

THE CLEVELAND BIRD CALENDAR

*A Journal of Bird Sightings from the Cleveland Region
Since 1905*



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The Cleveland Bird Calendar

December 2013 through November 2014

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The Cleveland Bird Calendar was founded in 1905 by Francis H. Herrick of the Western Reserve University. It is published annually by The Kirtland Bird Club and The Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

The purpose of the Calendar is:

To provide information on the movement of birds through the Cleveland region.

To monitor population densities of resident birds.

To help determine patterns of vagrancy for rarely encountered species.

Readers are encouraged to make every effort to identify and help preserve sensitive habitats and migrant stopover points.

Subscriptions

A subscription to *The Cleveland Bird Calendar* is a benefit of Kirtland Bird Club membership. Annual membership is \$30 (Couple), \$20 (Single) or \$10 (Student). To join or report an address change, contact Mary Anne Romito, Kirtland Bird Club, 4310 Bush Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44109. Make check payable to Kirtland Bird Club. Paying via PayPal and additional membership information can be found at www.kirtlandbirdclub.org/join.

Issues more than two years old are available as searchable PDF files at www.clevelandbirdcalendar.com.

Contributions

We welcome your participation. Readers are encouraged to submit field reports, artwork, papers, digital photographs and corrections to: Fred Dinkelbach, 6320-406 Greenwood Parkway, Sagamore Hills, Ohio 44067 or e-mail: seasonalreports@kirtlandbirdclub.org.

For sightings, A.O.U. taxonomical sequence and electronic media are appreciated. In order to publish the correct information, please label all e-mailed photos: `bird_location_date_photographer.jpg`. Seasonal report forms are available at: www.kirtlandbirdclub.org/cbc/cbc.htm. All submissions are archived at The Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

Due dates for seasonal field reports and eBird entries are:

Winter - March 10

Spring - June 10

Summer - September 10

Autumn - December 10

Front Cover Northern Wheatear, Mentor Headlands Beach, 9/9/2014, photographed by Rich Kassouf.

Back Cover Snowy Owl, Cleveland Hopkins Airport, 1/4/2014, photographed by Rich Kassouf.

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The Kirtland Bird Club welcomes you to its meetings held the first Wednesday of each month, except July and August, at 7:30 PM at The Cleveland Museum of Natural History, as well as joining one of its many scheduled field trips. For upcoming meetings, programs and trips, visit www.kirtlandbirdclub.org. To become a member, call (216) 741-2352 or visit www.kirtlandbirdclub.org/join. A Cleveland Bird Calendar subscription is included in membership.



The Kirtland Bird Club gratefully acknowledges the significant support of The Cleveland Museum of Natural History for the Cleveland Bird Calendar. To become a museum member, visit www.cmnh.org or call (216) 231-4600 ext. 3309. Membership levels of \$75 and under are fully tax deductible.

In This Issue

The Cleveland Bird Calendar Year, which runs from December through November, had its share of birding landmark events in 2014. The most obvious was the Snowy Owl irruption, their influx being undoubtedly the biggest news of the year. In their shadow, Short-eared Owls also were present in more locations than previous winters. The Headlands Northern Wheatear was equally as famous. Digging deeper, there were other surprises. All five *Aythya* duck species in June at the same time, all in the same location, the Lorain Harbor Impoundment! The variety of sparrows at CLNP was outstanding. Heralded by a record late Bobolink in December, the sparrow show began with a Le Conte's staying until February. Then an early Savannah appeared, two Clay-colored in March, a Grasshopper Sparrow in April and a best-for-last Lark Sparrow in May.

The year brought new locations to explore. July saw the dedication of Scranton/Flats Towpath Trail, which was to afford winter duck and gull viewing in the relatively ice-free Cuyahoga River, very much welcomed after the closing of the East 72nd Street power plant with its warm-water discharge. Perry Township's Lake Erie Bluffs in Lake County, which opened in 2013, preserved the last large stretch of unspoiled lakefront in our area, providing over three miles of trails in its 600 acres and a home to large numbers of Chats, Bank Swallows and Willow Flycatchers.

A Word about Sequence

Normally, the Calendar species sequence follows the AOU checklist. In the 57th Supplement (August 2016), AOU radically changed this sequence at the order level; a few families and species were also shuffled. Currently eBird is staying with the more conservative Clements list that generally matches the 2015 AOU list, but it is expected to change in 2018. I am following the current eBird (2016) sequence for two-reasons: the enormous convenience in putting together the Calendar, and I'm cautiously waiting to see the impact of new research. The AOU now follows the Jarvis et al. 2014 paper, but there have been a series of studies leading to more potential order sequence changes (see Prum et al. 2015 and Suh et al. 2016).

More eBird Comments

There has been a marked improvement of birds recorded in eBird between the 2009-2010 season and four years afterwards. Only one species (California Gull) from this issue's time period was not recorded in eBird but appeared in other sources. And this seems a good time to make a special plea to long-time area birders to enter their old records. For example, our seven-county area has no eBird records of ever having Black-backed Woodpeckers, though *Birds of Ohio* (Peterjohn, 1989) mentions records from Lake, Cuyahoga and Geauga Counties in the 1940s, 50s and 60s.



Yellow-breasted Chat - Bainbridge, Geauga County 4/27/2014 Inga Schmidt

Weather Report - December 2013 through November 2014

Dwight Chasar

December: Temperatures averaged 32.0°, 0.4° below normal. The high was 63° on the 5th and 22nd and the low was 8° on the 12th. Lake Erie water stood at 40° on the 1st and fell to 38° by the 31st. Precipitation was distributed over 16 days, totaling 4.10 inches of liquid equivalent, 1.00 inch above normal. The greatest fall in any 24 hour period was 2.43 inches on the 21-22nd. Of this, snowfall totaled 17.5 inches and the greatest depth was 6.0 inches on the 15th and 17th.

January: Temperatures averaged 21.7°, 6.4° below normal. The high was 51° on the 11th and the low -11° on the 6th and 7th. Precipitation was distributed over 21 days to total 2.00 inches, 0.72 inches below normal. The greatest fall in any 24 hour period was 0.39 inches on the 5-6th. Snowfall totaled 23.7 inches while the greatest ground depth was 8 inches on the 3rd. Lake Erie reached 32° by the end of the month.

February: Temperatures averaged 22.5°, 8.0° below normal. The high was 59° on the 20th and the low -6° on the 12th. Lake Erie water was at 32° at the end the month and the lake was nearly completely frozen over. Precipitation totaled 3.03 inches liquid equivalent, 0.69 inches above normal and occurred over 19 days. The greatest 24 hour fall was 0.86 inches on the 1-2nd. Snowfall accounted for a total of 23.8 inches, with the greatest depth 13 inches on the 18th.

March: The temperature averaged 32.2°, 6.2° below normal. The highest temperature was 63° on the 11th and lowest 0° on the 4th. Lake Erie waters remained at 32° during the month. Snowfall totaled 15.1 inches with the greatest depth of 5 inches on the 30th. Liquid precipitation, which includes rain and water content of the snow, totaled 2.20 inches, 0.73 inches below normal and fell over 14 days. The greatest fall for a 24 hour period was 0.62 inches on the 29th.

April: The temperature averaged 50.8°, 1.0° above normal. The highest temperature was 79° on the 13th and 21st and the lowest 25° on the 16th. Snowfall was 1.3 inches. Liquid precipitation over 14 days totaled 4.96 inches, 1.47 inches above normal. The greatest fall for a 24 hour period was 1.20 inches on the 3-4th. Lake Erie water temperature moved up to 42° by the end of the month.

May: The temperature averaged 60.9°, 1.1° above normal. The highest temperature was 88° on the 13th and the lowest 38° on the 6th and 18th. The lake temperature rose to 60° by the 31st. Over 12 days, rain totaled 4.21 inches, 0.55 inches above normal. The greatest fall for a 24 hour period was 2.64 inches on the 12th.

June: Temperatures averaged 70.1°, 0.9° above normal. The high was 90° on the 18th and 28th and the low was 46° on the 6th. Lake Erie was 56° on June 1st and rose to 71° by the 30th. Rain occurred over 14 days and totaled 6.26 inches, 2.83 inches above normal. The most rain in a 24 hour period was 4.05 inches on the 24-25th.

July: Temperatures averaged 69.3°, 4.2° below normal. The high was 88° on the 1st and 22nd and the low was 51° on the 18th and 25th. Rain occurred over 13 days, totaling 3.99 inches, 0.53 inches above normal. The most rain in a 24 hour period fell on the 27-28th and amounted to 1.31 inches. Lake Erie was at 70° at the end of the month.

August: Temperatures averaged 70.4°, 1.6° below normal. The high was 88° on the 30th and the low was 50° on the 15th. Rain fell on 11 days, totaling 4.59 inches, 1.08 inches above normal. The most in a 24 hour period was 1.46 inches on the 12-13th. Lake Erie water ended the month at 72°.

September: Temperatures averaged 63.0°, 2.0° below normal. The highest was 91° on the 5th and the lowest was 41° on the 23rd. Rain fell on 11 days, totaling 4.47 inches, 0.66 inches above normal. The most in a 24 hour period was 1.86 inches on the 5-6th. Lake Erie water ended the month at 66.5°.

October: Temperatures averaged 53.4°, 0.4° below normal. The highest was 78° on the 2nd and the lowest was 32° on the 12th. Rain fell on 16 days, totaling 2.84 inches, 0.23 inches below normal. The most in a 24 hour period was 0.65 inches on the 20-21st. Lake Erie water ended the month at 57°.

November: Temperatures averaged 37.1°, 6.8° below normal. The highest was 66° on the 11^h and the lowest was 10° on the 18th. Rain fell on 18 days, totaling 3.68 inches, 0.06 inches above normal. The most in a 24 hour period was 0.87 inches on Oct. 31-Nov. 1st. Lake Erie water ended the month at 42°.

Weather source: National Weather Service Forecast Office, Cleveland, Ohio (<http://w2.weather.gov/climate/index.php?wfo=cle>).

Lake Erie temperature source: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (<https://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/physocean.html?id=9063063>).

Greater Akron Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count – 12/15/2013

Reported by Dwight Chasar

616	Canada Goose	51	Downy Woodpecker	30	Cedar Waxwing
2	American Black Duck	14	Hairy Woodpecker	4	Yellow-rumped Warbler
88	Mallard	3	Northern Flicker	117	American Tree Sparrow
75	Ring-necked Duck	11	Pileated Woodpecker	87	Dark-eyed Junco
13	Common Merganser	1	American Kestrel	15	White-throated Sparrow
2	Ruddy Duck	132	Blue Jay	19	Song Sparrow
1	Pied-billed Grebe	134	American Crow	3	Swamp Sparrow
2	Cooper's Hawk	155	Black-capped Chickadee	1	Eastern Towhee
5	Red-tailed Hawk	48	Tufted Titmouse	102	Northern Cardinal
3	American Coot	40	White-breasted Nuthatch	4	House Finch
68	Ring-billed Gull	2	Brown Creeper	5	Purple Finch
34	Herring Gull	7	Carolina Wren	46	American Goldfinch
11	Rock Pigeon	1	Winter Wren	81	House Sparrow
36	Mourning Dove	57	Golden-crowned Kinglet		
1	Snowy Owl	17	Eastern Bluebird	47	Total Species
2	Barred Owl	90	American Robin		
64	Red-bellied Woodpecker	752	European Starling		

Lakewood Christmas Bird Count – 12/29/2013

Reported by Nancy Howell

The 2013 Christmas Bird Count for the Lakewood Circle had fabulous groups of birders scouring the area. From professionals to beginners, all eyes scanning and ears listening provided a terrific list of 83 species on the day of the count. No snow on the ground, temperatures in the lower 40's, overcast skies and a light drizzle to showers provided a non-winter-like count. Visibility was fairly good and wind was virtually non-existent.

Lake Erie and moving waters, such as rivers and streams were open. Smaller lakes and ponds were iced over due to the cold weather earlier in December. Many shrubs and trees produced copious amounts of fruit whether it was seed or berries. It was harder to determine the seed production of forbs and grasses. All in all a great day with great coverage of the count circle thanks to all of the participants.

Every year as lists come in, it is interesting to see what surprises are out there and found. The evidence this year that Snowy Owls have come south in great numbers was verified on the Lakewood Count. The list of 87 species (83 species on count day and 4 during count week) is fantastic. As of January 6, 2014, with all lists accounted for, the following are the results of the 2013 Lakewood Circle (OH) Christmas Bird Count.

With Lake Erie unfrozen and inland lakes and ponds ice covered, waterfowl species and numbers varied. The count week Ross's Goose hung out with a flock of Canada Geese on Lake Erie. Two Trumpeter Swans without neck bands, seen by experienced birders along the western portion of the count circle on Lake Erie, were a nice find. No unusual dabbling ducks were sighted. Diving and big-water ducks, while down in the numbers of some species, also held nice surprises. Only one Ring-necked Duck was spotted. All three species of scoter (Black, White-winged and Surf) were seen as well as Long-tailed Ducks. The three species of mergansers were tallied this year, but the number of Red-breasted Mergansers is lower than some years. Are the lower numbers due to the lake being open, hence the birds spread out? Other water birds, like the Common Loons and a good number of Horned Grebes as well as a flock of Double-crested Cormorants rounded out the list.

Wild Turkeys were missed on count day, but were picked up during count week.

A nice list of raptors including a Northern Harrier and Rough-legged Hawks, not always found in this count circle, attests to the great job done by the birding groups. All three species of falcon (American Kestrel, Merlin and Peregrine) made a good trifecta.

