

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.

Seasonal Report Due Dates Winter (Dec.-Feb.)-March 25 Spring (Mar.-May)-June 25 Summer (June-July)-August 25 Autumn (Aug.-Nov.)-December 25	Please send all reports to: Bill Whan 223 E. Tulane Road Columbus, OH 43202 billwhan@columbus.rr.com
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On the Cover:

Forsaking eelgrass for crabgrass, a brant spent the second half of November at Cleveland's Edgewater Park, where John Pogacnik got this photo on the 25th.



Fall 2006 Overview and Reports

by **Bill Whan**

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August was warmer and drier, and September and October contrastingly cooler and wetter than normal, by good margins. November was dry overall, and started out with a cold snap, turning unusually warm thereafter. Extra rain in the middle of the period reportedly made some traditional migrant shorebird spots unproductive this year, but the dampness and increased warmth later encouraged certain insectivorous birds to linger, while of course delaying arrival of various Arctic species, particularly those accompanying concentrations of Lake Erie ice.

Recent events have taught us to pay closer attention to the remnants of tropical storms that appear in Ohio, as they can produce unique perturbations of the atmosphere with unusual records of birds. This fall, the nation was spared the predicted ruinous hurricane season, but even less destructive storms can be worth following when tropical depressions spin over warm western Lake Erie waters, and internet resources have made this easy to do with considerable accuracy. A wrath of Hurricane Ernesto passed unnoticed by Ohio forecasters on 2 September, but in far NE Ohio produced violent storms. Craig Holt set out to witness them and the birds they brought to Conneaut harbor that day. He saw some good shorebirds—admittedly no big news at this date—but here's his report about what else he found:

Black-legged kittiwake: a basic ad put in a brief appearance at Conneaut 9/2. "Ernesto" strikes again. This storm was intense up in the NE corner of Ohio, but even here in Mahoning Co. the reaction was "what storm?" Evidently it was mostly felt east of Ohio at our latitude. I realize adults are very rarely observed in Ohio. I also realize there are no records even close to this early date in Ohio. But the bird came in and landed <25 ft. away for a couple minutes, providing a stunning view. I looked from bill to head to (darker) mantle/wings to wingtips down to those black legs. No doubt on ID as it flew off.

With little incentive to depart northern resorts, waterfowl overall did not put on a great show, but for some reason scoters (looking at a map of their breeding range, one wonders why we see any black scoters at all!) exceeded normal numbers in Nov, noticed not only in Ohio but as far south as Florida. Joining scoters in unexpectedly high numbers—perhaps because they share wintering destinations in saltwater on the Atlantic coast—were loons and red-necked grebes. Migrant raptors produced few surprises except reduced numbers from usual, perhaps because of diminished prey. Except for those tiny areas for waders still affected by natural Lake Erie levels, such as the CCE and some Sandusky Bay sites, shorebirds were not much in evidence in the northwest; instead, Conneaut—with its unimpeded shallow-water fluctuations (i.e., an actual shore) and 31 species this season—and some newly-constructed or restored wetlands and shallow-ended reservoirs in central Ohio, hosted the

bulk of the records. In Franklin/Fairfield counties, little Pickerington Ponds MP hosted 18 shorebird species during the season, more than reported at censuses at mighty Ottawa NWR. Wright Marsh at Killbuck WA was drawn down for dike improvements, temporarily producing some good shorebird concentrations as well. The latter is a familiar scenario, as with the exception of Pickerel Creek WA there seem few signs that any Ohio Division of Wildlife wetlands provide significant habitat for migrant shorebirds except by accident.

Larids produced some surprises, with fourteen species reported in a warm fall, and a few unusual numbers. Jaegers, however, were big news, with scores reported the first three weeks of November along the shore of the Central Basin of Lake Erie, most of which went undocumented and often only casually identified as to species. Hummingbird variety was distinctly disappointing, so much so that some wondered if the rufous hummers we've gotten used to in recent years may have experienced a poor breeding season.

November records of obligate insectivores like chimney swifts, common nighthawks and swallows, plus a few ruby-throated hummingbirds, led an impressive list of late occurrences, including some among the warblers and other passerines. Predictions for low numbers of winter finches--based on food sources in Canada--were of course difficult to evaluate in fall, but early signs suggested they would prove correct.

Everyone who reports birds needs to know that certain rare species require acceptable documentation in order to enter the official record. Like every other state and province in North America, Ohio has a Bird Records Committee in place to undertake peer review of reports of these review species, as scientific procedure requires. Of course no one is too much of a beginner, or too revered an expert, to be exempt from reasonable standards to offer documentation for such species he or she reports: i.e., written details at least, perhaps with photos or drawings. Beginners may be excused for not knowing about review of rare bird reports (they can find out about the Records Committee via the menu on <ohiobirds.org> or by writing the Editor), but more experienced observers should need only the occasional reminder.

The *Ohio Cardinal* has in recent years published reports of un-reviewed rarities, omitting only the names of observers, as part of the seasonal Reports. We would prefer to do so only for those for which documentation has been submitted, but our schedule of publication does not always permit this; the only sure way to tell if a report is verified is by consulting the Actions of the OBRC as periodically published here, and sometimes those actions follow the records by decades. The editor cannot arrogate to himself decisions about reports that are the province of the OBRC, nor can any observer—especially the experienced—expect offhand, informal, or even second-hand reports of review species to be treated as documented observations. Among the untested reports below, some have been documented but have not yet been reviewed. Documentation for others is being sought. Finally, some will never be documented and thus will remain in the shadow-realm of rumor, at best as “reports” rather than “records.”

This year thirty-plus plausible reports of sixteen review species came to light this fall. These species, and the counties from which reports emerged are: Ross's goose (*Lake, Mercer, Franklin, Fayette*), cackling goose (*Williams, Lucas, Cuyahoga, Holmes, Lorain, Hancock*), king eider (*Geauga*), western grebe (*Allen*), ibis sp. (*Mahoning, Lucas*), swallow-tailed kite (two in *Lorain*) yellow rail (*Lake, Licking*), ruff (*Fairfield, Ashtabula*), California gull

(*Ashtabula*), black-headed gull (*Ashtabula*), mew gull (*Logan*), long-tailed jaeger (*Clermont*), parasitic jaeger (*Lake, Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Lorain*), rufous hummingbird (*Montgomery, Warren*), cave swallow (*Lake*), and Harris's sparrow (*Ottawa*). We are doing the best we can to present only solid verifiable rarity occurrences, with named reporters, so that Ohio's published record can be dependable.

Corrigenda:

We regret three errors appear in the Summer issue (Vol 29, No. 4). First, the photo accompanying the note on nesting egrets (p. 193) was misattributed: Bill Jones is the photographer. Further, the arrival date of juvenal lesser yellowlegs at Conneaut as reported by Craig Holt should have read 31 July (p. 164). Worst of all, we failed to include the end of Rob Harlan's concluding sentence in his “Further Afield” column (p. 180); here is the sentence: “After all, what could be more tempting than a 25-yard-deep strip of wet, dying woods, and a one-tree-wide border across the parking lot?”

The Reports follow the nomenclature and taxonomic order of the 7th edition of the AOU Check-list of North American Birds (1998), including the 47th Supplement (July 2006). 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 attributions (i.e., reporters' names) in the Reports. Where supplied, county names appear *italicized*. Unless numbers are specified, sightings refer to single birds. Abbreviations, conventions, locations, 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 NWR 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*; eop=end of the period, in this case 30 Nov 2006; EHSP=East Hbr SP in *Ottawa*; fide=“in trust of,” said of data conveyed on behalf of another person; Funk WA is in *Wayne*; Gilmore Ponds is in *Butler*; GLSM=Grand Lk St Marys in *Mercer/Auglaize*; HBSB=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*; MCWS=Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary in *Mahoning*; MP=Metropark; m obs=many observers; MWW=Miami-Whitewater Wetlands in *Hamilton*; NWR=National Wildlife Refuge; OBBA=Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas, second edition; OBRC=Ohio Bird Records Committee; ODOV=Ohio Division of Wildlife; ONWR=Ottawa NWR in *Ottawa/Lucas*; ONWRC=monthly bird census at ONWR, reported by E. Pierce; PCWA=Pickerel Ck WA in *Sandusky*; ph=photograph; Res=Reservoir; Res'n=Reservation; SCBC=Greater Akron Audubon Society Summit County Bird Count of 16-25 June; SF=State Forest; SNP=State Nature Preserve; SP=State Park; SVWA=Spring Valley WA in *Greene/Warren*; WA=Wildlife Area.

The Reports: Fall 2006

Greater white-fronted goose: Fewer than usual reported recently, with one in *Darke* 29 Oct (P. McCarthy *fide* R. Schieltz), two at **MBSP** 11 (C. Fenstermaker) through 20 Nov (T. Kemp), and one in *Franklin* 26 Nov (A. Boone).

Snow goose: We are off the main flyway, and the only report of substantial numbers came from *Hancock*, with 150 seen e. of **Findlay** 25 Nov (B. Hardesty). **ONWR** had 22 (17 dark morphs) the following day (G. Crippen), and with the exception of one seen in *Sandusky* on the odd date of 27 Aug (D. Patick) there has been a wounded bird in the area—all other reports were of fewer than half a dozen during the last week of Nov, in *Lake, Lucas, Cuyahoga*, and *Summit*.

Ross's goose: One was reported near **GLSM** 24 Sept. Another was discovered 7 Nov near **Fairport Hbr** through the 12th; this could easily have been the bird seen and photographed 19 through 29 Nov in the **Mentor** area, a first *Lake* record. Another was reported and photographed at **Deer Ck SP** 30 Nov.

Brant: Two at **Conneaut**, reported by J. Sedransk 6 Oct, apparently persisted despite hunting through 22 Oct (J. Hudick *fide* C. Holt) for m. obs. B&D Lane reported seven in *Ashtabula Hbr* 16 Nov. A cooperative bird was a fixture at **Edgewater Pk** 13 (P. Lozano) through 24 Nov (S. Snyder).

Cackling goose: In *Williams*, six were reported 1 Nov, then 17 the 9th, and 20 the 10th. Several observers reported one at **MBSP** 8-11 Nov. One was at **Edgewater Pk** 13 Nov, and another the same date in *Holmes*, as well as on the 28th. Five were reported in *Lucas* 19 Nov, and four at **Wellington Res** the 25th, then another at **Findlay Res** the 28th. Documentation—especially good photos—is sought by the records committee, as further splits in the smaller *Branta* geese are anticipated, and in such a case any of these could be of a species new to Ohio.

