelle Leighty found 25 on 28 May while kayaking a seven-mile stretch of the upper Cuyahoga River in **Geauga**. Charles Bombaci had already topped them with 27 in Hoover NP's Area N on 22 May. Mark Shieldcastle's Navarre team banded 15 during the season, more than double their average. Reports came from 37 counties.

Tennessee Warbler:

Magee provided the first sighting, on 19 Apr (Dan and Lynn Gesualdo). The highest count (excluding those by banders and census-takers) was 22 by Carole Babyak during a drive around Mosquito Lake, **Mahoning**, on 11 May. BSBO did band 207 at Navarre, almost double their average but also tied with their 2011 total (Mark Shieldcastle). Jen Brumfield reported the last, from Edgewater on 31 May. Forty-six counties produced sightings.

Orange-crowned Warbler:

Scott Norviel saw the first one at Blendon Woods MP on 16 Apr, and two got to Magee three days later (m. obs.). Mark Shieldcastle banded four on 12 May at Navarre. They and three at Magee on 15 May (Jen Brumfield) provided the high counts. Magee also hosted the last, on 25 May (Jason Cade). **Ashland, Cuyahoga, Hamilton, Lake,** and **Holmes** also had sightings.

Nashville Warbler:

Dave and Emily Slager found one in Tar Hollow SP, **Ross**, on 15 Apr. On 19 Apr Magee had one (Dave Gesicki) and Navarre had two (Mark Shieldcastle). Magee's East Beach hosted 30 on 03 May (Ethan Kistler). The last migrant was seen at Magee on 26 May (Craig Moore). Reports came from 47 counties.

Connecticut Warbler:

Sarah Rose saw and heard the first in the Sycamore Plains section of Prairie Oaks MP, **Franklin**, on 28 Apr. This is about 10 days earlier than usual. Wendy Park hosted another pioneer, for Peter Hellman on 04 May. Two at Magee on 27 May were the last (m. obs.), and there were several other reports of two birds. **Butler, Champaign, Clermont, Hamilton, Lake, Ottawa,** and **Summit** also had sightings.

Mourning Warbler:

Three sites shared the first date of 03 May. Bernie

Master watched a singer in Worthington, **Franklin**; Mary Beth Benton saw one at Darby Creek; and m. obs. delighted in one at Magee. Ethan Kistler saw four there on 19 May. The last, but for a single late Jun sighting, was banded at the Shaker Lakes NC, **Cuyahoga**, on 28 May (Laura Gooch). Nineteen counties provided reports.

Kentucky Warbler:

Kent Miller saw the first, three in Shawnee on 20 Apr. One reached Magee by 03 May (m. obs.). Kent Miller and Shawnee also combined for the high count of eight, on 03 May. Thirty-four mostly southern counties had sightings.

Common Yellowthroat:

Curiously, the first sighting was not only an early arrival but also all the way north at Magee; Ethan Kistler found it there on 20 Mar. Magee hosted 41 on 02 May (Victor Fazio III), and James Valimont counted 45 along a 24 mile stretch of the CVNP Towpath Trail on 23 May. Reports came from 70 counties.

Hooded Warbler:

Andy Sewell and three companions heard but didn't see the first, on 25 Mar in Scioto Trail SP, **Ross**. That date is about three weeks earlier than expected. The second set of reports came on 15 Apr from sites in **Butler, Franklin, Lucas,** and **Ottawa**. The high count exclusive of censuses and banding operations was the 16 which Laura and Paul Drescher found in the Five Forks area of Wayne NF, **Lawrence**, on 20 Apr. Fifty-three counties produced sightings.

American Redstart:

Bruce Simpson reported the first, on 12 Apr in Zaleski. Exactly a week later, Charles Owens made the first far-northern sighting, at Magee. The high single-party count was 18, shared by Neill Cade at Shawnee Lookout on 12 May, and Mark Shaver along the Tare Creek bike path, **Geauga**, on 13 May. Fifty-three counties provided reports.



