

The Hocking Hills is also an excellent area for several bird species of southern persuasion. These include black vulture, summer tanager, and worm-eating and Kentucky warblers. A red-cockaded woodpecker found by Eddie Bower on 22 April 1975 was located independently by Worth Randle a week later. This bird may not have been as out of place as one might think. A close examination of many of the upper slope areas at Hocking reveal the remains of many shortleaf pines that have been overtaken by a progression to deciduous woods.

Acadian flycatchers, eastern wood-pewees, eastern phoebes, wood thrushes, red-eyed vireos, ovenbirds, hooded warblers, pine warblers, yellow-throated warblers, northern parulas, Louisiana waterthrushes, and scarlet tanagers are all common throughout the Hocking area. On the other hand, cerulean warblers are decidedly scarce, probably due to a lack of old growth forest in the area.

Species which frequent the gorge rims include hairy woodpeckers, great-crested flycatchers, white-breasted nuthatches, and yellow-throated vireos. White-eyed vireos, prairie warblers, and yellow-breasted chats can be found in the cut-over areas. As night approaches, whip-poor-wills can sometimes be heard at the campground and barred owls can be found at Conkle's Hollow.

The hawks are well represented at Hocking. These include red-tailed, red-shouldered, Cooper's, and sharp-shinned. Cantwell Cliffs is a particularly good area to view these raptors as they soar on thermals above the cliff edges. The broad-winged hawk is more often heard than seen in the Upper Falls area of Old Man's Cave.

Perched upon a northern outlier of cliff section plateau that barely escaped being steam-rolled by the glaciers, the Hocking Hills contain a gumbo mix of northern and southern features. There are few places in Ohio where Canada yew drapes sheer rock cliffs crowned by shortleaf pine, where the worm-eating's rattling trill alternates with the Canada warbler's lilting serenade.

And what of Worth's red crossbills? And what of his winter wren, purple finch, and ruby-crowned kinglet? These are just a few of the unsolved mysteries that await future inquiring observers in the deep, lush gorges of the Hocking Hills.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Special thanks to Larry Gara for sharing much information on his trips to Hocking as well as his letters from Worth Randle.

REFERENCES

- Braun, E. L. 1950. *Deciduous Forests of Eastern North America*. Hafner Press, New York.
- Braun, E. L. 1961. *The Woody Plants of Ohio*. Ohio State University Press, Columbus.
- Peterjohn, B. 1989. *The Birds of Ohio*. Indiana University Press, Bloomington and Indianapolis.
- Randle, W. 1989. A Guide to Summer Birding in Hocking Hills State Parks. *The Ohio Cardinal* 12:16-17.

The 1998-99 Christmas Bird Counts

by Ned Keller

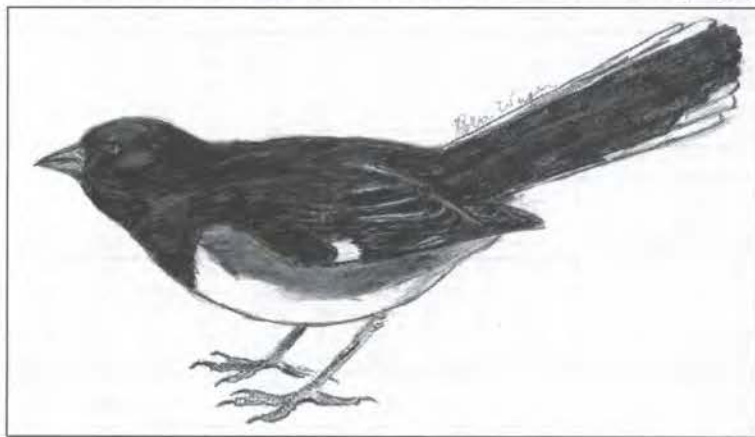
This year we present the results from 56 Christmas Count circles located entirely or partly within Ohio. At least two other counts, East Fork Lake and Greenville, were cancelled due to severe weather. Most of the results were reported directly to us, but a few were gleaned from reports published on the internet. Speaking of the internet, two web sites have interesting information about the Christmas Counts. Cornell University has the data from all 99 years of counts at <http://www.birdsource.com/cbc/index.html> and Patuxent Wildlife Research Center has a page from which you can generate maps of species abundance and population trends at <http://www.mbr.nbs.gov/bbs/cbc.html>.

We found 683,718 individuals of 151 species this year, plus two additional species, northern goshawk and Wilson's warbler, during count week. Both numbers were down from last year, when we saw 874,563 individuals of 153 species. Fourteen of this year's birds were represented by only a single individual: harlequin duck, white-winged scoter, oldsquaw, American avocet, greater yellowlegs, dunlin, pomarine jaeger, little gull, common tern, palm warbler, black-and-white warbler, a tanager not identified to species, vesper sparrow, and common redpoll.

