

Christmas Bird Count Results

	Tiffin 12/17/2005 (11)	Toledo 12/18/2005 (3)	Trumbull County 12/18/2005 (28)	Wellington 12/17/2005 (26)	Western Hamilton County 12/18/2005 (63)	Wilmore 12/17/2005 (32)	Wooster 12/24/2005 (31)	Youngstown 12/17/2005 (34)	Total	Circles, Count Day	Circles, Count Week
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	cw	39	16	19
Eastern Bluebird	42	2	58	42	79	328	150	14	4524	62	62
Swainson's Thrush	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	3	2	2
Hermil Thrush	--	2	--	--	10	6	1	--	290	34	35
American Robin	1	151	22	12	9497	20	14	41	45457	61	61
Gray Catbird	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	17	12	12
Northern Mockingbird	--	1	--	--	51	98	12	6	960	45	45
Brown Thrasher	1	--	--	--	2	1	2	--	15	11	12
European Starling	817	4406	612	1840	10012	2638	1656	485	237720	64	64
American Pipit	--	1	--	--	--	cw	1	--	51	10	11
Cedar Waxwing	--	5	91	--	89	19	91	5	1988	39	39
Yellow-rumped Warbler	6	--	6	8	35	26	13	--	861	46	46
Pine Warbler	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	2
Palm Warbler	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0	0	1
Common Yellowthroat	--	--	--	--	--	--	2	--	2	1	1
Eastern Towhee	--	--	2	1	72	45	21	1	1055	43	46
American Tree Sparrow	567	655	365	121	536	857	452	42	14759	63	63
Chipping Sparrow	--	--	--	5	1	5	--	--	71	17	17
Field Sparrow	--	4	--	1	41	6	4	--	706	40	40
Vesper Sparrow	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	4	3	3
Savannah Sparrow	--	--	--	--	11	2	1	--	46	11	11
Grasshopper Sparrow	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	1
Fox Sparrow	3	8	--	--	5	cw	2	--	94	35	37
Song Sparrow	109	88	46	54	1024	842	261	36	12632	64	64
Lincoln's Sparrow	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	1	1	1
Swamp Sparrow	--	12	10	--	79	21	59	2	800	43	43
White-throated Sparrow	10	56	39	40	696	174	115	10	7922	63	64
White-crowned Sparrow	14	4	8	30	22	539	146	5	3696	52	53
sparrow sp.	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	153	7	7
Dark-eyed Junco	542	351	190	287	521	886	208	116	18411	64	64
Lapland Longspur	1	17	--	--	11	22	1	--	1241	21	21
Snow Bunting	49	109	--	--	--	113	2	cw	2563	22	23
Northern Cardinal	225	230	171	177	950	1014	356	60	19462	64	64
Dickcissel	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	1
Red-winged Blackbird	13	13	--	--	88	806	374	cw	5102	37	42
Eastern Meadowlark	--	3	--	--	15	64	4	cw	400	29	30
Rusty Blackbird	2	3	--	--	--	50	--	--	154	14	16
blackbird sp.	--	--	--	--	--	66	375	--	1282	8	8
Common Grackle	45	286	--	--	42	42	862	--	25342	42	42
Brown-headed Cowbird	10	451	--	--	1	299	504	1	3586	44	46
Baltimore Oriole	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	1
Purple Finch	--	--	4	--	--	--	--	cw	171	20	21
House Finch	153	204	113	69	246	260	92	39	8044	62	62
White-winged Crossbill	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	1
Common Redpoll	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	cw	7	1	2
Pine Siskin	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	80	16	20
American Goldfinch	207	274	146	53	447	585	119	80	13080	64	64
Evening Grosbeak	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	cw	0	0	1
finch sp.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	15	1	1
House Sparrow	999	1352	180	175	818	1411	550	125	33484	63	63
total species	56	84	53	55	75	77	80	53	155		
total individuals	8625	34204	8982	8582	40200	19782	13854	8174	968447		
observers	26	26	7	24	38	67	28	14	1434		
party hours	35.25	58.00	49.50	50.50	98.50	134.50	91.25	35.50	4135.00		

Historical Note: An Extraordinary Harris's Sparrow Record

By Dean E. Sheldon,

4569 Greenwich-Milan Townline Road, Greenwich, OH 44837

seedbed@accnorwalk.com

For the record, it was I who made the initial sighting of the bird that snowy Saturday. I knew it was different upon first seeing it: the black crown, face, and bib, and the pink bill were unique. Steps were taken to verify the sighting. In the old Peterson guide I had used that morning, there is a notation in my handwriting of the date and place: "2/5/72 - Folly." The note is on page 219, just next to the brief reference description of the bird and across from Plate 58 depicting sparrows with unstreaked breasts. The illustration in the field guide immediately validated my observation. With that, I determined that the bird was, indeed, a basic adult Harris's sparrow *Zonotrichia querula*, and set about informing others of my find.

