

Fall 2008 Overview and Reports

By *Craig Caldwell*

1270 W. Melrose Dr.
Westlake, OH 44145
craig_caldwell@sbcglobal.net

Ohio's wet May and June gave way to below-average rainfall July through October in much of the state. The western counties had less than half their normal rainfall in August and September. The northeast, however, had above-average rainfall starting in September. Several daily record high temperatures were set in the western half in early September, and a few were set in scattered locations in October. Parts of Lake and Ashtabula counties received 10 inches of snow from 09 to 10 November, and record snowfalls were recorded 17 and 18 November in much of the north and east. The snow was followed by record low temperatures from 19 to 23 November in the same areas (weather trends were taken from Internet resources from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service as well as <http://extremeweatherrecords.com>).

The exact effects of these weather patterns on this fall's migration are hard to gauge. Migration urge ("*zugunruhe*"), of course, is largely affected by the length of daylight rather than by weather. However, where and when migrants stop on their journey is partly determined by local weather at their time of passage and also by the effects of weather on habitat (e.g., plant growth and water levels).

Perhaps the most visible result of rainfall amounts is the distribution of mudflats. This year's heavy spring rains over-filled an aquifer, which resulted in many flooded fields on the border of Sandusky and Seneca counties near Bellevue. The gradually receding water produced extensive stopover habitat into September, and observers there recorded nearly every regularly occurring species of shorebird. Mosquito Creek Reservoir, whose north end was so productive in 2007, had high water this year and so produced few sightings. Hoover and Alum Creek reservoirs, on the other hand, provided good shorebird habitat into November. The flats at Conneaut continue to be attractive to shorebirds; they are also attractive to drivers, dog-walkers, and others who share this prime habitat. The dredge spoil dump at Lorain provided a bonus as additions of freshly dredged earth smothered much of the vegetation that had grown up there in recent years. The combination of flats and small ponds was attractive to shorebirds, and sparrows enjoyed the new low growth and phragmites.

Some of our more secretive sparrows were well represented this year. At least 10 locations hosted much-sought-after Nelson's Sparrows, and some birds remained in place for several days. Le Conte's Sparrow numbers were about average. Vesper, Grasshopper, and Henslow's Sparrows were found in several grasslands, notably the old Richfield Coliseum site in Cuyahoga Valley National Park and the reclaimed strip mine areas near The Wilds.

Warbler migration, however, did not compare well with other recent fall seasons. Rob Harlan commented, "Where I birded, this season's warbler

migration was almost a total bust—the worst I’ve ever seen. I hope I just missed the birds, or birded the wrong places.” Others made similar observations. All of our “regular” warblers were reported at least once, but few were noted in large numbers. However, the nine reports of Orange-crowned Warblers and 13 Connecticut Warbler reports were unusually high, especially compared with smaller numbers of reports of more common species. They no doubt benefit from the fact that many observers report only “special” sightings.

Loon, grebe, and waterfowl migration appeared about average. Impressive numbers of some ducks were found in the western Lake Erie marshes and bays. Late November brought a flurry of gull sightings along the lake and inland, with jaegers and Black-headed, Little, Franklin’s, and Laughing gulls making several appearances. Last year’s unusually large number of October and November Red-breasted Nuthatch sightings was not repeated, and most northern finch sightings returned to non-invasion numbers. Pine Siskins and White-winged Crossbills, however, were much more widespread, and seen in greater numbers, than in recent years.

Ohio’s birds can be divided into two categories, Core List and Review List species. Core species are, in practical terms, those that occur annually (or once did). Review species are found less frequently than annually, or their annual occurrence is a recent phenomenon (in early 2008, Ross’s Goose, Cackling Goose, and Rufous Hummingbird crossed the threshold and were moved from the Review List to the Core List). The Ohio Bird Records Committee

(OBRC) maintains these lists and is the repository of the documentation supporting them. The committee urges birders to report all sightings of Review List species, of Core List species found at unusual times, of nesting by birds previously not known to nest in the state, and of course sightings of birds never before found in Ohio. Information on how to document rarities is available at <http://www.ohiobirds.org/records/documentation.php>.

The majority of this season’s reports came from the northern third of the state, with additional significant numbers of observations from the Columbus area and the southwesternmost counties. Few observations were from the southeastern quadrant. Three hundred species were reported this season, including all but nine of Ohio’s 295 “core” species. A large number of observers provided data only on the less-common species. The editors emphasize that all sighting records are important, even if we cannot publish everything. All reports are archived, and even the seemingly mundane notes of European Starling or Carolina Chickadee sightings could be valuable to researchers.

Fourteen review species were reported. Their names are underlined in the species accounts. Reports whose documentation has been accepted by the OBRC include the names of the observers; those still pending in the committee or for which no documentation was submitted are listed anonymously.

Taxonomic order and nomenclature are those of the *Check-List of North American Birds*, 7th Edition (1998) as updated through the 50th Supplement (2009). This document

is published by the North American Classification Committee of the American Ornithologists' Union and is available at <http://www.aou.org/checklist/north/print.php>.

County names are in bold italics. Shortened names and a few sets of initials are used for locations that occur repeatedly and for one organization; these abbreviations are listed here.

Big Island = Big Island Wildlife Area, **Marion**

BSBO = Black Swamp Bird Observatory, **Ottawa**

Buck Creek = Buck Creek State Park, **Clark**

Caesar Creek = Caesar Creek State Park, **Warren**

Cedar Point = Cedar Point National Wildlife Refuge, **Ottawa**

Clear Fork = Clear Fork Reservoir, **Morrow** and **Richland**

CVNP = Cuyahoga Valley National Park, **Summit** and **Cuyahoga**

East Fork = East Fork State Park, **Clermont**

fide = on the authority of

Headlands = Headlands Dunes State Nature Preserve, Headlands Beach State Park, and adjoining waters, **Lake**

Hueston Woods = Hueston Woods State Park, **Butler** and **Preble**

Killbuck Marsh = Killbuck Marsh Wildlife Area, **Wayne** and **Holmes**

Killdeer Plains = Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area, **Wyandot**

m. obs. = "multiple observers"

NCSL = The Nature Center at Shaker Lake, **Cuyahoga**

Navarre = Navarre Marsh Unit of Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, **Ottawa**

OWNR = Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, **Lucas** and **Ottawa**

Pipe Creek = Pipe Creek Wildlife Area, **Erie**

Rocky Fork = Rocky Fork State Park, **Highland**

Springville Marsh = Springville Marsh State Nature Preserver, **Seneca**

Willow Point = Willow Point Wildlife Area, **Ottawa**

Winous Point = Winous Point Shooting Club, **Ottawa**



A Ross's Goose appeared in the yard of Albert Bruncak in the company of Canada Geese. The Ross's Goose stayed in proximity to four Canada Geese throughout its brief stay; the four Canada Geese chased away all other geese. This individual was photographed on 22 Nov 2008 on the Grand River in Austinburg Township.

Greater White-fronted Goose:

Single birds were seen at Evans Lake, **Mahoning**, on 19 Nov (Craig Holt) and Lake White, **Pike**, on 25 Nov (Robert Foppe); seven were reported mingling with Canada Geese in **Holmes** on 27 Nov (Ed Schlabach).

Snow Goose: Small numbers were reported from **Clermont, Clinton, Hancock, Licking, Mahoning, Marion**, and **Warren** starting 12 Oct. The largest numbers were 47 at Findlay Reservoir, **Hancock**, (Betty Hardesty) on 25 Nov and 22 from **Hamilton** on 15 and 16 Nov (Ted Elwood, m. obs.). Of the reports that noted color morph, most were the more common white morph.

Ross's Goose: A single bird was reported 22 Nov from Austinburg Township, **Ashtabula** (Tom Kingzett

and Albert Bruncak). Another was seen 27 and 28 Nov in **Holmes** (James Yoder); it left southbound into **Coshocton** and may be that county's first record.

Brant: The only sighting reported was on 08 Nov in **Ashtabula** (m. obs.).

Cackling Goose: One stayed in Whitehaven Cemetery, **Cuyahoga**, 05 to 08 Nov (m. obs.). One was seen 25 Nov in **Pike** (Robert Foppe) and three to five were at Hueston Woods from 21 Oct to 26 Oct (m. obs.).

Canada Goose: Flocks of varying size were reported from widely scattered locations. As expected, the largest numbers were from the western Lake Erie marshes and bays; Mark Witt and Joe Barber estimated 5100 on 15 Oct.



Many observers were able to study this Cackling Goose, which spent four days at Whitehaven Cemetery in Cleveland, Cuyahoga. Gabe Leidy photographed it on 07 Nov. A handful of individuals were reported this season, but this species probably remains underreported in Ohio.

Mute Swan: Small numbers were reported statewide, with the largest count of 28 in the western Lake Erie marshes and bays 01 Oct (Joe Barber and Andrea Tibbels).

