

amazing High Park trio was the Wilson's Warbler 1-18 Dec (SF), after which it must have succumbed to the -30° C wind chill. The Summer Tanager at Woodstock was found dead 6 Dec (ph. MM). An Eastern Towhee was counted at Carleton Place on the C.B.C. 27 Dec, and a female came to a feeder in Middlesex 1 Dec+. The only Spotted Towhee was in the north, where it attended a feeder at Ignace (ph. DPe). A Field Sparrow, also quite far n. of usual, frequented a feeder at Deep River—count week for the C.B.C. and still present 10 Jan. At P.P.N.P., there were very few White-throated Sparrows this winter. An imm. Golden-crowned Sparrow continued to be seen along Hall's Road in Whitby until about 10 Dec. Notable reports of White-crowned Sparrow included a single on the Warton C.B.C. 19 Dec, 8 on the Oshawa C.B.C. 19 Dec, 15 on the Woodhouse C.B.C. 19 Dec, 50 on the St. Clair C.B.C. 1 Jan, and 70 in the P.P.B.A. 20 Dec. Harris's Sparrow reports included one at Atikokan 20 Dec-15 Jan (DHE), one at Welcome 18 Dec-17 Jan, one found dead 28 Jan at Staples (MR), and one at Orillia 19 Jan+ (MSc).

A total of 5 Northern Cardinals spent the winter at North Bay, and there were 2 found far n. on the Thunder Bay C.B.C. 26 Dec. Po-

tentially a first for Canada, a female *Pyrrhuloxia* found on the West Elgin C.B.C. 27 Dec (ph. BC) was later seen by many until 1 Jan. While its identity is not questioned, the O.B.R.C. will no doubt have discussions about its provenance; there was a minor irruption of this species out of range in late fall and winter. The only Rose-breasted Grosbeak was reported 19 Dec on the Woodhouse C.B.C. Three Brewer's Blackbirds, all males, were at Erieau 2 Dec (AW), and a single was at Long Point 18 Dec for the C.B.C. A major highlight this winter for Ontario birders was the Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch (interior race) at the feeder of John Somerset near Chelmsford, Sudbury. It arrived 19 Dec and remained until 25 Feb. (ph. CE). Red Crossbills were exceptionally scarce, although a few were seen 16 Dec along the Barron R. road in Algonquin Park (MRu). Common Redpolls came southward in good numbers, along with a few Hoary Redpolls: one at Darlington P.P. 13 Feb (TH), 2 at Moscow 25 Jan (OW), one at Camden East 28 Feb (PJG), 2 at the Siberian Bed & Breakfast w. of Orillia, and one on the Ontario side of the Ottawa C.B.C. 19 Dec. At North Bay, the count of Evening Grosbeaks was just 79 on the 19 Dec C.B.C., while on the Ottawa C.B.C., none were noted.

**Corrigendum:** The 4 Greater White-fronted Geese at Sturgeon Creek (N.A.B. 57: 340) were seen 23 Mar, not 23 May.

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# Eastern Highlands & Upper Ohio River Valley



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The winter period is by far the most dynamic for avian activity in the Region. Between late fall migration and early spring migration, winter incursions of cyclical irruptives and facultative migrants were punctuated by real surprises, such as this season's Chuck-will's-widow near Cincinnati, perhaps a reversed migrant, along with three new species for Pennsylvania. As in surrounding areas, the warm late fall caused waterfowl to delay their departure until severe Arctic blasts began in mid-December. An early January thaw offered a brief respite, perhaps inducing vulture and cranes to remain when normally they are

long gone. Wintry weather in the west, among the snowiest and coldest in Ohio's history, contrasted with a milder season east of the Allegheny Front, where there was light to moderate snowfall and no deep-freeze; most lakes were open in time for the start of waterfowl migration near the end of the period. After a dramatic shift in both ice and waterfowl concentrations on Lake Erie 20 January, the gull concentrations at warm-water outlets were remarkable. A pulse of near-record warmth in mid-February, reaching into the southern portions of the Region, brought a brief taste of spring and a few overly enthusiastic migrants (e.g., Lesser Yellowlegs) before giving way again to a winter pattern.

**Abbreviations:** Hoover (Hoover Res., Franklin/Delaware, OH); K.I. (Kelleys I., Erie, OH); K.P.W.A. (Killdeer Plains W.A., Wyandot/Marion, OH); L. Ontelaunee (Berks, PA); N.S.P. (Nockamixon S.P., Bucks, PA); O.D.N.R. (Ohio Department of Natural Resources); P.O.R.C. (Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee); P.I.S.P. (Presque Isle S.P., Erie, PA); P.V.P. (Peace Valley Park, Bucks, PA); S.G.L. (State Game Lands).

