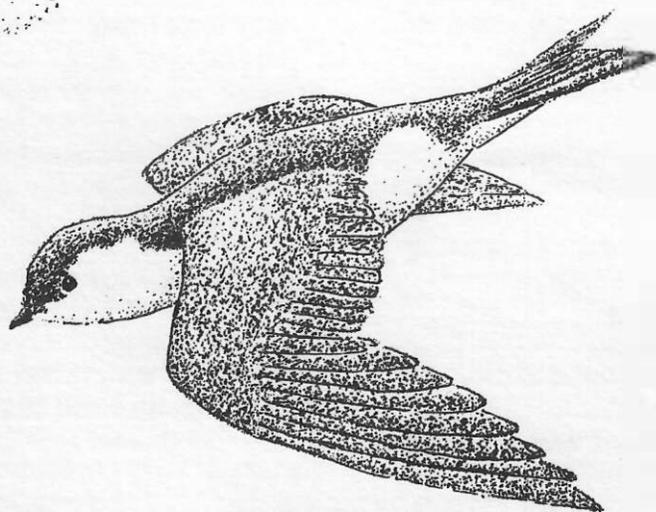


Ohio Cardinal

Volume 13 Number 3, August 1990 (Spring 1990)



Chuck Anderson

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The purpose of The Ohio Cardinal is to provide a permanent record of the abundance and distribution of birds in Ohio; to help document the occurrence of rare species within the state; to provide information on identification of birds; and to provide information on birding areas within Ohio.

The Ohio Cardinal invites readers to submit articles on unusual occurrences of birds, bird distribution within the state, birding areas in Ohio, identification tips, and other aspects of ornithology. Bird reports are welcome from any area in the state. They should be sent to: Tom Kemp, 7021 Manore Road, Whitehouse, Ohio 43571.

Send seasonal reports according to the following schedule:

Winter, March 10
Spring, June 10
Summer, August 10
Autumn, December 10

Report forms are not a necessity but will be supplied on request. Unusual species should be documented and forms will be provided upon request.

The Ohio Cardinal Staff:

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Matthew Anderson, Seasonal Editor
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Cover: Violet-green Swallow by Chuck Anderson.

Ohio's First Violet-green Swallow

by David Kline

May 16, 1990, started out on a wet note with a morning rain making for a soggy early morning bird walk. The rain ended about 10:30 AM after the passage of a warm front and some sunshine produced a warm and humid atmosphere along with strong southwesterly winds.

The early morning walk did not produce any outstanding numbers of birds, so about one o'clock in the afternoon I decided that this would be a good time to check some bluebird boxes on a neighboring property. Upon returning from checking these boxes, I debated whether I wanted to check some boxes at the back end of our property because I was riding my bicycle at the time and would have to go through some fields. I decided to check them since I was so close. I noticed a flock of swallows ahead and quite a few kingbirds sitting on a fence. I stopped to take a closer look at the kingbirds, but my attention was quickly diverted from the kingbirds upon noticing a different looking swallow flying around with the other swallows. This swallow had white on the sides of the rump, a very noticeable amount of white on the face, a purplish-brownish tinge on the head, and a bright green back. Violet-green swallow!!!

After watching the bird about five minutes I decided this is too good to enjoy by myself. I knew many people would be interested in seeing the bird, especially my father, Vernon, and brother Dennis. As I sped home along the edge of a hay field on my bicycle (needless to say it was a rough ride) my thoughts were churning. Could it possibly be just an aberrant Tree swallow?

Upon arriving at home, a quick look in a field guide confirmed that the bird was indeed a Violet-green swallow. I asked my mother, who was the only one at home, to go tell Dennis, who lives across the street from our place.

I was off again, this time on foot. I took a detour up through our woodlot where Dad had taken a walk, and within a few minutes I

overtook him. Quickly we headed back up to the place where I had seen the bird. When we arrived we saw some Barn swallows flying around but no Violet-green. Where was it? Would we ever see it again? After waiting a few moments our questions were answered when the beautiful bird made another appearance. Within a few minutes Dennis also arrived and saw the bird.

After letting a few neighbor birders know, and making some phone calls, we were back watching as the graceful bird caught insects. The skies were cloudy and there was occasional drizzle which seemed to keep the bird in binocular range from the area where it was first seen throughout the afternoon. It spent most of its time feeding with a group of swallows behind a grove of trees where they seemed protected from the strong southwest wind. Occasionally it would fly out to an electric line for what probably was a much needed rest.

At 5 PM Bruce Glick, Dwight Miller, and Ed and Leroy Schlabach arrived. During the next hour we got excellent views and obtained photographs as the bird put on a spectacular show, approaching within 10 feet of us as it flew around with Barn, Cliff, Rough-winged, and Tree swallows.

The question probably uppermost in our minds at this time was how long would it stay here, more than a thousand miles from its normal range? We hoped it would stay for a few days, but we realized that the chances of it staying around for a period of time were minimal.

With these thoughts we reluctantly left the vicinity to do our chores. By 6:45 I was back with Bruce and James Miller. At first it appeared the bird had left, but then we spotted it sitting on the line about a quarter mile down the road. The swallow appeared to be moving around quite a bit more which may have been due to the clearing skies and the wind which had died down considerably during the past

hour.

While we were watching the swallow we heard a buzzing insect-like call down the road. As we walked toward the call we were surprised to see that the sound was coming from a Dickcissel sitting on the electric wire. The swallow, which was resting on a fence while we were watching the Dickcissel, again took flight, quickly gained altitude, and headed off in a northerly direction. As we watched it disappear we had a strong feeling that this would be the last time we would see it.

The most obvious field marks of the bird were white on the side of the face which extended above the eye and the white rump areas which almost came together at the top. The bird could be picked out even at a great distance by the whiteness on its face. Also evident was a purplish-brownish tinge over the top of the head and on its tail. The back was colored with a brighter shade of green than on a Tree swallow and was perhaps a bit glossier, as was the overall appearance of the bird. By this brightness it was assumed the bird was a male. The wings appeared to be uniformly dark and they extended well beyond the tail when viewed in a sitting position. The Violet-green appeared to be virtually the same size as the other swallows it associated with.

The Violet-green swallow has a breeding range from central Alaska south through western Canada to the mountains of Mexico and east to western South Dakota and Nebraska. It winters from California south to Central America. This bird was definitely not on the expected list as one of our next state records as they do not have an established vagrancy pattern in eastern North America.

It is a very pleasant surprise to find a rare bird, especially when it is in your local area. But this is just one of the many rewards which can be obtained by watching and enjoying our birds. The discovery, however, of a Violet-green swallow in Ohio was a memorable event, and it will remain impressed in our minds throughout the rest of our lives.

[Editor's Note: According to the most recent A.O.U. Check-list (1983), there are three previous records east of the Mississippi River

for this species: Florida, New Hampshire, and Nova Scotia. The 1957 Edition of the Check-list cites a 19th century record from Illinois as well.]

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----10580 CR 329
Shreve, OH 44676

Ohio's First Brown Pelican

by Susan Springnether

At the close of the Audubon Bird Walk at Huntington Reservation on Sunday, April 29, 1990, I suggested another scan of Lake Erie. We were hoping to once more observe the two loons who earlier had been fishing and calling to each other.

Betty Pontius and Sue Smith of Bay Village joined me for another look. The three of us carefully studied the lake surface, allowing enough time for any diving loon to emerge. We weren't successful. Our disappointment was brief. But it wasn't a loon that satisfied my searching eyes: sitting among some bobbing gulls, and about 150 feet off the most eastern sandstone pier, was an enormous, brownish bird with an unmistakable massive bill.

I was stunned at what I was seeing. Were my feet still firmly planted in the sands of Lake Erie? This was a sight often viewed along the southern Atlantic coast, the Gulf coast, or the Pacific coast. I thought to myself, "Stay CALM...note all field marks...what ELSE could this be?...identify...get crazy with excitement LATER...this could be the FIRST sighting of a BROWN PELICAN for Ohio!"

With my cries of disbelief and astonishment, the others came running. By now this lone wanderer had begun preening with its long bill. He reared back, flapping his wings, causing a ruckus among the gulls and terns. After awhile he suddenly rose from the surface, flapped a few times, banked close along the surface, and landed about 50 yards to the east in the midst of some very shocked gulls.

While the frightened gulls were showing their displeasure at this intrusion, the pelican settled and tucked his head for a nap. No doubt this was a well earned nap for he had been on a very long journey from his natural and preferred salt water habitat.

Although I wanted very much to spend more time observing this misplaced and rare visitor to Ohio, I could not pass up the chance for more

birders to see it. I set out quickly for home, stopping first at Lake Erie Nature and Science Center to begin spreading the news. Larry Richardson, Director of the Center, went to the shore and found the pelican had moved further to the east. My son Bill and husband Bob also found that the bird was on the move, being barely able to see him because he was so far from shore.

I was beginning to feel like a frustrated town crier because almost every birder I tried to contact was out in the field making the best use of the beautiful day. Those few individuals who answered the telephone were there because of obligations preventing further birding. Three people reached were Harold Wallin of Greater Cleveland Audubon, Mike Stasko of Western Cuyahoga Audubon, and Bob Hinkle, Chief Naturalist of Cleveland Metroparks. They helped to spread the word. Many birders heard the news via this grapevine. Later, I heard of birders hurrying to the shore only to find our new Ohio sighting had already moved on, probably in a confused search for salt water.

I had a work obligation on the East Side so the day could not be spent tracking this now elusive bird. I was compelled, though, to stop at every possible spot along the shore in the late afternoon to continue searching (despite my inappropriate dress and heels). This effort was to no avail - although I did get to see several birders who had received reports of "a weird sighting."

