

The Ohio Cardinal is a quarterly publication devoted to the study and appreciation of Ohio's birdlife.

The Ohio Cardinal exists to provide a permanent and timely record of the abundance and distribution of birds in Ohio; to help document the occurrence of rare species in 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 and photographs are welcome from any area of the state. Report forms are not a necessity but will be supplied upon request. Unusual species should be documented, and forms to do so are available upon request from the Editor, Publisher, and Records Committee Secretary.

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Winter (Dec.-Feb.) - March 25	Bill Whan
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The Ohio Cardinal

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On the Cover: Snowy Owl - Conneaut Harbor, Ashtabula Co., 20 November 2000.

Photo by Gary Meszaros.

Autumn 2000 Overview

by Bill Whan

Autumn seems so long ago, much longer ago than it did this time last year, or the two before. Many of the birds that lingered so late into last fall hurried on their way, leaving us to accustom ourselves to normal seasonal conditions for a change. The first half of the season was somewhat wetter and cooler than usual, but without extremes, and things even grew a bit warmer until mid-November, when winter stepped in impatiently, with harsh winds and temperatures persistently well below normal. Nationwide, the year 2000's November-December period was the coldest on record, with an average daily temperature of 33.8°F. Among other things this meant that instead of dilatory swallows we got snowy owls, and in place of languid vireos we found early Iceland gulls—not patient gleaners of the insect hordes, but white phantoms out of the storm, ravenous for warm blood.

Few rarities showed up early in the season—none in August, in fact—but later reports of eight Review Species were made. Despite winter's early coming, we had as many as three new record late occurrences, to go with a couple of record early ones—an unusual coincidence. No fewer than thirteen *Plegadis* ibises were seen, three of them well away from Lake Erie, and much was learned about how the two species may and may not be separated in the field. A nice male rufous hummingbird presented no ID problems, but two or perhaps three *Selasphorus* hummers in less definitive plumage this fall gave us fits. Ohio was not alone in hosting an unusual number of western hummers; east of the Mississippi this fall and early winter the following were reported: buff-bellied, black-chinned, Anna's, broad-tailed, rufous, Allen's, and calliope hummingbirds, and an unprecedented green-breasted mango. A count of four Le Conte's sparrows was well above average, as were three photographs obtained; this species probably passes through in good numbers, but finding one is the trick. A western kingbird was briefly present near Cleveland in September. The region had some wanderers from the opposite direction too, as a Manx shearwater was found on a suburban driveway just up the road in Michigan on 19 August; we had, or at least noticed, nothing quite so exciting in Ohio, though a report of a dovekie here—a potential state first—came close.

The scarcer herons—cattle and snowy egrets, and little blue heron—were still scarcer than usual; at Ottawa, for example, there were reports of only two all season: a snowy egret in August, and a cattle egret in October, with no little blues. Waterfowl flights were unimpressive. Among geese, for example, for the second fall in a row no greater white-fronted geese were found. Nor were Ross's geese reported, and we heard reports of only 20-25 snow geese this fall. Brant, by contrast, staged their best come-back in the Great Lakes in years. Among raptors, merlins and golden eagles reprised last fall's excellent showing, but rough-legged hawks and peregrines were noticeably down in numbers, and harriers seemed inexplicably few. The crane flight seemed about average, but the big news was an apparent nesting at Killdeer Plains WA, a first. A whooping crane pair from the Florida introduction program, having eloped to spend the summer in Michigan, was tracked by telemetry to the

Sandusky area on their way back on 21 Nov, but only the female showed up—just as a blip on the screen—the following day, further south in *Meigs*.

As for the 34 species of shorebirds reported—none of the 13 recorded Review Species, but a full roster of the rest—the keepers of the western Lake Erie marshes maintained their impoundments full in anticipation of a drought that never materialized, so few showed up in these ancestral stopover sites this fall. The census of 20 August (prime time for many shorebirds) of the three-plus square miles of Magee Marsh WA, for example, produced exactly one migrant shorebird in 9.5 hours of counting—a very solitary solitary sandpiper—among 5018 birds of 76 species. Drought forecasts or not, such results are becoming too routine. Elsewhere, falling water in reservoirs benefited shorebirds—Hoover had 26 species, and Berlin staged a late rally—, as did rivers such as the Huron, and the Crane Creek estuary at Ottawa NWR (still undiked and thus more diverse in habitat), while a few other streams in the northwest had their moments at low water. Conneaut Harbor took the laurels for the season, with reliable shorebird presences through much of the season, and a total of 30 species—all this accompanied by—or perhaps despite—a full panoply of human activities, including firing guns, roaring around in ATVs, drinking beer, smoking crack, and shooting off fireworks, not to mention standing in ranks peering through telescopes for hours on end.

We have had many better autumns for jaegers in Ohio, but gulls of 14 species were found this season, and most terns were at least in good numbers. Snowy owls showed up after three starveling years; one of them, way down in Clinton County, seemed to tolerate any number of behaviors peculiar to—and diagnostic of—our species. Very few encouraging signs appeared of a sizeable winter finch irruption, with no reports of crossbills or evening grosbeaks during the period, and just a few of redpolls and siskins. Widespread snow late in the period didn't seem to encourage all that many of the namesake buntings, either, but time will tell. Unusual numbers of reports of waterfowl and larids on 11-12 Nov might have tempted us to observe that the full moon was contributory, but it was also a weekend in the middle of prime time for such species, so lots of observers were afield, too.

Finally, a reminder that a revised and updated edition of Bruce Peterjohn's *The Birds of Ohio* is scheduled to appear from the Wooster Book Company, perhaps as early as February. We are told plans are to ask \$21.95 for this 688-page volume with a sewn binding. The first edition of this work (1989) was in many ways among the finest of state bird monographs, and this new edition will update the earlier one, including maps from the *Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas* (1991). *The Ohio Cardinal* will offer comprehensive reviews of this important new work.

The following reports follow the taxonomic order of the 42nd Supplement (July 2000) to the 7th edition of the *AOU Check-list of North American Birds* (1998). Underlined names of species indicate those on the OBRC Review List; adequate documentation is needed to add reports of these to official state records, or to attributed records here. County names are supplied for certain locations, and appear *italicized*. Unless other numbers are supplied in the text, sightings cited refer to single birds of the species in question. Abbreviations, conventions, and symbols in

the text should be readily understood, with the possible exception of the following: BCSP=Buck Creek SP in *Clark*; BIWA=Big Island WA in *Marion*; CBC=Christmas Bird Count; CVNRA=Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area in *Cuyahoga*; EFSP=East Fork SP in *Clermont*; EHSP=East Harbor SP in *Ottawa*; *fide*="in trust of," said of data conveyed on behalf of another person; GPI=Gordon Park Impoundment; HBSP=Headlands Beach SP in *Lake*; Killbuck=Killbuck Marsh WA in *Wayne*; Killdeer=Killdeer Plains WA in *Wyandot*; Magee=Magee Marsh WA in *Ottawa*; Metzger=Metzger Marsh WA in *Lucas*; MP=Metropark; m obs=many observers; MWW=Miami-Whitewater Wetlands in *Hamilton*; NWR=National Wildlife Refuge; OBRC=Ohio Bird Records Committee; ONWRC=Ottawa NWR Census, conducted monthly and reported herein by E. Pierce; Ottawa=Ottawa NWR in *Lucas* and *Ottawa*; ph=photograph; Res=reservoir; Res'n=reservation; SF=State Forest; SNP=State Nature Preserve; SP=State Park; WA=Wildlife Area; ~≈approximately.



This peeping Tom/Tonya of an American bittern was found in the men's restroom at one of the Port of Cleveland, Cuyahoga Co., warehouses on 21 September 2000. Photo by Paula Lozano.

The Reports

Red-throated Loon: The first appeared off GPI on 22 Oct for **B. Winger** et al., with another in *Lake* on the 29th (**J. Pogacnik**). Nine others showed up between 17 Nov (**S. Reeves** at Caesar Ck SP) and 26 Nov (**D. Overacker** at BCSP).

Common Loon: A bird at Alum Ck SP on 24 Aug was probably a summering non-breeder (**B. Barrett**). Beyond an apparently wounded bird from last summer, which it seems did not expire as reported here in the last issue (ph 9 Sept by **P. Lozano** in Cleveland, in alternate plumage), the earliest migrant was a bird on 8 Oct off Lakewood, also by **Lozano**, then five on 22 Oct at Crooked Run Preserve, *Clermont*, by **S&C Clingman**. The bulk of the birds were reported in a six-day period from 11/18-11/23, with 2100+ birds statewide, over half of them inland, with the largest flight of 739 off *Lake* on 22 Nov (**J. Pogacnik**).

Pied-billed Grebe: Among reports of local breeders was one of 45 birds, including many young, at Killdeer on 13 Sept (**J. McCormac** et al.). The high count was of 48 at Akron Lakes on 22 Nov (**C. Holt**). Migrants persisted till colder weather closed in, as long as 26 Nov, when 10 were at BCSP (**D. Overacker**), and in smaller numbers still later.

Horned Grebe: Late and skimpily reported. The first was seen at Hueston Wds SP on 7 Oct (**D. Styer**); on 18 Nov, 20 were at Caesar Ck SP (**L. Gara**), three at Clear Fork Res (**S. Snyder**), and 75 (the high count) at Sheldon Marsh (**K. Johnson**). A partial albino bird closed out the season on the 19th on the Cleveland lakefront (**P. Lozano**, **B. Finkelstein**).

Red-necked Grebe: Only three reports, all in Nov: one in transitional plumage at GPI on the 8th (**S. Zadar**), one on the 19th off Cleveland (**P. Lozano**), and another in *Erie* the same day (**R. Harlan**, **S. Wagner**).

Eared Grebe: Two showed up in Nov, one on the 15th off HBSP (**H. Petruschke**) and another on the 27th in Fairport Hbr (**L. Rosche**, *vide Petruschke*).

American White Pelican: **A. Blank**'s bird of 23 Aug on the Crane Creek estuary stayed just long enough for **A. Osborn** to find it the following day.



This injured adult common loon spent much of the summer and part of the fall at the E. 55th St. Marina in Cleveland, Cuyahoga Co. Photo by Paula Lozano on 9 September 2000.



An interesting find this season was this partial albino horned grebe along the Cleveland lakefront, Cuyahoga Co., on 19 November 2000. Photo by Paula Lozano.

Double-crested Cormorant: Migrant numbers on Lake Erie were substantial, including 677 for a high count on the Cuyahoga River mouth on 22 Oct (**P. Lozano**), and 2799 on the Kelleys Isl. census of 21 Nov (**T. Bartlett**). Inland, good numbers included 175 at Walborn Res on 18 Sept (**B. Morrison**), 110 on Hoover Res on 7 Oct (**R. Thorn**), ~250 at BCSP on 29 Oct (**D. Overacker**), and 70 at Walnut Ck, *Holmes*, on 4 Nov (**J. Miller**), not to mention 132 on 22 Oct along the Ohio River in *Lawrence* (**H. Slack**). The CNVRA fall census had its second occurrence on 24 Sept (**D&A Chasar**).

American Bittern: Eleven reports, only three in the western L. Erie marshes. **P. Lozano** reported one in the men's bathroom of a Cleveland warehouse on 21 Sept; this bird was rescued and later relocated to the friendlier confines of Sheldon Marsh SNP.

Least Bittern: Only seven reports, the latest on 16 Sept at Ottawa (**K. Metcalf**).

