

*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.

<b>Seasonal Report Due Dates</b> Winter (Dec.-Feb.)-March 25 Spring (Mar.-May)-June 25 Summer (June-July)-August 25 Autumn (Aug.-Nov.)-December 25	<b>Please send all reports to:</b> Bill Whan 223 E. Tulane Road Columbus, OH 43202 <a href="mailto:billwhan@columbus.rr.com">billwhan@columbus.rr.com</a>
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**On the Cover:** A black-and-white reproduction does little justice to this neon wonder. Gabe Hostetler caught on film this moment of the green violet-ear's visit to a feeder in Holmes Co. on 16 Aug.

## Fall 2005 Overview and Reports

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A hot, wet August and September were followed by an average October. November's first half was quite warm, prompting some late stays—a cuckoo on the 11th, and three very late vireos, one a state record—with a second half abnormally cold. Some interesting bird phenomena of the season can be ascribed to extreme weather. On 31 August, the eye of the sprawling gyre of Hurricane Katrina passed through Ohio; while it brought no waifs from the Gulf except perhaps for a jaeger and several laughing gulls at reservoirs, it perturbed the movements of long-distance migrants, grounding remarkable numbers of shorebirds at Conneaut Harbor for a few hours, blowing black terns and red-necked phalaropes all over the state, and perhaps influencing other odd occurrences, such as 30+ buff-breasted sandpipers at a single site, and a state-wide movement of loons. Certainly the day before Katrina had bestowed avian riches in Tennessee: reported were bridled and sooty and royal terns, black skimmer, magnificent frigatebird, greater shearwater, and south polar skua! Back in Ohio, November's unrelenting western winds, and of course the continuation of the longest hurricane season in history, defied normal expectations and brought surprises.

Plentiful open water to the north made ducks tardy in arriving. Numbers of warblers and other neotropical migrants were disappointing by most accounts; judging by so many heard passing overhead in September, they simply had little reason to set down in Ohio. Shorebirds put on a better show than usual; this came about when human control of water levels benefited them: on purpose at ONWR, and then as a by-product of profligate lawn-watering at places supplied by reservoirs such as Hoover and Berlin, while Conneaut did its part as always.

A total of 18 review species reported this season was much better than average, but phenomenal were three potentially new to the Ohio list, underlined in the list that follows: Ross's goose (three), cackling goose (three), northern gannet, magnificent frigatebird (potential fifth state record), glossy ibis (6), *Plegadis* ibis sp. (three), yellow rail, piping plover (two), ruff (four), parasitic jaeger (two), white-winged dove (potential third state record), green violet-ear, rufous hummingbird (seven), *Selasphorus* hummingbird sp. (nine), Anna's hummingbird, gray flycatcher (potential second state record), western kingbird, black-billed magpie (two: potential fourth state record), cave swallow (dozens), and black-throated gray warbler. Predicted irruptions of northern species—snowy owls, raptors, winter finches, etc.—did not come to pass during the period, except for a good red-breasted nuthatch flight in many parts of the state.

It is fascinating to hear believers in an apocalyptic theory of history—such as the former Interior Secretary who saw little point in preserving the



environment, since we live in the Last Days—so readily embrace a cyclical one when it serves their purposes. When alarming downturns are noticed in the natural world—dying fisheries, stunted forests, increasing extinctions, and the like—we are urged to relax, and consider them parts of larger natural cycles. Nowhere has this argument been more often invoked than in the debate over global warming. According to a recent article in *Science*, however, studies of carbon dioxide trapped in old ice cores demonstrate that levels of this greenhouse gas are now 27% higher than at any time in the past 650,000 years, and that significant increases in trapped bubbles of this gas coincided with a spike in the burning of coal during the Industrial Revolution. Are industrialization and human population growth parts of cycles, too, or further steps on the way to oblivion?

#### For the Record:

The OBRC has received documentation for a  **dusky flycatcher**  measured and photographed in the hand in *Ottawa* June 2005. If accepted, this would be the first Ohio record of this western *Empidonax* species, and one of very few in eastern North America.

Interesting recent records from OSU banders in se Ohio include the following: in *Vinton*, an adult male white-throated sparrow near **Radcliff** on 12 Jun 2004, a veery (juvenile, sex unknown) near **Zaleski** 16 Jul 2005; and in *Jackson*, an adult female Tennessee warbler 25 Jul 2004 and an adult female magnolia warbler 4 Jun 2005 (all S. Lehnen).

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 46<sup>th</sup> Supplement (July 2005). 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; CPNWR=Cedar Point National Wildlife Refuge in *Lucas*; CVNP=Cuyahoga Valley Natl Pk in *Cuyahoga* and *Summit*; Dike 14=the Gordon Park impoundment in Cleveland; EFSP=East Fork SP in *Clermont*; cop=end of the period, in this case 30 Nov 2005; EHSP=East Hbr SP in *Ottawa*; *fide*= "in trust of," said of data conveyed on behalf of another person; Gilmore Ponds is in *Butler*=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.

## Fall 2005 Reports

**Greater white-fronted goose:** A fair showing, due to persistent (all Nov days but four) westerly winds. Five to six spent 4 Nov-eop near **Youngstown** (B. Jones), perhaps accounting for five at **Mosquito Lk** 5 Nov (S. Butcher). In *Auglaize*, a flock that began at 42 (including four apparently of the "Greenland" race, with orange soft parts and extensive barring below) 12 Nov dwindled to five or six by 25 Nov (both T. Shively).

**Snow goose:** Widespread but never numerous, ~120 birds seen starting late Oct in *Lucas, Ottawa, Trumbull, Seneca, Wyandot, Auglaize, Lake, Erie, Licking, Summit, Athens,* and *Gallia*. High count was 24, seen at **Ottawa NWR** 6 Nov (ONWRC).

**Ross's goose:** Three reported: one, found 9 Nov at **HWSP**, remained through 22 Nov for m obs. Two, accompanying an apparent Ross's X snow goose showing intermediate characteristics, were regular in *Auglaize* 12-25 Nov. Details with the OBRC.

**Brant:** Seen flying along the Erie shore were nine in *Lake* 9 Oct (J. Pogacnik), and five in **Rocky River** 22 Oct (S. Walker).

**Cackling goose:** Single birds were reported from *Williams* on 25 Oct, *Summit* 31 Oct, *Lucas* 8 Nov, *Auglaize* 12 Nov, and *Ashtabula* and *Lake* 20 Nov. Details to the OBRC. Pure flocks of 47, 65, and 73 are in the published literature for Ohio.

**Canada goose:** On 26 Nov J. Pogacnik photographed two smaller—but not tiny--Canada geese in **Castalia** that may have been of the *parvipes* race, the smallest subspecies of *Branta canadensis*; these and photos of another possible *parvipes* bird by V. Fazio last year may be revisited if further splits in this species occur.



In the center, flanked by standard-issue "giant" Canada geese, are two smaller, darker-breasted geese, quite possibly of the race *parvipes*. The possibility of future splits in the white-checked geese complex should make observers pay a lot more attention to such locally unusual forms. Photo by John Pogacnik on 26 November at Castalia Pond.



**Mute swan:** Continues to increase its numbers and range, with a rather alarming 40 at **Mogadore Res** 1 Aug (P. Devlin)

**Tundra swan:** The wintering flock at **ONWR** had showed up by 6 Nov (79 for the ONWRC), but the dam-burst came later across the NE quadrant of the state, with 1500+ passing over **Geauga** on the 16<sup>th</sup> (A. Fjelstad *fide* L. Rosche) and the 17<sup>th</sup>, with 70 over **Jefferson** (S. Albaugh) and 1043 S. Kinzey counted crossing the s. end of **Pymatuning Res.** in **Ashtabula**. Quite a few lingered through the eop in the region.

**Wood duck:** B. Powell counted ~400 at **KPWA** 26 Aug, and E. Tramer 517 at **CPNWR** on 25 Sep. R&S Harlan found a duck with a late young chick in **Akron** 15 Sep. A female in **Holmes** 27 Nov was staying late (B. Glick).

**Gadwall:** The **ONWRC** found two on 7 Aug, then 447 on 2 Oct. By 22 Oct, the census team at **CPNWR** counted 1609 (E. Tramer), and by 6 Nov the team at **ONWR** 883.

**American wigeon:** Six at **ONWR** on the 7 Aug census had grown to 714 by 2 Oct, with 663 still there 6 Nov; at neighboring marshes at **CPNWR**, 622 were tallied on 22 Oct (E. Tramer).

**American black duck:** Many reported, though in numbers less than 50. Only 81 were counted at **CPNWR** 22 Oct (E. Tramer), 274 were at **Ottawa** 6 Nov (ONWRC), and ~200 were in **Sandusky Bay** 15 Nov (V. Fazio).

**Mallard:** Birds roosting upriver from the **Huron** harbor numbered 550 on 6 Nov (R&S Harlan). The **CPNWR** census team counted 1502 at the refuge 12 Nov (E. Tramer), and that for **ONWR** 7927 on the 6th.

**Blue-winged teal:** B. Powell estimated 1000 at **KPWA** 26 Aug. The census teams found 16 at **ONWR** 7 Aug and 112 sheltering at **CPNWR** 25 Sep; the last report was of a lone bird at **BCSP** 16 Oct (D. Overacker).