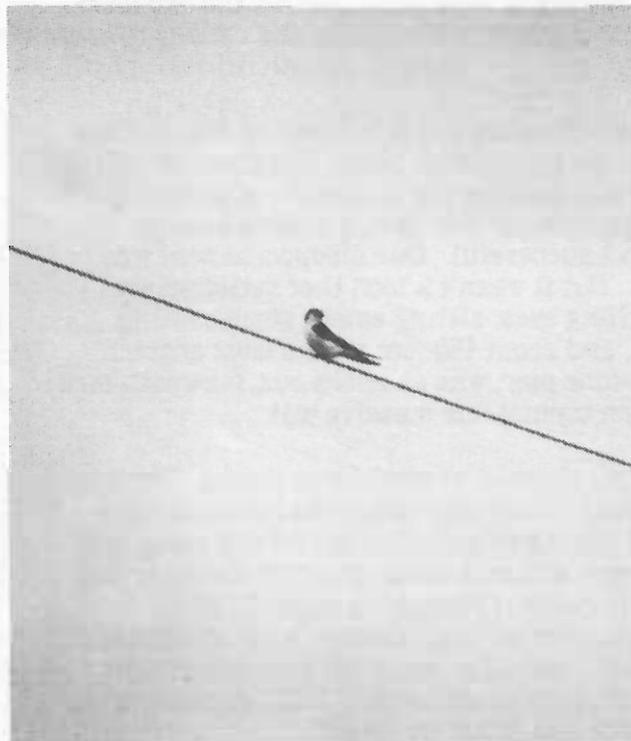
Isn't birding GREAT?...You always have the chance to see the "nuttiest" of birds while meeting the nicest people!

[Editor's Note: Two previous records of Brown pelican in Ohio were dismissed as escapes. A third Brown pelican was reported 1 May 1985 at Crane Creek SP (1985 Toledo Naturalists' Association Yearbook). No additional information is available on this record. There is currently no evidence that this year's Cleveland pelican was an escape. It appears to

be a bonafide vagrant. Finally, from Kenneth Brock (Indiana) comes a report of a Brown pelican along the Lake Michigan shoreline in Indiana from 6-23 June 1990].

----28326 Osborn Road
Bay Village, OH 44140

Two views of a Violet-green swallow in Holmes County. 16 May 1990. First state record. Photographs by Bruce Glick.



The Spring Season 1990

by Tom Kemp and Matt Anderson

It was a bit of an odd spring weatherwise in Ohio. Unusually warm weather in mid-March pushed most waterfowl north of us and induced at least one extraordinarily early arrival. Weather patterns were more normal until the last week of April when strong south winds resulted in earlier-than-average arrivals for many passerine species. Although species numbers were high, numbers of individuals remained low. Precipitation was higher than normal for the period.

The first week or so of May was not conducive for much migration but beginning on the 11th a good push of birds was noted along Lake Erie. One week later another strong movement occurred and on roughly May 25, a sizable migration took place. These movements coincided nicely with weekends, allowing many the opportunity to watch some good birds.

The warm late April weather was apparently responsible for Ohio's first **Brown pelican**, discovered at Huntington Reservation along Lake Erie on April 29. Details appear elsewhere in this issue. No less impressive, and far more unexpected, was the state's first **Violet-green swallow**, studied and photographed in Holmes County on May 16. Two new state birds in a matter of 17 days is rather remarkable.

Other noteworthy spring sightings included Ohio's second **Pacific loon**. Found and apparently photographed by experienced observers at Alum Creek Reservoir on May 21, The Ohio Cardinal has no further details at press time. Ohio's third **Ross' goose**, present all winter in Jackson County, remained until at least mid-March. Extraordinary anywhere east of the Mississippi River in spring, a **Buff-breasted sandpiper** was carefully described at Cleveland on May 28. This is only the second spring Ohio record.

Two hundred eighty species were reported for the period 1 March - 31 May 1990. This is slightly less than the 289 found in 1989.

Following are more highlights of the 1990 spring season.

Single Red-throated loons were noted in late March at Clearfork Reservoir and Buck Creek SP. Maximum Common loon concentrations were the 64 at Caesar Creek on April 20 and the 39 at Clearfork Reservoir on March 31. No large numbers of either Pied-billed or Horned grebes were noted. All three Red-necked grebe and both Eared grebe sightings were from inland locales. Bitterns were rather scarce this spring with four Americans and three Least reported. Likewise, both Snowy egrets and Little Blue herons were represented by only a few scattered individuals, and Yellow-crowned Night-heron reports came from only two locales.

By far the largest group of Tundra swans noted were the 311 on the Cedar Point NWR count on March 11. Dabbler numbers were generally not noteworthy. Two Eurasian wigeon were found, the first at Oberlin Reservoir on March 11 and the second at Castalia on April 21. The 2600 Ring-necked ducks at Mogadore was a good count. Apparently, spectacular concentrations of both scaup species built up in western Lake Erie during April. 40,000 Lesser scaup and 20,000 Greater scaup were tallied on the April 8 Cedar Point NWR count. Unfortunately, no additional details were furnished with these reports. The 10,000 Lesser scaup at Ottawa NWR/Metzger Marsh on April 21 was also impressive. Oldsquaws were reported at four sites and Harlequin ducks lingered near Cleveland until April 21. Three Surf scoter reports were received. An outstanding concentration of White-winged scoters was the 186 birds at Sims Park on Lake Erie on March 10.

1428 raptors of eleven different species were tallied during the annual ONWR spring hawk watch from early March to early May. The total count was amazingly similar to last year's count of 1453. Most numerous were Sharp-shinned hawks (513), Turkey vultures (296), Red-tailed

(191) and Red-shouldered (178) hawks; only 133 Broad-winged hawks were counted. No significant concentrations of migrant hawks were reported from elsewhere in the state. A Northern goshawk was reported from Hocking County on March 19 with no details. A Golden eagle in the Oak Openings on May 5 and four scattered Merlin reports were noteworthy.

A pair of Sandhill cranes on May 31 in Wayne County was certainly of interest. Once again, good shorebird habitat was scarce. In stark contrast to 1989's large numbers, only one Lesser Golden-plover report was submitted. American avocets were seen in Huron (2), East Fork Lk. (10), and Indian Lake (8), all on April 20 or 21. Twelve avocets were also at Metzger Marsh on April 15. Seven Willet reports were received, most from the Cleveland region, including 12 at Lake Rockwell on April 29. A Spotted sandpiper on March 20 in Hancock Co. was extremely early and this species numbered 115 at Headlands Beach SP on May 13. The only Whimbrel report came from Navarre Marsh on May 27. Only three reports of Sanderlings were submitted. An exceptional find was a Baird's sandpiper at L. Rockwell on May 4. These birds are extremely rare in Ohio in spring. Other notable shorebirds were Western sandpiper at Gordon Park on May 20 and a Ruff in the same place May 16-20. The Pectoral sandpiper peak report was 650 birds in Ottawa/Lucas Counties on May 19. Only two Wilson's phalaropes were reported. All told, 29 shorebird species were found. Notable misses include both godwits and Red-necked phalarope.

Gulls numbered ten species. Noteworthy were Laughing, Franklin's, Iceland, Lesser Black-backed, Glaucous, and Black-legged kittiwake, the latter found March 20 at Beaver Creek Reservoir. Caspian and Forster's terns arrived by the first of April and Common terns about two weeks later. Black tern reports numbered about a dozen, more than in recent years. Cuckoos arrived with the warm weather in late April. Their numbers still appear to be down, though. The only Barn owl report came from Richland County. Long-eared and Short-eared owls were present in March at Killdeer Plains and Maumee Bay SP, respectively. Northern Saw-whet owls were noted only at Mentor Marsh. Unprecedentedly early was a nighthawk observed on March 15 in Akron. This sighting followed several days of

unseasonably warm weather. Caution compels us to treat this as nighthawk, species, as there are no confirmed Ohio records of Common nighthawk prior to April 20. Olive-sided and Yellow-bellied flycatchers were widely reported and Alder flycatchers arrived about on schedule.

Tree swallows arrived by March 10, Barn swallows by March 30, and Bank swallows by April 8. A good Barn swallow total was the 961 in Hancock County on May 12. Red-breasted nuthatches remained through the period in the Oak Openings where they are becoming annual in summer. No Sedge wrens were reported this spring. Blue-gray gnatcatchers numbered 50 in the CVNRA on April 30. All of the thrushes arrived by April 25, with an exceptionally early Veery in Akron on April 15. American pipit flocks included 40 in Lorain County on March 13 and 37 at Gilmore Ponds on March 24. The only Loggerhead shrike sighting came from Adams County and a Northern shrike lingered at Oberlin Reservoir until March 11. Bell's vireo was found at Headlands Beach SP on May 19-20 and at the traditional Buck Creek SP location. All of the rest of the vireos arrived before the end of April.

The warm late April weather resulted in earlier than normal arrivals for many warbler species. In fact, of the 36 warbler species reported, 33 occurred by April 30. Only Mourning, Connecticut, and Canada were first reported after May 1. Fifteen reports of Golden-winged warbler were lower than last year's 22 sightings. Good early warbler records include Tennessee on April 24, Orange-crowned on April 21, Black-throated green on April 14, Prairie on April 15, Wilson's on April 26, and Yellow-breasted chat on April 25. Connecticut warbler sightings numbered about 10.

Summer tanagers wandered north to the Oak Openings and CVNRA. Blue grosbeaks were found in usual small numbers from the southern tier of counties. One in Lima on May 18 was north of expected. Dickcissels were found only in Holmes and Seneca Counties. A very late Am. Tree sparrow was still in Clermont County on May 12. The sparrows seemed to arrive on schedule with the exception of an early Lincoln's on April 15 at Springville Marsh. Lark sparrows were found in Hamilton County and in the Oak Openings. Henslow's

sparrows were noted only from Clermont, Holmes, and Hocking Counties. Rare sightings were LeConte's and Sharp-tailed sparrows, both at Gordon Park on May 16. An exceptionally late Lapland longspur was in Hancock County May 12, the only one reported for the spring. Thirty-three Snow buntings were at Findlay Reservoir on March 9, also the only ones this spring. An early Bobolink was in Hancock County on April 21 and a Western meadowlark was east of normal at Streetsboro. A small colony of Yellow-headed blackbirds was discovered near Port Clinton and Brewer's blackbirds were found near Medina on April 22 for the only report of that species for the spring. Pine siskins remained through the period at several locations. Winter finch holdovers included five White-winged crossbills in Geauga County on March 3, three Common redpolls at Shaker Lakes on March 21, and an Evening grosbeak at Mohican SP on March 18.