Great Egret: Large numbers lingered as long as temperatures allowed, and a few later. 110 were at Ottawa on 1 Oct (**D. Sanders**); on 3 Nov, 80+ could be found along the Portage R. and Rte 2 in *Erie* (**V. Fazio**). Three were at Medusa Marsh on 19 Nov (**B&A Toneff**) and one was near Wooster on 23 Nov (**S. Snyder**).

Snowy Egret: Not in the usual places in the usual numbers. Only one report from Ottawa, with a single bird on 23 Aug (**A. Osborn**). At Sheldon Marsh, nine were present on 12 Aug (**K. Mock**), seven on 13 Aug (**M. Busam**), and one on 7 Oct (**D. Linzell**). One was way over at Walnut Beach on 2-13 Aug (**J. Pogacnik**), and startling were two adults and two juveniles photographed at Killdeer by **V. Fazio** on 20 Aug.

Little Blue Heron: Only two: one imm at MWW on 7 Aug (**J. Nooker**), and another 28 Aug through 5 Sept at Walborn Res (**B. Morrison**).

Cattle Egret: Scarce this summer, scarcer still this fall. The ONWRC found one on 1 Oct, **V. Fazio** another near Oak Harbor on 8 Nov, and **C. Holt** a third in *Portage* on 10 Nov.

Green Heron: The high count of migrants was a healthy 38 at Killbuck on 19 Aug (**P. Jones**), and three other Aug reports were in the teens. Latest was one in *Holmes* on 4 Oct (**L. Yoder**).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: Reports of small numbers were made across the state in Sept and Oct, the largest only 32 on 17 Sept at Magee (**H&S Hiris**). Nov reports included two at Turning Pt Isl on the 5th (**R. Harlan**, **S. Wagner**), two at EHSP on the 26th, two at Cleveland's Merwin St roost on the 27th (**P. Lozano**), and one on the 29th on the Cleveland lakefront (**J. Hammond** et al.).



Here is a close-up view of the American bittern found in a Port of Cleveland, Cuyahoga Co., warehouse restroom. Photo by Paula Lozano on 21 September 2000.

Glossy Ibis: **F. Renfrow** reported one at MWW on 6 Sept, and m obs found it through the 10th. An adult was found near Jaite in the CVNRA on 5 Nov (**D&A Chasar**), and m obs found it through the 11th. Details for both are with the OBRC.

Plegadis sp.: A surprising 11 were reported, the earliest 30 Aug at BIWA (**D. Sanders**), and the (very) latest two flybys at Rocky River Pk on 24 Nov (**G. Leidy**). High count was six (probably one ad and 5 imm) passing by Lakeshore MP on 1 Oct (**J. Pogacnik**).

Black Vulture: High count in the south was ~50 in *Hamilton* on 29 Oct (**J. Hays**), and at other customary spots four were at Granville on 29 Sept (**R. Thorn**), and 10 in *Holmes* on 8 Sept (**J. Miller**); one on 20 Oct and another on 30 Oct in *Coshocton* (**L. Deininger**) were likely from the same roost. In unexpected locales, **J. Pogacnik** saw one on 21 Aug in *Lake*, and **R. Nirschl** saw one among TVs over Irwin Prairie SNP, *Lucas*, on 21 Oct.

Turkey Vulture: Most had departed by mid-Nov, including ~150 birds from the summer roost on North Hill in Athens (**B. Whan**). High counts of migrants included ~300 on 26 Oct in *Brown* (**B. Lund**), and the following day 265 in *Licking* (**R. Thorn**). In *Lawrence*, 153 southbound TVs were noted on 15 Nov (**H. Slack**). On 28 Nov **Lund** observed a flock of 150+ in *Clermont*, and in the distance a flock that may have been twice as large.

Snow Goose: Slim pickings, despite all the reports of a population explosion. All reports: one at Mercer WA on 7 Oct (**J. Shrader**), two in *Ottawa* on 30 Oct (**J. Pogacnik**), six there on 5 Nov by **C. Holt** and 15 by the ONWRC, two at *Ottawa* on 8 Nov (**V. Fazio**), one at Grand Lk St Marys on 13 Nov (**J. Hammond**), a bird at Mosquito Lk WA on 24 Nov (**Holt**), and four at *Conneaut* on 26 Nov (**J. Brumfield**).

Canada Goose: The *Ottawa* monthly census gives an idea of resident vs. migrant numbers: 542 on 6 Aug, 380 on 3 Sept, 575 on 1 Oct, 800 on 5 Nov, and 3075 on 3 Dec. **K. Metcalf**, however, noted the first arrivals of Hudson Bay breeders at N. Chagrin Res, *Cuyahoga*, as early as 15 Sept.

Brant: Many reports over a month, the best flight in at least seven years. The first report came from *Conneaut* on 8 Oct by **C. Holt**; **G. Meszaros** had five there on 12 Oct. On 28 Oct, **J. Pogacnik** saw 24 at *Conneaut* and six more further west in *Ashtabula*; later in the day all may have arrived at *Conneaut*, where **I. Kern** (*vide B. Winger*) found 24 alive and six shot by hunters (brants, like Ross's geese, cinnamon teals, and mottled ducks, are legal game in Ohio). On the following day, **V. Fazio** reported six remained alive. **K. Metcalf** saw two imm at *Conneaut* on 3 Nov. The following day, **Pogacnik** had two flybys at Lakeshore MP, then **H. Petruschke** two at HBSP. **J. Lehman** reported four at *Conneaut* on 6 Nov. **Pogacnik** saw four more on 11 Nov in *Lake*, and **Petruschke** seven the same day at HBSP. On the same date **J. Miller** and **E. Schlabach** counted 29 a few miles west of *Conneaut*. The last report was of two off *Cleveland* on Nov 16 (**P. Lozano**).

Mute Swan: **J. Scott** had one at Winton Wds, *Hamilton*, on 24 Sept, and **D. Styer** one at MWW on 8 Oct; either or both could have been feral birds or escapees in an increasing population of this introduced and established species. Among the established Lake Erie birds, nine were at *Ottawa* on 8 Nov (**J. Hammond**), where they have become regular, despite their status on the current *Ottawa* checklist as "seen on five or fewer visits since 1964." **J. Pogacnik** counted 29 at EHSP on 26 Nov.

Tundra Swan: Over a thousand birds reported, 620 of them at spots across the northern tier of counties on 4 Nov, including a high count of 172 for the season at *Ottawa* (**B. Whan**). Last fall the big push (750+ birds) came on 3 Nov. Earliest were 10 at GPI on 28 Oct (**S. Zadar**), and at the end of the period four tarried at *Killbuck* (**S. Snyder**).

Wood Duck: High count reported was only 182 at Magee on 17 Sept (**H&S Hiris**); 143 had been on the CVNRA census the previous day (*vide D&A Chasar*). A hardy trio was near *Wooster* on 21 Nov (**S. Snyder**).

Gadwall: Generally late. The ONWRC counted them in single digits only until 5 Nov, when ~500 were present. Three days later at *Ottawa*, **V. Fazio** had 1170. On 19 Nov the **Hirises** counted 446 at Magee. Numbers fell sharply by the last week of the period, the largest only 12 at BCSP on 26 Nov (**D. Overacker**).

American Wigeon: Also slow to arrive in any numbers. Only 23 counted at Magee on 17 Sept (**H&S Hiris**), by which time one had arrived at *Conneaut* (**C. Holt**), but 3244 were at Magee by 19 Nov (**Hiris**). The ONWRC of 5 Nov found 1175.

American Black Duck: No large numbers reported. One on 8 Sept at MWW was unusual (**H. Armstrong**). The ONWRC found them in single-digit numbers this season before tallying 110 on 5 Nov.

Mallard: Again, large flocks collected later, with 1400 on the 5 Nov ONWRC, and 5978 at Magee on 19 Nov (**H&S Hiris**).

Blue-winged Teal: High count was 944 on the rather late date of 15 Oct, at Magee (**H&S Hiris**); numbers otherwise were said to be low. **N. Cade** had one at Camp Dennison, *Hamilton*, on 24 Nov, and **J. Pogacnik** one on 26 Nov at Old Woman Ck SNP, *Erie*.

Northern Shoveler: A bird at Cowan Lk SP on 21 Aug was unusual (**D. Styer**). Remarkable were 489 counted on the Magee census of 19 Nov (**H&S Hiris**); the previous count there on 15 Oct had been of 18 birds.

Northern Pintail: Low numbers. **C. Holt** found two at *Conneaut* on 23 Aug. In the Lk Erie strongholds for migrants, the *Ottawa* census had a mere 20 on 1 Oct and 82 on 5 Nov; that for Magee had 19 on 15 Oct and 397 (easily the season's high) on 19 Nov (**H&S Hiris**).

Green-winged Teal: First reported migrants were two at Hoover Res on 27 Aug (**R. Thorn**), and the usual Nov counts included ~500 on the 5th for the ONWRC (and 870 there on the 8th by **V. Fazio**) and 483 at Magee on the 19th (**H&S Hiris**).

Canvasback: A drake was reported in the Crane Ck estuary in every month, from 23 Aug (**A. Blank**) to 5 Nov (ONWRC). Another drake was odd near Columbus on 9 Oct (**D. Linzell**). All counts were in single digits save for 120 at *Ottawa* on 29 Oct (**C. Holt**), 10 at *Medusa Marsh* on 19 Nov (**B&A Toneff**), and 88 seen 22 Nov in *Lake* (**J. Pogacnik**).

Redhead: On schedule, with the first on 8 Oct in *Lake* (**J. Pogacnik**). Reports were scanty, however, with most in Nov, and a high count of 178 in Magee on the 19th (**H&S Hiris**).

Ring-necked Duck: Numbers seemed down. Cold weather shooed the last 80 from Hoover Res soon after **R. Thorn** found them on 19 Nov. **H. Hendrickson** (*vide D. Best*) tracked numbers on Best Lk in *Geauga*: one on 1 Oct, 22 on the 8th, 54 on the 9th, 88 on the 14th, 90 on the 15th, 40 on the 18th, 11 on the 21st, 90 on the 22nd, five on the 30th, 157 on 4 Nov, and 12 on 12 Nov. High count only 175 at *Shalersville, Portage*, on 4 Nov (**C. Holt**).

Greater Scaup: Numbers weren't great—and one assumes they were merely slow to arrive—with an early report of one on an *Ashtabula* pond on 8 Oct (**C. Holt**). Inland, one was near *Killbuck* from 22-28 Nov (**S. Snyder**).

Lesser Scaup: Early birds were singles in *Lake* on 17 Sept (**J. Pogacnik**) and at GPI on 23 Sept (**S. Zadar**). Appreciable numbers arrived only in mid-Nov, with 252 on the 14th at a *Findlay Res* (**B. Hardesty**)—where only one remained a week later—and, on the 21st, 200+ on *Berlin Res* and 224 in *Portage* (both **B&D Lane**).