Lower numbers of Ring-billed, Herring and Bonaparte's Gulls again may have been due to the open waters of Lake Erie. Two Lesser Black-backed Gulls and a single Iceland Gull were picked out of the gull flocks and made nice additions to the list.

A couple of owl species we normally do not get on this count, Snowy and Short-eared, were found. Snowy Owl numbers were largest at Cleveland Hopkins International Airport with eight being reported from that location alone and two others elsewhere. The Short-eared Owl was at Lake Abrams (northern part of the Cleveland Metropark's Lake to Lake Trail), a good sized wetland area surrounded by weedy fields and light industry industrial parks.

Nearly all species of woodpeckers were tallied and included some relatively high numbers of Red-bellied and Downy Woodpeckers. Are the trees killed by Emerald Ash Borer beetles or the beetle larvae sustaining these higher numbers? Something to watch for? A single Northern Shrike at Hopkins airport was a good find.

Red-breasted Nuthatches were hard to find in 2013 but a couple of groups located some. Golden-crowned Kinglets were in larger numbers than most years and a couple of Ruby-crowned Kinglets made a good addition. A few Eastern Bluebirds and two Cedar Waxwings brightened up the list. Many years these species are missing. Big numbers of American Robins and European Starling were tallied. The starlings are not a surprise but the robins may have remained in good numbers due to ornamental fruiting trees and shrubs upon which they were feeding. The number of Northern Mockingbirds remains steady.

Sparrow species were typical of what is generally found in the count circle. Numbers are interesting with another year of a low number of Swamp Sparrows. American Tree Sparrows and Dark-eyed Juncos were abundant. The Lapland Longspur along with a Horned Lark was good for count week. Snow Buntings were noted for a second year in a row.

A higher number of Red-winged Blackbirds and a few Common Grackles were good additions. Some may wonder, why get excited about these blackbird species? They don't generally hang out in our area in the winter, but access to wetland areas where the birds roost may be allowing groups to increasingly locate them.

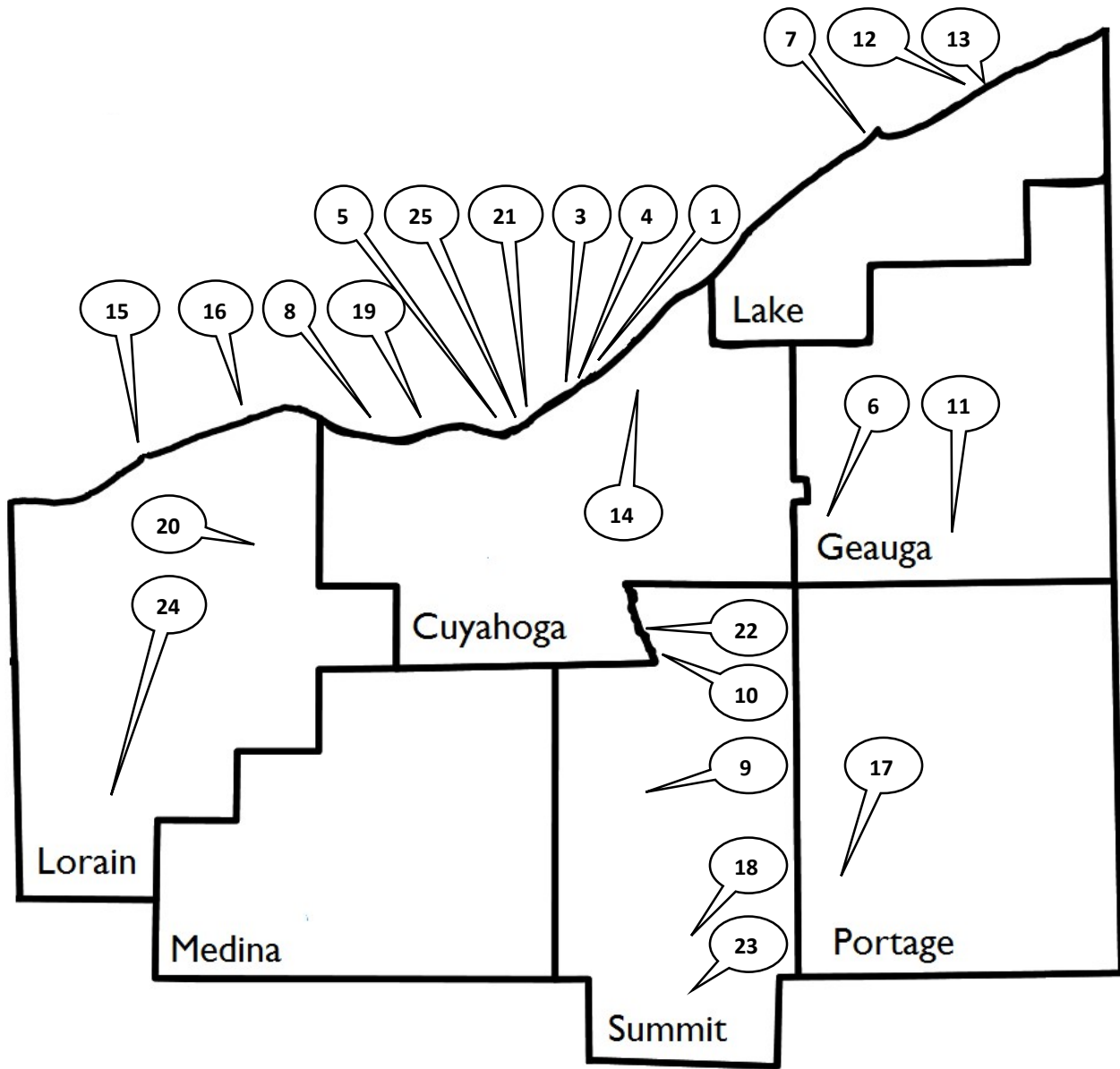
None of the northern finches were found this year, but American Goldfinches were fairly abundant.

(Count week species are *italics*, rare or unusual species are **bold**.)

cw	<i>Ross's Goose</i>	769	Herring Gull	1770	European Starling
1294	Canada Goose	1	Iceland Gull	2	Cedar Waxwing
2	Trumpeter Swan	2	Lesser Black-b. Gull	cw	<i>Lapland Longspur</i>
5	Wood Duck	95	Great Black-backed Gull	29	Snow Bunting
63	American Black Duck	166	Rock Pigeon	134	American Tree Sparrow
1482	Mallard	317	Mourning Dove	369	Dark-eyed Junco
56	Canvasback	1	Eastern Screech Owl	30	White-throated Sparrow
611	Redhead	4	Great Horned Owl	38	Song Sparrow
1	Ring-necked Duck	10	Snowy Owl	2	Swamp Sparrow
4	Greater Scaup	2	Barred Owl	206	Northern Cardinal
608	Lesser Scaup	1	Short-eared Owl	80	Red-winged Blackbird
6	Surf Scoter	8	Belted Kingfisher	6	Common Grackle
5	White-winged Scoter	5	Red-headed Woodpecker	229	House Finch
9	Black Scoter	111	Red-bellied Woodpecker	287	American Goldfinch
3	Long-tailed Duck	102	Downy Woodpecker	959	House Sparrow
58	Bufflehead	31	Hairy Woodpecker		
575	Common Goldeneye	8	Northern Flicker	83	Total Species
5	Hooded Merganser	4	Pileated Woodpecker	(87 count week)	
44	Common Merganser	6	American Kestrel		
4695	Red-breasted Merganser	1	Merlin		
50	Ruddy Duck	5	Peregrine Falcon		
cw	<i>Wild Turkey</i>	1	Northern Shrike		
3	Common Loon	408	Blue Jay		
1	Pied-billed Grebe	89	American Crow		
54	Horned Grebe	cw	<i>Horned Lark</i>		
13	Double-crested Cormorant	216	Black-capped Chickadee		
17	Great Blue Heron	65	Tufted Titmouse		
1	Northern Harrier	3	Red-breasted Nuthatch		
15	Cooper's Hawk	87	White-breasted Nuthatch		
8	Bald Eagle	5	Brown Creeper		
7	Red-shouldered Hawk	34	Carolina Wren		
38	Red-tailed Hawk	19	Golden-crowned Kinglet		
2	Rough-legged Hawk	3	Ruby-crowned Kinglet		
5	American Coot	9	Eastern Bluebird		
6	Bonaparte's Gull	1023	American Robin		
8427	Ring-billed Gull	6	Northern Mockingbird		

Sightings Location Key

1. **CLNP.** Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve (formerly Dike 14). Reclaimed harbor dredging impoundment covering 88 acres on Cleveland's lakefront at Gordon Park belonging to the Cuyahoga Port Authority.
2. **CVNP.** Cuyahoga Valley National Park (Cuyahoga and Summit Counties).
3. **East 55th Street.** Cleveland Metroparks' Lakefront Reservation marina area between East 72nd Street and Burke Airport.
4. **East 72nd Street.** Cleveland Metroparks' Lakefront Reservation at East 72nd Street where a small section of the lake remains ice-free and is very hospitable to gulls and waterfowl during winter.
5. **Edgewater Park (Yacht Club / Marina).** Cleveland Metroparks, just west of Whiskey Island (Cuyahoga County).
6. **Frohning Meadows.** Geauga Park District. Planted with prairie plants; a wet meadow habitat with low areas holding water; good for shorebirds (Bainbridge, Geauga County).
7. **HBSP/Headlands.** Unless otherwise stated, Headlands Beach State Park and surrounding area, from Fairport Harbor and Headlands Dunes State Nature Preserve in the east to Shipman Pond, Zimmerman Trail and adjacent Mentor Marsh State Nature Preserve (also known as Mentor Lagoons) (Lake County).
8. **Huntington Reservation.** Cleveland Metroparks, 103 acre park on Lake Erie in Bay Village (Cuyahoga County).
9. **Ira Road.** CVNP towpath and beaver marsh boardwalk north of Ira Road (Summit County).
10. **Jaite.** The wetlands and early-succession fields surrounding the intersection of Vaughn and Riverview Roads in the CVNP, Brecksville-Peninsula (Cuyahoga - Summit County border).
11. **LaDue.** Reservoir between Auburn Center and Welshfield (Gauga County).
12. **Lake Erie Bluffs.** A 600 acre park offering wetland, meadow and mostly undeveloped Lake Erie lakefront habitat (Perry Township, Lake County).
13. **Lakeshore Reservation.** North Perry (Lake County).
14. **Lake View Cemetery.** East of University Circle, Cleveland.
15. **Lorain Impoundment/Harbor.** Harbor dredging dumping area for Lorain Harbor, periodically providing good wading/shorebird/waterfowl habitat.
16. **Miller Road Park.** Adjacent to Avon Lake Power Plant (Lorain County).
17. **Mogadore Reservoir.** (southwestern Portage County).
18. **Nesmith Lake.** Portage Lakes (southern Summit County).
19. **Rocky River Park.** City of Rocky River. Park overlooking Lake Erie offering good views of waterfowl.
20. **Sandy Ridge.** Extensive marshland hosting a wide variety of uncommon birds. North Ridgeville (Lorain County).
21. **Scranton Flats.** Cleveland. Towpath/greenspace on the Cuyahoga River under the Lorain Avenue (Rt. 10) bridge.
22. **Station Road.** CVNP between Brecksville (Cuyahoga County) and Sagamore Hills (Summit County).
23. **Turkeyfoot Lake.** Portage Lakes (southern Summit County).
24. **Wellington Upground Reservoir.** (Lorain County).
25. **Wendy Park / Whiskey Island.** Cleveland Metroparks, just west of the mouth of the Cuyahoga River (Cuyahoga County).



Greater Scaup (left) and Lesser Scaup (right), both males 11/14/2014 Chuck Slusarczyk, Jr.

Early Dates	Count	Date	Location	Obs.
Common Goldeneye	1 f.	9/7/14	Lorain Impoundment/Lakeside Landing	SB
Lesser Bk.-backed Gull	1	8/28/14	Lakefront Reservation - Edgewater Park	JB
Caspian Tern	1	3/28/14	Wendy Park, Whiskey Island	CSj
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1 m.	4/18/14	South Russell	LG

Late Dates	Count	Date	Location	Obs.
Canvasback	1	6/7/14	Lorain Impoundment/Lakeside Landing	RS
Greater Scaup	1 m.	6/29/14	Euclid Creek Reservation - Wildwood Park	NA
Horned Grebe	1	6/9/14	Wellington Upground Reservoir (<u>new late-date record</u>)	TK
Red-necked Grebe	5	5/3/14	Burton Wetlands	WH
Broad-winged Hawk	1	10/23/14	Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve	KA
Common Gallinule	1	11/27/14	East Ninth Street Pier	JB
Baird's Sandpiper	1	12/8/13	West Branch State Park (<u>new late-date record</u>)	JS, LR
Least Sandpiper	1	11/9/14	LaDue Reservoir	VF
Western Sandpiper	1	11/13/14	Headlands Beach State Nature Pres. (<u>new late-date record</u>)	EBk
Black Tern	1	11/2/14	Lakefront Reservation - Edgewater Marina	m. obs.
Common Nighthawk	1	11/3/14	Fairport Nursery Rd. (Lake Co.)	CSw
Merlin	1	5/15/14	Headlands Dunes State Nature Preserve	TF
White-eyed Vireo	1	11/29/14	Euclid Creek Reservation - Villa Angela	NA
Rough-winged Swallow	2	10/22/14	Sandy Ridge Reservation	KHO
Tree Swallow	1	11/10/14	Headlands Beach State Park	RH
Sedge Wren	1	11/13/14	Letha House Park - G. H. Owl Bridle Trail (Medina Co.)	KHO
Marsh Wren	1	12/21/13	Mentor Marsh State Nature Preserve - Wake Robin	TF
Swainson's Thrush	1	11/10/14	Shaker Lakes - Nature Center (caught and banded)	LGh
Lapland Longspur	2	4/26/14	Puritas Wetland	EM
Snow Bunting	1	4/27/14	Sandy Ridge Reservation	m. obs.
Ovenbird	1	10/29/14	Cleveland Public Square	PM
Prothonotary Warbler	1	9/4/14	Cuyahoga Valley NP - Station Rd. Railroad (Cuyahoga Co.)	DAC
Common Yellowthroat	1	12/4/13	CVNP IRA Road beaver marsh towpath (voice only)	SG
Hooded Warbler	1	10/13/14	Headlands Beach State Park	RH
Pine Warbler	1	11/2/14	Mentor Lagoons Nature Preserve	TF
Canada Warbler	1	9/23/14	Headlands Beach State Park	RH
Wilson's Warbler	1	10/16/14	Headlands Beach State Park	RH
Henslow's Sparrow	1	9/16/14	Headlands Dunes State Nature Preserve	CCh
Indigo Bunting	1	10/22/14	Erie Street Cemetery	PM

Sightings Highlights

If no observers are cited, records come from multiple eBird observers' entries. Unvetted eBird data was not considered. Species rarely seen or those with noteworthy dates and/or counts are underlined.

