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*The*  *Ohio*  
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*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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## The Ohio Cardinal

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**On the Cover:** Dwight Chasar's 7 March 2004 photo documents the occurrence of this Bohemian waxwing at Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

## Spring 2004 Overview and Reports

**Bill Whan**

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*It is not to be expected that the public generally will ever turn aside from their usual pursuits to make observations on matters relating to natural science. The energies of some idle gunner may, perhaps, be aroused sufficiently by the appearance of a new or rare bird to induce him to destroy its life; the carcass will be gazed upon with a momentary curiosity and then cast underfoot.*

*In every community their [sic] are, however, some individuals who have a natural taste for matters of this kind. If they would improve the opportunities as they occur for making themselves familiar with the rare birds, and would communicate the results of their observations to the public through the medium of some suitable publication, any deficiency in the history of our American birds would soon be supplied.*

—Jared P. Kirtland, 1841

Kirtland's dream—that competent observers would share bird observations in some suitable publication—has been largely realized. His hope that this would soon serve to complete our knowledge of our birds is, however, far from fulfilled. The results of our collective observations for the past season, as chronicled in the Reports that follow, are as good an example as any of these twin realities.

The season's theme was migration, of course. In spring, many of our wintering birds depart for northern climes, joined later by birds from our south, some of the latter perfectly happy to stay in Ohio to nest. We keep track of their comings and goings; we eagerly note the exceptions, but by and large it is the rules that rule. We know when, on average, various bird species arrive in Ohio. We know because observers have been keeping track of them since Kirtland's time. Why do we bother doggedly collecting data about the schedule of spring migration?

Well, for one thing just in the last couple of decades we learned more about the schedules of arrival, and indeed the nesting status, of many species in our more rural southern counties, and how different one's experience of spring migration can be near the Ohio River than along the Lake Erie shore. Another thing we may have learned—it seems too early to be sure—is that there seems to be a recent trend toward earlier arrival and nesting among many species—not just extraordinary records, but average dates. Certainly there is very little evidence that arrivals and nestings are occurring later on average. This trend looks gradual to us, but is quite rapid in terms of ecological time. It seems to be accompanied by later fall departures by some species, and more frequent over-wintering by others. It would be foolish to deny the role our species might be playing over recent decades in altering biological phenomena that have taken millenia to develop.

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Some have suggested that an ongoing warming of Earth's climate may change Ohio's avifauna over the next century, reducing the number of our nesting species. This may seem paradoxical, as bird diversity in general increases with average temperatures, but that's the way it seems to work out. Finally, veteran observers often agree that while some birds are undeniably showing up earlier, far more ominously the migrations of neotropical species seem to be tailing off earlier and earlier, a phenomenon that bespeaks declines in population rather than climate change. So much for the rules, which may be changing.

As for the exceptional, there's no telling why we have few, or many, rarities in any season, but this spring it was many. We received 28 reports of no fewer than 14 review species: black-bellied whistling-duck (a potential first state record), Ross's goose, brown pelican, tricolored heron, white-faced ibis, swallow-tailed kite, Mississippi kite, prairie falcon, piping plover, black-necked stilt; ruff, loggerhead shrike, Bohemian waxwing, and Kirtland's warbler. Documentations are also in hand for two spring sightings of Baird's sandpiper, very rare occurrences in Ohio. Pelicans and purple finches were unusually numerous, and gulls and terns made news at inland spots. Thirty species of shorebirds was good in a year when only one township in NW Ohio had any to speak of. Now that we reserve our DDT for export, local eagles increase yearly, but modern rubber roofing has the opposite effect on nighthawks.

It was another warm spring, the third warmest in history for the US, with temperatures 2.9 degrees above the historical average (2000 was the second-warmest). It was also another very wet spring, with March precipitation up .38, April .71, and May 2.05 inches above average in the central part of the state. Some breeders were affected. As a game species, turkeys are carefully watched, and their reproductive success was said to be down in a wet season. A fifth state nesting record of Wilson's phalarope, and a first nesting record for black-necked stilt, may have succumbed to heavy May rains at Big Island WA. On the other hand, to use one species as a typical example, wetlands and flooded fields in 11 interior counties accommodated a reported 400+ migrant short-billed dowitchers this spring. That only 20 dowitchers were reported, and from only two counties, near Lake Erie—their customary haunt during migration—demands explanation. Most shorebird reports along the Lake this spring came from Metzger Marsh, which in March was burned over and pumped out as part of an apparent *Phragmites* control program, rather than any attempt to accommodate spring migrant shorebirds. In fact, the occasionally inspiring numbers of shorebirds there this spring, rather than justifying efforts on behalf of biodiversity, showed only that these birds asserted an ancestral claim to Metzger by taking advantage of unrelated management measures . . . a story not made any more comforting by its familiarity.

Uncharacteristically late, we offer in this issue a run-down of the winter's Christmas Bird Count results. National Audubon has strongly encouraged electronic reporting for CBCs, and this year paid a price for it when upgrades in the system resulted in prolonged delays. These delays prevented us from reporting on Ohio's CBC results in our winter issue, but we include them—at least most of them—here, courtesy of Ned Keller's perennially expert efforts in compiling them.

## Corrigenda

- The 10 Jan 2004 report of six fox sparrows came from in SW Montgomery Co.
- A sentence and a half was mistakenly omitted from the text ending on p. 82 in Vol 27 #2—in Lou Gardella's note on merlins in Cleveland—this passage should continue with . . . "him in the pre-roost tree he used last year. Then, at 6:30 pm. he dived off the pine and flew straight to the roost tree! There he was for the second year in a row!"

The Reports follow the nomenclature and taxonomic order of the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the AOU Check-list of North American Birds (1998), including the 44<sup>th</sup> Supplement (July 2003). Underlined names of species indicate those on the OBRC Review List; documentation is needed to add reports of these species to official state records, or to attributed records in the Reports. When supplied, county names appear *italicized*. Unless numbers are specified, sightings refer to single birds. Abbreviations, conventions, and symbols used in the Reports should be readily understood, with the possible exceptions of the following: ad=adult; alt=alternate (breeding) plumage; BCSP=Buck Ck SP in *Clark*; BIWA=Big Isl WA in *Marion*; BSBO=Black Swamp Bird Observatory; CCE= Crane Ck estuary in ONWR; CVNP=Cuyahoga Valley Natl Pk in *Cuyahoga* and *Summit*; Dike 14=the Gordon Park impoundment in Cleveland; EFSP=East Fork SP in *Clermont*; eop=end of the period, in this case 29 Feb 2004; EHSP=East Hbr SP in *Ottawa*; fide= "in trust of," said of data conveyed on behalf of another person; GLSM=Grand Lk St Marys in *Mercer/Auglaize*, HBSP=Headlands Beach SP in *Lake*; HBSNP=Headlands Beach SNP in *Lake*; HWSP=Hueston Wds SP (*Butler/Preble*); imm=immature; Killbuck=Killbuck Marsh WA in *Wayne/Holmes*; KPWA=Killdeer Plains WA in *Wyandot*; LSR=Lakeshore Reservation (MP) in *Lake*; Magee=Magee Marsh WA in *Ottawa/Lucas*; MBSP=Maumee Bay SP in *Lucas*; MP=Metropark; m obs=many observers; MWW=Miami-Whitewater Wetlands in *Hamilton*; NWR=National Wildlife Refuge; OBRC=Ohio Bird Records Committee; ODOV=Ohio Division of Wildlife; ONWR=Ottawa NWR in *Ottawa/Lucas*; ONWRC=monthly bird census at ONWR; PCWA=Pickerel Ck WA in *Sandusky*; ph=photograph, Res=Reservoir; Res'n=Reservation; SF=State Forest; SNP=State Nature Preserve; SP=State Park; SVWA=Spring Valley WA in *Greene/Warren*; WA=Wildlife Area.





Photo by Jason and Holly Schlotman of an apparent black-bellied whistling-duck found in Montgomery (Hamilton Co.) 30 May 2004.

**Black-bellied Whistling-Duck:** A bird, apparently of this species, was well seen and photographed in a Cincinnati suburb 30 May. On lists in Ontario, Michigan, Indiana, West Virginia, Kentucky, and Pennsylvania, this would be a first for Ohio if accepted.

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** All reports: one flew by *Lake* 7 Mar (**J. Pogacnik**), and 12 were at Deer Creek Lk 25 (**J. McMahon**) through 28 Mar (**D. Sanders**).

**Snow Goose:** **R. Counts** saw one in *Wyandot* 1 Mar, **B. Glick** one at Funk 22 Mar, **L. Rosche** three in *Portage* 24 Mar, and **E. Schlabach** another in *Tuscarawas* 27 Mar. The ONWRC found 39 locally wintering birds 7 Mar, and **B. Zwiebel** five at nearby Magee WA 28 Mar. An apparently injured bird spent 7 Apr-11 May on the Caesar Ck SP beach (**L. Gara**, m obs).

**Ross's Goose:** One was in *Mercer* 28 Mar through 1 Apr, and another reported in Dayton 6 Apr. Details are with the OBRC on this review species.

**Canada Goose:** Among *Cuyahoga* geese, **K. Metcalf** noted primary molt of non-/failed breeders 30 May; a northbound flight on 24 May may have been composed

of similarly-situated adults undertaking molt migration.

**Mute Swan:** The high count for the season was only 11, on the 2 May ONWRC.

**Tundra Swan:** ~1950 migrants continued after Feb, the last one at Killbuck 21 Apr (**S. Snyder**). High count 594 at ONWR 27 Mar (**B. Whan**), a day when **E. Tramer** reported ~500 at nearby CPWNR. Mar 27 was a good waterfowl day statewide.

**Wood Duck:** First reported 4 Mar, with five in NW *Tuscarawas* (**J. Miller**), they were soon widespread, with 60+ in *Delaware* 19 Mar (**R. Thorn**) and 104 at Magee 21 Mar (**H&S Hiris**).

**Gadwall:** Numbers grew during Mar, with 106 for the 7 Mar ONWRC, 100 at Mosquito Ck WA 14 Mar (**J. Hochadel**) to ~500 at Metzger 15 Mar (**R&S Harlan**) then 2436 at Magee the 21<sup>st</sup> (**H&S Hiris**). At ONWR the census counted 144 still around 2 May, and the **Harlans** noticed a drake at Mallard Club Marsh WA 31 May.