*The newly opened Ottawa NWR – Crane Creek Estuary Trail, **Lucas**, became heavily trodden after the discovery of a Kirtland's Warbler by three young Amish birders. Laura Keene photographed it on 12 May. (next page)*

Kirtland's Warbler:

A male spent 09 May wandering the Magee boardwalk, parking lot, and overflow parking area. A female posed along the ONWR Estuary Trail, **Lucas**, on 11 to 13 May. Both were seen by hundreds of grateful birders, and OBRC is sorting through the several formal reports. Visiting Australians Jann and Ross Gowan found and documented one on Kelleys Island on 12 May.

Cape May Warbler:

The first and last sightings almost exactly bracketed the species' usual five-week migration period. Bob Powell found one in the Wilmington College Arboretum, Clinton, on 27 Apr. At the other end, Bill and René McGill saw a straggler in Shawnee on 30 May. Magee and another **Lucas** site each hosted seven on 05 May (Amy and Noah Kearns and Dwight Peake respectively).



Allan Clayton had his camera ready when presented with an eye level view of this Cape May Warbler at Magee on 16 May.

Cerulean Warbler:

Tar Hollow SF, **Ross**, hosted the first, for Dave and Emily Slager on 15 Apr. Many observers reported up to three at Magee on 19 Apr. The high count of 20 came from the extensive and mature Shawnee on 27 Apr (Brad Sparks). Other high counts in *The Bobolink* area prompted Bruce Glick to write, "...the numbers seemed like something out of a dream..." Reports came from 41 counties.

Northern Parula:

The season's reports began 04 Apr with one bird at the Cincinnati Nature Center's Rowe Woods, **Clermont** (CNC staff) and another in **Jackson** (Dave Slager). For a change, the first far north sighting, on 07 Apr, came from Bacon Woods MP, **Lorain**, (Terri Martincic) rather than Magee. Jay and Jack Stenger counted 23 in Shawnee Lookout on 20 Apr and reports of up to 15 came from Magee on 05 May (m. obs.). Fifty-two counties had sightings.

Magnolia Warbler:

Bill and René McGill scored the first sighting, on 21 Apr at Caesar Creek SP, **Warren**. Magee hosted

one on 30 Apr to give multiple observers the first far-north sighting. Jen Brumfield found 25 in Wendy Park on 21 May, the most by other than banders. Forty-five counties produced reports.

Bay-breasted Warbler:

William Hull saw the first, at his Clifton neighborhood, **Hamilton**, home on 29 Apr. Up to four birds had reached sites in **Lucas**, **Ottawa**, and **Summit** by 03 May. Josh Haughawout and Nikos Boutis separately reported one at Magee on 27 May; it was the last despite the species' often lingering into Jun. Jeff Harvey's eight at Magee on 14 May was the most by a single observer. Sightings came from 30 counties.

Blackburnian Warbler:

Clear Creek MP, **Hocking**, provided Jeffrey Pontius the first sighting, on 15 Apr. Mark Shieldcastle saw one in the ONWR Navarre unit the next day. Magee hosted nine on 12 May for Jim Fiorentino. Laura Gooch made the last report of a northbound bird from the Shaker Lakes NC, **Cuyahoga**, on 28 May. (There were a couple of Jun sightings in the Mohican area.) An even 40 counties provided reports.

Yellow Warbler:

These cheery guys and gals were our most widespread warbler, with sightings in 75 counties. The first report was on 14 Apr, in Salt Fork SP, **Guernsey** (Gregory Hoeting). Banders and census crews found 150 to over 300 on several days, and many single observers reported numbers between 60 and 80.

Chestnut-sided Warbler:

Bruce Simpson turned up one in Zaleski on 18 Apr, a little earlier than usual. Nevertheless, reports also came on 21 Apr from North Galena, **Delaware** (Linnea Rowse), Blendon Woods (Jeffrey Pontius), and ONWR (Junior Barnes). Kenn Kaufman noted 24 at Magee on 12 May. Sightings came from 38 counties.