Greater White-fronted Goose. Four were spotted at Mogadore Reservoir on 2/28; they left at day's end flying west. A single goose joined the Canadas there on 3/5 and 3/6. LaDue Reservoir hosted a pair on 11/8 (IS, MV).

Snow Goose. One joined a flight of 100 Canada Geese on 12/20 over Brunswick (JWo). A single goose was found on 12/22 and 12/23 in a Franklin Township flooded field northwest of Kent at the Summit County border among Canada Geese, Mallards, Pintails, Black Ducks, Gadwalls, and Green-winged Teals (GC). Another Portage County flooded field in Suffield Township that hosted a Cackling Goose also attracted a Snow from 1/12 to 1/14. Twelve flew over Old Brooklyn on 2/12 at midday (JWo). In mid-November a blue morph juvenile was seen at Miller Road Park (Avon Lake PP).

Ross's Goose. One associated with Canada Geese on Lake Erie during the 12/29 Lakewood CBC count week (NH). On 3/22 three were flying west as seen from Rocky River Park (JB). In Mentor one joined a flock of Canadas on 9/16 and 9/17 (CCh). One bird was located in a CVNP field on 9/24 to 9/27 among a Canada Goose flock. One found on 9/28 with the same size flock of Canadas at the nearby Ira Road beaver marsh may have been the same bird.

Brant. All reports came from early November: A flock of nine flew eastward past Painesville Township Park on a cold and stormy 11/1 (JT, IK, TF, JM), twelve flew east at Wendy Park on 11/1 (JB), three at Huntington Reservation on 11/9 (EM) and nine were flybys at Lake County's Sunset Park on 11/12 (SI).

Cackling Goose. Several winter and spring reports of single birds. Portage Lakes' East Reservoir had four on 1/1 (RSH). Wellington Upground Reservoir had one to five from 10/19 to the end of November.



Greater White-fronted Goose – LaDue Reservoir, Geauga County
11/8/2014 Matthew Valencic

Trumpeter Swan. Reported year-round with numbers from one to seven. In recent years the occurrences are approaching the number of Tundra Swan reports.

Wood Duck. Despite the harsher 2013-14 winter, each week reported one to five wintering Wood Ducks from around the region.

Eurasian Wigeon. At least three males visited the region in 2014. One arrived at Whiskey Island on 3/15 with six American Wigeon, seen briefly by two birders before taking flight again; Jen Brumfield noted, "hybrid ruled out by gray flanks, chest sides and no discernible green or odd pale on head/eye region" (JB). A bird remained at Sandy Ridge from 3/23 through 3/31 and was seen by many. Frohring Meadows also had one between 4/14 and 4/16, and another (unknown if the same bird) on 5/6.

American Wigeon. A summer rarity, a male-female pair were discovered at the Lorain Impoundment on 7/2 (VF).

American Black Duck x Mallard (hybrid). About 10% as many reports of these hybrids as American Black Ducks, reported from throughout the area.

Green-winged Teal (Eurasian). A flooded field at Mishler Road in Portage County was home to a visiting Eurasian subspecies from 1/12 to 1/14.

Canvasback. A lone adult male remained at the Lorain Harbor area until 6/7; it showed signs of recovering from a wing injury (IJ, RS).

Redhead. Two pairs summered at the Lorain Impoundment, seen until late August. One young was observed with one of the pairs on 7/5 (EM).



Common Teal – Portage County 1/12/2014 Judy Semroc

Ring-necked Duck. An adult male remained throughout the summer at Lorain Impoundment.

Greater Scaup. An adult female remained at Lorain Impoundment until 6/1 (EM). A mid-summer male was found at Villa Angela-Wildwood Park on 6/21 and 6/29 (NA).

Lesser Scaup. At the Lorain Impoundment, two adult males remained until 7/4. The next day a male-female pair was seen (EM).

King Eider. A female/immature eider was seen on 11/30 from North Perry flying by itself close to shore (JP).

Harlequin Duck. An immature male stayed at Huntington Reservation in Bay Village from 12/5/13 through 12/8. The following fall, three reports: One at Painesville Township Park on 10/18 (JT), a duck of unknown age flying west with mergansers on 10/27 at Sunset Lake in Lake County (JT, CCh) and an immature or female passing west at Edgewater Park on 11/2 (JB).

White-winged Scoter. Large gatherings occurred along the lakefront February through early March.

Long-tailed Duck. More numerous than usual. The winter season began with one at LaDue on 12/1/13 followed

by many lakefront accounts throughout the winter into May, with immatures and adult males and females well represented. Up to seven could be found at E. 72nd Street in December 2013 (JB) and LaDue Reservoir had eight on 4/4 (DH). Latest spring report was one at Mentor Marsh on 5/18 (CD, JM). In the fall, Wellington Upground Reservoir had an adult male appear 10/23. Eight were observed from Rocky River Park on 11/2 (EM).

Common Goldeneye. Many saw an early female at Lorain Impoundment beginning 9/7, and last seen 9/21.

Common Goldeneye x Hooded Merganser (hybrid). An adult male was photographed on 3/9 at the Eastlake Power Plant (CCh).

Common Merganser. There were several summer sightings in our area. A male was seen south of Station Road in the CVNP on Chippewa Creek on 5/31 (FCD) and nearby Cuyahoga River on 6/9 (RS). A female was seen at the Cleveland Harbor breakwall on 6/28 (EM, JB). Two adult females were observed arriving at Sandy Ridge on 8/6 (VF) and four females at Lakeview Park (Lorain County) on 9/10 (VF).

Red-breasted Merganser. Summer activity included a female seen at the Cleveland Harbor breakwall on 6/28 (EM, JB) and another seen there on 8/2 (PM).

Ruddy Duck. None of the summer reports included nesting activity.

Northern Bobwhite. After a reintroduction attempt by Summit County Metro Parks of 40 birds in March, up to six could be heard and seen from April through August at Springfield Bog in Summit County. The program also released 250 in Silver Creek Metro Park but only one was ever heard, on 4/14 (RK).

Ring-necked Pheasant. ODNr and private hunting clubs release pheasants throughout Ohio for sport-hunting; it is assumed the 20 or so records for the year, half in Geauga County, are these birds.



Greater Scaup – Wildwood Park, Cuyahoga County 6/29/2014 Nancy Anderson

High Counts	Count	Date	Location	Obs.
Canada Goose	5606	12/28/13	Wellington Upground Reservoir	PS
Mute Swan	22	1/10/14	Avon Lake Lakefront	PC, JB
Tundra Swan	200	12/7/13	South Russell	LG
Gadwall (Spring)	125	3/28/14	Sandy Ridge Reservation	JB
Gadwall (Fall)	184	11/7/14	LaDue Reservoir	MV
American Wigeon	220	3/28/14	Sandy Ridge Reservation	JB
American Black Duck	45	12/16/13	Lakefront Reservation - East 55th St. Marina	JB
Mallard	600	12/3/13	Chippewa Lake	KHO
Black x Mallard (hybrid)	6	3/17/14	Coe Lake, Cuyahoga County	JB
Northern Shoveler	74	12/8/13	Springfield Lake	GB
Northern Pintail	120	3/10/14	Berlin Lake Bike Trail	KM
Canvasback	800	1/19/14	Cliff Drive, Edgewater Park	JB
Redhead	2300	3/20/14	Wendy Park, Whiskey Island	JT, FR
Ring-necked Duck	480	3/23/14	Portage Lakes State Park - Turkeyfoot Lake	GB
Lesser Scaup	1650	3/22/14	Lakefront Reservation - Edgewater Park	JB
Surf Scoter	30	11/9/14	Huntington Reservation	EBr, JB
White-winged Scoter	82	1/31/14	Huntington Reservation	JB
Black Scoter	35	11/9/14	Huntington Reservation	EBr, JB
Bufflehead (Spring)	225	4/2/14	LaDue Reservoir	WH
Bufflehead (Fall)	250	11/7/14	LaDue Reservoir	MV
Common Goldeneye	550	1/3/14	Lakefront Reservation - East 55th St. Marina	JB
Hooded Merganser	350	12/3/13	LaDue Reservoir	KM
Hooded Merganser	360	11/22/14	LaDue Reservoir	MV
Common Merganser	4500	1/3/14	Lakefront Reservation - East 55th St. Marina	PC
Red-breasted Merg.	15000	1/21/14	Wendy Park, Whiskey Island	JB
Ruddy Duck	1200	10/24/14	Wellington Upground Reservoir	KHO

Comments on the Season – Headlands Beach State Park / Mentor Lagoons, Fall 2014

Ray Hannikman

For several years I have written a brief commentary about the birds at and around Headlands Beach State Park. But, in a real sense, the birds themselves write the story – I just relay my impressions of seasonal movements to the readers of the Cleveland Bird Calendar. For small bird migration three days were memorable – September 21, October 5 and October 16. A fallout of warblers on September 21 engulfed the Headlands area as Helen, Elsa, Chris and I enjoyed the spectacle as groups of warblers, mostly at or a little above eye-level, moved silently and deliberately along the wooden fence leading to the Fisherman’s Trail. Puddles on the Coast Guard road became hosts for bathing warblers, thrushes and sparrows. October 5 saw Jerry Talkington, Irene Krise, and their bird walk entourage, Peter Keefe, Roger Beuck, Jeff Wert, Jim McCarty, Jim McConnor, Jean Hrenko and I record 22 species of warblers – the long sought-after and much-desired first month of October day with 20 or more species of warblers! As if these two dates were not enough to highlight the season, along comes October 16 when Golden-crowned Kinglets literally “rained” down upon Headlands as every tree and bush twinkled with these mighty migrants in numbers only previously noted in October 2012. Daily lake watches in late October and early November produced hundreds of Horned Grebes and a good variety of waterfowl. November ended with its appearance of that ever-charismatic Snowy Owl delighting regular and visiting Headlands birders. Last, but not least, and certainly the star of the season, a Northern Wheatear graced the beach of the State Nature Preserve in mid-September – a life bird for many, and a delight for all [see article on page 22].

Red-throated Loon. The only spring report was a bird at LaDue on 4/6. Recorded at Painesville Township Park were one on 10/18 and two 11/9 (JT, IK). An early pair arrived at Lake County's Sunset Lake Park on 10/20 (SI) and a third joined them on 10/30 (JT, IK). Two were seen from Huntington Reservation on 11/9, with random single birds seen elsewhere along the lake the following week.

Pacific Loon. Jen Brumfield reported a basic-plumage adult or immature bird off the Perkins Beach parking lot at Edgewater Park on 10/19 (JB). Headlands provided a sighting of one on 10/30 and on 11/9 (JT, IK, JM, RH).

Pied-billed Grebe. None of the summer eBird entries included young.

Horned Grebe. Tim Krynak monitored a late-spring male straggler at Wellington Upground Reservoir until it was last seen on the area-record late date of 6/9 (TK). Many counts were in the hundreds during the fall migration; highest was 400 during a pelagic tour on 11/22.

Red-necked Grebe. This reporting year had more records than the previous ten combined. Many inland as well as lakefront sightings December to early May, most in March and no county went unreported. Miller Road Park (Avon Lake PP) had six on 3/9. Kent Miller had nine in Portage County's Wingfoot Lake on 3/27 (KM). Wes Hatch had twelve at LaDue on 4/5 and the latest spring report of five at Geauga County's Burton Wetlands on 5/3 (WH). Similar numbers began picking up again the following mid-October. One to two frequented Fairport Harbor's HTP Marina 11/9 to 11/28 (JT, IK, PK).

Eared Grebe. One 2013 fall migrant lingered throughout December at CLNP and the nearby marina. LaDue had two in the spring on 4/12 (BG) and one appeared there the following fall on 11/2 (IS). Lorain Harbor hosted one on 11/9 (EM, CP). A basic-plumaged individual appeared near shore at E. 55th Street on 11/10 (JB).

Brown Pelican. The second-year bird first seen June 2013, "Cleveland Brown" ended his/her visit by frequenting the East 55th Marina, with occasional forays along Cleveland Harbor, last seen on 12/11. Appearing alert and responsive with strong flight even in the coldest temperatures, it is unknown whether the pelican moved on or succumbed to the weather.