- Harlequin Duck:** An imm male was observed at HBSP on 11 Nov (**H. Petruschke, S. Zadar**); **J. Pogacnik** had a juv off *Lake* on 21 Nov, and **E. Pierce** one at HBSP on 25 Nov.
- Surf Scoter:** 121 reported. The only Oct report was of two at HBSP on the 22nd (**H. Petruschke**); the latest was of nine offshore in *Lake* on 23 Nov (**J. Pogacnik**). The high count off 72 was off *Lake* on 11 Nov (**Pogacnik**), when five others were seen along the Lake's shore at spots further west. Only one bird reported inland: at Caesar Ck SP on 4 Nov (**S. Reeves**).
- White-winged Scoter:** Only ten birds reported. **D. Miles** had two off Old Woman Ck, *Erie*, on 5 Nov, and **J. Pogacnik** one off *Lake* on 23 Nov. All the others were seen with Nov's full moon on the 11th: four off *Ashtabula* (**E. Schlabach, J. Miller**), two in Clear Fk Res (**S. Snyder, L. Yoder**), and one off Vermilion (**J. Hammond et al.**).
- Black Scoter:** 71 reported. Earliest were on 28 Oct, one in *Lake* (**J. Pogacnik**) and 15 off Vermilion (**V. Fazio**); latest was one off *Lake* on 23 Nov (**Pogacnik**). The remainder were seen with the full moon on the 11 Nov: four at Clear Fk Res (**S. Snyder, L. Yoder**), 15 off Vermilion (**J. Hammond et al.**), six off *Lake* (**Pogacnik**), and six in *Ashtabula* (**E. Schlabach**).
- Long-tailed Duck:** At least 15 birds reported, beginning with one inland at Clear Fk Res on 11 Nov (**S. Snyder, L. Yoder**), and a bird off Rocky River Pk from 13 (**P. Lozano**) to 19 Nov (**S. Zadar**), as well as one at Huron the same day (**C. Holt**). High count was six passing Lakeshore MP on 12 Nov (**J. Pogacnik**). Four were off Vermilion on the 19th for **J. McCoy**. Latest was another inland bird, this one at The Wilds on 26 Nov (**B. Paxson, fide J. Hammond**).
- Bufflehead:** Numbers seemed down in general, and birds were later than normal. First was at Hoover Res on 4 Nov (**R. Thorn**). As has become traditional, the high count came from the Kelleys Isl census, this time 644 birds on 21 Nov (**T. Bartlett**). On the same day, **B. Hardesty** had a nice inland gathering of 115 at a Findlay Res.
- Common Goldeneye:** Not many. The first was seen at Findlay Res #2 on 7 Nov (**B. Hardesty**). Largest counts of the fall were five on 11 Nov off Vermilion (**J. Hammond et al.**) and 12 off Euclid on 19 Nov (**P. Lozano**).
- Hooded Merganser:** Seemed normal in numbers. At Hoover, 150 were tallied by **C. Bombaci** on 12 Nov, then 160 on the 25th by **R. Thorn**, for the high counts. **C. Holt** counted 130 on LaDue Res on 24 Nov.
- Common Merganser:** Earlyish was a good flight of 170 off Vermilion on 28 Oct (**V. Fazio**), by far the high count. On the Magee census of 19 Nov, 81 were seen (**H&S Hiris**).
- Red-breasted Merganser:** A female in Cleveland on 20 Aug (**B. Winger**) must have been a non-breeder. **C. Holt** noted the first returnee at Conneaut on 10 Sept. As usual, Nov flocks challenged enumeration: **S. Zadar** reported 24,277 from GPI on 12 Nov, and **J. Hammond** 20,000+ off Lorain on 8 Nov and 50,000+ off Vermilion on 11 Nov.
- Ruddy Duck:** Notable numbers were 300+ in *Geauga* on 21 Oct (**K. Metcalf**), and on the 28th ~500 at Wellington Res and ~200 at nearby Oberlin Res (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**). Fifty at Caesar Ck SP (**S. Reeves**) on 21 Nov may have been the last large flock before cold weather closed in.
- Osprey:** 103 reports, a fair number of which in August were probably migrants of introduced stock. **H. Slack** recorded 14 along the Ohio River in *Lawrence* from 28 Aug to 29 Sept. Several Nov reports, ending with two at Magee on the 19th (**H&S Hiris**).

- Bald Eagle:** Over sixty reported, with a high count of nine (two ad, seven imm) on the 6 Aug ONWRC. A dozen reports came from along the Ohio River, such as an adult in *Meigs* on 13 Aug (**S. Edinger**), and reports later in the period that suggested possible nest-building in *Scioto* and *Adams* (*fide P. Whan*); **H. Slack** saw five between 14 Sept and 15 Nov along the River in *Lawrence*; curiously, as with ospreys, he saw none there in Oct.
- Northern Harrier:** Down precipitously from last fall, with only 49 reported. August reports included two in *Ashtabula* on the 12th (**J. Pogacnik**), and one at Pickerel Ck WA on the 20th (**P. Jones**). Six or more were at Killdeer on 2 Oct (**M. England**), and later in the period four were over the Exchange Rd grasslands in *Huron* on 5 Nov (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**), and two near Funk on 26 Nov (**S. Snyder**).
- Sharp-shinned Hawk:** An average flight, with no notable observations.
- Cooper's Hawk:** In healthy numbers. Two stories illustrate their adaptability to urban settings. Urban birder **P. Lozano** identified one dismantling a pigeon atop a car in an underground parking garage at a Cleveland high school on 12 Nov, and **D. Horn** watched one drive another squab fatally into a window in an OSU parking garage before having it for lunch; at the latter location there was some evidence the bird may regularly hunt in the building.
- Northern Goshawk:** Three reports: one at Whitehouse, *Lucas*, on 23 Oct (**M. Anderson**), one on 26 Nov at EHSP (**J. Pogacnik**), and a juv at HBSP on 29 Nov (**J. Hammond et al.**).
- Red-shouldered Hawk:** A young bird at GPI seen from 13-18 Oct overstayed his welcome, ending as a corpse on the 23rd; finder **S. Zadar** suspected a local great horned owl. The high count was six, in flight over *Lucas* on 4 Nov (**J. Hammond et al.**). Rather unexpected as to time and place was one at EHSP on 26 Nov (**J. Pogacnik**).
- Broad-winged Hawk:** Two near Dublin, *Franklin*, on 6 Aug were probably local nesters (**P. Gottschling**). Good numbers of migrants were noted overhead in *Lucas* this fall: **M. Anderson** had 1260 on the 18th and 925 on the 25th of Sept at Whitehouse, and **T. Kemp** counted ~2300 there on the 23rd.
- Red-tailed Hawk:** Twenty-one were counted in a few hours of watching in *Lucas* on 4 Nov (**J. Hammond et al.**). One dark-plumaged bird was reported, by **N. Cade** at Caesar Ck SP on 24 Nov. An extremely rare form, the light morph of the "Harlan's" race, was reported from *Holmes* on 18 Nov, details from which are with the OBRC.
- Rough-legged Hawk:** Sparse this fall, with only 23 reported. Early were two separate sightings in *Holmes* on 20 Oct (**J. Miller, M. Weaver**), two more in *Holmes* on 26 Oct (**L. Yoder**), and one in *Lucas* on 30 Oct (**J. Pogacnik**). High count was of six birds at The Wilds by **D. St. John** on 7 Nov.
- Golden Eagle:** Numbers like last year's, which is to say quite good. The first passed Lk Erie MP in Michigan (*fide J. Schultz*) on 13 Sept (!), but **S. Stockford** saw our first, an immature bird, over Toledo on 19 Oct. **R. Nirschl** had another imm there on 21 Oct, and **G. Links** an adult over the Oak Openings on 29 Oct. One reached Tiffin on 1 Nov for **B. Barchus**, and an adult was seen at The Wilds on 26 Nov (**B. Paxson, fide J. Hammond**).
- Merlin:** Over thirty reports, likely of more than 20 birds, the first on 2 Sept (Kelleys Isl census, **T. Bartlett**) and the last in *Franklin* on 26 Nov (**J. Fry**). All were near Lk Erie save for the preceding, one on 20 Sept at LaDue Res (**R. Rickard**), and two others from the Columbus area: 6 Sept in Dublin by **M. England**, and 17 Sept at Hoover Res (**R. Thorn**).

Peregrine Falcon: The 39 reports were unremarkable for recent years, with many in the latter half of September. November sightings included one at Avon on the 12th (**D. Chasar**) and one in Lakewood on the 19th (**P. Lozano**).

Northern Bobwhite: **R. Kolde** jumped a covey of 24 at MWW on 12 Nov.

Virginia Rail: As usual their fall passage went largely unnoticed, at least by birders. Hunting season was 1 Sept-9 Nov, and the bag limit 25/hunter/day. **C. Rieker** had two calling in the CVNRA as late as 12 Nov.

Sora: Moderate numbers were detected during the migration. That some prefer drier weedy fields at this time is borne out by reports from overgrown dredge-disposal basins such as GPI, where numbers were seen last year, and singles were found on four occasions between mid-Sept and mid-Oct this fall (**S. Zadar**).

Common Moorhen: Reports spanned the period (13 on 6 Aug, including six young, on the ONWRC, and **H&S Hiris** found four at Magee on 19 Nov); all in all, though, the total number reported came to less than the number two hunters are allowed to take in a single day.

American Coot: ONWRC counts were 52 on 6 Aug, 425 on 3 Sept, 1500 on 1 Oct, and 1700 on 5 Nov. **S. Snyder** estimated 1000 at Killbuck on 14 Oct. Saturday birders inland noted ~750 at Caesar Ck SP (**S. Reeves**), ~400 at Hueston Wds SP (**N. Keller et al.**), and ~1500 at BCSP (**D. Overacker**), all on 4 Nov. High count 3260 at Magee on 19 Nov (**H&S Hiris**), when **A&B Toneff** estimated 2000+ at Medusa Marsh.

Sandhill Crane: Ideal weather allowed the big push on 20 and 21 Nov this year, with ~270 birds seen in six western counties and in *Lake*; the high count was ~100 in *Champaign* (**T. Shively**). The big news was an apparently successful nesting at Killdeer, a first: **L. Powlick** noted an adult there on 5 Aug, then **B. Rinehart** a juvenile on the 13th, and by the end of the month a family group of three was being seen (**R. Sempier**). Four flying over the CVNRA on 16 Sept were only the second record for the area (*vide* **D. Chasar**). Killbuck-area nesters may have contributed to a group of seven seen near Funk on 21 Oct and 14 there on 4 Nov (**S. Snyder**). Early migrants were two in *Ross* on 4 Nov (**D. Horn**) and 18 in *Fostoria* on 14 Nov (**S. Ross, vide B. Hardesty**). Latest reported were two near *Huron* on 19 (**B. Phillips**) and 26 Nov (**M. Busam**). For clarifications on the *Geauga* cranes, see **D. Best's** note elsewhere in this issue.

Black-bellied Plover: 150+ reported, 122 of them at the Crane Ck estuary in Ottawa. Migrants had begun appearing as early as 2 July this year, and the last was reported at Walnut Beach, *Ashtabula*, on 18 Nov (**J. Pogacnik**). High count 78 at Crane Ck on 1 Oct (**E. Pierce**).

American Golden-Plover: Disappointingly few were seen, with high counts of only four at Conneaut on 2 Sept (**J. Brumfield**) and in *Holmes* on 30 Sept (**E. Schlabach**). All reports came from September, except for three quite late birds on the 5 Nov ONWRC.

Semipalmated Plover: The first migrants had appeared by 13 July, but the flight was puny overall. High count was 30 at Conneaut on 30 Aug (**B. Winger et al.**). An extremely late bird was well seen at Hoover Res on 21 Nov by **D. Sanders**; this seems to be a new record late occurrence by five days among the eleven Nov records of the past 60 years.

Killdeer: Most left early this year, understandably. For example, around 450 at BCSP on 12 Nov (the state's high count) had dwindled to three by 25 Nov (**D. Overacker**), at which time **C. Holt** reported "small numbers remained at several NE lakes."