In the following reports, underlined species are considered unusual and an asterisk means documentation was submitted and accepted by the Records Committee. Commonly used abbreviations include ONWRC (Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge Count), CPNWRC (Cedar Point National Wildlife Refuge Count), CBC (Cleveland Bird Calendar), and CVNRA (Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area). The ONWR and CPNWR monthly counts are compiled by Ed Pierce and Joe Komorowski, respectively. Joe Komorowski also compiled the ONWR hawk watch data. We thank Larry Rosche and his staff of The Cleveland Bird Calendar for use of their data.

Loons through Herons

RED-THROATED LOON-3/22-24 Clearfork Res. (JVH, m.ob.), 3/25-4/1 Buck Creek SP (DO, LG, BA). COMMON LOON-24+ reports, 3/31 Clearfork Res. (39) (JVH), 4/20 Caesar Creek (64) (WM), 5/27 Clearfork Res. (JVH). PACIFIC LOON-5/21 Alum Creek Res. (m.ob.) [2nd state record]. PIED-BILLED GREBE-3/1-4/6 Summit Lk. (6-10) (LK), 3/6 Pleasant Hill (3-6) (BG), 4/14 Buck Creek SP (6) (DO), 4/21 Maumee (6) (MA), 5/6 ONWRC (14). HORNED GREBE-3/1-4/6 Summit Lk. (2-8) (LK), 3/11 Buck Creek SP (10) (DO), 3/31 Pickerington Pond (12) (BA), 20+

additional reports. RED-NECKED GREBE-3/4 Hoover Dam (2) (BSM), 3/6-7 Summit Lk. (LK, ECP), 3/31 Caesar Creek Lk. (JSi). EARED GREBE-4/8 East Fork Lk. (BSt), 4/20 Oak Openings (MA, TK). BROWN PELICAN-4/29 Cleveland (SS, m.ob.)* [1st state record; see article this issue]. DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT-4/13-5/25 Knox Lk. (max 38) (JVH), 5/12-28 Meander Res. (50-100) (NB, DH). AMERICAN BITTERN-4/8-5/12 Spring Valley (1-3) (m.ob.), 5/12 Crane Creek (m.ob.), 5/19 Erie Co. (ECP), 5/21-28 Springville Marsh (TB). LEAST BITTERN-5/13 Irwin Prairie (m.ob.), 5/27-28 Springville Marsh (TB, KM), 5/30 Spring Valley (LG). GREAT BLUE HERON-4/1 ONWRC (87), 4/8 CPNWRC (41). GREAT EGRET-3/17 ONWR (TL), 3/30 Knox Lk. (JVH), 5/6 ONWRC (46), 5/19 Lucas/Ottawa Cos. (55) (MA). SNOWY EGRET-5/3-12 Crane Creek (m.ob.), 5/11 Navarre Marsh (m.ob.), 5/24 Baldwin Lk. (RH). LITTLE BLUE HERON-4/28 Spring Valley (MM), 4/29 Hamilton Co. (DT), 5/9 Ottawa River (TB). CATTLE EGRET-4/28-5/19 Crane Creek (3-7) (m.ob.), 5/12 Mosquito Lk. (2) (CB), 5/14 Wayne Co. (DK1), 5/19 Ottawa Co. (10) (MA). GREEN-BACKED HERON-4/15 Hamilton Co. (AG), 4/19 Gordon Pk. (TL), 4/23 Oak Openings (TK), 4/25 Holmes Co. (BG), listed as declining by one NW Ohio observer. BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON-4/1 ONWRC (19), 4/15 Darby Marsh (35) (JR), 9 additional reports. YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON-4/28 Youngstown (NB), 5/23 Glen Helen (2) (KH).

Swans through Puddle Ducks

TUNDRA SWAN-3/7 Pine Lk. (Mahoning Co.) (75) (NB), 3/10 Wayne Co. (40-50) (ETh, JVH), 3/11 Mosquito Lk. (94) (CB), 3/11 CPNWRC (311), 3/17 ONWR (34) (TL). MUTE SWAN-3/17 Spring Valley (LG), 4/9 Medusa Marsh (ETh), 4/18 Kiser Lk. (DO), 5/11 Navarre Marsh (m.ob.). SNOW GOOSE-8 reports beginning 3/2. ROSS' GOOSE-3/1-18 Jackson Co. (holdover from the winter, m.ob.). CANADA GOOSE-3/4 ONWRC (2000), 3/11 CPNWRC (1306), 5/12 Hancock Co. (246) (BH). WOOD DUCK-3/20 Hancock Co. (20) (BH), 5/19 Ottawa Co. (75) (MA). GREEN-WINGED TEAL-3/10 Killbuck Marsh (110) (RC), 4/1 ONWRC (154), 4/5 Barberton (244) (LR), 4/8 CPNWRC (118), 4/14 Killbuck Marsh

(80) (JVH), 4/15 Darby Marsh (125) (JR). AM. BLACK DUCK-3/4 ONWRC (400), 4/8 CPNWRC (90). MALLARD-3/4 ONWRC (3000), 3/11 CPNWRC (1053), 3/18 Darby Marsh (300) (JR). NORTHERN PINTAIL-3/4 ONWRC (130), 3/10 Killbuck Marsh (55) (RC), 4/8 CPNWRC (444), 4/15 Darby Marsh (85) (JR). BLUE-WINGED TEAL-3/11 Gilmore Ponds (AWa), 4/8 Spring Valley (35) (DO), 4/15 Darby Marsh (75) (JR), 4/17 Hancock Co. (25) (BH). NORTHERN SHOVELER-3/18 Gilmore Ponds (20) (DG), 4/1 ONWRC (131), 4/8 Mosquito Lk. (62) (CB), 4/8 CPNWRC (37). GADWALL-3/10 Killbuck Marsh (35) (RC), 3/18 Darby Marsh (150) (JR), 4/15 Darby Marsh (175) (JR). EURASIAN WIGEON-3/11 Oberlin Res. (GG), 4/21 Castalia (TK). AMERICAN WIGEON-3/9 Spring Valley (80) (LG), 3/10 Killbuck Marsh (60) (RC), 3/18 Darby Marsh (85) (JR), 4/8 CPNWRC (85), 4/24 Gilmore Ponds (40) (AWa).

Diving Ducks

CANVASBACK-3/27 Findlay Res. (71), 4/8 CPNWRC (94), 9 additional reports. REDHEAD-3/4 ONWRC (250), 3/7 Wilmington Res. (90) (LG), 3/10 Wellington Res. (80) (ETH), 3/11 Buck Creek SP/Springfield (100) (DO). RING-NECKED DUCK-High: 3/8 Mogadore Res. (2600) (LR), 3/11 CPNWRC (145), 3/11 Pickerington Pond (100) (BA), 3/16 Richland Co. (182) (JVH), 3/18 Gilmore Ponds (150) (DG). GREATER SCAUP-4/8 CPNWRC (20,000). LESSER SCAUP-4/8 CPNWRC (40,000) [Remarkable! These numbers of both scaup species are apparently unprecedented in western Lake Erie.-Ed.], 4/21 ONWR/Metzger Marsh (10,000) (BA). HARLEQUIN DUCK-3/4 Headlands Beach SP (2) (m.ob.), 3/4-10 Sims Pk. (m.ob.), 4/14-21 Perkins Beach (fide CBC). OLDSQUAW-3/10 Sims Pk. (Cuyahoga Co.) (7) (EC), 3/11 Caesar Creek Lk. (NK, JS), 4/11 Youngstown (2) (NB), 4/18 Cleveland (TL). SURF SCOTER-4/23 Oberlin Res. (2) (ETH). WHITE-WINGED SCOTER-3/2-18 Bresler Res. (RCu), High: 3/10 Sims Pk. (186) (ECP), 3/30 Oberlin Res. (ETH). COMMON GOLDENEYE-3/4 ONWRC (67), no other concentrations noted. BUFFLEHEAD-3/11 Spring Valley (35) (NK, JS), 3/18 Mosquito Lk. (25) (CB), 4/6 Spring Valley (24) (HC), 5/6 Willard Res. (TK). HOODED MERGANSER-3/7 Pine Lk. (10) (NB), 3/24 Gilmore Ponds (20) (CS), 4/7 ONWRC (42), 4/21 L. Rockwell (75) (LR), 5/12 ONWR (TK), 5/22 L. Isaac (RH). COMMON MERGANSER-3/4 ONWRC (1000), 3/6 Findlay Res. (97) (BH), 10 additional reports.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER-3/8 Lorain (300) (ETH), 3/16-24 Clearfork Res. (max 772) (JVH), 3/20 Findlay Res. (426) (BH), 4/13 Ladue Res. (1050) (LR), 5/29 GLSM (DD). RUDDY DUCK-4/8 CPNWRC (210), 4/21 ONWR/Metzger Marsh (2400) (BA).