American Bittern. Individual birds were seen and heard at Mentor Marsh, Headlands and Sandy Ridge in April and May.



Little Blue Heron
Sandy Ridge Reservation, Lorain County
4/27/2014 Vic Fazio III

Least Bittern. A good showing by this species. One was observed at Sandy Ridge on three separate occasions in April and May. Five birders located three at Frohring Meadows on 4/13. The Chasars spotted a flying Least twice at the Ira Road marsh on 4/17; later they heard one at Station Road on 5/20, 5/21 and 5/29 (DAC). A single adult male was seen by many 6/5 through 8/16 at Mentor Marsh's Wake Robin Trail. At Geauga County's Auburn Marsh Wildlife Area on 7/21, a single bird was seen standing in a cut area near a small pond (DH). Burke Airport hosted one on 7/26 (JB).

Great Blue Heron. The Lorain Impoundment had gatherings of up to 50 in mid-summer. Rookeries in the CVNP at Bath Road and along Black River at Lorain's Cromwell Park provided the expected high counts.

Great Egret. A hardy individual was spotted on 1/5 (RKK) and 1/16 (PC) at the Cuyahoga River near the 49th Street sewage outlet with Great Blue Herons. Sandy Ridge had up to 20 birds regularly in May and in September.

Snowy Egret. Many saw one at Sandy Ridge 4/23 through 4/30. Two were discovered at Lorain County's Crook Street Wetlands on 5/9 and 5/10 (EW).

Little Blue Heron. Many birders at Sandy Ridge had the opportunity to view an adult 4/18 through 4/30.

Cattle Egret. Frohring Meadows hosted one on 5/15. Many reported a visiting bird at Lorain Impoundment 10/21 through 11/12. On 11/5 and 11/6 two foraged at Burke Lakefront Airport (CSj). The Kassoufs spotted one flying past Edgewater with three mallards on 11/15 (RKK).

Plegadis (Ibis) sp. Four were spotted a half-mile distant from Lake Erie Bluffs the morning of 4/10, seen inland flying east (JP). Greg Cudworth found two ibises in a Portage County flooded field near Stow on 5/11, one White-faced Ibis, the other unknown (GCu).

Black Vulture. Multiple reports per year have become the norm. Two reports from spring and four from the fall, including six on 10/2 in western Medina County between Chatham and Litchfield seen in large gatherings of Turkey Vultures (MG). This is within ten miles of a possible breeding pair that were to be reported in 2015 near Chippewa Lake.

Turkey Vulture. Several mid-winter records, including one on 1/10 sunning itself with wings spread in southern Cuyahoga County (JWo).

Golden Eagle. GPS cellular tracking of a second-year Golden Eagle caught and

banded in northwest Alabama on 2/14 showed it spending the night of 4/12 in the woods just south of Sanitation Pond in the CVNP in Brecksville, departing south towards Akron in the morning on 4/13 (according to Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency Golden Eagle Project via eBird, data accurate to within one mile). Four birders observed a Golden at HBSP on 9/14 (BP) during the Northern Wheatear visit.

Mississippi Kite. Two area sightings. John Pogacnik and his son observed one that appeared to be carrying prey flying west over North Perry on 4/28 (JP). Chris Pierce spotted one soaring above the Richfield Coliseum grasslands on 6/15, noting the white head and secondaries in a long binocular view, before it headed northward (CP).

Northern Harrier. Well-reported throughout the area but rare in the summer. Seen at many lakefront locations and inland farm fields.

Sharp-shinned Hawk. No reports of nesting. During a hawk watch on 4/10,

Jen Brumfield counted 68 at Edgewater Park (JB).

Cooper's Hawk. Reports outnumbered Sharp-shinned five-to-one.

Bald Eagle. Large gatherings were reported the winter of 2013-14. The largest were found in Portage County: at Lake Rockwell on 12/28/13 as many as 17 soaring adults and juveniles were counted (DM) and on 3/20 the same number were counted at Berlin Lake (KM). One to three were observed weekly at HBSP in autumn (RH).

Rough-legged Hawk. The Hayes Road area in Geauga County and Lorain County farmlands provided the expected sightings. Cleveland Hopkins Airport had 14 on 3/17 (JB); on 3/26 Chuck Slusarczyk, Jr. and Joe Wojnarowski watched 15 busily searching for food in the grassy areas at the north end of the airport (CSj, JWo). Wintering birds were gone by mid-April but re-appeared at the end of October.

Virginia Rail. Frohring Meadows had six on 4/28. The CVNP's Ira Road beaver marsh had reliable observations of one or two individuals from April until the end of November.

Sora. A winter straggler was seen at Frohring Meadows on 12/5/13 by two birders (WH).

Common Gallinule. One was consistently seen at Sandy Ridge in April and May. Five, including three hatchlings, were discovered at Lorain Impoundment on 7/5 (EM). Geauga County's Pekin Road marsh had six to eight seen in August (IS). Fall stragglers remained until November; one at Summit County's towpath at Wilbeth Road until 11/7 (DMY) and one at East 9th Street Pier until 11/27 (JB).

American Coot. Lorain Impoundment had the only summer breeding records; on 7/5 half of the 32 coots counted were young birds (EM).

High Counts	Count	Date	Location	Obs.
Common Loon	112	11/10/14	Lorain Impoundment/Lakeside Landing	KHO
Pied-billed Grebe	44	10/9/14	LaDue Reservoir	DH
Horned Grebe	400	11/22/14	Cleveland Harbor Pelagic Tour	m. obs.
Horned Grebe	500	10/15/14	Headlands Beach State Park	RH
Red-necked Grebe	12	4/5/14	LaDue Reservoir	WH
Double-crested Corm.	3000	9/15/14	Lorain Impoundment/Lakeside Landing	BP
Great Blue Heron	150	4/12/14	Cromwell Park rookery, Lorain	DS
B/C Night-Heron	63	4/7/14	Rivergate Park, Merwin Avenue	PL
Black Vulture	6	10/2/14	Smith Rd and Rt. 83, Medina County	MG
Turkey Vulture	1944	4/1/14	Lakefront Resv. - Edgewater Park 3.5 hr. hawk watch	m. obs.
Sharp-shinned Hawk	68	4/10/14	Lakefront Resv. - Edgewater Park 2.5 hr. stationary count	JB
Bald Eagle	17	12/28/13	Lake Rockwell	DM
Bald Eagle	17	3/20/14	Berlin Lake	KM
Broad-winged Hawk	9	4/21/14	Russell Uplands Preserve	RH
Red-tailed Hawk	15	4/1/14	Lakefront Resv. - Edgewater Park 3.5 hour hawk watch	m. obs.
Rough-legged Hawk	15	3/26/14	Hopkins Airport - 100th Bomb Group Restaurant Parking Lot	JWo, CSj
Sora	5	5/3/14	Sandy Ridge Reservation	EW
Common Gallinule	8	8/11/14	Pekin Road Marsh, Geauga County	IS
American Coot	2000	11/21/14	LaDue Reservoir	KA
Sandhill Crane	21	11/28/14	LaDue Reservoir	DH, MV



Black-necked Stilt – Lorain Impoundment, Lorain County
5/21/2014 Vic Fazio III

Black-necked Stilt. On 5/21 at least three birders saw a stilt at the Lorain Impoundment (VF).

American Avocet. Three, a male and two females, were spotted at Euclid Beach on 7/7 (CSj). Two were found on 7/22 at LaDue Reservoir (DH, MV). Lorain Impoundment had one on 7/27 and another on 9/20 (EM, NLS). Headlands had its contribution, a winter-plumaged or juvenile on 9/4 (RH, RB) and again on 9/17 (CCh).

Black-bellied Plover. Mostly fall reports. Headlands, Lorain Impoundment and LaDue Reservoir were popular stop-overs in September; usually with one or two birds seen.

American Golden-Plover. No spring reports. Three were discovered at a flooded Portage County field at Congress and Swartz Roads on 8/27 and 8/29 (ES, JF). On 9/10 a breeding plumaged adult was spotted at Lorain County's Lakeview Park (VF). Three were seen 10/5 at Burke Lakefront Airport (JB).

Piping Plover. Ray Hannikman and Jerry Talkington spotted an adult at Headlands Beach on 7/23 (RH, JT).

Killdeer. On 1/12 a lone bird appeared mid-winter at Burke Lakefront Airport (PC).

Upland Sandpiper. The Harlans heard a nocturnal migrant giving its distinctive bubbly flight call as it passed over Columbia Woods Park in Norton on the evening of 9/11; two more were heard there the evening of 9/13 (RSH).

Whimbrel. Not the typical time of year to spot Whimbrels, two were found at Burke Lakefront Airport on 8/1 (JB, VF, JT, EM). A single bird was seen by many at Lorain Impoundment from 9/8 to 9/14.

Hudsonian Godwit. A single bird rested among the shorebird assemblage at Lorain Impoundment on 9/6 (JP). On 10/5 at Lakeshore Reservation, a flock of six flew by, trailed by a Marbled Godwit (JP).

Marbled Godwit. Leo Deininger reported a possible first for Shaker Lakes when one appeared on 4/21 (LD). One bird followed a flock of six Hudsonian Godwits flying past Lakeshore Reservation on 10/5 (JP).

Ruddy Turnstone. Two spring reports: on 5/9 three were found at Sandy Ridge (BRA) and on 5/24 three at Whiskey

Island (JB). Otherwise a dozen reports of one to four could be found along the lakefront in August and mostly mid-September.

Stilt Sandpiper. At Sandy Ridge one was found on 7/11 (CSj). Lorain Impoundment had a pair on 8/10 (EM) and then a single bird foraging with dowitchers on 8/30 (PM); a fall straggler was spotted there on 10/5 (PS).

Sanderling. No spring sightings. Headlands had frequent double-digit counts in mid-September.

Dunlin. Fewer reports than previous years with never more than six to eight seen, usually one or two in most reports, and primarily at Sandy Ridge (spring) or LaDue (fall).

Purple Sandpiper. Three birds; one seen at the Cleveland Harbor breakwall on a 12/7/13 pelagic tour, another on 1/9 at Whiskey Island (PC), and in the fall one flew by the Headlands breakwall on 11/1 (RH).



Red Phalarope – Edgewater Marina, Cuyahoga County 12/1/2013 Judy Semroc

Baird's Sandpiper. A new late-date record, on 12/8/13 Judy Semroc and Larry Rosche verified a straggler at the extreme east end of West Branch State Park (JS, LR), breaking the old record of November 11 set in 1933. On 8/20 and 8/21 a migrant was found at LaDue (IS). Headlands had a bird on 9/11 and 9/13 (SW).

White-rumped Sandpiper. Three observations: four adults at Headlands on 8/5 (CD), two on 8/9 at Sandy Ridge (JMc), and five at Lorain Impoundment on 8/22 (KG).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper. The year's only record was a single bird at Headlands on 9/14 (BP).

Semipalmated Sandpiper. Uncommon during their spring migration.

Western Sandpiper. A lone, long-billed individual was identified in a snowstorm at the far eastern end of the Headlands State Nature Preserve on 11/13 (EBk). This surpasses the previous late date record of November 8, 1992.

Short-billed Dowitcher. No spring sightings. 90% of area reports came from Lorain Impoundment, from 7/2 through 9/6, usually one to three birds but as many as 34 on 7/19 (EM). One to seven frequented Sandy Ridge in July with a high count of 49 on 7/23 (PM).

Long-billed Dowitcher. None reported, although Lorain Impoundment had reports of undetermined dowitcher species in

August and early September, including 20 reported on 8/24.

Wilson's Snipe. Uncommonly seen in the summer, Frohring Meadows had a single bird on 6/20 (Geauga Park District Frohring Shorebird Project).

Wilson's Phalarope. Two locations had early spring migrants. Novak Sanctuary in Aurora, Portage County, provided the Cleveland Spring Bird Walks with two birds on 4/27 (CSBW). On 4/29 and 4/30 birders were treated to as many as three adult females at Sandy Ridge. Lorain Impoundment hosted one on the afternoon of 7/27 (JP).

Red-necked Phalarope. Two were found at Lorain Impoundment on 9/13; one remained the next day.

Red Phalarope. A bird seen at close range by many wrapped up its late-fall of 2013 stay at Edgewater Marina on 12/3/13. The following fall, Headlands had three birds: one on 10/30 at Painesville Township Park (JT), another at the Fairport Harbor boat launch on 11/16 (JT, IK), and one near the lighthouse on 11/27 (RH, NB).

Willet. Other than 12 seen at HBSP on 6/30 (CCh, CD), only one or two appeared in July and August at Headlands and Lorain Impoundment, the final sighting being one at LaDue on 8/20 (IS).

Pomarine Jaeger. A sub-adult offered easy viewing throughout March in the Scranton Flats/Whiskey Island area. At Painesville Township Park two were

noted on 11/1 (RH, IK). One was discovered at the Avon Lake Power Plant (Miller Road Park) on 11/7 (EBr).

Parasitic Jaeger. No spring reports. A lone immature bird appeared at Headlands Beach on 9/13 (JT, IK). Lake County's Sunset Park had one 9/13 (TF) and 9/21 (CD); on 9/21 Lorain Impoundment also had a sighting (PH). Two were spotted on a pelagic tour of Lake Erie off Lorain County, also on 9/21 (VF). One adult and one immature bird visited Painesville Township State Park on 10/29 (JT); another appeared off Fairport Harbor (IK) and flew over the head of an observer (TF) on 11/15.

