

Eastern Highlands & Upper Ohio River Valley



Victor W. Fazio III • Rick Wiltraut

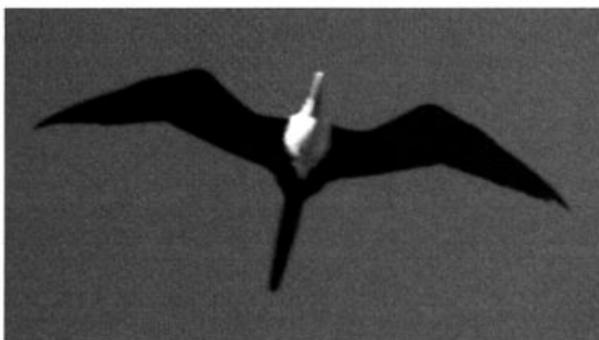
Dry conditions and above-normal temperatures held sway throughout the season. Several reservoirs were at their lowest levels of the past eight years. As a consequence, shorebird gatherings were not confined to the shoreline of Lake Erie, as they typically are. However, the greatest shorebird spectacle was reserved for the passage of the remnants of Hurricane *Katrina* through eastern Ohio and across the Eastern Basin of Lake Erie. This storm brought 21 species of shorebirds to Presque Isle State Park, PA 31 August, including the state's first Long-billed Curlew, while nearby Conneaut Harbor, Ohio racked up record numbers of White-rumped Sandpipers. In a season peppered with rarities, the record fallout of Cave Swallows, in two or more successive waves, still stands apart. Out of the spotlight, but no less significant, was the attention to hummingbirds that brought to light not only a record number of *Selasphorus* but two first state records.

Abbreviations: B.C.S.P. (Buck Creek S.P., Clark, OH); B.E.S.P. (Bald Eagle S.P., Centre, PA); Blue Marsh (Blue Marsh L., Berks, PA); B.O.K. (Bake Oven Knob hawkwatch, Lehigh, PA); B.S.B.O. (Black Swamp Bird Observatory); C.C.S.P. (Caesar Creek S.P., Greene/Warren, OH); Conneaut (Conneaut Harbor, Ashtabula, OH); G.L. (Grand L. St. Mary's, Auglaize/Mercer, OH); G.L.R. (Green Lane Res., Montgomery, PA); H.B.S.P. (Headlands Beach S.P., Lake, OH); Hoover (Hoover Res., Franklin/Delaware, OH); H.M.S. (Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, Berks, PA); H.W.S.P. (Hueston Woods S.P., Preble/Butler, OH); Imperial (Imperial Grasslands, Allegheny, PA); L. Arthur (L. Arthur, Butler, PA); L.N. (L. Nockamixon, Bucks, PA); L.B.L. (Little Blue L., Beaver, PA); L.E.I. (Lake Erie Is., Lucas/Ottawa, OH); M.C.W.A. (Mosquito Creek W.A., Trumbull, OH); O.S.U. (Ohio State University, Franklin, OH); P.I.S.P. (Presque Isle S.P., Erie, PA); O.N.W.R. (Ottawa N.W.R., Lucas/Ottawa, OH); P.N.R. (Powdermill Nature Reserve, Westmoreland, PA); P.L. (Pymatuning L., Crawford, PA & Trumbull, OH); S.R.C.F.

(Susquehanna R. at Conejohela Flats, Lancaster, PA); W.G. (Waggoner's Gap hawkwatch, Cumberland/Perry, PA); Y.C.S.P. (Yellow Creek S.P., Indiana, PA).

WATERFOWL THROUGH VULTURES

A strong flight of Greater White-fronted Geese through Ohio was led by 42 to 20 in Logan, OH 12–26 Nov (TS, m.ob.). Five in Canfield, Mahoning 4 Nov (B. Jones) may have been the same 5 the next day at nearby M.C.W.A. (S. Butcher). Three were noted in Northampton, PA 26 Nov (D. Welch). The w. Snow Goose flight was poor; 20 in Seneca, OH 9 Nov and 18 in Logan, OH 16 Nov (TS, S. Landes) were the highest counts received. Additionally, 2–4 birds from eight Ohio counties 5–26 Nov included 2 in Gallia 25 Nov (D. Patick), 4 at The Wilds, Muskingum 15 Nov (AP), and 3 at Deer Creek S.P., Pickaway (RR). The white goose flock in Logan, OH also included 3 Ross's Geese 12 Nov, with one remaining through 25 Nov (TS, BW, m.ob.), as well as an apparent Ross's Goose x Snow Goose hybrid for the same period. Another Ross's Goose spent 9–22 Nov at H.W.S.P. (D. Russell, J. Lehman, m.ob.). Cackling Goose is now reported regularly in Pennsylvania; however, this casual fall visitor to Ohio still draws a crowd where noted; this season's reports



This Magnificent Frigatebird, surely displaced by Hurricane *Katrina*, provided Ohio with its fifth record 5 September 2005 in Lake County. Photograph by John Pogacnik.

were in Summit 31 Oct (R. Harlan), in Lucas 8 Nov (MA), and at Geneva S.P., Lake 20 Nov (JP). Small numbers of Brant were topped by 75 at S.R.C.F. 9 Oct (BS); trickling into Ohio the same day, 9 were noted in Lake (JP).