## LOONS THROUGH VULTURES

In Ohio, single Common Loons wintered in *Hamilton* (RF et al.), *Delaware* (RT), and *Lucas* (fide G. Links). Late-fall Red-throated Loons were found at L. Perez, *Huntingdon*, PA 2 Dec (A. Fuller), N.S.P. 19 Dec (BE), and in Ohio 1–11 Dec from *Summit* (GB), *Erie* (VF), and *Lake* (JP). Single Red-necked Grebes appeared at P.I.S.P. 1 Jan (JM), on the Maumee R., OH 2 Jan, in *Holmes*, OH 22 Jan (L. Jordan), and 29 Jan in *Lake*, OH (JP). A late Eared Grebe was at P.I.S.P. 18 Dec (JM, BC). The Western Grebe in Ohio from the fall period remained through 8 Dec (S. Landes). The only mid-winter Horned Grebes on L. Erie appeared in Lorain Harbor 11–15 Jan (CC, P. Lozano). The first American White Pelicans to winter in the L. Erie Basin involved perhaps 2 birds: one that roamed between Vermilion, *Erie* and Lorain, *Lorain*, OH 2–27 Jan (J. Vormelker, CC, m.ob.), and it, or another, at Rossford, *Wood* on the Maumee R. 19–21 Feb (J. McKinney, m.ob.). Great Cormorants continue to spread inland, with 3 present at N.S.P. 25 Dec (BE).

An American Bittern near Mt. Orab, *Brown*, OH 30 Jan (B. Stevens) was exceptional. Late Great Egrets were widespread Regionally; in *Bucks*, PA 18 Dec (BM); *Berks*, PA 30 Dec (B. Smith); *Philadelphia*, PA 8 Jan (D. McGovern et al.); 19 Dec in *Summers*, WV (J&JP); and through 27 Jan in *Putnam*, WV (KKz, C. Ellis, m.ob.). Inexplicably, wintering Great Blue Heron numbers in the Western Basin were depressed, with only 79 found 1 Jan around the Sandusky Bay (VF et

al.). The 47 birds in Parkersburg, WV 31 Dec were representative of winter numbers on the Ohio R. (C.B.C. data). The season total of 85 Black-crowned Night-Herons detected along L. Erie was led by 55 at Sandusky, *Erie* 1 Jan (S. Young et al.). Not since 1972–1973 have more been found wintering in Ohio. Away from L. Erie, one in *Holmes*, OH 6 Jan (ES, W. Sarno) and 4 along the Olentangy R., in Columbus 12 Jan (P. McSweeney) were rare. Over 1000 Turkey Vultures on Ohio C.B.C.s demonstrated the tolerance the species has developed for more northerly latitudes. No longer restricted to the Ohio R. counties, as many as 285 were found n. to *Holmes/Tuscarawas*, with 130 remaining in e. *Holmes* 9 Jan (ES). Numerous reports through the winter n. to the L. Erie shore rendered it impossible to distinguish spring migrants.

## WATERFOWL THROUGH CRANES

Fall Greater White-fronted Geese were one at P.V.P. 26–29 Dec (I. Baldock, AM), 2 at *Bluestone L.*, *Summers*, WV (J&JP), with 11 in mid-Dec throughout Ohio. These were followed by rare winter records of 2 birds in *Wyandot*, OH 14–17 Jan (RC, RR), one at L. Ontelaunee 9–18 Jan (RK, KL, B. Uhrich), and one in *Putnam*, WV 26 Jan (KKz). Coin-



Though annual in Pennsylvania, this Greater White-fronted Goose at Neville Island, Allegheny County 20 February 2005 was the first for the county in over 100 years. Photograph by Geoff Malosh.

identally, 11 total spring migrants 6–21 Feb in Ohio were reported from *Clark* (JH), *Darke* (RS), and *Ottawa* (JP), while 4 total in Pennsylvania 5–27 Feb were at P.V.P. (AM, PEL, NP), *Allegheny*, (MV, m.ob.), and N.S.P. (BE). Peak counts of Snow Geese at L. Ontelaunee 9–15 Jan ranged from 20,000 to 40,000 (RK). In Ohio, more than 130 Snow Geese lingered through Dec, with 30 wintering in the Western Basin (EP et al.). The appearance of 14 at Hoover 1 Jan (CB) likely indicated late fall migrants. The spring flight began 15 Feb, with passage of 18 birds led by 6 at K.P.W.A. 24 Feb (RE et al.). *Barnacle Goose*, a species now annual in Pennsylvania, made solo appearances at Churchville Res., *Bucks* 30 Jan (N. Zahn, DF) and P.V.P. 28 Feb (KR). Unexpected in midwinter were 4 Brant at P.V.P. 17–18 Jan (AM) and singles on *Cheat L.*, *Monongalia*, WV 11–15 Dec (MO, ph. G. Felton) and in *Ohio*, WV 15 Jan (P. McKay). Although the West Virginia records are only the 11th and 12th for the state (fide MO), the species has been annual there since 2002. Attention to “small Canada Geese” has brought about an increase in reports of Cackling Goose. Not all of these reports were accompanied by details that are conclusive, and the status of this species in the Region remains to be clarified. In Ohio, sufficient details on 27 birds suggest that Cackling Goose is an uncommon fall migrant, with up to 5 present in *Knox* as late as 21 Dec (JL). Three Jan reports, led by 5 in *Wyandot* 16–17 Jan (JL et al.), indicate the species may occasionally winter. A lone bird 12 Feb in *Ottawa* (JP) was the only spring migrant. Another 15 potential Cackling Geese were reported without details. In Pennsylvania, 5 in *Delaware* 18 Dec were likely fall migrants, while one at L. Ontelaunee 23 & 27 Feb (RK, DF) was a spring bird. Four detected in West Virginia 19–21 Dec (WA, J. Tharp II) added to the fall migrant tally.