**Eurasian Wigeon:** Drakes were at KPWA 27-28 Mar (**D. Overacker**, **D. Sanders**), and at Mallard Club Marsh WA 11 Apr (**J. Pogacnik**).

**American Wigeon:** Peaked in mid-Mar, with 1250 at Metzger the 15<sup>th</sup> (**R&S Harlan**) and 600 there the 21<sup>st</sup> (**M. Anderson**), and a high count of 3510 at Magee 21 Mar (**H&S Hiris**). Two drakes lingered at Funk WA 29 May (**Harlans**).

**American Black Duck:** The ONWRC found 114 on 7 Mar, and only one 2 May. High count from Funk WA, with 200+ on 23 Mar (**R. Troutman**); one remained near ONWR 23 May (**Harlans**). **C. Holt** reported a "very poor showing in the NE" this season.

**Mallard:** Four-figure counts occurred 7 Mar with 2915 (ONWRC), Magee 21 Mar with 1070 (**H&S Hiris**), and 1420 at Funk WA 22 Mar (**B. Glick**).

**Blue-winged Teal:** Four drakes visited Funk WA 2 Mar (**S. Snyder**). Peaked in mid-Apr, with 200 at ONWR (**M. Packer**) the 17th. A nest was at Gilmore Ponds 15 May (**M. Busam**). Five were at KPWA 23 May (**R. Sempier**).

**Northern Shoveler:** Some big concentrations included 449 at Magee 21 Mar (**H&S Hiris**) and 300+ at Funk WA 2 Apr (**B&D Lane**). In May, lingerers included two at Gilmore Ponds (**M. Busam**) and 12 for the ONWRC on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, plus singletons at Conneaut the 10<sup>th</sup> (**C. Holt**) and Findlay the 11<sup>th</sup> (**B. Hardesty**).

**Northern Pintail:** Impressive numbers passed in a short span, with 1000+ at BIWA (**M. Packer**) and 628 at Magee (**S&H Hiris**) on 21 Mar, and 900+ at Funk WA the 23<sup>rd</sup> (**R. Troutman**). One lingered at Mallard Club Marsh WA as late as 31 May (**R&S Harlan**).

**Green-winged Teal:** The ONWRC collected the best numbers, with 245 on 7 Mar, 467 on 4 Apr, and seven on 2 May. Latest reported were two the next day at Funk (**S. Snyder**).

**Canvasback:** Virtually absent, having apparently passed through earlier. The high count reported was only 17 at Funk WA 6 Apr (**S. Snyder**). One lingered at Ottawa 2 May (ONWRC).

**Redhead:** High count 1500-2000 Deer Creek SP 1 Mar (**N. Smith**). On 21 Mar, 375 were at Metzger (**M. Anderson**) and 465 at Magee (**H&S Hiris**). The ONWRC counted 451 on 7 Mar, 93 on 4 Apr, and four on 2 May.

**Ring-necked Duck:** Sixty-plus were seen at Hoover 5 Mar (**R. Thorn**), then ~500 at both Mogadore Res (**G. Bennett**) 14 Mar and at Metzger 15 Mar (**S&R Harlan**), with ~900 at Mogadore Res 19 Mar (**L. Rosche**). High count 3035 at Magee 21 Mar (**H&S Hiris**). Twelve remained 2 May for the ONWRC.

**Greater Scaup:** Small numbers were reported from interior counties during Mar, the largest 11 at HWSP the 12<sup>th</sup> (**D. Russell**). **J. Pogacnik** had 89 passing by *Lake* on 6 Mar. In the western basin of Lake Erie, **E. Tramer** roughly estimated that 10% of 13,000+ scaups in Maumee Bay 27 Mar were greater. Latest two in *Lake* 1 Apr (**L. Rosche**).

**Lesser Scaup:** **R&S Harlan** estimated 3000 off MBSP 15 Mar, and **E. Tramer** ~90% of a mixed scaup flock of 13,000+ nearby 27 Mar. Inland, the **Harlans** found ~700 at Wellington Res in *Lorain* 14 Mar and **R. Thorn** 1000+ at Hoover Res in *Delaware* 19 Mar. Ten lingered at Ottawa 2 May (ONWRC).

**Surf Scoter:** Forty-five reported, from *Clinton*, *Columbiana*, *Huron*, *Franklin*, *Lake*, *Licking*, *Lucas*, *Medina*, *Paulding*, *Portage*, *Richland*, and *Summit*, with none from Lk Erie. High counts of seven came from Lk Nesmith in Akron 31 Mar (**K. Miller**, five alt males and two females) and Bellevue Res in *Huron* 14 Mar (**R&S Harlan**, four males, three females). Latest was one at a quarry in *Lucas* through 13 May (**M. Anderson**).

**White-winged Scoter:** Only a few. **C. Holt** had one at Springfield Lk, Akron 27 Mar, where **K. Miller** reported two 1 Apr. A drake showed up at Walborn Res, *Stark* 4 Apr (**S. Jackson**, **B. Morrison**), and two tarried at Salisbury Quarry in *Lucas* 27 Apr (**S. Stockford**) through at least 5 May (**M. Anderson**).

**Black Scoter:** Even scarcer, with a single bird off MBSP 11 Apr (**J. Pogacnik**).

**Long-tailed Duck:** All reports: one at BCSP 20 (**D. Overacker**) through 25 Mar (**B. Powell**). **A. Fondrk** witnessed a remarkable flock of 40 on LaDue Res in *Geauga* 27 Mar (where Peterjohn records 53 from 1972). **J. Pogacnik** had single birds offshore in *Lake* 28 Mar and 4 Apr. At Clear Fk Res **G. Miller** found two on 4 Apr, and **B&D Lane** three on 10 Apr. **B. Morrison** & **K. Miller** spotted one at Walborn Res 9 Apr.

**Bufflehead:** At Magee 2 Mar were 117 (**H&S Hiris**), but the high count belongs as usual to Kelleys Isl, with 330 14 Mar (*vide* **T. Bartlett**), with high inland count 57 at Perrysburg, *Lucas* 27 Mar (**B. Cullen**). Last seen 15 May in *Wyandot* (**G. Links**).

**Common Goldeneye:** Skimpy numbers, the highest 77 at Magee 21 Mar (**H&S Hiris**). **C. Holt** had single birds at Ashtabula and Conneaut 5 Apr, and **S. Snyder** a female at Clear Fk Res 10 Apr.

**Hooded Merganser:** The high count was 65 at Pickerel Ck WA 21 Mar (**T. Simmons**). Family groups were reported in *Erie*, *Hamilton*, *Holmes*, *Lorain*, *Lucas*, *Sandusky*, and *Wayne*. An adult with 10 young at MWW 29 Apr (**F. Frick**) was quite early, and nine escorted young 3 May at KPWA were not far behind (**C. Wolcott**).

**Common Merganser:** Departed quickly, with no double-figure numbers in April. The ONWRC had 1687 on 7 Mar, **R&S Harlan** 325 at Bay Shore in *Lucas* 15 Mar, **E. Schlabach** 14 flybys over *Tuscarawas* 16 Mar, and **T. Simmons** 350 at PCWA 21 Mar. A hen tarried in *Portage* 30 May (**L. Rosche**).

**Red-breasted Merganser:** Large numbers appeared inland mid-Mar, with 350 in Akron area lakes 14 Mar (**G. Bennett**), 500+ at Hoover Res 19 Mar (**R. Thorn**), and ~300 at Lk Rockwell 20 Mar (**B. Bolton**). Four-figure numbers persisted into May on Lk Erie, with 1193 off LSR the 1<sup>st</sup> (**J. Pogacnik**). Bringing up the rear were two females at Lorain 31 May (**S&R Harlan**).

**Ruddy Duck:** Large numbers first appeared 9 Apr, with 450 at Walborn (S. Jackson *vide* K. Miller) and 190+ at Mogadore Res (G. Bennett). The high count of ~3000 was attained 17 Mar off Crane Ck SP 17 Apr (B. Bowman). Has lingered widely lately: four at MWW 1 May (J. Lehman); 27 for the 2 May ONWRC; two 5-8 May in Williams (J. Yochum), then four at Metzger 16 May, 75 at Sandy Ridge in Lorain 29 May, plus four courting at Upper Sandusky Res 30 May (all R&S Harlan).

**Red-throated Loon:** J. Fry spotted the first, at Lk Logan 2 Apr, then on 9 Apr one was at Springfield Lk, Akron (K. Miller) and two at Walborn Res, Stark, with perhaps the same Akron bird staying through 12 and 17 Apr (all B. Morrison), plus one at Caesar Ck SP (L. Gara) through 14 Apr (J. Lehman). One cruised Berlin Res 10 (D. Sanders) and 11 Apr (L. Rosche). J. Pogacnik spied a flyby in Lake 25 Apr.

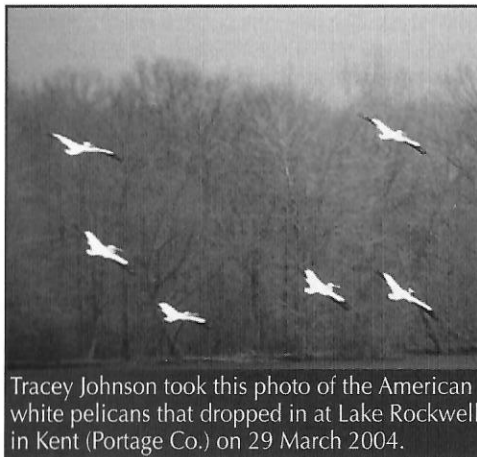
**Common Loon:** Moved early. No large numbers reported: high counts 35+ at Buckeye Lk 30 Mar (G. Buckley), 33 in Wayne 2 Apr (S. Snyder), and 35 flyovers in Holmes on 3 Apr (E. Schlabach). Four in alternate plumage 27 Mar at Oberlin Res (C. Caldwell) were unusual. Last reported 31 May at Camp Dennison in Hamilton (J. Lehman). No reports of adults staying at Alum Ck Lk in Delaware (see last year's records).

**Pied-billed Grebe:** Migrants peaked mid-Mar, with 25 at Winton Wds in Hamilton the 11<sup>th</sup> (J. Stenger) and 53 at Magee the 18<sup>th</sup> (H&S Hiris). Later, nesting was noted by M. Van Schoyck in Licking 19 May, and by S&R Harlan 29 May at Sandy Ridge in Lorain, BIWA and Upper Sandusky on 30 May, and Mallard Club Marsh 31 May; Holt reported possible nesters in Ashtabula and Trumbull.