Long-tailed Jaeger. Two immatures were spotted from Lakewood Park on 9/6 (JB). On 10/4 an intermediate was spotted from Lakeshore Reservation flying low over the Lake Erie waves (JP).

Black-legged Kittiwake. From 1/1 through 1/30, an obliging immature Kittiwake provided reliable sightings at East 72nd Street.

Sabine's Gull. An adult was found at Lorain County's Lakeview Park on 9/7 (EM). An immature bird passed to the west at Lakeshore Reservation on the morning of 10/18 (JP).

Black-headed Gull. A winter-plumaged adult passed along the lake at North Perry on the morning of 4/1 (JP).

Little Gull. Two, an adult and a first-cycle, were seen from the Lakeside Yacht Club near E. 55th Street on 12/1 (JB). East 55th then had an adult seen

through early January. One was located at Fairport Harbor on 3/22 (TF). In the fall, one or two could be spotted at various lakefront locations, mainly during September and November.

Laughing Gull. Many observed an adult breeding-plumaged bird at Lorain Harbor 5/23 to 6/1. Weeks later on 6/20 an immature was seen at nearby Lakeview Park; in the fall another was reported from there on 9/6 through 9/15 (VF). In Cleveland, a winter-plumaged adult was seen at E. 55th Street Marina on 10/21 (EM) and 10/23 (SD); another basic-plumaged adult was at Whiskey Island 11/10 (JB).

Franklin's Gull. Three adult non-breeding birds were spotted flying past Sunset Lake in Lake County on 9/7 (CD). On 10/6 and 10/7 two immatures were seen flying over LaDue Reservoir (MV).

California Gull. A mile east of Fairport Harbor John Pogacnik spotted an adult on 12/3; later in the month he found another adult at Lorain Harbor that spent the afternoon of 12/29/13 (JP).

Thayer's Gull. Usually one but as many as three or four could be seen in the Wendy Park/Whiskey Island/Scranton Flats area January through March.

Iceland Gull. A rare inland visitor, on 2/1 Doug Vogus observed one while doing a 13-mile hike on the CVNP towpath (DV). Eleven were found both at Whiskey Island on 3/9 (JB) and Cleveland Harbor on 3/18 (VF).

Lesser Black-backed Gull. Whiskey Island, Edgewater Park, E. 55th and E. 72nd Streets boasted counts of 10 to 12 in early January and again in late March. Berlin Reservoir had 11 on 3/27 (KM). In the least likely month to see this species, Ray Hannikman and Peter Hellman had a third-summer bird at Headlands on 7/7 (RH, PHE *vide* CD). Almost as unlikely in August, on 8/28 one was sighted at Edgewater (JB).

Glaucous Gull. Exceptional numbers in February and March. Up to a dozen birds in many reports; at Whiskey Island Jen Brumfield counted 71 on 3/9 and 39 the following day (JB).

Herring x Glaucous Gull (hybrid).

One was found 3/9 at Scranton Flats (VF) and then another 3/15 at nearby Whiskey Island (JB).

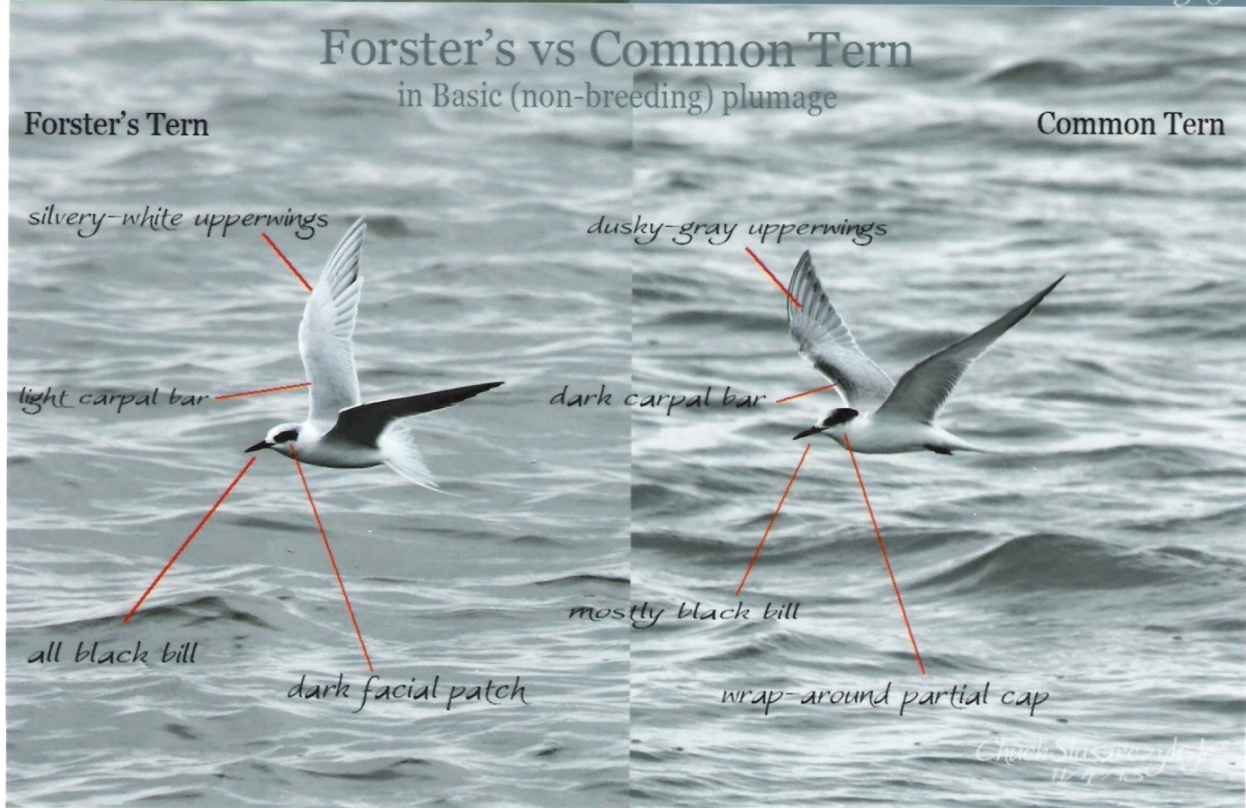
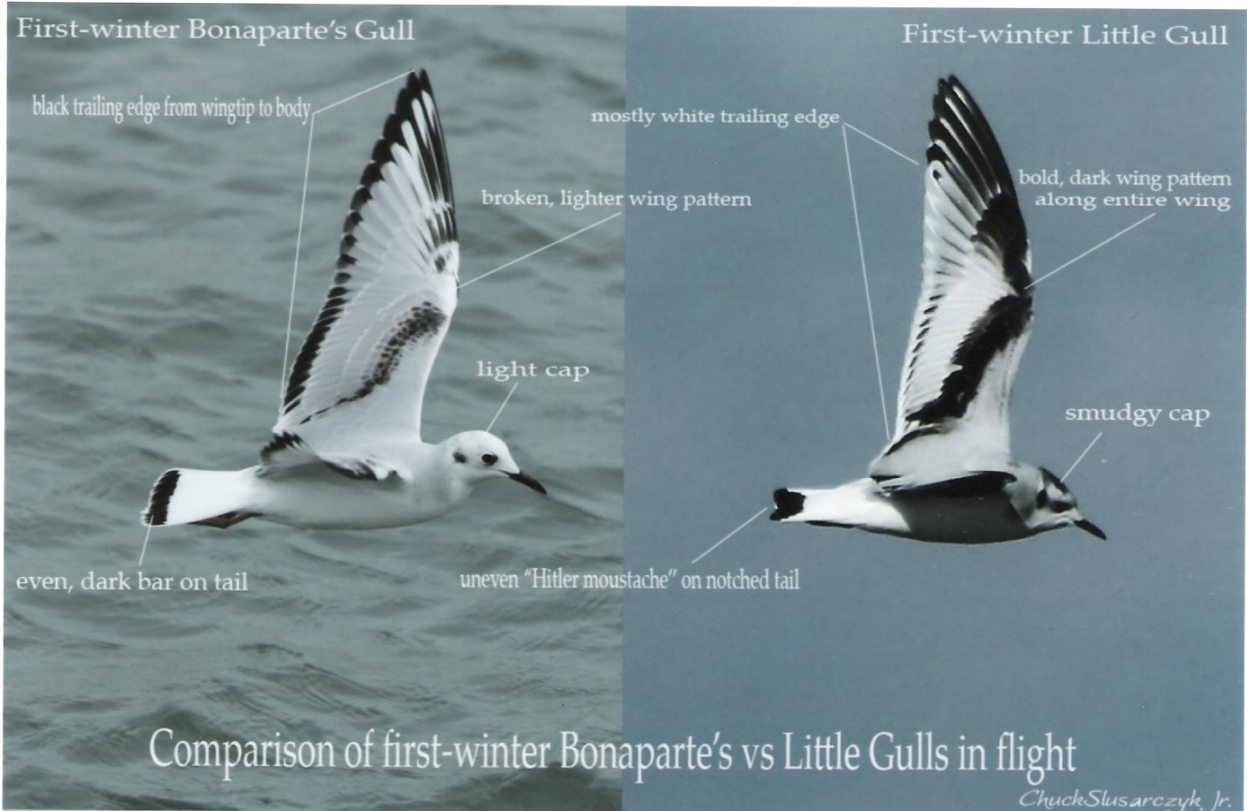
Herring x Great Black-backed Gull (hybrid).

Jen Brumfield found two at Whiskey Island on 3/15, noting that *vega* ssp. Herring Gulls could not be ruled out (JB).

Caspian Tern. An unusual white-headed Caspian was photographed at LaDue Reservoir on 9/4 by Matt Valencic, showing similarities to a Royal Tern (MV).

Black Tern. No spring reports. A pelagic birding tour off Lorain County recorded 60 on 9/7. Jen Brumfield remarked, "astounding numbers staging offshore Lorain, earlier in the day Gabe Leidy and I counted no less than 140 from shore" (JB). One to three were spotted at Lorain Impoundment and LaDue Reservoir in September. Many saw a late migrant from Edgewater Marina 10/25 through 11/2.

High Counts	Count	Date	Location	Obs.
Black-bellied Plover	6	10/5/14	Burke Lakefront Airport	JB
Semipalmated Plover	35	8/1/14	Burke Lakefront Airport	JB
Pectoral Sandpiper	43	4/6/14	Camden Substation - flooded field, Lorain County	VF
Semipalmated SP.	42	8/9/14	Sandy Ridge Reservation	m. obs.
Short-billed Dowitcher	49	7/23/14	Sandy Ridge Reservation	PM
Wilson's Snipe	27	4/4/14	Frohring Meadows	IS
American Woodcock	12	3/22/14	Frohring Meadows	WH
Spotted Sandpiper	33	8/15/14	Cleveland Harbor Breakwall	RKK
Willet	12	6/30/14	Headlands Beach State Park	CCh, CD
Lesser Yellowlegs	56	5/3/14	Garman Rd., Medina County	KHO
Bonaparte's Gull	6000	11/24/14	Eastlake Seawall (Eastlake Power Plant)	CCh
Ring-billed Gull	22000	1/21/14	Wendy Park, Whiskey Island	JB
Herring Gull	17000	1/12/14	Wendy Park, Whiskey Island	TB
Thayer's Gull	4	1/19/14	Wendy Park, Whiskey Island. Two first-cycles, two adults.	JB
Lesser Bk.-backed Gull	13	1/3/14	Lakefront Reservation - Edgewater Park	JB
Glaucous Gull	71	3/9/14	Wendy Park, Whiskey Island	JB
Great Bk.-backed Gull	320	1/9/14	Huntington Reservation	JB
Caspian Tern	192	5/2/14	Headlands Beach State Park	CCh
Common Tern	950	10/7/14	Huntington Reservation	JB
Forster's Tern	61	5/11/14	Huntington Reservation	EBr



Gull and Tern Comparisons Chuck Slusarczyk, Jr.



Snowy Owl – Lake County
 11/26/2014 Sally Isacco

Barn Owl. Rob Harlan heard one calling several times as it moved through his Norton neighborhood the evening of 4/11, noting he has heard them several times previously at this site and time of year; then, after dark on 6/7, another was heard there while flying over (RSH).

Snowy Owl. Everyone knows about the season's Snowy Owl irruption, apparent in November 2013 when the lakefront had visitors at several Cleveland locations. Single birds were found at Wendy Park, CLNP, Huntington Reservation and East 55th Street Marina in early December. By the 12th of December, 23 Ohio counties had snowies. The peak counts were tallied by many: four on 12/1 at the Edgewater Yacht Club Marina's outer breakwall, Burke Lakefront Airport had two by 12/10, Lorain harbor with three on 12/21, two east of Fairport along route 535 on 12/21, four at Fairport Harbor

on 12/23, and Cleveland Hopkins Airport with eight on 12/29. Area inland reports came from Medina County with one at Valley City on 12/9 (JB) and one in Montville Township as seen from I-71 on 1/22 (CW, SJ). Numbers declined in January, though three remained at Hopkins Airport through 2/7 (JB) and the same number at Carlisle Reservation on 2/13 (BRA). Latest owl was one staying at Cleveland Hopkins until 3/17. The following fall, a single Snowy was seen the last week of November at Fairport Harbor.

Long-eared Owl. Six individuals were found in our region: from 12/5/13 to 1/6 at CLNP, Erie Street Cemetery on 1/15 (AM), Hiram College's James H. Barrow Field Station property in Hiram Township on 4/5 and 4/11 (BG), Headlands on 4/18, and in the CVNP's Virginia Kendall region on 4/22 (DAC).

