



Figure 3

It is interesting to compare species diversity by date, as in the chart in Figure 3. Here it is apparent the big pushes in numbers coincide with big numbers of species. This indicates that the migration conclusions are not being driven simply by one or a few very numerous species. The correlation is evidence that good migration conditions are generally good for all the species of waterfowl.

I intend to repeat this study in the fall and probably for the next couple of years to see if there is consistency in this behavior. Perhaps there will eventually be room in this for some fancy statistics.

Short Note: Possible Hybrid Warbler Back in Toledo

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Imagine a small bird in Toledo, Ohio, just 4 ½ inches long and weighing about 9 grams, flying hundreds or thousands of miles to its wintering grounds in Central or South America and returning to the very same location one year later. How in the world does it do it?

While many birds accomplish similar feats, the bird I am referring to is perhaps unique, one I reported on last year, and thought by many observers to be a northern parula x cerulean warbler hybrid. This bird returned to Wildwood Metropark in Toledo, Ohio on 8 May 2005 and is still present as of this writing (20 June).

While I am confident that this is the same bird as last year, it does look a little different this spring. It is singing slightly different songs, and I have observed a feeding behavior that I didn't notice last year.

My observations this year have, for the most part, been via views of the treetops, with one exception when the bird briefly flew within about 30 feet



Since there are no photos of this year's bird, here is one of last year's, taken 6 July by Brian Zwiebel.

in response to a taped song of a northern parula. So I have not gotten really good looks at the bird. It still appears to have the eye-arcs typical of a northern parula, but is now sporting a very light, indistinct necklace and some very light streaking near the shoulders. The necklace is so light and indistinct that I usually cannot detect it. I could not see any streaking on the sides or back. Other than the thin, slight necklace, the bird looks much the same as it did last year.

The bird is singing two songs this year, both slightly different from last year's songs. When I first heard the bird this year, it was singing a song similar to last year's alternate northern parula song but the song was about three times as long and more elaborate. It sang this song only for about the first week. Since then, the song has sounded very similar to a primary parula song, the only difference being the cadence of the notes. The notes, rather than being very closely spaced, are sung with a slight pause between each note. Kevin Puppos recorded vocalizations of this bird, which can be heard by following instructions posted at

http://rarebird.org/forum/forum_posts.asp?TID=774&PN=1

I have also observed a feeding behavior this year that I did not see last year. Last year, each time I saw the bird it fed like a cerulean warbler. This year, however, I have on several occasions seen the bird hanging upside down, probing leaf clusters, behavior typical of a northern parula.

Despite these differences, I still see characteristics of both species in this bird: the eye arcs, and song and feeding behavior of a northern parula with an indistinct necklace suggestive of a cerulean warbler.



A male parula allowed a photo by Bob Finkelstein on 11 May at Magee Marsh.



This upland sandpiper found the grasslands at the Voice of America Park in Butler County to its liking, as did another, and one hopes romance ensued. Portrait by William Hull on 28 April.