American Avocet: A veritable parade graced Conneaut Harbor in August: four on the 1st (**D. St. John**), one on the 6th (**B. Winger**), five on the 8th (**D. St. John**), and one on the 13th (**J. Pogacnik**); three were there on the 19th (**C. Holt**). One was found near the Ohio River in *Lawrence* on 11 Aug by **H. Slack**. Four were in Dayton on 9 Sept (*vide* **C. Mathena**), and three at Hoover Res the same day (**M. Baughman**). The last reported were from only 21 Sept—two at Sims Pk in Euclid by **T. Kellerman, vide P. Lozano**.

Greater Yellowlegs: Numbers seemed skimpy, especially for a shorebird not obligated to scarce mudflats. The high count of 25 was also the latest: 5 Nov by the ONWRC.

Lesser Yellowlegs: Also reported infrequently; after several 100+ counts last fall, the high count was only 31, at Conneaut on 6 Aug (**C. Holt**); the same observer found the inland high of 20 at Hoover Res on 3 Sept.

Solitary Sandpiper: Migrants having passed through since late June, three birds as late as 15 Oct were interesting: one at HBSP (**H. Petruschke**), one at Berlin Res (**B&D Lane**), and a flyover in Medina (**R. Harlan**).

Willet: Four reports: One was at Conneaut on 23 Aug (**C. Holt**), then one at the Crane Ck estuary on 2 Sept (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**). Another spent about a week at ponds near Grand Lk St Marys through at least 13 Sept (**J. Ruediseuli**). Quite late was one at GPI on 2 Oct (**S. Zadar**).

Spotted Sandpiper: **B. Morrison's** 12 at Berlin Res on 5 Sept represented the high count. Two at Hueston Wds SP on 7 Oct were late (**D. Styer**).

Upland Sandpiper: **V. Fazio** saw eight birds, probably local nesters and their progeny, at BIWA on 5 Aug. **D&M Dunakin** had two birds in *Paulding* on 26 Aug.



Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area, Wyandot Co., played host to an apparent nesting pair of sandhill cranes this year. The adult and juvenile pictured above were photographed there on 20 August 2000 by Ron Sempier.

Whimbrel: Except for **S. Zadar's** bird on 2 Oct at GPI, all were seen at Conneaut: eight there on 1 Aug (**D. St. John**), three on the 7th (**Zadar, T. Gilliland**), one on 13 Aug (**B. Morrison**), then three on 9 Sept (**J. Pogacnik**).

Hudsonian Godwit: **J. Brumfield** reported a molting adult at Conneaut on 2 Sept, which remained through the 5th (**H. Petruschke**). On the latter date, **S. Reeves** found one at MWW. **C. Holt** had a juv at Berlin Res on 26 Sept. The ONWRC had three at the Crane Ck estuary on 1 Oct, and **Holt** the high count of 14 there on 5 Nov.

Marbled Godwit: Four joined Conneaut's conga-line of large shorebirds on 2 Aug (**V. Fazio**). Possibly a single bird accounted for multiple reports there in Sept, from the 6th (**B. Finkelstein**) to the 30th (**R. Rickard**).

Ruddy Turnstone: Scarce, seemingly, with less than twenty birds reported near Lk Erie, including the high count of seven at HBSP on 4 Sept (**K. Metcalf**). Elsewhere, **B. Morrison** saw two at Walborn Res on 28 Aug, **J. Hammond** two at Hoover Res on 6 Sept, and **J. Stenger** one at MWW on 10 Sept. No October reports.

Red Knot: Only a few. **C. Holt** found the first, an adult at Conneaut on 19 Aug; other reports from Conneaut (two on 3 Sept by **B. Winger**, one on 8 Sept by **J&D Hoffman**, and one on 9 Sept by **J. Pogacnik**) may well have involved only two individuals, at least one a juvenile. Another juvenile was found at Hoover Res on 26 Aug (**B. Whan**), and remained at least through 3 Sept (**R. Thorn**). **J. Lehman** and **E. Pierce** saw one at Sheldon Marsh on 23 Sept. Bringing up the rear was a bird at the Crane Ck estuary on 1 Oct for the ONWRC.

Sanderling: Close to 300 reported. Migrants appeared in July, and peaked at 82 birds at Sheldon Marsh on 7 Oct (**B. Whan**). No fewer than 36 appeared in Nov, the latest 27 at the Crane Ck estuary on the 8th (**V. Fazio**).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: As usual, the most numerous of the peeps. Migration continued from July to peaks of ~250 at Conneaut on 2 Sept (**J. Brumfield**) and 270+ at Hoover Res on 8 Sept (**V. Fazio**). Last report was of one at Berlin Res on 26 Sept by **C. Holt**.

Western Sandpiper: A juvenile found at Conneaut by **B&A Toneff** on 27 Aug was followed by two there on 2 Sept, then one on the 5th (**H. Petruschke**), and one on the 9th (**J. Pogacnik**). Found at Hoover Res 4 Sept (**B. Master, J. McCormac**) and on 14 Sept (**B. Conlon, B. Whan**). Latest were two birds at Ottawa, two on 29 Oct and one on 5 Nov (**C. Holt**).

Least Sandpiper: Having begun in late June this year, their migration featured no spectacular numbers, the highest 42 on 5 Sept at Walborn Res (**B. Morrison**). The last report, like last year's, came from **D. Overacker** at BCSP, this year on 18 Nov.

White-rumped Sandpiper: 54 reports, most along Lk Erie in September, with a high of eight at Conneaut on the 3rd (**B. Winger**). The first appeared inland at Hoover Res on 27 Aug (**G. Stauffer**), where there were two on 6 Sept (**J. Hammond**), and five on 9 Sept (**B. Master**). One was at MWW on 5 Sept (**S. Reeves**) and remained on 10 Sept (**J. Stenger**). Two were at Grand Lk St Marys on 3 Sept (**D. Dister**). A fairly hardy species, the last was on 11 Nov at HBSP (**K. Metcalf**).

Baird's Sandpiper: With no July reports, the first two were at Conneaut on 13 Aug (**J. Pogacnik, B. Finkelstein**). One was at Hoover Res on 26 Aug (**B. Whan**) through at least mid-Sept (**R. Thorn**). On 4 Sept one was at BCSP (**D. Overacker**) and another at BIWA (**B. Master**). One was at Berlin Res on 14 Sept (**C. Holt**) and two there on 28 Sept (**B. Morrison**). Latest reported were two north of Fremont on 3 Nov (**V. Fazio**).

Pectoral Sandpiper: Smaller than normal numbers reported. High count was only 70, on 15 Sept at Berlin Res (**B. Morrison**). They did linger: **R. Harlan** and **S. Wagner** had six at Sheldon Marsh on 5 Nov, **S. Snyder** one near Wooster on 7 Nov, and **T. Kemp** a real slowpoke on 24 Nov at Bayshore, **Lucas**.

Purple Sandpiper: Despite considerable searching, only one was detected during the period, on 28 Nov at HBSP (**H. Petruschke**).

Dunlin: Early were two at Magee on 22 Sept (**A&B Toneff**), five at Sheldon Marsh on 23 Sept (**E. Pierce**), and one at Hoover Res on 24 Sept (**B. Master**); shortly thereafter 15 showed up for the 1 Oct ONWRC. Numbers swelled in Nov, especially at the Crane Ck estuary, where there were ~950 on 5 Nov (**C. Holt**) and 880+ on the 8th (**V. Fazio**). Five late birds were at Lorain on 19 Nov (**Holt**)—at least they were late for this year.

Stilt Sandpiper: Migration began in late July locally. More than a hundred were reported this fall, the high of ~25 at Hoover Res on 9 Sept (**B. Whan** et al.). Birds in the southwest included two at MWW on 6 Aug (**J. Bens**), and another there on 8 Sept (**H. Armstrong**), two at Cowan Lk SP on 27 Aug (**L. Gara**), and one on 21 and 22 Oct at BCSP (**D. Overacker**). The preceding and four in *Williams* on the same date (**J. Grabmeier**) were the last.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: About twenty reported. By the first week of Aug the species had appeared in five states along its regular flyway, but our first was on the 20th, at BIWA (**V. Fazio**). By the 26th, one was at Hoover Res (**D. Linzell**), to be joined by two others on the 30th (**B. Royse**). Three also showed up at an Oxford golf course on 17 Sept (**C. Holliday**). The last bird, quite late, was reported from Conneaut on 21 Oct (**J. Pogacnik**).

Short-billed Dowitcher: Twenty-two birds on the ONWRC of 6 Aug were probably the last of the adults to pass through. But where were the young birds? One showed up at Conneaut on 20 Aug (**J. Pogacnik**), and up to 19 continued there through 10 Sept (**K. Metcalf**). One was at Caesar Ck SP on 26 Aug (**L. Gara**). High count was 40 at the Crane Ck estuary on 3 Sept (ONWRC).

Long-billed Dowitcher: Only two adults were reported this season, one at Conneaut from 28 Aug to 1 Sept by **C. Holt** and one at Sheldon Marsh on 23 Sept by **J. Lehman** and **E. Pierce**. Not long ago, large flocks of adults staged to molt each fall at Metzger Marsh (for example, in 1992, 130 were there on 21 Aug, 110 on 25 Aug, and 250 on 29 Aug), but it remains to be seen if this phenomenon, known only from here in the Midwest, will occur in Ohio again. The first report this fall of juveniles came from the Crane Ck estuary on 1 Oct, 22 birds on the ONWRC. Forty birds were there on 3 Nov (**B. Morrison**), and ~80 on the following day (**B. Whan** et al.). The latest report was of a lone bird at Walnut Beach on 18 Nov, by **J. Pogacnik**.

Common Snipe: A routine migration apparently, though one at Conneaut on 8 Oct was in a fairly unusual spot (**C. Holt**).

American Woodcock: Nine reports, the latest at Caesar Ck SP on 11 Nov (**S. Reeves**).

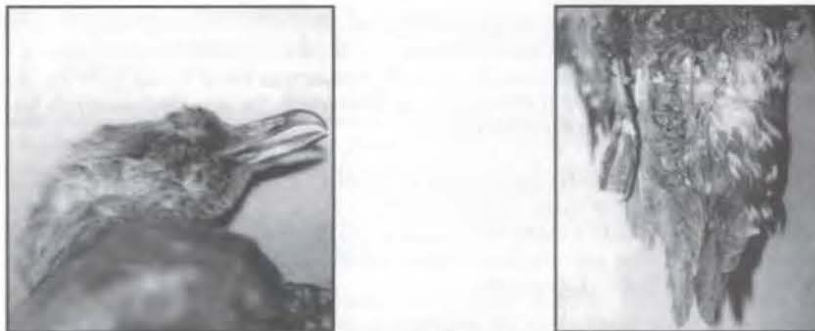
Wilson's Phalarope: Four birds, in a short span: one at MWW 9 (**N. Cade**) and 10 Sept (**J. Stenger**), then two there on 19 Sept (**B. Pratt**). **D. Sanders** found a juvenile on the Huron River flats on 20 Sept.

Red-necked Phalarope: Three were at Sheldon Marsh on 9 Sept (**K. Johnson**), one on the 13th (**J. Hammond** et al.), and no fewer than five on the 20th (**D. Sanders**), then three on the 23rd (**E. Pierce**). Another was at Hoover Res on 14 Sept (**R. Thorn**).