**Horned Grebe:** A good flight, with over 650 reported statewide, nearly all in Mar at inland reservoirs, with an excellent high count of 200+ at Hoover Res 19 Mar (R. Thorn). Latest were 10 at ONWR 17 Apr (M. Packer).

**Red-necked Grebe:** Good numbers, but nothing like last spring's. All reports, all of single birds: 14 Mar Mosquito Ck Lk (J. Hochadel), 18 Mar (E. Snively) through 3 Apr (G. Miller) Springfield Lk (Summit), 21 Mar and 9 Apr LSR (J. Pogacnik), 5 Apr Caesar Ck SP (D. Kinsman), 14 Apr Kelleys Isl (*vide* T. Bartlett), and 5 May Paulding (D&M Dunakin).

**Eared Grebe:** All reports of single birds: 19 Mar Wyandot (R. Counts), Lorain 21 (J. Pogacnik)-27 Mar (D. Sanders), Lk Rockwell 28 Mar (L. Rosche), LSR 28 Mar (Pogacnik), Caesar Ck SP 29 Mar (J. Lehman)-9 Apr (L. Gara), Walborn Res 31 Mar (P. Lozano)-2 Apr (S. Brown), Eastwood Lk in Dayton 1 Apr (L. Theriault), Sandy Ridge MP 3 Apr in Lorain (T. Fairweather), alt 9 Apr Alum Ck Res (B. Whan).



Tracey Johnson took this photo of the American white pelicans that dropped in at Lake Rockwell in Kent (Portage Co.) on 29 March 2004.

**American White Pelican:** Over 30 reported, a record number for any season in Ohio. Some mass desertions were reported at western breeding sites, but most of our reports came too early to have been influenced by them. Six showed up at Lk Rockwell 28 Mar (D. Johnson), and apparently moved the same day to Walborn Res (B&D Lane), where they were joined by a seventh 4 Apr (B. Morrison) through 10 Apr (S. Jackson). Five enjoyed Pickerington Ponds near Columbus 1 Apr (M. Whiteis) through 3 Apr (D. Horn). One was at Clear Fk Res 4 Apr (J. Herman *vide* S. Snyder) through 7 Apr (Snyder). Five shared the Huron River 5 Apr (S. Young), with two remaining 11 Apr (J. Pogacnik). Seven headed west splashed down in Metzger Marsh 17 Apr (D. Friedman). Two appeared at Lk Logan in Hocking 23 Apr (J. Fry). Four did likewise at BCSP the following day (J. Kuenzli)-27 Apr (D. Overacker), with six there 17 May (Kuenzli, B. Powell). One was near Millersburg 28 Apr (D. Smith), another at Metzger (injured bill, m obs) 15-16 May, and 25-27 May three at Deer Ck WA (R. Carter *vide* D. Daniel). A single bird in a Mahoning marsh stayed from early May through the eop (B. Jones).

**Brown Pelican:** What would be a fifth state record was first seen 2 May over western Fayette, then over Caesar Ck SP the following day, after which it settled in gravel pit ponds in Greene through 10 May, with m obs. Documentation is with the OBRC. A bird in very similar plumage was noticed in Indianapolis 16 May (L. Peavler).

**Double-crested Cormorant:** First noted at Turning Pt Isl in Sandusky, a nesting spot, on 14 Mar (S. Young). On 17 Mar, J. Pogacnik counted 1395 passing by Lake, E. Schlabach 374 in 23 flocks over Tuscarawas, and L. Yoder 180 over NW Coshocton.

**American Bittern:** Thirty-three reported across the state, with a high count of four on 9 Apr at MWW (A. Scruggs). No confirmed breeding reported.

**Least Bittern:** Surprisingly few reported. Perhaps the next season will give a better notion of its breeding status this year.

**Great Egret:** B. Hinkle found one early 11 Mar in an area—Hinckley MP—where spring migrants are more routinely found late rather than early. Nesting is usually well underway by mid-May (this spring's high count was 86 at Magee Marsh by H&S Hiris 16 May), but >15 were at BIWA 23 May (D. Overacker), five at Gilmore Ponds 25 May (C. Betrus), and two at Sandy Ridge in Lorain 29 May (D. Chasar).

**Snowy Egret:** First reported as a duo 17 Apr (M. Packer) at ONWR, the high count of 15 occurred there 2 May (ONWRC). Farther east was one at Sandy Ridge 24 Apr (T. Fairweather) and three at Medusa Marsh 7 May (S. Young).

**Little Blue Heron:** Single adults reported at Dike 14 on 21 Apr (S. Zadar), in Tuscarawas 12 May (E. Schlabach), and at Gilmore Ponds 25 (F. Frick) through 26 May (C. Betrus). J. Sedransk reported a first-year bird at ONWR 11 May, and C. Gordon a calico individual there 13 May. Numerous reports of a small flock at ONWR in mid-May were headed by a report of six (one adult) on 15 May (T. Shively).

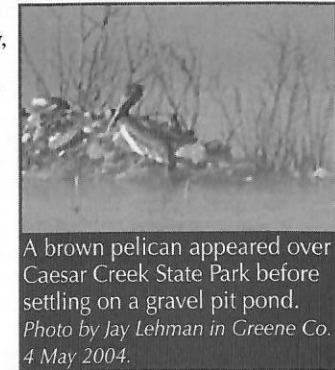
**Tricolored Heron:** One report: at Pipe Creek WA in Erie 30 May. Details with OBRC.

**Cattle Egret:** The Erie nesters peaked at 21 s. of Sandusky 21 May (B. Morrison), but half a dozen reports came from Ottawa/Lucas, where the species has been scarce lately, headed by five in Ottawa 15 May (R&S Harlan). S. Young observed one wading in water—quite a rare behavior for the species—at Medusa Marsh 7 May. May wanderings involved two at N. Chagrin Res'n 2 May (K. Metcalf), one at Gilmore Ponds 5 May (E. Baumgardner), two alt-plumaged birds in Wyandot 25 May (R. Counts), three over Tuscarawas 25 May (E. Schlabach), and two in Montgomery 27 May (S. Egleston).

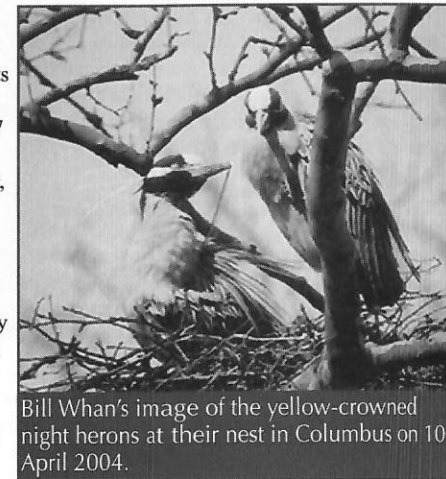
**Green Heron:** Arrived at EFSP 9 Apr (B. Stanley), with a high of seven at Magee 15 May (R&S Harlan).

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** P. Lozano chronicled its fortunes in Cleveland's Flats: one 10 Mar, four 26 Mar, seven 29 Mar, 24 on 1 Apr, 30 on 2 Apr, 45 on 7 Apr, 57 on 11 Apr, 85 on 12 Apr, 98 on 13 Apr, 109 on 15 Apr, 62 on 16 Apr, 51 on 19 Apr, 64 on 20 Apr, 25 on 21 Apr, and 54 on 23 Apr. One was at Conneaut as late as 10 May (C. Holt).

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** A pair returned to Columbus 2 Apr for at least the eighth year, with four nestlings by the eop, and a third adult present on 12 May (A. Paschall). Elsewhere, apparently unattached adults appeared 1 May in Dayton (P. Lauer *vide* J. Arnold) and in Norton, Summit (R&S Harlan), and another at Shipman Pond in Lake 20 May (R. Hannikam *vide* L. Rosche, m obs).



A brown pelican appeared over Caesar Creek State Park before settling on a gravel pit pond. Photo by Jay Lehman in Greene Co. 4 May 2004.



Bill Whan's image of the yellow-crowned night herons at their nest in Columbus on 10 April 2004.





This white-faced ibis--and attendant pectoral sandpiper--were found at Big Island WA on 1 May. Photo by Paul Gardner.

for the OBRC.

**Mississippi Kite:** Several marginal reports went undocumented. Details were forthcoming for one in Lucas 16 May, and imm birds in Hamilton 17 and 31 May.

**Bald Eagle:** A record 105 nests bested last year's record 88, a remarkably encouraging percentage increase that makes one wonder if this species will long deserve endangered status in Ohio. New modern county records in Hardin, Harrison, Muskingum, Pickaway, Putnam, and Richland. The high count came on 22 Mar, with 40+ at Magee, including 19 in view at once (V. Fazio). An inexperienced pair successfully reared two chicks in a nest in a goose tub less than four ft above the water at Pond 3 at Killdeer Plains WA.

**Northern Harrier:** J. Lehman tallied 44 at The Wilds 14 Mar, and B. Glick 38 migrants over Conneaut 25 Mar. Observations of potentially nesting, summering, or at least very late migrants came from B. Roysse (one at Crown City WA 26 Apr, and pairs at Woodbury WA 17 May and Tri-Valley WA 22 May), C.

Holt (in *Ashtabula* at four locations including one pair, one in Mahoning, two in Trumbull, and one in Geauga), three at ONWR 2 May (ONWRC), on in Madison 4 May (J. Watts), two in Defiance 5 May (J. Yochum), four in Hancock 8 May (fide B. Hardesty), D. Overacker (one at Metzger Marsh 14 May), S. Zadar (one at Dike 14 on 17 May), one in Ashland 22 May (S. Snyder), and fide H. Slack 23 May (female at Crown City WA, M. Griffith & D. Patrick—latest there since 1967). The BSBO raptor watchers totaled 189 during the period.

**White-faced Ibis:** Record numbers, all adults: one at BIWA 1 May, 6-7 near Bowling Green 9 May, and one near Ottawa 11 & 13 May. Details with the OBRC.

**Black Vulture:** Reported at known areas, such as 15 over Shawnee Lookout, Hamilton 21 Mar (J. Stenger), 20 over Adams 26 Mar (D. Overacker), and seven over Holmes 16 Apr (fide B. Glick).