Hawks

BLACK VULTURE-3/5 Adams Co. (PWh), 4/25 Shawnee Lookout (JB, PW), 4/28 Clear Creek (19) (TB). TURKEY VULTURE-3/18 Adams Co. (50) (BL), 3/22-4/9 ONWR (218) (JK), 4/9 Cleveland (40) (TL), 5/29 Hancock Co. (50) (BH). OSPREY-4/9-5/7 ONWR (10) (JK), 23+ other reports. BALD EAGLE-2 nests at Mosquito Lk. (NB), 5 other reports away from L. Erie. NORTHERN HARRIER-3/2-5/8 ONWR (29) (JK), 5/12 Mosquito Lk. (pair) (CB). SHARP-SHINNED HAWK-3/22-5/8 ONWR (511); peak on 5/7-8 (385) (JK), 4/9 Cleveland (15) (TL). COOPER'S HAWK-3/2-5/8 ONWR (41) (JK). NORTHERN GOSHAWK-3/19 Hocking Co. (JF) [no details-Ed.]. RED-SHOULDERED HAWK-3/12 ONWR (150) (JK). BROAD-WINGED HAWK-4/11 Adams Co. (PWh), 4/15 Mahoning Co. (NB), 4/17 Hancock Co. (BH), 4/23 Oak Openings (13) (MA), 4/27-5/8 ONWR (133) (JK). RED-TAILED HAWK-3/2-5/7 ONWR (189) (JK). ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK-3/4 ONWRC (5), 3/11 Adams Co. (4) (BS), 3/11 CPNWRC (4), 3/12-5/8 ONWR (16) (JK), 4/14 Killdeer Plains (7) (BA), 7 additional reports. GOLDEN EAGLE-5/5 Oak Openings (TK)*. MERLIN-5/5 Beaver Creek Res. (TB), 5/6 East Fork Lk. (CS), 5/8 Hancock Co. (BH, WM1), 5/24 Parma Hts. (RH). PEREGRINE FALCON-3/24 Cleveland (KM), 5/6 ONWRC, 5/11 Hueston Woods SP (DS, SP, DE), pair through the period in Toledo.

Turkey through Cranes

WILD TURKEY-7 reports. RUFFED GROUSE-4 reports. NORTHERN BOBWHITE-10 reports. VIRGINIA RAIL-4/1 Springville Marsh (TB), 4/14 Spring Valley (LG), 5/6 Ottawa Co. (TK), 5/7 Big Island WA (7) (BA). SORA-4/14 Spring Valley (LG), 4/22 Richland Co. (JVH), 5/7 Big Island WA (18) (BA), 5/13 CPNWRC (5). COMMON MOORHEN-4/21 Sheldon's Marsh (ETH), 5/12 Mosquito Lk. (CB), several at Killbuck through May (BG), 5 additional reports. AMERICAN COOT-4/6 Crane Creek (hundreds) (DAC), 4/6 Wilmington Res. (50)

(LG), 4/8 CPNWRC (140), 4/14 Buck Creek SP (300) (DO), 4/17 Hancock Co. (85). SANDHILL CRANE-9 reports, 5/31 Wayne Co. (pair) (JW).

Shorebirds

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER-5/5 Gordon Pk. (TL), 5/12 Mosquito Lk. (9) (CB), 5/19 Lucas Co. (55) (MA). LESSER GOLDEN-PLOVER-4/14 Blachleyville (JVH) [only report!]. SEMIPALMATED PLOVER-5/7 ONWR (TL), 5/13 Headlands Beach SP (40) (fide CBC), 5/19 Lucas Co. (40) (MA), 5/23 Funk (35) (RC). KILLDEER-3/11 Mosquito Lk. (45) (DH), 4/1 ONWR (61), 5/12 Hancock Co. (41) (BH). AMERICAN AVOCET-4/15 Magee Marsh (12) (m.ob.), 4/20 Huron (2) (TL), 4/20-21 East Fork Lk. (10) (DD), 4/21 Indian Lk. (8) (MMi, RG). GREATER YELLOWLEGS-4/1 Franklin Co. (BA), 4/7 Clark Co. (DO), 4/17 Findlay Res. (BH), 5/12 Mosquito Lk. (18) (CB). LESSER YELLOWLEGS-3/17 ONWR (7) (m.ob.), 4/8 CPNWRC (3), 4/21 Gilmore Ponds (30) (AWa), 5/12 Mosquito Lk. (22) (CB). SOLITARY SANDPIPER-4/15 CVNRA (DAC), 4/23 Mason (BS), 4/27 Sheldon's Marsh (4) (ETh), 4/28 Funk (15) (RC). WILLET-4/29 Headlands Beach SP (TL), 4/29 L. Rockwell (12) (LR), 4/30 Hamilton Co. (JD), 5/5 Seneca Co. (TB), 5/14 L. Rockwell (LK). SPOTTED SANDPIPER-Early: 3/20 Hancock Co. (BH) [Ties earliest Ohio spring arrival-Ed.], 4/14 Youngstown (NB), 5/8 Findlay Res. (46) (BH), 5/13 Headlands Beach SP (115) (fide CBC). UPLAND SANDPIPER-4/18 Lucas Co. (TK), 4/21 Mansfield (JVH), 4/29 Holmes Co. (DK1), 4 additional reports. WHIMBREL-5/27 Navarre Marsh (2) (JK). RUDDY TURNSTONE-5/12 Mosquito Lk. (6) (CB), 5/19 Lucas Co. (15) (MA), 5/24 Crane Creek (28-35) (DD, LG), 5/26 Lucas Co. (150) (ECP). RED KNOT-5/13 Headlands Beach SP (fide CBC), 5/26 Maumee Bay SP (3) (ECP). SANDERLING-5/12 Mosquito Lk. (CB), 5/12 Fostoria Res. (BH), 5/23 Crane Creek (2) (LG) [only reports]. SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER-5/6 Navarre Marsh (TK), 5/28 Funk (17) (RC). LEAST SANDPIPER-5/6 Navarre Marsh (TK), 5/7 Big Island WA (15) (BA), 5/7 ONWR (15) (TL), 5/12 Mosquito Lk. (38) (CB), 5/13 Headlands Beach SP (340) (fide CBC). WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER-5/23 Funk (4) (RC), 5/29 Gordon Pk. (5) (TL). BAIRD'S SANDPIPER-5/4 L. Rockwell (fide CBC). PECTORAL SANDPIPER-3/25 Buck Creek SP (DO), 4/1 Franklin Co. (BA), 4/28

Blachleyville (150) (JVH, RC), 5/19 Ottawa/Lucas Cos. (650) (MA). DUNLIN-4/7 GLSM (DD), 4/21 ONWR (140) (BA), 5/6 ONWRC (570), 5/12 Mosquito Lk. (42) (CB), 5/21 Gordon Pk. (63) (TL). STILT SANDPIPER-5/12 ONWR (BA), 5/13-21 Paulding (MDD), 5/19 ONWR (6) (m.ob.). BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER-5/28 Barberton (RH). RUFF-5/16-20 Gordon Pk. (RH, m.ob.)*. SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER-5/12 Metzger Marsh (200) (MA), 5/13 Gordon Pk. (75) (TL), 5/13 Headlands Beach SP (280) (fide CBC), 5/13 Findlay Res. (26) (BH). COMMON SNIBE-3/26 Mosquito Lk. (DH), 3/31 Pickerington Pond (7) (BA), 4/9 Medusa Marsh (8) (ETh). AMERICAN WOODCOCK-3/2 CVNRA (LK), 3/5 Spring Valley (HC), 3/10 Trumbull Co. (DH), 3/11 Franklin Co. (BA). WILSON'S PHALAROPE-5/19 Gordon Pk. (fide CBC), 5/29 GLSM (DD).

Gulls and Terns

FRANKLIN'S GULL-5/11 Hueston Woods (2) (DS, SP, DE). BONAPARTE'S GULL-3/30 Clearfork Res. (300) (JVH), 5/19 Ottawa Co. (125) (MA), 5/29 GLSM (DD). RING-BILLED GULL-3/8 Clearfork Res. (425) (JVH), 3/11 Mosquito Lk. (1000) (DH). ICELAND GULL-3/1 Cleveland (TL). LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL-4/6 L. Rockwell (fide CBC). GLAUCOUS GULL-3/3 Headlands Beach SP (ECP), 3/4 Cleveland (TL), 3/26 Cleveland (TL). GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL-4/1 ONWRC (9). BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE-3/20 Beaver Creek Res. (TB)*. CASPIAN TERN-4/1 Old Woman's Creek (TB), 4/8 Franklin Co. (BA), 4/9 Lorain (ETh), 4/12 Mosquito Lk. (6) (CB), 4/20 Huron (30) (TL). COMMON TERN-4/14 Killbuck Marsh (JVH), 4/21 Metzger Marsh (9) (BA), 5/13 Mosquito Lk. (40) (DH), 4 additional reports. FORSTER'S TERN-4/7 Gilmore Ponds (DS), 4/8 Pickerington Pond (5) (BA), 4/20 Huron (TL). BLACK TERN-5 reports beginning 5/6.