Trumpeter Swan: Most reports, including the peak number of 57, were from the western Lake Erie marshes and Killdeer Plains where introduction efforts are concentrated. Allan Claybon saw a single bird in **Hamilton** on 24 Sep.

Tundra Swan: Small to medium-sized flocks were seen starting 08 Nov. The largest count of these impressive migrants was 365 at ONWR on 18 Nov (Joe Barber and Andrea Tibbels), and 258 were seen at Berlin Reservoir, **Mahoning/Portage**, on 16 Nov (George Bennett).

Wood Duck: This species was reported from nine northern and five inland counties. The highest numbers were 77 in the CVNP census of 20 Sep (Tom Bartlett, m. obs.) and 60 in Atwater, **Portage**, on 26 Oct (George Bennett). Flightless young were noted in early Aug in **Muskingum** (Lori Brumbaugh) and Ross (Robert Scott Placier).

Gadwall: These were reported from 13 counties. More than 5,000 were recorded in Sandusky Bay on several Oct and Nov dates (Joe Barber, Mark Witt, and Andrea Tibbels). The largest inland count was 75 at Rocky Fork on 25 Nov (Robert Foppe).

American Wigeon: This species was reported from eight northern counties, **Fairfield**, and **Hamilton**. Mosquito Lake, **Trumbull**, had 90 on 13 Nov (Craig Holt).



Nesting activity is not confined to the summer reporting season; many species are still nesting and raising young while migrant species are sharing their habitats. Dave Lewis photographed this hen Mallard and her ducklings on 26 Aug at Rocky River Reservation, Cuyahoga.

American Black Duck: Small numbers were reported from lakeside counties and a few inland ones. Joe Barber and Andrea Tibbels found almost 15,000 in Sandusky Bay and its adjoining marshes on 18 Nov.

Mallard: These were reported in typical numbers from 20 counties, with the phenomenal number of 82,000 found in Sandusky Bay and marshes on 18 Nov (Joe Barber and Andrea Tibbels).

Blue-winged Teal: The 900 counted in Sandusky Bay and marshes on 29 Aug (Joe Barber and Andrea Tibbels) dwindled to zero by the end of Oct. A few others were seen in the counties adjoining Lake Erie, and further south in **Fairfield, Hancock, and Wayne.**

Northern Shoveler: Most reports were of small numbers on or near Lake Erie, but 22 were found at

Winton Woods, **Hamilton**, 18 Nov (Jay Stenger) and a few others in **Clark, Fairfield, Hancock, and Richland.**

Northern Pintail: This elegant duck was found in small numbers at several locations near Lake Erie and at some southern lakes and gravel pits starting in late Sep. An impressive 5,500 were noted in Sandusky Bay 18 Nov (Joe Barber and Andrea Tibbels).

Green-winged Teal: The few birds at Winous Point in early Aug (Tom Bartlett, m. obs.) increased to moderate numbers at widely scattered sites as the fall progressed. Sandusky Bay had 6,400 on 29 Oct (Joe Barber and Mark Witt) and the largest inland number was 278 at Sandy Ridge, **Lorain**, on 26 Oct (Rob and Sandy Harlan).

Canvasback: The only reports were single birds at Wellington Reservoir;

Lorain, 02 Nov (Clyde Witt) and Camp Dennison, **Hamilton**, 16 Nov (Robert Foppe), and nine in **Hancock** on 30 Nov (Bob Sams).

Redhead: Small numbers were reported from Caesar Creek on 25 Oct (Jay Lehman), Wellington Reservoir, **Lorain**, on 02 Nov (Clyde Witt), Kelleys Island, **Erie**, on 14 Nov (Tom Bartlett and Paul Fleming), Buck Creek on 23 Nov (Doug Overacker), and Mosquito Lake, **Trumbull**, on 29 Nov (Craig Holt). John Herman found 140 at Clear Fork on 18 Nov.

Ring-necked Duck: The high count reported was 389 from Camp Denison, **Hamilton**, on 19 Nov (Robert Foppe). Very small numbers to 150 were found at other widely scattered sites.

Greater Scaup: The 14 Nov Kelleys Island, **Erie**, survey found 55 (Tom Bartlett and Paul Fleming) and other Lake Erie sites had a sprinkling. Inland, 10 were found at Pine Lake Wildlife Sanctuary, **Mahoning**, 28 Oct (Craig Holt) and a few were at Camp Dennison, **Hamilton**, 14 Nov (Allan Claybon).

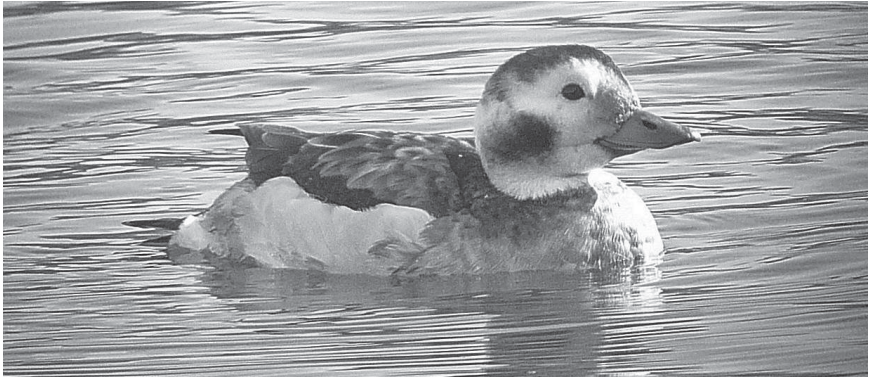
Lesser Scaup: The earliest report was from Alum Creek Lake on 21 Oct (Rob Thorn), the southernmost report was from Caesar Creek on 25 Oct (Jay Lehman), and the highest count was 30 at Pine Lake Sanctuary on 28 Oct (Craig Holt).

Harlequin Duck: John Pogacnik watched a male and a female fly past his house in **Lake** on 16 Nov. The female who appeared at East 72nd Street, Cleveland, **Cuyahoga**, on 27 Nov (Gabe Leidy), was possibly the same one; the bird was shot by a hunter two days later. Another bird was seen 30 Nov on a “pelagic” boat trip near Cleveland (John Pogacnik).

Surf Scoter: The earliest reported was also the southernmost: one bird at East Fork on 18 Oct (Robert Foppe). A few were found at Lake Erie sites (**Ashtabula**, Euclid, Cleveland, Huron, and Headlands) during Nov. Others far inland were at Caesar Creek on 02 Nov (Larry Gara and Rich Asimoto) and on a **Champaign** pond 25 Oct (Aaron Boone).



Three to four Harlequin Ducks were documented in the state by observers along Lake Erie, including this cooperative female photographed by Gabe Leidy on 27 Nov at East 72nd Street in Cleveland, **Cuyahoga**. The fish being consumed is a Gizzard Shad (*Dorosoma cepedianum*).



Bernard F. Master photographed this Long-tailed Duck in Sharon Woods Metro Park in Westerville, **Franklin**, on 14 Nov 2008.

White-winged Scoter: Three birds were off Burke Airport, **Cuyahoga**, on 27 Nov (Clyde Witt) and a single bird was at Sims Park, **Cuyahoga**, the same day (Craig Caldwell). Rocky River Park, **Cuyahoga**, had two on 28 Nov (Jeffrey Miller) and the last report was from **Hancock** on 30 Nov (Bob Sams).

Black Scoter: The highest count was 14 at Sims Park, **Cuyahoga**, on 05 Nov (Craig Caldwell); three were there on 29 Nov (Doug Overacker). Gabe Leidy saw six at Edgewater, Cleveland, on 09 Nov. Single birds were at Deer Creek, **Pickaway**, on 30 Oct (Rob Lowry), Kelleys Island, **Erie**, on 14 Nov (Tom Bartlett and Paul Fleming), Clear Fork on 18 Nov (John Herman and Gary Cowell, Jr.), and Huron, **Erie**, on 24 Nov (Aaron Boone).

Long-tailed Duck: A single bird at Headlands on 25 Aug “which entered the water from the beach, swam out a little, disappeared, and probably expired” (Ray Hannikman and Emil Bacik) may be Ohio’s only Aug record. During their expected visiting

period, one was found at Sharon Woods Metropark, **Franklin**, on 10 Nov and was seen through 15 Nov (Rob Thorn, m. obs.). One came in close at Headlands on 18 Nov (Kenn Kaufman), one was at Edgewater Park, **Cuyahoga**, on 28 Nov (Jeffrey Miller), and another was a flyby at Perkins Beach, **Cuyahoga**, on 29 Nov (Jen Brumfield). One at Deer Creek Reservoir, **Pickaway**, also on 29 Nov (Rob Royse), was not seen after that day.

Bufflehead: A female “carryover” from summer was seen through Aug into early Sep at Bellevue (m. obs.). Migrants began appearing in late Oct and the largest number was the 539 at Kelleys Island, **Erie**, 14 Nov (Tom Bartlett and Paul Fleming).