Mute swan: Seemed more stable (e.g., three total in three **ONWRs**) elsewhere, but there are a lot in NE Ohio. G. Bennett found nine 14 Oct at **Summit Lk** in *Akron*, 14 at **Long Lake** in *Summit* 2 Nov, and then on 4 Nov 65 at **Mogadore Res (Portage)**, 10 at **Turkeyfoot Lk (Portage)**, three at **Wingfoot Lk (Portage)**, and four at **Nesmith Lk (Summit)**. D. Chasar observed three in a **CVNP** marsh 23 Sept, and B&D Lane reported that five pairs at **Guilford Lk (Columbiana)** spawned 28 young this season.

Tundra swan: First reported in the form of four at **Wellington Res** 29 Oct (B. Warner), migration proceeded along the expected path and Nov. schedule, though the high count was only 431 for the 5 Nov **ONWRC**.

Wood duck: The high count was 265 on the 7 Oct **Cedar Pt.** **NWRC** (E. Tramer). Two at **Conneaut** 13 Nov were unexpected (C. Holt).

Gadwall: First reported at **Camp Dennison** in *Hamilton* 11 Oct (B. Foppe), with the high count of 603 at **CPNWR** 30 Oct (E. Tramer). E. Kistler estimated 100 at **Mosquito Ck** 3 Nov, where 38 remained 20 Nov (C. Holt).

Eurasian wigeon: One was briefly present at **Mosquito Ck** 11 Nov (B. Smith *fide* M. Vass).

American wigeon: As usual, **Conneaut** hosted odd birds, a pair 4 Aug (R. Gallardy) and one 11 Sep (C. Holt), but major arrivals began with 1547 at **ONWR** 1 Oct (census team), with 250 the 7th at **CPNWR** fewer than expected (E. Tramer). Seventy-plus were at **Mosquito Ck** 3 Nov (E. Kistler), and 20 on 20 Nov (C. Holt).

American black duck: A stray was at **Conneaut** 19 Aug (C. Caldwell), then five arrived in *Hardin* 20 Oct (R. Counts), with 311 at **CPNWR** 12 Nov (E. Tramer). Many offshore doubtless went unreported.

Mallard: The Ottawa **NWR** census tallied 2243 as early as 3 Sept, with 1035 on 5 Nov.

Blue-winged teal: During September, the build-up in the *Hardin* wetlands grew from 110 on the 9th to 300 the 19th, 188 the 23rd, and 295 the 30th (R. Counts).

Northern shoveler: A pair at **Pickerington Ponds** 22 Aug (R. Thorn) were without offspring, and a singleton haunted **Conneaut** 11 and 26 Sep (C. Holt). High counts came in Nov, with 177 at **CPNWR** 12 Nov (E. Tramer) and 115 at **Hoover Res** 20 Nov (C. Bombaci).

Northern pintail: Numbers at the *Hardin* wetlands were two on 23 Sep, 13 on 6 Oct, and 33 by 8 Oct (R. Counts); the high count was but 116 at **CPNWR** 7 Oct (E. Tramer).

Green-winged teal: **Conneaut** harbored one on 4 Aug (R. Gallardy), and two were at **Funk** 6 Aug (S. Snyder). Bred in *Hardin*, with six there 22 Aug, 200+ on 19 Sep, 375 on 30 Sept, 450+ on 16 Oct, and 780 by 9 Nov, remarkable for a relatively small area (R. Counts).

Canvasback: Scanty inland, with three at **Wellington Res** 28 Oct (K. Ostermiller) and eight 24 Nov (S. Snyder). The census at **CPNWR** of 24 Sep had 588, and the **ODOW** aerial census about 300 there in **Maumee Bay** 1 Nov.

Redhead: An early local record for **HBSP** was one on 26 Sep (R. Hannikman), but no double-figure reports emerged from anywhere beyond 14 at **Wellington Res** 24 Nov (S. Snyder).

Ring-necked duck: First reported from down in **Camp Dennison**, with 26 on 6 Oct (K. Westendorf). **The Wilds** had ~200 by 21 Oct (A. Parker), and **CPNWR** 1340 by 12 Nov (E. Tramer).

Greater scaup: Few fall reports, with 26 flybys at **LSR** 29 Oct (J. Pogacnik), and a single bird at **Caesar Ck SP** 23 Nov (F. Frick). C. Holt had 15 at **Sims Pk** 5 Nov.

Lesser scaup: Three were reported from **BCSP** 15 Oct (D. Overacker), then 315 off **LSR** the 29th (J. Pogacnik). In **Maumee Bay**, a traditional resort, **ODOW** aerial counters reported ~55,000 scaup sp. (probably largely this species) on 1 Nov (*fide* J. McCormac).

King Eider: A first-year male was killed by a hunter at a relatively small lake in **Geauga** 29 Oct (*vide* J. McCormac).

Harlequin duck: J. Talkington spotted one off **Perry Park** in **Lake** 14 Nov, and it or another was in **Fairport Hbr** 17 Nov (B. Morrison); not far away, J. Pogacnik had an imm male off **LSR** 21 Nov.

Surf scoter: Trickled in during Oct, with four at **Caesar Ck SP** the 7th (R. Asamoto), and two the 12th in **Ashtabula** and 8-10 the 22nd at **Conneaut** (both C. Holt), but the action grew heavy in Nov through the cop. As with other scoters, numerous reports emerging from a limited number of locations, mostly in the **Central Basin** but also inland at reservoirs, defied accurate compilation, but over 135 birds were probably involved in reports (m. obs.).

White-winged scoter: An extraordinary showing for recent years for this now-rarest of scoters in Ohio, with over 80 individuals probably involved in reports over the last half of Nov, nearly all offshore in the **Central Basin** (m. obs.).

Black scoter: 150+ were probably involved in numerous reports, again mostly offshore in the **Central Basin**, in Nov (m. obs.), with scattered reports from inland reservoirs.

Long-tailed duck: First reported was a female off **Sims Pk** in **Euclid** 30 Oct (N. Anderson), then on 5 Nov one off **Rocky River Pk** and two off **Huntington Resn** (S. Gasser), followed by eight in **Mosquito Ck WA** the 18th (B. Fish *vide* E. Kistler), two at **Conneaut** 7-13 (C. Holt) then 23 Nov (J. Pogacnik), four off **Perry Pk** in **Lake** 11 Nov (E. Schlabach), followed by two there 14 Nov (J. Talkington). Hardly the numbers of a hundred years ago, but more not bad for present days.



His High and Mightiness watches over a harem of females at Mosquito Lake.
Photo of long-tailed ducks by Jay Lehman 19 Nov.

Bufflehead: A female sat it out at **ONWR** 19 Aug (K. Kaufman), but three migrants showed up 29 Oct at **LSR** (J. Pogacnik), then 115 at **Kelleys Isl** 30 Oct, with 1997 there by 18 Nov (T. Bartlett). Good inland flocks, all on 20 Nov, included 71 at **Pleasant Hill Res** in **Richland** (G. Cowell), 73 at **Mosquito Ck** (C. Holt), and 135 at **EFSP** (B. Foppe).

Common goldeneye: This true cold-weather duck showed up first for Nancy Anderson's regular **Sims Pk** observations in **Euclid**, with 7-8 on 3 Nov. One was seen the following day down at **HWSP** (S. Pelikan). The 18th saw the high count for fall, 57 for the **Kelleys Isl** census (T. Bartlett); ~50 were at **Mosquito Ck** on the 20th (C. Holt).

Hooded merganser: As usual, the largest gatherings were reported from inland reservoirs, with 500+ at **Hoover Res** in **Delaware** 13 Nov (C. Bombaci), and 175 at smaller **Lk Logan** in **Hocking** 20 Nov (J. Fry).

Common merganser: Premature on 5 Oct at **Conneaut** were 13 (C. Holt). Noteworthy was the sight of 30-40 flying upstream on the **Ashtabula River** about 5 mi inland on 13 Oct (L. Rosche).

Red-breasted merganser: J. Pogacnik first noted migrants at **LSR**, 26 flybys, on 28 Oct. By 18 Nov, the **Kelleys Isl** census was to report 19,122, and estimates in the tens of thousands abounded in the **Central Basin**.

Ruddy duck: Gathered in their favored reservoirs: ~230 in **Mogadore** 15 Oct (G. Bennett), 250 at **Lk Medina** on 21 Oct (G. Leidy), ~1000 at **Wellington Res** 28 Oct (K. Ostermiller) then ~500 there on 24 Nov (S. Snyder), and ~300 at **Ferguson Res** in **Lima** 14 Nov (C. Schooley).

Red-throated loon: Peterjohn calls this species "casual to rare" in Ohio, and "exceptional" the fall flight of 1985, which produced 13 birds statewide. This fall produced a minimum of 20 birds: one at **Conneaut** 21 Oct (C. Holt), one at **HBSP** 1 Nov *vide* J. Brumfield, and birds at **BCSP** 4-5 Nov (D. Overacker, P. Gardner), **LSR** 5 Nov (J. Pogacnik), **Rocky River Pk** and **Huntington Resn** 6 Nov (S. Gasser), four at **Perry Pk** 11 Nov (E. Schlabach), one at **Shreve Lake** 13-14 Nov (S. Hannan, S. Snyder), **Perry Pk** 14 Nov (J. Talkington), two at **Pleasant Hill Lk** 15 Nov (Snyder), **Hoover Res** 16 (J. Kuenzli)-19 Nov (J. Hammond), 17 Nov at **Deer Ck SP** (B. Powell), 18-19 Nov at **Lk Logan** (J. Watts, 2nd **Hocking** record), two 21 Nov at **LSR** (Pogacnik), and one 27 Nov **Caesar Ck SP** (L. Gara). Ten birds seen inland dominated the latter half of the flight.

Common loon: An excellent flight statewide, with a new state record high number—inland, no less—of 1372 birds over **Morrow** 12 Nov (observer A. Troyer reported ~90% came through between 8:30 and 9:15 am). Three found 27 Aug in a **Findlay Res** (D. Patick) had spent the summer there (B. Hardesty), and another haunted **Alum Ck Lk** again 18 Aug (R. Thorn). N. Anderson found three migrants off **Sims Pk** as early as 16 Oct. After an Oct of small counts, ~200 were off **Rocky River Pk** 5 Nov (M. Kraus *vide* C. Caldwell), with 44 the same day at **LSR** (J. Pogacnik), followed by 327 off **Rocky River Pk** the following day (P. Lozano), then 156 the day after at **LSR** (Pogacnik). 11 Nov saw 134 at **Caesar Ck SP** (R. Asamoto), the next day ~250 at **Clear Fk Res** (R. Troutman), 18 Nov 107 at **Lorain** (G. Bennett), and on 20 Nov 778 loons, the second-highest number on record for **HBSP** (R. Hannikman).

Pied-billed grebe: A dozen flocks in excess of 20 birds were reported, most at inland reservoirs, led by 43 for the 6 Aug **ONWRC**, 40 at **Camp Dennison** 18 Nov (J. Habig), 37 at **Nimisila Res** 5 Nov (G. Bennett), and 31 at **La Due Res** (R. Rickard) on 26 Oct.