**Turkey Vulture:** Massive movements in late Mar included counts on the 23<sup>rd</sup> at Conneaut of 1236 (E. Schlabach) and at Magee of 234 (V. Fazio), then 1570 at Conneaut the 25<sup>th</sup> (B. Glick). On 29 Mar ~900 were over Lakewood on a SW breeze, with birds absent after a shift to westerly winds, then 465 on 16 Apr (both C. Rieker). R&S Harlan noted four apparent migrants over Crane Ck SP beach late on 31 May.

**Osprey:** The Alum Ck pair returned 21 Mar (D. Tuttle). High count 10 in Tuscarawas 17 Apr (E. Schlabach), with a Magee total for the season of 51 (V. Fazio). One was over Mallard Club Marsh WA 23 May (S. Corbo), and another over Conneaut 15 May led C. Holt to wonder, in view of last year's sightings, if ospreys are attempting nesting nearby.

**Swallow-tailed Kite:** One was reported over West Chester in Butler 22 May, and details are being sought



A nesting bald eagle feeds two eaglets a low-rise goose tub at KPWA. Photo by Jay Lehman on 16 May 2004.

**Northern Goshawk:** The ONWRC had one 7 Mar, V. Fazio one at Magee 6 Apr, and B. Glick one over Conneaut on 18 Apr. Where had they wintered?

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** The ONWRC of 7 Mar counted 146, then on 23 Mar 159 passed over Conneaut (B. Glick) and 81 over Magee (V. Fazio).

**Broad-winged Hawk:** First reported 10 Apr near Cincinnati (J. Lehman), peaked mid-month, with counts of 1305 at Conneaut (estimate of 2-4000 total, B. Glick) and at LSR 1644 (with many missed) later in the day—and hence probably different birds—both on 18 Mar (J. Pogacnik). One was in the Oak Openings 27 May (R. Nirschl).

**Red-tailed Hawk:** E. Schlabach reported 111 over Conneaut 23 Mar, and V. Fazio 139 over Magee 6 Apr.

**Rough-legged Hawk:** High count 25 (including six dark morphs) at The Wilds Mar 21 (J. Lehman). Last noted at KPWA 7 Apr (T. Shively).

**Golden Eagle:** Wintering birds at The Wilds were last reported 22 Mar, when an adult female and an immature male were seen feeding on a deer carcass (A. Parker). No hanky-panky, apparently.

**American Kestrel:** B. Glick's report of 179 at Conneaut 25 Mar (with 84 in one hour!) is an Ohio record count. Fifteen roadside nest boxes in Delaware hosted eight nests during the season (D. Sillick).

**Merlin:** Thirty-five reported statewide. Lou Gardella last reported the Cleveland wintering birds 11 Mar. Late migrant 24 May at N Chagrin Res'n (K. Metcalf)

**Peregrine Falcon:** Twenty-one reports of probable migrants. Nested at many of the human-made structures they've occupied since the widespread introductions.

**Prairie Falcon:** Persisted almost as long as the golden eagles at The Wilds, with the last sighting there on 19 Mar (B&D Lane).

**Ruffed Grouse:** All ten eggs in a nest discovered in Hocking 30 Apr had hatched successfully by 19 May (P. Knoop).

**King Rail:** Few reports. S. Landes found one at Winous Pt, Ottawa 1 May. One discovered in Wayne 8 May (J. Herman fide E. Snively) persisted through at least 12 May (B. Morrison). R. Sempier had one at KPWA 29 May.

**Virginia Rail:** Probably having over-wintered were three at SVWA 29 Mar (R. Schieltz et al.). The high inland count was four, at Delaware WA 17 Apr (B. Shively).

**Sora:** First reported 11 Apr at Mallard Club Marsh (J. Pogacnik), with ~50 at CPNWR 25 Apr (E. Tramer), an ad with four young was in Holmes 22 May (L.E. Yoder).

**Common Moorhen:** Three were at Killbuck WA as early as 30 Apr (B. Morrison). Unreported from some traditional haunts, and the ONWRC had only one during the period, on 2 May. Perhaps summer numbers will be more encouraging.

**American Coot:** Good numbers of overwintering coots were augmented by migrants in Mar to produce counts of 575 at Metzger Marsh (M. Anderson) and 1259 at Magee Marsh (S&H Hiris) by the 21<sup>st</sup>. The largest push came in Apr, with 1039 on the ONWRC of the 4<sup>th</sup> and 3375 on the Magee census of the 18<sup>th</sup> (Hiris). R&S Harlan reported five at Sandy Ridge MP in Lorain 29 May, five at BIWA 30 May, eight at Upper Sandusky Res 30 May, and one at Mallard Club Marsh 31 May.

**Sandhill Crane:** Over 150 reported, with a high count of 40+ in Paulding 12 Mar (J. Snooks fide J. Yochum). Funk/Killbuck birds reached a maximum of nine on 10 May (S. Snyder). Birds after the normal migration included four at MBSP 4 Apr (J. Sawvel), one at ONWR 5 Apr (J. Brumfield), one at Metzger 6 Apr (R. Nirschl), four in Clermont 9 Apr (D. Morse), one in Hardin 15 Apr (M. Moser), two flybys over Tuscarawas (E. Schlabach) and one in Medina (Brumfield) on 1 May, a bird at SVWA 7 May (D. Brinkman), and one at Magee 20 May (E. Tramer).

[**Whooping Crane:** Emphatically not wild birds, but of interest, were eight released yearlings returning on their own from Florida as part of a re-introduction project. D. Todt noted 6-7 overhead in Scioto 5 Apr; the group spent the next night in Clermont (fide H. Ray of Operation Migration), then were later seen by mobs in Auglaize and Mercer through 23 Apr, with five remaining in Ohio till 7 May, when they too moved

north into wetland areas of Michigan, spurning the Wisconsin marshes their keepers intended for them.]

**Black-bellied Plover:** All reports from May, with the first at Conneaut the 10<sup>th</sup> (C. Holt) and a nice high count of ~250 in a field in Lucas 15 May (G. Links).



A piping plover discovered and photographed by Troy Shively 25 April 2004 at Rocky Fork SP in Highland Co.

**American Golden-Plover:** First seen at Funk WA 9 Apr (S. Snyder), with larger numbers from Holmes 16 Apr (~100, B. Glick), Logan 19 Apr (~150, T. Shively), Portage 30 Apr (91, L. Rosche), and 130 in Lucas 15 May (M. Anderson).

**Semipalmated Plover:** First reported from BCSP, with two 9 Apr (J. Kuenzli), and a high count of 185 at Metzger Marsh 13 May (J. Sedransk). Interesting inland numbers came from Tuscarawas, with 28 on 15 May (E. Schlabach), and the Hebron fish hatchery, with 48 on 16 May and 67 on 19 May (G. Buckley).

**Piping Plover:** One was photographed at Rocky Fork SP, Highland 25 Apr (m obs); details are with the OBRC.

**Killdeer:** Eight passed over Magee 2 Mar (Z. Baker), and by 22 Mar 85 were at Funk WA (B. Glick). On 10 May 45 were at

Gilmore Ponds (S. Reeves).

**Black-necked Stilt:** Unprecedented numbers, with one reported at HWSP 8 May, two at BIWA 20 May, and another at Pipe Ck WA 22 May. Details are with the OBRC.

**American Avocet:** Twelve swam in Fairport Hbr 19 Apr (R. Hannikman fide L. Rosche). One at Metzger Marsh 8 May (J. Duerr) may have been that seen later there 15 May (M. Anderson).

**Greater Yellowlegs:** First reported 9 Mar in Wyandot (R. Counts), by 12 Apr 165 were to be seen at Funk WA (J. Brumfield). One remained at Metzger 15 May (Craig Caldwell).

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** Seemed late. On 10 Apr 16 were in Coshocton (L. Yoder). The high count was only 65, at Pickerington Ponds near Columbus 4 May (J. Watts). Wait till fall.

**Solitary Sandpiper:** Unreported until 11 Apr, with one in Fulton (J. Hildreth fide J. Yochum). The ONWRC had 13 on 2 May. Four remained at Gilmore Ponds 16 May (M. Busam) and one at ONWR the 19<sup>th</sup> (S. Snyder).

**Willet:** Four late Apr reports, with one in Findlay the 26<sup>th</sup> (fide B. Hardesty), and on the 29<sup>th</sup> one at Metzger Marsh (V. Fazio), one in Paulding (M&D Dunakin), and 11 in Hocking (J. Fry). May reports came from HWSP on the 13<sup>th</sup> (B. Jackman), Metzger the 14<sup>th</sup> (D. Overacker) through the 16<sup>th</sup> (B. Bowman), and Columbus the 20<sup>th</sup> (R. Thorn).

**Spotted Sandpiper:** First seen at Berlin Res 10 Apr (D. Sanders), their numbers peaked at ~50 at Pickerington Ponds on 6 May (J. Watts).

**Upland Sandpiper:** Time will tell if this species is under-reported or in further decline. C. Holt had two pairs in Ashtabula 20 Apr, and the Krause Rd pair in Ottawa was first reported 22 Apr (E. Snively).

**Whimbrel:** Reported twice in its narrow window: J. Szanto witnessed a flock of ~80 over Metzger Marsh 22 May, and J. Pogacnik 31 passing LSR the following day.



A black-necked stilt photographed by Troy Shively 7 June 2004 at Big Island WA in Marion Co.

**Ruddy Turnstone:** First reported 8 May at ONWR (C. Caldwell), the high count was 110 in a Lucas field 15 May (M. Anderson); several were at Metzger 29 May (C. Tucker).

**Red Knot:** First seen was an alt-plumaged bird in Wyandot 9 May (S. Landes), and ~50 braved the sands of MBSP 14 May (G. Links). A basic-plumaged bird stalked Metzger Marsh 16 May (C. Tucker).

**Sanderling:** The high count was of 20 at MBSP 14 May (G. Links), with the latest several at Metzger 29 May (C. Tucker).

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** First reported 28 Apr in Wyandot (R. Counts), with an anemic high count of 23 in Williams 23 May (J. Yochum), the last reports came from Tuscarawas, with 14 individuals seen 25 May (E. Schlabach).

**Western Sandpiper:** One, at Metzger Marsh 31 May (S&R Harlan).

**Least Sandpiper:** First announced from Scioto, with two on 28 Mar (B. Royle); no appreciable high counts were recorded this season.