On 16–17 Nov, the Tundra Swan flight was evident as 2000+ birds passed over Cleveland and its suburbs, led by 1500 over Mentor, Lake, OH (A. Fjelstad). This flight continued into Pennsylvania, with 1043 at P.L. 17 Nov (SK). A Eurasian Wigeon was at L. Arthur, PA 29 Oct–4 Nov (B. Smith, m.ob.). A rare inland report of Harlequin Duck came from sw. Ohio in Hamilton 27–28 Nov (RF). Of the 70+ Black Scoters on L. Erie, 40 were at Eastlake, Lake, OH 26 Nov (*vide* LR) in the Central

Basin, while 9 birds reached the Western Basin 5 Nov (BW et al.). Pennsylvania counts included a high 15 at L.N. 29 Oct (BE). The 11 Surf Scoters at B.E.S.P. 22 Oct (*vide* MM) almost matched the seasonal total of 15 for the Central Basin of L. Erie. Inland, up to 3 were at C.C.S.P. 8 Nov (F. Frick) outnumbered by 6 White-winged Scoters at nearby B.C.S.P. 26 Nov (DO). A fallout of Buffleheads in Pennsylvania 14 Nov included 220 at G.L.R. (KC, GF), 152 at P.V.P. (BE, DF), 200 at Colyer L., Centre (J. Michaels), and 272 at L. Perez, Huntingdon (D. Wentzel).

The flight of 300 in Lake, OH 19 Nov (JP) highlighted a weak Common Loon passage. The four L. Erie reports of Red-throated Loons were less than stellar, with a single inland report to East Fork L., Clermont, OH 27 Nov (B. Stanley, C. Saunders). An above-average fall flight of Red-necked Grebes had 8 reported at P.I.S.P. 16 Oct–28 Nov (JM), 4 in Bucks, PA 23 Oct–30 Nov (AM, BE), and 5 noted widely across Ohio 30 Oct–26 Nov, from East Fork S.P., Clermont (J. Stenger), B.C.S.P. (DO), M.C.W.A. (2; BSm & KS), and Pleasant Hill L., Ashland (G. Cowell, Jr.). One to 2 Eared Grebes were at P.I.S.P. 18–26 Nov (JM), and 2 Ohio birds appeared at Hoover 5 Nov (RA) and Maumee Bay S.P., Lucas 21 Sep (ph. B. Snyder).

Northern Gannets invaded the Region. An imm. picked up at Ashland, Schuylkill, PA 19 Oct later died (*vide* AH), another was seen at Millcreek Twp., Erie 26 Nov (BC), and an imm. appeared at H.B.S.P. 26 Nov (RHn, JT), remaining to winter. A female *Anhinga* reported from a hawkwatch in Buckingham Twp. 19 Sep (K. & L. Moulton et al.) was a first for Bucks and adds to a growing list of reports

from the e. Highlands. An early Great Cormorant was in Bucks, PA 28 Aug (D. Allison). Double-crested Cormorants lingered within the Western Basin of L. Erie, where 7200 at Kelleys I., Erie 18 Nov (TB) was an unusually high number so close to the winter season. An unverified Brown Pelican was reported flying up the Ohio R. at Huntington, Cabell, WV 6 Sep (J. Browning). American White Pelican had reports from six Ohio counties. Away from the Western Basin, where 4–5 birds were present from the summer through 16 Oct (P. Chad, S. McNamee, SY, CC, MB, m.ob.), individuals appeared inland to Hoover 22 Aug–3 Sep (RR, P. Gardner, m.ob.) and Marion 6 Nov (*vide* P. Soehnlen). On the heels of the rem-

nants of Hurricane *Katrina*, an imm. Magnificent Frigatebird passed over a Lake, OH observer 5 Sep (ph. JP).

Late-summer staging of Great Egrets at Medusa Marsh, Erie, OH numbered 200-275 there 3-11 Aug (CC, SY), while 339 gathered at O.N.W.R. 2 Oct (EP et al.). The mild season saw 86 remain here until 6 Nov (EP et al.). The 40 Great Egrets at S. Eaton, Luzerne, PA 20-21 Aug was impressive for ne. Pennsylvania (WR), while interior Ohio numbers also continue to increase, with 27 at Hoover 2 Sep (CB) and 15 at Chillicothe, Ross 9 Oct (DHe). The Snowy Egret flock at Medusa Marsh built up to 13 birds 25 Aug (B. Bowman). Away from L. Erie, one was in Ross 1 Sep (DHe). A summer resident in the Western Basin, Little Blue Heron was noted through 20 Aug (L. Richardson et al.). Inland records of note came from Defiance, OH 25 Aug (JY), Paulding, OH 29 Jul (DMD), Ross, OH 2-8 Aug (J. MacMahon, DHe), Wayne, OH 17 Aug (S. Snyder), Luzerne, PA 31 Aug (WR), Northampton, PA 13 Aug (R. & P. Oren), and Summers, WV 24 Aug (J. Phillips). Late Cattle Egrets are a curiosity in the Region. This fall, 2 were in Crawford, PA 11 Nov (S. Winterberger), one mid-Nov in Erie, PA (*fide* JM), 6 in Summit, OH 1 Nov (G. Bennett), and 2 at G.L. 12 Nov (D. Dister).

A juv. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron at Blue Marsh was the first report in Berks, PA since 1967 (S. & J. Schmoeyer). Wayward Plegadis ibis included 2 in Napoleon, Henry, OH 2-5 Oct (JY, MA) and a flyby in Wood, OH 14 Aug (D. Horn). Birds identified as Glossy Ibis on L. Erie were an ad. at Magee Marsh W.A., Ottawa, OH 4-8 Oct (DO, m.ob.), one at P.I.S.P. 17 Sep (BC, D. Wilton), and 2 inland at M.C.W.A. 3-4 Oct (C. Babyak, J. Lucas). A White Ibis was reported at Middle Creek W.M.A., Lancaster/Lebanon, PA 26 Sep (M. Deegan). A total of 1814 Turkey Vultures was recorded during the season at W.G. (DG). Attentive observers in Toledo, OH recorded more than 2000 birds over the city 9 Oct (T. Kemp), surpassing the state record set only the previous year.