Cuckoos through Flycatchers

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO-11 reports beginning 4/29. YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO-12+ records beginning 4/29. BARN OWL-4/13 Richland Co. (JVH). LONG-EARED OWL-3/24 Killdeer Plains (2) (ECP). SHORT-EARED OWL-3/17 Maumee Bay SP (ECP). COMMON

NIGHTHAWK-Early: 3/15 Akron (ECP) [Probably should be designated nighthawk, sp.-Ed.; see Short Notes this issue.], 5/3 Columbus (BA), 5/5 Clark Co. (DO), 5/8 Lorain (ETh).
 WHIP-POOR-WILL-4/21 Adams Co. (PWh), 4/24 Cleveland (TL), 4/25 Oak Openings (MA).
 CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW-4/30 Adams Co. (PWh).
 CHIMNEY SWIFT-4/18 Adams Co. (BL), 4/19 Clermont Co. (DB), 4/20 Franklin Co. (BA), 4/21 Mahoning Co. (NB). RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD-4/27 Adams Co. (BL), 4/29 Holmes Co. (BG), 5/7 Wilmington (LG), 5/22 Hancock Co. (7) (BH), 5/27 Oak Openings (5) (MA). RED-HEADED WOODPECKER-5/12 Hancock Co. (12) (BH), 11 additional reports.
 YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER-3/5 Adams Co. (PWh), 4/3 Columbus (BA), 4/17 Hancock Co. (7) (BH), Late: 5/15 Hancock Co. (3) (BH).
 NORTHERN FLICKER-4/1 ONWRC (20), 4/15 Darby Marsh (15) (JR), 4/24 Hancock Co. (32) (BH). OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER-8 reports beginning 5/13. EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE-4/24 Hamilton Co. (DS), 4/28 Hocking Co. (BA), 5/5 Summit Co. (LK), 5/22 Hancock Co. (16) (BH).
 YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER-5/20 Oak Openings (MA), 5/20 Springville Marsh (TB), 5/23 Hamilton Co. (HC). ACADIAN FLYCATCHER-4/24 Columbus (BA), 4/28 Sugarcreek Res. (LG), 5/8 Holmes Co. (BG), 5/9 Youngstown (NB). ALDER FLYCATCHER-5/15 Firestone MP (ECP), 5/19 Buck Creek SP (DO), 5/20 Irwin Prairie (MA), 5/20 Springville Marsh (TB). WILLOW FLYCATCHER-5/10 Summit Co. (LK), 5/19 Irwin Prairie (MA), 5/28 Buck Creek SP (15) (DO). LEAST FLYCATCHER-4/24 Hamilton Co. (DS), 4/25 Columbus (BA), 4/26 Maumee (MA). EASTERN PHOEBE-3/1 Adams Co. (BL), 3/10 CVNRA (DAC), 3/13 Holmes Co. (BG). GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER-4/23 Adams Co. (PWh), 4/25 Hamilton Co. (DB), 4/26 Maumee (MA). EASTERN KINGBIRD-4/25 Adams Co. (BL), 4/26 Mason (BS), 4/27 Oak Openings (TK), 4/28 Hocking Co. (BA).

Swallows through Vireos

PURPLE MARTIN-3/17 Cincinnati (NW), 4/6 Spring Valley (HC), 5/19 Lucas Co. (75) (MA).
 VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOW-5/16 Holmes Co. (DK, m.ob., ph.)* [1st state record-see article and photos this issue]. TREE SWALLOW-3/10 East Fork Lk. (HC), 3/11 CPNWRC, 4/7 Spring Valley (200) (LG), 4/7 Wayne Co. (65-70) (RC), 5/6 ONWRC (200), 5/12 Hancock Co. (147) (BH). N.

ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW-4/6 Spring Valley (HC), 4/21 Youngstown (NB), 4/21 Hebron (BA), 5/5 Clark Co. (50) (DO), 5/12 Hancock Co. (94) (BH).
 BANK SWALLOW-4/8 Hamilton Co. (DS), 5/1 Summit Co. (LK), 5/5 Spring Valley (BA), 5/5 Sheldon's Marsh (ETh), 5/12 Hancock Co. (101) (BH), 5/19 Lucas Co. (125) (MA). CLIFF SWALLOW-5/5 Knox Lk. (JVH), 5/5 Buck Creek SP (DO), 5/6 Ottawa Co. (TK), 5/12 Findlay Res. (13) (BH), several colonies in Holmes Co. (BG).
 BARN SWALLOW-3/30 Mason (BS), 4/7 Spring Valley (LG), 4/10 Maumee (MA), 5/5 Clark Co. (100) (DO), High: 5/12 Hancock Co. (961) (BH), 5/19 Lucas Co. (125) (MA). BLUE JAY-4/29 Port Clinton (80) (KM), 5/12 Hancock Co. (84) (BH).
 AMERICAN CROW-3/11 CPNWRC (224). RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH-5/27 Oak Openings (MA), 5/27 Howland (CB). BROWN CREEPER-nesting at Mosquito Lk. (DH), Late: 5/28 Oak Openings (MA, TK). HOUSE WREN-4/2 Youngstown (NB), 4/13 Summit Co. (LK), 5/22 Hancock Co. (68) (BH). WINTER WREN-4/8 Holmes Co. (BG), 5/1 Hancock Co. (BH), 5/11 Crane Creek (TK). MARSH WREN-4/21 Spring Valley (MM), 4/25 Richland Co. (JVH), 5/5 Springville Marsh (5) (TB), 5/28 Buck Creek SP (6) (DO). GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET-4/7 Hinckley MP (100) (ECP), 4/15 Oak Openings (40) (MA), 4/17 Hancock Co. (36) (BH), 4/30 Summit Co. (LK), 4/30 Adams Co. (PWh).
 RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET-3/24 Gilmore Ponds (CS), 3/28 Niles (CB), 4/17 Hancock Co. (20) (BH), 4/28 Crane Creek (35) (MA). BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER-4/13 Adams Co. (BL), 4/22 Spring Valley (BS), 4/28 Sugarcreek Res. (20) (LG), 4/30 CVNRA (50) (LK), 5/5 Youngstown (at nest) (NB). EASTERN BLUEBIRD-5/12 Hancock Co. (42) (BH). VEERY-Early: 4/15 Firestone MP (LK), 4/28 Hocking Co. (BA), 4/29 Sheldon's Marsh (ETh). GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH-4/25 Hamilton Co. (DS), 4/28 Spring Valley (MM), 5/5 Buck Creek SP (DO), 5/11 Crane Creek (m.ob.), 5/24 Hamilton Co. (HC). SWAINSON'S THRUSH-4/26 Oak Openings (MA), 4/26 Clermont Co. (DB), 4/26 Franklin Co. (BA), 5/19 Lucas/Ottawa Cos. (50) (MA), 5/26 Cleveland (10) (TL). HERMIT THRUSH-3/12 Adams Co. (PWh), 3/24 Buck Creek SP (DO), 4/1 Howland (CB), 5/6 Columbus (LG). WOOD THRUSH-4/20 Hamilton Co. (DS), 4/24 Adams Co. (PWh), 4/26 Columbus (BA), 4/27 Oak Openings (TK), 4/27 Niles (CB). AMERICAN ROBIN-5/12 Hancock Co. (463) (BH). GRAY CATBIRD-4/25 Columbus (BA), 4/25 Adams Co. (BL), 4/28 Youngstown (NB), 5/12 Hancock Co.

(66) (BH), 5/19 Lucas/Ottawa Cos. (55) (MA). NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD-7 reports from north. BROWN THRASHER-3/13 Adams Co. (BL), 3/21 Niles (CB), 4/23 Cleveland (5) (TL), 5/12 Hancock Co. (21) (BH). AMERICAN PIPIT-3/11 CPNWRC, 3/13 Lorain Co. (40) (TL), 3/24 Gilmore Ponds (37) (CS), 4/7 Delaware WA (6) (BA), 4/28 Blachleyville (6-10) (JVH, RC), 5/19 Ottawa Co. (ECP). CEDAR WAXWING-3/12 Summit Co. (35) (DAC), 5/22 Hancock Co. (369) (BH). NORTHERN SHRIKE-3/11 Oberlin Res. (m.ob.).
 LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE-4/17 Adams Co. (BL). WHITE-EYED VIREO-4/21 Adams Co. (PWh), 4/23 Clermont Co. (DB), 4/24 Columbus (BA), 4/25 Holmes Co. (BG), 4/28 Crane Creek (4) (MA). BELL'S VIREO-5/19 Buck Creek SP (carrying nesting material) (DO), 5/19-20 Headlands Beach SP (fide CBC). SOLITARY VIREO-4/19 Hamilton Co. (m.ob.), 4/22 Oak Openings (MA), 4/25 Columbus (BA). YELLOW-THROATED VIREO-4/23 Adams Co. (BL), 4/25 Holmes Co. (BG), 4/25 Hamilton Co. (m.ob.). WARBLING VIREO-4/24 Hamilton Co. (DB), 4/25 Adams Co. (BL), 4/28 CVNRA (DAC), 5/14 Spring Valley (11) (HC). PHILADELPHIA VIREO-4/30 Trumbull Co. (DH), 5/15 Hancock Co. (4) (BH), 5/19 Buck Creek SP (3) (DO). RED-EYED VIREO-4/24 Hamilton Co. (DB, DS), 4/27 Summit Co. (LK), 5/15 Hancock Co. (19) (BH), 5/20 Champaign Co. (20) (DO), 5/23 Hamilton Co. (20) (HC).

Warblers

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER-4/21 Adams Co. (PWh), 4/23 Clermont Co. (DB), 4/27 CVNRA (DAC), 4/29 Oak Openings (6) (MA), numbers appear down in the Oak Openings (MA, TK). GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER-15 reports beginning 4/29, six on 5/4 Hamilton Co. (WR). TENNESSEE WARBLER-4/24 Hancock Co. (BH), 4/25 Shawnee Lookout (JB, PW), 4/28 Holmes Co. (BG), 5/15 Hancock Co. (32) (BH). ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER-8 reports beginning 4/21. NASHVILLE WARBLER-4/24 Hancock Co. (BH), 4/24 Hamilton Co. (DS), 4/26 Maumee (MA), 4/28 Holmes Co. (BG). NORTHERN PARULA-4/25 Shawnee Lookout (JB, PW), 4/27 Clermont Co. (DB), 4/27 Fort Ancient (LG), 4/28 Hocking Co. (BA). YELLOW WARBLER-4/24 Columbus (BA), 4/24 Hancock Co. (BH), 4/25 Spring Valley (LG), 5/12 Hancock Co. (63) (BH), 5/12 Magee Marsh (100) (ECP). CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER-4/25 Hamilton

