

The Reports
Winter
1 December - February 28
1980 - 1981
Tom Bartlett

Fifty-five reports were received statewide. One hundred sixty-four species were reported.

Again this issue, as began in the last, we designate with the symbol (D), after the species name, those birds we suggest be documented. Those reports noted with an asterisk have a written documentation or photo on file with the magazine. The optional documentation form we provide also enumerates those species which we feel should be documented. At the end of this issue are several verbatim documentations so that the reader can make an independent decision if he wishes.

In the following reports the terms early, late and high are used to designate the extremes of the information we have received. These terms do not necessarily mean that the species has arrived or departed early or late nor that the migration has peaked at a particular time. The number of each species sighted is included unless only one bird was seen and then no number is designated. The location of the sighting is given with as much preciseness as possible to enable the reader to know where certain birds can be found. The county containing the location is identified for each location only at the first instance the location is mentioned. However, a cross-reference chart showing each location mentioned and its county appears at the end of the report.

"Winter weather came in earnest in mid-December, freezing the open water and covering the ground with several inches of snow. Below normal temperatures were continuous through mid-January, although precipitation was much below normal during this period. A brief January thaw was followed by several weeks of winter weather in early February. Spring apparently arrived early as above normal temperatures were present throughout the last half of February. For the month, temperatures averaged 4 degrees above normal while twice as much precipitation as normal was recorded.

Large concentrations of gulls were noted along Lake Erie through the second week of January. The birds then disappeared and never came back. During February, it was not uncommon to go to the Lake and not see a single gull. Apparently, the birds moved out into the lake with southerly winds and were never "blown back to shore." Movements of these birds remain a mystery and deserve study. (BP)"

Common Loon

Normal; various individuals lingered along Lake Erie until mid-Dec. and a few inland records. Late: 12/22 Cleveland (Cuyahoga Co.) (TL), 12/13 Alum Creek Res. (Delaware Co.) (JC), 12/6 Heuston Woods SP (HWSP) (Greene Co.) (2-3) (TP): High: 12/3-13 Clearfork Res. (Richland & Morrow Co.) (1-20) (JHr).

Red-necked Grebe (D)

2/13 Vermilion (Erie Co.) (JP *), 2/16 Miami River, Dayton (CB, BB*), and 2/21 Eastwood Lake (Dayton area) (DCh, et al*).

Horned Grebe

Normal; Late: 1/26 Oregon (Lucas Co.) (JP), 1/3 Eastlake (Lake Co.) (TL),

12/21 Lorain (Lorain Co.) (JP, BP); High: 12/7 Huron (Erie Co.) 60+ (BP), 12/12 Cleveland 22 (WNK); Early Migrants: 2/21 Miami River (NW), 2/27 Seneca Co. 3 (TB).

Pied-billed Grebe

Normal; many reports into late December but few after 12/31. Several wintered in the Akron area at Summit Lake (high 1/31 - 7 (LR)). Early migrants: 2/6 Dayton (TH), 2/16 Dayton (CM, NC, AVR), 2/22 Oregon (TK), and 2/23 Lorain (JP).

Gannet (D)

12/13 Oregon (immature) (TK *). See documentation printed at end.

Double-crested Cormorant

2/22-27 Erie Co. (AT).

Great Blue Heron

Normal; many reports into late December but few after. High: Up to 57 wintered at Oregon (JP, MS, TK), 31 Ottawa Co. (JRe), 26-29 Navarre Marsh (Ottawa Co.) (MS); Notables: 1/4-9 Ashland (Ashland Co.) (1-2) (JHr), 1/17 Cleves (NW), 1/24-2/14 Killbuck (Wayne) (2) (JHr), 2/14 Buck Creek SP (Clark Co.) (DO), 2/15 Sandusky Bay (Erie & Ottawa Co.) (AT), and 2/21 Dayton (3) (NW).

Cattle Egret

12/14 Navarre Marsh (MS).

Black-crowned Night Heron

12/16 Medusa Marsh (Erie Co.) (JP), 1/26 Oregon (2) (JP), 1/31 Toledo (50) (TK).

