

COMMENTS ON THE SEASON

By Craig Caldwell

March was abnormally cold, though not grossly so – it was the 21st coldest out of 119 years with records. Three sites had record daily lows and four tied their previous records. Ironically, though, Cleveland’s Burke Lakefront Airport achieved a record high of 69° for 10 Mar, three degrees above the previous mark. Precipitation for the state as a whole was also below normal, with most areas receiving four inches or less. However, localized events on 06 Mar and statewide storms 21 through 26 Mar set 73 daily snowfall records. Snow left over from February was on the ground statewide for the first two days of the month and fresh falls coated every county on 25 and 26 Mar.

April monthly temperature and precipitation averages for the state as a whole were near normal but as always there were local departures from the norm. Fifteen record highs were set and 14 tied; the same numbers of record lows were also set and tied! The far southeast received less than half of its usual precipitation. That area did not contribute to the 51 new record daily rainfalls. Most of the records came in a wide band which was approximately centered on U.S. Route 30 and stretched most of the way from Indiana to Pennsylvania. That area received from 1.5 to three times its average during the month. Two stations achieved record snowfalls on 20 Apr, handily beating their previous records of “trace” with 0.2 and 0.3 inches of the white stuff.

May was the 25th hottest and 19th driest since records began in 1895. Several of the 11 daily temperature records were five or six degrees higher than the old ones, and most of them were set in the southeast on 25 and 26 May. The far southwest and the northeast shore received up to six inches of rain, nearly double those areas’ averages, but rainfall as low as 25% of normal in other areas kept the statewide average down. Only eight daily rainfall records were broken.

Weather data are from the National Weather Service (<http://water.weather.gov/precip/>) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/temp-and-precip/maps.php> and <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/extremes/records/>).

Ohio has 293 bird species which are year-round residents, breeders, regular migrants, or regular winter visitors; I call this Ohio’s Core List. This Cardinal issue contains reports for 283 of them, slightly fewer than in the previous two years. Six hybrids are also listed and there are seven entries at the genus or family level.

More than 100 species are infrequent visitors (some with only a single record). They, with all the species which have never appeared in the state, constitute the Review List, which is maintained by the Ohio Bird Records Committee (OBRC). The OBRC received or downloaded documentation for 24 review species, two short of the record set in Fall 2012 (but note that Northern Goshawk has just been moved from the Core to the Review List). The names of the species with submitted reports are underlined in the Species Accounts section.

Undocumented reports of Review List species

are not published in the Species Accounts. Northern Goshawk, Mississippi Kite, Black-necked Stilt, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Fish Crow, Common Raven, and Hoary Redpoll each had some undocumented reports in addition to the documented ones which are among the 24 above. In addition, California Gull and Spotted Towhee were reported with no supporting documentation. Accounts for Trumpeter Swan (an introduced species with no truly wild birds ever documented here) and a Chukar assumed to be a hunt-club release are also provided but they are not included in the numbers of Review List species above.

The Records Committee and this editor urge birders to report all sightings of Review List species, of Core List species found at unusual times, of nesting by birds previously not known to nest in the state, and of course sightings of birds never before found in Ohio. Information on how to document rarities is available at <http://www.ohiobirds.org/records/documentation.php>.

Data for the following Species Accounts come from reports submitted directly to the Cardinal, eBird (<http://ebird.org/content/ebird>), the Ohio-birds list-serv (<http://birding.aba.org/maillist/OH>), rarebird.org (<http://rarebird.org/forum/default.asp>), and *The Bobolink*. The last source is courtesy of its publisher, Robert Hershberger. Almost all of our 88 counties are represented in the submissions. **Pike**, however, produced only three reports, of Red-bellied Woodpecker, Horned Lark, and Northern Mockingbird. No reports came from **Putnam**.

Most of the species discussed in this issue were present for the entire season, and this feature is seldom noted in their accounts. These birds are either year-round residents or visitors which arrived before Mar and whose last sighting was after May. The date of first or last sighting, as appropriate, is provided for species which were not here all spring. A few of these accounts include notes on previous unusual spring records. These data are from Bruce Peterjohn’s *The Birds of Ohio* (2001) and *The Ohio Cardinal* since that date, and are usually not individually credited. “Normal” early and late dates are from Harlan *et al.*, *Ohio Bird Records Committee Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Ohio*, 2008.

Taxonomic order and nomenclature follow the *Check-List of North American Birds*, 7th Edition (1998) as updated through the 53rd Supplement (2012). This document is published by the North American Classification Committee of the American Ornithologists’ Union and is available at <http://www.aou.org/check-list/north/print.php>. County names are in bold italics. Locations whose counties are of the same name, for example the city of Ashtabula or Delaware Wildlife Area, usually do not have the counties repeated. County names for sites described in Cincinnati, Cleveland, and Columbus are also omitted. Shortened names and a few sets of initials are used for locations and organizations which occur repeatedly; these abbreviations are listed here. The term “*fid*” is used in some citations; it means “in trust of” and is used where the reporter was not the observer.