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** Appeared 11 May, with two at Metzger (J. Sedransk) and one at Cowan Lk SP (L. Gara). Last reported from Metzger, with another two there 25 May (C. Greenfelder).

**Baird's Sandpiper:** Extremely rare here in spring; one specimen exists. Details were furnished to the OBRC for reports from Scioto 17 Apr and from Metzger Marsh 31 May.

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** Appeared in good numbers, particularly at BIWA, with ~300 there 28 Mar (C. Tucker), 1600+ on 9 Apr (B. Whan), ~400 on 13 May (P. Gardner), and ~150 there a good late number on 16 May (D. Overacker).

**Dunlin:** The first was noted at Killdeer 6 Apr (M. Misplon), then in Wyandot (R. Counts) and Williams (J. Yochum) on 9 Apr. Numbers peaked at a conservative 9000 estimated at Metzger 8 May (M. Bolton), and ended with ~25 at Metzger 31 May (R. & S. Harlan).



White-rumped sandpiper, left, with semipalmated plover at the Cowan Lake spillway. Photo by Jay Lehman on 15 May 2004.



Scarce in spring, this stilt sandpiper was photographed by David Russell at HWSP in Preble Co. on 27 April.

**Stilt Sandpiper:** Scarce in spring, one was found at HWSP 27 Apr (ph. D. Russell), and perhaps the same bird there 9 May (A. Bess). D. Sanders picked out one at BIWA 1 May. Three in alt plumage were a great find at Metzger 7 May (B. Morrison), with one of them perhaps involved in a 11 May sighting (D. Friedman).

**Ruff:** A female was reported at BIWA 16 May; details are with the OBRC.

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** Over 450 reported statewide, all but 20 of them inland; to the keepers of the Lk Erie marshes who may blame the disparity on heavy May rains, we can only respond that it rained all over Ohio. The earliest appeared in Paulding 30 Apr (M&D Dunakin), and the high count was a healthy 155 at Gilmore Ponds in Butler 16 May (M. Busam).

**Wilson's Snipe:** Snipes rank in the top three most numerous N. American shorebirds, and we had eleven reports of 50+ birds from eight counties over the period, with 115 on 3 Apr in



*Tuscarawas* (E. Schlabach) and 87 at Pickerington Ponds 5 Apr (B. Master).

**American Woodcock:** Detected in normal numbers in the state; one seen in Erie St Cemetery in downtown Cleveland 22 May (G. Leidy) may have finished breeding.

**Wilson's Phalarope:** The ONWR area hosted two or more, the first a female 27 Apr (J. Shieldcastle), with a pair seen 7 May (S. Snyder). **D. Overacker** found one at BIWA 1 May. **R. Counts** had one in *Wyandot* 9 May. The three **J. Kuenzli** found 20 May at BIWA may have represented returned breeders, but heavy rains perhaps drowned their nest, as none was subsequently reported there through the eop.

**Red-necked Phalarope:** E. Schlabach reported three in *Tuscarawas* 15 May, and **B. Morrison** one at Metzger Marsh 21 May.

**Franklin's Gull:** **D. Overacker** found three rosy-breasted adults 25 May at BCSP.

**Bonaparte's Gull:** Returned with good numbers inland 21 Mar-25 Apr, with the first large number 200+ at Hoover Res the former date (C. Bombaci).

**Thayer's Gull:** Two reports came from 13 Mar in *Lake*: a bird of unstated age off LSR (J. Pogacnik), and a second-year bird at Fairport Hbr (K. Metcalf).

**Iceland Gull:** **J. Pogacnik** reported an adult 13 Mar and a first-winter bird 4 Apr at LSR. **C. Holt** had a first-winter bird inland at LaDue Res 20 Mar for a first *Geauga* record.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** Twenty-six+ reported, including the following unusual reports from inland: one at Spencer Lk, *Medina* 14 Mar (ad, S&R Harlan, first county record?), at least two at Walborn Res 31 Mar (ad, P. Lozano) through 4 Apr (2<sup>nd</sup>, B. Morrison), one or two adult alt near Oberlin 27 Mar (C. Caldwell, B. Whan), and finally an ad alt at Clear Fk Res 6 Apr (J. Herman *vide* S. Snyder) through 8 Apr (G. Miller).

**Glaucous Gull:** All reports came from **J. Pogacnik**: first-year 6 Mar at LSR, one 13 Mar at Lorain Hbr, first-year 21 Mar at LSR, and first-winter and adult at LSR 4 April.

**Great black-backed Gull:** **J. Pogacnik** counted 32 passing LSR 13 Mar. On 22 Mar, **L. Rosche** found a rare inland bird, an adult, at LaDue Res. They are not known to nest in the Great Lakes, but two lingered as late as 31 May at Lorain (R&S Harlan).

**Caspian Tern:** Two were at GLSM by 9 Apr (T. Shively), and the high count came the 18<sup>th</sup>, with 107 at LSR (J. Pogacnik). Fifty at Conneaut 10 May and 27 on 15 May were noteworthy (C. Holt).

**Common Tern:** Two arrived at Magee 19 Apr (V. Fazio). **R&S Harlan** found 11 at BCSP on the intriguing date of 30 May.

**Forster's Tern:** First noted as a duo at Clear Fork Res 8 Apr (G. Miller), later as 24 at Indian Lk, *Logan* on 29 Apr (M. Mispion), numbers grew to an apparent state-record inland high with 75 at Mosquito Ck Lk 11 May (C. Babyak). Later were singletons at BCSP 30 May and Metzger 31 May (S&R Harlan).

**Black Tern:** Not a good showing, with only 28 reported statewide, the first one in *Paulding* 5 May (M&D Dunakin). Nesting was suspected at CPNWR, however, with the high count of nine 23 May, including two carrying small fish (E. Tramer).



These short-eared owls enhanced the prairie falcon vigil at The Wilds, 21 March 2004. Jay Lehman photo.

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** Seen early at Shawnee SF 24 Apr (B. Whan), with a high count of three 12 May in *Tuscarawas* (E. Schlabach).

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** First reported 19 Apr in *Portage* (D. Johnson).

**Long-eared Owl:** On the move by late Feb, nineteen were reported, from *Wayne, Lake, Cuyahoga, Ottawa, Lucas, Hamilton, and Butler* this spring, the latest from Brecksville 24 Apr (K. Metcalf).

**Short-eared Owl:** Reported from *Wayne, Muskingum, Medina, Butler, Lake, Defiance, Mahoning, and Lucas*. A few breed in Ohio, but the latest report came from LSR 1 May (J. Pogacnik).

**Northern Saw-whet Owl:** Only a few detected. One from winter was at Gilmore Ponds through 21 Mar (M. Busam). One-two were at ONWR the first week of Mar (R. Hinkle). Latest was one at Magee Marsh 4 Apr (R. Nirschl).

**Common Nighthawk:** First seen over Columbus 1 May (M. Skinner). The largest numbers reported came from oft-distracted counts of 25+ birds moving south over *Hocking* 9 May (B. Whan). Urban reports are declining.

**Chuck-will's-widow:** Reports came from six counties: they were numerous in *Adams* by 7 May (J. Lehman), and **T. Klak** had one calling in *Butler* 7-8 May. Also calling was one in *Vinton* 10



Andy Webb took this photo of a snoozing chuck-will's-widow at Magee Marsh, seen by many observers 14 May.

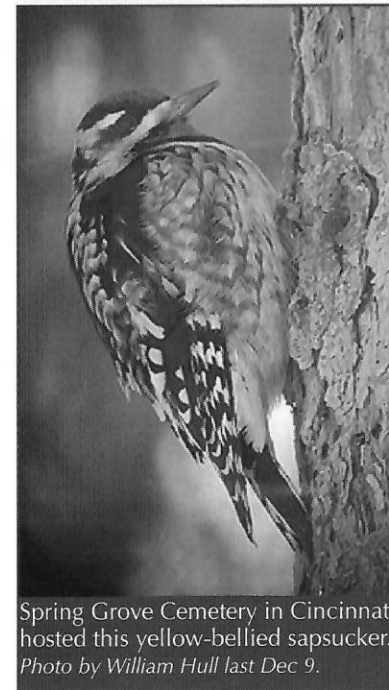
May (B. Crow), and one in *Stark* (!) 16-17 May (B. Morrison). **D. Riepenhoff** reported that the largest concentration of this species in the state may be in *Pike* at the nuclear facility, unfortunately off-limits to the public. Finally, one entertained the throngs at Magee 14 May (R. Nirschl, m obs).

**Whip-poor-will:** Extraordinary was one in *Paulding* 27 Mar, where the previous early record had been 28 Apr (D&M Dunakin). Elsewhere arrived on schedule, calling in *Hocking* 24 Apr (P. Knoop) and in Cincinnati 26 Apr (L. Brumbaugh).

**Chimney Swift:** Two early migrants appeared in *Clermont* 7 Apr (D. Morse).

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** First arrival 20 Mar, in *Hamilton* (J. Watkins).

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** Several overwintered. The high count was 18, seen by **R. Thorn** at



Spring Grove Cemetery in Cincinnati hosted this yellow-bellied sapsucker. Photo by William Hull last Dec 9.

*Greenlawn Dam* in Columbus 7 Apr, though 10 seen in half an hour at Sims Park in Euclid 17 Apr (V. Fazio) was also remarkable. Puzzling were birds seen at tiny Erie St Cemetery in downtown Cleveland 12 (T. Colborn) and 22 May (B. Finkelstein). Also of interest were one on Kelleys Island 14 May (K. Metcalf), and one carrying food in Holden Arboretum, *Lake* 29 May (L. Rosche).

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** Scarce as always. First seen in the Oak Openings of Toledo 7 May (B. Morrison), eight more were reported, all within the span of 8-20 May.

**Eastern Wood-Pewee:** First noted at Scioto Trail SF, with two on 26 Apr (B. Royse); two nests were found at Blackhand Gorge 11 May (C. Bombaci).

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** First reported from *Darke* 6 May (K. Schieltz), with a high count of six at Magee 26 May (R. Nirschl).