Common Goldeneye: The few reports began with one bird at Wellington Reservoir on 02 Nov (Clyde Witt); the last reports (and tied for the largest number) were of 30 at Mosquito Lake, **Trumbull** (Craig Holt), and Sims Park, **Cuyahoga** (Doug Overacker), on 29 Nov.

Hooded Merganser: Paul Wharton's single bird at Fernald, **Hamilton**, on 23 Aug was probably a breeder, as were the 14 at Winous Point on 12 Aug (Tom Bartlett, m. obs.). The largest count of migrants was 210 at Mosquito Lake, **Trumbull**, on 13 Nov (Craig Holt).

Common Merganser: One at Conneaut on 20 Aug could have been a non-breeding summer holdover. Small numbers of Nov migrants were seen as far apart as Conneaut and Hueston Woods.

Red-breasted Merganser: There were none reported until Nov, when flocks of up to about 1,000 were seen at several locations along the Lake Erie shore. A flight estimated at 150,000 passed the Huron, **Erie**, pier on 18 Nov (Elliot Tramer); the observer regrets, "I believe most were Red-breasted, but unfortunately due to an accident I did not have functioning binoculars with me on that day."

Ruddy Duck: Up to 15 seen at Bellevue through Aug and into early Sep and were probably summer residents (m. obs.). About 50 were seen at Camp Dennison, **Hamilton**, (Robert Poppe) and 2,000 on Sandusky Bay (Joe Barber and Mark Witt), both 29 Oct, and 500 were at Wellington Reservoir, **Lorain**, on 15 and 22 Nov (Helen and Ken Ostermiller). Small numbers were seen at many inland lakes and reservoirs.

Ring-necked Pheasant: One was seen at each of Reick Center, **Hancock** on 05 Aug (Betty Hardesty); in Poland Township, **Mahoning**, on 19 Oct (Craig Holt); Geneva SP, **Ashtabula**, on 08 Nov (m. obs.);

Killdeer Plains on 16 Nov (Doug Overacker); and Funk Bottoms, **Wayne**, 29 Nov (Su Snyder).

Ruffed Grouse: The only reports received were from Monroe Township, **Coshocton**, 06 Aug (Leo Deininger) and **Clermont** 20 Oct (Mark Wessel). Few reports of any species were submitted from the heavily wooded southeast of Ohio, where this species is probably most likely to be seen or heard.

Wild Turkey: There were more than 20 reports. Several sightings were of small groups at Camp Berry, **Hancock** (Betty Hardesty). Most of the others were south and east of Interstate 71. Most sightings were of small numbers of adults, but hens with poults were seen in **Clark**, **Miegs**, and several parts of **Cuyahoga**. The high counts were the 27 seen on the CVNP census of 20 Sep (Dwight Chasar, m. obs.) and 32 on 22 Sep in Monroe Township, **Coshocton** (Leo Deininger).

Northern Bobwhite: Pairs of counter-calling males in different areas of Hillsboro (**Highland**) on 04 Aug and 06 Aug (Aaron Boone) are evidence of probable breeding attempts. One came to Bert Szabo's feeder in **Summit** on 07 Aug.

Red-throated Loon: Four sightings were reported. One was at Headlands on 25 Oct (Ray Hannikman), two at Caesar Creek on 01 Nov and one on 23 Nov (Larry Gara), and the last was at Rocky Fork on 27 Nov (Rick Asamoto).

Common Loon: One at East Fork on 30 Aug (Bill Stanley and Donald

Morse, Jr.) was later than usual for summering birds and the single bird in basic plumage at Conneaut on 12 Aug (Craig Holt) was in an unexpected location for the date. The species was reported in numbers up to 20 from many inland and Lake Erie locations during Nov. The high count was of at least 860 individuals moving west past Headlands on 17 Nov (Emil Bacik and Jerry Talkington). A notable inland count was 183 flyovers in eastern **Holmes** on 18 Nov (Ed Schlabach).

Pied-billed Grebe: Frank Frick noted five immature birds Gilmore Ponds, **Butler**, on 07 Aug. As many as 59 (17 Aug, Rob and Sandy Harlan) were seen at Bellevue from Aug into early Oct (m. obs.). They were widely reported from the Lake Erie marshes and a few other inland sites throughout the period, with the latest being 34 at Camp Dennison, **Hamilton**, on 16 Nov (Robert Foppe).

Horned Grebe: The reports were from **Clark**, **Cuyahoga**, **Delaware**, **Franklin**, **Hamilton**, **Hancock**, **Lake**, **Ottawa**, and **Trumbull**, all in Nov. The largest number was 21 at a **Hancock** reservoir on 30 Nov (Betty Hardesty).

Red-necked Grebe: The sole report was of one bird at Mentor Lagoons, **Lake**, on 25 Oct (Ray Hannikman, Jerry Talkington, and Suzanne Wagner).

Eared Grebe: Rick Asamoto found two of this uncommon migrant at Rocky Fork on 09 Nov and Caesar Creek on 23 Nov.

Northern Gannet: One was reported at the Avon Lake power plant, **Lorain**, on 17 Nov. The sighting record has been submitted to the OBRC.

American White Pelican: Doug Overacker saw one at Buck Creek on 02 and 03 Aug. Six were at Grand Lake St. Marys, **Mercer**, on 21 Aug (Jill Bowers). A single bird was found on the 25 Aug ONWR survey (Tom Bartlett, m. obs.) A group of five, dwindling to one, was at Hoover Reservoir, **Delaware**, from early Sep until 30 Oct (m. obs.). Jim and Sarah Michael found three at Hueston Woods 22 Sep and one remained for m. obs. until 02 Oct.

Double-crested Cormorant: These were reported from all of the Lake Erie counties except **Lorain**; the highest count was 11,600 on Sandusky Bay 29 Oct (Mark Witt and Joe Barber). The highest inland counts were of approximately 2,200 in an hour on both 17 and 22 Oct in **Champaign** (Aaron Boone).

Anhinga: One was reported by Jim Fry and Stephen Williams from **Hocking** 16 Sep, two days after the high winds of Hurricane Ike caused such damage statewide. Documentation was submitted to OBRC, and the record was accepted.

frigatebird sp.: One was reported by Gabe Hostetler from **Stark** on 16 Sep, the same day as the Anhinga was reported. The details of this record of an immature bird were not sufficient to conclusively establish the bird as a Magnificent Frigatebird, but it was accepted as a *Fregata* sp. by the OBRC.

American Bittern: One was seen in the CVNP near Independence, **Cuyahoga**, on 28 Aug (Nancy Ortman). Another was seen in a grassy **Carroll** field on 17 Oct (Herman Stidom).

Great Blue Heron: This species was widely reported in small numbers from Aug into Oct, but Craig Holt's note that, "very few lingered into November in the Northeast" was one of the few mentions from that month. The highest count, surprisingly not from one of the northern marshes, was at East Fork, where Bill Stanley and Donald Morse, Jr., saw 50 on 30 Aug.

Great Egret: Most reports were from **Mahoning** and **Trumbull** in addition to the expected Erie lakeshore counties. The high count of 300 at ONWR 17 Aug had dwindled to 20 to 30 on several dates in Sep (Tom and Paula Bartlett, Pat Hayes, and John Lortz). Inland records include three at Gilmore Ponds, **Butler**, 19 Oct (Mike Busam), one at Clear Fork on 02 Nov (Gary Cowell, Jr.), and several sightings in **Franklin**, **Hancock**, and **Holmes**.

Snowy Egret: Several observers reported up to 15 at the area of Medusa Marsh visible to the northeast of the Route 2 and Route 269 interchange, **Erie**, in late Aug and early Sep. Some were noted as immatures, perhaps from the West Sister Island colony. A few were seen in eastern **Lucas** on 20 Sep (Doug Overacker).

Little Blue Heron: A single bird was seen at the Route 2 and Route

269 interchange, **Erie**, on 25 Aug (m. obs.) and another at Camp Dennison, **Hamilton**, on 27 Aug (Robert Foppe). One to three were noted at ONWR on several Sep dates (Tom Bartlett, m. obs.).

Tricolored Heron: One individual was discovered by Jen Brumfield on 24 Aug at the Route 2 and Route 269 interchange, **Erie**. It was photographed on 25 Aug and seen by many other observers until last reported on 02 Sep. This record has been accepted by the OBRC.

Cattle Egret: The three reports were of one at Bellevue on 14 Aug (Jen Brumfield), two at ONWR on 07 Sep (Tom Bartlett, m. obs.), and one in a **Holmes** farm field on 13 Nov (Su Snyder).

Green Heron: This species was widely reported in small numbers in Aug and Sep. Several of the records included flightless young: 02 and 08 Aug, at two **Columbiana** sites, (Bob Lane), on the Scioto R., **Delaware**, on 29 Aug (Aaron Boone), and in the Rocky River Reservation, **Cuyahoga**, on 30 Aug (Terri Martincic). The last report was from NCSL on 08 Oct (Julie West).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: Laura Gooch reported one from Lower Shaker Lake, **Cuyahoga**, on 18 Sep. Two to eight were seen at Medusa Marsh, **Erie**, on several Oct dates (Craig Caldwell).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: The only report was of one flying over Schiller Park, **Franklin**, 23 Aug (Aaron Boone).