Mute Swan

12/27 - 2/18 Cleveland (1-3) (m. ob.), 12/20 - 2/17 Lorain (2) (m.ob.), 2/22 Sandusky (2) (AT), 12/21 Cedar Pt. NWR (Lucas Co.) (5) (MS), 1/12 Oregon (4) (JC, JF), 2/1-6 (4) (TK, JP).

Whistling Swan

12/1 - 1/4 Crane Creek SP (Ottawa Co.) (m.ob.), 12/11 Akron (Summit Co.) (7) (WS), 12/7-13 Richland Co. (JHr), 1/25 Oregon (4) (TK), 1/11-21 Washington Co. (1-2) (LB); Early: 2/20 Crane Creek SP (7) (MS, JP), 2/28 Huron (12) (LR).

Canada Goose

Normal; High: about 5000 wintered at ONWR, 200 Fairfield Co. (MT), up to 100 Washington Co. (Fayette) (LB), and 22 at Washington Court House (Fayette) on 1/28 (MI).

White-fronted Goose (D)

1/15-25 ONWR (Ottawa Co.) (4) (JP*).

Snow Goose

1/17 - 2/28 ONWR (2-6) (JP, MS, JC), 12/13 Kingston (Ross Co.) (3 blue) (EE, WS, JC), 1/1 Franklin Co. (JC), 1/31 - 2/1 Corning Lake (Holden Arboretum; Lake Co.) (EF).

Mallard

Normal; many stayed in the state until late Dec. before leaving. High: 12/21 Buck Creek SP (9000) (DO), and 3000+ wintered at Castalia (Erie Co.) (MS).

Black Duck

Normal; many stayed until late Dec. before leaving. High: 12/20 Buck Creek.

Gadwall

Normal; High: 1/7 Castalia 35+ (MS).

Pintail

Normal; small numbers found around the state all winter.

Green-winged Teal

12/20 HWSP (TP), 12/28 Buck Creek (9) (DO), 1/1 - 2/5 Castalia (JP), 1/20-22 Dayton (1-2) (m.ob.) Early: 2/24 Darby Marsh (Ottawa Co.) (JP), 2/27 Crane Creek SP (MS), 2/28 Cleveland (2) (WNK).

Blue-winged Teal

12/20 HWSP (TP), 1/19 Castalia (AT), 2/4 Castalia (JP*); Early: 2/24 Darby Marsh (JP).

European Wigeon (D)

2/28 ONWR (adult male) (JP*).

American Wigeon

Normal; High: 400+ Castalia (MS), 1/17 Cleves (Hamilton Co.) (20) (NW); Early: 2/16 Navarre Marsh (MS).

Northern Shoveler

12/7-28 Buck Creek SP (1-7) (DO), 12/13-18 Pickerington Ponds (Franklin Co.) (1-7) (JC, MT), 1/10 West Chester (Butler Co.) (FR), 1/1 - 2/5 Castalia (1-2) (JP, JF, MS); Early: 2/22 Crane Creek SP (MS).

Wood Duck

12/17 - 2/28 Lorain Co. (AT, JP), 1/11 Akron (LR), 1/19-20 Castalia (m.ob.), 2/1-28 Cuyahoga Co. (7) (TL), 1/26 - 2/20 Crane Creek SP (MS, JP).

Redhead

Normal; High: 1/26 Oregon 1000+ (JP); Inland: 12/21 Buck Creek SP (DO), 1/11-17 Washington Co. (4-5) (LB), 2/25 Columbus (4) (JF).

Ring-necked Duck

Normal; High: 1/7 Castalia (50+) (MS).

Canvasback

Normal; High: 1/26 Sandusky Bay (2500+) and Maumee Bay (Lucas Co.) (1000+) (JP), 12/29 Maumee Bay (6000) (MS), 2/25 Crane Creek SP (550) (JRe); Inland: 12/6-28 Buck Creek SP (3-16) (DO), 1/11-17 Washington Co. (2-4) (LB), 2/20 Franklin Co. (5) (MT), 2/28 Clearfork Res. (7) (JHr).

Greater Scaup

Normal; High: 12/1-31 Cleveland (2-3000) (TL, WNK); Inland: 1/17 Shawnee (Perry Co.) (NW, notes).