**Acadian Flycatcher:** Arrived 29 Apr, in *Hamilton* (J. Stenger).

**Alder Flycatcher:** First reported at Gilmore Ponds 16 May (J. Stenger); males were on territory the following day at Woodbury WA (B. Royse), as well as at Dike 14 (S. Zadar). Eight sang at Magee 22 May (R. Nirschl) and 10 near Ravenna 29 May (L. Rosche). Singles were in Norton 22 May and at Hinckley MP 29 May (S&R Harlan).

**Willow Flycatcher:** First noticed 6 May, at Gilmore Ponds





Bob Royse found this alder flycatcher at Woodbury Wildlife Area in Coshocton County on 17 May 2004.

(**B. Foppe**), 15 were at Magee by 23 May (**R&S Harlan**).

**Least Flycatcher:** The first seen was at Camp Dennison 28 Apr (**B. Foppe**), and the high count was seven at Magee 12 May (**R&S Harlan**). A lonesome male sang at Clear Ck MP in *Hocking* 15 May—eop (**J. Watts**), in several contrasting habitats.

**Eastern Phoebe:** Though we lacked confirmed wintering records, one was singing 1 Mar in Cincinnati (**D. Graham**), and another in *Athens* 14 Mar (**E. McElroy**). Three were on territory in Shawnee SF by 2 Mar (**B. Royse**).

**Great Crested Flycatcher:** First reported at Shawnee Lookout, *Hamilton* 24 Apr (**N. Keller**), BSBO banded one as early as the 30<sup>th</sup> at Navarre.

**Eastern Kingbird:** On 17 Apr seen at Huffman Prairie (**N. Smith**) and Gilmore Ponds (*vide M. Busam*). **C. Caldwell** had an oddball at ONWR 30 May, with dark head and white body.

**Loggerhead Shrike:** **R. Lakes** (*vide J. Lehman*) saw one in last year's spot in *Adams* 6 Mar; nesting there was suspected but not confirmed (m obs) through the eop.

**Northern Shrike:** The last reports came from *Wood* (**B. Cullen**) and *Lucas* (**E. Tramer**) on 27 Mar; Tramer said of the CPNWR bird that "...it repeatedly hovered over the bushes and then dropped to the ground at the edge of the dike. After doing this six times it stayed out of sight on the ground for several minutes; then it emerged carrying a meadow mouse (*Microtus*) in its feet! It flew off across the impoundment with obvious effort, barely skimming over the water surface with its dangling prey in tow."

**White-eyed Vireo:** First seen 15 Apr at Scioto Trail SF (**S. Landes**), by the 20<sup>th</sup> 14 were at Shawnee SF (**B. Royse**). Six were in the HBSP area in *Lake* 1 May (**K. Metcalf**).

**Bell's Vireo:** One appeared at MWW 1 May (**J. Lehman**) through the eop (m obs). **T. Shively** had one in *Logan* 7 May. Another was at Gilmore Ponds May (**S. Reeves**) through the eop (m obs). More expected was at least one at BCSP 22 May through the eop (**B. Sain**, m obs).



Jason Estep took this portrait of a Philadelphia vireo at the Magee Marsh bird trail 22 May.

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** First reported from Scioto Trail SF 15 Apr (**S. Landes**), by 18 Apr two were at Magee (**R. Nirschl**).

**Blue-headed Vireo:** First reported from *Hocking*, on 20 Mar (**P. Knoop**). Late possible nesters included birds at Shawnee (**B. Royse**), two at Conkle's Hollow 22 May and one at Ash Cave SP in *Hocking* 23 May (**F. Renfrow**), on 29 May two at Hinckley MP in *Medina* (**R&S Harlan**) and one in *Hocking* (**J. Watts**), and a singing male in *Lucas* 31 May (**M. Anderson**).

**Warbling Vireo:** First seen at MWW, on 18 Apr (**J. Lehman**), numbers swelled to 35 at Meander Lk in *Mahoning* 11 May (**C. Babyak**).

**Philadelphia Vireo:** Appeared in *Hamilton* 8 May (**N. Keller**), with a high count of 3-4 at Magee 20 May (**R. Nirschl**).

**Red-eyed Vireo:** At Shawnee SF, 28 were present 19 Apr,

and 104 by the following day (**B. Royse**).

**Blue Jay:** On the evening of 23 Apr, **J. Pogacnik** reported ~250 at LSR, in groups of 15-40, then 686 on 1 May. **V. Fazio** counted ~3200 over Magee 29 Apr. Untold thousands passed over Magee 9 May, but apparently no one was able to concentrate solely on this phenomenon at the time.

**American Crow:** Not numerous near Lake Erie except during migration, 150 for the 4 Mar ONWRC was a noteworthy count. Magee migrants totaled 293 on 10 Mar (**Z. Baker**) and 266 on 23 Mar (**V. Fazio**). Some estimated last year's WNV mortality at 75%.

**Purple Martin:** First scouts noted 19 Mar in *Lawrence* (**H. Slack**), and in *Butler* 20 Mar (**C. Baumgartner**).

**Tree Swallow:** Early birds included one at MWW 4 Mar (**F. Frick**), 50 at SVWA 7 Mar (**J. Brown**), and 11 at KPWA 8 Mar (**B. Shively**). On 17 Apr, an astonishing ~9600 were tallied by the Magee hawk watch (**V. Fazio**), likely a state record number.

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow:** Early 29 Mar sightings included single birds at Lk Rockwell in *Portage* (**L. Rosche**) and at HWSP (**D. Russell**).

**Bank Swallow:** Earliest were two in *Brown* 11 Apr (**J. Hovekamp**).

**Cliff Swallow:** First reported from Hoover Res in *Delaware* 11 Apr (**R. Thorn**). **Mel Miller** (*vide S. Snyder*) reported several nests inside his *Holmes* barn 22 May.

**Barn Swallow:** On 28 Mar, appeared at distant areas of the state in *Adams* (**J. Lehman**) and *Lake* (**J. Pogacnik**).

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** Widely but thinly distributed early in the season. **F. Renfrow** located a probable nesting pair 22 May at Old Man's Cave SP, and **S&R Harlan** reported birds from Hinckley MP in *Medina* 27 and 29 May.

**Brown Creeper:** Four were at EFSP on 28 Mar (**J. Lehman**), with a high of 12 in Columbus 7 Apr (**R. Thorn**).



This sedge wren challenged Bob Royse for territory at Woodbury WA in Coshocton Co. 17 May 2004.

A nest was found at Hoover Res 9 Apr (**J. Kuenzli**), and at Hinckley MP a pair was spotted 27 May (**S&R Harlan**).

**Winter Wren:** Singing birds were in Cincinnati 1 Mar (**D. Graham**) and Shawnee SF 2 Mar (**B. Royse**). High count was ~25 at Magee 25 Mar (**R. Nirschl**).

**House Wren:** Arrived first EFSP in *Clermont* 10 Apr (**J. Brown**).

**Sedge Wren:** One was at Mentor Lagoons 7 May (**L. Rosche**), and three in *Wayne* the following day through the eop (**J. Herman vide E. Snively**, m obs). Other reports came from *Medina*, *Coshocton*, *Muskingum*, and *Marion*.

**Marsh Wren:** One was at MWW 20 Apr (**N. Keller**); later, eight sang in Magee 23 May (**R&S Harlan**).

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** Eighty were at Magee 27 Mar (**B. Whan**), and one or another was singing at Hinckley MP in *Medina* 27 and 29 May (**S&R Harlan**).

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** **D. Barnett** saw two in Cincinnati 10 Apr. At Magee were 60 on 14 Apr (**R. Nirschl**) and 20 on 9 May (**R&S Harlan**).

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** Seen 28 Mar by **B. Royse** in Shawnee SF and **D. Dister** in *Montgomery*. **S. Zadar** saw 28 in flight over Dike 14 on 30 Apr.

**Veery:** An overflight brought one to Magee 17 Apr (**P. Sherwood vide V. Fazio**).

**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** Scarce. The BSBO netted one 30 Apr at Navarre. **R. Nirschl** had three in song at Magee as late as 26 May.

**Swainson's Thrush:** 19 Apr reports came from **E. Tramer** in *Lucas*, **R. Nirschl** at Magee, and the BSBO from Navarre. Scarce, with a high count of 15 in Parma 15 May (**G. Leidy**). **R&S Harlan** had one singing quite late at Hinckley MP on 29 May.

**Hermit Thrush:** Seen 2 Mar at Shawnee SF (**B. Royse**). Peaked mid-Apr, with ~50 at Magee (**R. Nirschl**) and 48 at Kelleys Isl (**T. Bartlett**) the 16<sup>th</sup>. **F. Renfrow** observed two at Old Man's Cave SP and six at Conkle's Hollow SNP 22 May, plus three at Ash Cave SP 23 May, all in *Hocking*. **D. Chasar** reported three in the CVNP 8 May, **R&S Harlan** three in Mohican SF 29 May, and **J. Watts** a nest in Clear Ck MP 24 May at the exact location of another nest found 23 June 2001.

**Wood Thrush:** First reported were four in *Hamilton* 20 Apr (**N. Keller, J. Stenger**).

**Gray Catbird:** Earliest was an overshooter at Magee 16 Apr (**R. Nirschl**).

**American Pipit:** Migrants continued from the previous period through 10 May at Conneaut (**C. Holt**). High count 80, in *Tuscarawas* 27 Mar (**E. Schlabach**).

**Bohemian Waxwing:** **J. Brumfield** found one in the CVNP 6 Mar. Uncharacteristically for this species in Ohio, m (but not all) obs were able to relocate it in the area through 14 Mar (**K. Metcalf**) as it foraged with cedar waxwings on fruiting trees and shrubs.

**Cedar Waxwing:** **J. Pogacnik** reported 1000+ at LSR 23 May.

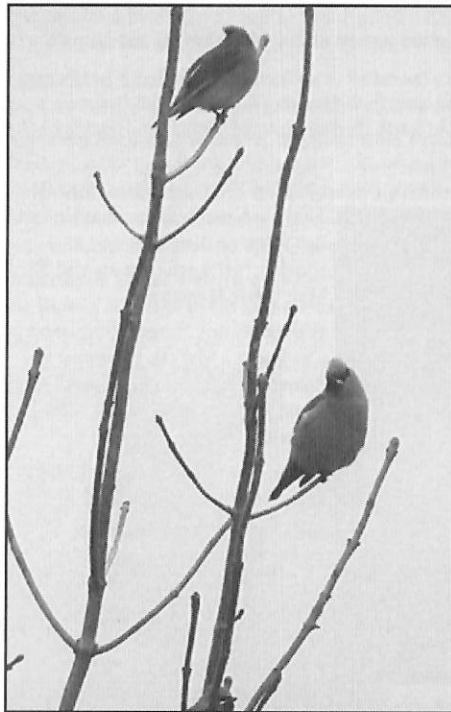
**Blue-winged Warbler:** **R. Royse** found 12 at Shawnee SF 19 Apr, then 25 the following day, by which time **L.E. Yoder** already had one in *Coschocton*. High count was a healthy 118, during the CVNP census of 8 May (*vide* **D. Chasar**).