**Northern shoveler:** Appreciable numbers included 155 on 12 Nov at **CPNWR** (E. Tramer); 10 lingered at **BCSP** 27 Nov (D. Overacker).

**Northern pintail:** Not numerous, with three-digit counts only at **Ottawa**, with ~100 on 2 Oct and 160 on 6 Nov (ONWRC).

**Green-winged teal:** At **Ottawa**, 22 on 7 Aug grew to 1293 on 2 Oct, with 222 still on 6 Nov (ONWRC). Over 100 were at **Sandy Ridge MP** in **Lorain** 4 Nov (J. Kolo-Rose).

**Canvasback:** The first appeared at **Wellington Res** in **Lorain** 6 Nov (R&S Harlan), and the following day J. Pogacnik recorded the season's high of 480 off **LSR**.

**Redhead:** Slow to arrive, with one on the 2 Oct **ONWRC** and only 35 at **Wellington Res** 19 Nov (J. Brumfield).

**Ring-necked duck:** C. Holt found a drake at **Conneaut** early on 4 Sep. At **Camp Dennison** in **Hamilton**, B. Foppe counted 234 on 16 Oct, 430 on 27 Oct, and 455 on 10 Nov. The **CNPWR** census had 630 on 12 Nov, but **ONWR**'s none on the 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Greater scaup:** Trickled in, with a high count of 18 on 7 Nov at **LSR** (J. Pogacnik).

**Lesser scaup:** Three had come to **Wellington** by 13 Oct, but Nov high counts were only 82 at **LSR** the 10<sup>th</sup> and 260 at **Hoover and Alum Ck Res** the 23<sup>rd</sup> (R. Thorn).

**Harlequin duck:** An ad female was among the **Camp Dennison** throngs 27-28 Nov (B. Foppe).

**Surf scoter:** Thirty-eight reported, beginning with a female at **Caesar Ck SP** 27 Oct (L. Gara), and a high of five, 23 Nov at **LSR** (J. Pogacnik).

**White-winged scoter:** A couple were off **LSR** 7 Nov (J. Pogacnik). Two reports from 26 Nov, with six at **BCSP** in **Clark** (D. Overacker) and two at **Clear Fork Res** in **Morrow** (S. Snyder).

**Black scoter:** About 90 reported, nearly all in Nov along the **Erie lakeshore**.

**Long-tailed duck:** Scarce. J. Pogacnik saw singletons off **LSR** on 9 and 10 Nov, and M. Vass one at **Conneaut** 12 Nov. No inland reports.

**Bufflehead:** First reported at the **Portage Lks**, with two on 29 Oct (G. Bennett); by 20 Nov 72 at **Kelleys Isl** barely presaged the traditional multitudes there (T. Bartlett).

**Common goldeneye:** First noted 23 Oct at **Rocky River** (P. Lozano), with only 22 for a high count, off **LSR** 7 Nov (J. Pogacnik).

**Hooded merganser:** Gathered rather late in decent numbers at favored reservoirs, with 100+ at **La Due** on 20 Nov (R. Rickard) and 280 in **Hoover and Alum Ck Res** 23 Nov (R. Thorn).

**Common merganser:** The first was reported at **EFSP** 30 Oct (J. Stenger), with a high count of 223 off **LSR** 7 Nov (J. Pogacnik).

**Red-breasted merganser:** At **LSR** J. Pogacnik saw a flyby as early as 7 Oct, 1428 on 7 Nov, then 4060 on 23 Nov.



**Ruddy duck:** **Wellington Res** harbored 75 on 17 Oct (H. Ostermiller), and 850 by 19 Nov (J. Brumfield). Another favored locale, **Lima's Metzger Res**, boasted 185 as early as 22 Oct (D. Dister). **Pine Lk** in **Mahoning** boasted ~100 on 20 Oct (C. Holt).

**Red-throated loon:** An average year. One stayed 19-27 Nov at **BCSP** (D. Overacker), singles were in **Ashtabula** 5 Nov and in **Lake** 19 Nov (both J. Pogacnik), one swam off **Kelleys Isl** 20 Nov (T. Bartlett), and B. Stanley discovered one in **EFSP** 27 Nov.

**Common loon:** Two that may have been juveniles were a mystery on **Lima's Metzger Res** 6 Aug (D. Dister). Most other loons arrived in Oct, with the big numbers in Nov, such as 36 flyovers in **Holmes** the 17<sup>th</sup> (E. Schlabach), ~350 off **LSR** the 19<sup>th</sup>, and 53 off **Rocky River** the 23<sup>rd</sup> (P. Lozano).

**Pied-billed grebe:** Well-represented in healthy bodies of water, with higher counts of 24 at **Mosquito** 14 Oct (C. Holt), 15-20 at **BCSP** 8 Nov (B. Menker *fide* D. Overacker), 31 at **Mogadore Res** 20 Nov (G. Bennett), and 32 at **Clear Fk Res** 26 Nov (S. Snyder).

**Horned grebe:** One in alt plumage remained in a **Paulding** pond through Aug (M&D Dunakin). A rather dinky flight, with none earlier than 25 Sep (two at **KPWA** by H. Ostermiller), and high counts of 11 at **EFSP** 10 Nov (D. Morse) and nine at **Hoover Res** 17 Nov (R. Thorn).

**Red-necked grebe:** An unremarkable showing, with only one on **Lake Erie:** the first a basic bird at **EFSP** 30 Oct (J. Stenger), then two at **Mosquito** 20 Nov (B. Smith *fide* M. Vass), one at **LSR** 24 Nov (J. Pogacnik), one at **Pleasant Hill Res** 26 Nov (S. Snyder), and another at **BCSP** 26-28 Nov (M. Ream).

**Eared grebe:** One 21 Sep at **MBSP** (ph, B. Stanley), and another 5 Nov at **Hoover** (R. Asamoto). That's it.

**Northern gannet:** 2 imms at **Conneaut** 11 Nov (T. Hochstetler), and 26 Nov at **HBSB** (M obs *fide* J. Brumfield).

**American white pelican:** Becoming regular in ones and twos during migrations. One from the summer period persisted at the **Cedar Pt Chaussee** through 25 Aug (B. Bowman), two occupied **Medusa Marsh** 3 Aug (C. Caldwell) through 10 Oct (S. Young), and another **Hoover Res** 22 Aug (B. Royse) through 3 Sep (P. Gardner). P. Chad saw one at **ONWR** 30 Aug, and m obs birds in n. **Toledo** 9 Sep and s. **Toledo** starting 13 Oct. One at **Prospect in Marion** 6 Nov *fide* P. Soehnen brought up the rear.

**Double-crested cormorant:** E. Tramer reported 6064 at **CPNWR** 25 Sep. Migrants moved in numbers through the interior later, with flocks of ~800 at both **Deer Creek Res** 23 Oct (B. Royse) and at **Hoover** 25 Oct (R. Thorn), but 2010 remained at **Kelleys Isl** 20 Nov. This summer 3813 pairs ( $\pm$  346) were counted on **West Sister Island**, after 363 birds had been shot by ODOV personnel acting under a Federal research permit.

**Magnificent frigatebird:** Doubtless aided by an active hurricane season, birds were reported in several spots in the Midwest. On 5 Sept, a frigatebird was seen and photographed at fairly close range at **LSR in Lake**; it appeared to be an immature magnificent frigatebird.

**American bittern:** Diminished in numbers, and of course secretive; one was discovered by the 7 Aug **ONWRC**. Another in **Willoughby** 11 Aug was a migrant (J. Pogacnik).

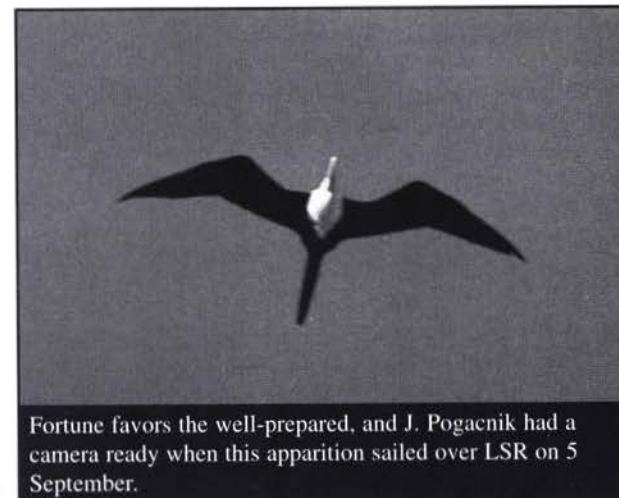
**Great egret:** This summer 827  $\pm$  133 pairs nested on **West Sister Island**. At

**Medusa** 275 were counted 3 Aug (C. Caldwell), and at **CPNWR** 221 on 20 Aug (E. Tramer), with a high count of 339 on the 2 Oct **ONWR** census, where 86 remained 6 Nov. Away from the colonies, D. Dister found 35 in **Mercer** 6 Aug, and R&S Harlan one in **Summit** 26 Sep. One stayed at **West Harbor** through 27 Nov (J. Pogacnik).

**Snowy egret:** Fourteen pairs nested on **West Sister Isl**. Most foraged at **Ottawa NWR**, with 25 tallied there 4 Sep, but **Medusa Marsh** attracted many, with 14 there 12 Aug (B. Whan) and 13 (incl. two juv) 25 Aug (B. Bowman).