Lesser Scaup

Normal; Late: 12/6-28 Buck Creek SP (2-6) (DO), 12/13 Alum Creek Res. (JC), 12/15 Crane Creek SP (MS); Early: 2/21 Pickerington Ponds (2) (MT), 2/22 Crane Creek SP (JRe); a female wintered at Walden Pond (Franklin Co.) (JF).

Common Goldeneye

Normal; High: 1/13-26 Maumee Bay (2-2500) (JRe, JP), 2/14 Avon Lake (Lorain Co.) (2000) (JC); Early: 2/20 Franklin Co. (MT), 2/21 Columbus (46) (JF), 2/27 Clearfork Res. (JHr).

Bufflehead

Normal (several observers felt declining); High: 2/14 Avon Lake (50+) (JC), 1/7 Castalia (20+) (MS); Early: 2/23 Crane Creek SP (JP), 2/28 Pleasant Hill Res. (Richland-Ashland Co.) (JHr).

Oldsquaw

12/6 Hoover Res. (Franklin Co.) (4) (BP), 12/12 Clearfork Res. (4) (JHr), 12/13 Buck Creek SP (3) (John Gallagher), 12/16 Lorain (female) (JP), 2/14 Avon Lake (pair) (JC), 2/25 Crane Creek SP (male) (JP,MS).

Harlequin Duck (D)

12/27 -1/2 Springfield (Clark Co.) (m.ob., DO*, BS*), see photo in this issue. 1/3 Eastlake (TL*).

Eider

Not reported.

White-winged Scoter

12/12 Cleveland (WNK), 1/4 Akron (female) (LR), 1/26- 2/7 Oregon (female m.ob.), 2/14 Marblehead (Erie Co.) (2) (TK).

Surf Scoter (D: inland only)

Not reported.

Black Scoter (D: inland only)

12/7 Sandusky Bay (7) (AT), 12/13 Sandusky Bay (9) (JP, 1/13 Lorain (JP).



Harlequin duck at Springfield. Photographed by Doug Overacker, reproduced by Gary Herbst.

Ruddy Duck

Normal; High: 1/13 Maumee Bay (210) JRe); Inland: 12/6-21 Buck Creek SP (1-4) (DO), 12/3 Dayton (CBo), 12/18 HWSP (TP): Early: 2/16 Dayton (TH, DCh), 2/28 Crane Creek SP (JP).

Hooded Merganser

Normal; various individuals remained around the state until late Dec. and returned the last week of Feb. Mid-winter: 1/12 Oregon (male) (JF), 1/17 Washington Co. (2) (LB), 1/19 Lorain (JC), 1/22 Dayton (BS, PZ).

Common Merganser

Normal; same trend as Hooded Merganser; Inland: 1/1-31 Akron (LR), 1/11 Washington County (2) (LB), 1/17 Shawnee Lookout (Hamilton Co. Park, Hamilton Co.) (2) (NW), 1/20-22 Dayton (CM, AVR, JF).

Red-breasted Merganser

Normal; same trend as Hooded Merganser; Early: 2/20 Columbus (JF), 2/24 Crane Creek SP (MS), 2/28 HWSP (TP).

Hybrid Duck

Possible Cinnamon Teal x American Wigeon was sighted and documented at Blacklick Woods Metro. Park (Fairfield Co.) (JF). See documentation printed at end.

Turkey Vulture

9 reports during the period. Unusual reports included 2 at Delaware 1/9 and 1 near Mansfield 1/11 (VF). Possible early migrants included 1 in Pickaway Co. 2/28 (MT), 1 in Washington Co. 2/27 (LB) and 4 at HWSP 2/28 (TP).

Black Vulture (D: central and northern only)

12/8 Hocking Co. (2) (JC), 1/2-3 Clearcreek (Fairfield Co.) (4-12) (JC, JF), 1/12 Circleville (Pickaway Co.) (4) (MNN), 1/25 Ft. Hill S.M. (Highland Co.) (19) (MNN*), 1/31 Hocking Co. (2) (MT).

Sharp-shinned Hawk

Still in trouble. There were 22 individuals reported during the period statewide. Reports came from Butler Co. (1), Delaware Co. (1), Erie Co. (1), Franklin Co. (3), Geauga Co. (2), Lorain Co. (1), Ottawa Co. (4), Richland Co. (1), Summit (5), and (3) unspecified.