A winged-tagged Trumpeter Swan



There are very few well-documented winter records of Broad-winged Hawk in the northeastern United States. This immature was near Beltzville, Carbon County, Pennsylvania 10 (here) through 12 January 2005. Photograph by Richard Rehrig.



This Black-headed Gull—the seventeenth species of gull reported locally—was discovered in late November on the Delaware River at Franklin's Cove, adjacent the Tullytown Landfill, Bucks County, Pennsylvania and remained in the area through 8 December 2004. It spent some time at the Falls Township Park, a five-minute flight from the landfill, where it was photographed here 2 December. Photograph by Bill Etter.

hatched in 2002 at Georgian Bay, L. Ontario was observed at Peters Creek, Berks, PA 2 Jan (KL). Another Trumpeter Swan was found at Jamestown S.P., Crawford, PA 12 Jan (RFL). A flock of 22 at K.P.W.A. 8 Feb (N. Howell et al.) is indicative of Ohio numbers 10 years into its introduction there. More than 1800 Tundra Swans remained in Ohio in mid-Dec, with 700 in the Western Basin into early Jan, although no more than 186 wintered at O.N.W.R. (EP). In West Virginia, 38 were at Morgantown 20 Dec (C.B.C. data). The 105 birds in Wyandot, OH 14 Jan (RC) were likely southward bound, and spring migration saw a little more than 200 enter the ne. part of the state 22 Feb+ (D. & J. Hochadel, J. McCormac et al.). A record 201 Mute Swans across 30 Ohio counties included 64 within the Western Basin and 54 in the ne. part of the state, a doubling of the winter population over the last 10 years.

Wood Ducks lingered, with 43 reported on Ohio C.B.C.s, and a flock 13 at N.S.P. 15 Dec (BE). Few remain to winter, so 2 on Summit L., Summit, OH 13 Jan (GB) and one through 7 Feb at Edinboro, Erie (D. Snyder) were exceptional. Early spring migrants numbered 18 at Spring Valley W.A., Warren, OH 19 Feb (L. Gaynor). The winter flock of American Black Ducks in Ohio has steadily declined for decades, so 800 at Blendon Woods Metropark., Franklin 29 Jan was encouraging (B. Simpson). Two Blue-winged Teal on the Allegheny R. near Pittsburgh 20 Feb were early migrants (D. Yagusic, C. Knoll). The aerial survey of 670 Northern Shovelers, 375 Northern Pintails, and 4835 Gadwalls in the Western Basin 8 Dec were indicative of the mild start to the season (O.D.N.R.). Spring Northern Pintails numbered 175 in Wayne, OH 26–27 Feb (BW et al., S. Snyder). An 18 Dec C.B.C. tally of 54 Green-winged Teal on the

Scioto R. bottoms, Scioto, OH was exceptional.

Greater Scaup appeared in small numbers, with 164 detected 23 Jan at K.I. (TB); in contrast, Lesser Scaup continued mid-winter gains, with 600 in Lorain 20 Jan (VF). An astounding 1400 Ring-necked Ducks were reported on Ohio C.B.C.s, with a record 130 wintering on the Scioto R. in cen. Ohio 24 Jan (RR, RT). Late-fall Surf Scoters numbered 30 in Ohio, with 3–4 wintering on L. Erie. One at Caesar Creek S.P., Warren, OH 6–23 Feb (R. Asamoto, LG) was unexpected. Up to 3 Black Scoters wintered on L. Erie in Ohio (J. Glover, N. Anderson). Two White-winged Scoters wintered on L. Erie, while ad. males inland—at Hoover 31 Dec–21 Jan (B. McNulty, CB) and at Milton



This adult Sabine's Gull confirmed a second winter record of the species on Lake Erie at Presque Isle State Park, Erie County, Pennsylvania 21 (here) through 22 December 2004. Photograph by Nate Zalik.