**Little blue heron:** Thirteen, all immature birds, reported: one in **Paulding** 1-5 Aug (D&M Dunakin), one at **Gilmore Ponds** 2 Aug (J. Becker), two in **Chillicothe** 5-8 Aug (D. Hess), two on the 7 Aug **ONWRC**, one near **Wooster** 17-24 Aug (S. Snyder), one at **Medusa** 20-26 Aug (C. Caldwell), one in **Defiance** 25-27 Aug (J. Yochum), two at **Ottawa NWR** 27 Aug (E. Schlabach), perhaps another at **Ottawa NWR** 29 Aug (C. Putnam), and one at **HWSP** 31 Aug (D. Russell).

**Cattle egret:** This summer ten pairs nested at **West Sister Isl**; previously only single pairs had nested, in 1998 and 1999. Only one local sighting resulted, a single bird for the 7 Aug **ONWRC**. Breeding probably continues at **Turning Pt Isl** in **Sandusky**, with an egret detected there 15 Aug (J. Lehman). Farther afield, on 1 Nov G. Bennett had six in **Akron**, and on 12 Nov D. Dister another at **GLSM in Auglaize**.



Fortune favors the well-prepared, and J. Pogacnik had a camera ready when this apparition sailed over LSR on 5 September.



**Green heron:** Normal numbers, but one in *Lake* 21 Nov was way behind (J. Pogacnik).

**Black-crowned night-heron:** On **West Sister Isl**, 500 ±114 breeding pairs was narrowly the highest count in ten years. Eight young were at the new **Spring Grove Cemetery** colony in **Cincinnati** 2 Aug (B. Foppe). About eight, with one juv, were found at **Island Pk** in **Dayton** 30 Sep (P. Mc Carthy). At the downtown **Cleveland** roost, P. Lozano found 17 on 9 Nov and 39 on 21 Nov.

**Yellow-crowned night-heron:** C. Holt discovered a first-fall bird at **MBSP** 26 Aug.

**Glossy ibis:** One ad basic foraged along the **Magee Marsh** causeway 2-4 Oct (m obs), and two in **Mosquito Ck WA** 22 Sep-18 Oct (m obs), with details to the OBRC.

**Plegadis ibis species:** One was a flyover in **Wood** 14 Aug. Two, said probably to be glossies, spent 2-5 Oct behind a shopping center in **Napoleon** in **Henry**, m obs.

**Black vulture:** One wandered to **Kelleys Isl** 26 Aug (P. Chaon). More within normal range, the **Granville** roost featured 25+ with 50+ TVs 1 Nov (S. Woolard), and 15 were counted in the **Cowan Lk** roost 24 Nov (L. Gara).

**Turkey vulture:** ~2000 in **Toledo** 9 Oct were perhaps not unexpected, ~43,000 having been tallied just north of town that day in **Michigan**, but it probably trumps L.E. Hicks's record of 3800 counted on a 125-mi drive between **Fremont** and **Columbus** in the fall of 1936. At the **Athens** roost, ~125 soared 4 Sep (B. Whan), and B. Foppe counted 90 at the **Batavia** roost 18 Nov.

**Osprey:** Nov reports included singles at **Hoover** the 6<sup>th</sup> (R. Thorn), in **Clermont** the 10<sup>th</sup> (D. Morse), in **Warren** 11 Nov (B. Powell), s. of **Toledo** the 13<sup>th</sup> (E. Tramer), **Wellington Res** the 20<sup>th</sup> (J. Watts), and two in different **Hancock** spots 22 Nov (B. Hardesty). We know the reintroduced birds stage earlier arrivals; do they also stay later?

**Bald eagle:** Twenty-seven were at **CPNWR** on both 20 Aug and 12 Nov (E. Tramer).



This American bittern, shown here exhibiting unfamiliar behavior, was rehabilitated for three weeks after suffering probable head or spine trauma, and is shown after release at the Cincinnati Nature Center. Photo by Brett Gilmore 10/11/05; information from Jennifer Ghai.

**Northern harrier:** Appeared down in numbers, but perhaps only delayed. The high count of six came from way down at **Crown City WA** 25 Nov (D. Patick).

**Red-shouldered hawk:** The CVNP census of 10 Sep found just as many red-shouldered as of red-taileds, 14. One in **German Twp, Montgomery**, on 19 Nov occupied an area where the species is still scarce (D. Dister).

**Broad-winged hawk:** One 1 Aug over the Oak Openings in **Toledo** was probably one of the occasional local nesters. Among migrants, two kettles amounting to 200 birds soared over **Dayton** on 20 Sep (J. Beale), and on 24 Sep 26 passed over e. **Holmes** (E. Schlabach) and 70 se. of **Paulding** (D&M Dunakin).

**Red-tailed hawk:** A dark-morph bird was photographed 20 Nov at **MBSP** (B. Zwiebel).

**Rough-legged hawk:** Arrived on schedule, with a bird s. of **Bucyrus** 18 Oct (P. Rodewald) and another at **Killdeer** 27 Oct (B. Shively), but numbers were down statewide, with a high of 9 in fields near **Cadiz** 29 Nov (T. Ford).

**Golden eagle:** Now regularly seen near **Toledo** late Oct-early Nov, with two there 24 Oct (R. Nirschl), one ad 28 Oct (G. Links), and another 2 Nov (S. McNamee). One ad, (perhaps two) spotted over **Pickaway** and **Ross** 11 Nov (B. Crow). An imm seen twice at **The Wilds** in **Muskingum** 16 Nov may have presaged another wintering presence (A. Parker).

**Merlin:** Migrants were widely reported during brief stays, but in **Cincinnati** birds returned to past wintering haunts in urban cemeteries with mature conifers: L. Brumbaugh spotted a male in the same tree as last year in **Spr Grove Cem** 20 Nov, and B. Zimmerman a female at **St. Joseph's Cem** on 19 Nov.

**Yellow rail:** One seen 5 Oct in **Tuscarawas** was documented for the OBRC.

**King rail:** E. Tramer detected one at **Ottawa NWR** 27 Aug.

**Sora:** Reports, if not real numbers, were down for this species.



Red-tailed hawk, photo by Brian Zwiebel, from MBSP 20 Nov. This dark morph is infrequently seen in Ohio; the tail is tinged with reddish on this bird, but the tail band is ill-defined.



**Common moorhen:** Scanty reports came from the large marshes—and none from some—with a high count of only four in *Lucas* on 30 Sep (D. Overacker).

**American coot:** This rallid had a good season. The first large number, 143, came from **Camp Dennison** on 1 Oct, with 1620 there by 4 Nov (B. Foppe); then 600 came to **Wellington Res** 6 Nov (R&S Harlan), 4-5000 to **BCSP** 8 Nov (M. Ream), 455 to **Mosquito Ck Lk** 9 Nov (J. Hochadel), ~500 to **Caesar Ck SP** 9 Nov (M. Ream), and 2300+ to **Sandusky Bay** 15 Nov (V. Fazio).

**Sandhill crane:** Over a thousand migrants reported in the west, with 500+ on 24-29 Nov in *Hamilton/Brown/Clermont* (m obs). In areas where known or suspected to have bred, five were at **Lake La Su An WA** in *Williams* 1 Aug (T. Kemp), two persisted at **SVWA** through Aug-11 Nov (N. Cade), four were located in **Funk WA** in *Wayne* 4 Oct (B. Glick), and four were at **La Due Res** 19 Nov (L. Rosche).

**Black-bellied plover:** Appeared with nine birds for the 7 Aug **ONWRC**, and last reported 5-7 Nov at **Caesar Ck SP** (L. Gara); in between the high count was only 30, at **Ottawa NWR** on 1 Oct (E. Tramer).

**American golden-plover:** Appeared mostly in the **NW** and at **Conneaut**, with a few at reservoirs with prairie-like margins like **Berlin** and **Hoover**, and on a routine schedule. High count but eighteen, at **Paulding** 12 Sep (M&D Dunakin).

**Semipalmated plover:** Twelve at **Hoover Res** 2 Aug (R. Thorn) grew to 30 by 8 Aug (N. Gilbert) and the high count of 45+ by 21 Aug (J. McCormac); late were "several" there on 19 Oct (C. Bombaci), and the seven J. Lehman found at **Ottawa NWR** 18 Oct.

**Piping plover:** One was at **HBSP** 15 Aug for a first local Aug record. Another was photographed at **Alum Ck Res** 31 Aug.

**Killdeer:** Began massing by 2 Aug, with 170+ at **Hoover** (R. Thorn). The high count was 700+ at **BCSP** 14 Oct, where 140 remained 4 Nov (both D. Overacker). Elsewhere, 426 strolled **Berlin Res** 6 Sep, with 52 on 11 Nov (both B. Morrison), 354 were near **Wooster** 19 Sept (S. Snyder), and as many as 260 at **Dillon Res** on 20 Nov (J. Estep).