Short-eared Owl. Frohring Meadows hosted one owl on 12/4/13 (WH) and again in the spring on 4/8 (IS). Airports provided good gathering spots the winter of 2013-14 where numbers approached the Snowy Owl irruption; Cleveland Hopkins had a peak of eight on 12/19/13 (CSj) while Lorain County Airport had five on 12/29/13 and three on 1/4. Lake Abram in Big Creek Reservation had one on 12/29/13 (TM, TK) and again on 1/3 (RKK). A couple of spring owls were sighted at Headlands on 4/12 and 4/21. The following fall two were observed at Lorain Impoundment on 11/25 and 11/29.

Northern Saw-whet Owl. At the CLNP, an owl hidden in a pine near the parking lot was seen and photographed by many 12/1/13 through 12/19, while inside the gate two more were spotted on 12/14/13. In the spring another was seen in the same park on 4/7 (JB). The following fall, a Saw-whet was found inside the CLNP 10/10 through 10/26. Headlands had one on 10/23. Inga Schmidt was lucky to find one on her Bainbridge property on 10/22 and 11/17 (IS).

Common Nighthawk. The Chasars counted 40 on 5/20 in the CVNP at Station Road (DAC), which contrasted with records of mostly single birds seen in the spring. Leo Deininger had one to two every night throughout the summer over his residence near Lake View Cemetery, the first time in many years (LD). Largest fall flocks were seen 8/30 through 9/3. A very late nighthawk was flushed from the ground at the railroad tracks at Fairport Nursery Road (Lake County) on 11/3, landing 20 feet away and giving good views of wing and throat field marks, before it flew and landed in a nearby tree (CSw).

Eastern Whip-poor-will. Two were heard calling the evening of 4/13 at Silver Creek Metro Park's Pheasant Run Trailhead (PH). One flushed at Mentor Headlands on 5/2 (CCh), after being first heard 5/1 (PK). The annual Cleveland Spring Bird Walks discovered one on 5/18 at Shaker Lakes' Lower Lake (CSBW). In northern Hinckley Township, Elizabeth McQuaid heard one calling on 6/15 during a nightjar survey (EM).

Chimney Swift. Dwight and Ann Chasar chronicled a fall roost at the Woodridge Middle School chimney in Peninsula beginning with 925 counted on 8/30 and ending the fall season with 185 on 10/17, the lowest count of their 10 visits (DAC); they also counted 700 at a school chimney in Cuyahoga Heights on 9/4.

Rufous Hummingbird. A North Royalton Rufous that arrived at a private feeder 10/12/13 was last seen 12/14/13; it was caught and successfully banded during that time (AC, *Ohio Cardinal*).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. A pair reportedly bred at a Portage County residential property; a juvenile was spotted 7/25 and individual birds were found there until 9/15 (SH).

Merlin. Seen nearly year-round throughout our area. Dan Best observed a Merlin land on a utility pole with its prey at a strip mall in Mentor on 12/16 (DB). Calvary Cemetery in Garfield Heights remains the go-to spot to see one or more birds in the colder months. Rarer summer sightings included one at Rocky River Reservation on 7/31 (JB), another at Chippewa Lake's Krabill Shelter on 8/15 (KHO) and a third at Cleveland Hopkins Airport on 8/19 (EM).



**Saw-whet Owl with mouse - Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve
Cuyahoga County
12/1/2013 Judy Semroc**

High Counts	Count	Date	Location	Obs.
Mourning Dove	57	12/20/13	Rocky River	TK, EM
Screech Owl	5	5/1/14	Webb Park, Lakewood	AM
Snowy Owl	8	12/29/13	Hopkins Airport	JB
Barred O. (3 adults, 3 juv.)	6	5/26/14	Chapin Forest Reservation, Lake County	CCh
Common Nighthawk	65	9/2/14	Cuyahoga Valley NP - Redlock North	DAC
Red-headed WP.	10	10/1/14	Cuyahoga Valley NP - Station Rd. Railroad (Cuyahoga Co.)	DAC
Y.-bellied Sapsucker	8	9/28/14	Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve	EM
Northern Flicker	50	4/13/14	Headlands Beach State Park	JM
Pileated Woodpecker	6	4/27/14	Station Road, CVNP	HTr
American Kestrel	5	7/26/14	Burke Lakefront Airport	JB



White-eyed Vireo – Euclid Creek Reservation, Cuyahoga County 11/29/2014 Nancy Anderson

Olive-sided Flycatcher. In the fall, two were spotted at Shaker Lakes Nature Center on 8/29 (VF, GN).

Alder Flycatcher. Three locations had counts of four birds: Lake Erie Bluffs on 5/14 (JP), Swine Creek Reservation on 5/18 (CSBW) and the CVNP's Oak Hill trails on 5/24 (DAC).

Northern Shrike. Twelve individuals were logged in eBird, evenly split between all counties during the 2013-14 winter and fall 2014. The exception was a late bird on 4/9 at Lake Erie Bluffs (JP).

White-eyed Vireo. John Pogacnik had a late fall migrant on 12/2/13 west of the Lane Road entrance to Lake Erie Bluffs (JP). Nancy Anderson found a very late migrant at Wildwood Park the following fall on 11/29/14, tailing it to verify ID and get several photographs (NA).

Fish Crow. After six were first spotted in Shaker Heights in April 2012, these new arrivals have gradually spread and were seen in 2014 at Edgewater Park, CLNP and Mayfield.

Horned Lark. Common in their known habitat, largest numbers were at their typical winter farmland locations.

Purple Martin. The Nimisila Reservoir fall staging roost continued to produce high numbers with 20,000 estimated on several August dates.

Bank Swallow. The high lakefront cliffs at Lake Erie Bluffs Metropark is

summer home to hundreds; 600 was the high count on 5/14 (JP). South Chagrin Reservation had counts over 100 in June.

Cliff Swallow. At least 80 were counted at Wendy Park on 4/30 (JB). Over 100 mud nests were visible at the dam's water control tower at West Branch SP; 150 Cliff Swallows were counted there on 5/13 (AB). Many accounts of double-digit sightings May through July.

Red-breasted Nuthatch. Area-wide summer feeder visitors made appearances in June and July, though no evidence of nesting was reported.

Winter Wren. One or two birds were regularly observed singing in the CVNP's Kendall Ledges hemlocks in June and July.

Sedge Wren. A single bird on 5/14 at Lake Erie Bluffs was the only spring record (JP). One or two birds were observed at Springfield Bog throughout July and at Mentor Marsh's Wake Robin Trail in early October, staying through 11/5 (JT). This was a record late date for our area, remaining so for scarcely a week until a new record late date came from Medina County's Letha House Park-Great Horned Owl Bridle Trail, when Ken and Helen Ostermiller got good looks and heard the diagnostic "chat" calls on 11/13 (KHO).

Marsh Wren. Two locations stood out for a bounty of Marsh Wrens: the Chippewa Lake Inlet Trail gave the

Ostermillers counts of nine on 6/1 and eight on 6/20 (KHO), while the Lorain Impoundment had nine on 7/2 (VF) and ten on 7/5 (EM).

Golden-crowned Kinglet. October 16th and 17th witnessed a wave of migrants that offered counts in the hundreds at many lakefront locations. Jen Brumfield tallied 480 at Wendy Park/Whiskey Island on 10/16 (JB), the Ostermillers estimated at least 500 at CLNP on 10/17 (KHO) and eight other reports of 100+ birds were made during that time period.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet. Rare in January, on 1/1 Ken Andrews spied one along the Buckeye Trail in Bedford Reservation (KA). There were several reports of a hundred or more birds migrating on 10/16 and 10/17, almost rivaling Golden-crowns for that period, including 350 at CLNP on 10/17 (KHO).

Northern Wheatear. Many had the chance to see this rarity at Headlands beach 9/9 through 9/16. (See Ray Hannikman's account on page 22.)

Hermit Thrush. Hardy mid-winter birds included one on 1/14 at Calvary Cemetery in Garfield Heights (PC) and another at South Chagrin Reservation on 2/20 (DH). Brecksville Reservation had a singing Hermit on 7/12 and on 7/26 (DAC). On a very productive weather-induced fallout of autumn migrants, Jen Brumfield counted 75 at Whiskey Island on 10/16 (JB).

Gray Catbird. Seven records of wintering birds. Three were feeding with a large group of robins at North Chagrin Reservation's Oxbow Lagoon on 12/14/13 (DM). Euclid Creek Reservation's Wildwood Park had a bird seen throughout December until 1/4 (NA). On 1/16 Philip Chaon found one at the CVNP Station Road beaver marsh south of the parking lot (PC).

Brown Thrasher. On 1/13 a rare winter resident was found at Lake Erie Bluffs (TF).

Northern Mockingbird. Widespread, with records in every county, though rarer away from the lake. Wendy and Edgewater Parks continue to be the best locations.

American Pipit. Along with a dozen area records for spring and for fall, the Headlands Dunes area was the go-to spot to see pipits arrive in September

with one to six birds seen daily. On 11/21, 60 were counted at Szalay's Farm in the CVNP (PCy).

Lapland Longspur. Largely coinciding with Snow Bunting flocks but less than a quarter the number of individuals.

Snow Bunting. As with Horned Larks, largest concentrations were the Geauga County Amish farm fields, with counts as high as 250 on several early-March dates.

High Counts	Count	Date	Location	Obs.
Willow Flycatcher	30	6/9/14	Lake Erie Bluffs Metropark	CD
Eastern Kingbird	25	6/9/14	Lake Erie Bluffs Metropark	CD
Yellow-throated Vireo	14	5/31/14	Eldon Russell Park	MV
Blue-headed Vireo	8	5/4/14	Rocky River - Nature Center Trails Cle. Spring Bird Walks	CSBW
Blue Jay	255	5/14/14	Lake Erie Bluffs	JP
American Crow	325	2/2/14	CVNP Towpath - Ira Road - Hunt Farm	FL, EM
Horned Lark	180	1/4/14	Hayes Road, Geauga County	SI
Horned Lark	180	2/16/14	Hayes Road, Geauga County	CP
N. Rough-winged Sw.	130	8/6/14	Sandy Ridge Reservation	VF
Purple Martin	20000	8/30/14	Nimisila Reservoir	PM
Tree Swallow	300	7/29/14	Mentor Marsh State Nature Preserve - Wake Robin	RB, CD
Bank Swallow	600	5/14/14	Lake Erie Bluffs Metropark - Cliff Colony	JP
Barn Swallow	250	7/29/14	Mentor Marsh State Nature Preserve - Wake Robin	RB, CD
Cliff Swallow	150	5/13/14	West Branch State Park Dam	AB
Black-capped Chick.	40	2/2/14	Firestone Metro Park	DAC
Tufted Titmouse	30	2/2/14	Firestone Metro Park	DAC
Red-breasted Nuthatch	6	4/20/14	Gates Mills, Cleveland Spring Bird Walks	CSBW
Brown Creeper	20	10/16/14	Wendy Park, Whiskey Island	JB
Golden-cr. Kinglet	500	10/16/14	Headlands Beach State Park	RH
Golden-cr. Kinglet	500	10/17/14	Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve	KHO
Golden-cr. Kinglet	480	10/16/14	Wendy Park, Whiskey Island	JB
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	350	10/17/14	Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve	KHO
Eastern Bluebird	35	10/30/14	CVNP Boston Towpath Trailhead	HO
Veery	22	5/14/14	Lake Erie Bluffs Metropark	JP
Swainson's Thrush	50	9/7/14	Cleve. Hts. - Est. flyover, dawn after cold front prev. eve.	AJ
Hermit Thrush	75	10/16/14	Wendy Park, Whiskey Island	JB
Wood Thrush	17	5/14/14	Lake Erie Bluffs Metropark	JP
American Robin	630	8/16/14	Chagrin River Road	IS
Gray Catbird	100	5/14/14	Lake Erie Bluffs Metropark	JP
Brown Thrasher	9	5/3/14	Headlands Dunes State Nature Preserve	TF
European Starling	5000	12/25/13	Lake County Landfill	CCh
American Pipit	60	11/21/14	CVNP - Szalay's farm fields	PCy
Cedar Waxwing	189	10/20/14	Ira Road towpath beaver marsh	TMR
Lapland Longspur	110	12/15/13	Lorain Harbor	GL



**Northern Wheatear – Headlands Beach
Lake County**
9/9/2014 Rich Kassouf

**A September Beauty – First Record of
Northern Wheatear for the Cleveland
Region and Headlands Beach State Park
September 9 – 16, 2014**

Ray Hannikman

It was a typical beginning to my birding day – walking east on the State Nature Preserve beach. Quickly I noticed a thrush-sized bird land on a pile of driftwood – rich cinnamon underparts, bold white eye-stripe and, in flight, a white rump and black tail band. I thought “wheatear” but it had been 37 years since I had seen this species and those birds were very different-looking in breeding plumage. As the bird made short flights down the beach, that white rump screamed “wheatear” in my brain – but no one was with me to verify the sighting. I made a few calls (some of which got to voicemail) and texts and finally got Peter Keefe who said he would get to Headlands as soon as he could. But in the process of making the calls, I had lost the bird. After Peter arrived we discussed strategy – Peter went to the Coast Guard beach but did not find the wheatear. As I started to retrace my steps, the wheatear appeared and so did Peter for a second independent observer verification. I texted Jen Brumfield, who put the sighting on the Ohio Birds List Serve (listserv.miamioh.edu - ed.), made a few more calls, reached more birders, and Wheatear Mania was on!