Cooper's Hawk

Normal; 56 reports statewide from over 20 counties.

Goshawk (D)

2/24-28 Ottawa Co. (i) (JRe, MS*, JP*), 2/26 Fairfield Co. (BP*), 2/28 HWSP (TP*).

Red-tailed Hawk

Normal.

Red-shouldered Hawk

22 reports from 16 counties; this species needs to be watched in Ohio.

Rough-legged Hawk

Numbers up from the past few years and reported by nearly all. High: 12/28 Mohican S.F. (Ashland Co.) (23) (JHr), 12/13 Ross-Pickaway Co. Rd. (21) (m.ob.), Cleveland high (9), and ONWR (9).

Bald Eagle

A pair wintered at ONWR, at Cedar Point NWR, and at Carroll Twp., (Ottawa Co.) (m.ob.); 12/2 Fostoria (Seneca Co.) (i) (fide TB), 1/5 Tiffin (Seneca Co.) (a) (fide TB), 2/27 Old Fort (Seneca Co.) (a) (JK), 1/19 Navarre Marsh (i) (MS).

Northern Harrier

Numbers report up statewide with highs of 23 along the Ross-Pickaway Co. Rd. 12/13 (m.ob.), up to 13 at Maumee Bay SP (Lucas Co.) (JP), and up to 8 at ONWR (JP, MS).

Gyr Falcon (D)

1/22 - 2/15 ONWR (immature gray phase) (JP*, MS*). See documentation printed at end.

Peregrine Falcon (D)

1/6 Chardon (Geauga Co.) (John T. Ault) 1/31 Ottawa Co. (VF*, CL*).

Merlin (D)

12/21-24 Akron (adult male) (LR, WS*).

American Kestrel

Normal.

Ruffed Grouse

12/6 Hocking Co. (JC), 12/28 Ashland Co. (JHr), 1/3 Clearcreek (JC, JF), 1/21 Cuyahoga Co. (TL), 1/25 Ft. Hill SM (MNN), 1/31 Chardon (EF), 2/7 Chardon (7) (EF), 2/8 Hocking Co. (JC).



Virginia rail at Summit County, photographed by Edwin Pierce and reproduced by Gary Herbst.

Bobwhite

12/7 Sycamore SP (14) (BB, CB), 1/8 Dayton (9) (CM), 1/12 Pickerington Ponds (4) (JC), 1/15 ONWR (2) (JP), 1/18 Oxford (Butler Co.) (18) (JI).

Ring-necked Pheasant

Normal; High: Maumee Bay SP (145) (released birds?) (JP).

Virginia Rail (D)

12/7 East Harbor SP (Erie Co.) (JP), 1/14-31 (2) Firestone Metro Park (Summit Co.) (EE, CEP*). See photo in this issue.

American Coot

Normal.

Killdeer

Normal; 13 December reports and 12 January reports stateside. Early: 2/14 Dayton (CM); 2/18 Magee Marsh (Ottawa Co.) (m.ob.), Maumee Bay SP (2) (TK), Lake Rockwell (Portage Co.) (2) (LR); 2/19 Fayette Co. (MI); 2/21 Fairfield Co. (JC); and 2/22 Richland Co. (2) (JHr).

Black-bellied Plover (D)

12/6-13 Hoover Res. (Delaware Co.) (injured) (BP, JC).

American Woodcock

Early: 2/25 Chardon (EF), 2/27 Columbus (BP), 2/28 Crane Creek SP (JP, MS).

Common Snipe

12/20 HWSP (TP), 12/20 Seneca Co. (JK), 12/28 Buck Creek SP (3) (DO), 1/2 Ross Co. (JF), 1/4 Richland Co. (JHr), 1/11 Buck Creek SP (1) (DO), 1/15-16 Washington Co. (LB), 1/24 Dayton area (TH, DCh), 1/24 - 2/14 Killbuck Marsh (JHr), and Columbus area (6 wintered) (BP).

Purple Sandpiper

12/26-29 Cleveland (m.ob., VF*).