**American avocet:** A significant incursion of 35-40, about half away from the Lake, in *Ashtabula, Pickaway, Warren, Butler, Ottawa, Delaware, Lorain, Erie, Seneca* (first record *fide* T. Bartlett), *Hancock*, and *Trumbull*. Larger counts included six at **Caesar Ck SP** 15 Aug (L. Gara), six at **Hoover Res** 16 Aug (C. Bombaci), and five at **Conneaut** 16 Aug (G. Meszaros); Nov sightings included one at **BCSP** the 4<sup>th</sup> (D. Overacker), one at **HWSP** as late as 18 Nov (B. Pratt), and two at **Mosquito Ck Lk** 20 Nov (B. Smith *fide* M. Vass).

**Greater yellowlegs:** The high count of 66 came on the 6 Nov **ONWRC**, with a late bird on 20 Nov (**Mosquito Ck Lk**, B. Smith *fide* M. Vass).

**Lesser yellowlegs:** Not extravagantly numerous, with high counts of 129 on the **ONWR** censuses of both 7 Aug and 4 Sep, and a late date of 12 Nov at **BCSP** (B. Whan).

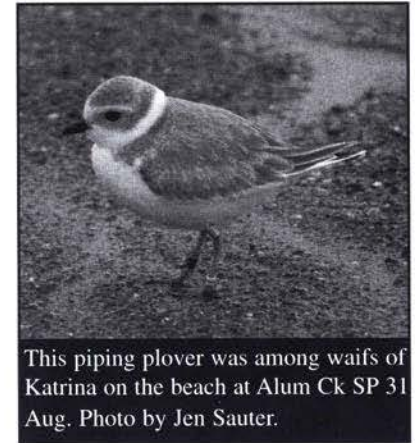
**Solitary sandpiper:** Twenty was the high count, from *Columbiana* 28 Sep (B&D Lane). The latest was found at Veteran's Park in **Mentor** 14 Oct (L. Rosche).

**Willet:** Another nice flight, with 51 birds reported, in *Ashtabula, Warren, Delaware, Erie, Ottawa, Lucas, Lake, and Sandusky*. Forty were found in August, and the only October bird occurred on the 18<sup>th</sup> at **ONWR** (P. Rodewald). High counts were five willets at **Hoover Res** 8 Aug (C. Bombaci), six at **LSR** 5 Sep (J. Pogacnik), and 13 at **Conneaut** 27 Aug (W. Shaffer).

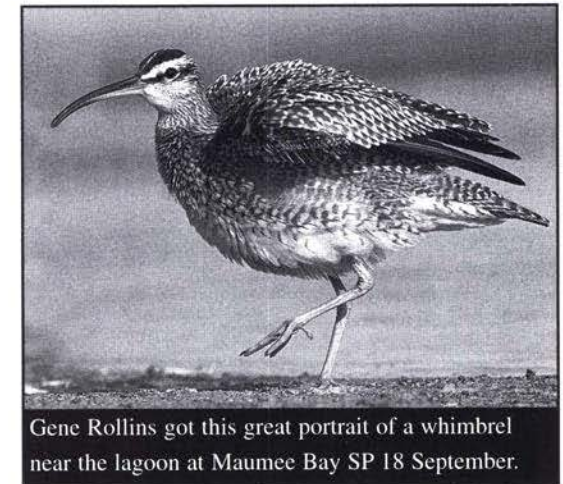
**Spotted sandpiper:** The high count was 25+ at **Hoover Res** 21 Aug (J. McCormac).

**Upland sandpiper:** M&D Dunakin found nine at a dairy farm in *Paulding* 2 Aug, and one at another location in the county 13 Sep. The 7 Aug **ONWRC** had one, and T. Kemp another in *e. Lucas* 26 Aug.

**Whimbrel:** An average movement, with single birds at **Hoover Res** 2 and 8 Aug (R. Thorn, C. Bombaci), at **Conneaut** 5 and 28 Aug (B. Royse, W. Shaffer), one at **Huron** 27 Aug (J. Pogacnik), and one or perhaps two birds at **MBSP** 18-30 Sep (G. Rollins, D. Bollin).



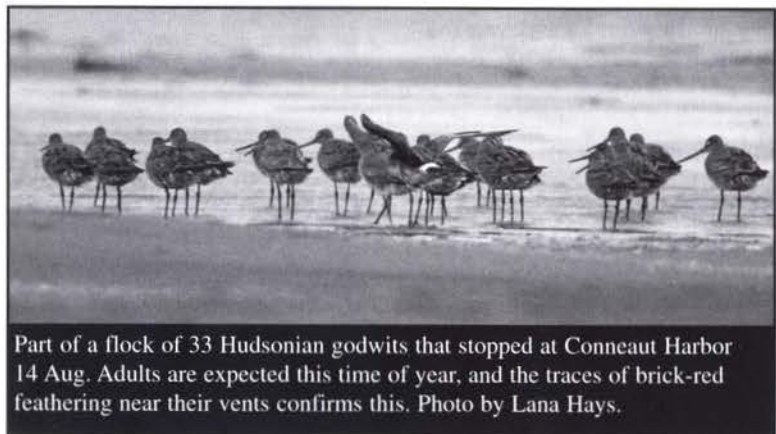
This piping plover was among waifs of Katrina on the beach at Alum Ck SP 31 Aug. Photo by Jen Sauter.



Gene Rollins got this great portrait of a whimbrel near the lagoon at Maumee Bay SP 18 September.



**Hudsonian godwit:** A nice flight of 85 birds, most of it coming from two big flocks, one of 33 adults at **Conneaut** 14 Aug (L. Hays, ph) and another of 24 at **ONWR** 28 Aug (J. Brumfield). Reports came from **Ashtabula, Lucas, Delaware, Ottawa, Portage, and Wyandot**. **Hoover Res** was most consistent, with from one to nine birds present from 19 Aug (P. Gardner) through 8 Sep (C. Bombaci).



Part of a flock of 33 Hudsonian godwits that stopped at Conneaut Harbor 14 Aug. Adults are expected this time of year, and the traces of brick-red feathering near their vents confirms this. Photo by Lana Hays.

**Marbled godwit:** Over twenty reported, with high counts of seven at **Ottawa NWR** 4 Sep (C. Caldwell) and five at **Hoover Res** 21 Aug (C. Bombaci), where marbled godwits persisted through 8 Sep (Bombaci). All other reports were of one or two along the Lake, the latest of two 1 Oct at **ONWR** (E. Tramer).

**Ruddy turnstone:** Not a good showing, with the most reported only seven (**Conneaut** 31 Aug, J. Pogacnik). The latest was at **West Branch SP in Portage** 23 Oct (G. Bennett).

**Red knot:** Twenty-five reported, mostly single birds and two reports of three (**Conneaut**, 31 Aug, J. Pogacnik, and **ONWR**, 13 Aug, J. Shieldcastle). Most reports emanated from these two spots, but one was at **Pickerington Ponds** 24 Aug (John Watts), and another at **Hoover** 12 Aug (B. Whan).

**Sanderling:** Numbers seemed down. All reports came from the **Lake Erie shore** (led by 86 at **Conneaut** 31 Aug, J. Pogacnik), except for 10 birds at **Hoover** 8 Aug (C. Bombaci) and 13 at **BCSP** 25 Sep (D. Overacker).

**Semipalmated sandpiper:** Reported numbers were low for this species as well, except for 1290 at **Conneaut** during the extraordinary grounding of 31 Aug (J. Pogacnik).

**Western sandpiper:** Twenty-four reported, with about half inland. The high count was four at **Hoover** 6 (C. Bombaci) and 8 (J. Kuenzli) Aug.

**Least sandpiper:** The **ONWRC** of 7 Aug found 279, but the next highest number was only 120 at **Hoover** 21 Aug (J. McCormac), and the flight, while solid, was anything but dramatic.

**White-rumped sandpiper:** A few along the **Lake**, a few at shorebird spots inland (**Hoover, BCSP, Berlin Res**), all of them dwarfed by 355 on a remarkable 31 Aug at **Conneaut** (J. Pogacnik). Last reported 14 Oct at **BCSP** (D. Overacker).

**Baird's sandpiper:** Much like the previous, with reports of small numbers at the usual spots, headed by 11 at **Hoover** 26 Aug (B. McNulty), and a large cohort of 69 grounded at **Conneaut** on 31 Aug (J. Pogacnik). B. Royse reported two ad (with four juv) as late as 24 Aug, at **Conneaut**.

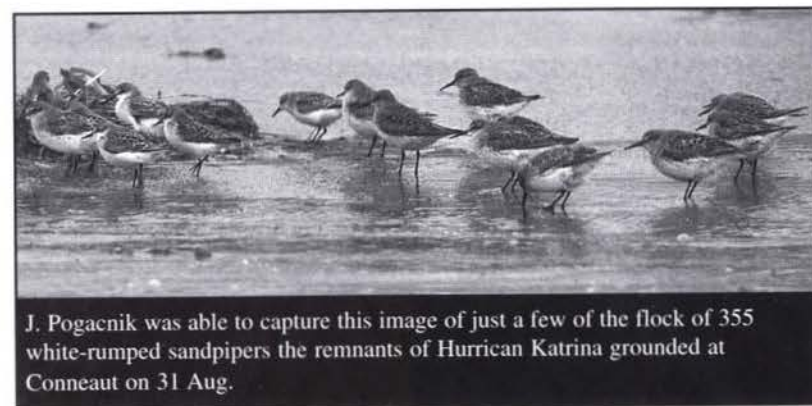
**Pectoral sandpiper:** Lakeshore habitats were seemingly unfavorable for this species, which seemed to have found the short grass and mud at **Hoover** hospitable, where the high count of 200+ came from 22 Aug (R. Thorn), and double figures persisted for weeks. No November reports were received.