Co. (DS), 4/26 Columbus (BA), 4/28 Firestone MP (LK), 5/12 Magee Marsh (20) (ECP). MAGNOLIA WARBLER-4/27 Columbus (BA), 4/28 Crane Creek (MA), 5/12 Magee Marsh (30) (ECP), 5/19 Lucas/Ottawa Cos. (35) (MA). CAPE MAY WARBLER-4/25 Hamilton Co. (DS), 4/25 Columbus (BA), 5/11 Magee Marsh (25) (ECP). BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER-4/28 Howland (CB), 4/28 Hocking Co. (BA), 4/30 Hamilton Co. (HC, JR). YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER-4/22 Spring Valley (50) (LG), 5/5 Hamilton Co. (35) (HC), 5/12 Hancock Co. (52) (BH), 5/19 Crane Creek (10) (MA). BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER-4/14 Spring Valley (NK, MM, LG), 4/23 Adams Co. (PWh), 4/24 Niles (CB), 4/25 Holmes Co. (BG), 5/5 Clark Co. (10) (DO). BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER-4/27 Oak Openings (TK), 4/28 Sugarcreek Res. (LG), 4/29 Hamilton Co. (PW, JB). YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER-4/13 Adams Co. (BL), 4/15 Hamilton Co. (DS), 4/21 Columbus (LG). PINE WARBLER-3/5 Adams Co. (PWh), 3/25 Hamilton Co. (DS), 4/3 Richland Co. (JVH), 4/20 Oak Openings (TK), 4/22 Columbiana Co. (DH). PRAIRIE WARBLER-4/15 Adams Co. (PWh), 4/25 East Fork Lk. (DD), 4/27 Sheldon's Marsh (ETH). PALM WARBLER-4/22 Magee Marsh (BA), 4/24 Hamilton Co. (DS), 4/28 Crane Creek (25) (MA). BAY-BREASTED WARBLER-4/28 Crane Creek (MA), 4/28 Spring Valley (MM), 4/29 Sheldon's Marsh (ETH), 5/15 Hancock Co. (19) (BH). BLACKPOLL WARBLER-4/28 Crane Creek (MA). CERULEAN WARBLER-4/24 Adams Co. (BL), 4/24 Hamilton Co. (DB), 4/28 Holmes Co. (BG), 4/28 Sugarcreek Res. (4) (LG), 4/29 CVNRA (DAC), declining in Clermont Co. (HC). BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER-4/19 Hamilton Co. (m.ob.), 4/23 Adams Co. (PWh), 4/28 Summit Co. (LK), 4/28 Holmes Co. (BG). AMERICAN REDSTART-4/28 Ft. Ancient (WM), 4/28 Hocking Co. (BA), 4/28 Howland (CB), 5/15 Hancock Co. (15) (BH). PROTHONOTARY WARBLER-4/26 Adams Co. (PWh), 4/29 Spring Valley (LG), 5/5 Buck Creek SP (DO), 5/12 Crane Creek (m.ob.), 5/12 Mosquito Lk. (CB). WORM-EATING WARBLER-4/21 Adams Co. (PWh), 4/25 Hamilton Co. (3) (DS), 4/28 Crane Creek (MA), 4/28 Hocking Co. (BA). OVENBIRD-4/21 Adams Co. (PWh, BL), 4/24 Columbus (BA), 4/27 Oak Openings (TK), 4/28 Clear Creek (100) (ECP), 5/26 Lawrence Co. (18) (DO). NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH-4/27 Sheldon's Marsh (ETH), 4/28 Spring Valley (MM), 5/31 Howland (CB). LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH-4/1 Adams Co. (PWh), 4/2 East

Fork Lk. (DD), 4/8 Holmes Co. (BG), 5/27 Oak Openings (MA). KENTUCKY WARBLER-4/25 Shawnee Lookout (JB, PW), 4/26 Adams Co. (BL), 4/27 Clermont Co. (DB), 4/29 Tar Hollow SP (BA). CONNECTICUT WARBLER-10+ reports beginning 5/19. MOURNING WARBLER-5/12 Crane Creek (m.ob.), 5/12 Hamilton Co. (m.ob.), 5/19 Lucas/Ottawa Cos. (7) (MA). COMMON YELLOWTHROAT-4/22 Adams Co. (BL), 4/26 Oak Openings (TK), 5/5 Clark Co. (25) (DO), 5/14 Spring Valley (21) (HC), 5/15 Hancock Co. (27) (BH). HOODED WARBLER-4/24 Hamilton Co. (DB), 4/24 Columbus (BA), 4/24 Adams Co. (BL). WILSON'S WARBLER-4/26 Clermont Co. (DB), 5/11 Crane Creek (m.ob.), 5/19 Hamilton Co. (NK, JR). CANADA WARBLER-5/11 Crane Creek (TK), 5/12 Hamilton Co. (m.ob.), 5/27 Clark Lk. (DO). YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT-4/25 East Fork Lk. (DD), 4/25 Adams Co. (BL), 4/26 Columbus (BA), 5/19 Buck Creek SP (5) (DO).

Tanagers through Junco

SUMMER TANAGER-4/23 Adams Co. (PWh), 4/25 East Fork Lk. (DD), 4/28 Holmes Co. (BG), 5/19 Oak Openings (MA), 5/20 CVNRA (DAC). SCARLET TANAGER-4/24 Hamilton Co. (DB, DS), 4/26 Adams Co. (BL), 4/27 Holmes Co. (BG), 4/29 Sheldon's Marsh (ETh). ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK-4/24 Hancock Co. (BH), 4/27 Sheldon's Marsh (ETh), 4/28 Summit Co. (LK), 5/12 Hancock Co. (13) (BH). BLUE GROSBEAK-4/26 Hamilton Co. (IS), 5/2 Adams Co. (BL), 5/18 Lima (RCu)*, 5/23 Adams Co. (PWh). INDIGO BUNTING-4/25 Hamilton Co. (DB), 4/26 Adams Co. (BL), 4/28 Holmes Co. (BG), 5/22 Hancock Co. (55) (BH). DICKCISSEL-5/16 Holmes Co. (DK1), 5/20-31 Seneca Co. (7) (TB). RUFOUS-SIDED TOWHEE-3/2 Summit Co. (LK), 3/3 Adams Co. (BL), 3/5 Spring Valley (HC). AM. TREE SPARROW-3/5 Spring Valley (40) (HC), 3/11 CPNWRC (196), 3/20 Hancock Co. (49) (BH), 4/28 Summit Co. (LK), Late: 5/6 ONWRC, 5/12 Clermont Co. (DHe). CHIPPING SPARROW-3/12 Cincinnati (PW), 3/19 Wilmington (LG), 3/24 Summit Co. (DAC), 5/12 Hancock Co. (56) (BH). FIELD SPARROW-3/8 Adams Co. (BL), 3/12 Gordon Pk. (TL), 3/13 Niles (CB), 5/12 Hancock Co. (41) (BH). VESPER SPARROW-3/17 Clark Lk. (DO), 3/24 Oak Openings (MA), 4/2 Cleveland (TL), 4/10 Hancock Co. (14) (BH). LARK SPARROW-4/19-21 Hamilton Co. (PW, JS, CS), 4/21 Oak Openings (MA). SAVANNAH SPARROW-3/27 Hancock Co. (BH), 4/7 Clark Co.

(DO), 4/10 Cleveland (8) (TL), 4/21 Funk (RC). GRASSHOPPER SPARROW-4/21 Hamilton Co. (JB, PW), 4/24 Gordon Pk. (TL), 4/28 Clark Co. (DO), 5/5 Oak Openings (TK). HENSLOW'S SPARROW-Reported from Holmes Co. (BG), Hocking Co. (BA). FOX SPARROW-3/12 Hamilton Co. (HC), 3/14 Cleveland (TL), 3/31 Crane Creek (17) (BS), 4/1 ONWRC (20), 4/8 CPNWRC (14), 4/10 Columbus (15) (BA), 4/15 Oak Openings (12) (MA). SONG SPARROW-3/5 Spring Valley (40) (HC), 3/11 CPNWRC (61), 5/12 Hancock Co. (117) (BH). LINCOLN'S SPARROW-Early: 4/15 Springville Marsh (banded) (TB), 4/24 Columbus (BA), 4/29 CVNRA (LK), 5/27 Oak Openings (MA). SWAMP SPARROW-3/4 Clark Lk. (DO). WHITE-THROATED SPARROW-3/5 Adams Co. (PWh), 3/17 CVNRA (DAC), 4/14 Youngstown (NB), 4/24 Hancock Co. (46) (BH), 4/28 Crane Creek (250) (MA). WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW-3/5 Adams Co. (PWh), 3/10 Lorain Co. (ETh), 3/31 Pickerington Pond (7) (BA), 5/22 Hancock Co. (8) (BH). DARK-EYED JUNCO-4/3 Hancock Co. (185) (BH), 4/15 Oak Openings (250) (MA), 4/25 Holmes Co. (BG), 5/20 Akron (LK). "OREGON" JUNCO-3/31 Lake Co. (KM). LAPLAND LONGSPUR-Late: 5/12 Hancock Co. (BH). SNOW BUNTING-3/9 Findlay Res. (33) (BH).

Blackbirds through Evening Grosbeak

BOBOLINK-Early: 4/21 Hancock Co. (WS), 5/5 Buck Creek SP (9) (DO), 5/5 Adams Co. (20) (BL), 5/6 Maumee Bay SP (TK), 5/12 Mosquito Lk. (32). RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD-3/11 CPNWRC (500), 4/1 ONWRC (300). EASTERN MEADOWLARK-3/13 Holmes Co. (BG), 3/31 CJ Brown Res. (20) (LG), 4/10 Hancock Co. (36) (BH), 5/5 Clark Co. (25) (DO). WESTERN MEADOWLARK-3/10 Wayne Co. (ETh), 5/14 Streetsboro (LK), 5/19 Ottawa Co. (ECP), 5/26 Paulding (MDD), through period at Maumee Bay SP. YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD-Colony of 3-6 near Port Clinton (fide TB), 5/6 ONWRC. RUSTY BLACKBIRD-3/11 CPNWRC (65), 4/15 Darby Marsh (45) (JR), 5/6 ONWRC. BREWER'S BLACKBIRD-4/22 Medina (8) (fide CBC). COMMON GRACKLE-5/12 Hancock Co. (503) (BH). BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD-4/13 Adams Co. (200) (BL). ORCHARD ORIOLE-4/25 Adams Co. (BL), 4/25 Hamilton Co. (JB, PW), 4/29 Spring

Valley (LG). NORTHERN ORIOLE-4/23 Clermont Co. (DB), 4/24 Adams Co. (BL), 4/25 Holmes Co. (BG), 5/6 Headlands Beach SP (20) (TL), 5/12 Hancock Co. (82) (BH). PURPLE FINCH-4/8 Fort Hill (100) (JB), 4/28 Crane Creek (20) (MA), 5/15 Trumbull Co. (NB), 5/27 Oak Openings (MA), 5/28 Akron (LK). WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL-3/3 Geauga Co. (5) (DBe). PINE SISKIN-3/11 CPNWRC (20), 5/22 Tiffin (adults with young) (TB), 5/27 Oak Openings (MA), 5/31 Trumbull Co. (DH). AMERICAN GOLDFINCH-5/12 Hancock Co. (143) (BH). EVENING GROSBK-3/18 Mohican SP (JVH).