W.T.P., Cabell, WV 20 Jan (WA)—were unexpected. Two Harlequin Ducks were at P.I.S.P. 27 Dec (JM, ph. BC et al.). Ten Long-tailed Ducks in Ohio were led by 4 in Summit 9 Jan (GB) and singles inland to Warren 20 Feb (NS) and Clermont 28 Jan–12 Feb (M. Miller, J. Brown, m.ob.); one visited Cheat L., Monongalia, WV 12 Dec–1 Jan (J. Boback). Twenty Common Goldeneyes on the Juniata R. at Mattawanna, Mifflin, PA was a good count (G. Grove). L. Erie flocks were disappointing, with no more than 509 around K.I. 27 Feb (TB). Concentrations of 3600 Common Mergansers in Cuyahoga, OH 20 Jan (VF), 2670 in Lake, OH 25

Jan (VF, JP et al.), and 3200 in Lorain, OH 2 Feb (BW) were part of an estimated 10,800 total wintering in the Central Basin of L. Erie. Good counts were also had in se. Pennsylvania: 1000 at the Penn–Warner Tract, Bucks 9 Jan (GD), up to 2000 at Core Creek Park, Bucks, (GD), and up to 700 at Silver L. Park, Bucks (D. Filler). Red-breasted Mergansers held off fall migration later than usual: 19,800 were in the Central Basin (C.B.C. data) and 23,000 were in the Western Basin (O.D.N.R.) through mid-Dec, and as many as 1200+ remained through 20 Jan off Cleveland (VF). The late fall peak for Hooded Merganser came 9 Dec, with 465 at Hoover (RT). Two Hooded Merganser × Common Goldeneye hybrids, rare but reported regularly in Ohio, were seen: at Hoover 9 Dec (RT) and at Port Clinton, Ottawa, OH 13 Feb (ph. JP). Late-fall Ruddy Ducks included a count of 515 at L. Arthur, Butler 18 Dec (CBC) and 1150 on Wellington Res., Lorain 2 Dec (VF).

With only one previously documented winter record for Ohio, to have 2 Ospreys photographed in the state this season was unexpected. One appeared 11–12 Dec in Darke (ph. K. Schlietz & RS et al.), and the other was noted 15 Dec at Buck Creek S.P., Clark (ph. B. Menker). In Ohio, 366 Bald Eagles (247 ad., 119 imm.) included concentrations in Sandusky (56), Ottawa (49), Erie (35), Wyandot (27), and Trumbull (19) (O.D.N.R.). An above-average flight of Northern Goshawks had 6 birds detected throughout Ohio s. to Muskingum 1 Jan (JB). Two Golden Eagles wintered at The Wilds, Muskingum, OH (A. Parker, m.ob.). Several dark-morph Western Red-tailed Hawks in Ohio included singles 9 Dec on K.I. (VF), 10 Dec at Hoover (R. Richards), and 26 Dec in Mercer (JBo). The 42 Red-tailed Hawks at The Wilds, Muskingum 1 Jan afforded a good count (JB). Providing one of few well-documented winter records for ne. United States was an imm. Broad-



First noticed by a local birder at the Shamrock Tree Farm in Pomeroy, Chester, Pennsylvania, this Gray Kingbird was reported to Larry Lewis, who quickly identified it 12 (here 18) December 2004. It was not seen after 20 December. Photograph by Geoff Malosh.

**SA** Over 1800 Sandhill Cranes were detected in a record-breaking southward migration through the w. corridor, roughly centered on Cincinnati, where observers noted 1000 on 14 Dec (B. Wharton). The peak exodus came on the heels of the first Arctic blast of season, when temperatures dipped into the teens. Coupled with Nov records, the fall 2004 flight through Ohio numbered at least 2300 birds. By comparison, the record autumn flight of 1997 numbered just 1100. Not surprisingly, a record 30 Sandhill Cranes attempted to winter, led by 20–26 in *Medina* (J. Wert, m.ob.) through 13 Jan and 4 birds through 22 Jan in *Montgomery* (DD). In *Lawrence*, PA, up to 19 wintered (m.ob.).

winged Hawk near Pohopoco Creek, *Carbon*, PA 10–12 Jan (ph. R. & B. Rehrig). Merlins are now rare but regular winter throughout the Region. Pennsylvania observers recorded singles from urban Pittsburgh and 4 in *Berks* (KK, KL, MW). In Ohio, at least 28 birds were accounted for across 15 counties. In a season with a strong



One of many frugivores on the march in winter 2004–2005, this Townsend's Solitaire was discovered at State Game Lands 30 in McKean County, Pennsylvania 15 (here 21) January; it remained into March. Photograph by Geoff Malosh.

prairie influence, Ohio's first Richardson's Merlin at K.P.W.A. 19 Feb (ph. A. Boone, J. Kuenzli) did not seem so out of place. A total of 5–6 Peregrine Falcons was noted throughout the period at P.I.S.P. (JM, BC). Ohio had not one but 2 Prairie Falcons this winter. In addition to the wintering bird (in its 2nd year) at The Wilds, *Muskingum* through 29 Jan (B. Crow, m.ob.), an imm. male was found moribund near Amanda, *Fairfield* (fide O.D.N.R.).

A late Common Moorhen was flushed 18 Dec in Tinicum Twp., *Delaware*—one of the few areas in Pennsylvania where this species can be found, albeit irregularly, in Dec (R. Miller). A security guard for Parkersburg Steel in Wood, WV returned to his truck after completing his rounds to discover a Purple Gallinule standing on the tailgate 4 Jan. The distressed bird was turned into wildlife rehabilitators but died 2 days later (fide RE). A large wintering flock of American Coots at

Camp Dennison, *Hamilton*, OH 26 Dec–23 Jan numbered 810 on the first date, 400 on the latter (JS, FR, m.ob.).