During the wheatear’s eight-day visit it remained faithful to Nature Preserve beach areas. The bird would fly from one pile of driftwood, perch momentarily, then fly off to another driftwood pile with exposed snags, as if reveling in its notoriety. Abundant crickets and other beach bugs were caught and consumed by the wheatear and its regular beach routine allowed birders to enjoy and photograph this cooperative vagrant.

In the western hemisphere Northern Wheatear nests in eastern Canada, Greenland, and Alaska. Most probably our Headlands bird originated in eastern Canada. The species is a rare, usually autumn, vagrant to the eastern United States mainly along Atlantic coastal areas. It occurs much less frequently in inland states and Canadian provinces. With five or fewer sightings from Ohio it is truly a special prize for Ohio birders.

Special thanks go to Jen Brumfield for her daily posts to Ohio Birds about the status of the wheatear at Headlands and to Jerry Talkington for his daily hospitality in showing the bird (to) all those came to Headlands to enjoy Wheatear Mania.

Worm-eating Warbler. Four reports, all mid-May. At Penitentiary Glen one was spotted on 5/7 (CD). On 5/10 a bird was seen at South Chagrin Reservation (KA). The next day while walking the RR tracks at Station Road the Chasars spotted one (DAC). Birders tracked the song of one at Sandy Ridge on 5/12.

Northern Waterthrush. A mid-summer bird was spotted from Geauga County's Maple Highlands Trail on 7/6 (SH).

Golden-winged Warbler. The earliest sighting was also the highest count of the season with three on 5/7 seen from the CVNP towpath at Ira Road (SG). A half-dozen other sightings in the following week were from the CVNP and surrounding area. In the fall migration, Headlands had an adult female on 8/29 and another individual on 9/12.

Lawrence's Warbler (hybrid). A likely sighting was reported on 9/1 from Swine Creek Reservation by Scott Huger: "Pure black 'mask' and throat, yellow body, face, nape, rump, and crown. Darkish gray-blue wings with two strong white wing bars. White outer tail feathers...Closer looks showed black mask was too dark and thick for (Black-throated Green), and body was also yellow which also eliminates pure golden-winged. Black throat was apparent, eliminating common yellow-throat and magnolia. Black on face and throat matched Golden-winged perfectly with all yellow body and face with wings like Blue-winged. Was near blue-winged when sighted. Seen from the road just east of the entrance standing on culvert for (now dry) creek." (SH).

Black-and-white Warbler. CanalWay Center in Cleveland had a mid-summer bird sighted on 7/25 (BD).

Orange-crowned Warbler. Roughly 20 records were reported mid-April to mid-May, 30 more mid-September to October, and seen throughout the area.

Connecticut Warbler. A half-dozen area spring reports; late birds on 9/21 at HBSP's Fisherman's Path (RH) and one in Rocky River on 10/2 (GC) were the only fall sightings.

Kentucky Warbler. The year had two sightings: one at Carlisle Reservation on 5/20 (NLS) and another in Rocky River's Elmwood Park the next day (AM).

Common Yellowthroat. A late migrant was heard giving its distinctive call on 12/4/13 from the CVNP towpath near Everett Road (SG).

American Redstart. Several areas covered by the annual Cleveland Spring Bird Walks reported at least 30 birds on 5/18 (CSBW), a day with many good spring migration sightings.

Cape May Warbler. At Shaker Lakes on 8/25, ten were banded in the early morning and twelve more were spotted while birding the area afterwards (GN, JWe, VF).

Northern Parula. Uncommon in summer, one was observed in the CVNP near Peninsula on 6/21 (DM) and on 6/23 (SG).

Prairie Warbler. Four reports of migrants; however, most notable were two June observations. One male was found in the CVNP in a large abandoned field behind Armington pond, seen by many 5/17 through 6/10. Another was heard and seen in the CVNP on 6/21 from Oak Hill Road near Goosefeather Pond (DAC).

Black-throated Green Warbler. Hinckley Ledges and Kendall Ledges (CVNP) boasted two to five July birds.

Yellow-breasted Chat. This uncommon, and uncertain, warbler was easily found at Lake Erie Bluffs Metropark throughout May; as many as five were counted on 5/14. Summer locations were in Bainbridge along Chagrin River Road in June and July (IS), behind Jaite headquarters in the CVNP on 6/19 (DAC), Headlands on 6/30 (CCh, CD), and the Black River Reservation on 9/5 (DL).

Edgewater Park Stationary Count	
4/1/2014, 10:35 AM - 1:50 PM	
Rich & Karen Kassouf, Paula Lozano, Bob Finkelstein, Helen Taft (Movement west to east)	
9	Double-crested Cormorant
1	Great Egret
1,944	Turkey Vulture
6	Sharp-shinned Hawk
7	Cooper's Hawk
3	Bald Eagle
15	Red-tailed Hawk
9	Killdeer
22	Greater Yellowlegs
10	shorebird sp.
200	Ring-billed Gull
21	Herring Gull
38	Rock Pigeon
2	Belted Kingfisher
3	Northern Flicker
1	Pileated Woodpecker
3	American Kestrel
1	Peregrine Falcon
112	American Crow
8	Horned Lark
5	Tree Swallow
55	American Robin
37	European Starling
52	Red-winged Blackbird
2	Eastern Meadowlark
115	Common Grackle
15	American Goldfinch

High Counts	Count	Date	Location	Obs.
Ovenbird	8	5/24/14	Cuyahoga Valley NP - Oak Hill Trails	DAC
Louisiana Waterthrush	6	6/8/14	Stebbins Gulch, Holden Arboretum	HP
Golden-winged Warbler	3	5/7/14	CVNP Ira Road towpath	SG
Blue-winged Warbler	10	5/24/14	Cuyahoga Valley NP - Oak Hill Trails	DAC

(Continued)

High Counts <i>(cont.)</i>	Count	Date	Location	Obs.
Prothonotary Warbler	16	5/31/14	Eldon Russell Park	MV
Nashville Warbler	12	10/5/14	Wendy Park, Whiskey Island	JB
Mourning Warbler	3	5/14/14	Lake Erie Bluffs Metropark	JP
Common Yellowthroat	60	5/14/14	Lake Erie Bluffs Metropark	JP
Hooded Warbler	12	6/8/14	Wisner Road, Holden Arboretum (Permit Only)	TF
American Redstart	40	5/14/14	Lake Erie Bluffs Metropark	JP
Cape May Warbler	12	8/25/14	Shaker Lakes - Nature Center	GN, VF
Cerulean Warbler	14	5/11/14	Cuyahoga Valley NP - Station Rd. Towpath Trail	PW, HTr
Magnolia Warbler	30	10/5/14	Headlands Beach State Park	RH
Bay-breasted Warbler	10	9/14/14	Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve	NA
Yellow Warbler	150	5/14/14	Lake Erie Bluffs Metropark	JP
Blackpoll Warbler	22	9/20/14	Headlands Blackbrook Audubon field trip	CD, JM
Palm Warbler	80	10/8/14	Headlands Dunes State Nature Preserve	EA, JW
Yellow-rumped Warbler	500	10/12/14	Headlands Beach State Park	RH
Yellow-throated W.	8	4/27/14	Cuyahoga Valley NP - Station Rd. Towpath - North	JWo
Black-thr. Green W.	25	5/6/14	Cuyahoga Valley NP - Ledges Trail and Octagon Shelter	DAC
Canada Warbler	12	5/24/14	Mentor Lagoons & Marsh	TF
Wilson's Warbler	18	9/14/14	Headlands Beach State Park	TF



Bay-breasted Warbler (left) and Blackpoll (right), Fall Plumage
Chuck Slusarczyk, Jr.

Grasshopper Sparrow. The CLNP had an early migrant on 4/27 (CSi). One to four were observed at Summit County's Springfield Bog from 5/6 to 7/27. On 5/7 Erie Street Cemetery hosted one (AM). Tallmadge Meadows in Munroe Falls Metro Park had a sighting on 7/9 (SG) and Bath Nature Preserve had one on 7/12 (CCa).

Henslow's Sparrow. The former Cleveland Coliseum reclaimed grasslands showcased as many as seven, seen and more often heard 5/21 through 8/2. The abandoned field beyond the CVNP's Armington Pond trail had one 5/18 through 5/26 and two on 6/6. One was found at Summit County's Springfield Bog 7/6 and 8/10.

Le Conte's Sparrow. CLNP hosted a well-seen rare winter resident 12/3/13 through 2/17. The following fall, Frohring Meadows had a migrant 9/23 to 10/19 and the Mentor Marsh Wake Robin Trail provided close-up views of one 10/3 through 10/31.

Nelson's Sparrow. Three spring records: one each at Headlands' Wake Robin Trail on 5/14 (JM), Erie Street Cemetery on 5/22 (JB), and Lake Erie Bluffs on 5/26 (EK). The following fall, Mentor Marsh State Nature Preserve's Wake Robin Trail provided birders many opportunities to see this rarity, with one to five seen 9/27 through 11/5 (RH).

Clay-colored Sparrow. A good year for this species. One was found during the Cleveland Spring Bird Walks at Holden Arboretum on 5/4 (CD). CLNP had two on 5/7 (LGh). Inga Schmidt had a rare late summer bird on her Bainbridge property on 8/22 (IS). Erie Street Cemetery hosted a bird 9/26 through 10/11, as reported by many. Lastly, one was spotted at Headlands Beach on 10/12 (TF).

Lark Sparrow. Two area occurrences. One was discovered at Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve on 5/19 (AM). At Black River Reservation's Ridgeway Trail one or two birds were found 5/28 through 7/14.

White-throated Sparrow. A rare summer appearance was a singing bird at Headlands Beach SP on 6/17 (CD).

Vesper Sparrow. There was a four-way tie for highest count: three birds were



Le Conte's Sparrow - Frohring Meadows, Geauga County
9/24/2014 *Matt Valencic*

counted at Geauga County's Orchard Hills Park on 4/10 and 4/18 (DH, KK), in Bedford Reservation at Tinkers Creek on 4/13 (FL, EM), and at Frohring Meadows on 9/28 (JH), where one was also found during the height of summer on 7/3 (KK). Otherwise single birds were reported in April and in October.

Savannah Sparrow. The Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve was home to an early sighting of one on 2/8, 2/10 and 2/15 (TF, SG).

Song Sparrow. A group at the Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve tallied at least 100 on 3/30.



Nelson's Sparrow - Headlands, Lake County
10/2/2014 *Sally Isacco*

Summer Tanager. Five May records and one in early June were logged into eBird. Earliest was a first-year molting male in Guilford Township, Medina County, on 5/2 and 5/3 (CM). On 8/6, Jon Cefus spotted a first-year male at Ira Road in its transitional green-to-red plumage (JC).

Blue Grosbeak. On 5/8 Brad Goodner found an adult male at Hiram College's James H. Barrow Field Station property in Hiram Township; "Saw clearly from 20 feet away. Male had heavy bill and wing bars against a dark blue body that clearly distinguished it from Indigo Bunting. It was along a dense thicket in a wet woodland." (BG).

Dickcissel. Chris Pierce contributed three Lorain County observations: two heard calling on 6/22 at Hill Spaulding Ditch in Grafton Township at Island Road, plus another single bird also observed there on 7/12, and finally one on 7/5 in Columbia Station at Capel and Station Roads (CP).

Bobolink. Kent Miller had a bird provide an hour long showing at CLNP on 12/3/13 (KM). It became the new late-date record for this area; the previous late date was 11/1 set in 1987.

Eastern Meadowlark. Two mid-winter reports from January: two at Lorain County Airport on 1/5 (MS) and one seen from Rt. 303 east of Cooley in Portage County on 1/31 (KM).

Yellow-headed Blackbird. A female was spotted foraging at the Lorain Impoundment on 9/9 (PM).

Rusty Blackbird. There were dozens of reports of flocks of 50 to 150, but by far the largest concentration was 630 estimated by Vic Fazio III on 4/27 at Sandy Ridge (VF).

Brewer's Blackbird. On the evening of 4/20 at Lake Erie Bluffs, Cole DeFabio briefly viewed a blackbird in the west field on the Lane Road entrance to the park: "...Its back first appeared black, but when the sun was shining on him it appeared very glossy with greenish blue sticking out. The head also appeared purplish. I then noticed a very yellow eye. This would mean it would be an adult male... I noticed a long tail...The bird also called at least twice, which upon further listening to sounds of Brewer's and Rusty back at home, I believe it was the sound of Brewer's, being a short, buzzy t-zee...I am familiar with Brewer's Blackbirds, as I

have seen many in California. It just struck me as a Brewer's when I first spotted him." (CD).

Common Grackle. On 11/10 at Hayes Road in Geauga County, Inga Schmidt witnessed 7,000 flocking into a field: "this is a very, very rough estimate, but probably low. Mixed flock, poured into the corn fields in a wide, long, long line...est. groups of 100 as they flew in" (IS).

Blackbird sp. Barberton's Lime Lakes, popular for winter blackbird flocks, hosted 20,000 birds, mostly Red-winged Blackbirds and Common Grackles, on 12/30/13 (LR, JS).

Common Redpoll. A flyover of 16 redpolls on 10/16 at Whiskey Island heralded the earliest of three reports for the coming winter season (JB). Later six were found there on 11/3 and one was heard overhead at the Kent State University wetlands on 11/14 (DM).

Pine Siskin. Winter into spring had only several reports of one to three birds, but was dwarfed by the number of observations in the following fall.