Exotics

BAR-HEADED GOOSE-5/7 Big Island WA (BA)

Observers

MATT ANDERSON (MA), BRAD ANDRES (BA), CAROLE BABYAK (CB), TOM BARTLETT (TB), JIM BECKER (JBe), JOE BENS (JB), DAN BEST (DBe), STEVE BOBINICK (SB), BILL BOCKLAGE (BB), DAVID BRINKMAN (DB), NAOMI BROWN (NB), PAUL BROWN (PB), NANCY BRUNDAGE (NB), RANDY CARMEL (RC), DWIGHT & ANN CHASAR (DAC), HARRY CONNOR (HC), ROBERT CUTTER (RCu), JIM DECKER (JD), DAVID DISTER (DD), MICKI & DOUG DUNAKIN (MDD), PAUL ELLSWORTH (PE), DUNCAN EVERED (DE), LARRY GARA (LG), ALAN GAST (AG), BRUCE GLICK (BG), RITA GOEKE (RG), DARLENA GRAHAM (DG), RAY HANNIKMAN (RH), BETTY HARDESTY (BH), ROB HARLAN (RH), DAVE HELM (DHe), JOHN & VICKI HERMAN (JVH), DAVID HOCHADEL (DH), KEN HOLLINGWORTH (KH), NED KELLER (NK), TOM KEMP (TK), EVERETT KITCHEN (EK), IVOR KIWI (IK), DAVID KLINE (DK), DENNIS KLINE (DKl), VERNON KLINE (VK), JOE KOMOROWSKI (JK), LEN KOPKA (LK), DAN KRAMER (DKr), JOHN LEON (JL), TOM LEPAGE (TL), TONY LEUKERING (TLu), TIM LITTLE (TLi), BARBARA LUND (BL), KARL MASLOWSKI (KM), BERNIE MASTER (BM), BILL MCGILL (BMc), MORRIS MERCER (MMe), DWIGHT MILLER (DM), MARY MISPLON (MM), KATHY MOCK (KMo), DOUG OVERACKER (DO), RICH PECKHAM (RP), STEVE PELIKAN (SP), ED & CHERYL PIERCE (ECP), WORTH RANDLE

(WR), JOHN REDMAN (JR), JIM RETTIG (JRe), LARRY ROSCHE (LR), CHARLIE SAUNDERS (CS), ED SCHLABACH (ES), ROBERT SCHLABACH (RS), JIM SIMPSON (JS), BILL STANLEY (BSt), BRUCE STEHLING (BS), JAY STENGER (JSte), DAVE STYER (DS), IDA SUTTMAN (IS), DON TAYLOR (DT), PETE THAYER (PT), ERDINE THOMPSON (ET), NORM WALKER (NW), ALAN WALLS (AW), JEFF WERT (JW), PETER WHAN (PWh), PAUL WHARTON (PW), ART WISEMAN (AWi).

Report of The Ohio Cardinal Records Committee, Spring 1990

The OCRC received nine rare species occurrence documentations for spring, 1990. Six of these were accepted, and appear elsewhere in these pages. The committee was unable to accept the following records:

Baird's sandpiper, Mosquito Lk., May 12. The description did not rule out the White-rumped snadpiper, which is more likely in the spring.

Lesser Black-backed gull, near Lima, April 1. Several aspects of the description do not fit. Describing the bird as "Ring-billed gull sized" and "thin-billed" suggests something other than this species.

Pine grosbeak, near Lima, May 10. The description is suggestive of this species, but is brief and incomplete. A mid-May record of this rare winter visitor deserves more thorough documentation.

Short Notes

A Colony of Yellow-headed Blackbirds

As a carpenter, my spring and summer birding is limited. On the better days I have to be working on houses and on poor weather days I can do some birding. In April 1990, a friend, Mark Gill, who is also a carpenter, told me he

had seen a bird that I would not believe. It was coming to a feeder at the house he was working on near Port Clinton in Ottawa County. The owner was building a new house on about two hundred acres of land, most of which was cattail marsh. In fact, he was managing the marsh for wildlife himself. He had fixed the dikes and was controlling the water level for the benefit of waterfowl.

I knew what had to be coming next but kept my mouth shut. Mark said the bird was a Yellow-headed blackbird. He told me that it would come up into the yard and go to the feeder or sit on a fence post and sing. He thought there were two or three birds.

Several days later Craig Davis and I drove over to the house and began talking to the owner about his uncommon birds. He was surprised to hear that they were uncommon because he had had them nesting in the marsh for the last three years. Then he offered to show us the marsh and possibly some better looks at the birds. To my surprise, we toured the marsh in a golf cart. He had leveled his dikes and maintained paths so he could tour his marsh easily. Soon we had three Yellow-headed blackbirds flying around us (2 males and a female). He pointed out the place where they were nesting and told us that he rarely got closer than 15 yards to the birds. No sooner had he said that than an adult male flew over and landed on the dike about ten feet in front of us. It proceeded to strut around and give us a great show. It was a life bird for Craig and I had only observed it once before in Canada but never this well. It will be interesting to see if they return next year and if the colony increases.----Mike Laconis, 2528 County Road 185, Clyde, OH 43410.

An Early Nighthawk Record

I was driving my mother and children on an errand about 3 PM on March 15, 1990. We were traveling by car west on West Wilbeth Road, Akron, Ohio. Across from the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company Synthetic Products Division Plant, where the roadway is four lanes, I saw a nighthawk approaching from my right (north). It was low, about twenty feet above the car. The weather was sunny and clear. This was the fifth day of unusually high temperatures for March, averaging 60-70

degrees each day.

The nighthawk flew its characteristic flight as it crossed the road in front of the car, fluttering its wings and teetering from side to side. The white bar on the underside of each wing near the tip was plainly visible without binoculars. I continued to watch the bird as it flew out over the marsh on the south side of the road until I passed and could no longer see the bird. I estimate that I saw the bird for approximately 15 seconds. I pointed the bird out to my mother as it passed and told her it was a nighthawk. I did not realize at the time how unusually early this date was for this species.----Cheryl Pierce, 520 Swartz Road, Akron, OH 44319.

Birding the Oak Openings

by Tom Kemp

The Oak Openings of Lucas, Fulton, and Henry Counties of northwest Ohio is one of Ohio's unique natural areas. The area is rich in unusual plant and animal species and harbors a large assortment of state threatened and endangered species. Because the habitat is so varied, a large variety of birds (principally songbirds) may be found there in spring and summer, certainly the best times to visit.

There are four areas within the Oak Openings that receive the most attention from birdwatchers (although other areas may be equally good). They are Irwin Prairie, Oak Openings Park, Secor Park, and the Maumee State Forest. The areas described are best visited in spring and summer (be prepared for ticks and mosquitos). I include some brief notes on winter birding at the end of this article.

IRWIN PRAIRIE

Irwin Prairie State Nature Preserve is located along Irwin Road between Dorr Street and Bancroft Avenue in western Lucas County. To reach, drive west from Toledo on St. Rte. 2 to Crissey Road. Proceed north on Crissey to Bancroft. Turn west on Bancroft and proceed to the parking lot, about 1/4 mile past Irwin Road on the south side. The boardwalk through the prairie begins here. The boardwalk winds through some second growth woodland and brush before it emerges out onto the prairie near Irwin Road.

American and Least bitterns can be found here, although rarely (they used to nest). Broad-winged and Cooper's hawks may nest nearby. Five species of rails have been found at Irwin; Sora and Virginia rails are fairly common. King rails are noted occasionally and Yellow rails have been found here in at least three springs since 1980 (they may be annual). The rare Black rail was found here in the summer of 1980. I'm still looking for that bird.

Irwin Prairie is an especially good place to watch woodcock and snipe courtship flights (March and April are best). Eastern Screech, Barred, and Great Horned owls are present as well. A nice feature of Irwin is the presence of both Alder and Willow flycatchers. Listen for their calls along the boardwalk in late May and June. Marsh and Sedge wrens are occasionally seen here. Veeries are quite common in the wet woods surrounding the prairie. White-eyed vireos nest here and Bell's vireo has nested in the past, although this is a rare occurrence. About eight species of warblers nest at Irwin. Chats and Blue-winged warblers are common. More rarely found are Golden-winged and Mourning warblers. Other birds of note that have occurred at Irwin are LeConte's sparrow and Western meadowlark.

Finally, for the herpetologist/birder, Irwin Prairie is excellent for calling frogs and toads in the spring. At the end of the boardwalk east of Irwin Road, the chorus of Spring peepers and Common Tree frogs can be deafening. I recommend a warm, rainy night the second week of May.

SECOR PARK

Just across the road (Bancroft) from Irwin is Secor Park, a wonderful patch of mature forest. Access is from Bancroft on the south, Central Avenue (Rte. 20) on the north, or Wolfinger Road on the east.