Red Phalarope: Unusually plentiful. **J. Pogacnik** picked them up like ticks on a summer's walk: in Ashtabula, one on 28 Oct and three on 18 Nov; in Conneaut, one on 18 and another on 25 Nov; at Walnut Beach, two on 18 Nov, and one each on 25 and 29 Nov; and one in Lorain on 26 Nov. The rest of us did fairly well, too: **P. Chad** found one in a pond at the Bowling Green State University golf course on 2 Oct, where it stayed until the 6th for **G. Links**. **J. Hammond** et al. found one at HBSP on 10 Nov, and **V. Fazio** two there on 12 Nov, while **C. Holt** found a bird at Lorain on 19 Nov.

Pomarine Jaeger: **J. Pogacnik** reported two from Conneaut on 12 Nov.

Long-tailed Jaeger: A dead and somewhat flattened bird was found by a roadside in *Lake* on 11 Oct (**D. Burton**, **D. Sanders**), and details are with the OBRC, as have those from a bird seen at HBSP, *Lake*, on 15 Sept.



Sometimes it pays to investigate roadkill. Dan Sanders and Don Burton did just that and scraped this juvenile long-tailed jaeger off a Lake Co. road on 11 October 2000. Head detail, top left; undertail detail, top right; whole bird (ventral view), bottom. Photos by Don Burton.

Laughing Gull: Three first-year birds were seen. **L. Yoder** found one at HBSP on 19 Aug. A bird was intermittently reported at Grand Lk St Marys from 9 Sept (**C. Mathena**) all the way through 31 Oct (**J. McCormac**, **B. Master**). Another was on the beach at Caesar Ck SP from 30 Sept through 1 Oct (**L. Gara**).

Franklin's Gull: As many as 16 reported, spanning the period. The first showed up at Greenlawn Dam on 13 Aug (**R. Cressman**), and an imm was at HBSP on 21 Aug (**H. Petruschke**). Singles were at BCSP on 23-24 Sept, 15 Oct, and 18 Nov. (**D. Overacker**). Two were at Caesar Ck SP on 8 Oct, then one off and on through 20 Oct, then another on 15 Nov (**L. Gara**). **R. Thorn** had a bird on 23 Oct and one on 4 Nov at Hoover Res. **B. Morrison** saw two at the Crane Ck estuary on 3 Nov, **V. Fazio** an adult at Huron on 11 Nov, and **J. Pogacnik** one in *Lake* on the same day. **C. Rieker** had one on 12 Nov at Lorain, and **Pogacnik** had the last sighting, at EHSP on 26 Nov.

Little Gull: Seven reports, all from Lk Erie. The first was from HBSP, a first-year bird on 19 Aug (**H. Petruschke**). Unusual were two sightings in the western basin, one of a juvenile at Kelleys Isl on 17 Nov (**T. Bartlett**) and another of an adult at EHSP on 26 Nov (**J. Pogacnik**).

Bonaparte's Gull: Seemed slow to arrive in any numbers. Forty were at the Crane Ck estuary on 6 Aug for the ONWRC, and one was at Conneaut the following day (**S. Zadar**). Except for 16 at Caesar Ck SP on the 10th and 100 at Conneaut on the 22nd (**C. Holt**), none were reported for October, but numbers took off in Nov. On 11 Nov, 115 were at Caesar CK (**L. Gara**), ~400 at Pleasant Hill Lk for **S. Snyder**, *Richland/Ashland*, and an estimated 3000 at Huron (**J. Hammond**). At Hoover on the 19th, ~800 were estimated by **R. Thorn** for a good inland count.

Ring-billed Gull: A normal season, except for one anomaly. **F. Renfrow** visited the Meldahl Dam in *Clermont* on 4, 10, and 22 Sept, and 17 Oct without seeing a single gull; by Nov 10, three ring-billeds had appeared. Upriver, **H. Slack** in *Lawrence* reported migrants from 15 Nov on, with 110 on 21 Nov.

California Gull: An adult basic-plumaged bird was reported for Grand Lk St Marys on 12 Nov (**D. Dister**, ph). Accepted by the OBRC.

Thayer's Gull: **T. Bartlett** reported one found on the Kelleys Isl census of 21 Nov, and **J. Pogacnik** a first-year bird the following day in *Lake*.

Iceland Gull: Not a fall bird under normal circumstances, but **J. Pogacnik** had a first-winter bird in *Lake* on 22 Nov, and **B. Winger** had an adult in Euclid the following day.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: As many as 10-12 birds reported. Two seemed fairly faithful to Huron: an adult first reported 3 Nov (**B. Morrison**), and a first-winter bird the following day (**J. Hammond** et al.), and both seen on 26 Nov (**J. Pogacnik**). An adult at Lorain on 8 Nov (**Hammond**) was joined by another for **S. Zadar** on the 19th. **Zadar** had another at Avon on 19 Nov, and **Pogacnik** one there on the 26th. At GPI **Zadar** noted a first-year bird on 9 Nov and an adult on the 23rd. Four other reports came from farther east along the Lake. An inland report of two adults came from Summit Lk on 22 Nov (**C. Holt**).

Glaucous Gull: Unlike last fall, we had some premonitory earlier sightings, the first an early one on 21 Oct at Huron (**E. Pierce**), then one at Avon on 12 Nov (**D. Chasar**), then an adult and a second-year bird in *Lake* on the 21st (**J. Pogacnik**), followed by a first-year bird at Huron on the 23rd (**J. Brumfield**) and later on the 25th (**M. Busam**). Another was at EHSP on the 26th (**Pogacnik**).

Great Black-backed Gull: A rarity inland, one was satisfactorily described by **B. Loebick** at Alum Ck SP on 24 Oct (*vide* **J. McCormac**). Sixty-six was a good number for 28 Oct off Vermilion (**V. Fazio**). Apparently 25 or so summered at Conneaut (**C. Holt**).

Sabine's Gull: Three birds, all immatures, all in October: one on the 8th at Lakeshore MP (J. Pogacnik), one on the 28th off Vermilion (V. Fazio), and another on the 30th off Pt Clinton (Pogacnik).

Black-legged Kittiwake: Quite early was a juvenile repeatedly passing Lakeshore MP on 18 Oct, where other young birds were seen on Nov 11th and the 21st (J. Pogacnik). In Ashtabula E. Schlabach and J. Miller saw another of the same age, as did Pogacnik et al. in Ashtabula Harbor on the 25th. In a very infrequent plumage, a second-winter bird floated in the river at Huron for D. Sanders and J. Hammond on 11 Nov. Earlier the same day V. Fazio had a juv bird at the same location.

Caspian Tern: No sizeable concentrations were reported, with the largest flock ~100 at Conneaut on 1 Sept (C. Holt). Migrants inland came mostly in August. On the Ohio River in Lawrence, five tardy birds appeared quite late on 11 Nov for H. Slack.

Common Tern: Staging flocks in Sept reached excellent numbers, such as ~200 on the ONWRC of the 3rd, then ~2500 at Sheldon Marsh on the 9th (B. Whan et al.). Later, an estimated 300 were at the Crane Ck estuary on 3 Nov (B. Morrison), and 97 there on the 8th (V. Fazio). The 9th of Nov furnished the last sightings: an adult at Lorain (R. Harlan, S. Wagner), two adults at GPI (S. Zadar), and one at LaDue Res (D. Ferris).

Forster's Tern: An estimated 1200 roosted with other terns at Sheldon on 9 Sept (B. Whan et al.), and ~200 were tallied by the 1 Oct ONWRC. November procrastinators included 11 at Pt Clinton on the 8th (V. Fazio), four in Lawrence on the 12th (H. Slack), one in Sandusky Bay the same day (J. Lehman), and one at Huron on the 23rd (J. Brumfield) through the 26th (M. Busam).

Black Tern: While smaller than 1999's, their numbers weren't too bad by recent standards. Through more than five weeks, over 50 birds were reported, the earliest four on 7 Aug at MWW (J. Nooker), the latest at Grand Lk St Marys on 17 Sept (D. Brinkman). High count was 16 at Hoover Res on 26 Aug (B. Whan), seven of which remained on 7 Sept (R. Thorn). Twelve of the 14 reports arose well away from Lk Erie, where only two individuals were found; this recent trend is not encouraging for hopes of Ohio nesting by this species.

Dovekie: On 31 Oct an experienced observer from out of state reported this diminutive alcid from Grand Lk St Marys, Auglaize. Extensive efforts the following day failed to relocate it. There are accepted records for seven Great Lakes states and provinces. Details of the sighting are with the OBRC.

Black-billed Cuckoo: Significantly late was one at Battelle-Darby Creek MP, Franklin, on 6 Oct (B. Master).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Far harder than its congener, a 12 Nov bird at GPI (S. Zadar) was the latest this year.

Snowy Owl: Returned to many sites this fall after a virtual absence of several years, and in numbers normal for decent flights over the past decade. A dozen or more birds appeared, most along the shore of Lk Erie. The first report came from Bayshore PP on 3 Nov (L. Garling, *vide* V. Fazio). One to two birds were continually reported from Conneaut through Nov. A bird near Lima on 10 Nov (H. Armstrong et al., *vide* B. Bell) was a one-day wonder, but another (differently-marked, Armstrong assures us) bird showed up south of Wilmington at least a week prior to the report of N. Compton, *vide* D. Russell, of 22 Nov, and stayed through the end of the period for m obs.

Short-eared Owl: A 12 Aug sighting in Ashtabula (J. Pogacnik) certainly makes one speculate about local nesting. Birds seen at GPI on 8 Oct (S. Zadar) and on 14 or 15 Oct over Marysville, Union (T. Taylor) were likely migrants. Owls began settling into familiar locales in Nov: the first at Killdeer was reported on the 16th (R. Goeke, *vide* M. Misplon), the first to Geauga on the 22nd (D. Ferris), and on the 24th P. Haskins saw 15-20 at The Wilds and B&D Lane at least eight in Columbiana.

Northern Saw-whet Owl: Three reports. This species is far more common as a fall migrant and a wintering bird than our efforts to find them, such as they are, suggest.

Common Nighthawk: A good flight, or at least well-observed, and on schedule statewide. Numbers began to peak in late Aug (with 100 in Hamilton on the 31st by W. Hull) through mid-Sept, as with 200+ in Morgan on the 11th (R. Placier). The high count was of "500 at least" in rural Athens on 9 Sept (L. Comeaux). Other big counts from the south included 285 on 27 Aug, 225 on 7 Sept, and 114 on 11 Sept in Lawrence (H. Slack). The latest birds were two in Hamilton on 11 Oct (J. Stenger) and two over Columbus the same day (M. Skinner). Someone needs to explain why so many large evening flocks of migrant nighthawks in autumn are seen flying north.

Whip-poor-will: Last noted on 6 Oct in Adams (B. Lund).

Chimney Swift: D. Sillick noted a premigratory roost of ~500 in a Columbus suburb on 20 Aug. Late Sept saw the largest movements, with 1000+ at Berlin Res on the 21st (B. Morrison), and ~1100 on the 23rd at GPI (S. Zadar). By Oct, 30 were in Scioto on the 8th (B. Lund), 18 in Holmes on the 12th (E. Schlabach), and on the 13th, 10 over the CVNRA (D&A Chasar), one in Portage (C. Holt), and one in Chester, Meigs (C. Skinner).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: M. Busam counted 20 or more migrants at Gilmore Ponds on 16 Sept. Late to leave were one in Paulding on 6 Oct (D&M Dunakin) and one in Hamilton on the 8th (N. Keller).