RAPTORS THROUGH CRANE

A Swallow-tailed Kite was at Sugar Bay, McKean, PA 31 Aug (JF). The increase in Cooper's Hawks was seen in healthy seasonal totals of 1054 at W.G. (DG) and 1122 at H.M.S. (LGo). The 492 at B.O.K. was a seasonal high for that location (KW). A seasonal total of 288 Bald Eagles at Rose Tree Hawkwatch near Media, Delaware, PA was an excellent count away from the Kittatinny Ridge (m.ob.). The flight of Broad-winged Hawks in Pennsylvania was disappointing. The 5273 at

H.M.S. during the season was 26% below the 10-year average (LGo). The flyway through w. Ohio is often overlooked, so the 400 over Montgomery, OH 20 Sep (J. Beale) was a welcome tally. A Swainson's Hawk was reported from Stone Mt. hawkwatch, Huntingdon/Mifflin 23 Oct (GG, D. Bryant). The seasonal total for Golden Eagles at W.G. was 238 (DG). Golden Eagle numbers were above average in Ohio, with 7 reported 24 Oct-16 Nov (R. Nirschl, BCr, AP, MA). The 468 American Kestrels at H.M.S. was 15% below the 10-year average (LGo), and only 397 were recorded at W.G. (DG). A robust flight of Merlins along the Kittatinny Ridge, PA 15 Oct included 38



At the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, this American White Pelican turned up briefly on 5 November 2005. Photograph by Ronald Majors.

at B.O.K. (D. Kunkle) and 49 at H.M.S. (LGo, D. Barber); both are record single-day counts for those locations. Record seasonal totals of 198 at H.M.S. (LGo) and 150 at B.O.K. (KW) further reflect the increase of this species over the years. An imm. Peregrine Falcon was an early arrival at The Wilds, Muskingum, OH 20 Jul (AP). Seasonal counts of 66 Peregrines at W.G. (DG) and 54 at H.M.S. (LGo) were encouraging.

A Yellow Rail was detected near Sugar Creek, Tuscarawas, OH 5 Oct (ES). Few historical counts of American Coot approach that of the 4000+ birds at B.C.S.P. 9 Nov (DO). Single Sandhill Cranes were seen in Berks at H.M.S. 15 & 20 Oct (LGo) and Blue Marsh 2 Oct (JS). The 6 Nov start to fall migration through w. Ohio saw 580 reported by season's end, with the high count of 100 over Hamilton 24 Nov (K. Westendorf). The summer resident pair at Spring Valley W.A., Warren, OH remained through 10 Nov (N. Cade, m.ob.).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS

Three Piping Plovers in Ohio put in rare appearances within the Region. One arrived at

O.N.W.R. 22 Jul (B.S.B.O.), followed by one 15 Aug at H.B.S.P. (RHn), while another took shelter from *Katrina* at Alum Creek Res., Delaware 31 Aug (JMc et al.). The Semipalmated Plover migration peaked 10 Sep with 166 at O.N.W.R. (B.S.B.O.), while a respectable inland tally of 40 was had at Hoover 21 Aug (JMc). At least 25 American Avocets were widely noted across Ohio, and 6 were seen in Pennsylvania. The main flight through 5 Oct saw 6 resting at Hoover 14-16 Aug (RA et al.) and 5 at Conneaut 16-17 Aug (RR). Two stragglers were found at M.C.W.A. 20 Nov (BSm, KS), while one lingered 9-18 Nov at Hueston Woods S.P., Preble, OH (J. Habig). The 66 Greater Yellowlegs 6 Nov at O.N.W.R. (EP et al.) was an extraordinary number for Nov. All but one of the Region's 27 Willets were reported from the L. Erie shoreline, led by 13 at Conneaut 27 Aug (W & D. Shaffer) and 7 at P.I.S.P. 10 Aug (BC). An Upland Sandpiper at Tyler S.P., Bucks, PA 8 Aug was rare for that location (B. Keim) while 9 in Paulding, OH 2 Aug (DMD) was an encouraging number. A total of 5 Whimbrels was tallied at P.I.S.P. 13-31 Aug (JM), and one was at S.R.C.F. 31 Aug (BS et al.). Seven in Ohio 2 Aug-30 Sep (ph. D. Bollin, m.ob.) included one inland to Hoover 2-9 Aug (RT). The most exciting shorebird discovery of the season was a Long-billed Curlew observed at P.I.S.P. 31 Aug as the remnants of *Katrina* passed offshore (ph. JM). Pending acceptance, it would represent a first Pennsylvania record. A strong flight of Hudsonian Godwits into the Region had 50 flying over Y.C.S.P. 27 Aug (T. Simmons, *fide* MH) and 33 to Conneaut 14 Aug (L. Hays). For cen. Ohio, 9 at Hoover 18 Aug (DS) was an especially noteworthy count. Late godwits continue to linger, with O.N.W.R. hosting a Hudsonian 13 Nov and 2 Marbleds 5 Nov (B.S.B.O.); 7 Hudsonians were at P.L. 2-5 Oct (RFL), while one remained at S.R.C.F. 8 Oct (T. Garner). Peak Marbled Godwit tallies were 7 at O.N.W.R. 3 Sep (B.S.B.O.) and 5 at Hoover 21-26 Aug (CB, R. McNulty). One Marbled Godwit was at S.R.C.F. 13 Aug (BS), while four Sep birds appeared in Erie, OH (VF et al.). The 16 Ruddy Turnstones at P.I.S.P. (JM) was the largest Regional flock reported. The storm-driven 165+ Sanderlings at P.I.S.P. 31 Aug made an excellent count (JM). A total of 11 Red Knots was recorded there 10-31 Aug (BC, JM), matching the seasonal tally for all of Ohio 13 Aug-5 Sep (m.ob.). A late bird appeared at H.B.S.P. 10 Nov (A. Sewell). Away from L. Erie, the peep migration was modest, as Hoover hosted 120 Least and 100 Semipalmated Sandpipers 21 Aug (JMc). Of Semipalmated Sandpipers, 1000 at O.N.W.R. 12 Sep (B.S.B.O.) were typical, whereas the