Pectoral Sandpiper (D: migrant month early or late)

Early: 2/28 Crane Creek SP (JP).

Dunlin (D: month early or late)

12/13 Lorain (JP).

Sanderling (D: migrant month early or late)

12/22 Huron (Dr. Howard Hintz*).

Red Phalarope (D)

12/13 Lorain (JP), 12/13 Cleveland (WNK*), 12/16-20 Cleveland (2) (WNK), 12/20 Euclid (Cuyahoga Co.) (2) (m.ob.).

Pomarine Jaeger (D)

12/24 Lorain (i) (JP*).

Parasitic Jaeger (D)

12/3 Oregon (i) (TK).

Glaucous Gull (D: away from Lake Erie only)

Increasing along Lake Erie; High: 1/11 Lorain Co. (26) (BP), 2/13 Vermilion (14) (JP), 12/27 Lorain (2a, 4i) (RH), 1/17 Cleveland (5) (WNK); Inland: 2/21 Akron (2nd year bird) (LR).

Iceland Gull (D: away from Lake Erie only)

12/26- 1/12 Lorain (1a, 1i) (m.ob.), 2/13 Vermilion (3) (JP),
2/28 East Harbor SP (Kumlein's race) (BP).

Great Black-backed Gull (D: away from Lake Erie Only)

Increasing along Lake Erie; High: 1/11 Lorain Co. (275+) (BP),
1/7 Cleveland (62) (WNK), 2/16 Navarre Marsh (12) (MS).

Lesser Black-backed Gull (D)

12/12 - 16 Lorain (2a) (JP*), 12/21 Lorain (3rd year bird) (JP),
1/10-11 Cleveland (a) (m. ob.), 1/12 Lorain (a) (JP), 2/23 Sheldon's
Marsh, Erie County, (a) (JP).

Herring Gull

Normal; High: 12/20 Cleveland (10,350) (WNK).

Thayer's Gull (D)

12/12 Lorain (a) (JP), 12/16-20 Lorain (1st year bird) (JP*),
12/21-26 Lorain (1-3) (JP*), 1/13 Lorain (a) (JP), 1/17 Lorain (one
1st year bird and two 2nd year birds) (RH*,EE).

Ring-billed Gull

Normal; High: 12/22 Cleveland (52,000) (WNK), 12/20 Lorain
(40,000+) (BP).

Black-headed Gull (D)

12/20-1/2 Lorain (a) (JP,EE), 12/14 Oregon (a) (TK*).

Franklin's Gull

12/1 - 20 Lorain (BP, AT), 12/1 Cleveland (WNK), 12/26 Cleveland
(VF).

Bonaparte's Gull

Normal; High: 12/14 Cleveland (15,000) (WNK), 12/20 Lorain
(6,000) (JP, BP), 12/14 Navarre Marsh (1,000+) (MS), 12/7-21 Buck
Creek SP (1-40) (DO).

Heermann's Gull (D)

12/20 Lorain (JP*), 1/10 Lorain (JHr), 1/19 Lorain (JP), 2/23
Vermilion (JP). See Vol. II, No. 4. and Vol. III No. 1, for the
other sightings of what must be the same bird in Ohio and Vol. 34, No. 2.
Page 165, and Vol. 35, No. 2, Page 187 of American Birds for other
sightings of this bird at Macomb, Michigan. The pattern has been:
8/26/79 until early December 1979 at Macomb; 2/12/80 to 2/18/80 and
3/3/80 to 3/12/80 at Lorain; 10/24/80 until into November 1980 at
Macomb; and now 12/20/80 to 2/23/81 at Lorain and Vermilion. Will
it return to Macomb this Fall?