**Purple sandpiper:** Reports from the lighthouse breakwall at **HBSP** emerged of two birds 26 Nov (*fide* L. Rosche), one 27 Nov (*fide* J. Brumfield), and two on the 30<sup>th</sup> (G. Meszaros), quite possibly the same pair. D. Sanders found one on the **Huron Harbor** wall on 27 No

**Dunlin:** One for the 7 Aug **ONWRC** must have been a failed breeder or suspended migrant; one or two is found yearly. Three among the stunned throngs 31 Aug at **Conneaut** (J. Pogacnik) must have been unwilling early arrivals. As usual, **Ottawa NWR** produced the high count, 3040 on 6 Nov (ONWRC).



This red knot was found at Conneaut on 22 Aug by Gary Meszaros.



J. Pogacnik was able to capture this image of just a few of the flock of 355 white-rumped sandpipers the remnants of Hurricane Katrina grounded at Conneaut on 31 Aug.



**Stilt sandpiper:** Hard to find in the NW marshes this fall, stilts were reported in small numbers from many inland locales. **Medusa Marsh**, during the period when its water was appropriate in depth, attracted the lion's share of this species, where the high count of 186 was made on 5 Sep (S. Zadar)

**Buff-breasted sandpiper:** With ~ 75 detected, some apparently undertaking lengthy stopovers, in **Delaware, Hardin, Hancock, Lucas, Ashtabula, Clark, Ottawa,** and **Hamilton**, it was a fine flight. The high count by far was 30+ in one area of **Hoover Res** on Katrina's day, 31 Aug (C. Bombaci). One to five disarmingly tame juveniles were to be found at the **MBSP beach parking lot** from 28 Aug-18 Sep (see article this issue). The whole passage took place between 16 Aug (when G. Meszaros found three ad and one juv at **Conneaut**) and 24 Sep (when B. McNulty found the last juv at **Hoover**).

**Ruff:** One was spotted at **Medusa** 17 Sep. Two for the **ONWRC** came on 2 Oct, and a female was at the **GLSM fish hatchery** 29-30 Oct. Details with the OBRC.

**Short-billed dowitcher:** Anything but a spectacular passage, with few inland reports and a high count of only 99 (7 Aug **ONWRC**).

**Long-billed dowitcher:** Sixty-odd reported. With a high count of 34 for the 4 Sep **ONWRC** (diminishing to only seven for the 2 Oct census), one wonders if the big flocks of molting birds in autumn will return. Still smaller numbers were reported at **MWW** 1 Aug (J. Lehman), **Hoover** 17 Aug (C. Bombaci) and 20 Oct (R. Thorn), **Mosquito** 14 Oct (C. Holt), **Lorain** 30 Oct (J. Pogacnik), **Lake** 10 Nov (Pogacnik), and **Caesar Ck SP** 11 Nov (N. Cade).

**Wilson's snipe:** When you see one snipe in fall, others can usually be found nearby. Five were at the old Coliseum site in **Summit** 26 Oct (G. Leidy), and another five at **BCSP** on 4 Nov (D. Overacker). J. Yochum found 32 in **Williams** on 14 Nov, and J. Estep 45 at **Dillon Res** 20 Nov.

**Wilson's phalarope:** Twenty-three were found, with highs of six at **Medusa Marsh** 4 Sep (S. Young) and five at **BIWA** 12 Sep (V. Fazio), a location where this species has nested in the recent past. Other birds were in **Williams** (1 Aug, 7 Sep, J. Yochum), **Hoover** (8&23 Aug, R. McNulty, C. Bombaci), **Lucas** (11 Aug, E. Tramer), **ONWR** (13 Aug, J. Shieldcastle; 28 Aug, J. Dunn), and at **Pickrel Ck WA** 20 Aug (C. Caldwell).

**Red-necked phalarope:** Twenty-two reported, most in an eight-day span. Two were at **Medusa** 25 Aug (B. Bowman), and 1-3 there through 16 Sep (m obs). One at **ONWR** 27 Aug (E. Tramer) was followed by five there for the census of 4 Sep. The phenomenal date of 31 Aug found five at **Conneaut** (J. Pogacnik), one at **CPNWR** (Tramer), three at **Knox Lk** (J. Larson), and one at **West Branch Res** (G. Bennett). S. Gray observed two down in **Ross** the following day.

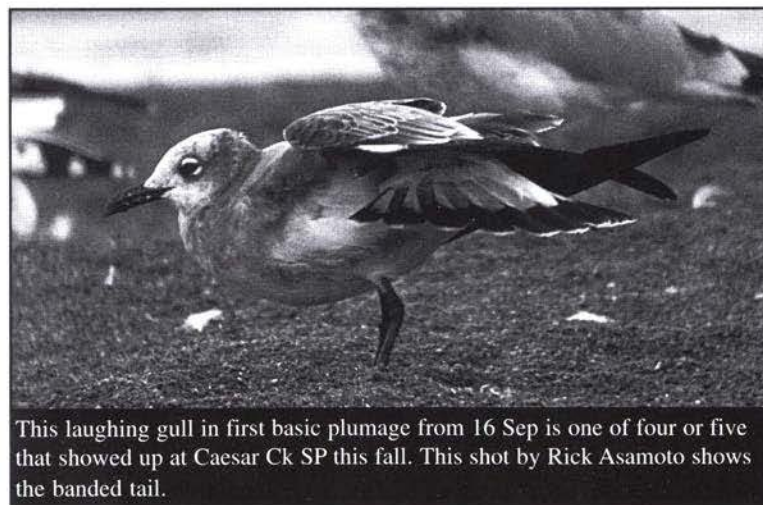
**Red phalarope:** Juveniles showed up at **EFSP** 8 Oct (D. Morse), at **Lorain** 16 Oct (G. Bennett), in **Columbus** 20 Oct (B. Royse), at **HBSP** 26 Oct (R. Hannikman *vide* S. Wagner), and at **Fairport Hbr** 6 Nov (J. Pogacnik).

**Pomarine jaeger:** Four of these big pirates appeared late in the period: two dark juveniles at **HBSP** 14 Nov (B. Morrison), an imm dark morph at **LSR** 25 Nov (J. Pogacnik), and one at **HBSP** 26 Nov (B. Sparks).

**Parasitic jaeger:** Two imm reported, one at **LSR** 30 Oct, and another at **EHSP** 26 Nov.

**Jaeger sp.:** At **EFSP** in **Clermont**, a young, fairly large jaeger was seen 31 Aug (W. Hull, B. Foppe). P. Lozano was able to identify two distant jaegers only as to genus, seen in **Rocky River** 25 Oct and 28 Nov.

**Laughing gull:** A second-year bird was at a **Findlay Res** 30 Aug (S. Myers)-2 Sep (R. Counts). J. McCormac found two at **Alum Ck Res** 31 Aug. D. Overacker had another second-year bird at **BCSP** 2 Sep. Two juveniles, molting into first basic, showed up at **Caesar Ck SP** 4 Sep (L. Gara). Another was found there 16-18 Sep (R. Asamoto, followed by another juvenile 23 Sep (J. Lehman), which apparently remained through 30 Sep (Gara), with two present on 1-2 Oct (Gara). J&B Cullen found one in **Grand Rapids, Wood** 23 Oct. **Findlay Res** hosted another, or perhaps two, 18 & 25 Oct (B. Hardesty). None was reported from Lake Erie.



This laughing gull in first basic plumage from 16 Sep is one of four or five that showed up at Caesar Ck SP this fall. This shot by Rick Asamoto shows the banded tail.

**Franklin's gull:** Not many this fall. Rickard found a juv at **Conneaut** 18 Sep. P. Sherwood had a Franklin's at **ONWR** 14 Oct. At **Caesar Ck SP**, a juv was found 7 Oct (R. Asamoto), and two there the following day (L. Gara), with one remaining 10 Oct (B. Powell).



**Little gull:** The first, a second-winter bird, found at **Conneaut** 24 Aug (B. Royle), continued through at least 1 Sep (M. Studebaker). An adult was at **Kelleys Isl** 26 Aug (P. Chaon). C. Holt found three (two juv, one 2<sup>nd</sup>-winter) at **Conneaut** 4 Sep. R. Rickard had a juv there 18 Sep, with Royle reporting the same 20 Sep. An adult flew by **LSR** 23 Oct (J. Pogacnik), an imm was at **HBSP** 24 Oct (J. Lehman), and a little gull there 26 Oct (R. Hannikman *vide* S. Wagner).

**Bonaparte's gull:** At **Sheldon Marsh**, ~3500, most adults, roosted on the flats 23 Aug (B. Whan). Many moved south and east in Nov: ~1000 were seen at **Conneaut** the 4<sup>th</sup> (C. Holt), ~700 at **Mosquito Lk** on the 9<sup>th</sup> (J. Hochadel), and over a thousand at **Hoover** on the 28<sup>th</sup> (C. Bombaci).