This Red Phalarope at Imperial Grasslands, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania 4-8 (here 6) September 2005 was a genuine rarity for the Appalachian portion of the state. Photograph by Geoff Malosh.

count of 1270 birds at Conneaut 31 Aug (VF, JP) was a consequence of *Katrina*, as was the state record 355 White-rumped Sandpipers (VF, JP) at the same location. This confluence of shorebird migration and tropical storm also brought down a season's worth of Baird's Sandpipers, 69, to the sand flats of Conneaut's harbor 31 Aug (VF, JP). Otherwise, a subpar three-dozen individuals were noted widely across the state. Up to 6 Baird's Sandpipers were seen at Y.C.S.P. during the fall (MH et al.), and 7 were at the S.R.C.F. 28 Aug (DH). Four Western Sandpipers at Y.C.S.P. 10 Sep (MH) and 5 in *Somerset*, PA 27 Aug (J&LP) were considered rare for sw. Pennsylvania, as were 4 in *Cabell*, WV 8 Sep (WA). A weak Ohio passage saw only 16 birds reported.

Another good year for Buff-breasted Sandpiper brought at least 31 birds to seven Ohio counties 16 Aug–18 Sep (CB, BZ, m.ob.), including 11 at Hoover 2 Sep (CB). Nine Pennsylvania counties were visited by 16 birds 12–31 Aug, with up to 6 at S.R.C.F. 28 Aug (DH). The species is not annual in West Virginia, so one in *Cabell* 9 Sep was an exciting find (WA). The Western Basin supported 700 Pectoral Sandpipers 12 Aug at O.N.W.R. (B.S.B.O.). Good inland concentrations included 200 at Hoover 21 Aug (RT), 150 at Berlin Res., *Stark*, OH 25 Aug (B. Morrison), and 120 at Pickerington Ponds, *Franklin*, OH 18 Aug (RT). The maximum of 3040 Dunlins at O.N.W.R. 6 Nov (EP et al.) was normal. Five Purple Sandpipers appeared along L. Erie from P.I.S.P. (JM) to Huron, *Erie*, OH (DS), all 26–30 Nov. The Short-billed Dowitcher flight peaked 16 Jul with 1035 at O.N.W.R. (B.S.B.O.). The 15 Long-billed Dowitchers at Hoover 23 Aug (CB) was a good inland tally, coincident with the high count of 200 at O.N.W.R. 21 Aug (B.S.B.O.). One in *Preston*, WV 25–28 Sep (G. Felton, MO) was a first for the mt. region of that state. A Ruff seen at S.R.C.F. 31 Aug was an exciting find (BS, TA, C. Chalfant, D. Hoff-

man). Two reported from O.N.W.R. 2 Oct are pending review (†R. Johnson). Up to 6 Wilson's Phalaropes appeared at Medusa Marsh, *Erie*, OH 23 Aug (SY, m.ob.), with 7 at O.N.W.R. 15 Sep (B.S.B.O.). Pennsylvania singles were at Little Blue L. 17 Aug (MV) and Y.C.S.P. 27 Aug–6 Sep (L. Carnahan et al.). The 20 Red-necked Phalaropes outnumbered Wilson's in Ohio, possibly owing to *Katrina*, as a host of birds put down 31 Aug, including 4 at Conneaut (VF, JP), 3 at Kokosing L., *Knox* (J. Larson), and one at Charles Mills L., *Ashland* (JMc), as well as singles in *Erie*, PA (JM, JD), at L.B.L. 1 Sep (MV), and at Y.C.S.P. 31 Aug–2 Sep (MH et al.). Other Red-necked Phalaropes were at L.B.L. 9 Sep (GM) and *Bucks*, PA 24 Aug (A. Brady) and 24–26 Sep (AM). A Red Phalarope 4–8 Sep at Imperial was rare for sw. Pennsylvania (R. Gallardy, MV, ph. GM). Several through Ohio included singles at East Fork S.P., *Clermont* 8 Oct (D. Morse, Jr.) and on the O.S.U. campus, *Franklin* 20 Oct (RR).

Unidentified jaegers were noted along L. Erie at P.I.S.P. 8 Nov, with 4 there 22 Nov (JM, BC) and one w. to *Cuyahoga* 25 Oct (PL). *Katrina* birds were inland to East Fork S.P., *Cler-*



In Jefferson County, West Virginia, this adult Long-tailed Jaeger represented a first fully documented state record 24-26 (here 26) August 2005.