Blackpoll Warbler:

Joe and Matt Woyma found one at Cleveland's Public Square on 26 Apr, which is quite early for that far north, but it was part of a fallout which included 13 other warbler species as well. Sightings tailed off late in May but continued into Jun as stragglers headed north. The BSBO Navarre crew banded 126 during the season (50 on 19 May alone), about double their average (Mark Shieldcastle). Jim McConnor and Mary Ann Wagner found 25 at Headlands on 20 May. Forty-two counties contributed reports.

Black-throated Blue Warbler:

Irina Shulgina found another early bird on 19 Apr in Blacklick Woods MP, **Fairfield/Franklin**. It took until 30 Apr for one to show up at Magee (m. obs.). But for one Jun straggler and a very few breeders,

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the last sighting was also at Magee, on 26 May (Craig Moore). Anne Crary counted nine at Magee on 08 May. Only 24 counties yielded sightings.

Palm Warbler:

The one which Laura Gooch found at Shaker Lakes NC, **Cuyahoga**, on 26 Mar, was about two weeks early. The last four departed early as well; Marcia Rubin saw them in Cleveland Lakefront NP on 22 May. Ethan Kistler noted about 75 on the Magee East Beach on 03 May. Reports came from 47 counties.

Pine Warbler:

This hardiest of our completely migratory warblers first appeared on 01 Mar in Mitchell Memorial Forest, **Hamilton** (David Brinkman). Two reached Magee by 17 Mar (Chris Pierce, Ethan Kistler). Magee also hosted the high count of 12 on 15 Apr (m. obs.). Forty-three counties had sightings.

Yellow-rumped Warbler:

Many overwintered, and the species was present until 26 May, when Craig Moore found three at Magee. Doug Gochfeld saw about 150 there on 03 May. Sixty-eight counties provided reports.

Yellow-throated Warbler:

The first showed up on schedule, in Scioto Trail SP, **Ross**, on 25 Mar (Andy Sewell). Two reached the Station Road area of CVNP on 03 Apr (Dan Gesualdo). Noel Cutright found 22 at Rocky Fork SP, **Highland**, on 18 Apr, and there were several other double-digit counts. Sightings came from 55 counties, few of which are in the northwest.

Prairie Warbler:

Dave Slager's sighting in Vinton Furnace Experimental Forest, **Vinton**, on 04 Apr was a week or so early. It took almost another month, until 02 May, for a few to reach Magee, where they were seen at the boardwalk and East Beach (m. obs.). Kent Miller found 15 in Crown City WA, **Gallia**, on 02 May and there were other double-digit reports from **Meigs**, **Muskingum**, and **Scioto**. Thirty-four counties produced reports.

Black-throated Green Warbler:

Zaleski hosted the first for Bruce Simpson on 06 Apr. They got to the north coast by 20 Apr, when Sally Isacco found one at Carlisle Reservation, **Lorain**, and several observers reported up to four at Magee. Molly McDermott and Chris West each counted 15, on 01 May on Walhalla Road, **Franklin**, and 03 May at Magee, respectively. Reports came from 55 counties.

Canada Warbler:

Bob and Elaine McNulty noted the first in Blendon Woods on 01 May. The second-last migrant reported was at Shaker Lakes NC, **Cuyahoga**, on 28 May (Laura Gooch) – the last was on 02 Jun. Magee hosted an impressive 10 on 20 May (Rob and Sandy Harlan). Twenty-one counties had sightings.

Wilson's Warbler:

Bruce Simpson scored another first-of-season in Zaleski on 26 Apr, a bit early. Another pioneer reached the ONWR Estuary Trail, **Lucas**, on 29 Apr (Heather Slayton). Two early Jun reports followed the last of spring, which Gary Cowell saw at the Home Road Marsh, **Richland**, on 29 May. Sightings came from 21 counties.