**Ring-billed gull:** Young birds seemed to bail out early, with ~500 at **Deer Ck Res** 23 Oct (B. Royle), and ~1500 at **Mosquito Lk** 9 Nov (J. Hochadel).

**Thayer's gull:** Curiously, an adult was found in a field south of **Oberlin** on 6 Nov (R&S Harlan).

**Lesser black-backed gull:** A third-year bird was at **Lorain** 7 Aug (J. Pogacnik). C. Holt found one at **Conneaut** 4 Sep. L. Rosche encountered three at **Camp Perry (Ottawa)** 28 Sep. R&S Harlan saw one s. of **Oberlin** 6 Nov, and J. Pogacnik another at **LSR** 24 Nov.

**Glaucous gull:** Reported were a 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup>-year from **LSR** 24 Nov (J. Pogacnik) and one at **Eastlake** 26 Nov (B. Sparks).

**Sabine's gull:** A first-year bird was found at **Conneaut** with other waifs of the storm on 31 Aug, a record early date (J. Pogacnik), for the only report of the season.

**Black-legged kittiwake:** Immature birds were seen on 11 Nov at **Conneaut** (T. Hochstetler), 24 Nov at **LSR** (J. Pogacnik), 26 Nov at **HBSP** (B. Sparks et al.).

**Caspian tern:** Ten reached **Hoover Res** by 2 Aug (R Thorn), and 57 **ONWR** by 7 Aug (ONWRC).

**Common tern:** The **ONWR** census had 216 on 7 Aug, 511 on 4 Sep, and 1660 on 2 Oct. The 8/31 **Conneaut** phenomenon featured 840 common terns. K. Kaufman estimated 1500-1600 on the **MBSP** beach 6 Sep, and also reported the latest, 21 Nov over **Metzger Marsh**.

**Forster's tern:** Four birds hunted **Metzger Res** in **Lima** on 6 Aug (D. Dister). The census at **ONWR** found 230 on 7 Aug, 41 on 4 Sep, and 830 on 2 Oct. K. Kaufman saw 400-500 at **MBSP** 6 Sep, and two remained at **West Hbr** 27 Nov (J. Pogacnik).

**Black tern:** Reports of 211 terns spanned 30 days (8/5-9/4) plus one later oddball, a basic-plumaged bird that showed up at **Lk Rupert** in **Vinton** on 8 Sep (D. Dister). The passage of Hurricane Katrina on 28 Aug brought 153 of these birds, all but three at inland reservoirs.

**White-winged dove:** A group following the **ONWR** auto tour on 17 Sep came across one, and got a photo. Details are with the OBRC; this would be the third Ohio record.

**Black-billed cuckoo:** Both cuckoos continued more numerous this fall; on 27 Sep G. Cottier reported 7-10 migrants in **Toledo's Oak Openings**.

**Yellow-billed cuckoo:** Good numbers. One with a fledgling at **Magee** (B. Zwiebel) was not out of line for the species as late as 28 Aug. Quite late were reports from **Sandy Ridge MP** in **Lorain** 4 Nov (J. Kolo-Rose, ph) and **Dike 14** on 11 Nov (T. Hochstetler).

**Long-eared owl:** Seven roosted 26 Nov at **KPWA** (J. Brumfield).

**Short-eared owl:** Numbers were down, or birds were at least late in returning to favored locales of recent years. First reported 17 Oct in **Findlay** (B. Hardesty), one was briefly at **MBSP** 20 Nov (P. Chad), and two had found **Crown City WA (Gallia/Lawrence)** by 25 Nov (D. Patick).

**Northern saw-whet owl:** Twelve were captured for banding on **Kelleys Isl** this fall, and 17 in **Seneca** Oct-Dec (T. Bartlett). The **Ross** banding operation caught their first on 17 Oct, and had 33 new owls and ten recaptures for the season, from the latter learning that one stayed in the area a minimum of 31 days (K. Sieg). Interestingly, this year they heard owls on 16 of 24 nights; since it is unlikely **Ross Co** is Ohio's hotbed of saw-whets, this suggests that the rest of us ought to go out and listen more often this time of year, mindful that the vocalizations of saw-whets are more varied than many recordings suggest.

**Common nighthawk:** Close to 2000 migrants reported between late Aug and mid-Oct. **Cincinnati**-area observers were inspired to report by large movements (including the seasonal high of 500+ at **Winton Wds** by J. Stenger) associated with the 31 Aug passage of the eye of Katrina, and by a later wave 21-23 Sep. Latest were 18 over an alert **Cincinnati** on 13 Oct (W. Hull).

**Chuck-will's-widow:** One was still singing in **Adams** 29 Aug (R. McCarty).



G. Miller got a quick photo of the Ottawa NWR white-winged dove on 17 Sept.



**Whip-poor-will:** Four still called in the **Oak Openings** of **Toledo** 5 Sep (E. Tramer).

**Chimney swift:** As nest sites for this species disappear, fall roosts draw ever more attention. In the **Columbus** area, for example, many roosts of 400+ were reported between 5 Aug and 12 Oct (R. Thorn), with a high of ~1400, 13 Sep (B. Conlon).

**Green violet-ear:** A bird was photographed at a feeder in **Holmes** 16 Aug, but did not return; see article in this issue. This species is now annual in Texas, and last season was also recorded in Iowa, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey.

**Ruby-throated hummingbird:** Feeders who fretted about ruby-throats over the summer noticed a distinct spike in their numbers in early Aug; the **ONWRC** counted a record 74 on the 7<sup>th</sup>, mostly female/immature. Five adult males remained at **LSR** as late as 31 Aug (J. Pogacnik), and the latest report came from 14 Oct in **Youngstown** (S. Butcher).

**Anna's hummingbird:** On 12 Nov, a hummingbird arrived at a **West Chester (Butler)** feeder, and only in the period to come was identified as an Anna's hummingbird, probably a female; if accepted by the **OBRC**, this will be our first record of this species.

**Rufous hummingbird:** All the following were either examined and photographed in hand during banding (A. Chartier), or accompanied by diagnostic photos. Adult males were in **Marysville, Union** (19 Aug-29 Sep), **Bellefontaine, Logan** (5-19 Nov), and **Zanesville, Muskingum** (9-18 Oct; this was probably the same bird that visited this same feeder in 2003 and 2004). Adult females were identified in **Wadsworth, Medina** (9 Oct-7 Nov), in **Carrollton, Carroll** (29 Oct-26 Nov), and near **Pickerington** in **Fairfield** (2-13 Nov), and an immature male (4 Nov-eop) just 2-3 miles from the female found earlier in **Wadsworth, Medina**. Low temps may have prompted unaccommodated early departures this fall, with only three persisting into December.

**Selasphorus, sp:** Reports of rufous/Allen's hummingbirds came from **Licking** on 6 Aug, **Lake** on 7 Aug, **Mahoning** 17 Nov (ph), rural **Knox** 30 Sep-13 Oct (ph), **Delaware** late Sep-11 Nov (ph), **Franklin** 12 Nov-eop (ph), **Brown** 20 Nov (ph), **Lawrence** 29 Aug-eop (ph), and another possible one in **Licking** late Oct-22 Nov (ph).

**Pileated woodpecker:** Re-establishing a foothold in **Lucas, Toledo**-area pairs are now known in **Oak Openings** and **Secor** parks, a single bird at **Pearson MP**, and a probable pair at **Wildwood MP** (*fide* E. Tramer).

**Olive-sided flycatcher:** Well-reported, with 26 birds 23 Aug-28 Sep statewide.

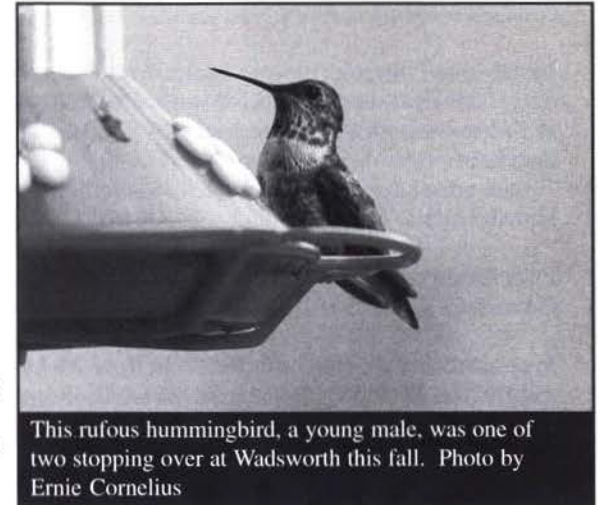
**Yellow-bellied flycatcher:** On the late side was one banded at **Navarre** 2 Oct (BSBO)

**Acadian flycatcher:** A late bird was banded at **Shawnee Lookout** 24 Sep (L. Peyton).

**Willow flycatcher:** Latest reported was one in **Summit** 14 Sep (R&S Harlan).

**Least flycatcher:** Three were lateish 15 Sep at **Firestone MP** in **Akron** 15 Sep (R&S Harlan).

**Gray flycatcher:** Skilled observers reported finding one at **HBSP** on 18 Sep, for what if accepted would be Ohio's second record of this western *Empidonax* flycatcher.



This rufous hummingbird, a young male, was one of two stopping over at Wadsworth this fall. Photo by Ernie Cornelius

**Eastern phoebe:** Fifteen were found in **Shawnee SF** in **Scioto** 18 Oct (B. Royse); one remained in **Wilmot, Stark** 23 Nov (P. Soehnlen).