**Golden-winged Warbler:** Thirty migrants reported, from 11 counties, nearly all between 1-9 May, the latest a female at Magee 21 May (**B. Morrison**).

**Hybrids of above:** "Brewster's" reports came from 9 May at the Oak Openings (**M. Anderson**) and Parma (**G. Leidy**), who reported two birds, both adult male backcrosses singing songs of golden-winged). **E. Snively** and **B. Morrison** reported a "Lawrence's" warbler at Magee 6 May.

**Tennessee Warbler:** Seemed down in numbers to many. First reported 19 Apr at Magee (**R. Nirschl**), numbers peaked at 29 in *Coschocton* 10 May (**L.E. Yoder**).

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** Seen in good numbers. An overflying bird was at Magee on 19 Apr (**R. Nirschl**), and the last seen at Shaker Lks 11 May (**B. Fambrough**). The BSBO banded a record 27 during the season at Navarre. High count four at CPNWR 25 Apr (**E. Tramer**).



The ephemeral bohemian waxwing (center) was photodocumented by Jay Lehman on 13 March 2004 in the Cuyahoga Valley NP.

**Nashville Warbler:** On the early side was one at Magee 16 Apr (**R. Nirschl**), and one flew into BSBO's nets at Navarre the 27<sup>th</sup>. High count 26 on 3 May in *Mahoning* (**C. Babyak**).

**Northern Parula:** First seen was an early bird 9 Apr at Fort Hill Mem (**K. Sieg**).

**Yellow Warbler:** First reported 19 Apr at Delaware WA (**B. Shively**), by mid-May were ubiquitous, with 89 at Mosquito WA 11 May (**C. Babyak**), and ~100 at Magee the following day (**S&R Harlan**).

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** An early overflight apparently resulted in one at Magee 16 Apr (**R. Nirschl**). **B. Royse** considered the species a probable breeder at Shawnee SF. High counts were of 15 at Magee 16 May (**H&S Hiris**) and 10 at HBSP 18 May (**L. Rosche**). One was singing in the Oak Openings of Toledo 27 May (**Nirschl**).

**Magnolia Warbler:** Overflights accounted for a 15 Apr bird at Hoover Res (**L. Powlick**) and one on 27 Apr in *Williams* (**J. Yochum**). Two probable nesters were at Conkle's Hollow SNP 22 May (**F. Renfrow**), and **R&S Harlan** found territorial males at Hinckley MP—one 27 May and three 29 May; ditto for one in Rhododendron Hollow in *Hocking* 29 May (**J. Watts**). High count of migrants 30 at HBSP 18 May (**L. Rosche**).

**Cape May Warbler:** First reported at Highbanks MP in *Delaware* 25 Apr (**R. Lowry**)

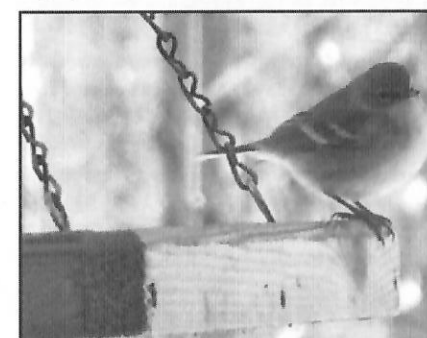
**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** First reported from *Hamilton* 29 Apr (**B. Foppe**), and last from Magee 31 May (**S&R Harlan**).

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** Banders at Navarre snagged a record 719 during the period.

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** Three, probably breeders, were at Shawnee SF 8 Mar (**B. Royse**). High count in the north was 10 at the Shaker Lks 19 May (**R&S Harlan**).

**Blackburnian Warbler:** Arrived 18 Apr in *Licking* (**S. Woolard**). By 22 May at least one was on territory at Old Man's Cave SP (**F. Renfrow**), others were probably on territory at Hinckley MP 27 and 29 May as well as at Mohican on the latter date (all **R&S Harlan**); oddly, one was singing in Dublin, *Franklin* 30 May (**R. Thorn**).

**Yellow-throated Warbler:** One was in Cincinnati 26 Mar (**A. Bess**), three in Shawnee SF 28 Mar (**B. Royse**), and one fed at suet in *Hocking* by 6 Apr (**P. Knoop**). Magee hosted several birds during the



Andy Fondrk was among a number of observers who found pine warblers at snowy feeders this March; this photo was taken the 12th, in Geauga Co.

period, beginning 19 Apr (**R. Nirschl**) through mid-May (m obs). High count 37 at Shawnee on 20 Apr (**Royse**).

**Pine Warbler:** Earliest there in four years was one at **J. Fry**'s feeder in *Hocking* 1 Mar. **F. Renfrow** noted several nesting outposts in *Hamilton*, possibly related to pine beetle outbreaks further south. At Rocky River Nat Ctr 23-24 Apr, one to two dozen birds of this species fed on the ground in a very small area (**T. Martincic, S. Wright**, m obs).

**Kirtland's Warbler:** An extraordinary three reports, with singing males reported from *Knox* 8 May, *Erie* 9 May, and *Cuyahoga* 16 May. Details are with the OBRC.

**Prairie Warbler:** Showed up at Shawnee SF 17 Apr (**B. Sparks**), where ice damage has opened new habitat. BSBO recorded a record three at the Navarre

banding station.

**Palm Warbler:** Earliest was one of the yellow eastern form, seen 3 Apr at LSR by **J. Pogacnik**. The Navarre banding station had a record 252 for the period. On 25 Apr, **E. Tramer** saw 80+ at CPNWR. Last seen 16 May at Metzger Marsh (**R. Nirschl**). Three other birds of the eastern race were seen, one at HBSP 21 Apr (**L. Rosche**), one banded at Navarre (BSBO) 29 Apr, and one on the Crane Ck SP beach 6 May (**B. Shively**).

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** First spotted at SVWA 30 Apr (**D. Sanders**), and peaked with 30 seen at Magee 16 May (**S&R Harlan**).

**Blackpoll Warbler:** First seen in *Butler* 30 Apr (**M. Busam**); high count 22 at Magee 13 May (**J. Sedransk**), with one near Mallard Club Marsh 31 May (**R&S Harlan**).

**Cerulean Warbler:** Reported first from Shawnee SF 17 Apr, with 11 arrived by the 19<sup>th</sup> (**B. Royse**), by



21 Apr **L. Andrews** regarded it as the most abundant warbler in the Athens District of the Wayne NF. The CVNP census found 13 on 8 May (*vide* **D. Chasar**).

**Black-and-white Warbler:** Arrived 28 Mar in Shawnee SF, *Scioto* (**B. Royle**).

**American Redstart:** First seen at Shawnee 17 Mar (**B. Sparks**), 60 were there by 20 Apr (**B. Royle**). **L.E. Yoder** tallied 47 in NW *Coshocton* 10 May.

**Prothonotary Warbler:** Two males were quite early in *Clermont* 8 Apr (**D. Morse**). A memorable presence at Magee/Metzger began with two 30 Apr at Metzger (**R. Nirschl**). **C. Bombaci** had 17 at Hoover Res nesting spots by 4 May. Two were in song at Sandy Ridge MP in *Lorain* 29 May (**S&R Harlan**).

**Worm-eating Warbler:** An overshooting bird netted by BSBO at Navarre 17 Apr presaged an invasion in the north, with birds at Magee 19 Apr (**R. Nirschl**), 1 May (**S. Snyder**), 8 May (**C. Spagnoli**)-9 May (m obs), 12 May (**E. Tramer**) and beyond. BSBO banded another 3 May, and the **Dunakins** reported a record three in *Paulling* during May; **M. Anderson** had one in the Oak Openings 9 May, and **J. Hefflich** one at the Shaker Lks the next day. High count 17 at Shawnee SF in *Scioto* 20 Apr (**B. Royle**).

**Ovenbird:** Reported 18 Apr from *Hocking* (**P. Knoop**) and at Magee (**R. Nirschl**); 48 at Shawnee 19 Apr (**B. Royle**) suggested they'd been around for some time.

**Northern Waterthrush:** Decidedly early was one at Navarre 18 Apr (BSBO), and two at Magee the following day (**R. Nirschl**). On a more normal schedule, 10 at Gilmore Ponds 11 May was excellent for an inland count (**M. Busam**), as were four in Nile 3 May (**C. Babyak**) and 5+ in *Geauga* 6 May (**L. Rosche**). Intriguing were singing birds at Woodbury WA 17 May (**B. Royle**) and Aquilla WA in *Geauga* 31 May (**K. Metcalf**).



Elusive at HWSP have been northern waterthrushes, which often pass through silently. This one was banded there on 19 Apr, and photographed by David Russell.

later in the month statewide.

**Mourning Warbler:** Again, BSBO had the first, banded at Navarre 7 May. The high count of ~10 came from Magee 22 May (**R. Nirschl**), and the migration lasted through the period, with birds at Magee (**C. Tucker**) and *Coshocton* (**L.E. Yoder**) 31 May.

**Common Yellowthroat:** One arrived at SVWA by 18 Apr (**J. Lehman**). On 20 May an early nest with two eggs was in *Geauga* (**K. Metcalf**).

**Hooded Warbler:** At Shawnee SF **B. Royle** reported a bird on 17 Apr, then 44 by 20 Apr. The CVNP census (*vide* **D. Chasar**) reported 66 for 8 May.

**Wilson's Warbler:** **J. Stenger** had an early one in *Brown* 2 May, and **R&S Harlan** two as late as 31 May at Magee.

**Canada Warbler:** BSBO captured one at Navarre 1 May. Breeders in *Hocking* were harder to find this

spring, but **J. Watts** had one 15 May in Clear Ck MP.

**Yellow-breasted Chat:** Arrived in Shawnee SF 21 Apr (**B. Royle**). **S. Zadar** had one at Dike 14 on 17 May, and **R. Sempier** one at KPWA 22 May.