As the above list and the charts indicate, there was an unusual variety of very late shorebirds and warblers. Conspicuously lacking this year, though, were winter finches. Besides the single common redpoll, there were only 29 pine siskins, and no evening grosbeaks or crossbills.

The Millersburg circle had by far the most species this year, with 91. The only other circles to reach 80 or above were Cuyahoga Falls and Cincinnati, with 83 each, and Portsmouth, with 80.

As always, we have printed all the reports as submitted to us (with the exception of a couple of obvious exotics), regardless of documentation. Records marked with an asterisk (*) in the charts were accompanied by written documentation. A plus sign (+) indicates that the bird was seen outside Ohio. Finally, the number in parentheses following the name of the count refers to the numbered circle on the accompanying map.



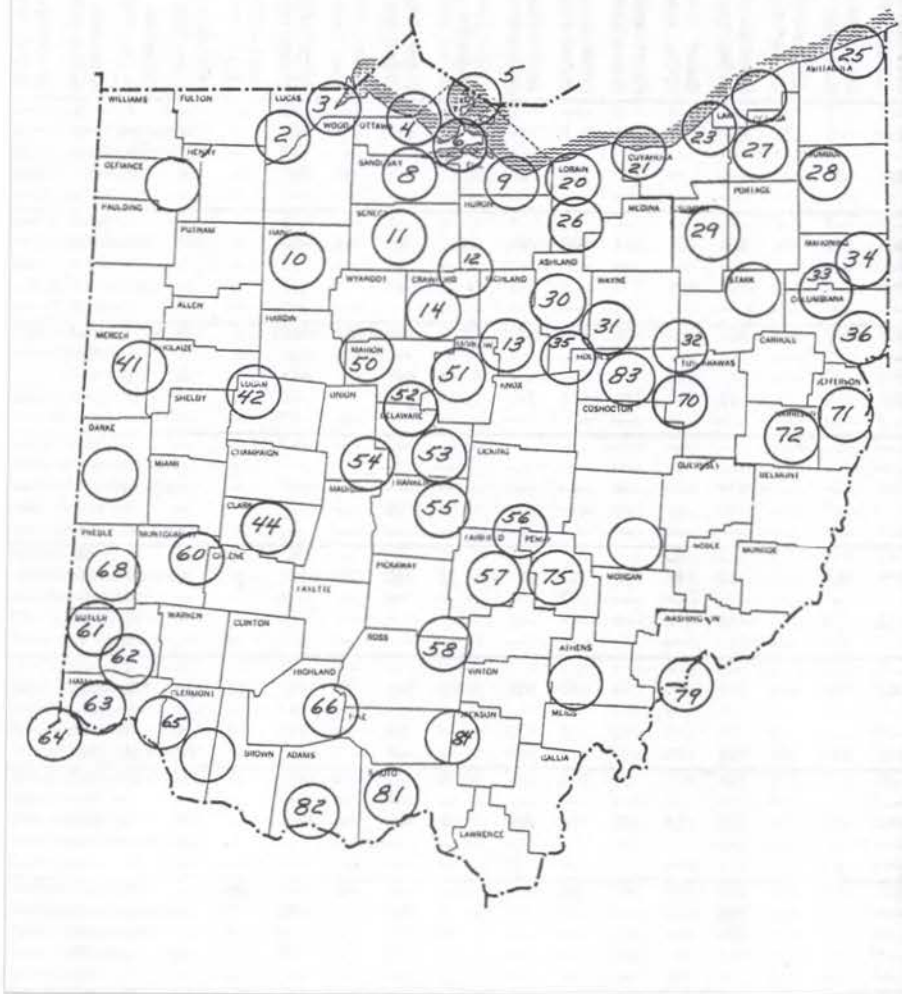
Eastern Towhee
by Ben Winger

Northwest Region

	Bucyrus 26 Dec. 1998 (14)	Firelands 19 Dec. 1998 (9)	Fremont 27 Dec. 1998 (8)	Grand Rapids-Waterville 2 Jan. 1999 (2)	Gypsum 1 Jan. 1999 (6)	Hancock Co. 19 Dec. 1998 (10)	Lake Erie Islands 18 Dec. 1998 (5)	Mansfield 19 Dec. 1998 (13)	Ottawa N.W.R. 3 Jan. 1999 (4)	Plymouth 27 Dec. 1998 (12)	Tiffin 19 Dec. 1998 (11)	Toledo 20 Dec. 1998 (3)
Rough-legged Hawk	1				3				CW		2	
Buteo sp.												
Large hawk sp.												
American Kestrel	15	8	6	2	8	47		17	4	15	60	17
Merlin												
Peregrine Falcon												
Ring-necked Pheasant			1				19	4				3
Ruffed Grouse												
Wild Turkey	CW							117			7	
American Coot				1	13	4		610		14		2
Sandhill Crane				CW								
Killdeer		14		CW		5	17	8			15	18
American Avocet												1*
Sanderling						4						
Dunlin												1
Common Snipe				1							6	
American Woodcock							CW				1	
Pomarine Jaeger												
Franklin's Gull												
Little Gull												
Bonaparte's Gull		8		1			369	104				661
Ring-billed Gull	73	7162	2597	324	1476	983	779	750	1030	257	63	3879
Herring Gull		170	1	16	2647	4	684	13	65	4	8	1620
Thayer's Gull												
Lesser Black-backed Gull							CW					1
Great Black-backed Gull		55		CW	85		47		4			71
Gull sp.												
Common Tern												
Rock Dove	36	425	215	12	94	445	6	182	61	118	639	916
Mourning Dove	124	110	2	56	177	141	14	383	151	169	427	521
Eastern Screech-Owl		7		6	5	5	7	21	CW		9	4
Great Horned Owl		4			1	4	11	1	CW	1	4	5
Barred Owl	1	1		1							5	
Long-eared Owl												
Short-eared Owl					3					1		
Northern Saw-whet Owl												
Belted Kingfisher	1	7	3	1	2	8	2	10		2	8	3
Red-headed Woodpecker						1					3	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	9	23	2	9	14	27	17	65	4	9	53	8