Yellow-breasted Chat:

Laura Keene saw the first on 14 Apr in Shawnee where many stay to breed. Victor Fazio III found one on 02 May at Magee, where they are much less common. Counts of eight came from Shawnee on 27 Apr (Brad Sparks), Crown City WA, **Gallia**, on 02 May (Kent Miller), and Shawnee Lookout on 12 May (Sally Wood). Forty-two counties provided reports.

Eastern Towhee:

Su Snyder found at least 100 in Salt Fork SP, **Guernsey**, on 25 Apr. The next-highest non-census count was 27, by Jay and Jack Stenger in Shawnee Lookout on 20 Apr. Seventy-three counties had sightings.

American Tree Sparrow:

The 03 Mar ONWR census counted 326 (Ed Pierce *et al.*, *vide* Douglas Vogus). Sightings began declining after Mar but continued until 08 May, when a "Biggest Week" bus tour found one in **Sandusky**. Fifty-one counties produced reports.

Chipping Sparrow:

A couple of Feb reports preceded the first of this season, which Steve Pelikan made from the Mt. Airy Forest Arboretum, **Hamilton**, on 07 Mar. Elliot Tramer noted that they "arrived on my street in Whitehouse [**Lucas**] March 19; this is about two weeks earlier than the average arrival date for the period 1997-2011". Paul Hurtado found about 60 in Scioto Audubon MP, **Franklin**, on 16 Apr. Only five species exceeded the 83 counties with Chipping sightings.

Clay-colored Sparrow:

Andy Jones saw the first, all the way up on South Bass Island, **Ottawa**, on 30 Apr. Jen Brumfield found, and many others subsequently saw, three in Wendy Park on 01 May. The last sighting came from Wolf Creek Environmental Center, **Medina**, on 29 May (m. obs.). Other reports came from **Hamilton**, **Holmes**, and **Lucas**.

Field Sparrow:

One was singing in Oak Openings as early as 13 Mar (Elliot Tramer). Chase Maxwell provided the highest single-observer count, 46, from Plain City, **Madison**, on 10 Apr. Sightings came from 74 counties.

Vesper Sparrow:

Kent Miller found one in Killdeer on 05 Mar. The

next reports were both on 18 Mar, by Sue Tackett from C.J. Brown Reservoir, **Clark**, and Rob Thorn from Canal Road, **Franklin**. Darby Creek hosted 10 on 07 Apr for Craig Moore. Twenty-seven counties yielded sightings.

Lark Sparrow:

Elliot Tramer noted their arrival at Oak Openings on 18 Apr and Jeremy Ross found 11 there on 21 Apr. Two parties each counted 14 there on in early May (m. obs.). Reports also came from **Clermont, Greene, Hamilton, Holmes, Lorain, Montgomery, Ottawa, Tuscarawas**, and **Wayne**.



*Breeding Lark Sparrows are rare in Ohio, listed as an endangered species by the ODNR. This photo was taken by Laura Keene at Oakes Quarry, **Montgomery**, on 24 Apr.*

Savannah Sparrow:

Jen Brumfield counted 40 in Wendy Park on 29 Apr. Reports came from 46 counties.

Grasshopper Sparrow:

VOA Park, **Butler**, hosted the first on 01 Apr, a couple of weeks earlier than usual. (Mark Ruane). Dan and Lynn Gesualdo found the next, one at Fernald and two in Miami Whitewater Forest (both **Hamilton**) on 11 Apr. Four got to Observatory Park, **Geauga**, by 15 Apr (Wes Hatch). Scott Pendleton counted 19 at The Bowl, **Harrison**, on 04 May, and continued to find them there all summer. Thirty-two counties provided reports.