Abbreviations:

Armlerder Park = a Cincinnati city park, **Hamilton**
 BBS = the North American Breeding Bird Survey, a joint project of the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and the Canadian Wildlife Service
 Blendon Woods = Blendon Woods MP, **Franklin**
 Big Island = Big Island Wildlife Area, **Marion**
 The Bowl = a limited-access area near the **Harrison** airport
 BRAS = Black River Audubon Society
 BSBO = Black Swamp Bird Observatory
 Buck Creek = Buck Creek State Park, **Clark**
 CCE = Crane Creek Estuary, **Lucas**, viewable from both ONWR and the CCE Trail which originates at Magee
 CLNP = Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve (the former Dike 14), **Cuyahoga**
 Conneaut = the mudflats to the west of Conneaut Harbor, **Ashtabula**, unless otherwise noted
 CPNWR = Cedar Point National Wildlife Refuge, **Lucas**
 CVNP = Cuyahoga Valley National Park, **Cuyahoga** and (mostly) **Summit**
 Darby Creek = Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park, **Franklin**
 East Harbor = East Harbor State Park, **Ottawa**
 Edgewater = Edgewater unit of Cleveland Lakefront State Park, **Cuyahoga**
 eTT = eBird Trail Tracker data entry kiosk, usually at National Wildlife Refuges
 Fernald = Fernald Preserve, **Butler** and **Hamilton**
 Findlay Reservoirs = several contiguous water bodies east of town in **Hancock**
 Funk = Funk Bottoms Wildlife Area, **Ashland** and (mostly) **Wayne**
 Headlands = Headlands Dunes State Nature Preserve, Headlands Beach State Park, and adjoining waters, **Lake**
 Hoover NP = Hoover Nature Preserve, **Delaware**
 Hoover Reservoir = (mostly) **Delaware**, but the dam is in **Franklin**
 Killbuck = Killbuck Marsh Wildlife Area, **Holmes/ Wayne**
 Killdeer = Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area, **Marion** (a tiny bit) and **Wyandot**
 LaDue = LaDue Reservoir, **Geauga**
 Lorain = the dredge spoil impoundment east of downtown, **Lorain**, unless otherwise noted
 Magee = the boardwalk and vicinity in Magee Marsh Wildlife Area, **Lucas**, unless otherwise noted
 Malek Park = a nearly lakeside park west of Conneaut, **Ashtabula**
 Maumee Bay = Maumee Bay State Park, **Lucas**, unless otherwise noted
 Metzger = Metzger Marsh Wildlife Area, **Lucas**
 Mill Creek = Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary, a limited-access area in **Mahoning**
 m. obs. = multiple observers
 MP = Metro Park or MetroPark, depending on jurisdiction
 NF = National Forest
 NP = Nature Preserve (except as part of CVNP)
 OBRC = Ohio Bird Records Committee

ONWR = Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, **Lucas** and **Ottawa**
 ONWR Blausey, Boss, Darby, Kuntz, Navarre, and Schneider = Units of Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge which are separate from the refuge's main body. All are in **Ottawa**.
 OOPMP = Oak Openings Preserve MetroPark, **Lucas**
 Pickerington Ponds = Pickerington Ponds Metro Park, **Fairfield/Franklin**
 RBA = Rare Bird Alert
 Rocky Fork = Rocky Fork State Park, **Highland**
 Scioto Audubon = Scioto Audubon Metro Park, **Franklin**, so named because it's on the Scioto River and includes the Grange Insurance Audubon Center
 SF = State Forest
 Shawnee = Shawnee State Forest, **Scioto**, unless otherwise noted
 Shawnee Lookout = Shawnee Lookout County Park, **Hamilton**
 SNP = State Nature Preserve
 South Creek = the mouth of the creek at Muddy Creek Bay, **Sandusky**, unless otherwise noted
 SP = State Park
 Spring Valley = Spring Valley Wildlife Area, **Greenel Warren**
 Springville Marsh = Springville Marsh State Nature Preserve, **Seneca**
 WA = Wildlife Area
 Wendy Park = a lakeside Cleveland city park, **Cuyahoga**
 Winous Point = Winous Point Shooting Club, **Ottawa**
 Winous Horseshoe = a unit of Winous Point Shooting Club, **Ottawa**

Erratum:

The Fall 2012 issue (Vol 36 No 1) erroneously noted six Least Bitterns at Shaker Lakes. A slip of the observer's eBird entry finger turned what were actually Green Herons into bitterns.