Photograph by Matt Orsie.

mont, OH (B. Hull, RF) and at B.E.S.P. (JH), both 31 Aug. Four Pomarine Jaegers were along L. Erie 15–27 Nov. A rare Western Basin report of Parasitic Jaeger came late from East Harbor S.P., *Ottawa*, OH 27 Nov (JP). Another was reported from *Lake*, OH 30 Oct (JP). An ad. Long-tailed Jaeger was reported at L. *Somerset*, *Somerset*, PA 27 Aug (ph. J&LP). Pending acceptance, this would be furnish a 3rd state record. There was speculation as to

whether the same ad. Long-tailed Jaeger was seen in *Jefferson*, WV 24–26 Aug (ph. MO). In the wake of *Katrina*, much of the Region enjoyed sporadic occurrences of Laughing Gulls through the remainder of the season. Where one or 2 would be the norm for Ohio at this season, as many as 9 were present, including 2 at Alum Creek Res., *Delaware* 31 Aug (JMc), 2 at C.C.S.P. 4 Sep–7 Oct (LG, m.ob.), one at Findlay Res., *Hancock* (RC), and one in *Williams* 13 Oct (JY). Birds at Beaver Run Res. and P.N.R. 9 Sep (ML, *fide* RCL) were the first reports ever for *Westmoreland*, PA; 2 at B.E.S.P. 31 Aug (JH), one at P.L. 5 Sep (SK), and one at P.I.S.P. 30 Aug (C. Wood) were also out of place. One on the Ohio R. 16–20 Sep was a first for *Allegheny* and *Beaver* (MV). Up to 2250 were still present at Tullytown Landfill, *Bucks*, PA 19 Nov (MS). A Franklin's Gull was e. to *Bucks*, PA 12 Nov (ph. A. Brady). The Conneaut/P.I.S.P. shoreline of L. Erie hosted 2–3 Little Gulls 14 Aug–21 Sep (JM, RR, m.ob.). The typical late-season flight 23 Oct–13 Nov (JP, JM) saw 3–5 birds along this same shoreline w. to H.B.S.P. (RHn, m.ob.).

One (possibly 2) ad. California Gulls were found in Millcreek Twp., *Erie* and P.I.S.P. 12–26 Nov (BC). Lesser Black-backed Gulls were slow getting to Ohio, with 3 appearing in the Western Basin 30 Sep in *Ottawa* (LR). One on the Ohio R. in *Beaver*, PA 19–20 Nov was locally rare (MV). A total of 1375 Great Black-backed Gulls were at Tullytown Landfill, *Bucks*, PA 19 Nov (MS). Just ahead of the Dec deep-freeze, a Glaucous Gull appeared in *Lake*, OH 26 Nov (JP). A Sabine's Gull was part of the *Katrina* showcase at Conneaut 31 Aug (JP). A Black-legged Kittiwake was reported from H.B.S.P. 26 Nov (B. Sparks). The 650 Forster's Terns at S.R.C.F. 7 Oct (TA) were notable, while the 400 at Maumee Bay S.P., *Lucas*, OH 6 Sep were accompanied by 1500 Common Terns (K. Kaufman). Substantial numbers of both species lingered, as 1660 Common and 830 Forster's staged at O.N.W.R. 2 Oct (EP et al.). The count of 840 Common Terns at Conneaut 31 Aug (VF, JP) was storm-enhanced, as was that of 120 Black Terns across Ohio and 70+ in Pennsylvania that day. A Least Tern at Blue Marsh 29 Sep was a rare find for *Berks*, PA (JS).

DOVES THROUGH FINCHES

Eurasian Collared-Doves at their usual spots in Pennsylvania included 12 at Shady Grove,

Franklin, PA 7 Sep (DGe) and 2 in Coatesville, Chester during Aug (m.ob.). Another was at Susquehannock S.P., Lancaster 8 Sep (TA). A White-winged Dove at O.N.W.R. 17–18 Sep (G. Miller et al.) furnished the 3rd Ohio report with convincing details in six years. Both cuckoo species enjoyed heightened migrations late in the season. Up to 10 Black-billed Cuckoos were in the Oak Openings, Lucas, OH 8 Oct (G. Cottier). A Yellow-billed Cuckoo remained in Lorain, OH 4 Nov (J. Kolo-Rose). A total of 81 Northern Saw-whet Owls was netted at a banding station at Skytop, Monroe, PA during the fall (D. & J. Speicher), while 17 were netted the last week of Oct in Ross, OH (K. Sieg). In sharp contrast to the w. plains, highland counts of Common Nighthawks remain strong: 1425 migrating down the Allegheny R. at Etna, Allegheny 25–26 Aug (D. Yagusic), 1392 over Philadelphia 29 Aug (fide AH), and 1062 over Putnam, WV 31 Aug (K. Kazmierski). One foraging near the dome of the State Capitol in Charleston 2 Nov (D. Burrell) tied the late date for West Virginia. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds had the birding community abuzz over their prolific attendance of feeders through the fall migration. A more objective assessment was provided by counters at hawkwatches, such as the flight of 80 at B.O.K. 31 Aug (KW) and 353 tallied at H.M.S., where the seasonal average is 168 (LGo). A remarkable 319 were banded at P.N.R. during the fall (RM). In Ohio, the 74 at O.N.W.R. 7 Aug (EP et al.) was a 25-yr high for the monthly census. A Green Violet-ear in Holmes, OH 15–16 Aug (ph. G. Hostetler, A. Miller, m.ob.) represents Ohio's first. The passage of *Selasphorus* hummingbirds (Table 1), the vast majority of which are presumably Rufous Hummingbirds, continues to reach record levels, as more and more birders leave feeders up into the winter period. Doing so also may reward one with something unique, such as Ohio's first Anna's Hummingbird, which arrived 12 Nov for a protracted stay into the winter season (D. & W. Schmitz, ph. C. Wood, m.ob.).