Henslow's Sparrow:

These were found in 20 counties. One surprised Andrea Haslage on 24 Mar singing in Slate Run MP, **Pickaway**, more than two weeks earlier than expected. Another, still early, showed up on 06 Apr at The Bowl, **Harrison** (Scott Pendleton). They weren't seen on the north coast until 06 May when two **Ottawa** sites hosted them (m. obs.). Scott and The Bowl had the high count of 16, on 12 May.

Le Conte's Sparrow:

These are hardly ever seen in spring, but James E. Yoder discovered one at Funk Bottoms on 31 Mar. He and others saw it intermittently until 27 Apr.

Nelson's Sparrow:

Funk Bottoms also hosted two of these spring rarities from 23 to 25 Mar (m. obs.).

Fox Sparrow:

Ethan Kistler recorded 50 in East Harbor SP, **Ottawa**, on 15 Mar. ONWR provided the only May sightings of this species; Irene Krise and Richard Nugent saw what was probably the same bird there on 06 and 09 May, respectively. Thirty-nine counties provided reports.

Song Sparrow:

Ethan Kistler also made the high count of these, 60, at East Harbor on 15 Mar (See Fox Sparrow above). Sightings came from 81 counties.

Lincoln's Sparrow:

Margaret Bowman saw the first at Kraner Nature Center, **Licking**, on 20 Mar. Joseph Ford saw the first in the far north at Headlands on 17 Apr. But for one 06 Jun straggler, the last was at Magee on 25 May (Jason Cade). The high single-observer count was 16, also at Magee, on 08 May (Tony DeFalco). Twenty-six counties yielded sightings.

Swamp Sparrow:

Victor Fazio III's count of 24 at Magee on 02 May was not far short of the 40 which Mark Shieldcastle's crew banded at Navarre on 01 May. Reports came from 53 counties.

White-throated Sparrow:

Dwight and Ann Chasar found the season's last on 29 May at Station Road in CVNP. (There was one Jun report). Wendy Park must have been quite a hopping place on 29 Apr when Jen Brumfield found 200 there. Sixty-five counties provided reports.

White-crowned Sparrow:

The last sightings were on 26 May at widely separated Wendy Park (Jen Brumfield) and Magee (Craig Moore). The White-throateds at Wendy Park on 29 Apr were accompanied by 220 of these (Jen Brumfield). All of the counts above 60 came from there. The 20 at the Turtle Creek access road, **Ottawa**, on 02 May included one of the western *gambelii* subspecies (Rob and Sandy Harlan). Sightings came from 60 counties.

Dark-eyed Junco:

John Bigham found about 100 along Lee Road, **Preble**, on 01 Mar. The last sighting of our usual "slate-colored" variety away from their few Ohio breeding areas was at Headlands on 20 May (Jim McConnor and Mary Ann Wagner). A few observers reported an oddly-shaped and colored one at Magee that same day; Rob Harlan called it a "possible *cassiar*". Reports came from 64 counties.

Summer Tanager:

University Heights, **Cuyahoga**, hosted the first sighted, on 15 Apr. (Karen Kepner). That one,

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another *Cuyahoga* bird, one at Magee, and the usual small number at Oak Openings were the only sightings in counties adjoining Lake Erie. One was singing in Mohican SF on 19 May (m. obs.). Shawnee Lookout hosted the high count of five on 12 May for John Marvin. Twenty-six counties overall had sightings.

Scarlet Tanager:

Bev and Ed Neubauer saw one a bit early on 04 Apr at Englewood Main MP, *Montgomery*. The next report didn't come until 13 Apr, when Vicki Moisio found one in North Ridgeville, *Lorain*. Mark Shaver saw 12 in Eldon Russell Park, *Geauga*, on 06 May and there were a few counts of 10 from southern counties. Sightings came from 65 counties.