Horned grebe: Early was one at **Hoover Res** 29 Sep (B. Warner), with the first four at **HBSP** coming only on 22 Oct (L. Rosche). Numbers peaked in mid-Nov, with 217 off **LSR** 5 Nov (J. Pogacnik), 100+ at **Perry Pk** 11 Nov (E. Schlabach), and on 12 Nov 50 at **EFSP** (D. Morse), and 100+ off **Kelleys Isl** (T. Bartlett).

Red-necked grebe: Peterjohn writes that a "large fall movement during 1989 produced 11 reports statewide, including 8 for Lake Erie." This fall a minimum 16 were reported, with three from Lake Erie, beginning with a trio at **Clear Fk Res** on 25 Oct (R. Troutman)—30 Oct (J. Lehman), one at **Deer Ck SP** 1 Nov (B. Royle), another at **Mosquito Ck** 3 Nov (J. Petruzzi)—20 Nov (J. Lehman), one at **Ferguson Res** in **Lima** 4 Nov (D. Dister), another at **Lk Milton** in **Mahoning** the same day (G. Bennett), one at **Wellington Res** 6 Nov (S. Gasser), at least one bird at **Caesar Ck SP** 11 (R. Asamoto) through 25 Nov (L. Gara), another at **Clear Fork Res** 12 Nov (J. Herman *fide* Troutman), one at **Conneaut** 12-13 Nov (C. Holt), at the **Gordon Pk Marina** 16 (D&J Hoffman) through 19 Nov (P. Lozano), another presumably at **Mosquito** 19 Nov (J. Lehman), one at **Dike 14** on 20 Nov (possibly the Gordon Pk bird) by C. Caldwell, and one off **LSR** on 21 Nov (J. Pogacnik).

Eared grebe: One discovered 30 Oct by B. Warner at **Hoover Res** hung around as late as 18 Nov (C. Bombaci). J. Pogacnik had one fly past **LSR** on 5 Nov. L. Gruber discovered another at **Camp Dennison** that persisted 18 Nov through the eop.

Western grebe: One was photographed at Lima's **Ferguson Res** 12 Nov. Details are with the OBRC.

American white pelican: An apparently healthy individual at **KPWA** spent 10 Aug (L. Powlick) through at least 22 Oct (B. Warner) there. R. Hinkle reported one seen in **Port Clinton** 14 Oct. Perhaps the same individual was found near **Medusa Marsh** 29 (M. Hendrick) and 30 Oct (S. Young). One discovered at **Deer Ck SP** (*fide* D. Daniel) 30 Oct probably remained 8 Nov (R. Royle) there, and as one of two at the site 15 Nov (D. Fisher).

Double-crested cormorant: The effects of the large-scale culling of breeding cormorants on Lake Erie islands were obvious only in the 1 Oct **ONWRC**, whose count of 13 cormorants was considerably lower than the ten-year Oct average of 1056 birds. **Findlay Res** hosted ~500 on 30 Aug (B. Hardesty). At **Hoover Res**, ~200 were present 15 Sep (C. Bombaci), and **Kelleys Isl** had 875 on 16 Oct (T. Bartlett). Four hundred were found at **Deer Ck SP** 1 Nov (R. Royle).

American bittern: Much less vocal in fall, this species was reported from **Erie**, **Cuyahoga**, **Lucas**, and **Hardin** counties during the period, latest at **Metzger Marsh**, where breeding likely had taken place, on 23 Nov (J. Pogacnik).



This cattle egret, a species scarce recently in the NE, was findable in Lake Co during the third week of Nov. Invisible here, faint traces of rusty alternate feathers could be seen in its brow and belly. Photo by John Pogacnik.

Least bittern: Four or five were still calling at **Jaite** in the **CVNP** 1 Sep (D. Chasar). The sole report of an apparent fall migrant came from **HBSP** on 29 Oct (J. Talkington *fide* L. Rosche).

Great egret: Early dispersals included 29 at **Funk WA** 12 Aug (S. Snyder), 28 in **Columbus** 20 Aug (R. Thorn), 19 at **MWW** the 21st (F. Frick), 33 at

Killbuck Marsh 6 Sep (L. Deininger), 80 at **Willow Pt WA** 9 Sep (J. Grabmeier), and 35+ at **MCWS** 19 Sep (B&D Lane). Nov sightings included one on the 16th at **Conneaut** (Lanes), eight at the **Bayshore PP** (K. Kaufman), four there 20 Nov (T. Kemp), a **Conneaut** bird on 18 Nov (G. Malosh), and three at **Ottawa NWR** the 26th (G. Crippen).



An eared grebe and a horned grebe provided comparisons of autumn plumage at Hoover Res in Delaware Co 12 Nov for photographer Jay Lehman.

Snowy egret: Post-breeding dispersals did not venture all that far, with 12+ at **Willow Pt WA** in **Erie** 29 Aug (D. Sparks-Jackson) and four there 9 Sep (J. Grabmeier), one at **Pipe Ck WA** 2 Sep (B. Warner), single juveniles in **Lorain** 8 Sep (T. Fairweather *fide* L. Rosche) and **Lake** 7 Sep (J. Talkington *fide* Rosche), one with 43 great egrets at **MCWS** 12 Sep (B. Jones) and another 19 Sep, with the last close to home at **ONWR** 19 Oct (E. Tramer).

Little blue heron: As with the previous species, no spectacles. An adult graced **Sandy Ridge** in **Lorain** 2 (E. Elder) through at least 12 Aug (C. Spagnoli). An imm spent the first half of Aug in **ONWR** (R. Hinkle), with a later appearance 14 Sep (P. Sherwood), and another was seen at **Willow Pt WA** 9 Sept (B. Sparks). Farther afield, one imm at **MWW** was noted 6 Aug, with two 21 Aug (both F. Frick), and one 31 Aug (A. Oliver).

Cattle egret: At least 20, probably from the **Turning Point Isl** colony in **Sandusky**, were visible from the Turnpike and Rte 13 in **Erie** 20 Aug (B. Winger *fide* P. Lozano). K. Corzett found one migrant at **Cowan Lk SP** 9 Oct. Late was one at the **Shreve Fish Pond** (near **Killbuck**) 4 Nov (S. Snyder), later still one in **Willoughby (Lake)** 19-24 Nov (m. obs.).



Photographer Paula Lozano reassured anxious Westlake homeowners on 2 Aug that this juvenile green heron would do just fine on its own.

Green heron: Late occurrences included one at **West Branch SP** 4 Oct (C. Holt), and one at **N. Chagrin Res** in *Cuyahoga* 22 Oct (K. Metcalf).

Black-crowned night-heron: This species is ripe for investigation. Once fairly widely distributed in the state, its breeding range diminished drastically, but there are hints it may be recovering. Its status is complex—see Peterjohn—and the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas's work will provide more information. This fall Lozano reported the expected winter numbers in **Cleveland**—with 27 on 1 Nov growing to 104 by the 28th. The **OSU** campus had its now-expected numbers, with 13 there on 22 Nov (A. Boone), and **Conneaut** consistently had up to five in Nov (C. Holt): none of these roosts is at all close to a known breeding colony. The ~500 pairs at **West Sister Island** produce few locally wintering birds, only those taking advantage of warm waters at the **Bayshore PP**—maximum reported only six on 17 Nov (K. Kaufman), while winter roosts in the three figures near the **Turning Pt Isl colony** in **Sandusky** are fairly regular recently.

***Plegadis ibis* species:** Reports emerged of five over **Maumee** 1 Sept, and a first-winter bird at **MCWS** 14 Oct.

Black vulture: Beyond traditional areas, three over **Hoover Res** 28 Oct (R. Thorn) were unusual, as were five over **Malabar Farm** in **Richland** 8 Oct (G. Cowell). In **Holmes**, five were present 9 Sept (J. Miller), and two apparent migrants on 5 Oct (D. Kline).

Turkey vulture: Leisurely southbound migrants, eight passed over **Whiskey Isl.** in *Cuyahoga* 31 Aug (P. Lozano). Two hundred-plus were near **Lima** on 14 Oct (D. Dister); later four were near **Toledo** 15 Nov (E. Tramer), and single birds over **Paulding** 19 Nov (D&M Dunakin) and **Hancock** 28 Nov (B. Hardesty). One of two large roosts in **Athens** had 90+ birds 18 Nov (B. Whan).

Swallow-tailed kite: Second-hand reports emerged of one at **Sandy Ridge MP** in **Lorain** 13 Aug, and one two days later at nearby **Carlisle Resn.** One observer contacted promised documentation for the OBRC.

Bald eagle: The gratifying recovery of this species after the cessation of DDT use continues, to the point that some now question its state status as endangered. The census team counted 38 at **CPNWR** on 10 Sept.

Northern harrier: Breeding Bird Atlas work should do much to clarify its numbers as a breeder in Ohio; few fall numbers are of much help, though one at **MWW** 22 Aug (F. Frick), and seven in **Hardin** on 9 Sep (R. Counts) are a start. High count was far to the south, with 10 at **Crown City WA** 19 Nov (D. Patick).

Red-shouldered hawk: Still doing well. In the NE, the **CVNP** count of 23 Sep, for example, found 13, versus 16 of our default buteo, the red-tailed hawk (D&A Chasar).

Broad-winged hawk: Distressingly often mistakenly reported well after its favored prey items are unavailable, geography concentrated its spectacular September movements in the **Toledo** area as usual. On 24 Sep, a mediocre day for broad-winged at Michigan's famed **Erie MP** just to the north, R. Nirschl saw ~4300 over a **Toledo MP**, then another ~3500 over the **Maumee R**; G. Links reported ~8200 over **S. Toledo** spots the same day.

Rough-legged hawk: The first report from **The Wilds** came 27 Sep (A. Parker), and one was over **Hancock** 3 Oct (B. Hardesty). Their numbers seemed skimpy this fall.

Golden eagle: R. Counts reported an adult over the **Hardin/Wyandot** line 16 Sep, and N. Yoder a young bird over **Millersburg** 23 Oct (*vide* L. Yoder). In Nov, S. Stockford had one over **Toledo** the 7th, M. Anderson two in **Fulton** the 10th, and A. Troyer an adult over **Richland** the 20th. A. Parker reported the first possibly over-wintering birds at **The Wilds** on 25, 28, and 29 Nov.

Merlin: Early was one at **Conneaut** 24 Aug (C. Holt). Most fall migrants just zoomed over observers, but one that spent 25 Sep-3 Oct knocking off migrant passerines trying to pass over **Pleasant Hill Res**, using an adjacent cemetery as a base of operations, was of interest (G. Cowell). Cemeteries continued to invite merlins that may have been settling into wintering areas: on 12 Nov, B. Zimmerman found one at **Old St. Joseph's Cemetery** in **Hamilton** (last year he noted one there 19 Nov, and in 2004 one on 20 Nov); D&J Hoffman found one at **Cleveland's Lake View Cem** 16 Nov, where a merlin had spent the two previous winters; and B. Finkelstein located an adult female at **Calvary Cem** in **Garfield Hts**, where merlins have wintered the previous four years.