### SHOREBIRDS THROUGH GULLS

Some 41 Killdeer were still at L. Cowan, *Clinton* 4 Dec (LG), and 15 were at Mercer W.A., *Mercer* 7 Dec (JBo), while a straggler at L. Erie was detected 26 Dec in *Lake* (JP). The 155 at Huntington, WV 2 Jan provided some indication of how many may winter along the Ohio R. (WA). Spring returnees to L. Erie included birds in *Medina* 9 Feb and *Lorain* 10 Feb (R. Harlan). A Lesser Yellowlegs at Gilmore Ponds, *Butler*, OH 20–27 Feb was record early for the state (ph. MB, B. Lacker). Lingering Dunlin in Ohio numbered 17 at O.N.W.R. 5 Dec (EP et al.), 8 in *Lake* 19 Dec (JP), and one in *Knox* 20 Dec (JL). A Purple Sandpiper remained at H.B.S.P. 6 Dec (D. Best). A Wilson's Snipe was n. to *Warren*, OH 16 Jan (J. Lehman). American Woodcocks returned 8 Feb to *Vinton*, OH (fide L. Andrews) and Blue Marsh L., *Berks*, PA (J. Silagy).

Among the largest concentration for the species anywhere, 64,000 Bonaparte's Gulls took shelter in Lorain Harbor, *Lorain* 3 Dec (VF). Modest numbers into winter on L. Erie included 1000 at Fairport Harbor 17 Jan (K. Metcalf), where several hundred were seen to circle to great height before turning southward; the species was recorded only as singles thereafter on L. Erie. Rare inland in midwinter, a flock of 25 in *Perry*, OH 24 Jan (J. Faulkner) was odd. Only 2 Little Gulls were reported: an ad. 23 Dec in *Lake*, OH and a second-year bird 1 Jan in *Ashtabula*, OH (JP). Late single Laughing Gulls were found on 18 Dec at the Tullytown Landfill, *Bucks* (CR) and on the Delaware R. near Chester, *Delaware* (JF). Outstanding was a Black-headed Gull discovered in late Nov–8 Dec at Tullytown, *Bucks*, PA (CR, ph. BE). Dec concentrations of Ring-billed Gulls on L. Erie numbered only 51,000 in *Lorain* (VF), 45,000 in *Lake* (JP), and 22,000 in *Erie* (VF). Inland however, was a different story: 7000 in *Hancock*, OH 20 Dec (K. Noblet et al.) and 3700 in *Hamilton*, OH 24 Jan (RF) gathered after severe cold snaps, the latter coincident with a general exodus from L. Erie that left fewer than 6000 the remainder of the season. The

9 Ohio Thayer's Gulls were in *Lucas* (1), *Erie* (1), *Cuyahoga* (4), and *Lake* (3). A report of a California Gull at P.I.S.P. 14 Dec (JM), potentially a 3rd Pennsylvania record, is under review. An ad. 8 Jan in Cleveland (LR, ph. m.ob.) was about the 25th for Ohio in the last 25 years. Nineteen Iceland Gulls on three *Bucks*, PA C.B.C.s in mid-Dec was a good count; 26 on L. Erie were mainly noted across the Eastern (15) and Central (10) Basins, with one w. to *Lucas*, OH. A total of 272 Lesser Black-backed Gulls was tallied on the three *Bucks* C.B.C.s. An above-average 21 Lesser Black-backed Gulls made up the L. Erie flock; 6 of those were at Oberlin Res., *Lorain*, OH 10 Jan (C. Priebe), while one was inland to *Tuscarawas*, OH 11 Feb (T. Sponseller). One of the larger incursions of white-winged gulls into L. Erie brought at least 45 Glaucous Gulls (20 ad., 13 subad., 12 unknown) into the Eastern (12), Central (30) and Western (3) Basins. Local concentrations were topped by 14 at Avon L., *Lorain*, OH 30 Jan (VF) and 12 at Lake View Landfill, *Erie*, PA (BC, JM). An ad. Herring Gull × Glaucous Gull was present Jan–Feb in Cleveland (ph. JP, m.ob.). The 30-minute passage of 440 Great Black-backed Gulls 19 Dec (JP) along the shore in *Lake*, OH hinted



One of two in Pennsylvania this winter, this Varied Thrush was present at Middle Creek W.M.A., Lancaster County 31 January–27 (here 2) February 2005. Photograph by Tom Amico.

at thousands entering the Central Basin. This was supported by the count of 1960 ads. 20 Jan from just *Cuyahoga* and *Lorain*, OH (VF). Despite the prevalence of the species, only one bird was seen inland to Independence Dam, *Defiance* 27 Jan (J. Yochum). One, possibly 2, Great Black-backed Gull × Herring Gull hybrids were well studied in Cleveland 8 Jan+ (ph. JP, ph. VF, SZ, m.ob.). Furnishing the 2nd winter record on L. Erie was an ad. Sabine's Gull at P.I.S.P. 21–22 Dec (ph. N. Zalik, C. Kern).