Wood Stork: Two juveniles were found on 26 Aug by Robert Schlabach, following a tip from a person whose name, unfortunately, is not recorded. A third was seen with them on the next day. These youngsters provided a show for dozens, if not hundreds, of observers in their small pond on Township Road 145, **Coshocton**, until they were last reported on 09 Sep. This record was accepted by the OBRC and is only the second in Ohio since 1980; that date was 09 Sep 2001.

Black Vulture: A single bird soared over Aaron Boone on 06 Aug in Whiteoak Township, **Highland**. Several were reported from their **Adams** stronghold on 13 Aug (Helen and Ken Ostermiller). A roost of 40 at Hueston Woods was seen 26 Nov (m. obs.). Flightless young were found near Perintown, **Clermont**, 04 Aug (Jeff Hays).

Turkey Vulture: This species was widely reported until the latest date of 03 Nov at Lake Milton, **Mahoning** (Craig Holt). The largest numbers were approximately 100 at Caesar Creek on 25 Oct (m. obs.), a similar number at Hoover Reservoir on 25 Oct (Rob Thorn), and 111 roosting at Kiser Lake State Park, **Champaign**, on 04 Nov (Aaron Boone).

Osprey: It was gratifying to receive too many reports to detail them all. Aug sightings were at Berlin Lake, **Portage**; Buck Creek; Conneaut; Findlay Reservoirs, **Hancock**; Hoover Reservoir; Meander Reservoir; **Trumbull/Mahoning**; Navarre, **Ottawa**; and Shaker Lakes, **Cuyahoga**. Sep sightings were at Berlin Lake; Caesar Creek; Clear Fork; Conneaut; CVNP; Evans Lake,

Mahoning; Findlay Reservoir; **Hancock**; Kelleys Island, **Erie**; Killbuck Marsh; Shaker Lakes; and O'Shaughnessy Preserve, **Delaware**. Oct found them at Greenlawn Dam in **Franklin** and Navarre, and the sole Nov sighting was at Findlay Reservoirs.

Bald Eagle: Many sightings of this species were reported from the counties adjoining Lake Erie, as expected. The highest count was 13, from several bays and marshes, on 01 Oct, during Joe Barber and Andrea Tibbels's periodic survey. Notable inland sightings were one at Wills Creek, **Muskingum**, on 15 Aug (Helen and Ken Ostermiller) and eight at Shawnee Lookout, **Hamilton**, on 28 Sep (Jay Stenger, m. obs.). Rob Thorn noted they were regular at Hoover and Alum Creek Reservoirs, **Delaware**, from Sep on.

Northern Harrier: Sixteen sightings of single birds were reported, ranging widely in time and place from Fernald, **Hamilton**, on 23 Aug (Paul Wharton), through Killdeer Plains on 17 Oct (Helen and Ken Ostermiller), to Denmark Township, **Ashtabula**, on 16 Nov (Craig Holt). Three were at Big Island on 07 Oct (Larry Gara).

Sharp-shinned Hawk: This species was reported from nine counties. Most were single sightings, but one visited a Germantown, **Montgomery**, backyard on five days in Nov (Jean Kuns).

Cooper's Hawk: The many reports were from the northern fringe of counties plus **Clark**, **Clinton**, and **Hancock**. The highest count was 10 during the 30 Sep CVNP census (Dwight Chasar, m. obs.).

Northern Goshawk: Sightings in *Hancock* on 11 and 25 Nov, though several miles apart, were possibly the same individual (Betty Hardesty).

Red-shouldered Hawk: Several were reported in the CVNP throughout the period, with the largest number, 13, on the 30 Sep census (Dwight Chasar, m. obs.). Others were seen in *Clinton*, *Coshocton*, *Cuyahoga*, *Franklin*, *Geauga*, *Hancock*, *Lake*, and *Warren*.

Broad-winged Hawk: Dwight and Ann Chasar monitored four nests in Brecksville Reservation, *Cuyahoga*, into Aug; two young were fledged from each of three of them. Craig Holt saw another possible resident on 04 Sep in Limaville, *Stark*. Seven hundred migrants were seen over Xenia, *Greene*, on 17 Sep (Diana Malas), and almost 400 were counted in a half-hour at Oak Openings, *Lucas*, on 18 Sep (Elliot Tramer).

Red-tailed Hawk: Surely this species is found in more than the 13 counties from which it was reported to *The Ohio Cardinal*. Big Island was the southernmost report.

Rough-legged Hawk: Jeffrey Miller reported the earliest reported, in Walnut Creek on 28 Oct. Nearby Big Island and Killdeer Plains had one each on 16 Nov (Craig Caldwell, Doug Overacker). Another was seen in *Cuyahoga* 29 Nov (Doug Overacker).

Golden Eagle: Adam Yoder saw a juvenile fly by on 10 Nov in *Coshocton*.

American Kestrel: The reports were spread throughout the period. Craig

Holt notes that in Oct and Nov, “8 to 10 were back on their wintering grounds in *Mahoning*, *Trumbull*, and *Ashtabula*.” Nine additional counties, all in the northern third of the state except *Clark*, were also represented.

Merlin: The Merlin that attacked shorebirds at Englewood Metropark, *Montgomery*, on 02 Aug (Rick Asamoto) set a new early record by more than two weeks. Rob Thorn saw one at Pickerington Ponds, *Franklin*, on 08 Aug. The high count of three was at Conneaut on 09 Sep (Craig Holt). Oct 20 saw the first returnees to the traditional sites of St. Joseph Cemetery, *Hamilton* (Bill Zimmerman), and Calvary Cemetery, *Cuyahoga* (Lou Gardella). One was seen 01 Oct in *Holmes* and two on 11 Oct in *Tuscarawas* (Ed Schlabach).

Peregrine Falcon: There were multiple sightings during the Aug shorebird concentrations at Conneaut, the Lorain dredge spoil site, and the Bellevue ponds. One migrant accompanied the Broad-winged Hawks over Oak Openings, *Lucas*, 18 Sep (Elliot Tramer). Five passed Headlands on 01 Oct (Ray Hannikman, m. obs.) The latest bird, likely a migrant, was one bird in Berlin, *Holmes*, on 09 Nov (Gregory Bennett). Two were at Burke Airport, *Cuyahoga*, on 29 Nov (Doug Overacker) and may have been migrants or local residents.

Yellow Rail: One was flushed three times and even flew into an observer’s face at Funk Bottoms, *Wayne*, on 11 Oct. The sighting was reported to the OBRC by James Yoder on behalf of the party of eight and the record was accepted.

King Rail: Up to four were seen during July and Aug surveys at Winous Point and a single bird was seen each of 06 and 15 Aug at ONWR (Tom Bartlett, m. obs.)

Virginia Rail: Tom Bartlett and his survey companions found one at Winous Point on 20 Jul, one or two at ONWR on several Aug dates, and one at Springville Marsh on 12 Oct. Betty Hardesty heard one on 07 Oct at Camp Berry, *Hancock*.

Sora: Widely reported from the northern marshes, the high count was “30 or more” at Cedar Point on 29 Aug (Elliot Tramer). A chick was noted at Frohring Meadows, *Geauga*, on 18 Aug (Linda Gilbert), and two chicks with two adults were seen at Conneaut on 24 Aug (Craig Holt). The latest report was from ONWR on 20 Sep (Doug Overacker).

Common Moorhen: All but one of the reports were from the western Lake Erie marshes, with small numbers at ONWR, Metzger Marsh, Magee Marsh, and Winous Point from mid-Aug through mid-Oct (m. obs.). The exception was Adam Yoder’s count of 70 at Killbuck on 07 Sep.

American Coot: Most were found in the western Lake Erie marshes, though water bodies in 12 other counties were also represented. The dates ranged from early Aug to 14 Nov and in numbers from single digits to a few hundred (m. obs.). The high count of almost 1500 was from Camp Dennison, *Hamilton*, on 11 Nov (Robert Foppe).

Sandhill Crane: Small numbers of probable migrants were seen at Funk

Bottoms, *Holmes*, on 05 Oct (Helen and Ken Ostermiller), and LaDue Reservoir, *Geauga*, on 20 Oct (Rob and Sandy Harlan). The 32 at East Fork, *Clermont*, on 16 Nov were surely southbound, as were the 21 at East Fork and the 34 near Bethel, *Clermont*, on 17 Nov (John Hill, Ginny Fantetti, and Rob Edelen). Other migrants included five at Buck Creek on 20 Nov (Doug Overacker) and 25 flying over Ohio Stadium, *Franklin*, on 22 Nov (Dave Horn). Su Snyder found her “highest Ohio count ever,” 112, at Killbuck Marsh on 28 Nov.