Yellow rail: A bird found injured in **Newark** 20 Oct died at a rehab facility 9 Dec (ph J. McCormac). Another was reported from **Lake** 24 Oct.

King rail: Hard to find in fall, one was confirmed at a **Hardin** wetland 17 Aug (D. Sanders).

Virginia rail: More or less silent fall birds were detected at **Jaite** in the **CNVP** 7 Oct (G. Leidy), and at **BCSP** in **Clark** the following day (D. Overacker).

Sora: Sparse reports this fall. One probable migrant was found dead on **S. Bass Isl** 16 (L. Brohl). R. Sempier found six young ones at **BIWA** 26 Aug.

Common moorhen: Seemingly a successful year for this species, with reports of young ones from **Greene, Lucas, Fairfield, Ottawa, Marion,** and **Columbiana**.

American coot: An adult w/three young at **Glacier Ridge MP** 3 Aug (C. Morrow *vide* J. Watts) may have been a first **Union** breeding record. October brought migrants aplenty: on the 1st, 1042 for the **Ottawa NWR** census, 550+ at **Columbus** (R. Thorn) and 150 at **Mogadore Res** the 15th (G. Bennett), on the 29th 1100 at **Wellington Res** in **Lorain** (R&S Harlan) and 1500 at **Deer Ck SP** (R. Royse), and on the 30th 2200 at **Camp Dennison** (B. Foppe). The 12 Nov census at **CPWNR** tallied 1726 (E. Tramer), and Camp Dennison sheltered ~2000 by 18 Nov (Foppe).

Sandhill crane: Western Ohio did not host customary numbers; with only ~180 reported in the **Cincinnati** area 5 Oct-20 Nov. However, reports of small numbers came from counties like **Ashland, Columbiana, Fairfield, Pickaway, Mahoning,** and **Clark**, and unusually large numbers from **Wayne**, where **Funk WA** invited as many as 74 birds on 15-26 Nov and 82 on 29 Nov (S. Snyder), and a remarkable ~300 in several flocks in **Portage** 20 Nov (G. Westerfield *vide* D. Kramer).

Black-bellied plover: First reported at **Conneaut** 7 Aug (B. Coulter), with the high count of 30 there 19 Aug (M. Fialkovich *fide* M. Vass). One lingered at the **GLSM** fish hatchery ponds 14 Nov (J. Bowers).

American golden-plover: A poor flight, apparently. The high count was only 38, at the **Hardin** wetlands 30 Sep (R. Counts). The latest appeared at **Conneaut** 6 Oct (J. Sedranski).

Semipalmated plover: Juveniles arrived 22 Aug at **Conneaut** (C. Holt). The last was found at **Caesar Ck SP** 20 Oct (L. Gara).

Killdeer: ~300 gathered at **Wright Marsh** in **Wayne** on 27 Aug (S. Snyder), and ~200 at **BCSP** 6 Oct. Continued in good numbers into Nov, when 175 were at **Funk WA** in **Wayne** the 10th (Snyder).

American avocet: Thirty-one reported, 26 during Aug, with a high count of six at **Pipe Ck WA** the 31st (D. Sanders). Latest were birds at **Pickerington Ponds** (**Fairfield**), where one bird 11 Sep (G. Stauffer) grew to two 19 Sep (M. Hager), with one remaining 10 Oct (S. Felker).

Solitary sandpiper: Late on 15 Oct in **Mahoning** (C. Holt), their high count was 12 at **Winous Pt** in **Sandusky** 23 Aug (T. Bartlett). Two at **Conneaut** 24 Aug and 22 Sept were locally unusual (Holt).

Greater yellowlegs: A juv appeared in **Conneaut** as early as 7 Aug (B. Coulter). For the high count, 47 were in **Hardin 2** Sep (R. Counts), diminishing to 29 by 30 Sep. A number of Nov reports culminated in two in **Delaware** the 30th (B. Shively).

Willet: A poor showing, with six birds seen, all in August, including two at **BCSP** the 14th (D. Overacker).

Lesser yellowlegs: Nothing more remarkable than 125 at the small **Hardin** wetland 2 Sept (R. Counts), when C. Holt found ~60 at **Conneaut** (one ad only), and a bird as late as 20 Nov in **Delaware** (B. Shively).

Upland sandpiper: Ever more scarce in Ohio, one was at **Funk WA** in **Wayne** 5 Aug (K. Kline), another along the **Magee** causeway 8 Aug (K. Kaufman). E. Schlabach reported two in **Tuscarawas** 12 Aug and one in **Holmes** 21 Aug.

Whimbrel: Evanescent as always, with touchdowns at **Conneaut** 8 Aug (L. Hays), two on 19 Aug (M. Fialkovich *fide* M. Vass), and single birds 7 (D. English) and 9 Sep (Vass). **Hoover Res** hosted one on 5 Oct (C. Bombaci).



Aaron Boone photographed this molting adult Hudsonian godwit at Pickerington Ponds in Fairfield County on 5 September. This individual had black staining on the face for some reason.

Hudsonian godwit: T. Bartlett found three at **Winous Pt** 30 Aug. A molting adult frequented **Pickerington Ponds** 31 Aug-9 Sep (J. Watts). A flock of 26 spent 1 Sep at the **Hardin** wetlands (R. Counts). Two were at **Conneaut** 2 Sep (C. Holt), one there 24 Sep (J. Pogacnik), and the 1 Oct **ONWRC** came across another duo at the Refuge.

Marbled godwit: One at **ONWR** 15-17 Aug (R. Hinkle) may well have hit the **Crane Ck SP** beach 19 Aug (C. Caldwell et al.). Three found the restored wetlands at **MCWS** in **Mahoning** to their liking 20 Aug (B. Jones), and the last report came from **Winous Pt** on 20 Sep (T. Bartlett).

Ruddy turnstone: Few reports, with high counts of 12 at **Conneaut** 9 Aug (M. Fialkovich *fide* M. Vass) and eight at **Findlay Res #1** on 16 Sep (R. Counts). Holt observed one at **Conneaut** 5 Oct capturing and eating a moth; this species' diet is free-ranging, and groups have been observed pecking at human corpses washed up on beaches.

Red knot: Perhaps the adults of the vanishing *rufa* race overfly Ohio, for most we see anymore are juveniles. D. Friedman found one walking the asphalt parking lot at **MBSB** 31 Aug, and T. Bartlett saw three at **Winous Pt** 26 Aug. At **Conneaut**, B. Coulter found a knot 5 Sep, A. Boone one 9 Sep, and M. Studebaker another the following day, Holt one on the 11th, then Vass one in basic plumage the 14th, V. Fazio another 1 Oct., J. Petruzzi one the next day, and Holt another on 5 Oct.

Sanderling: Only 48 reported statewide, with most from **Conneaut**, where the anemic high count of 23 occurred 18 Jul (C. Holt). An ad there 2 Sep was late, where juveniles 5 Oct were molting to basic already (Holt). The latest sighting came at **MBSB** 25 Nov (J. McCormac).

Semipalmated sandpiper: Generally in low numbers, even at **Conneaut**. High count was ~500 at **Winous Pt** 31 Aug (T. Bartlett), with a poor second-high of ~120 nearby at **PCWA** 27 Aug (B. Whan). Mostly juveniles were present 4 Aug at **Conneaut** (R. Gallardy) with a late ad there 18 Sep (C. Holt); a rather late report came from **Hoover Res**, four birds on 14 Oct (B. Warner).

Western sandpiper: Eleven reported, with a high count of four juveniles at **Willow Pt WA** 9 Sep (B. Whan). A juv at **Conneaut** 5 Sep was the first, and the latest 4 Nov at **Deer Ck SP** (R. Roysse).

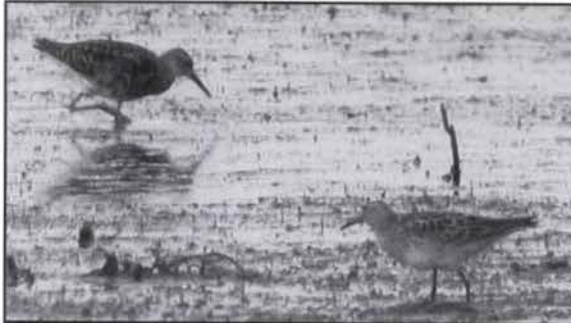
Least sandpiper: Thirty-five at **Conneaut** 4 Aug were mostly juveniles (R. Gallardy), their numbers peaked on 27 Aug, when 40 were at **PCWA** (B. Whan), ~150 at **Winous Pt** (T. Bartlett), and ~150 at **Wright Marsh** in **Wayne** (S. Snyder). Snyder had one at **Funk WA** on 26 Nov for the latest report.



Darlene Friedman photographed the intricate feather patterns of this juvenal red knot on the edge of the parking lot at Maumee Bay SP 31 August.

White-rumped sandpiper:

A light flight, with a high count of 14 adults at **Conneaut** 2 Sep (C. Holt). Two were at **West Branch SP** 25 Sep (Holt, who reports not having seen a single juv in Ohio this decade). The latest of a number of Oct reports was one at **HBSP** the 31st (L. Rosche).



Aaron Boone photographed this female ruff at Pickerington Ponds MP in Fairfield Co. 27 Aug. Note structural differences from a nearby pectoral sandpiper, something of a look-alike.

Baird's sandpiper: Peak numbers were only eight, at **Conneaut** 18 Aug (G. Miller) and at **Wright Marsh** in **Wayne** 24 Aug (G. Hostetler), when the first juveniles arrived at **Conneaut** (C. Holt). Rare in the region, one in **Butler** 26-27 Aug (M. Busam, J. Stenger) was of interest. Bringing up the rear was a straggler at **Funk WA** 10 Nov (S. Snyder).

Pectoral sandpiper: An unremarkable flight, with high counts of 150 at **Wright Marsh** on 23 Aug (R&S Harlan) and ~80 at **PCWA** 27 Aug (B. Whan). One stayed as late as 4 Nov, at **Deer Ck SP** (B. Roysel).

Purple sandpiper: This hardiest of shorebirds was in no hurry. *Fide* L. Rosche, R. Hannikman found one at **HBSP** 27 Nov, where two were present the 29th.

