

Species	Scientific Name	Population Estimate	Confidence
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus rufiventris</i>	40,000	low
	<i>N. p. hudsonicus</i>	17,000	low
Bristle-thighed Curlew	<i>Numenius tahitiensis</i>	10,000	low
Long-billed Curlew	<i>Numenius americanus</i>	20,000	moderate
Hudsonian Godwit	<i>Limosa haemastica</i> (Hudson Bay)	36,000	moderate
	<i>L. haemastica</i> (Alaska)	14,000	low
Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	100,000	moderate
Marbled Godwit	<i>Limosa fedoa</i> (Great Plains)	168,000	moderate
	<i>L. f. beringiae</i> (Alaska)	2000	low
	<i>L. f. fedoa</i> (Hudson Bay)	1500	low
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres morinella</i>	180,000	moderate
	<i>A. i. interpres</i> (Alaska)	20,000	poor
	<i>A. i. interpres</i> (High Arctic Canada)	35,000	poor
Black Turnstone	<i>Arenaria melanocephala</i>	80,000	good
Surfbird	<i>Aphriza virgata</i>	70,000	moderate
Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus roselaari</i>	150,000	moderate
	<i>C. c. rufa</i>	170,000	good
	<i>C. c. islandica</i>	80,000	good
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	300,000	low
Semipalmated Sandpiper	<i>Calidris pusilla</i>	3,500,000	low
Western Sandpiper	<i>Calidris mauri</i>	3,500,000	low
Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	600,000	poor
White-rumped Sandpiper	<i>Calidris fuscicollis</i>	400,000	moderate
Baird's Sandpiper	<i>Calidris bairdii</i>	300,000	moderate
Pectoral Sandpiper	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	400,000	poor
Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima belcheri</i>	15,000	moderate
	<i>C. m. maritima</i>	-?-	poor
Rock Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ptilocnemis cousei</i>	75,000	moderate
	<i>C. p. ptilocnemis</i>	25,000	moderate
	<i>C. p. tschuktschorum</i>	50,000	low
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina pacifica</i>	550,000	low
	<i>C. a. arctica</i>	750,000	low
	<i>C. a. hudsonia</i>	225,000	low
Stilt Sandpiper	<i>Calidris himantopus</i>	200,000	low
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	<i>Tryngites subruficollis</i>	15,000	low
Short-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus griseus caurinus</i>	150,000	low
	<i>L. g. griseus</i>	110,000	low
	<i>L. g. hendersoni</i>	60,000	low
Long-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i>	500,000	poor
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	2,000,000	poor
Wilson's Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus tricolor</i>	1,500,000	low
Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	2,500,000	poor
Red Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicaria</i>	1,000,000	poor

Reports of Yesteryear: Lucas County

The abundances and distributions of our birdlife are subject not only to slow evolutions and glaciations, but to the unnatural selection imposed by humans. Even as recently as 1940, Lou Campbell, former dean of Toledo-area birders, reported observations that provoke thoughts about how quickly birds' numbers and ranges can change, and why. These reports come from his *Birds of Lucas County* of that year.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: Campbell remarked that their largest colony was on West Sister Island (now part of Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge), estimated to contain five to ten thousand nests in June of 1934.

American Bittern: Though he notes they are far more often heard than seen, Campbell's high count was nevertheless 35 American bitterns seen in the Jerusalem marshes on an August day in 1929.

Tundra Swan: Campbell cites reports of flocks of 25-30,000 birds seen during spring migrations in the county, though his personal high count was only about 5000, in March of 1930. He remarks that "[c]omparatively few Whistling Swans are seen during autumn in this district," with a record flock of only 275 in November of 1936, and notes "there is but one winter record."

Canada Goose: He comments that this species "is much less common in Lucas County than the Whistling Swan. Found regularly each spring and fall, it is never very abundant." He calls its status in Ohio that of an uncommon migrant.

American Black Duck: Campbell asserts the two forms of this species (*Anas rubripes rubripes*, the transient "red-legged black duck," and *A.r. tristis*, the locally nesting "common black duck") together "outnumber Mallards, with which they so often associate, more than two to one."

Red-breasted Merganser: Stating that these birds "are never numerous," and "far less regular...than either the Hooded or American Mergansers," Campbell goes on to say the "greatest number seen in one day in the county is thirty, January 14, 1932."

Northern Bobwhite: In decline though locally common in Lucas County at the time, reports Campbell, even though the species had been protected from hunting since 1912.

Sandhill Crane: A colony of 12-15 pairs nested in the Oak Openings around 1875, but in "the spring of 1913, Professor W.P. Holt saw a migrant Sandhill Crane which had been shot in the Oak Openings. This occurrence appears to be the last local record."

Black Tern: "Commonly found in the marshes" of the county, this species nested at the time only in Lucas, Ottawa, Sandusky, Erie, Lorain, and Ashtabula Counties.

Great Horned Owl: A "rare permanent resident," of which there was "a total of eighteen records from all sources for this area from 1929 to the present time."

Barred Owl: With only two definite nesting records for the county, "this permanent resident has been so reduced in numbers by hunters that it must now be classed as rare," and "within the next few years its weird hooting may become only a memory."

Red-bellied Woodpecker: Campbell saw only one of this species in Lucas County, and says it was "not known to breed in most of the northwestern quarter" of Ohio. In his 1968 *Birds of the Toledo Area*, he says that after only 12 records in the region between 1926 and 1960, the ravages of Dutch elm disease in the Toledo area attracted these birds in numbers.

Golden-winged Warbler: A rare migrant and summer resident known to breed in fifteen counties, the "greatest number of these birds seen in one day was fifteen, June 14, 1933, in Spencer Township." Loss of habitat loomed as a serious problem.

Le Conte's Sparrow: From 30 August to 1 November 1936, a "great wave" of Le Conte's sparrows passed through Ohio, with highest concentrations in Lucas County, where in Jerusalem Township meadows on 25 October "fifty-three birds were actually seen and four hundred and ninety-five were estimated by means of a cross section of a field." Searchers found eight birds the following year locally, and none in 1938 or 1939.

Henslow's Sparrow: "Common summer residents in the fields and wet prairies of the Oak Openings," in the mid-30s the species colonized grassy borders in the Cedar Point and Erie marshes, where "at least fifty were found at the former location, August 1, 1936." 🐦



This young red-tailed hawk disemboweled a gray squirrel in front of students at Wilmington College in Clinton County on 5 October 2001. Photo by Aaron DeNu.



This immature male vermilion flycatcher, Ohio's third, was discovered at Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge in Ottawa and Lucas Counties on 4 November 2001 by Sharon Cummings and Brian Zwiebel. Dozens of birders were allowed to visit the off-limits area to see the bird during the next few days, and it remained into December. This superb photo was taken by Sharon Cummings on 8 November 2001.