Rufous Hummingbird: An adult male came to a feeder in Wayne from 6 to 13 Sept, where it was photographed and written up by S. Snyder; the record was accepted by the OBRC.



This adult male rufous hummingbird graced a feeder in Wayne Co. from 6-13 September 2000. Su Snyder was able to obtain this documentary photo on 6 September by holding a camera up to the eyepiece of a spotting scope.

***Selasphorus* sp.:** A young bird, either a rufous or an Allen's hummingbird, visited an *Ashtabula* feeder in October, where it was photographed by **H. Petruschke** on the 5th, and seen as late as the 11th (**D. Sanders, D. Burton**). Accepted by the OBRC. Another bird was reported in *Hamilton* in early Nov (**M. McCarty, fide N. Keller**) and remained through the period; documentation has been submitted to the OBRC.



The two *Selasphorus* hummingbirds reported this season. The photo on the left was taken by Haans Petruschke in Ashtabula Co. on 5 October 2000. The photo on the right was taken by Millie McCarty in Hamilton Co. in early November 2000.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: A routine migration by all accounts. Three nesting pairs were discovered in *Geauga* this year, *fide D. Best*.

Pileated Woodpecker: Seems to be resorting to more marginal, or at least unaccustomed, habitats of late, one example being **G. Links'** unexpected sighting of a bird on 29 Oct in the Oak Openings, where it has seldom been seen recently.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Eighteen reports was an excellent number. The first came from *Clermont* on 13 Aug (**D. Morse**), and the latest only 17 Sept at Hoover Res (**B. Master, J. McCormac**). **B. Finkelstein** and **P. Lozano** had two in the same tree in *Cleveland* on 2 Sept.

Eastern Wood-Pewee: The last report came from EFSP on 14 Oct (**H. Armstrong**).

Acadian Flycatcher: **D. Styer** reported the latest from *Shawnee Lookout* on 23 Sept.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Both the earliest and the latest came from *Holmes*: one on 24 Aug (**L. Yoder**), and one on 24 Sept (**E. Schlabach**).

Least Flycatcher: One was carefully observed by **S. Zadar** et al. on the rather late date of 10 Oct at *Gordon Pk*.

Eastern Phoebe: Forty were tallied on the CVNRA census of 16 Sept (*fide D. Chasar*); the species was reported through the end of the period.

Great Crested Flycatcher: The latest report came from EFSP on 14 Oct (**H. Armstrong**).

Western Kingbird: One was found and photographed on 8 Sept at *Brecksville Res'n* by **J. Mizanin**; accepted by the OBRC.

Eastern Kingbird: 45 were counted on the 6 Aug ONWRC. The latest report came from BCSP (**D. Overacker**) on 15 Sept.

Loggerhead Shrike: **D. Graham** reported one near *Caesar Ck SP* on 9 Oct.

Northern Shrike: Thirteen reports. The earliest of four birds reported from Oct was on the 22nd at HBSP (**H. Petruschke**). No new frontiers were established as to locations, and several remained through the end of the period.

White-eyed Vireo: Departed in good order, with the last reported from *Franklin* on 6 Oct (**B. Master**).

Yellow-throated Vireo: **B&A Toneff** found one on *Kelleys Island* on 30 Sept. The last departed *Spring Grove Cem* in *Cincinnati* on 7 Oct (**N. Cade**).

Blue-headed Vireo: Two were still in song on 14 Oct in the CVNRA (**D&A Chasar**). Late reports came from *Firestone MP, Summit*, on 26 Oct (**E. Pierce**) and from *Gilmore Ponds* on 29 Oct (**M. Busam**).

Warbling Vireo: Remarkable was one at HBSP on 21 Oct (**K. Metcalf**).

Philadelphia Vireo: One on the *Kelleys Isl* census was early on 20 Aug (*fide T. Bartlett*). High counts of four apiece came from *Highbanks MP, Delaware*, on 15 Sept (**J. Hammond**) and the following day at GPI (**S. Zadar**). **M. Busam** found one at *Gilmore Ponds* on 7 Oct for the final report.

Red-eyed Vireo: Six were counted on the 1 Oct ONWRC, and **E. Schlabach** had the latest, one in *Holmes* on 7 Oct.

American Crow: As in the past, *Eden Pk* in *Cincinnati* hosted a night roost estimated by **F. Renfrow** at in excess of 30,000 birds.

Purple Martin: Two were seen at GPI on 23 Sept (**S. Zadar**).

Tree Swallow: Around 4,000 were estimated at *Hueston Wds SP* on 7 Oct (**D. Styer**). **H. Armstrong** found the latest, a singleton at EFSP on 16 Oct.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: Five were at MWW on 11 Oct (**J. Lehman**), and the last bird passed over GPI on 14 Oct (**S. Zadar**).

Bank Swallow: By 16 Sept the final report came in, from BCSP (**D. Overacker**).

Cliff Swallow: The last migrants were on the move in numbers in early Sept. Highly unusual was a huge flock of 1200-1500 on roads, telephone wires, and perches on soybean plants near *Charlie's Pond* in *Pickaway* on the 7th (**B. Master, J. McCormac, P. King**).

Barn Swallow: Numbers seemed down to several observers. Last one was noted at *Hueston Wds SP* on 7 Oct by **D. Styer**.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Unlike last fall's irruption, numbers were close to normal. Earliest were two in *Trumbull* on 18 Sept (**C. Babyak**). Other than 30+ seen at *Findley SP* on 12 Nov (**C. Rieker**), all other reports were in single digits. Wintering in *Hamilton* seemed in the offing when **F. Renfrow** noted one at *Indian Hill* on 16 Nov, then three apiece on 19, 21, 23 and 30 Nov.

Brown Creeper: Early was one at Hoover Res on 9 Sept (**B. Whan** et al.).

Carolina Wren: Up north, four were counted in the *Kelleys Isl* census of 24 Sept (*fide T. Bartlett*), and **C. Babyak** reported five in *Niles, Trumbull*, at the end of the period.

- House Wren:** R. Thorn noted adults feeding fledglings at Hoover Res as late as 16 Sept. Given the temperatures, one at Killdeer on 11 Nov was remarkable (D. Overacker).
- Winter Wren:** Some regarded them as scarce, but M. Busam found them more numerous than usual at Gilmore Ponds, with nine individuals seen 22 Oct-9 Nov, then through the end of the period.
- Sedge Wren:** Twenty or more birds noted. D. Brinkman found two at MWW on 5 Aug, then the high count of six there on the 13th. A pair with young were at BCSP on 19 Aug (D. Overacker). One near Athens on 1 Oct must have been a migrant (B. Placier), as were two at MWW on 21 Oct (J. Lehman).
- Marsh Wren:** Seventeen were detected by the ONWRC on 6 Aug. Migrants were noted in diverse places in Oct: in the Dunakins' yard in Paulding on the 1st, in Guernsey on the 7th (L. Yoder), and at Tinker's Ck in Portage on the 15th (A&D Chasar).
- Golden-crowned Kinglet:** First reports along the Lake came in the last week of Sept, but very large numbers soon followed, for example ~300 at GPI on 9 Oct (S. Zadar).
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** Rather late to arrive, they grew numerous along with golden-crowns, with ~200 on 9 Oct at GPI (S. Zadar). One was in the Spring Grove Cem in Cincinnati on 24 Nov (N. Cade).
- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** S. Zadar observed the first and last migrants of the fall, the former at GPI on 21 Aug, the latter at Lorain on the late date of 22 Oct.
- Veery:** P. Lozano noted the last migrant at GPI on 24 Sept.
- Gray-cheeked Thrush:** High count was six in Holmes on 22 Sept (L. Yoder). Latest were five calling in Cuyahoga on 5 Oct (R. Harlan).
- Swainson's Thrush:** A southbound bird showed up on 1 Aug in Lake (J. Pogacnik). High count was 40 in Rocky River Pk on 13 Sept (R. Harlan, S. Wagner). The latest was noted in Cleveland on 17 Oct by P. Lozano.
- Hermit Thrush:** Two on 8 Aug in the CVNRA were probable breeders (D&S Chasar). Fifteen on the 21 Nov Kelleys Isl census hint at the numbers that winter there (fide T. Bartlett). R. Thorn had four in Granville on 30 Nov.
- Wood Thrush:** October reports included one on the 1st in Cincinnati (E. Lotz), one on the 5th in Hamilton (D. Styer), and one in Holmes on the 16th (T. Schrock).
- Gray Catbird:** GPI attracted late migrants, with one on 16 Oct (R. Harlan, S. Wagner) and another on 24 Oct (S. Zadar). C. Gambill found one in Columbus on 25 Nov.
- Northern Mockingbird:** In the north the high count was of five from the Gordon Park family on 21 Aug (S. Zadar). One was on the 3 Sept ONWRC, one in Trumbull on 30 Sept (C. Babyak), one in Columbiana on 21 Oct (D&B Lane), and a personal first for L. Deininger at Shaker Lks came on 5 Nov.
- American Pipit:** In two sightings of the flock, B. Stanley carefully observed nine in Clermont on the extremely early date of 5 Aug. Twelve on 19 Aug were the Dunakins' earliest by three days; other pipits showed up even earlier this year in southern Ontario and Delaware. The high count was ~150 on 18 Nov in Holmes (L. Yoder).

- Cedar Waxwing:** Big numbers included 143 on 24 Sept on Kelleys Isl (fide T. Bartlett), 108 on the 1 Oct ONWRC, and ~200 at Camp Dennison in Hamilton by N. Cade on 24 Nov. This year's extravagant fruiting by some populations of eastern red cedars presaged some bigger numbers in winter.
- Blue-winged Warbler:** The Dunakins noted a migrant in Paulding on 24 Aug. Later reports came from 18 Sept in the Oak Openings (G. Links), and another in Hamilton on the 20th (N. Keller).
- Golden-winged Warbler:** G. Links rejoiced in one in the Oak Openings on 11 Sept, and J. Pogacnik reported a very late bird, a male, in Lake on 11 Oct.
- Tennessee Warbler:** Paulding hosted the first migrant on 27 Aug (D&M Dunakin). In the third week of Sept they peaked, with 15 in Rocky River (R. Harlan, S. Wagner) on the 20th, 11 on the 22nd in Holmes (L. Yoder), 10 there on the next day (E. Schlabach), and the high count of 22 on the 23rd in Cincinnati (D. Brinkman). Late were two in Clermont on 21 Oct (D. Styer).
- Orange-crowned Warbler:** The first migrant showed up at HBSP on 18 Sept (K. Metcalf), the last in Franklin on 29 Oct (R. Thorn). Four were at HBSP on 23 Sept (B. Morrison), but 10 at GPI on 9 Oct (S. Zadar).
- Nashville Warbler:** T&M Romito found the first on 28 Aug in the CVNRA, and P. Lozano the latest on 21 Oct at Whiskey Isl in Cleveland. High count was 12 by Lozano at the GPI on 24 Sept.
- Northern Parula:** Not many. The earliest migrant was at Magee on 9 Sept (S. Wright), and the last passed through the Shaker Lks on 13 Oct (G. Leidy).
- Yellow Warbler:** Migration was well underway at the beginning of the period, with G. Leidy noting eight migrants at the Shaker Lks on 1 Aug. The ONWRC had 62 on 6 Aug, but only two on 3 Sept. Late birds were at North Chagrin Res'n on 24 Sept (K. Metcalf) and in Geauga on 29 Sept (H. Hendrickson).
- Chestnut-sided Warbler:** A bird on 5 Aug in the CVNRA may or may not have been a migrant, but one in Paulding on the 24th (M&D Dunakin) certainly was. High count was four in Holmes on 2 Sept (L. Yoder), and the latest were three at Mosquito Lk WA on 9 Oct (C. Babyak).
- Magnolia Warbler:** A bird on 16 Aug at GPI was the first migrant reported (S. Zadar). The high count was 52 on 8 Sept in Holmes (N. Yoder), and the last straggler was seen in Cleveland on 17 Oct (P. Lozano).
- Cape May Warbler:** No August reports, with the first on 7 Sept at Magee (S. Wright), but good numbers appeared later, such as 30+ at Grand Lk St Marys on 17 Sept (D. Brinkman) and 20+ the following day at HBSP (K. Metcalf). A number of Oct reports included one in the snow at North Chagrin Res'n on the 8th (Metcalf). On 24 Nov, B. Lund found an adult on her porch in Adams gleaning spiders.
- Black-throated Blue Warbler:** The first appeared on 26 Aug in Cuyahoga (G. Leidy), with 5+ on 15 Sept in Delaware the high count (J. Hammond). R. Harlan and S. Wagner found one on the ONWRC of 5 Nov, and T. Gilliland hosted another at his Rocky River feeder from 24 Nov through the end of the period for a rare Dec record.
- Yellow-rumped Warbler:** Our earliest came from Holmes on 8 Sept (L. Yoder). The high count of 70 was made at the MWW on 15 Oct by N. Cade.