Dunlin: In recent years, one or more have apparently sat out the breeding season here. Birds seen 13 (B. Sparks) and 22 Aug (J. Lennon) at **PCWA** showed breeding plumage, which is usually molted before adults leave the breeding grounds much later; B. Zwiebel reported one in molt at **MBSP** 23 Aug, which may have been the one noted still in this state there through 26 Sep. The first arrival from the breeding grounds came to **Conneaut** 21 Sep, and ~200 flew by **Perry Pk** on 4 Nov (C. Caldwell), when two could be found at **Deer Ck SP** (B. Roysel). Last reported were a remnant of the traditional hordes at the **CCE** (where the **ONWR** census team had found 807 on 5 Nov), 81 on 26 Nov (D. Dister).



The raised wings display of the buff-breasted sandpiper is most often seen on leks at the breeding grounds, but this bird at Conneaut on 4 September, dubbed by photographer Dave Lewis a "right-winged sandpiper," offers a one-sided view.

Stilt sandpiper: At **PCWA**, "several" were around 13 Aug (B. Sparks), peaking at ~40 the 27th (B. Whan) for a meager high count. Over the next month reports of up to 20 migrants came from specks of habitat in **Preble**, **Hardin**, **Ashtabula**, **Delaware**, and **Montgomery**. Latest were five at **Hoover Res** 16 Oct (B. Warner).

Buff-breasted sandpiper: Over 20 reports signaled a good flight. Only five came from the **Lake Erie** shore: inland, four came from **Hancock**, four from **Wayne**, three from **Clark**, two from **Fairfield**, and one each from **Hamilton**, **Franklin**, **Hardin**, and **Delaware**. The high count was four, at a **Findlay Res** 21 Aug (B. Hardesty). **BCSP** hosted two late records: one 15 Oct (D. Overacker), and one very late 31 Oct (L. Gara).

Ruff: Two juveniles were photographed at **Conneaut** 18 Aug, as was a molting ad female at **Pickerington Ponds** in **Fairfield** 27-28 Aug.

Short-billed dowitcher: The scarcest subspecies *hendersoni*, expected here, bears watching. This year Bolton found the most in the **NW marshes**, a total of only 19! Fewer were seen at **Conneaut**, and the inland high was only 28 in **Hardin** 3 Sep (R. Counts). A single bird was reported in the SW counties, at **MWW** 6 Aug (F. Frick). They fared somewhat better in **Sandusky Bay**, where at **Winous Pt.** T. Bartlett reported 75 on 21 Aug, 130 on 24 Aug, ~250 on 30 Aug, ~300 on 31 Aug, and one 26 Sep. C. Holt reported the first juv at **Conneaut** 22 Aug.

Long-billed dowitcher: This species is far more numerous in North America than the previous one, but the small population that stages for weeks in mid-migration to molt in Ohio is unique in the region. Single-digit reports came from **Conneaut**, **Hardin**, **Delaware**, and **GLSM** during the period, and counts as high as 50 from **Winous Pt.** (18 Sep, T. Bartlett), but most heartening were reports totaling 1038, all on the **CCE**, from Bolton on seven occasions, with the first 140 on 17 Sep, a high of 560 on 15 Oct, and latest 34 there on 4 Nov, suggesting staging persists thus far despite the diking of Metzger Marsh.



This red-necked phalarope seemed to be striving to display all of its field marks at Conneaut on 15 August. Photo by Gary Meszaros.

Wilson's snipe: An unremarkable migration, with a high count of 25 on 25 Oct in **Holmes** (S. Snyder), and 12 at the **CVNP's** Coliseum site on 4 Nov (D. Chasar).

Wilson's phalarope: Post-breeding sightings in **Hardin** involved three 12 Aug and one, perhaps unrelated, on 23 Sep (R. Counts). Only one report, of a juv at **ONWR** 18 Aug, emanated from the NW marshes (K. Kaufman). Sandusky Bay was a hot spot, with one 21 Aug at **PCWA** (*fide* G. Links) and seven there by 19 Aug (E. Schlabach), and T. Bartlett had two nearby at **Winous Pt.** 22 Aug. Two juv were at **Conneaut** 31 Aug (W. Shaffer).

Red-necked phalarope: Reports of 23, with most in Aug from *Williams*, *Sandusky*, and *Ashtabula*, and a high count of four at *PCWA* the 13th (B. Sparks). Later, one was at *West Branch SP* 28 Sep (G. Cudworth), and another latish in *Hardin* 6 Oct (R. Counts).

Red phalarope: Two reported from *Conneaut*, 22 (J. Hudick *fide* C. Holt) and 29 Oct (J. Pogacnik).

Laughing gull: At least nine birds, eight of them inland: four juv at *EFSP* 16 Sep (B. Stanley), with one remaining 28 Sep (D. Morse); two juv at *Caesar Ck SP* 24 Sep (R. Asamoto), with one remaining 27 Sep (J. Lehman), one in basic plumage 5 Oct at *Clear Fk Res* (*Morrow*, J. Herman *fide* S. Snyder), an imm at *Conneaut* 12 Oct (C. Holt), and a juv at *Deer Ck SP* Oct 20-25 (B. Royse).

Franklin's gull: At least eight reported, with a first-winter bird at *HBSP* 12-16 Sep (R. Hannikman), a pink-bellied adult at *Caesar Ck SP* on 26 Sep (R. Asamoto), joined by a juv the 29-30th (F. Frick), with one as late as 4 Oct there (M Ream). D. Dister found one in basic plumage at *GLSM* 14 Oct, remaining 15 Oct (J. Bowers), and R. Royse another at *Deer Ck SP* 20 Oct. K. Kline had one in *Ashland* 14 Oct. G. Cowell found one at *Pleasant Hill Lk* 18 Oct, and L. Gara a juv at *Caesar Ck SP* 25 Oct.

Little gull: A few singletons were found in the Central Basin: an ad at *Conneaut* 9 Sep (M. Vass), then a young one 23 Sep & 7 Oct (J. Lehman). Adults were at *Ashtabula* 12 Oct (C. Holt), *LSR* and *Fairport Hbr* 29 Oct (J. Pogacnik), and *HBSP* 11 Nov (E. Schlabach). An extremely rare find was one inland, consorting with ring-billed gulls, in a northern *Columbiana* field 27 Oct (B&D Lane).

Black-headed gull: One theory has it that the occasional non-breeding adult black-headed gull will head north with Bonaparte's gulls and spend the summer at their breeding grounds, accompanying them on the return trip. This may have been the case with a basic-plumaged bird found and photographed at *Conneaut* 21 Sep. There is only one previous September record for the state. The editor has seen a diagnostic photo, but has not been granted permission to publish it.



This first-year laughing gull was one of two on 24 Sept at Caesar Creek SP, probably Ohio's most reliable spot for the species in fall. Photo courtesy of Rick Asamoto.

Bonaparte's gull: Five at *Conneaut* 7 Aug (B. Coulter) perhaps were the vanguard, for only by 27 Aug were ≥ 100 reported, at *PCWA* (B. Whan). On 2 Sep ~400, including many young birds, were at *Lorain* (J. Pogacnik), and on 29 Oct large movements were underway, with 1082 at *LSR* (Pogacnik) and ~1200 at *Deer Ck SP* (B. Royse). Until 5 Oct, the majority of Bonaparte's at *Conneaut* were juveniles (C. Holt). Inland numbers declined during Nov, with 200 still at *Pleasant Hill Lk* the 29th (S. Snyder). The *Kelley's Isl* census found only four 18 Nov, but numbers in the thousands persisted elsewhere along the lakefront in the *Central Basin* through the eop.

Mew gull: One was described among a flock of ring-bills at *Upper Sandusky Res* 18 Nov. Documentation with the OBRC.

Ring-billed gull: ~Ten thousand occupied a bar off *CPNWR* 24 Sep (E. Tramer). By Nov, young birds were moving south along river courses: *Hancock* had a one-day count of 4256, while mostly adults occupied favored spots like *Lorain Harbor* in many thousands through the eop.

California gull: An adult was reported from *Conneaut* 12 Nov. Documentation with the OBRC.

Thayer's gull: An adult at *Eastlake* attracted the attention of C. Spagnoli 12 Nov, then J. Pogacnik 19 Nov.

Lesser black-backed gull: An adult in flawless breeding plumage at *PCWA* 27 Aug (J. Benedetti et al.) was of interest, and present a week later (B. Whan). Seven were reported along the Lake in Sep, but most sightings came from Nov. Two inland reports emerged: an adult at *Lost Creek Res* in *Allen* 10 Nov (J. Kuenzli *fide* A. Boone) for a second county record and a subadult at *Lake Milton SP* in *Mahoning* 23 Nov (E. Kistler), a third county record. To date, inland records of this species have also occurred in *Ashland*, *Clark*, *Clermont*, *Franklin*, *Geauga*, *Hamilton*, *Hancock*, *Lorain*, *Muskingum*, *Portage*, *Richland*, *Sandusky*, *Stark*, *Summit*, *Trumbull*, *Tuscarawas*, *Warren*, and *Wood*, for a total of 28 Ohio counties.



On 2 Sept, J. Pogacnik photographed this individual at Lorain Harbor. Surrounded by herring gulls and a single great black-backed gull, it resembles nothing so much as a lesser black-backed gull of the northern European race *intermedius*. Three lesser black-backed gulls with normal medium-gray plumage accompanied this third-year bird at Lorain.

Glaucous gull: One reported, an imm at **Conneaut** 12 Nov (C. Holt).

Great black-backed gull:

A second-year bird was at **Metzger Marsh** as early as 27 Aug (D. Patick). Most interesting was a juvenal bird seen off and on 1-26 Sept at **Caesar Ck SP** (L. Gara, ph, m. obs).

Sabine's gull: The sole report came from **Lorain Hbr** 2 Sept, an early date (J. Pogacnik).

Black-legged kittiwake: A return to former days, with several reported, beginning with an extraordinary adult bird in basic plumage at **Conneaut** 2 Sep (C. Holt); this and other birds at this date (see previous species) may have been influenced by Hurricane Ernesto's last throes. A single juv bird was quite possibly involved in sightings at **Fairport Hbr** 4 Nov (J. Pogacnik), 5 Nov at **HBSP** (R. Hannikman *vide* K. Metcalf), and at **Fairport** 8 Nov (J. Lehman). Another at E. 72nd St. in **Cleveland** 22 Nov (*vide* D. Sanders) was seen there by m. obs. through the cop.

Caspian tern: As usual, some reappeared in late summer, an ad with begging young as far south as **Caesar Ck SP** 16 Aug (L. Gara), and 40+ at **Lorain** 2 Sep (J. Pogacnik). Two on the 5 Nov **ONWRC**.

Black tern: Not a bad showing these days, with 148 reported, mostly in Aug, as singles or small parties, in **Mahoning, Sandusky, Hardin, Hancock, Van Wert, Fairfield, Lucas, Ottawa, Delaware, Wyandot, Montgomery, Hamilton, Butler, Clermont,** and **Morgan**. The high count was 30+ at **EFSP** 1 Sep (D. Morse), the latest a straggler in **Hardin** 19 Sep (R. Counts).