Little Gull (D: away from Lake Erie only)

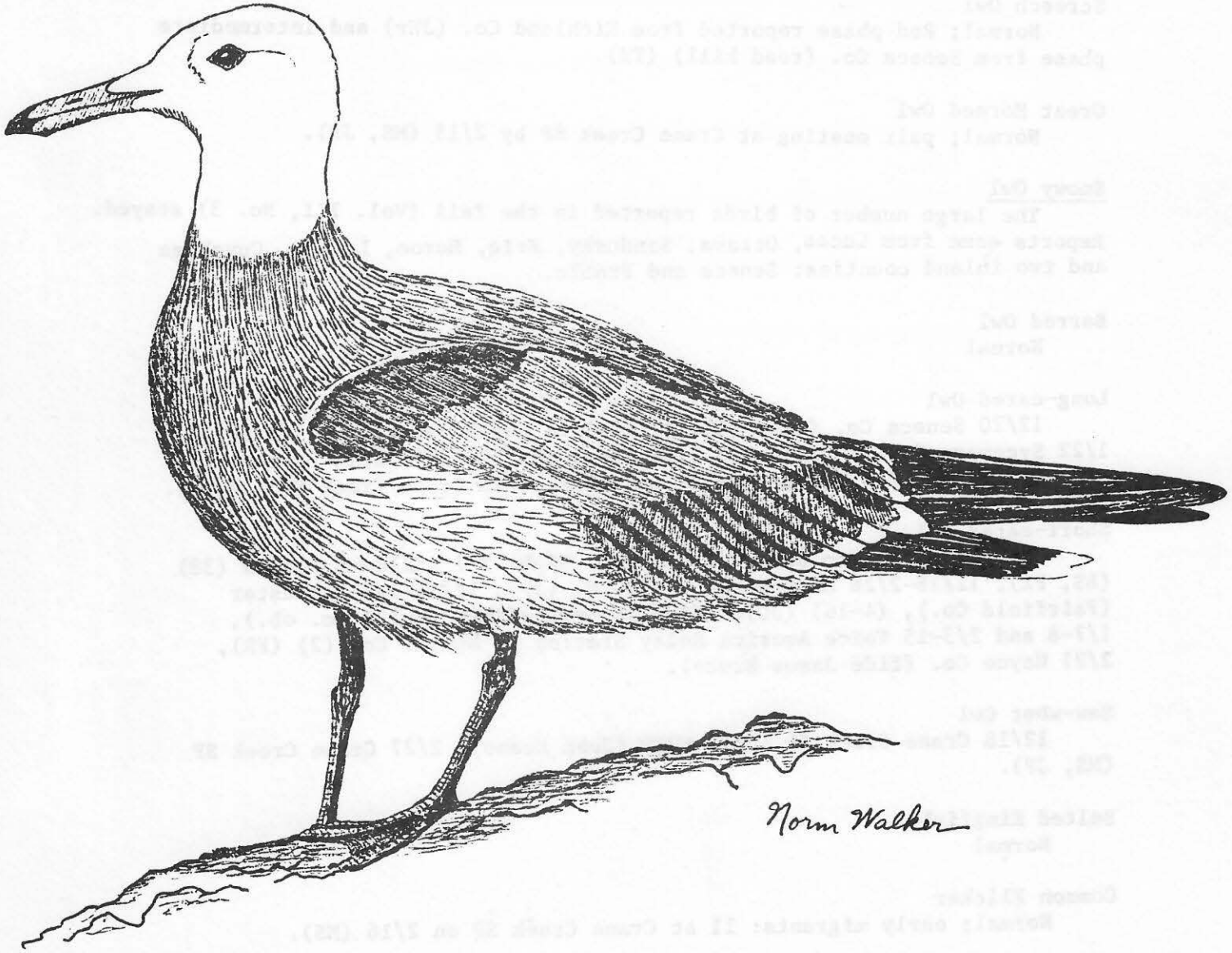
12/2-1/2 Lorain (1-3) (JP), 12/3 Oregon (TK), 12/14 Oregon (2)
(TK), 12/20 Lorain (3) (BP), 12/28-31 Cleveland (WNK).

Black-legged Kittiwake(D)

12/1-16 Huron (JP*), 12/13 Oregon (i) (TK*), 12/20-21 Lorain
(JP*), 11/28-12/3 Dayton area, see photo Vol. III, No. 3, Pg. 21 (m.ob.*).

Hybrid Gull

Possible Glaucous and Herring gull hybrid was sighted and
documented at Lorain on 12/26 by (JP).



Norm Walker

Common Tern (D: migrant month early or late)
12/14 Huron (JP, BP).

Rock Dove
Normal

Mourning Dove
Many observers felt there was an increase over past couple of years.