Northern Cardinal:

Our state bird was reported in all but *Crawford*, *Morgan*, *Van Wert*, and *Williams*, and had a single report in each of four other counties. Various censuses tallied up to 238 (in CVNP on 19 May, Dwight Chasar et al.). The highest single-observer count was 63 by Robert Sams, on 12 May at Camp Berry, *Hancock*.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak:

Jen Sauter found an adventuresome early female at her *Hocking* farm on 22 Mar. The next sighting was on 10 Apr in Everhart Woods, *Preble* (John Bigham). A *Trumbull* feeder hosted one on 15 Apr (Carole Babyak). Three high counts of 11 were reported, by Mike Bracken on 06 May in Holden Arboretum, *Lake*; by Dan and Lynn Gesualdo on 07 May at Magee; and by Carl Ball on 31 May in Hunters Ridge, *Richland*. Reports came from 60 counties.

Blue Grosbeak:

These too arrived about a week early, on 21 Apr. William Hull found one in Armleder Park, *Hamilton*, and Matt Anderson saw one at Fernald. Members of a "Biggest Week" bus tour noted them in Oak Openings on 04 May. All three locations are known nesting sites. Other sightings came from *Adams*, *Clermont*, *Franklin*, *Gallia*, *Lorain*, *Montgomery*, *Muskingum*, *Ottawa*, *Pickaway*, and *Tuscarawas*.

Indigo Bunting:

For a change, the first Indigo was right on time. Stephen Harvey saw it in Shawnee on 15 Apr. However, one made it all the way to Navarre the next day, early for that latitude (Mark Shieldcastle). Doug Gilham found 26 at Gilmore Ponds NP, *Butler*, on 12 May. 67 counties had sightings.

Dickcissel:

Bruce Glick wrote in *The Bobolink*, "It seems to be feast or famine with these birds, and so far this has been a feast year". Kent Miller confirmed one on 02 Mar at a Bunker Hill, *Holmes*, yard; the homeowner told him it had been there for

two weeks. This was a seriously adventuresome individual, as he was there a good two months before their normal arrival date. The next report was still a bit early, at Armleder Park, *Hamilton*, on 01 May (J.W. Rettig); 20 were there on 25 May (Ty Ficker). The *Hardin* Wetlands held 25 on 28 May (Richard Counts). Though only twenty counties hosted the species, they were widespread in most of them.

Bobolink:

An early pioneer was sighted in *Washington* on 02 Apr (Kyle Carlsen). One reached the Jaite area of CVNP by 12 Apr (Rich and Karen Kassouf), also rather early. Richard Counts noted 170 in the *Hardin* Wetlands on 28 May. Reports came from 33 counties.

Red-winged Blackbird:

Kirk Westendorf noted a flock of about 2000 in Spring Valley on 23 Mar, and Andy Sewell found about the same number in Calamus Swamp, *Pickaway*, on 25 Mar. They were topped by Nancy Howell and Terri Martincic, who found 3800 around Lake Abrams, *Cuyahoga*, on 18 Mar. Only *Defiance*, *Monroe*, and *Morgan* had no reports, but *Crawford*, *Logan*, *Pike*, and *Van Wert* each provided just one.

Eastern Meadowlark:

Seventy-one counties contributed sightings. The high count was 40, near The Wilds, *Muskingum*, on 14 Mar (Susan Nash).

Western Meadowlark:

Lynn and Scott Hackett discovered one singing by the Sippo Valley bike trail east of Dalton, *Wayne*, on 31 Mar. It remained at least until 11 Apr.

Yellow-headed Blackbird:

Irene Krise and Dan and Lynn Gesualdo found one at the Stange and Krause Roads corner, *Ottawa*, on 31 Mar. It (or other singles) was variously reported from Magee, Metzger, ONWR, and Cedar Point NWR (*Lucas*) over the next few days. Rob and Sandy Harlan got good looks at a singing male in *Seneca* near Bellevue on 29 Apr. Metzger hosted two for Laura Dornan on 12 May.