Table 1. Rufous Hummingbirds in Pennsylvania and Ohio, fall and winter 2004–2005.

Location	Age/sex	Date(s)	Observers/sources
Indiana, PA	ad.	8 Dec	<i>vide</i> M. Higbee
Franklin, PA	ad. female	Oct–2 Dec	<i>vide</i> S. Weidensaul
Knox, OH	ad. male	3 Oct–4 Dec	b. AC
Erie, PA	ad.	through 14 Dec	A. Parmeter
Ross, OH	ad. female	23 Oct–18 Dec	b. AC
Bucks, PA	ad. female	early Nov–19 Dec	E. Schwartz, ph. NP, L. Rowan et al.
Hamilton, OH	ad. female	early Oct–15 Jan	b. AC
Fayette, PA	ad. female	28 Nov–17 Jan	b. MV, A. Leppold et al.
Muskingum, OH	ad. male	1 Oct–17 Jan	b. AC

b. = banded

## DOVES THROUGH FINCHES

A Eurasian Collared-Dove was seen sporadically in Franklin, PA throughout the winter (D. Gearhart). This species has attempted to nest here in previous years. Without precedent in the Region, a **Chuck-will's-widow** was discovered alive 9 Dec in Milford, Clermont, OH (GF). It was subsequently rehabilitated and released in Florida. Recent population gains by Barn Owl in Ohio are now reflected during the winter, as 22 birds were found on C.B.C.s. Away from known strongholds, the species was detected at K.P.W.A. through Dec (VF, L. Gardella), Pickerel Creek W.A., Sandusky 5–6 Feb (D. Vanek, N. Bixler), and at Higginsport, Brown 12 Feb (S. Clingman). In the wake of West Nile virus, owl populations in nw. Ohio were devastated in 2002. However, signs of a recovery can be seen in the results of owling efforts on the Grand Rapids, Lucas C.B.C. 2 Jan, on which 193 Eastern Screech-Owls and 37 Great Horned Owls were detected. The hoped-for invasion by Snowy Owls did not pan out, as Ohio had just 3 birds at Bayshore, Lucas 19 Dec (M. Anderson et al.). In Pennsylvania, a few cooperative birds included one at a truck stop near Shippensburg, Cumberland, 12 Dec–15 Jan (m.ob.), in Lycoming 13 Dec (S. Pinkerton), and a 2nd for Lycoming in Williamsport 13–29 Dec, which was found dead on the last date. One at P.I.S.P. was present from the fall to 15 Jan (m.ob.). In Findlay Twp., Allegheny, PA, 30+ Short-eared Owls were found throughout the season (MV et al.), and near Gettysburg, Adams, birders were treated to 30–40 birds (m.ob.). After one of the heaviest fall flights of Northern Saw-whet Owls into Ohio in which more than 50 were banded in Nov (TB, K. Sieg), it was surprising that only 3 singles from as many counties were detected through the winter. Rufous Hummingbirds were long anticipated as regular fall migrants through the Region, but their hardiness continues to astound (Table 1). The Muskingum, OH bird returned to the same feeder at which it had been banded the year before as a hatch-year male, and the Hamilton, OH bird was origi-

nally banded as an after-hatch-year female in Jan 2003 in Sumter, GA (*vide* AC).

Twelve late Eastern Phoebes in Ohio, led by 4 in Adams 18 Dec. (CBC), included one n. to Portage 30 Dec (E. Faber). One at Spring Valley W.A., Warren 4 Feb (JH) may have wintered. Pennsylvania's first Gray

**SA** On 5 Feb, beginning birder Jessica Huff was eager to find Fox Sparrows, a species she had never seen before, at P.V.P. Together with veteran birder August Mirabella, she hiked toward a feeder frequented by the species. Amidst a small flock of American Robins, Jessica spotted a robin with streaked underparts. After field guide study and consulting with other birders by mobile phone, she and August came to the conclusion the "strange robin" was a **Redwing**, a thrush far from its European home. About 50 lucky birders were able to see the bird before dusk, securing clear photographs to confirm the identification.

Kingbird frequented the Shamrock Christmas Tree Farm, Pomeroy, Chester 17–20 Dec (J. Meloney, L. Lewis m. ob.). Single Loggerhead Shrike reports came from Hardy 29 Jan (C.B.C. data) and Berkely 13 Jan (MO), both in West Virginia and the only Regional reports. There were 20 reports of Northern

Shrikes throughout Pennsylvania, while 14 birds across 10 Ohio counties made for an average season. An out-of-range Common Raven was in LeBoeuf Twp., Erie, PA 19 Feb (C. Gehringer), and 2 were over Nockamixon Twp., Bucks, PA 26 Feb (H. McGarity). There are a half-dozen American Crow roosts of 10,000 or more birds in Ohio. While the 20,000 noted in Clark (D. Overacker) indicates some roosts have returned to capacity, the 20,000 within the Cincinnati roost is still far below the 70,000 birds documented before the coming of West Nile virus (FR, m.ob.).