Black-bellied Plover: Small numbers were found throughout the period at most of the “usual” shorebird locations. Up to five were at Conneaut in multiple visits from 12 Aug to 09 Nov (Craig Holt, m. obs.). Small numbers were also at Willow Point, the Lorain harbor dredge spoil area, and Medusa Marsh (m. obs.). Rob Thorn notes that they are “becoming regular” at the north end of Hoover Reservoir. The high count by far was 50 at ONWR on 13 Oct (Tom Bartlett, m. obs.).

American Golden-Plover: The flooded area near Bellevue had up to five between 18 Aug and 09 Sep (m. obs.). Widely separated Miami Whitewater Park, *Hamilton*, and ONWR had similar numbers through late Sep (m. obs.). Others were seen during Aug at Findlay Reservoir (Bob Sams), Pipe Creek (Gabe Leidy), and Conneaut (Dave Horn). The highest count, and latest, was 45 on 02 Oct in Wayne Township, *Champaign* (Aaron Boone).

Semipalmated Plover: A few large flocks were reported. Up to 50 were at ONWR during the survey period of Aug to mid-Sep (Tom Bartlett, m. obs.), 20 to 30 at Bellevue in Aug (Craig Caldwell), and 26 at the Lorain spoil dump 21 Sep (Gabe Leidy). They were reported from at least six other counties.

Piping Plover: One was reported 07 and 10 Oct and two on 11 Nov from the Crane Creek estuary of ONWR. The OBRC is awaiting details.

Killdeer: This species was reported from over 20 counties, mostly on or near Lake Erie, though **Clermont** (with 75 counted on 13 Sep by Bill Stanley) and **Muskingum** were also represented. Doug Overacker had the highest count, 500, at the Englewood Preserve, **Franklin**, on 22 Aug.

Black-necked Stilt: Michael Bolton photographed four at ONWR on 12 Aug. They appeared to be two males and two females, though they were not acting as obvious pairs. This record has been accepted by the OBRC.

American Avocet: Jen Brumfield and Gabe Leidy found one at Conneaut 09 Aug. Two were seen at Conneaut on 24 Aug (Craig Holt) and another (or possibly one of the Conneaut birds) was at the Headlands beach on the same day (Ray Hannikman and Jerry Talkington). Emil Bacik saw five at Headlands on 09 Oct.

Spotted Sandpiper: Up to seven were seen at several locations: Kelleys Island, **Erie**, on 19 Aug (Tom and Paula Bartlett and Pat Hayes), Hoover Reservoir on 23 Aug (Tom and Mary

Anne Romito), and Wills Creek, **Coshocton**, on 28 Aug (Su Snyder). They were found at Winous Point throughout Aug and Buck Creek and ONWR in Aug and Sep (m. obs.). The last report was from Caesar Creek on 12 Oct (m. obs.).

Solitary Sandpiper:

Characteristically, this species was found mostly at smaller bodies of water away from Lake Erie, though 10 were seen at Winous Point 05 Aug (Tom Bartlett, m. obs.). Twelve were spread along the shore of Wills Creek, **Coshocton**, near the Wood Stork pond, on 31 Aug (Rob and Sandy Harlan), 13 were at Caesar Creek on 01 Sep (Bob Powell), and 27 were at O'Shaughnessy Preserve, **Delaware**, on both 29 Aug and 01 Sep (Aaron Boone).

Greater Yellowlegs: This species was reported in small numbers from the usual Lake Erie marshes throughout the period. The Bellevue ponds and several sites in **Holmes** also had small numbers. The highest count, 40, was reached at ONWR on 17 Aug (Tom Bartlett, m. obs.). The latest report was from the Cedar Point Chausee, **Erie**, on 15 Nov (Gabe Leidy).

Willet: An apparently injured juvenile was seen at Conneaut from 07 to 15 Aug (m. obs.). James and Adam Yoder found one on Prairie Lane, **Holmes**, on 06 and 07 Sep. Rob Thorn and Jay Stenger filed the latest report, from Hoover Reservoir on 25 and 26 Oct.

Lesser Yellowlegs: This species was, as expected, more widely reported than Greater Yellowlegs. ONWR had up to 150 during the Aug and

Sep surveys (Tom Bartlett, m. obs.). They were present at Bellevue for the practically the whole life of the ponds, with the highest reported count of 211 on 17 Aug (Rob and Sandy Harlan, m. obs.).

Upland Sandpiper: The four reports were of two at Mansfield Airport on 01 Aug (Su Snyder) and one each at Cedar Point on 29 Aug (Elliot Tramer), southwestern **Wood** on 02 Sep (Tom Kemp), and **Holmes** on 11 Sep (James Yoder).

Whimbrel: Many observers saw up to four at Conneaut between 24 Aug and 09 Sep.

Hudsonian Godwit: One of these rare migrants was seen at ONWR on 27 Aug (Tom Bartlett, m. obs.). Another stayed 05 through 15 Oct at Big Island (Jack and Sean Williams, m. obs.). Two were at Hoover Reservoir 26 Oct (Jay Stenger).

Marbled Godwit: This year's sightings were, as usual, more numerous than those of Hudsonian Godwit. Single birds were reported at Conneaut on 07 Aug (Mark Vass), Glacier Ridge Metropark, **Union**, 22 to 28 Aug (Bob Baran, m. obs.), the Bellevue ponds on 28 and 31 Aug (Bill Heck and Tim Colborn, respectively), 29 Aug through 08 Sep at O'Shaughnessy Preserve, **Delaware** (Aaron Boone, m. obs.), and Mill Creek Sanctuary, **Mahoning**, on 31 Aug (Bill Jones). Three to five were seen on the ONWR surveys 27 Aug to 04 Sep (Tom Bartlett, m. obs.).

Ruddy Turnstone: Su Snyder saw two at Pipe Creek on 01 Aug. One was found at Conneaut on several

dates between 24 Aug and 09 Oct, with 14 being present on 09 Sep (Craig Holt, m. obs.). One was at Hoover Reservoir on 19 Aug (Rick Asamoto), one at Buck Creek on 07 Sep (Doug Overacker), and five were at Findlay Reservoir, **Hancock**, on 08 Sep (Betty Hardesty). One was at the Lorain harbor spoil site 28 Sep (Jen Brumfield) and another here on 15 Nov (Ed Schlabach).

Red Knot: One each was seen 30 Aug at Conneaut (John Pogacnik), on 27 Aug at ONWR (Tom Bartlett, m. obs), and on 06 Sep at Conneaut (Gabe Leidy).

Sanderling: This species was found at Conneaut on many dates, with Gabe Leidy having the high count of about 50 on 06 Sep. Other representative sightings were at Winous Point on 23 Aug (Tom Bartlett, m. obs.), Bellevue on 09 Sep (Elliot Tramer), and Shawnee Lookout, **Hamilton**, on 13 Sep (m. obs.).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: This species was found at practically all of the shorebird sites. The high count was 400 at ONWR on 05 Aug (Tom Bartlett, m. obs.).

Western Sandpiper: The only reports were from Craig Holt of one at Berlin Reservoir on 18 Aug and Conneaut on 09 Sep, two at the Lorain spoil dump on 03 Sep (Gabe Leidy), and Lost Bridge, **Hamilton**, on 07 Sep (Jay and Paula Stenger).

Least Sandpiper: More than 100 individuals were seen at the Bellevue ponds on several occasions in Aug (m. obs.). Tom Bartlett and crew counted

about 600 at ONWR on 05 Aug. Other northern sites included Berlin Reservoir, Conneaut, Willow Point, and Pickerel Creek. In the south, 20 were at Gilmore Ponds, **Butler**, on 07 Aug, others were at Englewood Metropark, **Montgomery**, and Caesar Creek, and the latest report was from East Fork on 30 Nov (Ginny Fantetti and Rob Edelen).

White-rumped Sandpiper: Up to three were found at the northern sites such as Bellevue, Findlay Reservoir, Lorain, Willow Point, Winous Point, and ONWR during Aug and early Sep (m. obs.). Jay and Paula Stenger found the southernmost at Lost Bridge, **Hamilton**, on 07 Sep. Craig Holt reported the last sighting, at Lake Milton, **Mahoning**, on 11 Nov.

Baird's Sandpiper: This normally uncommon migrant was rather common this fall, with multiple reports of up to 10 birds at Bellevue through 05 Sep, five at Conneaut on 28 Aug (Craig Holt), and singles seen at several other northern sites. In the south, one was at Miami Whitewater on 01 Sep (Frank Frick), one at East

Fork 06 Sep (m. obs.), and one at Caesar Creek 07 Sep (Jason Hubbard).

Pectoral Sandpiper: The pond at Bellevue produced multiple sightings into Sep with the high count of 80 being on 07 Aug (Rob and Sandy Harlan). Similar numbers were found on some survey days at ONWR and Winous Point (Tom Bartlett, m. obs.). Ten at Beach City Dam, **Tuscarawas**, on 28 Aug (Su Snyder), one at Rocky Fork on 09 Nov (Rick Asamoto), and one at Caesar Creek on 19 Sep (Larry Gara) are representative of reports from the southern half of the state.