**Great crested flycatcher:** Seen as late as 16 Sep, in **Franklin** (R. Thorn).

**Western kingbird:** One was reported from **Lake** 2 Oct. Details with the **OBRC**.

**Eastern kingbird:** No report after one on 10 Sep from the **CVNP** census (D. Chasar).

**Northern shrike:** An imm was at **Killdeer** 29 Oct (S. Myers) for the first. The southernmost reported came from **GLSM** 12 Nov (D. Dister).

**White-eyed vireo:** Late was one at **HBSP** 11 Nov (ph, S. Isacco), and later still one at **Mentor Lagoons** 14 Nov (L. Rosche).

**Yellow-throated vireo:** High count seven at **Shawnee Lookout** in **Cincinnati** 7 Sep (J. Stenger). A late bird was also in **Hamilton** 4 Oct (F. Renfrow).

**Blue-headed vireo:** Suspiciously early was one in **Ross** 12 Aug (K. Sieg). Our hardest vireo, one was also quite late: 10 Nov in **Holmes** (E. Schlabach).

**Warbling vireo:** Several reported lingering, but one found in eastern **Lucas** on 8 Nov is apparently a new record late date for Ohio (B. Zwiebel).

**Philadelphia vireo:** Judging by reports, a fine flight this fall; the 4 Sep **ONWRC** saw three. The latest was banded at **Navarre** by the **BSBO** 13 Oct.



**Red-eyed vireo:** Late enough was one on **Kelleys Isl** 16 Oct (T. Bartlett), but one well seen by K Metcalf at **N. Chagrin Resn** 10 Nov was among the half-dozen latest known.

**Black-billed magpie:** Two magpies were found in **Damascus, Mahoning** 28 Aug. The birds disappeared for some time, but were relocated some miles away in **Columbiana**, and seen by m obs 29 Sep-14 Oct. See account in this issue by Bob Lane.

**Horned lark:** The high count was 500+ in **Mahoning** 24 Nov (B&D Lane).

**Purple martin:** J. Stenger noted ~2250 migrants 24 Aug over **Winton Wds, Hamilton**.

**Tree swallow:** D. Hess saw 1000+ in **Ross** 20 Aug for a good count. In another wave, ~700 birds, mostly juveniles, were in **Wayne** 3 Oct (R. Troutman). The latest reported, a single lingering bird, came from just **e. of Conneaut** on 16 Nov (V. Fazio).

**Northern rough-winged swallow:** Not a big flocker, 100+ were at the Fernald site in **Butler** 17 Sep (J. Bens). Two lingered as late as 29 Oct at **BCSP** (D. Overacker).

**Bank swallow:** E. Tramer counted 5142 at **CPNWR** 20 Aug. One found at **Conneaut** 16 Nov (V. Fazio) constitutes a new late state record for the species.

**Cliff swallow:** R. Thorn reported the last of the **Columbus**-area nesters departed by 8 Aug. Fifteen were at **MWW** by the 17<sup>th</sup> (P. Wharton). Exceedingly tardy was one at **Caesar Ck SP** 18 Oct (B. Powell).

**Cave swallow:** *Petrochelidon fulva* has increased rapidly in regular late fall dispersals to the NE states, and this year was the most dramatic, with numbers peaking at 579 at a Lk Ontario site in New York on 7 Nov. Based on established patterns, observers in NE Ohio were on the alert for them along the **Lake Erie shore**, and on 5 Nov a group saw well at least one among a stream of 14 swallows at **Perry Park** in **Lake** (ph). Increased vigilance led to further discoveries: 35-40 headed west 6 Nov at the same location, and small groups in **Fairport Hbr**. On 12 Nov, one was reported at **Conneaut**, and another at **Perry Park**, with one in **Bay Village** the following day. Other locales in **Lake** produced reports 13 and 14 Nov, with one at **Conneaut** on 16 Nov. On 20 Nov an alert homeowner discovered one dead on a front porch in **Lakewood**; the corpse was taken to the Cleveland Museum of Natural History; it was reportedly of the southwestern race *P. f. pelodoma*. If accepted, this will be a new bird for the Ohio list (see note in this issue).

**Barn swallow:** Last straggler reported on 26 Oct, on **Delaware Res** (B. Shively).

**Tufted titmouse:** **Kelleys Island's** fourth record in the past 20 years came on 30 Oct (T. Bartlett). B. Morrison reported a near-total albino in **Stark** 29 Oct, with pink soft parts and completely white in plumage save for faint shadowing on nape and shoulders.

**Red-breasted nuthatch:** A marked incursion. R. Royse reported 18 Oct that all hemlock groves and some pine groves in **Shawnee SF, Scioto**, harbored this species. The 10 Sep **CVNP** census had 44 red-breasteds to 100 white-breasteds. Four southwestern counties contributed 40 reports of this species during the period.

**Brown creeper:** BSBO reported record numbers of birds netted at **Navarre**: 118 from 24 Sep-18 Oct. On 20 Oct, C. Bombaci had 10 at **Hoover**, and B. Shively eight at nearby **Delaware WA**.

**Winter wren:** Reported in better numbers than usual. R. Thorn tallied 28 11-13 Oct in **Columbus**, and K. Kaufman 12+ at **EHSP** 22 Nov, for examples.

**Sedge wren:** Eleven for the 7 Aug **ONWRC** was high, with many singing males during the month. Quite late was one at **MWW** 27 Nov (W. Hull).

**Golden-crowned kinglet:** BSBO reported a record 783 netted 23 Sep-29 Oct at **Navarre**. On 8 Oct, A. Boone estimated 275 birds on **Kelleys Isl**.

**Ruby-crowned kinglet:** BSBO banded 676 at **Navarre** 23 Sep-29 Oct. A. Boone's estimate from **Kelleys Isl** on 8 Oct was 225.

**Blue-gray gnatcatcher:** One in **Valley View, Clermont** 31 Oct was very late (B. Foppe).

**Veery:** E. Tramer noted 15+ overhead in **Lucas** 5 Sep. One 16 Oct at **MWW** was bringing up the rear of the migration (N. Keller et al.)

**Gray-cheeked thrush:** Thirteen were on **Kelleys Isl** 17 Sep (T. Bartlett), and one at **Sheldon Marsh** 18 Oct must have been among the last to depart (P. Rodewald).

**Swainson's thrush:** Flocks of ~50 were noted over the **Oak Openings** 5 Sep (E. Tramer) and in **Spr Grove Cem** in **Cincinnati** 17 Sep (L. Brumbaugh). Last reported was one in **Findlay** 18 Oct (*vide* B. Hardesty).

**Hermit thrush:** Known to break into song from time to time in fall, one was doing so in **Rocky River** 5 Oct (R&S Harlan). Eighty were tallied in **n. Toledo** 9 Oct (G. Links), and three were the last reported, on 27 Nov from **BCSP** (D. Overacker).

**Wood thrush:** At an odd time and place was one 15 Oct in **Cleveland's Erie St Cemetery** downtown (R&S Harlan).



**Gray catbird:** Birds persisting well into Nov in the north included one at **HBSP** on the 11<sup>th</sup> (S. Isacco) and another in **Paulding** through the 30<sup>th</sup> (M&D Dunakin).

**American pipit:** First noted 8 Sep at **MBSP** (B. Zwiebel), many stayed through the period, with a high count of 240 at **Berlin Res.** 21 Oct (B. Morrison).

**Blue-winged warbler:** Not loath to depart, the last was in **Coshocton** 19 Sep (L.E. Yoder).

**Golden-winged warbler:** Six were reported, half of them on the latest date of 16 Sep: one at **Blendon Wds MP** in **Columbus** (R. McNulty), a male at **Highbanks MP** in **Delaware**, and one in **Toledo** (R. Nirschl).

**"Brewster's Warbler":** L. E. Yoder found one in **Coshocton** 2 Sep.

**Tennessee warbler:** Came through beginning in late Aug, with a last sighting 16 Oct at **BCSP** (D. Overacker). L.E. Yoder had 59 in **Coshocton** 24 Sep.

**Orange-crowned warbler:** Fairly hardy, but seldom seen as late as that in **Worthington** 27 Nov (B. Master).

**Nashville warbler:** First seen 24 Aug (S. Wright) in **Cleveland**, and last fairly late in the **Oak Openings** of **Toledo** 12 Nov (G. Cottier).

**Yellow warbler:** Establishing a new late date for the **Toledo** area was one discovered at **CPNWR** on 12 Nov (E. Tramer).

**Magnolia warbler:** The latest reported passed through **Sheldon Marsh** 18 Oct (P. Rodewald).

**Cape May warbler:** A fairly hardy species, one was photographed at **Castalia** 19 Nov (B. Zwiebel).

**Black-throated blue warbler:** Pretty much on schedule, the last reported 17 Oct at **ONWR** (H. Ostermiller).

**Yellow-rumped warbler:** Remarkably early was one at **CPNWR** 20 Aug (E. Tramer). A. Boone reported ~170 on **Kelleys Island** on 8 Oct.