Rusty Blackbird:

The ONWR census team counted a fantastic 1699 on 01 Apr – no foolin' (Ed Pierce et al., *vide* Douglas Vogus). The next highest count was 50, in the wetlands of Shawnee Lookout on 14 Mar (Joe Bens). Reports came from 41 counties.

Brewer's Blackbird:

Three were reported. Brett Moyer saw one in his yard near Camp Sabroske, *Ottawa*, on 09 Mar. Laura Dornan found one in Frohring Meadows on 17 Apr. Jeremy Ross noted a singing male in ONWR in 26 Apr.

Common Grackle:

The two high counts were of about 1000, on 01 Mar

at Wingfoot Lake, **Portage** (Gregory Bennett), and on the north side of Oak Harbor, **Ottawa**, on 08 Mar (Kenn Kaufman). Every county but **Defiance** and **Henry** contributed sightings, though six others had only one each.

Brown-headed Cowbird:

The few triple-digit counts were headed by the 450 which Kenn Kaufman found on the Magee East Beach on 02 May. Sightings came from 82 counties.

Orchard Oriole:

Bernie Master noted a singing subadult male in Worthington, **Franklin**, on 13 Apr. He (the bird, not Bernie) was a bit early. The non-census high count of 10 was shared: Steve Harvey saw them along US 52 in **Adams** on 15 Apr and Brad Sparks found his in Blacklick Woods MP, **Fairfield/Franklin**, on the same date. Fifty-six counties provided reports.

Baltimore Oriole:

The one which spent most of the winter visiting a **Holmes** jelly feeder was last seen 02 Mar (*vide* Bruce Glick and *The Bobolink*). The first migrant found was singing all the way up on South Bass Island, **Ottawa**, on 15 Apr (Lisa Brohl) and there were several sightings scattered elsewhere in the next few days. Tom Frankel discovered 40 in the Holden Arboretum, **Lake**, on 13 May. Sightings came from 72 counties.

Purple Finch:

Counts of eight came from Kelleys Island on 27 Mar (Tom Bartlett) and Navarre on 03 May (Mark Shieldcastle). Most of the 39 counties providing reports were in the northern half of the state.

House Finch:

The five highest counts, which ranged from 25 to 57, were from Kelleys Island in Mar and Apr (Tom Bartlett *et al.*). The highest number away from there was 22, at Linda Gilbert's **Geauga** feeders on 04 Mar. Seventy-three counties contributed reports.

White-winged Crossbill:

A few remained from winter. Dan Best found 11 in **Geauga** on 04 Mar; the Oak Hill Cemetery, **Wyandot**, hosted eight on 10 Mar (Tom Bain); and John Pogacnik's **Lake** spruces attracted six on 11 Mar. One hung around Barrs Mills, **Tuscarawas**, until 29 Apr (Leroy Erb).

Common Redpoll:

The last reports came on 14 Mar. Clyde Witt had two at his feeders in **Summit** and John Pogacnik counted 60 in several flocks during his Erie-shore survey in **Lake**. The latter was by far the high count. Lisa Bohl had "about two dozen" on South Bass Island, **Ottawa**, on 05 Mar. One or two birds were also reported at another **Ottawa** location and in **Hamilton**, **Wayne**, and **Wood**.

Pine Siskin:

Twenty-five counties provided reports. The high count was 30, on 04 Mar in **Licking** (Anne Rau). Most were gone by the end of Apr but Andy Jones had one visit his **Cuyahoga** home on 25 May.

American Goldfinch:

Three counts exceeded 100: 140 at Rocky Fork SP, **Highland**, on 18 Apr (Noel Cutright); 120 at Metzger on 03 May (Kenn Kaufman); and 210 by the several CVNP Spring Census teams on 19 May (*vide* Dwight Chasar). Sightings came from 82 counties.

House Sparrow:

Tom Bartlett's count of 78 during the 16 Mar Kelleys Island census slightly edged the 77 which Molly McDermott and Matthew Shumar noted along Walhalla Road, **Franklin**, on 14 Apr.

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