Common tern: At **ONWR**, the 6 Aug census's report of 91 probably represented local assisted breeders. Soon birds dispersed along the Lakefront, with ~1100 at **MBSP** 27 Aug (B. Whan), ~300 2 Sept at **Lorain** (J. Pogacnik), ~100 at **Conneaut** 6 Sep (W. Shaffer), and a minimum of 5000, reminiscent of days gone by, at **Potter's Pond** in **CPNWR** on 24 Sep (E. Tramer). Ten remained at **Lorain** 29 Oct (R&S Harlan), and two at **ONWR** for the census of 5 Nov.



Dwarfing the local ring-billed gulls, this young great black-backed gull, found on 26 Sept, was a first record at Caesar Creek SP. Photo by Rick Asamoto.



This young black-legged kittiwake was apparently briefly attracted by French fries tossed by fishermen in Fairport Hbr on 5 Nov, whereupon an alert Jay Lehman took this photo.

Forster's tern: Continued dispersal in Aug, with ~200 at **MBSP** the 27th (B. Whan); the high count was 562 for the 1 Oct **ONWRC**. **Lorain** hosted Forster's 29 Oct (10 birds, R&S Harlan), with the latest report of seven there 18 Nov (B. Whan).

Pomarine jaeger: Reports were received of 23 birds in separate locations (it is impossible to eliminate duplicate reports of a single bird in multiple locations, or on repeated occasions in the same spot) between 29 Oct (J. Pogacnik at **LSR**) and 18 Nov (Geoff Malosh at **Conneaut**, E. Kistler at **Edgewater Pk**). Locations ranged from **Marblehead** (Paul Chad 10 Nov) east to **Conneaut** (two, C. Holt 9 Nov, and Malosh 18 Nov). Five reports involved two birds.

Parasitic jaeger: Also with 23 reported (and with the same limitations), this review species was said to be present along the Lakefront from **Avon Lk** (18 Nov) to **Conneaut** (with the first sighting 24 Sep). The reported high count was of five, at **Perry Pk** in **Lake** 14 Nov, where reports spanned 4-17 Nov and involved eight individuals.

Long-tailed jaeger: Alertly photographed was one at **EFSP** in **Clermont** when it flushed with a flock of ring-billed gulls disturbed by the local metal-detector addict on 5 Sep. Another reminder that all jaegers do not follow the Great Lakes all the way to the St. Lawrence Seaway to their marine wintering areas, but some cross overland, stopping at reservoirs. Documentation is with the OBRC.

Jaeger, sp: Most observers seemed inclined to assign distant jaegers at least tentatively as to species, but C. Spagnoli was commendably satisfied with jaeger sp. for a bird seen 5 Nov at **Rocky River Pk**. Intriguing was J. Bens's sighting of a jaeger overhead while he waited at a stoplight in **n. Hamilton** on 22 Sep.

Yellow-billed cuckoo: High count five in **Coshocton** 19 Sep (E. Schlabach), with the latest report from **Metzger Marsh** 1 Nov (K. Kaufman).

Black-billed cuckoo: Two were still lugging food for young at **Alum Ck** 7 Sep (R. Thorn).

Barred owl: Ten just at the north end of **Hoover Res** 4 Nov was an excellent count (C. Bombaci).

Long-eared owl: First reported at **Hoover Res** 12 Oct (J. Kuenzli), with other single birds in **Lorain** 5 Nov (M. Vosniak), the **Cinci Nat Ctr** 11 Nov (B. Creasey), **Kelleys Isl** 12 Nov (T. Bartlett), and two at **MBSP** 20 Nov (T. Kemp).

Short-eared owl: Seen first at **MWW** 29 Oct (R. Kolde); scanty reports came from **Warren** and **Putnam**, a high count of eight in **Hardin** (15 Nov, R. Counts), and a late migrant at **HBSP** 11 Nov (E. Schlabach).



This young long-tailed jaeger was spooked into flight with a flock of terns and ring-billed gulls at East Fork SP on 5 September by photographer William Hull.

Northern saw-whet owl: A fledgling found injured 30 Jun in *Huron* was deemed unable to survive on its own on 25 Sept and dedicated to educational purposes (*vide* S. Young), adding to evidence of its rare breeding status in Ohio. Single birds reported from *Butler* 13 Nov (D. Russell), *Mahoning* 19 Nov (B&D Lane), and *HBSP* (L. Richardson *vide* L. Rosche). From the *Ross* banding site, K. Williams-Sieg reported 28 owls captured 24 Oct-3 Dec (with seven on 20 Nov); three males, 21 females, and four unknowns

Common nighthawk: First reported migrants were two in *Muskingum* 31 Jul, with large numbers by the last week of Aug: on the 28th more than 300 in *Montgomery/Hamilton* (S. Pelikan) and 300+ in *Columbus* (A. Boone), and on the following day 100+ in *Cincinnati* (B. Zimmerman) and 340 in *Clermont* (D. Morse). On 3 Oct, 224 could still be seen over *Columbus* (B. Whan), and *Cincinnati* had three remarkable Nov reports: six on the 6th (B. Hull), one the 10th (T. Uhlman), and another in stadium lights on the 17th (P. Wharton), a record late date. Breeders are down in Ohio, but numbers of migrants are less dismaying; later stays by this insectivore are of note.

Chimney swift: R. Thorn reported *Columbus*-area roosts of this species of 60-150 on 7 Aug, where by the 22nd 6-700 were seen in *Dublin* (D. Sillick), then 2500-3000 birds 2 Sept (J. Bowman *vide* Sillick); on 1 Oct 2350 were in *Worthington* (Thorn). As many as 100 were at the *Shaker Lks* 29 Oct (H. Clebsch), and nine stragglers were quite late over downtown *Conneaut* 7 Nov (C. Holt).

Ruby-throated hummingbird: Increasing use of feeders later in the season may have resulted in sightings 22 Oct in *Avon Lk* (C. Minsch), a "hummingbird sp" 25 Oct in *Licking* (M. Van Schoyck) and another in *Lake* (C. Takacs), and finally one in *Richland* 3 Nov (R. Troutman).

Rufous hummingbird: Only two confirmed records this fall, one in *Dayton* 26 Oct-23 Nov (C. Medlin), and another in *Lebanon* 1 Nov to at least 26 Nov (T. Yowler); both identified in hand by A. Chartier. Last fall seven were confirmed, and nine probable *Selasphorus* birds reported.

Yellow-bellied sapsucker: Pretty much on schedule, with a high count of five on 23 Sep at *HBSP* (K. Metcalf). One remained 10 Nov in *Hocking* (J. Watts).

Northern flicker: The *CVNP* census detected 93 during the height of its movement 23 Sep (D&A Chasar).

Olive-sided flycatcher: A remarkable 35 confidently reported, between 6 Aug (*ONWRC*) and 3 Oct (C. Bombaci, *Delaware*).

Eastern wood-pewee: J. Faulkner reported one still on eggs 5 Aug in *Perry*. Several reporters regarded their numbers as up from last year. Running late was one at *Metzger Marsh* 1 Nov (K. Kaufman).

Yellow-bellied flycatcher: High count four, at *HBSP* 22 Sep (R. Hannikman). Fairly late was one in *Coshocton* 7 Oct (L. Yoder).

Acadian flycatcher: Rather tardy was one at *Alum Ck SP* 1 Oct (R. Thorn).

Alder flycatcher: Reported as late as 26 Aug at *Springville Marsh, Seneca* (T. Bartlett).

Willow flycatcher: Reported latest at *Alum Lk* on 1 Oct (R. Thorn).

Least flycatcher: Six were found at *HBSP* 22 Sep (R. Hannikman), and one in *Columbus* 27 Sep (R. Thorn).

Eastern phoebe: The high count came from the *CVNP* census of 23 Sep, with 55 birds. Some phoebes stayed through the eop as usual.

Eastern kingbird: P. Sherwood noted several at *ONWR* as late as 11 Sep.

Northern shrike: Found 30 Oct at *CPNWR* was probably the one present there 12 Nov (E. Tramer). M Vosniak reported one in *Lorain* 5 Nov, and R. Royse one down in *Deer Ck SP* 8 Nov-eop. J. Petruzzi had one near *Mosquito Lk* on 30 Nov.

White-eyed vireo: Latest found at *MWW* 1 Oct (S. Pelikan et al.).

Yellow-throated vireo: One lingered at *Conkle's Hollow* in *Hocking* as late as 6 Oct (J. Watts).

Blue-headed vireo: A nice high count was 12 at *Shaker Lks* 29 Sep (L. Deininger). One found in *Holmes* was unusually late on 12 Nov (K. Kline).

Philadelphia vireo: Earliest reported in *Tiffin* 31 Aug (D. Plotz), the high count was 8-10 at *N. Bass Isl* 2 Sep (J. McCormac), with a late date of 3 Oct at *Hoover Res* (C. Bombaci).

Red-eyed vireo: Their southward migration seemed normal except for an exceptionally late one found in *Franklin* 19 Nov (P. Rodewald).

Blue jay: J. Habig noted 150-200 in 6-7 oak trees gleaning acorns in *Warren* 18 Oct.

Purple martin: Considerable numbers of migrants included ~2000 in *Butler* 27 Aug (M. Busam), and 1000+ at *Magee Marsh* 2 Sep (M. Warren).

Tree swallow: Latest reported 12 Nov at *Camp Dennison* (B. Stanley), but may well have persisted past the eop somewhere, in view of the persistence of insect prey.

Northern rough-winged swallow: A straggler at *Camp Dennison* 12 Nov must have been the last of his clan this fall (B. Stanley).



This albino sparrow showed up at the Tiffin water plant, and Tom Bartlett got a photo on 16 Sept. He thinks it's a northern rough-winged swallow, and we are inclined to agree.

Bank swallow: The usual hordes near **Metzger Marsh** numbered ~1000 16 Aug (R. Nirschl), and two were spotted lingering at **MWW** as late as 21 Oct (J. Lehman).

Cliff swallow: Loath to depart were one 5 Oct at **Hoover Res** (C. Bombaci) and three in **Licking** 8 Oct (B. Roysel).

Cave swallow: One was reported over the dunes at **HBSP** 30 Nov, consistent with reports from the western NY shore in previous days.

Barn swallow: Tardy migrants were found near **Wooster** 25 Oct (K. Ostermiller), **Deer Creek SP** 29 Oct (B. Roysel), and at **BCSP** 11 Nov (J. Lehman).

Red-breasted nuthatch: No large incursion was noted, with reports amounting to single-digits statewide in Oct.

Brown creeper: First reported as migrants 28 Sep in **Columbus** (J. Kuenzli), their numbers reached 17 at **Kelleys Isl** 18 Nov (T. Bartlett).