- Black-throated Green Warbler:** The first migrant was noted in *Paulding* on 26 Aug (D&M Dunakin), and A. Lavy had the high count of 14 in *Coshocton* on 9 Sept. On 21 Oct, single birds were seen at BCSP (D. Overacker) and in *Holmes* (E. Schlabach).
- Blackburnian Warbler:** A bird in *Hocking* on 21 Aug (G. Leidy) could have been a local or a migrant. Five migrants in *Holmes* on 10, and five more on 22 Sept (L. Yoder) were the high counts. P. Gottschling found a late one at Sheldon Marsh on 7 Oct.
- Yellow-throated Warbler:** Scarce as usual in the fall. A bird in the MWW on 10 Sept (J. Stenger) was as likely a local nester as a migrant from elsewhere.
- Pine Warbler:** Not many reports, the earliest 8 Sept in *Holmes* (N. Yoder), the latest three photographed by G. Leidy in Lake Hope SP between 22 and 27 Oct.
- Prairie Warbler:** Few reports of migrants, but one on 30 Sept at HBSP (H. Petruschke) certainly was.
- Palm Warbler:** J. Stenger found the first at Shawnee Lookout on 4 Sept. Twenty-seven were counted at the GPI on 30 Sept (S. Zadar), and the last passed through the MWW on 28 Oct (D. Graham).
- Bay-breasted Warbler:** Eighteen were tallied in *Holmes* on 8 Sept (N. Yoder). As far as we know, a new late record was set by a bird in Whitehouse, *Lucas*, on 5 Nov (M. Anderson); the previous latest occurrence seems to be 30 Oct.
- Blackpoll Warbler:** An unremarkable passage, with the first at *Paulding* on 8 Sept (M&D Dunakin), a high count of 18 in Cleveland on 13 Sept (P. Lozano), and the latest report from Hoover Res on 14 Oct (R. Thorn).
- Cerulean Warbler:** An apparent migrant was in *Holmes* on 8 Sept (N. Yoder), and part of a nice find was one among 19 other species of warblers in the CVNRA on 16 Sept (fide D. Chasar).
- Black-and-white Warbler:** Four were in *Holmes* on 22 Sept (L. Yoder). The last was seen at Sheldon Marsh on 4 Oct (D. Sanders, J. Hammond).
- American Redstart:** Ten migrants were in *Holmes* on 14 Sept (E. Schlabach), and a male was seen at HBSP on 21 Oct by K. Metcalf for the last passerby.
- Ovenbird:** The high count of migrants was six on 22 Sept in *Holmes* (L. Yoder), and the latest was only on 1 Oct at Gilmore Ponds (M. Busam).
- Northern Waterthrush:** Not a star this fall, with a high count of only two in Columbus on 16 Sept (R. Thorn) and a late appearance on 1 Oct at Gilmore Ponds (M. Busam).
- Kentucky Warbler:** A migrant was at Shawnee Lookout, *Hamilton*, by 5 Sept (L. Peyton), another in *Paulding* on the 28th (D&M Dunakin), and a late one at Gilmore Ponds on 1 Oct (M. Busam).
- Connecticut Warbler:** Four reports: one in *Holmes* on 9 Sept (M&M Weaver), one in Cleveland 21 Sept (B. Winger), another there on 27 Sept (P. Lozano), and one in *Lake* on 1 Oct (J. Pogacnik).
- Mourning Warbler:** All reports came from near Lk Erie. A singing male was at Rocky River MP on 30 Aug (R. Harlan, S. Wagner), and the last came from *Lake* on 11 Oct (J. Pogacnik).
- Common Yellowthroat:** Thirty-five on the 6 Aug ONWRC were probably locals. N. Cade had four migrants at MWW on 15 Oct, but taking the cake were three in *Lake* on 11 Nov (J. Pogacnik).

- Hooded Warbler:** Only singles reported. One was still in song in the Oak Openings on 11 Sept (G. Links), and K. Metcalf had a rare sight—one in the snow—for the last on 9 Oct in N Chagrin Res'n.
- Wilson's Warbler:** G. Leidy saw one at Rockbridge SNP, *Hocking*, on 20 Aug, and the Dunakins found one in *Paulding* on 27 Aug. Eighteen were in the GPI on 13 Sept (S. Zadar), where a late individual was found on 11 Oct (B. Finkelstein).
- Canada Warbler:** All singles. A bird in the CVNRA on 8 Aug was probably of local provenance (D. Chasar). The latest was found in *Holmes* on 24 Sept by L. Yoder.
- Yellow-breasted Chat:** L. Peyton noted three migrants at Shawnee Lookout on 29 Aug. Frequent lingerers in the eastern US, one was found at a *Lake* golf course by J. Pogacnik on 2 Nov.
- Summer Tanager:** Few reports, but the redoubtable Highbanks MP male was still in song as late as 28 Sept (J. Hammond).
- Scarlet Tanager:** A migrant was in HBSP on 3 Sept (B. Winger), and a late bird in *Holmes* on 11 Oct (E. Schlabach).
- Western Tanager:** Reported was an all-too-brief look at a male in Rocky River on 3 Oct. Details are with the OBRC.
- American Tree Sparrow:** Exceptionally early were two visiting a window feeder in Van Wert on 2 Oct (J. Perchalski). Elsewhere, one appeared 28 Oct at the GPI (S. Zadar); the following day, C. Holt had one at Ottawa.
- Chipping Sparrow:** 65 migrants on 7 Oct at Spring Grove Cem in Cincinnati were a good find for N. Cade. One was at GPI as late as 25 Nov (S. Zadar).
- Clay-colored Sparrow:** All reports: one on Kelleys Isl 24 Sept (fide T. Bartlett), one 4 Oct at GPI (S. Zadar), one 7 Oct in *Lake* (J. Pogacnik), one 8 Oct in Cleveland (B. Winger), and two at a *Geauga* feeder 8 Oct, one of them or another on the same day at a feeder nearby (A. Fondrk, fide D. Best), then one in *Holmes* on 18 Oct (R. Schlabach).
- Field Sparrow:** High count, at MWW, was 80 on 15 Oct (N. Cade). Late was one in *Paulding* on 15 Nov (D&M Dunakin), later still one at the GPI on 18 Nov (S. Zadar).
- Vesper Sparrow:** No appreciable numbers. Males were still singing on 6 Aug at Killdeer (P. Gottschling). Latest were two at MWW on 5 Nov (S. Pelikan).
- Savannah Sparrow:** In Oct, E. Schlabach counted 75 in soybean fields in *Holmes* on the 7th, 35 were at MWW on the 19th (N. Keller), 10 were there on 10 Nov (J. Lippert), and a single bird was found at GPI on 23 Nov (S. Zadar).
- Grasshopper Sparrow:** Customarily elusive in migration, but E. Schlabach found one in *Ashtabula* on the late date of 11 Nov.
- Henslow's Sparrow:** Difficult to find when silent, but singing was one at BIWA on 5 Aug (V. Fazio), a dozen at Tri-Valley WA on 7 Aug (P. Gottschling), and two in *Hocking* on 14 Aug (L. Andrews).
- Le Conte's Sparrow:** At GPI, a juvenile was found on 23 Sept, and an adult was found and photographed on 16 Oct. A bird was in *Holmes* 12-21 Oct (E. Schlabach), and another at Mentor on 28 Oct (K. Metcalf, ph); both accepted by the OBRC.

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow: At GPI, one was present 15 and 16 Sept, then two on 23 Sept through 14 Oct (S. Zadar et al., ph); if the same bird(s) was/ were continuously involved, it was a protracted stay. J. Pogacnik had one at Arcola Ck, Lake, on 2 Oct, and B. Morrison two there on the 6th. P. Wharton discovered one on 7 Oct at MWW, seen by m obs, as were four found there later on 5 Nov (S. Pelikan, C. Saunders).

Fox Sparrow: The first was reported by H. Petruschke at HBSP on 22 Sept. High counts were of three at MWW on 21 Oct (J. Lehman) and three at GPI on 23 Nov (S. Zadar). Latest was one at Sims Pk, Euclid, on 26 Nov (T&M Romito).

Song Sparrow: S. Zadar et al. had 78 at GPI on 21 Aug, then 117 on 13 Sept, and 152 on 4 Oct. N. Cade found ~150 at MWW on 15 Oct.

Lincoln's Sparrow: The first returnee was in Cleveland on 13 Sept (P. Lozano), and the last passed through Paulding on 12 Oct (M&D Dunakin). Good numbers in between were 20 on 4 Oct at GPI (S. Zadar) and 12 in Guernsey on 7 Oct (L. Yoder).

Swamp Sparrow: Many persisted past the end of the period. Big counts included 83 at GPI on 4 Oct (S. Zadar), ~75 at Arcola Ck on 6 Oct (B. Morrison), and 30 at the CVNRA on 26 Nov (A&D Chasar).

White-throated Sparrow: Two early birds were at HBSP on 30 Aug (B. Winger), and two days later one all the way to Gilmore Ponds (M. Busam). P. Lozano observed 75 crouching on a single residential lawn during severe weather in Cleveland on 8 Oct; on the following day, GPI had ~500 birds (S. Zadar).

White-crowned Sparrow: Five were the first to appear, at GPI on 30 Sept (S. Zadar), and the next day one was down at Gilmore Ponds (M. Busam). By 9 Oct, GPI had a count of ~600 (Zadar).

Dark-eyed Junco: The first reported was at Whiskey Isl in Cleveland on 27 Sept (P. Lozano). By 19 Oct Cleveland had ~500, at GPI (S. Zadar). The first arrived in Cincinnati on 1 Oct (E. Kitchen). There were several reports of "Oregon" juncos; these can be difficult to distinguish from the local junco, but we may have to learn how, as rumors of splits in this species have cropped up again.

Lapland Longspur: The first flyovers were noted at HBSP on 8 Oct (H. Petruschke), and on the same day 37 were further east in Lake (J. Pogacnik). Max was 400+ on 17 Nov at the traditional Washburn Rd. venue in Killdeer (S. Richards).