**Black-throated gray warbler:** An immature at **Akron's Firestone MP** on 22 Oct was written up for the OBRC.

**Black-throated green warbler:** The high count was 14 on 23 Sep in **Coshocton** (L.E. Yoder). The last passed through **Columbus**, on 27 Oct (R. Thorn).

**Blackburnian warbler:** The **ONWRC** had the high count, five on 14 Sep.

**Yellow-throated warbler:** One in **Columbus** 9 Oct was fairly late (R. Thorn).

**Pine warbler:** P. Rodewald had six in the two pines in his **Worthington** back yard 9 Oct. One came to B. Zwiebel's feeder in e. **Lucas** 20 Nov-eop.

**Prairie warbler:** Scarce as always in fall. One 18 Sep at **Caesar Ck SP** was likely a migrant (J. Lehman).

**Palm warbler:** Quite early was one near **Chillicothe** on 10 Aug (D. Hess); not correspondingly late was one in **Gahanna** 15 Nov (R. Lowry). A very yellow individual, probably of the eastern race, was seen at **CPNWR** 22 Oct (E. Tramer).

**Bay-breasted warbler:** L.E. Yoder tallied 10 in **Coshocton** 23 Sep for the high count. Late were 8 Oct birds in **Holmes** (E. Schlabach) and at **SVWA** (D. Overacker).

**Blackpoll warbler:** Seemed not so numerous as normal. One at **HBSP** on 26 Nov (R. Hannikman *vide* J. Brumfield) easily surpassed all other records as Ohio's latest.

**Cerulean warbler:** High count was three, at **Shawnee Lookout** 4 Sep (J. Stenger).

**American redstart:** The **ONWRC** encountered a straggler on 6 Nov.

**Prothonotary warbler:** Maximum was three, at **Magee** 20 Aug (C. Caldwell).

**Worm-eating warbler:** Three were a surprising find at **Spring Grove Cem** in **Cincinnati** 17 Sep (L. Brumbaugh).

**Ovenbird:** C. Witt witnessed six feeding on the sidewalks of **Cleveland's Public Square** 4 Oct.

**Northern waterthrush:** B.Zwiebel photographed an early arrival in e. **Lucas** 18 Aug, and E. Tramer found three at **CPNWR** two days later. BSBO banded one 16 Oct at **Navarre**.

**Louisiana waterthrush:** Seen as late as 6 Aug, at **N. Chagrin Resn** (K. Metcalf).

**Connecticut warbler:** The high count of two came at **Shawnee Lookout** 15 Sep (A. Bess).

**Mourning warbler:** Early was one 17 Aug at **LSR** (J. Pogacnik), and earlyish birds at the **Oak Openings** (E. Tramer) and in **Cleveland** 24 Aug (S. Wright). Last reported in **Cleveland** 10 Oct (J. Brumfield).



**Hooded warbler:** Closed out the season with one at **Erie St. Cem** 1 Oct (R. Rickard), one at **Mogadore Res** 2 Oct (G. Bennett), and two in **Coshocton** 3 Oct (E. Schlabach).

**Summer tanager:** Four were at **Shawnee Lookout** in **Hamilton** 4 Sep (J. Stenger). The last to depart the **Oak Openings** in **Lucas** was seen 17 Sep (E. Tramer).

**Scarlet tanager:** In **Coshocton**, L.E. Yoder had 13 on 23 Sep. The latest was banded 10 Oct at the **Shaker Lks** (BSBO)

**Eastern towhee:** Fifteen were tallied at **Mitchell Forest** in **Hamilton** 27 Aug (N. Cade).

**American tree sparrow:** First reported at the old Coliseum site in **Summit** 26 Oct (G. Leidy).

**Clay-colored sparrow:** One reported, at **N. Chagrin MP** 2 Oct by K. Metcalf (m obs).

**Field sparrow:** High count 20+ in **Franklin** 12 Oct (R. Thorn), with latest report the last week of Nov at **Lowellville** in **Mahoning** (C. Holt).

**Vesper sparrow:** High count of only two, 16 Oct in **Holmes** (E. Schlabach).

**Savannah sparrow:** R. Counts reported 200+ at one of the **Findlay Res** 10 Sep; 24+ could still be found 19 Nov, in **Butler** (M. Busam).

**Grasshopper sparrow:** One was discovered 18 Oct in **Holmes** (E. Schlabach).

**Henslow's sparrow:** Seven including one juv were at the **VOA** site in **Butler** 6 Aug (M. Busam).

**Le Conte's sparrow:** None reported.

**Nelson's sharp-tailed sparrow:** A surprising 20 reported, the first at **Arcola Ck** in **Lake** 28 Sep (J. Pogacnik). One was banded at **Navarre** 30 Sept (BSBO) and three at **MWW** the following day (D. Russell). One was captured and released in **Columbus** 24 Oct (A. Boone). Pogacnik found the last, at **Arcola**, on 28 Oct. E. Schlabach reported 6-9 in a wet field in **Tuscarawas** 1-15 Oct, with nine there 5 Oct, as well as one at **Funk** 4 Oct and other birds 7 and 13 Oct in **Holmes**.

**Lincoln's sparrow:** Very unusual was an arrival at **CPNWR** as early as 20 Aug (E. Tramer). A good flight, with many double-figure reports in Oct, but no Nov reports.

**Swamp sparrow:** The bulk moved through in October, when a substantial high count of 50+ was recorded at the **Shaker Lks** on the 10<sup>th</sup> (L. Deininger), but not so substantial as 124 from **MWW** on the 23<sup>rd</sup> (D. Brinkman).

**White-throated sparrow:** Arrived 10 Sep, with three at **HBSP** (R. Rickard) and three for the **CVNP** census (D. Chasar). High count ~300 at **Sheldon Marsh** 18 Oct (P. Rodewald).

**White-crowned sparrow:** Arrived rather early in the south, with one in **Clermont** 25 Sep (B. Stanley). D. Brinkman counted 82 at **MWW** 23 Oct.

**Dark-eyed junco:** Singles arrived 25 Sept, both at **CPNWR** (E. Tramer) and down in **Clermont** (B. Stanley).

**Lapland longspur:** With a count of 200+ on 5 Nov, R. Counts marked the sixth straight year of finding flocks in certain **n. Wyandot** fields.

**Snow bunting:** S. Isacco reported the first, at **HBSP** 19 Oct, where she had 15 by 24 Oct and 35-40 by 3 Nov. Several were at **Conneaut** 20 Oct (M. Studebaker), with 70 there 4 Nov (C. Holt).

**Rose-breasted grosbeak:** A family of four was observed down in **Ross** 10 Aug (D. Hess). High count was 15 migrating east at dawn in **Sandusky** 24 Sep (K. Metcalf). A female straggler was in **Akron** 30 Oct (S. Brown).

**Blue grosbeak:** In northern climes, E. Tramer reported for the **Oak Openings** an ad male 29 Aug, 5 Sep, and 7 Sep; a male and female 8 Sep, and then a male 10 & 14 Sep. A nest was found in **Hancock** 16 Aug, with two young present 23 Aug (B. Hardesty).

**Indigo bunting:** Two were in **Ross** as late as 6 Oct (D. Hess).

**Dickcissel:** Ten were singing in **s. Seneca** and **n. Wyandot** 6 Aug (R. Counts). One was found at the **VOA** site 14 Aug (M. Busam). The 7 Aug **ONWRC** found 13, and D. Friedman noted five on nearby **Krause Rd** 1 Sep.

**Bobolink:** In **Hancock**, 32 birds on 2 Aug were mostly molted to basic (B. Hardesty), as were 21 at the **VOA** on 6 Aug (M. Busam). E. Schlabach reported 30 on 5 Oct in **Tuscarawas**, and four there 15 Oct. G. Leidy saw a straggler at the **Summit** Coliseum site 26 Oct.

**Red-winged blackbird:** The 6 Nov **ONWRC** estimated 34,000 on the refuge.

**Yellow-headed blackbird:** J. Bixler saw one on 17 Aug near Muddy Ck in **Ottawa**, near where the species often nests at **Winous Pt**; J. Pogacnik noted an ad male at **MBSP** 26 Nov.

**Rusty blackbird:** All reports came from October, the largest of them of ~100 birds in wetlands near **Deer Ck WA** on the 26<sup>th</sup> (B. Royse).

**Brewer's blackbird:** No reports from the NW, but J. Heflich and J. Evans had one in Troy Twp of **Geauga** 5 Nov, standing on a horse's back.



**Orchard oriole:** Given to early departure, one was reported from *Tuscarawas* on 7 Aug (E. Schlabach).

**Baltimore oriole:** In the **Oak Openings**, 35 could be found 20 Aug, with the last on the way out 12 Sep (E. Tramer).

**Purple finch:** Widely reported in small numbers in unglaciated and NE Ohio.

**House finch:** Unusual these days, a flock of 40 was noted in **Clinton, Summit**, on 26 Sep (R&S Harlan).

**Pine siskin:** G. Hostetler found six in **Wooster** 22 Oct. F. Losi counted 75 in two foraging groups at **Perry Pk** in **Lake** 5 Nov, where B. Glick relocated 25 on the 7<sup>th</sup>.

**American goldfinch:** B. Royse reported 500+ in a sunflower field near **Deer Ck WA** 26 Oct. R. Counts had an ad male in complete breeding plumage 23 Nov in **Upper Sandusky**.

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Drawing by Bill Shively