High Counts	Count	Date	Location	Obs.
Am. Tree Sparrow	135	1/20/14	Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve	VF
Field Sparrow	30	5/24/14	Lake Erie Bluffs Metropark	CD
Fox Sparrow	15	11/21/14	West Park Cemetery	RKK
Wt.-crowned Sparrow	180	10/22/14	Outer Dikes, Lorain Impoundment	VF
Wt.-throated Sparrow	480	10/16/14	Wendy Park	JB
Savannah Sparrow	25	10/5/14	Burke Lakefront Airport	JB
Song Sparrow	100	3/30/14	Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve	MV
Lincoln's Sparrow	15	5/8/14	Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve	AJ, ML
Lincoln's Sparrow	20	10/3/14	Mentor Marsh State Nature Preserve - Wake Robin	CD
Swamp Sparrow	100	10/16/14	Mentor Marsh State Nature Preserve - Wake Robin	CD
Scarlet Tanager	12	5/9/14	CVNP Kendall Ledges and Octagon Shelter trail	DM
Bobolink	45	6/22/14	Cuyahoga Valley NP - Coliseum Grasslands	FCD
Red-winged Blackbird	2600	4/10/14	Edgewater Park	JB
Eastern Meadowlark	40	5/18/14	Novak Audubon Sanctuary, Cleveland Spring Bird Walks	CSBW
Rusty Blackbird	630	4/27/14	Sandy Ridge Reservation	VF
Bn.-headed Cowbird	300	10/31/14	Bell Rd and Munn Rd, Newbury Twp, Geauga Co	MV
Orchard Oriole	7	5/8/14	Headlands Dunes State Nature Preserve	CCh
Baltimore Oriole	30	5/8/14	Headlands Dunes State Nature Preserve	CCh
Pine Siskin	153	11/4/14	Sunset Park Lake, Lake Co., E-to-W flights during 1.5 hour	CCh
American Goldfinch	113	10/22/14	Sandy Ridge	KHO

CVNP Spring Census - May 17, 2014

Reported by Dwight Chasar

198	Canada Goose	0	Olive-sided F. (<i>hit or miss</i>)	12	Cedar Waxwing
23	Wood Duck	47	Eastern Wood-Pewee	29	Ovenbird (<i>on the low side</i>)
40	Mallard	0	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (<i>very irregular, often missed</i>)	6	Louisiana Waterthrush
2	Hooded Merganser (<i>irregularly missed in recent years due to RR track closure for Bald Eagle nesting</i>)	34	Acadian Flycatcher	6	Northern Waterthrush
4	Wild Turkey	0	Alder Flycatcher (<i>often missed, late arriver</i>)	32	Blue-winged Warbler
1	Common Loon (<i>first ever on spring census, a flyover</i>)	4	Willow Flycatcher	1	Black-and-white Warbler
21	Double-crested Cormorant (<i>new high</i>)	2	Least Flycatcher	4	Prothonotary Warbler
148	Great Blue Heron	31	Eastern Phoebe	73	Tennessee Warbler
8	Green Heron	30	Great Crested Flycatcher	7	Nashville Warbler
42	Turkey Vulture	17	Eastern Kingbird	1	Mourning Warbler
1	Sharp-shinned Hawk	4	White-eyed Vireo	145	Common Yellowthroat
7	Cooper's Hawk	24	Yellow-throated Vireo	63	Hooded Warbler
4	Bald Eagle	7	Blue-headed Vireo	81	American Redstart (<i>all time high by more than double</i>)
6	Red-shouldered Hawk	2	Philadelphia Vireo	3	Cape May Warbler
5	Broad-winged Hawk	70	Warbling Vireo	8	Cerulean Warbler
13	Red-tailed Hawk	165	Red-eyed Vireo	6	Northern Parula
1	Virginia Rail	179	Blue Jay	60	Magnolia W. (<i>on the high side</i>)
2	Sora	115	American Crow	6	Bay-breasted Warbler
1	American Coot (<i>irregular find</i>)	76	N. Rough-winged Sw.	15	Blackburnian W. (<i>all time high</i>)
12	Killdeer	77	Tree Swallow (<i>trending down over the years</i>)	145	Yellow W. (<i>on the low side</i>)
3	American Woodcock	27	Bank Swallow	11	Chestnut-sided W.
10	Spotted Sandpiper	75	Barn Swallow	15	Blackpoll Warbler
4	Solitary Sandpiper	138	Black-capped Chickadee	9	Black-throated Blue W.
13	Ring-billed Gull	145	Tufted Titmouse	6	Palm Warbler
14	Herring Gull	2	Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	Pine Warbler
3	Rock Pigeon	55	White-breasted Nuthatch	14	Yellow-rumped Warbler
94	Mourning Dove	1	Brown Creeper	4	Yellow-throated Warbler
2	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	18	House Wren (<i>on the low side</i>)	1	Prairie W. (<i>very irregularly found</i>)
2	Black-billed Cuckoo	1	Winter Wren	14	Black-throated Green W.
2	Barred Owl	1	Marsh Wren	6	Canada Warbler
12	Common Nighthawk (<i>hasn't been easy to get on spring census, often missed; two teams found them overhead in evening</i>)	10	Carolina Wren	4	Wilson's Warbler
32	Chimney Swift (<i>lowest count; probably weather related</i>)	95	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	0	Henslow's Sparrow (<i>one found next day in a covered territory</i>)
23	Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	0	Ruby-crowned Kinglet (<i>normally we find a few but also missed in 2012 and 2013, probably due to late census dates</i>)	66	Chipping Sparrow
14	Belted Kingfisher	21	Eastern Bluebird	48	Field Sparrow
4	Red-headed Woodpecker	12	Veery	5	Dark-eyed Junco
115	Red-bellied Woodpecker	1	Gray-cheeked Thrush (<i>occasionally find one</i>)	3	White-crowned Sparrow (<i>movement through Cuyahoga Valley slim at best</i>)
54	Downy Woodpecker	48	Swainson's Thrush (<i>previous high was 20</i>)	1	White-throated Sparrow (<i>result of late census date</i>)
23	Hairy Woodpecker (<i>high</i>)	2	Hermit Thrush	181	Song Sparrow
31	Northern Flicker	42	Wood Thrush	17	Swamp Sparrow
33	Pileated Woodpecker	225	American Robin	32	Eastern Towhee (<i>on the low side</i>)
1	American Kestrel	141	Gray Catbird	52	Scarlet Tanager
1	Peregrine Falcon	3	Brown Thrasher	239	Northern Cardinal
		40	European Starling (<i>low</i>)	43	Rose-breasted Grosbeak

(Continued next page)

96	Indigo Bunting	98	Common Grackle	13	House Finch
6	Bobolink	66	Brown-headed Cowbird	204	American Goldfinch
484	Red-winged Blackbird	7	Orchard Oriole	12	House Sparrow
2	Eastern Meadowlark	56	Baltimore O. (<i>on the low side</i>)		
				134	Total Species

CVNP Fall Census - September 20, 2014

Reported by Dwight Chasar

The fall census started in 1983 but we counted only species. Dates varied from 9/12 to 9/23 since 1998 when we started counting individuals. Where comments are not made below, the counts fell within the normally observed historic range.

- 56-72 degrees, sunny, slight wind
- 102 species – 10th highest (vs. 115) out of 22 years since I started coordinating the census in 1992
- 51 observers, 20 teams - most observers on a fall census
- Total individuals counted was 6105, about average

474	Canada Goose	42	Eastern Phoebe	10	Magnolia Warbler
37	Wood Duck	1	White-eyed Vireo	1	Bay-breasted Warbler
39	Mallard	1	Yellow-throated Vireo	3	Blackburnian Warbler
18	Blue-winged Teal (<i>first in 10 years, highest ever count</i>)	3	Blue-headed Vireo	1	Yellow Warbler
1	Wild Turkey	11	Warbling Vireo	1	Chestnut-sided Warbler
2	Pied-billed Grebe	11	Red-eyed Vireo	5	Blackpoll Warbler
1	Double-cr. Cormorant	449	Blue Jay	3	Black-throated Blue W.
19	Great Blue Heron	176	American Crow	1	Palm Warbler
9	Green Heron	280	Black-cap. Chickadee	3	Pine Warbler
43	Turkey Vulture	129	Tufted Titmouse	2	Yellow-rumped Warbler
3	Cooper's Hawk	2	Red-breasted Nuthatch	5	Black-throated Green W.
2	Bald Eagle	158	Wh.-breasted Nuthatch	4	Wilson's Warbler
12	Red-shouldered Hawk	6	Brown Creeper	22	Chipping Sparrow
1	Broad-winged Hawk	6	House Wren	11	Field Sparrow
23	Red-tailed Hawk	35	Carolina Wren	3	White-throated Sparrow
21	Killdeer	71	Eastern Bluebird	1	Savannah Sparrow
1	Ring-billed Gull	1	Veery	68	Song Sparrow
31	Rock Pigeon	1	Gray-cheeked Thrush	1	Lincoln's Sparrow
109	Mourning Dove	11	Swainson's Thrush	1	Swamp Sparrow
1	Common Nighthawk	1	Wood Thrush	20	Eastern Towhee
727	Chimney Swift (<i>highest ever</i>)	569	American Robin	12	Scarlet Tanager
1	Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	94	Gray Catbird	165	Northern Cardinal
14	Belted Kingfisher	1	Northern Mockingbird	10	Rose-br. Grosbeak
19	Red-headed WP	68	European Starling (<i>lowest ever</i>)	6	Indigo Bunting
154	Red-bellied WP (<i>highest count ever</i>)	288	Cedar Waxwing	544	Red-winged Blackbird
124	Downy Woodpecker	2	Ovenbird	1	Eastern Meadowlark
29	Hairy Woodpecker	3	Black-and-white Warbler	328	Common Grackle
76	Northern Flicker	3	Black-and-white Warbler	12	Brown-headed Cowbird
32	Pileated Woodpecker	1	Prothonotary W. (<i>first ever</i>)	2	Baltimore Oriole
1	American Kestrel	4	Tennessee Warbler	21	House Finch
1	Merlin	4	Nashville Warbler	270	American Goldfinch
17	Eastern Wood-Pewee	1	Mourning Warbler	39	House Sparrow
4	Acadian Flycatcher	26	Common Yellowthroat		
1	Alder Flycatcher (<i>first ever</i>)	18	Hooded Warbler	101	Total Species
		7	American Redstart		
		1	Cape May Warbler		

Contributors

m. obs.	Many/Multiple Observers	LGh	Laura Gooch	EM	Elizabeth McQuaid
EA	Elizabeth Ames	BG	Brad Goodner	DMY	Dennis Mersky
NA	Nancy Anderson	KG	Kurt Grenig	AM	Aaron Milenski
KA	Ken Andrews	SG	Sandra Griffiths	KM	Kent Miller
BRA	Black River Audubon Society	RH	Ray Hannikman	GN	Gary Neuman
EBk	Emil Bacik	RSH	Rob & Sandy Harlan	HO	Hope Orr
NB	Nick Barber	JH	Jeff Harvey	KHO	Ken & Helen Ostermiller
TB	H. Thomas Bartlett	WH	Wes Hatch	HP	Hans Petruschke
AB	Aaron Bartley	PHe	Peter Hellman	CP	Chris Pierce
GB	Greg Bennett	PH	Paul Hoffer	JP	John Pogacnik
DB	Dan Best	DJH	Dick & Jean Hoffman	BP	Bob Powell
RB	Roger Beuck	DH	Dick Hoopes	FR	Frances Raskin
SB	Steven Bouyack	NH	Nancy Howell	TMR	Tom & Mary Anne Romito
EBr	Eric Bruder	SH	Scott Huge	LR	Larry Rosche
JB	Jen Brumfield	SI	Sally Isacco	MS	Mike Sandy
GBy	Garnet Byrne	TJ	Tim Jasinski	ES	Eric Schlabach
CCa	Craig Caldwell	AJ	Andy Jones	IS	Inga Schmidt
JC	John Cefus	SJ	Susan Jones	RS	Rita Schneider
PC	Philip Chaon	EK	Edward Kamposek	JS	Judy Semroc
AC	Allen Chartier	RKK	Rich & Karen Kassouf	NLS	Nic & Lynne Shayko
DAC	Dwight & Ann Chasar	RK	Rachele Kappler	PS	Paul Sherwood
CCh	Cory Chiappone	PK	Peter Keefe	CSj	Chuck Slusarczyk, Jr.
CSBW	Cleveland Spring Bird Walks	KK	Kelly Kozlowski	DS	Daniel Smith
GC	George Coleman	IK	Irene Krise	JSt	Joan Sturtevant
PCy	Pat Coy	TK	Tim Krynak	CSw	Chris Swan
GCu	Greg Cudworth	DL	Dick Lee	JT	Jerry Talkington
BD	Bill Deininger	GL	Gabe Leidy	HTr	Henry Trimpe
LD	Leo Deininger	ML	Michelle Leighty	MV	Matthew Valencic
CD	Cole DeFabio	PL	Paula Lozano	JWe	Julie West
FCD	Fred & Cheryl Dinkelbach	FL	Fred Losi	SW	Sean Williams
VF	Vic Fazio III	DM	Doug Marcum	CW	Clyde Witt
JF	Joseph Ford	TM	Terri Martincic	JWo	Joe Wojnarowski
RF	Robert Finkelstein	CM	Christine McAnlis.	EW	Ed Wransky
TF	Tom Frankel	JM	Jim McConnor	JWr	Jay Wright
LG	Linda Gilbert	PM	Patricia McKelvey	PW	Phyllis Wright
MG	Marsha Gilger	JMc	Joel McNeal		

Some submissions are received indirectly through forwarded correspondence (*fide* = "in trust of").

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