Screech Owl
Normal; Red phase reported from Richland Co. (JHr) and intermediate phase from Seneca Co. (road kill) (TB).

Great Horned Owl
Normal; pair nesting at Crane Creek SP by 2/15 (MS, JP).

Snowy Owl
The large number of birds reported in the fall (Vol. III, No. 3) stayed. Reports came from Lucas, Ottawa, Sandusky, Erie, Huron, Lorain, Cuyahoga and two inland counties: Seneca and Preble.

Barred Owl
Normal

Long-eared Owl
12/20 Seneca Co. (fide TB), 12/20-1/24 Dayton area (1-4) (m.ob.), 1/22 Sycamore SP (3) (JF), 2/8 Buck Creek SP (DO, JF), 2/14 Dayton area (2) (NW), 2/18 Maumee Bay SP (2) (TK), 2/25 Crane Creek SP (JP,MS).

Short-eared Owl
Numbers appear to be up statewide. High: 2/7 Killdeer Plains (38) (BS, PZ), 12/18-2/28 Maumee Bay SP (1-20) (JP), 12/14-1/9 Lancaster (Fairfield Co.), (4-16) (JC), 1/1-2/28 Springfield (8-12) (m. ob.), 1/7-8 and 2/3-15 Voice America Relay Station in Butler Co. (2) (FR), 2/21 Wayne Co. (fide James Bruce).

Saw-whet Owl
12/18 Crane Creek SF (JP), HWSP (John Means), 2/27 Crane Creek SP (MS, JP).

Belted Kingfisher
Normal

Common Flicker
Normal; early migrants: 11 at Crane Creek SP on 2/16 (MS).

Pileated Woodpecker
Normal; reported from Ashland, Butler, Cuyahoga, Hamilton, Highland, Lake, Miami, Montgomery, Portage and Summit.

Red-bellied Woodpecker
Normal.

Red-headed Woodpecker
Normal.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Numbers appear up with reports statewide.

Hairy Woodpecker

Several reports felt there was a slight increase; should be watched carefully.

Downy Woodpecker

Normal

Eastern Phoebe (D: migrant month early or late)

12/29 - 1/3 Clearcreek (JF, JC*), 1/24 Scioto County (JC).

Horned Lark

Normal; large flocks did seem to move further south in the state as shown by 1,000+ near Cincinnati on 1/4-11 (m. ob.).

Blue Jay

Normal

Common Crow

Normal; roosts: winter near Mansfield (6,000+) (JHr). 12/1 Oak Openings, Lucas County, (500+) (TK), 1/1 Seville (400+) (TB); migration: 2/23 Crane Creek SP (25 - 30,000) (MS), 2/22 Maumee Bay SP (600+) (TK).

Black-capped Chickadee

Normal in the north; south and central reports: 12/20 Licking Co. (JC), 12/5- 1/5 Washington Co. (1-3) (LB), 2/7 Sycamore SP (5) (TH, DCh), 2/26 Indian Lake SP (JP).

Carolina Chickadee

Normal

Tufted Titmouse

Several reports noted an increase over last two years.

White-breasted Nuthatch

Several reports noted an increase over last two years.

Red-breasted Nuthatch

Most reports noted an increase.

Brown creeper

Normal

House Wren (D: migrant month early or late)

2/25 Oxford (TP).

Winter Wren

12/6-17 Shaker Lakes, Cuyahoga Co., (VF), 12/20 Dayton area (CM), 12/20 Aullwood Nature Center, Montgomery Co., (JC), 1/6 Geauga Co. (2) (EF), 2/7 Glen Helen, Greene Co., (DO), 2/15 Clearcreek (JC).

Carolina Wren

12/1 Shaker Lakes (VF), 12/1-18 Highland Co. (MNN), 12/10-22 Shaker Lakes (VF), 12/20 Oxford (2) (TP), 12/21 Dayton area (2) (J and C Garber), 12/26-30 Clearcreek (JC), 1/3 Columbus (JF, JC), 1/5 Pickaway Co. (JF), 1/14 Dayton area (CM), 1/17 Shawnee Lookout (2) (NW).

Mockingbird

Many felt that winter numbers were up. The one bird that wintered at Crane Creek SP was unusual.