An extraordinary 21 Northern Rough-winged Swallows were found at the Northeast Water Pollution Control Plant, Philadelphia, PA 8 Jan during the annual Philadelphia Mid-Winter Census (R. Horwitz, P. Kurtz, M. Sharp). A **Sedge Wren** was present at Martins Creek, Northampton, PA 26 Dec–20 Jan, providing the state's first record of a wintering bird. It frequented a small patch of sedge where it seemed to feed on midge larvae (*Chironomus* sp.), spiders, and other invertebrates (ph. RW). A late Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was found at the Penn-Warner Tract, Bucks, PA 18 Dec (DF). Single Varied Thrushes were at Caledonia S.P., Franklin, PA 11 Dec+, Middle Creek W.M.A., Lancaster, PA 31 Jan–27 Feb (B. & P. Hunsberger, ph. T. Amico, m.ob.), and 16 Dec–28 Feb at a Carroll, OH feeder (C. Ickes, D. Sanders, m.ob.). A **Townsend's Solitaire** was discovered at S.G.L. 30, McKean, PA 15 Jan+ (L. Groshek, J. Fedak, m.ob.).

An above-average 14 Gray Catbirds from Ohio included 5 mid- to late Dec birds n. to L. Erie in Lucas (2), Erie (1), and Lorain (2). Four were detected into Jan from Hamilton (D. Russell), Hocking and Pickaway (C.B.C. data), and to 28 Jan at Oxford, Butler (ph. B. Wilson). Eleven Brown Thrashers on Ohio C.B.C.s was average, while the only mid-winter record came from Clermont 16 Jan

Table 2. Late warblers and vireos in Pennsylvania and Ohio, winter 2004–2005.

Species	Date(s)	Location	Observers/sources
White-eyed Vireo	19 Dec	Portage, OH	LR, W. Stover
White-eyed Vireo	19 Dec	Lucas, OH	J. Komorowski et al.
Orange-crowned Warbler	21 Dec–9 Jan	Allegheny, PA	T. Bledsoe
Yellow Warbler	18 Dec	Montgomery, PA	C.B.C. data
Cape May Warbler	18 Dec	Stark, OH	C.B.C. data
Black-throated Blue Warbler	29 Dec	Dauphin, PA	R. Koury, D. Williams
American Redstart	until 2 Dec	Snyder, PA	M. Brown
Ovenbird	until 14 Jan	Chester, PA	J. Carpenter, ph T. Fernandes
Ovenbird	8 Jan	Philadelphia, PA	D. Wiedener
Ovenbird	3–14 Dec	Lake, OH	ph. D. Seaman
Wilson's Warbler	18 Dec	Butler, OH	MB, L. Peyton
Wilson's Warbler	18 Dec	Lehigh, PA	C.B.C. data
Wilson's Warbler	19 Dec	Lancaster, PA	C.B.C. data



This Sedge Wren was present in a tussock sedge marsh near Martin's Creek, Northampton County, Pennsylvania 26 December 2004 (here)—20 January 2005; it established a first winter record for Pennsylvania. Photograph from videotape by Rick Wiltraut.

(GF). The largest mid-winter flock of American Pipits numbered 6 in Dayton, *Montgomery*, OH 23 Jan (NS). Of 300,000 European Starlings on Ohio C.B.C.s, 81,000 were migrants observed streaming from Canada past K.I. toward the mainland on 19 Dec (TB et al.).

Late warblers and vireos were legion this season (Table 2). Pine Warblers visited feeders across the Region: 7 were reported in Ohio n. to Lucas 30 Jan (M. Anderson), *Cuyahoga* 16 Jan (ph. J. Andes), and another in *Cuyahoga* 11 Jan (SZ). Late Palm Warblers in Ohio included singles in *Stark* 18 Dec (C.B.C. data) and in *Brown* 24 Dec (DM). Another Pennsylvania first, a **MacGillivray's Warbler** was found in *Maxatawny Twp., Berks* 18–20 Dec (A. Jennings, B. Morris, K. Sieminski, T. Watkins, m.ob.). Mid-winter Common Yellowthroats were located in *Wayne*, OH 4 Jan (JL et al.) and *Clermont*, OH 8 Jan (RF).

Nearly annual in Pennsylvania in winter, a Clay-colored Sparrow was with a flock of 20 American Tree Sparrows in *Oley Twp., Berks* 16 Jan (RK). Ohio's only wintering Chipping Sparrow was reported from *Hamilton* (K. Westerdorf). Unexpected were single Grasshopper Sparrows at *Neshaminy S.P., Bucks*, PA 18 Dec–1 Jan (M. Jeitner, L. Rowan) and in *Butler*, OH 31 Dec (MB). The Western Basin continues to collect records of Oregon Junco, with 2 present on K.I. 23 Jan (TB et al.). Singles were also reported from *Lucas* (CBC) and *Knox*, OH 19 Dec (VF). A high count of 145 White-crowned Sparrows was noted at Buffalo Creek, *Washington*, PA 26 Dec (L. Helgerman). An imm. Harris's Sparrow was found at Stone Church, *Northampton*, PA 18 Jan+ (RW), the same location where an ad. spent the previous winter. The Amish farm country of *Holmes/Stark/Tuscarawas*, OH is a magnet for sparrows in winter. Three C.B.C.s cover this area