House wren: Going by reports, did not linger, and latest reported with two at **Shawnee SF** 9 Oct (B. Roysel) three at **Gilmore Ponds** 15 Oct (M. Busam), and one in **Union** 25 Oct (R. Thorn).

Winter wren: First migrants reported at the **CVNP** 23 Sep (D. Chasar), their numbers grew to 100+ at **Mentor Lagoons** in **Lake** 5 Oct (R. Hannikman *vide* L. Rosche), then 30-40 at **Whiskey Isl** 15 Oct (P. Chaon). Four remained at **Kelleys Isl** 18 Nov (T. Bartlett).

Sedge wren: Incursions of late nesters may have been involved in sightings of 4-6 in **Franklin** 1 Aug (G. Stauffer), a pair in **Hardin** 5 Aug (R. Counts), two at **SVWA** the same date (J. Brown), one in **Montgomery** 6 Aug (D. Dister), and two at **KPWA** 17 Aug (D. Sanders). Oct sightings included one in **Delaware** the 2nd (R. Thorn), one in **Painesville** the 4th (J. Pogacnik), and two at **MWW** the 21st (J. Lehman).

Marsh wren: The **ONWRC** of 6 Aug tallied 24, while L. Gruber found one as late as 9 Nov at **SVWA**.

Golden-crowned kinglet: Reported widely during the third week of Sep, with the first at **HBSP** the 21st (L. Rosche). By 10 Oct, ~60 were to be found well inland at **Highbanks MP** in **Delaware** (C. Bombaci).

Ruby-crowned kinglet: Not especially early was the first, at **HBSP** 7 Sep (L. Rosche); 14 were at **Kelleys Isl** the 15th (T. Bartlett). Waves over the **NW marshes** tallied 74 for the 1 Oct **ONWRC** and 68 for the 7 Oct **CPNWRC**. Latest in the period was one in **Holmes** 28 Nov (K. Kline).

Veery: The **Kelleys Isl** census reported 57 on 15 Sep, and R. Thorn 15 in **Columbus** 21 Sep.

Gray-cheeked thrush: Like other thrushes elusive in fall migration, one was at **ONWR** 1 Sep (K. Kaufman), 38 overhead the night of 21 Sept (R. Thorn) in **Franklin**, and later one at **Dike 14** in **Cleveland** 4 Oct (B. Finkelstein).

Swainson's thrush: First reported at **HBSP** 22 Aug (R. Hannikman), they numbered 35 for the 15 Sep **Kelleys Isl** census (T. Bartlett), and were last seen 7 Oct at **Alum Ck SP** (R. Thorn).

Hermit thrush: **HBSP** hosted the first reported, on 22 Sep (R. Hannikman), with 54 on **Kelleys Isl** (where they winter in surprising numbers) 16 Oct. One was at **CPNWR** 21 Nov (E. Tramer).

Wood thrush: Always poorly detected in fall, the latest was seen 9 Oct in **Shawnee SF** (B. Roysel).

Gray catbird: Migration seemed to peak in Sep, with 20 at **Firestone MP** in **Akron** the 11th (R&S Harlan) and 20 in **Coshocton** the 19th (E. Schlabach). Stragglers or perhaps wintering were in **Clear Ck MP** in **Hocking** 1 Nov (J. Watts) and on **Kelleys Isl** 9 Nov (T. Bartlett).

American pipit: **Conneaut** hosted early arrivals in Aug on the 19th (B. Jones), the 25th (G. Meszaros), and the 26th (M. Studebaker). By 13 Nov 75 were in **Holmes** (G. Cowell), and by 26 Nov 25 in **Wayne** (S. Snyder).

Cedar waxwing: Concentrations included ~80 at **Malabar Farm** 14 Oct (G. Cowell) and 300+ near **Toledo** 23 Oct (E. Tramer).

Blue-winged warbler: Hard to find in fall, the last was reported 3 Sep at **Clear Ck MP** (J. Watts).

Golden-winged warbler: A. Ryan had one at **Magee** 28 Aug, and BSBO netted another the following day at **Navarre**. J. Frederick found one in **Columbus** 31 Aug. **HBSP** hosted one 7 Sep and another 9 Sep (R. Hannikman), the **Oak Openings** one 9 Sep (E. Tramer), and **MWW** another 14 Sep (A. Bess).

"Lawrence's warbler": Two found, one at **Alum Ck SP** 7 Sep (R. Thorn), and an ad male in **Holmes** 17 Sep (K. Kline).

Tennessee warbler: First found at **HBSP** 22 Aug (R. Hannikman), 30+ were in **Hamilton** by 9 Oct (F. Renfrow), whence the last report came 21 Oct (B. Zimmerman).

Orange-crowned warbler: Another warbler first detected at **HBSP**, on 26 Sep (R. Hannikman), four was the high count at the **Summit Coliseum** site 15 Oct (G. Leidy), with the latest at **EHSP** 7 Nov (K. Kaufman).

Nashville warbler: First reported was one banded at the **Shaker Lks** 30 Aug (L. Gooch). E. Schlabach had 13 in **Coshocton** 21 Sep, and D. English one in **Geauga** 4 Nov. One lingered into Dec.

Northern parula: Two was the high count, on 15 Sep on **Kelleys Isl** (T. Bartlett). One lingered into Dec.

Yellow warbler: Late-season sightings included one at **Conneaut** 18 Sep (C. Holt), one in **Columbus** 5 Oct (B. Roysel), one at **HBSP** 18 Oct (L. Rosche), and one at **Metzger Marsh** 1 Nov (K. Kaufman).

Chestnut-sided warbler: On 21 Aug arrived at **Tiffin** (D. Plotz), **N. Chagrin Resn** (three, K. Metcalfe), and at **HBSP** (R. Hannikman). L. Yoder found one in **Coshocton** as late as 12 Oct.

Magnolia warbler: Migrants hit Ohio 15 Aug by reports (G. Hostetler, **Killbuck Marsh**). By 1 Sep 100+ could be found at **HBSP** (L. Rosche). The latest report came from **Alum Ck SP** 21 Oct (R. Thorn).

Cape May warbler: BSBO banders caught one at **Navarre** 28 Aug. The high was at least four at **HBSP** (L. Rosche) 15 Oct, with reports as late as 19 Oct (D. Morse, in **Clermont**).

Black-throated blue warbler: Two were banded at **Shaker Lks** 23 Aug (L. Gooch). L. Rosche reported the high count, of 10+ at **HBSP** 1 Sep, as well as the latest, there on 15 Oct.

Yellow-rumped warbler: Three showed up at **HBSP** 22 Aug (R. Hannikman), and by 8 Oct, ~100 were reported from **Hamilton** (N. Keller).

Black-throated green warbler: J. Kuns saw a migrant 27 Aug in **Montgomery**. Latest reported was on at **Alum Ck SP** 21 Oct (R. Thorn).

Blackburnian warbler: One passed through **Paulding** 21 Aug (M&D Dunakin). By 1 Sep L. Rosche was to witness 25+ at **HBSP**. Two remained at **Shawnee SF** 9 Oct (B. Royse).

Yellow-throated warbler: Spooky when southbound, one was in **Clear Ck MP** 3 Sep (J. Watts), and another in **Hamilton** 24 Sep (E. Murkholder).

Pine warbler: First seen 16 Sep at **HBSP** (R. Hannikman), two were still singing at **Mogadore Res** 1 Oct (G. Bennett), as were two at **Nimisila Res** the following day (R&S Harlan). One lingered in **Warren** 25 Nov (L. Keene).

Prairie warbler: Sparsely reported, starting with a first-year male at **Summit Lk** in **Akron** 7 Sep (G. Bennett), and the last at **MWW** 1 Oct (S. Pelikan).

Palm warbler: Early was one in **Hancock** 22 Aug (S. Baxter *fide* B. Hardesty), and last reported was one at **Columbus** 14 Nov (R. Thorn).

Bay-breasted warbler: Numbers were on the low side, with two as early as 21 Aug at **HBSP** (R. Hannikman), where the high count of 20+ was recorded 1 Sep (L. Rosche). Last reported 9 Oct, with three at **Shawnee SF** (B. Royse) and four elsewhere there the same day (F. Renfrow).

Blackpoll warbler: First reported from **HBSP** 21 Aug (R. Hannikman), 30 were still around at **CPNWR** 7 Nov (E. Tramer).

Cerulean warbler: Tougher to find in fall; N. Keller had one in the **Shawnee SF** 6 Aug, and E. Schlabach another in **Holmes** 16 Aug.

Black-and-white warbler: R. Schieltz had two in **Darke** 12 Aug. The high count was 15+ at **HBSP** 1 Sep (L. Rosche). Bringing up the rear was one at **Magee** 11 Nov (K. Fenstermaker).

American redstart: From **HBSP** came reports of southbound migrants as early as 21 Aug (R. Hannikman), a high count of 20+ on 1 Sep (L. Rosche), and one as late as 15 Oct (Rosche).

Prothonotary warbler: Migrants were noted at **CPWNR** (three birds on 26 Aug, E. Tramer), at **Magee** (28 Aug, A. Ryan), and at **Hoover Res** 29 Aug (R. Thorn).

Worm-eating warbler: Another inconspicuous migrant, individuals were found at **Clear Ck MP** 3 Sep (J. Watts) and the following day at **BCSP** (D. Overacker).

Ovenbird: Sparsely reported, spanning 23 Aug (netted at the **Shaker Lks**, L. Gooch) through 25 Oct (**Parma**, C. Rieker).

Northern waterthrush: First found 17 Aug at **HWSP** (D. Russell), last at **SVWA** 14 Sep (C. Schooley), with a high count of four at **Rocky River Resn** 23 Aug (R&S Harlan).

Louisiana waterthrush: One was late at **Alum Lk** in **Delaware** 7 Sep (R. Thorn).

Connecticut warbler: Only six reported, all in Sept, between the 4th (**Dike 14**, G. Leidy) and the 25th (**Niles**, C. Babyak).

Mourning warbler: BSBO banded one at **Navarre** 21 Aug. G. Leidy described an adult female on the near-record late date of 24 Nov near **Cleveland** (there is a **Mahoning** specimen from 11 Dec 1988).

Common yellowthroat: This hardy species was found on two Nov dates, the 19th at **BCSP** (D. Overacker), and in **Holmes** the 28th (D. Kline).

Hooded warbler: Scanty reports spanned the period 21 Aug (**HBSP**, R. Hannikman) through 8 Oct at **Clear Ck MP** in **Hocking** (J. Watts).

Wilson's warbler: BSBO banded one at **Navarre** 22 Aug, and the last reported was a male at **HBSP** bringing up the rear on 21 Oct (K. Metcalfe).

Canada warbler: First reported from **Shawnee Lookout** in **Hamilton** 17 Aug (A. Bess), with the latest elsewhere in the county on 16 Sep (M. Kravitz).