It had happened quite by chance. I was not bird-watching that day. I had gone out to the Folly (since 1979 Sheldon Marsh State Nature Preserve) to work at a variety of projects as I was wont to do on almost any weekend. I glanced out the west window of the cottage to see if the large feeder mounted on the propane tank needed filling, and there this bird was, on the ground scratching and feeding along with the other birds present. During that time, we fed soybean screenings along with cracked corn at the site. The Harris's sparrow's known propensity for weed seeds in its winter diet may have been a factor in causing the bird to settle in at this location.

We hosted the Harris's sparrow through two full winters. The bird was conspicuously present during the winter seasons of 1972 and 1973, associating with other overwintering sparrows at the feeding area. It was present continuously during those winter months. It was seen only infrequently in the spring, summer, fall and winter of that year, and in 1973 only during the winter. I have no recollection of consistent sightings during any of the other seasons except winter and early spring. It is for that reason that I am unable to comment on any apparent seasonal changes in plumage or appearance. We offered the customary mix of food at the feeders only during the winter and early spring. In those years there were agricultural fields adjacent to the Folly, whose edges and waste corners had plenty of weedy areas. My guess is that is where the bird spent most of its time in the "off season." Its food source of weed seeds and insects was most likely found in those locations. In the late fall, as we resumed feeding, the bird moved back and was usually seen at the bird feeding area.

I do not recall that any twitchers seeking the sparrow came to the Folly except during those times (in the late fall, winter and early spring) when large numbers of birds gathered at the feeding area. After all, that was when the best viewing of the sparrow took place. This vagrant from Canada and the

western plains was seen by dozens of competent birders from around the state during this period. All were rewarded for their efforts. Groups assembled in the main room of the cottage, where the west window looked out over the bird feeding area. We moved furniture around so as to permit easy viewing and picture-taking through the open window with the screen removed. It was a great birding time for us all.

While many photos were taken by visiting birders, I could find only one in the Sheldon's Folly archives. On the reverse side of the photo is the notation (again in my handwriting): "Feb 1972, Sheldon's Folly." The name "Harris Sparrow" was written in by someone else—probably Tim Brugeman who worked with us at the Folly for many years. Tim is well known as the long-time director of the Hancock County Park District. I just cannot come up with a date for the last sighting of the bird during the winter or early spring of 1973. I am certain it continued there for all (or the better part) of that winter season. It is not unlike so many other rare bird sightings, i.e. the excitement is at the beginning. Eager birdwatchers join in their frenzy to see the rarity and then...."poof," suddenly the object of our collective interest vanishes, never to be seen again at that location. What is really gratifying is to know, for certain, that this was a truly rare happenstance. We were fortunate to be a part of that phenomenon. It was all fun and, during those times, it made an awful lot of people happy.



This photo, taken during Feb 1972 at Sheldon's Folly, documents the appearance of the Harris's sparrow there (photo courtesy of Dean Sheldon)

## Short Note: Ohio's First Confirmed Anna's Hummingbird

by Mike Busam

7577 Whitehall Circle West, West Chester, OH 45069

mjb@schaffer.cc

Ohio's first-record Anna's hummingbird *Calypte anna* spent more than a month, from 12 November 2005 through 24 December 2005, at the Dan and Wanda Schmitz residence in West Chester Township, Butler County. Dan Schmitz noticed on 12 November a hummingbird coming to a feeder he had forgotten to take down. The bird continued to visit the feeder, and after a few days Schmitz contacted the Cincinnati Zoo and the Hamilton County Parks District for advice.

Both the zoo and the park district recommended that Schmitz keep the feeder up, and assured him the hummingbird would eventually leave on its own. Jerry Lippert, a naturalist with Hamilton County Parks, suggested Schmitz post a note about the sighting on the Birding in Cincinnati web site ([www.cincinnatibirds.com](http://www.cincinnatibirds.com)).

On 1 December Schmitz left a brief a note there, announcing that a ruby-throated hummingbird was frequenting his backyard feeder. I called him and arranged to visit his home on Friday 2 December to see what I assumed would be a hatch-year *Selasphorus* hummingbird—most likely a rufous hummingbird, which I considered more likely than a ruby-throated at this time of year.

My two-year-old daughter Grace and I visited the Schmitz residence on the appointed day, and after a few minutes' wait saw the hummingbird appear at a feeder outside a window over the kitchen sink. To my surprise, the bird was just as Dan had described it during our phone conversation: mostly green above, gray below, with a dark-gray, triangular throat patch—no signs of rufous anywhere on the flanks or the tail. I had assumed I would see at least a little more color on the bird. My views that afternoon were few and short in duration. Each time it visited the feeder, it chose a perch on the far side, giving me no chance to see anything other than the bird's flanks, some of its back, and the posterior portion of the side of its head. I took a few less-than-satisfactory photographs through the window, and left after an hour or so, completely confounded as to the identity of the hummingbird.

That afternoon I forwarded the photographs to a number of birders. Unfortunately, many were out of town for the weekend, and could not reply immediately. However, that evening I was gratified to get some interesting responses to the poor photos I had circulated during the afternoon. Several respondents commented that, while the photos were not diagnostic, they were compelling, and suggested the subject might possibly be an Anna's hummingbird.