A well-described Gray Flycatcher seen by veteran birders at H.B.S.P. 18 Sep (RHn, LR) would be Ohio's 2nd, pending acceptance. Acadian

Flycatchers were noted late across the Region, but none lingered longer than 13 Oct in Lake, OH (JP). Western Kingbirds were noted in Pennsylvania: P.N.R. 2 Nov (ML), in Northampton 4+ Nov (ph. A. Koch), and in Berks, PA 22 Aug (JS). A late-Aug Scissortailed Flycatcher was present in Franklin, PA (DGe). A seasonal total of 103 Blue-headed Vireos at H.M.S. included a peak of 21 on 19 Oct (LGo). Late migrant vireos included a Red-eyed in Cuyahoga, OH 10 Nov (KM), a Warbling in Lucas, OH 8 Nov (BZ), and a White-eyed in Cuyahoga, OH 11 Nov (SI et

al.). The seasonal tally of 205 Common Ravens at H.M.S. (LGo) is more evidence of the increase of the species in the Northeast. A pair of Black-billed Magpies in ne. Ohio were a birding attraction 28 Aug–14 Oct near Damascus, Mahoning (B. & D. Lane, m.ob.). Although no evidence of past captivity could be seen in plumage or behavior, and the range of dates is consistent with natural vagrancy, the apparent lack of any other birds moving eastward from the normal range suggests that these may not have been wild vagrants.

The largest influx of Cave Swallows ever in the Region, 30 Oct–26 Nov, was largely restricted to the L. Erie shoreline. Adding to Pennsylvania records were a first for Lancaster at S.R.C.F. 30 Oct (BS), 5 at Kinzua Dam, Warren, PA 4 Nov (JF), 2 at Millcreek Twp., Erie 8 Nov (BC), 6 at Erie, Erie 9 Nov (JM), and 5 at Roderick Wildlife Preserve, Erie 13 Nov (GM). Ohio's first Cave Swallow delighted a local bird club outing to Perry Park, Lake 5 Nov (JP). An estimated 50 birds appeared along the adjacent L. Erie shoreline the next day (LR, m.ob.). A lone bird there 12 Nov (D. Cole) may have been a straggler from the first wave, but 2–4 at a variety of shoreline locales 13–16 Nov suggest a 2nd wave of a dozen or more passing through the area. These produced records at Rocky River Park and Willoughby in Cuyahoga (PL, JT) and at Conneaut (VF). The latter flight on the 16th was accompanied by a Tree Swallow and late Bank Swallow. A Cave Swallow found dead on a Lakewood, Cuyahoga porch 20 Nov was retrieved for Ohio's first specimen (D. Feterle fide J. McCarty). A Northern Rough-winged Swallow in the panhandle of West Virginia 19 Nov (MO) was late. The P.I.S.P. Purple Martin roost held 75,000 birds 11 Aug (D. Plant) dwarfing all other concentrations. The 3000 Barn Swallows there the same day was also a tremendous concentration for the Region.

A Tufted Titmouse was on Kellys I., Erie, OH 30 Oct (TB)—only the 4th time in 20 years that this species has leapt the 8 km across from the mainland. A major flight of Black-capped Chickadees into Pennsylvania began late Sep and was noted through the end of the period. In Montgomery, PA, they outnumbered

Table 1. Rufous Hummingbirds and *Selasphorus* hummingbirds recorded in Pennsylvania and Ohio, autumn 2005.

Confirmed Rufous Hummingbirds

Union, OH	19 Aug–29 Sep (ad. male; b.)	[B. & L. Bornino]
Berks, PA	5 Sep–25 Nov (ad. female; b.)	[R. Kauffman]
Lawrence, OH	5 Sep	[D. Tumblin]
Lebanon, PA	15 Sep–15 Dec (ad. female; b.)	[L. Zehring]
Franklin, PA	25–27 Sep (ph. ad. male)	[unknown]
Armstrong, PA	28 Sep–3 Oct (ph. ad. male)	[S. Pulliam]
Medina, OH	early Oct–5 Dec (imm. male; b.)	[D. & M. Wagner]
Muskingum, OH	9–18 Oct (ad. male)	[M. & W. Wise]
Medina, OH	9 Oct–7 Nov (ad. female; b.)	[M. Hendrick]
Beaver, PA	15 Oct–7 Dec (ad. female; b.)	[R. & E. Hoge]
Chester, PA	12 Oct–12 Dec (ad. male; b.)	[fide S. Weidensaul]
Dauphin, PA	19 Oct–14 Dec (1st yr female; b.)	[T. Johnson]
Chester, PA	29 Oct–4 Dec (1st yr male; b.)	[NP]
Carroll, OH	29 Oct–26 Nov (ad. female; b.)	[F. Downs]
Fairfield, OH	2–13 Nov (ad. female; b.)	[J. Watts]
Fayette, PA	3–18 Nov (1st yr male; b.)	[J. Adams, C. Sherwood]
Logan, OH	6–19 Nov (ad. male)	[S. Erwin]
Chester, PA	8 Nov+ (ad. female; b.)	[Trego residence]
Bucks, PA	20 Nov–7 Dec (ph. imm. female)	[E. Hiller, N. Lawrence]
Montgomery, PA	21–23 Nov (imm. female; b.)	[fide NP]

Confirmed *Selasphorus* Hummingbirds

Lake, OH	7 Aug	[JP]
Lawrence, OH	late Aug–8 Jan	[J. & C. Brown]
Lycoming, PA	4 Sep	[D. Ferry]
Northampton, PA	4 Sep	[A. Koch]
Berks, PA	5 Sep	[R. Kauffman]
Delaware, OH	late Sep–11 Nov	[B. Harter]
Westmoreland, PA	18 Oct	[B. Zottala, A. Fabian]
Northampton, PA	(2) 28 Oct+ (ph.)	[unknown]
Montgomery, PA	5–29 Nov (ph.)	[P.Driver]
Bucks, PA	6 Nov	[R. French]
Monroe, PA	6 Nov	[RW]
Chester, PA	7 Nov+	[Trego residence]
Brown, OH	20 Nov	[D. Hanley]
Indiana, PA	7 Dec	[M. Cunkleman]

Another 12 probable *Selasphorus* were also reported elsewhere in the Region. These summaries are provided by Allen Chartier (OH) and Robert Protz (PA). The banding efforts of Allen Chartier in Ohio and Nick Pulcinella, Scott Weidensaul, and the P.N.R. staff in Pennsylvania have been invaluable in discerning the otherwise cryptic nature of this developing phenomenon.