and together represent 18% of the party-hour effort in Ohio. This effort detected 4300 (38%) of the state's American Tree Sparrows, 1911 (65%) of the White-crowned Sparrows, and 40 (66%) of the Savannah Sparrows. The latter, normally confined to the Lower Ohio R. Valley in winter, persists here late as well, as indicated by 14 in e. *Holmes* 29 Jan (ES). White-throated Sparrow reaches its greatest population density

in the Region along the Ohio R., with 33% of the Ohio C.B.C. totals coming from just *Hamilton/Butler*, OH in the sw. part of the state. This season's Lincoln's Sparrow appeared 19 Dec at Maumee Bay S.P., *Lucas*, OH (B. Zweibel). Snow Buntings outnumbered Lapland Longspurs 4:1 on Ohio



This first-winter Harris's Sparrow was "chummed" in with millet 18 January (here)—20 March 2005 at Stone Church, Northampton County, Pennsylvania—the same location where an adult was present about nine months earlier. Photograph by Rick Wiltraut.

C.B.C.s. The 500 Snow Buntings vs. 200 Lapland Longspurs 12 Jan in *Wyandot*, OH (RC) is further indication of the atypical ratio this season.

A male Painted Bunting visited a feeder in *Northampton Twp., Bucks*, PA 6 Feb+ (B. Ilanda et al.), about the state's 23rd since 1883. Single Dickcissels were found near New Hope, *Bucks*, PA 26 Dec–20 Jan (DF, KR) and at Buckingham Twp., *Bucks*, PA 3–25 Feb (V. & R. Smith). The 200 Rusty Blackbirds in *Butler*, OH 12 Jan provided a good mid-winter count (FR). Exclusive of two Ohio C.B.C. reports of 11 birds, one to

3 Brewer's Blackbirds were reported from *Clermont*, OH 8 Jan (RF) and *Lucas*, OH 13 Feb (JP). The 39,000+ Red-winged Blackbirds on Ohio C.B.C.s were led by 15,000 in *Hocking* 2 Jan and 12,000 at Pickerel Creek W.A., *Sandusky* 1 Jan (VF). Of the 222,000 Common Grackles on Ohio C.B.C.s, 181,000 were detected in the *Pickaway/Fairfield/Hocking* region of cen. Ohio 1–2 Jan. Up to 27 Eastern Meadowlarks were at The Wilds, *Muskingum* 17 Jan (JS et al.), with one n. to *Geauga* 18 Jan (A. Fondrk). Lingering Baltimore Orioles were found in *Bucks*, PA 18 Dec (PEL, G. L. Armistead) and *Manchester Twp., York*, PA 13–16 Jan (S. Godack). Common Redpolls, mostly singles, were scattered through Pennsylvania and Ohio, with 12 along the Pymatuning Causeway, *Crawford*, PA 13 Feb (RFL). A strong incursion into Ohio by Purple Finches was led by 50 in *Hamilton* 11 Dec (fide P. Wharton). A White-winged Crossbill 31 Jan–28 Feb at a *Vandalia, Montgomery*, OH feeder (B. Landis, DD) was the Region's only report. West Virginia had modest Red Crossbill reports this season, with up to 16 at Pipestem, *Summers* 24 Dec (J&JP). A high count of 50 Pine Siskins was reported from New Rich-

mond, *Clermont*, OH (DM), but most reports were of 3–7 birds (N. Troyer et al.). Evening Grosbeaks made sporadic appearances in w. Pennsylvania, with 10 at *Conneaut Marsh, Crawford* 5 Feb (RFL).

Initialed observers (subregional editors in bold): Ohio: Tom Bartlett, Gregory Bennett, Charlie Bombaci, Jill Bowers (JBo), Jenny Brumfield (JB), **Mike Busam**, Craig Caldwell, Allen Chartier, Rick Counts, David Dister, Ginny Fantetti, Victor Fazio III, Robert Foppe, John Habig, Ned Keller, Denis Kline, Jason Larson, **Greg Links**, Kevin Metcalf, Donald Morse, Jr.,

Ed Pierce, J. Pogacnik, Frank Renfrow, Larry Rosche, Robert Royse, Ed Schlabach, Regina Schlietz, Nick Smith, Jay Stenger, Rob Thorn, Bill Whan, Sean Zadar. Pennsylvania: Ben Coulter, Gerry Dewaghe, Bill Etter, Devich Farbotnik, John Freiberg, Paul Hess, **Rudy Keller**, Katrina Knight (KK), **Robert C. Leberman**, Ronald F. Leberman, Ken Lebo, Paul E. Lehman, Bob Mercer, Jerry McWilliams, August Mirabella, Nick Pulcinella, Ken Reiker, Cameron Rutt, Mark Vass, Rick Wiltraut. West Virginia: Wendell Argabrite, Richard Esker, Kim Kazmierski (KKz), Matt Orsie, Jim & Judy Phillips. ☪