Purple Sandpiper: Gabe Leidy reported the first bird, from a Lorain harbor breakwall on 14 Nov; it remained only one more day. One or more were seen at Headlands from 19 Nov through the end of the period (Emil Bacik, Ray Hannikman, m. obs.).

Dunlin: The earliest report was from Willow Point on 30 Aug (Helen and Ken Ostermiller), but there were no Sep reports. The species was widely



Headland Dunes State Park continued to provide rarities into the end of the season, including at least one Purple Sandpiper that was surprisingly confiding. Several observers reported being able to approach to within 10 feet, and Ethan Kistler obtained this superb photograph on 18 Nov.

seen in the northern half of the state from Oct to mid-Nov with a high count of only 30 at the Cedar Point Chausee on 15 Nov (Gabe Leidy). The southernmost reports were from Buck Creek on 02 and 08 Nov (Doug Overacker).

Stilt Sandpiper: Small numbers were reported from multiple locations during Aug and Sep. The earliest date was 18 Aug, at several sites, and the only post-Sep sighting was by Clyde Witt on 02 Nov at Sandy Ridge, **Lorain**. The high count of 25 was reached twice, at Willow Point on 25 Aug (Craig Caldwell) and at ONWR on 28 Aug (m. obs.).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: About 15 were reported. Bellevue had one or two in five reports between 18 Aug and 09 Sep. The high count was four at Berlin Reservoir on 08 Sep (Craig Holt). The last report was from Riverside Natural Area, **Butler**, on 21 Sep (Frank Frick).

Short-billed Dowitcher: Up to 65 were counted at Winous Point and 110 at ONWR towards the end of the Aug surveys (Tom Bartlett, m. obs.). Single digit reports came from six other northern counties between 18 Aug and 04 Nov.

Long-billed Dowitcher: The earliest report and highest count was of eight at Winous Point on 26 Aug (Tom Bartlett, m. obs.). Others were reported at widely separated locations until 15 Nov.

Wilson's Snipe: The earliest report was from Conneaut on 24 Aug (Craig Holt) and the latest 26 Nov from both Hueston Woods (m. obs.) and

Armleder Park, **Hamilton** (Kirk Westendorf). The high count was 16 on 30 Oct from Prairie Lane, near Wooster in **Wayne** (Su Snyder).

American Woodcock: BSBO's Navarre station banded four; they average one per year. There were reports of single birds throughout the period from **Clermont, Coshocton, Cuyahoga, Hamilton, Seneca, and Warren**.

Wilson's Phalarope: There were many sightings of single birds at Bellevue in mid- to late-Aug. One was at Conneaut on 20 Aug (Craig Holt) and one at the Lorain spoil dump on 27 Sep (Gabe Leidy).

Red-necked Phalarope: Observers reported one or two between 27 and 30 Aug at Bellevue. Craig Holt found one at Conneaut on 20 Aug, one was seen during the 26 Aug Winous Point survey (Tom Bartlett, m. obs.), and Gabe Leidy saw one at Lorain on 27 Sep.

Red Phalarope: The single bird reported was found on the 17 Aug Winous Point survey (Tom Bartlett, m. obs.).

Sabine's Gull: Jerry Talkington saw one at Headlands on 19 Sep.

Bonaparte's Gull: The earliest sighting was 12 Aug at Conneaut (Craig Holt). Numbers into the low thousands were seen along Lake Erie starting in late Oct, and Elliot Tramer estimated 50,000 were at Huron, **Erie**, on 18 Nov. The largest inland concentrations were 500 at Hoover Reservoir on 08 and 14 Nov and 500 at East Fork on 22 Nov (m. obs. on all dates).



Surprising numbers of Franklin's Gulls were reported in Ohio this season, mostly on inland reservoirs. Several individuals ranged along the Lake Erie lakefront in late Nov, including the one photographed here (among Ring-billed and a juvenile Herring Gull) by Gabe Leidy on 14 Nov at Huron.

Black-headed Gull: After a five-year absence, three or four were first reported at Headlands on 11 Nov by Ray Hannikman, Emil Bacik, Jerry Talkington, and Suzanne Wagner. They were enjoyed by many others through at least 27 Nov.

Little Gull: Craig Holt saw one at Conneaut on 07 and 16 Nov. Little Gull was also documented at Headlands on 27 Sep by Gabe Leidy (see photograph).

Laughing Gull: One frequented Pleasant Hill Lake, **Richland/Ashland**, between 21 Sep and 01 Oct (John Herman, Gary Cowell, and Su Snyder).

Franklin's Gull: This species was widely reported at inland sites from 16 Sep at Findlay Reservoir (Betty Hardesty) to 16 Nov at East Fork (John Herman). Up to three were seen on Lake Erie from East 72nd Street to Conneaut in late Nov (m. obs.). Doug

*As always, Headland Dunes State Park, **Lake**, hosted many great rarities this season, with several species cooperative enough to be documented by written reports and photos. Gabe Leidy photographed this Little Gull standing behind a Bonaparte's Gull on 27 Sep.*



Overacker counted an astonishing 90 at Buck Creek on 09 Nov.

Ring-billed Gull: Elliot Tramer estimated 200,000 were present at Huron, **Erie**, on 18 Nov. Smaller numbers, still in the thousands, were reported all along the Lake Erie shore. The largest inland count was of 700 at Hoover Reservoir on 14 Nov (Rob Thorn).

Herring Gull: This species was reported in small numbers from most of the Lake Erie counties, with the highest counts being over 500 at Kelleys Island, **Erie**, on 18 Sep (Tom Bartlett, John Lortz, and Pat Hayes) and 500 at Lorain on 29 Nov (Doug Overacker). Rob Thorn reported “a few throughout the period” at Hoover Reservoir, and 75 were at Evans Lake, **Mahoning**, on 26 Nov (Craig Holt).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Craig Holt reported two to three at Conneaut on 09 Sep, 07 Oct, and 09 Nov, and Gabe Leidy found five at Huron, **Erie**, on 14 Nov. Surprisingly, there were many more reports from inland sites. The earliest was 24 Sep at Pleasant Hill Lake, **Richland** (John Herman); the latest report was of three at Findlay Reservoir on 30 Nov (Betty Hardesty). There were also sightings at Clear Fork, **Richland/Morrow**, and Evans Lake and Lake Milton, both in **Mahoning**.

Glaucous Gull: Many observers saw the first of these winter visitors starting 21 Nov at East Fork, **Clermont**, far from the expected Lake Erie locations. The first Lake Erie bird was seen at East 55th Street, **Cuyahoga**, by Gabe Leidy on 28 Nov.

Great Black-backed Gull: This species was reported in small numbers from most of the Lake Erie counties starting in mid-Aug; most reports were from Nov. The only inland report was of two at Findlay Reservoir on 30 Nov (Bob Sams).

Caspian Tern: Doug Overacker had the earliest and latest sightings, at Buck Creek on 02 Aug and 27 Nov. Small numbers were seen at scattered locations between these dates, with the largest number being 50 at Winous Point on 10 Aug (Tom Bartlett, m. obs.).

Black Tern: Up to four were at East Fork between 21 Aug and 06 Sep (m. obs.). Four were at Findlay Reservoir on 29 Aug (Jill Taylor) and one was there 16 Sep (Betty Hardesty).

Common Tern: The largest number was 35 at East Fork on 06 Sep (m. obs.). Craig Holt reported the latest, one at Conneaut on 16 Nov. Most of the reports were from inland lakes and reservoirs.

Forster's Tern: Only Winous Point had double digits, up to 20 on three Aug dates (Tom Bartlett, m. obs.). Others were seen at Buck Creek, Conneaut, and **Hancock**, and the latest on 19 Sep at Caesar Creek (m. obs.).

Pomarine Jaeger: Gabe Leidy reported one at Lorain on 14 Nov and another at Edgewater, **Cuyahoga**, on 28 Nov. Doug Overacker saw one in **Lake** on 27 Nov.

Parasitic Jaeger: There were one or two reported from **Huron, Lorain**, and Headlands in mid Nov. The OBRC is waiting for reports.



Inspired by viewing Little Gulls at Headland Dunes State Park this season, Jen Brunfield rendered this sharp-looking adult.



*Bird banders document the largest numbers of Northern Saw-whet Owls in Ohio, adding to a growing database on the seasonal movements of this secretive species. Dedicated observers, however, continue to find these birds in migration hotspots. Gabe Leidy found two individuals along Dike 14 on the Cleveland lakefront, **Cuyahoga**, photographing this individual on 30 Nov.*

Rock Pigeon: Most observers don't report these, but 10 counties, urban and rural, were represented.