Dolores Feterle was sweeping her front porch in Cleveland, Ohio 20 November 2005 when she noticed a bird lying among the leaves. After consulting a field guide, she determined it was a Cave Swallow and notified local newspaper columnist Jim McCarty. The specimen is now in the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. Photograph by Larry Rosche.

the resident Carolina Chickadees in Nov (KC). Only one report from Holmes, OH (ES) mentioned this movement w. of Pennsylvania. More conspicuous was the flight of Red-



One of three migrant Sedge Wrens reported in Pennsylvania in autumn 2005, this bird was in Bucks County 24-27 (here 26) September. Photograph by Devich Farbotnik.

breasted Nuthatches into Pennsylvania, with reports from just about every conifer stand (e.g., 40+ at Pine Grove Furnace S.P., 20 Nov [R. Koury]). Moving southward by late Aug, always an indication of an irruption in the making, some 237 were recorded at H.M.S. during the season (LGo). In Ohio, the irrup-

tion dispersed through the Allegheny foothills from 3 Sep+, with no great concentrations, barely registering in the sw. This phenology suggests the irruptions of at least the nuthatches originated in the Northeast rather than the Upper Great Lakes. Sedge Wrens were noted in Bucks, PA 24-27 Sep (AM, DF, JH), at P.V.P. 26 Sep-3 Oct (AM, B. Schaffer), in Northampton 5 Sep (RW), and at Y.C.S.P. 26-27 Aug (MH et al.). Three were in Lake, OH 24 Aug (JP), where breeding took place. The 11 at O.N.W.R. 7 Aug was a 25-yr high (EP et al.), possibly reflecting local efforts to expand grasslands. A male Varied Thrush hit a window in Delaware, PA 19 Nov, the state's first specimen (M. Stephens, R. Clark).

For all the late-season warmth, there were few conspicuously late warblers reported, unlike in 2004. A Yellow Warbler was at P.I.S.P. 16 Oct (JD), and a Cape May Warbler was at Castalia, Erie, OH 19 Nov (BZ). A good showing of the latter had 10-15+ in a Norway Spruce plantation in Lehigh, gorging on berries of the non-native Japanese Angelica tree (*A. elata*) in late

Sep-17 Oct (S. Boyce, RW). A Black-throated Gray Warbler at Firestone Metropark, Summit, OH 22 Oct (E. Pierce, J. Reyda) was the parulid of the season. The 698 Black-throated Green Warblers counted at H.M.S. during the season was well above average (LGo); one lingered at P.V.P. 19 Nov (C. Crunkleton), as did a Palm Warbler in Columbus 15 Nov (RT). Tardier still, a Blackpoll Warbler at H.B.S.P. 26 Nov (JT, RHn) was record late for Ohio. A strong, widespread flight of Connecticut Warblers saw 20 Pennsylvania reports 3 Sep-9 Oct (m.ob.); the banding season at P.N.R. netted 21 birds. Three late Ovenbirds were seen at three locations in Philadelphia 26 Nov (fide AH). An American Redstart was found at O.N.W.R. 6 Nov (EP et al.).

Clay-colored Sparrows were reported in McKean, PA 31 Oct-1 Nov (JF), on Kelleys I., Erie, OH 17 Sep (TB), and in Cuyahoga, OH 2 Oct (KM). Lark Sparrows wandered to P.I.S.P. 26 Sep (JM), Bucks, PA 25 Oct (B. Webster), Montgomery, PA 18 Sep-11 Oct (S. Grunwald, KC, GF), and Calamus Swamp, Pickaway, OH 15 Nov (BCr). The 200 Savannah Sparrows around Findlay Res., Hancock, OH 10 Sep (RC) was a good count so early in the migration. Closer attention to favored habitat has revealed higher numbers of Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows in the Unglaciated Plateau, where a peak of 9 was counted in Tuscarawas, OH 5 Oct (ES). An ad. Harris's Sparrow was at McAlisterville, Juniata 28 Nov+ (A. Troyer). A Bobolink was late at P.I.S.P. 27 Nov (BC, J. Flynn). Late Yellow-headed Blackbirds appeared in Orrville, OH 23 Nov (S. Hackett) and at Maumee Bay S.P., Lucas, OH 27 Nov (JP). A Snow Bunting at H.B.S.P. 19 Oct and 40 there 3 Nov (SI) foretold a strong fall flight into Ohio. Some 200 Lapland Longspurs were already in Wyandot, OH by 5 Nov (RC). Pur-



Providing a first specimen for the state was this male Varied Thrush at Glen Mills, Delaware County, Pennsylvania 19 November 2005. Photograph by Rich Clark.

ple Finches came southward in one of the best showings of recent years. A total of 335 was tallied at P.V.P. 18 Oct (AM, JM), 430 were recorded at H.M.S. during the season (LGo), and 457 were banded at P.N.R. (RM). An



Two Black-billed Magpies spent 28 August through 14 (here 2) October 2005 in Damascus, Mahoning County, Ohio; it is uncertain whether these birds had been in captivity prior to their appearance there. Photograph by Delores Cole.

Evening Grosbeak appeared in *Montgomery*, PA 18 Nov (RK). The peak Red Crossbill count of 12 came at H.M.S. 20 Nov (LGo). Two early White-winged Crossbills were at H.M.S. 25 Aug (LGo).