**Summer Tanager:** BSBO caught a record three at Navarre, including the earliest on 17 Apr. High count 10+ on 9 May during a Big Day event (**D. Horn** et al.). Has become reliable and rather numerous in the Oak Openings (m obs), and seems to be up in the north generally.

**Scarlet Tanager:** First seen 18 Apr at MWW (**J. Lehman**), and **B. Royle** found 32 two days later in the Shawnee SF, when **P. Knoop** had a pair in *Hocking*. At Magee by the day after (**R. Nirschl**).

**American Tree Sparrow:** **E. Tramer** rightly regarded three at CPNWR 25 Apr as late, but one was banded at Springville Marsh in *Seneca* even later on 1 May (**S. Myers**).

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** First sighted by **F. Frick** at MWW 29-30 Apr, one was banded at Navarre by the BSBO 6 May, one was at Magee 8 May (**T. Bartlett**, m obs), two were in *Lucas's* Jerusalem Twp 10 May (**T. Kemp**), and one in Bowling Green 11 May (**P. Chad**). **G. Leidy** had birds in Parma 15 and 16 May.

**Vesper Sparrow:** Two returned to *Wood* as early as 4 Apr (**B. Cullen**).

**Lark Sparrow:** The first male reclaimed territory at the Oak Openings as early as 21 Apr (**E. Tramer**). An apparent migrant was at a *Greene* quarry 5 May (**G. Miller**, **N. Keller**).

**Savannah Sparrow:** Two arrived in *Holmes* 10 Mar (**E. Schlabach**). **S. Zadar** had 38 at Dike 14 on 16 Apr.

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** **B. Royle** found three at Crown City WA 26 Apr, where "hundreds" were present by 23 May (**M. Griffith**, **D. Patrick** *vide* **H. Slack**). **J. Pogacnik** had one at LSR 29 Apr. These sparrows were common at Egypt Valley WA 11 May (**D. Smith**). Ten+ were inside the Columbus city limits 14 May (**R. Thorn**). A migrant was late at Dike 14 on 17 May (**S. Zadar**).

**Henslow's Sparrow:** First reported in a rare overflight 19 Apr at Dike 14 (**S. Zadar**), then the following day in *Hocking* (**J. Fry**), and only by 26 Apr at The Wilds (**J. Larson**). **J. Pogacnik** saw one at LSR 29 Apr. Birds at the VOA in *Butler* numbered three 24 Apr (**M. Busam**) and seven 26 May (**J. Lehman**). One was at the Shaker Lks 5 May (**L. Deininger**) and another at the Toledo Airport 21 May (**J. Lesser**).

**Fox Sparrow:** Some apparently wintered, north and south. Migration peaked late Mar and early Apr, with ~20 at Magee 25 Mar (**R. Nirschl**) and 47 on the 4 Apr ONWRC. Later were single birds at HBSP 26 Apr (**L. Rosche**) and 1 May at LSR (**J. Pogacnik**).

**Song Sparrow:** A large movement involved 90-95 at Dike 14 on 11 Mar (**S. Zadar**).

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** Appeared on schedule, but one singing on Crane Ck SP beach on 16 May was anomalous (**S&R Harlan**). Seen as late as 26 May in the NW (**E. Tramer**).

**Swamp Sparrow:** Six were at SVWA by 8 Mar (**N. Smith**). BSBO netted a record 340 at Navarre during the season.

**White-throated Sparrow:** High count 150+ at Magee 17 Apr (**V. Fazio**). Two remained at a feeder in Hancock as late as 25 May (**M. Dailey** *vide* **B. Hardesty**).

**White-crowned Sparrow:** BSBO banded a Gambel's race bird 6 May. One was at KPWA as late as 23 May (**R. Sempier**).

**Dark-eyed Junco:** A migrant was at Magee 11 May (**J. Yochum**). A first for **R&S Harlan** in *Medina* was a territorial male at Hinckley MP 27 & 29 May. No reports received of breeding birds elsewhere, but presumably they persist.

**Lapland Longspur:** Well reported. **R. Counts** had birds perched along utility wires in *Wyandot* 1 Mar, with ~1500 on 2 Mar, 150 on 3 Mar, 450-500 on 5 Mar, 250 on 11 Mar, 50+ on 13 Mar, several hundred 17 Mar, 200+ 28 Apr, and 200+ 6 May; **B. Whan** saw ~80 at this spot 8 May. **B. Royle** found ~200 in *Madison* 23 Mar. Fifty were at Funk WA 27 Mar (**C. Holt**) and one at The Wilds 31 Mar (**J. Lehman**), and **J. Yochum** had flocks of perhaps ~100 in *Defiance* 4 and 16 Apr. **B. Cullen** reported 600+ in *Wood* 4 Apr, and **B. Powell** five in *Clinton* 12 Apr. **M. Anderson** followed a flock in Maumee, *Lucas*, with several hundred 7 Apr, then 2500+ (the high count) 28 Apr, and 50-60 on 3 May. **E. Tramer** saw 100+ in fields

near MBSP 25 Apr. **Anderson** reported the latest, 12 near MBSP 15 May.

**Snow Bunting:** **R. Counts** found buntings perched on utility wires in *Wyandot* 1 Mar, many in "full song" by 4 Mar. The latest reports came from 13 Mar, with six from *Wyandot* (**Counts**) and 9 from Fairport Hbr (**K. Metcalf**).

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** A male at a *Geauga* feeder 19 Apr was an early record for **B. Partington**. The next day **B. Royse** found the first two at Shawnee SF. **P. Knoop** had 3 males and a female at a *Hocking* feeder 25 Apr. The high count was 77, seen during the 8 May CVNP census (*vide* **D. Chasar**).

**Blue Grosbeak:** Well reported, with an early imm male in *Noble* 17 Apr



Lapland longspurs, changing into breeding plumage, remained along TH 112 in Wyandot Co. until early May. Photo by Robert Royse.



A dickcissel sang at the Roxanna gravel pits near Spring Valley WA on 31 May 2004. Photo by Jay Lehman.

Crown City WA this spring.

**Bobolink:** The first to show up came to the VOA in *Butler* 24 Apr (**M. Busam**), where 25 were present 26 May (**J. Lehman**). By 26 Apr four were seen at The Wilds (**J. Larson**) and one in Crown City WA (**B. Royse**).

**Eastern Meadowlark:** Good numbers included 30 at Holden Arb 18 Apr (**H. Petruschke**) and 38 at the VOA in *Butler* 24 Apr (**M. Busam**).

**Western Meadowlark:** One was found in *Wood* 23 Apr (**C. Anderson**) through the eop. Another was near Toledo 9 May (**M. Anderson**).

**Yellow-headed Blackbird:** **H&S Hiris** reported two at Magee 18 Apr. Two males came to a feeder in *Ottawa* 23 Apr-7 May (**R.**

**B. Morrison**), one at Crown City WA 26 Apr with five there 7 May (**B. Royse**), a pair building a nest in *Pickaway* 29 Apr (**T. Shively**), one at MWW 7 May (**D. Brinkman**), one in *Clermont* 8 May (**S. Clingman**), two pairs in *Adams* 9 May (**L. Brumbaugh**), one in Cincinnati 9 May (**J. Stenger**), one in the Oak Openings 10 May (**N. Bixler**) with two young males there 22 May (**E. Tramer**) through the eop, and a female in *Holmes* 30 May (**G. Miller**).

**Indigo Bunting:** First seen at MWW 19 Apr (**F. Frick**), by 9 May 20 could be found at Magee (**S&R Harlan**).

**Dickcissel:** Arrived in glaciated Ohio the latter half of May, the first 6-8 birds in *Union* 18 May (**J. Watts**); later in *Wayne*, *Hardin*, *Paulding*, *Muskingum*, *Coshocton*, and *Greene*. **H. Slack** reported none detected at



On 5 May 2004, near Otsego Park in Wood County, Jay Lehman photographed this western meadowlark.

**Arnold**). One was at ONWR 8 May (m obs).

**Rusty Blackbird:** High count 56 in *Fairfield* 2 Apr (**J. Watts**), with the latest reported at Magee 12 May (**S&R Harlan**).

**Brewer's Blackbird:** Five+ were in Maumee 1 Mar (**M. Anderson**), and one male at ONWR 27 Mar (**B. Whan**). Five were near ONWR 5 Apr (**J. Brumfield**), and 17+ there 11 Apr (**J. Pogacnik**).

**Common Grackle:** **E. Snively** reported 10,000+ in *Wayne* 11 Mar.

**Orchard Oriole:** **L. Brumbaugh** had one in Spring Grove Cem in Cincinnati 21 Apr for the first. **J. A. Miller** had five 2 May in *Holmes*. Seems to be increasing in the north.

**Baltimore Oriole:** Four were found in *Clermont* 21 Apr (**C. Clingman**) for the first records. **R&S Harlan** found 20 at Magee 12 May.

**Purple Finch:** An outstanding season for this species, with hundreds reported statewide and large movements in Apr. Typical was **K. Carlsen**'s report from a *Washington* feeder: two on 20 Mar, then 20-25 on 17 & 18 Apr, with the last 22 Apr. High count 44 in *Hocking* 20 Apr (**J. Fry**). Reported from the following counties: *Adams*, *Ashland*, *Clark*, *Clermont*, *Clinton*, *Cuyahoga*, *Delaware*, *Erie*, *Franklin*, *Geauga*, *Guernsey*, *Hamilton*, *Hancock*, *Hocking*, *Holmes*, *Lake*, *Lucas*, *Mahoning*, *Montgomery*, *Scioto*, *Stark*, *Summit*, *Van Wert*, *Vinton*, and *Washington*.

**Common Redpoll:** Six dawdled at LSR 28 Mar (**J. Pogacnik**).

**Pine Siskin:** Fair numbers seen statewide. High count 44 in *Lake* (**J. Pogacnik**) 1 May. The latest was reported 17 May in *Lucas* (**M. Anderson**).

**American Goldfinch:** Morning flights at Dike 14 in Cleveland produced 311 on 30 Apr and 300+ on 31 Apr (**S. Zadar**).

**Evening Grosbeak:** A poor showing once again, with single birds overhead in *Lucas* 17 Apr (**M. Anderson**) and at a feeder in *Lake* 21 May (**J. Pogacnik**).

## Contributors

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