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker				1				3				4
Downy Woodpecker	36	50	2	30	70	87	122	84	22	20	152	81
Hairy Woodpecker		6		11	6	17	1	7	4	1	11	6
Northern Flicker	3	18	1	3	15	27	74	11	CW		28	15
Pileated Woodpecker		2						4		2	5	
Woodpecker sp.												
Eastern Phoebe											1	
Northern Shrike				CW			1					1
Blue Jay	35	37	6	48	34	67	130	206	13	25	135	73
American Crow	259	53	15	102	8	208	71	19000	2	178	7635	86
Horned Lark	12	15		404	189	15	75	12	194	1015	296	

Northeast Region

Ashland 27 Dec. 1998 (30)	Ashtabula 12 Dec. 1998 (25)	Beaver Creek 26 Dec. 1998 (36)	Burton 1 Jan. 1999 (27)	Cleveland 19 Dec. 1998 (23)	Cuyahoga Falls 20 Dec. 1998 (29)	Elyria-Lorain 19 Dec. 1998 (20)	Lakewood 27 Dec. 1998 (21)	Mohican State Forest 1 Jan. 1999 (35)	Salem 2 Jan. 1999 (33)	Trumbull Co. 20 Dec. 1998 (28)	Wellington 2 Jan. 1999 (26)	Wilmot 18 Dec. 1998 (32)	Wooster 26 Dec. 1998 (31)	Youngstown 19 Dec. 1998 (34)
	1							8				7	2	1
	20	2	13	5	1	17	16	18	11	19	9	1	31	11
1*				1	1		1					54	31	11
				1		CW	1							
		1			2	1			8	1	5	3	3	
		9			CW									
8	70	32			2			155		6		29	15	6
	7	16		3	569	49	10		10	19	200		3	2
		1	2		31			5				26		28
													11	
			1	2									1	2
				1										
						1								
						1								
	56			614		4968	1183	CW		352				6
37	4650	211	40	1880	2096	17915	8646	7	10	1603		49	1	1647
	76		4	773	101	986	99	1		1		4		2
						2								
				1										
	24			70		136	45							
7												14		
						1								
188	54	245	123	816	1568	483	357	92	183	122	26	810	67	340
453	167	201	367	173	1078	222	170	275	274	555	307	1370	128	408
		7	1	1	11			8	3			4		
5		1	1	1	6	1	1	7		1		7	2	3
1		2	5	2	6		2				1	5	1	2
			1											
		7										3	6	1
								1						
6	3	13	2	10	21	3	7	6	4	2		19	3	5
										2		14	2	2
30	11	21	34	43	111	15	34	81	24	34	13	115	44	14
2		2				1		3						
41	27	39	66	100	343	65	63	120	49	90	20	228	68	38
7	11	11	30	19	64	10	7	15	4	20	4	29	4	5
10	3	1	5	7	32	2	3	33	4	11	5	35	12	4
3	2	9	9	11	20	1	5	18	3	6		22	3	6
												4		
					2							1	1	
			1	1					1	2		2		1
74	42	87	284	196	764	65	44	259	107	471	73	285	107	77
517	124	489	427	973	1239	149	195	867	593	236	43	573	236	1319
		CW	120		2			97	1251		1349	47	51	6



The 1998-99 Christmas Bird Count areas. Numbers within circles correspond to count numbers in the preceding article. Circles without numbers indicate those counts which were not conducted during the 1998-99 season, but were conducted during the 1997-98 season.



These blue-morph Snow Geese were photographed on 26 February 1999 along the old Cedar Point causeway, Erie Co. Photo by Gary Meszaros.