Mourning Dove: This species was reported from 17 counties. Most notable was a concentration of about 400 along Wilderness Road in Funk Bottoms, **Wayne** (Su Snyder).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: There were many Aug sightings and a few in Sep. The CVNP census of 20 Sep found three (Dwight Chasar, m. obs.). The latest was at the Navarre banding station on 16 Oct (BSBO).

Black-billed Cuckoo: There were almost as many reports of Black-billed Cuckoos as of Yellow-billeds. The latest was also at Navarre, on 12 Oct (BSBO).

Barn Owl: One was found dead at Funk Bottoms, **Wayne**, during an

Ohio Young Birders field trip assisted by Su Snyder. It apparently drowned after becoming tangled in aquatic vegetation; Steve Carbol waded in the water to retrieve it for the Cleveland Museum of Natural History ornithology research collection.

Eastern Screech-Owl: All of the reports were from the northern third of the state. Notable were the four found on the Kelleys Island, **Erie**, survey of 18 Sep and five during Springville Marsh surveys on two dates (all Tom Bartlett and m. obs.). Newly fledged birds were found near Canton on 13 Aug (Kent Miller).

Great Horned Owl: Many were seen and heard throughout the period, with most reports being from the northern counties. Wayne Wauligman found a nest with begging young in a Cincinnati suburb on 06 Oct, a highly unusual date.

Snowy Owl: Many observers saw one to two individuals (an adult male and apparent juvenile) at Burke Lakefront Airport, Cleveland, from 22 Nov through the end of the period. One was near Xenia on 22 Nov (Judy Holbrook). Another was in **Preble** 28 and 29 Nov (John Shavits), and Tom Bartlett saw a fifth on the Edison Bridge over Sandusky Bay on 29 Nov.

Burrowing Owl: One on private land in **Shelby** during parts of Aug and Sep was reported to Mark Shieldcastle after its departure; no more is known about it.

Barred Owl: Most of the 11 reports were from Sep. Dwight and Ann Chasar found a nest with hissing young at the Oak Hill area of CVNP on 14 July.

Short-eared Owl: Right on time, one appeared at the Lorain dredge spoil site on 02 Oct (Gabe Leidy). Three were at Miami Whitewater Forest, **Hamilton**, on 11 Oct (David Brinkman), and several others were in various other **Hamilton** sites (Armleder Park, especially) through the end of the period. One was seen at the CVNP Coliseum site on each of 06 Oct and 01 Nov (Dwight and Ann Chasar).

Northern Saw-whet Owl: Kelly Williams-Sieg's station near Chillicothe banded its first on 17 Oct and, hampered by bad weather, had only 37 for the season. Tim Tolford, who runs a banding station in Indiana just west of Oxford, found one bird in the town 23 Oct. Tom and Paula Bartlett and Pat Hayes, on Kelleys Island, **Erie**, banded 11 on their first night of work, 18 Oct, two

more on 19 Oct, and "never heard, saw, or captured another NSWOW the rest of the season and that includes December."

Common Nighthawk: Su Snyder noted two "presumed nesters" over Wooster 08 Aug. Migration appeared to be underway a couple of weeks later, with 30 seen over CVNP's Kendall Lake 24 Aug (Fred Losi). The highest counts were of 110 over Armleder Park, **Hamilton**, on 03 Sep (Kirk Westendorf and Erik Burkholder) and 100 at Greenhills, **Hamilton**, on 06 Nov (Mary Jo White). The last report was of a single bird on 01 Nov in Colerain Twp, **Hamilton** (Jon Seymour).

Chuck-will's-widow: The one report was from Winous Point, far north of the species' **Adams** stronghold, on 26 Aug (Tom Bartlett, m. obs.).

Whip-poor-will: The Navarre banding station had one on 23 Aug and another 17 Oct (BSBO), and Tom Bartlett's team captured one at Springville Marsh on 06 Sep.

Chimney Swift: Swifts were widely reported in small numbers during Aug. Migratory concentrations were noted starting 31 Aug, with 700 in Gahanna, **Franklin**, and 800 in Westerville, **Franklin**, on 07 Sep (both Rob Thorn). The last report was of a few birds in Poland Township, **Mahoning**, on 13 Oct (Craig Holt).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Most reports were from central and northern Ohio. Notable numbers include 25 at Springville Marsh on 24 Aug (Tom Bartlett, m. obs.) and 10 in



*Rufous Hummingbirds continue appearing in fall in Ohio; two were reported this season. The individual in this photograph was present in Bexley, **Franklin**, for nearly one month. Bernard F. Master photographed this bird on 12 Nov 2008.*

the CVNP census of 20 Sep (Dwight Chasar, m. obs.). The last report was from Madeira, **Hamilton**, on 15 Oct (Jan Watkins).

Rufous Hummingbird: One visited a feeder in Bexley, **Franklin**, for almost a month starting 17 Oct; Allan Chartier confirmed its identity when he banded it. Tim Tolford banded another in Montgomery, **Hamilton**, on 25 Nov.

Belted Kingfisher: This species was reported from 14 counties, all in the northern third of the state. Up to six were seen throughout the period during the weekly CVNP Ira Road census (Tom and Mary Anne Romito). Three were at Lower Shaker Lake, **Cuyahoga**, on 18 Sep (Laura Gooch).

Red-headed Woodpecker:

This bird prefers woodlands with less undergrowth than most other woodpeckers, and so is often found in areas of drowned trees. Su Snyder saw 10 in this habitat along Messner Road in Killbuck Marsh on 15 Nov. Another 10 were reported statewide.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: This common species was reported from yards, parks, and wilder areas in nine counties. The 20 Sep CVNP census found the fantastic total of 98 (Dwight Chasar, m. obs.).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: The earliest report was from Magee Marsh on 20 Sep (Su Snyder), and about 25 more were reported statewide until the latest on 23 Nov in Poland Twp, **Mahoning** (Craig Holt).

Downy Woodpecker: Reports came from 15 counties. BSBO banded 27 at Navarre during the season, and the CVNP census found 120 on 20 Sep (Dwight Chasar, m. obs.).

Hairy Woodpecker: Tom and Mary Anne Romito found up to five throughout the period during their weekly Ira Road in CVNP, surveys. The other reports were also from northeastern counties.

Northern Flicker: This species was widely reported. BSBO banded 13, and observed them almost daily, at Navarre. Rob and Sandy Harlan found 15 along the “Wood Stork road” on 31 Aug. There were many reports from CVNP.

Pileated Woodpecker: More than half of the reports were from CVNP. Farther afield, they were seen at Cedar Bog, **Champaign**, on 03 Aug (Doug Overacker) and Caesar Creek on 29 Aug (Larry Gara).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Up to nine were reported from six locations. Julie West had the earliest at NCSL on 20 Aug. At Mentor Lagoons, **Lake**, Ray Hannikman and Emil Bacik had one each on 04, 08, and 12 Sep, the latest report.

Eastern Wood-Pewee: Pewees were reported from many parts of the state. The earliest was probably a resident at Ira Road in CVNP, on 04 Aug (Tom and Mary Anne Romito). Doug Overacker saw 15 in John Bryan SP, **Greene**, on 06 Sep; the last report was from Findlay on 15 Oct (Betty Hardesty).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: One in **Tuscarawas** on 09 Aug was a bit early (Ed Schlabach). BSBO banded 18 at Navarre during the period. The last report was from Buck Creek on 13 Sep (Doug Overacker).

Acadian Flycatcher: Adam Yoder found nine singing males in **Coshocton** on 27 Sep; this was the latest date reported.

Alder Flycatcher: The single report was of one on Kelleys Island, **Erie**, on 18 Sep (Tom Bartlett, John Lortz, and Pat Hayes).

Willow Flycatcher: Many of the 23 that Doug Overacker found in Buck Creek on 02 Aug were probably residents. The last report was from Columbus on 03 Sep (Rob Thorn).

Least Flycatcher: There were scattered reports starting in Aug, with the last being on 08 Oct from Headlands NP (Jerry Talkington and Emil Bacik).

Eastern Phoebe: It is hard to distinguish residents from migrants of this, our hardest flycatcher. It was seen statewide throughout the period, with the 20 Sep CVNP survey counting 49 (Tom Bartlett, m. obs.).

Great Crested Flycatcher: Ironically, the earliest sighting was the farthest south, one that Helen and Ken Ostermiller found in Shawnee SF, **Scioto**, on 14 Aug. The latest was reported by Doug Overacker on 07 Sep at Buck Creek.

Western Kingbird: Possibly the same one was reported in Madisonville (Cincinnati) on 27 Aug and Fernald

Fall 2008 was a strong season for Northern Shrike in Ohio, with individuals reported from six locations.

Charles Bombaci and Bruce Simpson located this individual along Township Highway 68 in Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area,

Wyandot, on 26 Nov (photograph by Simpson).



on 07 Sep; both are in **Hamilton**, though 20 miles apart. The OBRC is awaiting documentation of these sightings.

Eastern Kingbird: This species was widely seen during Aug; Betty Hardesty reported the last apparent migrant on 23 Sep from **Hancock**.