This adult Le Conte's sparrow at the Gordon Park impoundment, Cuyahoga Co., provided excellent looks on 16 October 2000. Photo by Sean Zadar.



Another adult Le Conte's sparrow was found in Mentor, Lake Co., on 28 October 2000. Photo by Kevin Metcalf.

Snow Bunting: In Greenland, the March arrival of the first snow buntings is eagerly awaited as the first sign of spring, as their coming here signals that of winter. The first appeared at GPI on 22 Oct (S. Zadar), along with another at Conneaut the same day (C. Holt). The largest numbers were at Conneaut Harbor, where K. Metcalf saw ~75 on 3 Nov, and J. Miller 55 on 11 Nov.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: High count was 10 at Big Ck Pk, Geauga, on 19 Sept (J. Kolar). One lingered at C. McCormick's feeder in rural Hancock until 21 Nov (fide B. Hardesty) for a nice late record.

Indigo Bunting: On 6 Aug the ONWRC counted 47. The latest report of the species came from H. Armstrong, who saw one at EFSP on 14 Oct.

Dickcissel: Not many reports, considering the numbers over the summer. One was at MWW on 5 Aug (D. Brinkman), then 2-5 there on 15 Oct (N. Cade). Two were elsewhere in Hamilton on 5 Aug (M. Busam). Eight were seen at Slate Run MP in Pickaway on 7 Sept (J. McCormac, J. Watts, et al.).

Bobolink: D. Bergland's farm in Licking had about 150 into the period (fide M. Skinner). Numbers at MWW ranged up to 18, from 9 Aug (J. Lehman) to the quite late date of 28 Oct (D. Graham). Late dates elsewhere were a more expected 4 Oct at GPI (S. Zadar); in Holmes, 125 were around on 6 Sept, but only one on 4 Oct (E. Schlabach).

Red-winged Blackbird: Exclusive of even larger nighttime roosts, a progression of daylight counts follows: ~1000 at Gilmore Ponds on 1 Oct (M. Busam), ~3000 at Killbuck on 11 Oct (S. Snyder), ~2000 at MWW on 19 Oct (N. Keller), and on the 3 Nov ONWRC, somewhere near 72,000.

Eastern Meadowlark: B. Stanley had more than 50 in Clermont on 5 Aug. Eight migrants were at Ottawa NWR on 5 Nov (R. Harlan, S. Wagner).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: While no reports emerged from likelier spots, one was found on 3 Nov down in Adams (P. Whan).

Rusty Blackbird: First arriving were three at Arcola Ck, Lake, on 2 Oct (J. Pogacnik); by 9 Oct, 32 were at Mosquito Lk (C. Babyak), and by the 15th ~50 were at MWW (N. Cade), where 25 remained on 19 Nov (M. Busam). No truly large flocks reported.

Brewer's Blackbird: R. Schlabach found a female in a Holmes barnyard on 10 Nov.

Orchard Oriole: The latest report came from Clermont on 13 Aug (D. Morse).

Purple Finch: Migration followed a normal schedule, though three in Findlay as late as 21 Nov (B. Hardesty) were worth noting in case their winter distribution takes an unaccustomed turn.

Red Crossbill: One report, of ten passing over Springville Marsh, Seneca, on 4 Nov (T. Bartlett). No sightings of white-winged crossbills came to light, and their numbers in areas north of Ohio were reportedly down.



A nice in-the-hand view of one of the Gordon Park impoundment, Cuyahoga Co., Nelson's sharp-tailed sparrows. Photo by Sean Zadar on 14 October 2000.

Common Redpoll: S. Zadar saw two at GPI on 4 Nov, and V. Fazio found 24 at HBSP on 12 Nov, but thus far it seems it will be a poor year for the species here.

Pine Siskin: Three on 18 Sept in *Trumbull* (C. Babyak) could have been earlyish migrants or from scarce local breeders. More obvious migrants appeared in the first week of Oct, with birds from GPI (S. Zadar) to Spring Grove Cem in Cincinnati (N. Cade), both on the 7th. Near the end of the period on 26 Nov, J. Pogacnik had ~100 at EHSP, but reports were not widespread.

American Goldfinch: Reports of flocks of ~200 came from *Franklin* on 29 Sept (B. Master) and *Scioto* on 7 Nov (B. Lund); in the latter case the birds were converging on hemlock seed, more wintry fare for the species.

CORRIGENDA: (1) In the Spring issue, we erroneously reported three red-breasted nuthatch nests in *Hocking* on 29 May; in fact, F. Renfrow discovered the species at three locations in that county, but did not confirm nesting, though at one of those locations a suspected nest hole was later discovered on a 3 July visit. (2) A scribal blunder in the Summer issue resulted in a serious error: the confirmed nesting of a mourning warbler in *Hocking* reported for 3 July was in fact that of a magnolia warbler. The total of 19 nesting warbler species in the area stands. (3) In the Index to *The Ohio Cardinal* in the Summer issue, the unknown author of "Characteristics of Two Species of Chickadees" in Vol 1, #3 has been found to be Milton Trautman; the article was reprinted with permission from Trautman, M. 1966. Characteristics used in the field identification of Black-capped and Carolina Chickadees. *Oh. St. Mus. Info. Series* Vol 1, #3. The Oh. Hist. Society, Columbus.

CONTRIBUTORS: We appreciate the help of the following birders who shared reports of their observations and other data for this issue: Lynne Aldrich, Chad Amos, Matt Anderson, Lynda Andrews, Hank Armstrong, Carole Babyak, Zac Baker, Brian Barchus, Bob Barrett, Tom Bartlett, Marje Baughman, Erich Baumgardner, Randee Becker, Bob Bell, Dan Berglund, Jack Berninger, Andy Bess, Dan Best, Adam Blank, Brad Bolton, Charlie Bombaci, Bill Bosstic, Liz Brennan, David Brinkman, Lori Brumbaugh, Jen Brumfield, Gina Buckey, Sandra Buckles, Donald Burton, Mike Busam, Grace Butcher, Neill Cade, Granville Carey, Paul Chad, Ann Chasar, Dwight Chasar, Suzanne Clingman, Delores Cole, Linda Comeaux, Nathan Compton, Bob Conlon, Clay Corbin, Rich Cressman, Andrea Daily, Jeff Davis, Leo Deininger, David Dister, Doug Dunakin, Micki Dunakin, Curt Dusthimer, Steve Edinger, Mike Egar, Marcus England, Vic Fazio, Duane Ferris, Anders Fjelstad, Frank Frick, Jim Fry, Charles Gambill, Larry Gara, Lee Garling, Ted Gilliland, Rita Goeke, Peter Gottschling, Jeff Grabmeier, Darlena Graham, Joe Hammond, Betty Hardesty, Rob Harlan, Paul Haskins, Becky Hatfield, Jeff Hays, Pat Hays, Helen Hendrickson, Bill Heck, Dick Hoffman, Jean Hoffman, Chuck Holliday, Craig Holt, Janet Holzworth, Dave Horn, William Hull, Keith Johnson, Bill Jones, Phyllis Jones, Ned Keller, Tom Kellerman, Tom Kemp, Isaac Kern, Pat King, Peter King, Don Kinsman, Everitt Kitchen, John Kolar, Ron Kolde, Bob Lacker, Bob Lane, Denise Lane, Amy Lavy, Bill Leaman, Jay Lehman, Gabe Leidy, Greg Links, Jerry Lippert, Doreene Linzell, Bill Loebick, Edit Lotz, Paula Lozano, Barbara Lund, Charlotte Mathena, Bernard Master, Millie McCarty, Jim McCormac, Sarah McCormack, Jeff McCoy, Kathy McDonald, Don Miles, Jeffrey Miller, Jolan Miller, Steve Miller, Mary Misplon, Jared Mizanin, Kathy Mock, Ben Morrison, Donald Morse, Mike Murphy, Heather Nagy, Patti Niehoff, Rich Nirschl, Jackie Nooker, Art Osborn, Doug Overacker, Bob Paxson, Steve Pelikan, John Perchalski, Haans Petruschke, Lester Peyton, Ed Pierce, Brad Phillips, Bob Placier, John Pogacnik, Len Powlick, Bill Pratt, John Rakestraw, Barb Redmer, Glenn Redmer, Scott Reeves, Steve Richards, Frank Renfrow, Richard Rickard, Craig Reiker, Bill Rinehart, Mary Anne Romito, Tom Romito, Paul Rosenberry, Ed Roush, Linda Roush, Bob Royse, Jon Ruedisueli, David Russell, Dave St. John, Dan Sanders, Charlie Saunders, Regina Schieltz, Ed Schlabach, Robert Schlabach, Tim Schrock, Jeff Schultz, Jim Scott, Rod Sharpnack, John Shrader, Troy Shively, Carol Skinner, Mark Skinner, Darlene Sillick, Harry Slack, Steve Smith, Su Snyder, Bill Stanley, Gene Stauffer, Jay Stenger, Steve Stockford, Dave Styer, Tim Taylor, Rob Thorn, Elliott Tramer, Sandy Wagner, John Watts, Melvin Weaver, Monroe Weaver, Bill Whan, Pete Whan, Paul Wharton, Mary Jo White, Susan Wilkinson, Ben Winger, Connie Wolcott, Scott Wright, John Yochum, Leroy Yoder, Norman Yoder, Sean Zadar.

Further Afield by Rob Harlan

Once you've squeezed through the narrow gift shop aisles, skirting the rubber snakes, plastic six-shooters, bags of rock candy, and fabulous "Collector's Edition" ceramic thimbles, only then may you pass through the outer door to encounter a genuine piece of history. This particular piece happens to be the original Boothill Graveyard in Tombstone, the southeastern Arizona frontier town where, in the late 1870s and early 1880s, you might have found the Earps and the Clantons and the infamous (if overrated) O.K. Corral.

You might think Boothill Graveyard could have little in common with the Ohio birding scene, and quite frankly, it is a bit of a stretch. Except that for me, history and birding go hand in hand. When traveling, I always try to partake of some aspect of the local historical scene. A visit to the Tombstone boneyard, for instance, might provide a welcome relief from southeastern Arizona drudgeries such as separating Bendire's and curve-billed thrashers, or spending hours watching the Ramsey Canyon feeders, sifting through the hummer hordes, waiting for that single berylline hummingbird to appear (oh, the pain). But as you meander up and down the rows at Boothill, carefully sidestepping the agave, cholla and their miscellaneous thorny brethren, you can't help but develop a sense of morbid wonder and curiosity as you read the epitaphs on the grave markers before you:

- Billy Clanton, Tom McLaury, Frank McLaury, Murdered on the streets of Tombstone, 1881
- Margarita, Stabbed by Gold Dollar
- Teamster, 1881, Killed by Apaches
- George Johnson, Hanged by Mistake

Who were these people? Yes, popular history reminds us that the McLaury brothers and Billy Clanton opposed the Earps, but I'm sure every one of the permanent residents of Boothill would have a fascinating story to tell. The epitaph of one Frank Bowles never fails to give me pause, with its simple poignancy and inherent spookiness:

As you pass by
Remember that as you are, so once was I
And as I am, you soon will be
Remember me

Well, Mr. Bowles, I do remember you. I have no knowledge of your life, only that you existed as an individual; this fact alone is worthy of remembrance, and of course the same can be said for all of us. History acknowledges the existence of Frank Bowles, if only as a name, in a place and a time. But there is another epitaph at Boothill, one repeated many times over, up and down the rows. This one is even simpler, and to me, infinitely sadder. It reads only:

—Unknown