Yellow-breasted chat: Only two reported, 6 Sep in **Mahoning** (C. Babyak) and another 19 Sept in **Coshocton** (E. Schlabach). An adult at a **Franklin** park accompanied a fledgling 4 Aug (R. Thorn).

Summer tanager: E. Kistler reported a pair in **Williams** 12-13 Aug, where the species has been rarely recorded in the past. A pair remained in the **Oak Openings** as late as 15 Sep (E. Tramer). Last reported was one in the **Shawnee SF** 9 Oct (F. Renfrow).

Scarlet tanager: Nine remained for the **CVNP** census of 23 Sept (D. Chasar). The **Kelleys Isl** census registered the latest, on 16 Oct (T. Bartlett).

American tree sparrow: First reported at **North Chagrin Res** in **Cuyahoga** 25 Oct (K. Metcalf).

Chipping sparrow: Ninety were in the **Oak Openings** 16 Oct (E. Tramer), and one remained at a **Wooster** feeder 15 Nov (S. Snyder).

Clay-colored sparrow: Four Oct records: one the 1st at **Whiskey Isl** (B. Warner), one at **D14** the 3rd (P. Chaon), one the 4th in **Painesville** (J. Pogacnik), and a late one the 31st at **HBSP** (G. Meszaros *vide* L. Rosche).

Field sparrow: No remarkable dates, but 62 at **Deer Ck SP** 20 Oct (B. Royse) were worthy of mention.

Lark sparrow: Out-of-the-way reports came from **Greene** on 6 Aug (D. Overacker) and the **Coliseum** site in **Summit** exceptionally on 15 Oct (B. Roberts).

Savannah sparrow: R. Counts's observations at the **Hardin** wetland involved 42 on 12 Aug, 175 on 9 Sep, 68 on 6 Oct, and 112 on 20 Oct. Two were in a **Cincinnati** park 21 Nov (B. Hull).

Grasshopper sparrow: R. Counts tallied 32 at the **Hardin** wetlands 12 Aug.

Le Conte's sparrow: On 1 Oct one at **Dike 14** (S. Zadar) was later re-found by K. Metcalf and others. D&K Kline discovered two at **Funk WA** 7 Oct for a first **Wayne** record. E. Schlabach located one in **Tuscarawas** 7 Oct, and perhaps the same bird there 14 Oct. At the **Coliseum** site in **Summit**, G. Leidy discovered one 15 Oct, and it or another the 22nd. R. Hannikman had one at **HBSP** 18 Oct *vide* L. Rosche, and F. Frick one at **Caesar Ck SP** the 20th.

Nelson's sharp-tailed sparrow: T. Bartlett came upon two at **Winous Pt** in **Sandusky** 26 Sep, and E. Schlabach two more in a **Tuscarawas** field 5 Oct, with four there 7 Oct and two 14 Oct. J. Pogacnik picked out at least three at **Arcola Ck** in **Lake** 6 Oct. Two were at **Funk WA** 15 Oct for G. Hostetler, and for J. Faulkner 20 Oct. On 21 Oct, J. Lehman dug one out at **MWW**.

Fox sparrow: First showed up on time in **Paulding** 29 Sep (M&D Dunakin). The high count of 19 came from the 5 Nov ONWRC.

Lincoln's sparrow: First reported early on 3 Sep by the ONWRC. The high count was 23 at **Dike 14** on 3 Oct (P. Chaon). Nine passed through **Deer Ck SP** 20 Oct (B. Royse), with one as late as 29 Oct at **MWW** (S. Pelikan).

Swamp sparrow: High counts in inland locations included 20 at **MWW** 1 Oct (S. Pelikan), 80 on 7 Oct at **Springville Marsh** in **Seneca** (T. Bartlett), 47 the next day in **Hardin** (R. Counts), and 58 at **Deer Ck SP** 20 Oct (B. Royse).

White-throated sparrow: Peaked in Oct as usual, with counts on the 1st of 213 (ONWRC) and ~250 at **Dike 14** (G. Leidy).

Harris's sparrow: A first-year bird was reported with white-throateds at ONWR 1 Oct.

White-crowned sparrow: Found in **Franklin** as early as 28 Sep (R. Thorn), numbers reached 120 at the **Summit** Coliseum site on 15 Oct (G. Leidy).

Lapland longspur: Early was one at a **Findlay** reservoir 21 Sep (B. Royse). A male in full alternate plumage crashed into T. Shively's car in **Auglaize** 14 Oct. Numbers swelled in Nov, with 2-300 in **Paulding** the 1st (M&D Dunakin) and 217 in **Hardin** the 15th (R. Counts).

Snow bunting: Widely reported the second half of Oct, with 100+ in **Lake** the 27th (*vide* C. Takacs) and 150+ at **Conneaut** the next day (B. Warner). First arrived at **The Wilds** 19 Nov (A. Parker).

Rose-breasted grosbeak: A. Troyer detected 14 in **Morrow** 3 Sep, and J. Watts six at **CCMP** 5 Oct. One was latish in **Columbus** 24 Oct, and an imm male at a feeder in **Clermont** 15-16 Nov (ph, H. Fitzpatrick) was overdue for a southbound flight.

Blue grosbeak: Widely reported through August at the usual breeding locations. E. Tramer noted 3+ birds at the **Oak Openings** 9-15 Sept. Late, probably record late, were birds found at **Crown City WA** 30 Sep (D. Patick) and at **MWW** 1 Oct (D. Russell).

Indigo bunting: E. Schlabach tallied 20 in **Coshocton** 19 Sep, and P. Lozano noticed a female carrying food in **Rocky River** 6 Sep. Late birds were at **Deer Ck SP** 29 Oct (B. Royse) and at **Kelleys Island** the following day (T. Bartlett).

Dickcissel: After a sizeable incursion during the summer, dickcissels quickly became inconspicuous. We often destroy their nests by haying. Quite unexpected was a male in song in **Pickaway** 31 Oct (P. Gardner).

Bobolink: R. Counts kept track of their numbers near a wetland in **Hardin**, with 80+ on 5 Aug, 58 on 2 Sept, and 18 on 9 Sept. R. Sempier found ~150 not far away at **KPWA** on 26 Aug, including only a few alternate-plumaged birds. E. Kistler had 35 at **Mosquito Ck** 24 Sep, and the last reported came from a favored spot, the **VOA Park** in **Butler**, 1 Oct. (M. Busam).

Yellow-headed blackbird: J. Petruzzi was among several reporting a juvenile bird at **Conneaut** 22 Aug. P. Chaon picked out an adult male in a blackbird flock over **Lake** on 30 Sep.

Rusty blackbird: F. Losi reported the first flock, 80 birds, in **Valley View, Cuyahoga**, on 19 Sep. ~100 in **Fairfield** 25 Oct grew to 2-300 by 20 Nov (J. Watts). T. Bartlett reported 1500 at **Springville Marsh** in **Seneca** 28 Oct, and reports of much smaller flocks continued through the eop.

Common grackle: L. Deininger reported 2000+ in **Coshocton** as early as 15 Sep. T. Bartlett estimated 30,000 in the big blackbird movement at **Springville Marsh** on 28 Oct. **Irwin Prairie** near **Toledo** harbored a roost of over 4000 on 1 Nov (E. Tramer).

Baltimore oriole: B. Roberts reported a late one at **South Chagrin Resn** in **Cuyahoga** 25 Oct.

Purple finch: Hardly a strong movement, judging by reports. B. Zwiebel had one at **MBSP** 2 Nov, and J. Fry's feeders in **Hocking** hosted the first locally on 22 Nov.

Common redpoll: Only two reports, of single birds at **HBSP**: one observed there 1 Nov (*vide* J. Brumfield), and another the 5th (K. Metcalf).

Pine siskin: Apparently not a flight year, with only nine reported, the first in Delaware 21 Oct (R. Thorn), and the rest in Nov, from **Clermont**, **Ottawa**, **Wood**, and **Hamilton**.

Evening grosbeak: Another zero for this species.

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Further Afield

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It may have been written in the 1920s, but it was new to me. And for a long-time student of Ohio's birding history, it was news as well. Just recently, a friend gave my wife Sandy a microfilm copy of an old article on Ohio birds entitled "A Calendar of Ohio Birds: February." It ran in the 9 February 1928 edition of the *Wadsworth Banner Press* [Medina County], and was written by Professor Allen C. Conger of the Department of Zoology at Ohio Wesleyan University in Delaware, Ohio.

As it was well written, thoughtful, and informative, I found the article intriguing, especially given that the author's name was unfamiliar to me. Hoping for similar articles, and maybe even a regular column—after all, why would someone write an article entitled "A Calendar of Ohio Birds: February" and not have other monthly articles in mind?—I scheduled an extended rendezvous with the microfilm machine at the Wadsworth Public Library. This search revealed the rest, twelve monthly articles in all, which appeared in the *Banner Press* from 5 January 1928 through 6 December 1928. The January article was prefaced with an editor's note, which alerted readers that it was the first of a series to appear "in this newspaper." "Readers," the editor continued, "by clipping each of these articles as it appears, you may collect a complete calendar of birds to be found in Ohio." Sounds like fun.

But who was Professor Allen C. Conger? Carol Holliger, archivist at the Archives of Ohio United Methodism at Ohio Wesleyan University, was kind enough to fill me in. Included in the thick file of material she mailed to me was another copy of Conger's January column, published in the *Ohio Wesleyan Transcript*. Presumably, the articles first appeared there, and were then distributed to other Ohio newspapers such as the *Banner Press*.

Here is Conger's life story (condensed form): born in Zanesville, Ohio, November 23, 1887; received B.S. degree from Ohio Wesleyan University in 1908; received M.A. degree from Ohio State University in 1912; married Miriam Vesper Bright in 1912, and raised three children; became Associate Professor of Zoology at OWU in 1923, then named full Professor in 1935; served as Registrar of OWU 1933-53; moved to northern California in 1959 to be closer to his children; and died in 1973, at the age of 86.

Somewhere in there, he also found time to qualify for *Who's Who in America*; join numerous fraternal and professional organizations; author numerous papers, including *The differentiation of lateral lines in Lepidosteus osseus* [Longnose gar] (1912), *Some entomophilous flowers* [those dependent on insects for pollination] of *Cedar Point, Ohio* (1912), and *A key to Michigan vertebrates, except birds* (1920); organize OWU summer courses at Lakeside, Ohio; serve as curator of the OWU natural history museum; become skilled at cabinetry; and build a cabin in the woods. A busy man, and an interesting one, I think.

It's been nearly 80 years since Professor Conger wrote this series; a lifetime for us, but a wink in time's eye otherwise. It's good for us to track the timing of avian arrivals and departures—we never know when the unexpected might become the expected. As global warming theorists, or maybe Bob Dylan, might say, "The Temps They Are A-Changin'."

So let's join Professor Conger and his calendar of Ohio birds. January