The tall forest of tulip, oak, ash, etc., attracts nesting birds rarely found elsewhere in the Toledo area. Cooper's hawks are here as are Barred owls. All five locally nesting woodpeckers can be found. Acadian flycatchers are common and Wood thrushes and Veeries are here in good numbers. It is also easy to find Yellow-throated and Red-eyed vireos at Secor. The park has a sizable population of Cerulean warblers, the only spot in the Toledo area where you can find this warbler with any consistency. Other expected warblers in this mature forest are American redstart, Ovenbird, Hooded, and

Kentucky (occasional). Secor Park has the only local breeding record for Northern waterthrush as well. To round out the list, Scarlet tanagers and Rose-breasted grosbeaks are seen here quite readily.

OAK OPENINGS PARK

This 4000 acre area houses most of the unusual local breeding bird species. It is a patchwork of oak forest, pine plantation, swamp forest, and open fields. This diversity of habitats helps produce a remarkable variety of unusual breeding birds. To reach the park, follow St. Rte. 2 west from Toledo to Girdham Road. Proceed south on Girdham; you will soon reach the park.

The most productive area (=most heavily birded area?) is the Mallard Lake/Oak Openings Lodge section. Barred owls can often be found just west of the Mallard Lake parking lot where they have nested in the past. Red-shouldered hawks should be looked for along Oak Openings Parkway east of Wilkins Road where the ravine crosses the road. Broad-winged hawks are fairly common breeders and could be observed just about anywhere in the park. But it is the breeding songbirds that attract the most attention in the Oak Openings. Nineteen species of warblers have nested (plus Brewster's and Lawrence's hybrids) and there are mid-summer records for at least four other warbler species. Six vireo species have remained to nest as well.

In the Mallard Lake/Lodge area, Hooded warblers are fairly common. Look especially north of Mallard Lake and across Oak Openings Parkway southwest of the parking lot. Pine warblers have nested near the lodge and may be found singing along Wilkins Road north to the railroad tracks. Cerulean warblers are occasionally found along Oak Openings Parkway just southwest of Mallard Lake. Kentucky warblers also favor the Mallard Lake area. Check the spots mentioned above for Hooded warbler and also just east of the end of Wilkins Road. Solitary vireos nest near the lodge and are often found north to the tracks along Wilkins Road. Red-breasted nuthatches also seem to like the area just north of the lodge. In 1990, Golden-crowned kinglets nested southeast of the junction of Reed and Wilkins, a first for

Ohio.

An excellent area to check is near the junction of Wilkins Road and the railroad tracks. In 1989 a pair of Summer tanagers nested nearby, the first local breeding record in 28 years. Follow the trail to the southwest. Ovenbirds are common. As you reach the stream, look again for Hooded warblers and listen for Louisiana waterthrush. This is the most reliable spot in the park for this species. Kentucky warblers could be here, too. Continue to walk along the stream. Mourning and Canada warblers occasionally summer but are certainly not expected. It is possible to find Chestnut-sided warbler at the south end of this trail as it joins Reed Road.

Another productive area is the dune/prairie zone found along Girdham Road south of the railroad tracks. This stretch is probably the most reliable in Ohio for Lark sparrow. Search the fields and roadside between the tracks and Reed Road. Although found occasionally in other areas of the park, this section is certainly the best to search for this species. Listen for Prairie warbler at the dunes, apparently one of only two locations where this species nests in the Oak Openings. Six sparrow species, Eastern kingbirds, and Eastern bluebirds frequent the fields near the junction of Reed and Girdham. It was in this area also that a Blue grosbeak was on territory in 1989 (and seen briefly in 1990). Pine warblers are often found in the pine stand across from the dunes and Blue-winged warblers are fairly common in this area. Broad-winged hawks have nested consistently in the woods northwest of Girdham and the tracks the past several years. This area is also excellent for calling Whip-poor-wills. Be sure to stay until dusk.

Another fine area, and one which few people visit, is located in the northwest corner of the park. Park at the intersection of Girdham and Sager Roads and walk west along the horse trail until you come to the Boy Scout trail (yellow marker) on your right. Follow this trail, and others nearby, into a mature forest and ravine area where you can find Hooded and Cerulean warblers, Louisiana waterthrush, Acadian flycatcher, and others. If Worm-eating warbler ever shows up as a breeder in the Oak Openings, this would be the spot.

Follow Girdham Road back south to the open area just north of the park maintenance buildings. This has been a fairly consistent spot for Blue-winged (common) and Golden-winged (rare) warblers. Check the songs/singers carefully as we have heard typical Blue-wings sing perfect Golden-wing songs in this area. Cooper's hawks also nest nearby and you may find a Solitary vireo in the nearby pines or a White-eyed vireo in the clearing.

Along Monclova Road, about 1/2 mile west of Girdham, a ravine crosses the road. This area could produce Hooded, Kentucky, Mourning, Pine, and Cerulean warblers. It's a good spot for Veeries and Wood thrushes, too. Barred owls also frequent this area. About 1/2 mile east of Girdham along Monclova on the north side of the road is a brushy field bordered by pines. Look here for Blue-winged and Prairie warblers.

Another good area to check is near the junction of Reed and Jeffers Roads. A ravine running to the southwest may have Hooded warbler and Louisiana waterthrush. About 1/4 mile to the south along the east side of Jeffers is a good place to look for Kentucky warbler. Farther south along Jeffers is a large open area on the west side of the road. Check for Lark sparrow, Yellow-breasted chat, and Blue-winged warbler.

There are many other good locations worth checking in Oak Openings Park and other birds worth seeking. The rare Bachman's sparrow has been noted in the park, but there are no recent records. Those of us in northwest Ohio are convinced that just about any bird from north or south could show up there and probably eventually will. Species discovered breeding within the past half dozen years (Sharp-shinned hawk, Golden-crowned kinglet, Prairie and Pine warblers, Solitary vireo, and Blue grosbeak) may be only the tip of the iceberg.

MAUMEE STATE FOREST

The Maumee State forest consists of fourteen scattered parcels of land on the western/southern edge of the Oak Openings. Each sector is complete with its Oak Openings specialties, so I will cover only what I consider the very best areas .

In Lucas County, check the parcel along Manore Road between Reed Road and St. Rte. 64. This forest has had Kentucky, Hooded, Mourning, Black-and-white, Chestnut-sided, and Pine warblers at various times in the past four years. This is also a good Whip-poor-will and E. Screech-owl spot.

Where Wilkins Road intersects Rte. 64, search the parcel south of 64 by walking through the pines and then along a ditch to the southwest. Look for Pine warbler, Solitary vireo, and Red-breasted nuthatch.

A nice section of State Forest can be found farther west along Rte. 64 between Jeffers and Manore Roads. This large tract has lots of good birds. Cooper's, Red-shouldered, and Broad-winged hawks nest near here and two Barred owl pairs are present. There is a 1970s record of nesting Saw-whet owls from here, so anything is possible. Good warblers include Pine, Chestnut-sided, and Blue-winged. This is also a good spot for Red-breasted nuthatches. Just west of this area across Manore Road is a large abandoned farm field which attracted a pair of Blue grosbeaks in 1988. They may return.

The best Fulton County areas are located at the corner of County Roads 2 and C. To reach this location, drive west from Manore Road on Archbold-Whitehouse Road (=Fulton Co. Rd. C). There are three good tracts to the northwest, northeast, and southwest of this intersection. Veeries are common here. Red-breasted nuthatches nest and warblers may include Blue-winged, Hooded, Mourning, Chestnut-sided, and more. Solitary vireo has been found here in summer and Merlin in winter.

My favorite State Forest area is in Henry County. Drive south on Co. Rd. 2 to Henry Co. Rd. V (Neowash Rd.). Beginning at the Lucas-Henry County line, three large tracts run to the west and are bordered on the north by Neowash Road and on the south by Bailey Road (Henry Co. Rd. U). The wildest area is along Co. Rd. 2 south of Neowash. In this area are Cooper's, Red-shouldered, and Broad-winged hawks. Great Blue herons have a small nesting colony in the swamp forest to the west. Most

interesting is a wet meadow farther south on Co. Rd. 2. Park at the south end of the line of cedars and walk west into the meadow. Common snipe, Swamp sparrow, White-eyed vireos, Yellow-breasted chats, Yellow and Blue-winged warblers, and Alder and Willow flycatchers are all here. It looks like a place that might make a Nashville warbler happy.

On the miscellaneous side, a visit to Toledo Express Airport could be worthwhile. One half mile north of the junction of Rtes. 295 and 20A affords a good look at the grassy areas along the runway. Savannah and Grasshopper sparrows and Bobolinks are regular and Upland sandpiper is occasional. Bell's vireo has been found in the shrubby area at the bend of the road and Willow flycatchers nest here. In good years, Dickcissels are possible. Listen for Orchard orioles along this road, too.

A check of the Schwamberger Prairie area north of the airport should yield some interesting birds. Drive north along Schwamberger Road from Old State Line Road. Listen and look for Blue-winged, Golden-winged, and Chestnut-sided warblers, chats, and White-eyed vireos.

WINTER NOTES

Winter finches can be good throughout the Oak Openings. Evening grosbeaks are fairly common most winters and crossbills are occasional. Black-capped chickadees are abundant. Northern goshawks may be annual as there are several late fall and winter records. An area to check for Long-eared and N. Saw-whet owls is the line of cedars mentioned above in Henry County on Co. Rd. 2. Another area for these owls may be south of the junction of Reed and Girdham Roads in Oak Openings Park. Check the cedars and small white pines.

If you are visiting the Oak Openings and desire more up-to-date information on birds in the area, feel free to give me a call at 419-875-5395. Likewise, if you turn up something really extraordinary, give me a call. In addition, the Oak Openings is featured in the Grand Rapids-Waterville Christmas Bird Count, a count always in need of hardy souls willing to tromp around in the woods all day.

Fifty-two counties received coverage for the 1990 Spring season.



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