Initialed observers (subregional editors in bold): OHIO: Matt Anderson (MA), Rick Asamoto (RA), Tom Bartlett (TB), Charlie Bombaci (CB), **Mike Busam** (MB), Craig Caldwell (CC), Rick Counts (RC), Ben Crow (BCr), Doug & Micki Dunakin (D&MD), Victor Fazio III (VF), Robert Foppe (RF), Larry Gara (LG), Ray Hannikman (RHn), Dave Hess (DHe), Sally Isaaco (SI), **Ned Keller** (NK), **Greg Links**, Paula Lozano (PL), Jim McCormac (JM), Kevin Metcalf (KM), Doug Overacker (DO), Al Parker (AP), Ed Pierce (EP), John Pogacnik (JP), Larry Rosche (LR), Robert Royse (RR), Dan Sanders (DS), Kathy Saunders (KS), Ed Schlabach (ES), Troy Shiveley (TS), Becky Smith (BSm), Jerry Talkington (JT), Robert Thorn (RT), Bill Whan (BW), John Yochum (JY), Sheryl Young (SY), Brian

Zweibel (BZ). PENNSYLVANIA: Tom Amico (TA), Ben Coulter (BC), **Kevin Crilley** (KC), John DePaul (JD), Bill Etter (BE), Devich Farbotnik (DF), **John Fedak** (JF), George A Franchois (GF), Dan Heathcote (DH), Dave Gearhart (DGe), **Laurie Goodrich** (LGo) [H.M.S. staff], Dave Grove (DG), **Greg Grove** (GG), **Paul Hess**, Margaret Higbee (MH), Jason Horn (JH), **Armas Hill** [Philadelphia Birdline] (AH), **Rudy Keller** (RK), Scott Kinzey (SK), Mike Lanzone (ML), **Robert C Leberman** (RCL), Ronald F Leberman (RFL), Geoff Malosh, Mark McConaughy [Cen Pennsylvania Birdline] (MM), **Jerry McWilliams** (JM), **August Mirabella** (AM), **Robert Mulvihill** [P.N.R. staff] (RM), Jeff and Lauretta Payne (J&LP), Nick Pulcinella (NP), **William Reid** (WR), Bob Schutsky (BS), Joan Silagy (JS), Matt Spence (MS), Mark Vass (MV), Rick Wiltraut (RW), Kyle Wright (KW). WEST VIRGINIA: Wendell Argabrite (WA), **Jeanette Esker**, **Matt Orsie** (MO). ☪

Victor W. Fazio, III, 18722 Newell Street, Floor 2, Shaker Heights, Ohio 44122, (bcvireo@sbcglobal.net); **Rick Wiltraut**, P.O. Box 294, Saylorsburg, Pennsylvania 18353, (whiskeyjack@netzero.net)

Illinois & Indiana



**James Hengeveld • Keith A. McMullen
Geoffrey A. Williamson**

For the most part, the autumn was dry in the Region, resulting in a lack of habitat at many popular shorebird and wading bird locales. Maximum counts of most shorebird species were lower than usual, as many birds probably passed through the Region in search of more favorable habitat. Warm temperatures continued into Novem-

ber, and perhaps as a result of the warm weather, many insectivorous species lingered, with plentiful prey available. Many migrants showed up early, and many remained later than usual. With respect to rarities and daily high counts, the 2005 fall migration was one of the most exciting on record in Indiana, with a rarity list including a frigatebird, White Ibis, Swallow-tailed Kite, Long-tailed Jaeger, Arctic Tern, and Say's Phoebe, as well as state firsts for Gray Kingbird and Cave Swallow.

Abbreviations: Bee. M. (Beehunter Marsh, *Greene*, IN); Bev. Sh. (Beverly Shores, *Porter*, IN); Carl. L. (Carlyle L., *Clinton*, *Fayette*, and *Bond*, IL); Chau. (Chautauqua N.W.R., IL); Dunes S.P. (Dunes State Park, *Porter*, IN); Eagle Cr. (Eagle Creek Park, *Marion*, IN); F.P. (Forest Preserve); F.W.A. (Fish and Wildlife Area); Hennepin (Hennepin-Hopper Lake Restoration Area, *Putnam*, IL); Mich. City (Michigan City Harbor, *La Porte*, IN); Miller (Miller Beach, *Lake*, IN); Montrose (Montrose Pt., Lincoln Park, Chicago).

WATERFOWL

The count of 500 Greater White-fronted

Geese at Chau. 20 Nov (KR) was Illinois's 2nd highest fall total, and 750 Cackling Geese 27 Nov in *Winnebago*, IL (DTW) was a high fall total. A record Illinois fall count of 20 Ross's Geese was made at Carl. L. 11 Nov (DMK) Tundra Swans made a nice showing, evidenced by 80 tallied 17 Nov at Illinois Beach S.P. (RE) and 75 recorded 12 Nov at Spring L., *Carroll*, IL (KAM). Numbers of migrant and wintering Trumpeter Swans in w. Indiana have been building over the past few years, as evidenced by 52 recorded at Universal Mines, *Vermillion* 22 Nov (MRB); 26 Trumpeters throughout Illinois also reflected an increase.

Wood Ducks continue to thrive; an impressive tally of 1260 came from Hennepin 25 Aug (DPS). Scaup were plentiful: 10,000 Lesser at Carl. L. 13 Nov (DMK) and 3500 Greater at Illinois Beach S.P. 6 Nov (KAM) were maxima. A high count of 500 Canvasbacks was made 12 Nov at Spring L., *Carroll* IL (KAM), and 500 Redheads were tallied 13 Nov at Carl. L. (DMK). Four Harlequin Ducks at Jeorse Park, *Lake* (DG, JJM) and one at Whiting Park, *Lake* 25 Nov (DG, JJM) following the Thanksgiving Day front constituted the highest ever one-day count (5) for