Northern Shrike: This species was reported from six locations, sometimes with multiple sightings, so it is hard to determine how many individuals were seen. The earliest was quite early indeed in **Highland** on 02 to 04 Aug (Troy Shively and Aaron Boone); the rest were seen at Oak Openings, Headlands, Killdeer Plains, Alliance, and Tiffin starting 19 Oct (m. obs.).

White-eyed Vireo: A bird Fred Losi saw on 23 Aug in CVNP could have been a resident. There were several Sep and Oct reports and the latest was of one banded at Navarre on 09 Nov (BSBO).

Yellow-throated Vireo: There were several geographically scattered reports from 22 Aug in Germantown, **Montgomery** (Jean Kuns) to 28 Sep at Buck Creek (Doug Overacker).

Blue-headed Vireo: Adam Yoder found parents feeding young in **Coshocton** in mid-Sep; he noted this was the pair's third nesting attempt following two failures. The latest migrant was noted 02 Nov at Springville Marsh (Tom Bartlett, m. obs.).

Warbling Vireo: Though no doubt present, this species was only reported twice in Aug. The last of many migrants was noted 25 Nov in Alliance, a bird that had spent a week in Ronnie Macko and Shari Jackson's yard.

Philadelphia Vireo: Matching this bird's usual pattern, all sightings but the last were in Sep. Tom Bartlett's team recorded it at Springville Marsh on 13 Oct.

Red-eyed Vireo: There were several Aug sightings, with 16 on 20 Aug in Rocky River Reservation, **Cuyahoga**, being a notable number (Rob and Sandy Harlan). Julie Karlson saw flightless young in John Bryan SP, **Greene**, on 06 Sep. Most were gone by mid-Oct, but Jason Estep had a straggler in his Newark yard on 05 Nov.



An exceptionally late Warbling Vireo was found and photographed by Ronnie Macko and Shari Jackson in their backyard near Walborn Reservoir in Marlboro Township, northeast Stark. The bird was present from 17 to 25 Nov. Some observers believed that the back and head coloration suggested that this bird belongs to the western subspecies group (Vireo gilvus swainsonii and related subspecies) (Lehman and Brinkley 2008).

Blue Jay: Rob Thorn commented that he had seen “no significant migrant flocks ... unlike the previous three years.” The other reports confirm this statewide: Several flocks of 10 to 20 were noted, with a high count of only 30 seen at Spring Valley WA (**Greene/Warren**) on 04 Oct (Doug Overacker).

American Crow: Crows were widely reported in single and double-digit numbers. Notable flocks included one of 120 at Hoover on 08 Nov (Rob Thorn) and 700 in Poland Township, **Mahoning**, on 21 Nov (Craig Holt).

Horned Lark: Small numbers were seen throughout the period, with high counts of about 100 on 04 Nov in **Hancock** (Betty Hardesty) and on 22 Nov in **Lorain** (Helen and Ken Ostermiller).

Purple Martin: The largest flock was also the earliest reported: Robert Foppe estimated 1,500 at Camp Dennison, **Hamilton**, on 04 Aug. Rob and Sandy Harlan noted at least 1,000 beginning to roost at Nimisila SP, **Summit**, on 04 Sep, the latest date reported.

Tree Swallow: Reports were mostly from Oct, with a maximum of 60 in **Hardin** on 19 Oct (Helen and Ken Ostermiller). The latest report was of a single bird at Rocky Fork on 17 Nov (Rick Asamoto and John Habig).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: The largest flock was of about 100 at Buck Creek on 16 Aug (Doug Overacker). The last straggler was seen at Rocky Fork 17 Nov (Rick Asamoto and John Habig).

Bank Swallow: The flock of 2,000 seen at Headlands before the start of the fall season, on 16 Jul by Ray Hannikman was followed by a trickle of single-digit sightings into this season, in late Aug.

Cliff Swallow: Rob Thorn saw 120 at Alum Creek Reservoir on 21 Aug, and his single bird at Hoover on 15 Sep was the latest.

Cave Swallow: We were visited by at least two small flocks of this species, which has been seen annually starting in 2005. Larry Richardson found seven at Bradstreet’s Landing, **Cuyahoga**, on the morning of 09 Nov. Some of them sheltered from the cold rain in a crevice, and many observers were able to see them before the last one left at dawn the next day. John Habig, Rick Asamoto, and Jay

Lehman found four at Rocky Fork on 16 Nov. Both flocks were well described and photographed and the records were accepted by the OBRC. The Rocky River birds were apparently of the *pallida* subspecies, which breeds in south Texas and Mexico.

On 08 Nov Su Snyder, Gary Cowell, and Willis Brubaker saw four of what they strongly suspect were Cave Swallows at Secrest Arboretum, **Wayne**, but did not see them well enough to be sure. This date would be very late for the similar-looking Cliff Swallows.

Barn Swallow: The largest flock was of about 350, seen on Kelleys Island, **Erie**, on 19 Aug (Tom and Paula Bartlett and Pat Hayes). One bird at Buck Creek on 09 Nov was the last reported (Doug Overacker).

Carolina Chickadee: Most of the reports were from the “border” counties of **Hancock**, **Wayne**, and **Wyandot**. Tom Bartlett’s team banded 14 at Springville Marsh during the season, many fewer than last year. Further south, Doug Overacker found 10 in John Bryan SP, **Greene**, on 06 Sep.

Black-capped Chickadee: This species was widely reported from the northern counties. Tom Bartlett banded 68 at Springville Marsh. The largest number in a limited area was 50 at the CVNP Christmas Tree Farm on 24 Oct (Dwight and Ann Chasar).

Tufted Titmouse: The high count of this widely reported bird was 19 along the CVNP Oak Hill Trail on 12 Oct (Scott VanValkenburg).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Last year’s early and large influx was not repeated. One seen in Mohican SP on 26 Aug could have been a resident (Aaron Boone). The first migrants were seen in several locations on 19 Sep.; they were reported through the end of the period. The largest count, on the 20 Sep CVNP census, was 15 (Dwight Chasar, m. obs.).

White-breasted Nuthatch: These were reported from many sites throughout the period.

Brown Creeper: Rob Thorn’s sighting in Blendon Woods, **Franklin**, on 08 Aug could have been a resident. They were seen in at least four northern locations on 20 Sep, and one at Miami Whitewater Forest, **Hamilton**, on 05 Oct was the first in the south (Frank Frick).

Carolina Wren: This species was reported throughout the period, mostly from northern counties.

House Wren: The latest report from the far north was of three birds at Dike 14, **Cuyahoga**, on 25 Oct. (Gabe Leidy), and the latest overall sighting was by Rob Thorn at Blacklick Woods, **Franklin/Fairfield**, on 26 Nov.

Winter Wren: Two found on the 20 Sep CVNP census were the earliest reported (Dwight Chasar, m. obs.). The last was reported was on 23 Nov from Buck Creek (Doug Overacker).

Sedge Wren: Birds seen 17 and 20 Aug in Armleder Park, **Hamilton**, could have been residents (m. obs.). Probable migrants were seen in **Erie**, **Hamilton**, **Holmes**, **Tuscarawas**,

and **Wayne**, with the latest being two reported on 19 Oct from Ottawa NWR (m. obs.).

Marsh Wren: Adam and James Yoder counted 28 at Killbuck Marsh, likely a mix of residents and migrants. The latest sighting was on 25 Oct at Dike 14, **Cuyahoga**, by Gabe Leidy.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: The first migrant was noted 20 Sep at Headlands (Rob and Sandy Harlan). Over 250 were banded at Springville Marsh between 28 Sep and 06 Nov (Tom Bartlett, m. obs.). The latest was seen 17 Nov at Shaker Lakes, **Cuyahoga** (Leo Deininger).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: As usual, the heaviest migration was late Sep through Oct. The last report was from Spring Grove Cemetery, **Hamilton**, on 29 Nov (Kirk Westendorf).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Helen and Ken Ostermiller saw an adult and young at Highlands Nature Center on 14 Aug, when migration is usually beginning. The last report was from Shawnee Lookout, **Hamilton**, on 13 Sep (m. obs.).

Eastern Bluebird: Elliot Tramer commented on the great increase in bluebirds in **Lucas** over the past 40 years; he saw more than 50 (many no doubt migrants) at Oak Openings on 02 Oct. Fred Losi saw 37 at Jaite, CVNP, on 23 Nov.

Veery: These were present at Ira Road in CVNP on several dates between 04 Aug and 22 Sep (m. obs.). BSBO banded 32 at Navarre between 25 Aug and 21 Sep, and the last was seen 28 Nov at Springville Marsh (Tom Bartlett, m. obs.).

Gray-cheeked Thrush: Gabe Leidy saw the first of the season at Headlands on 06 Sep. The latest seen in the north was at Sheldon's Marsh on 28 Sep (Craig Caldwell), and the last report was from Cincinnati's Clifton neighborhood on 04 Oct (Lori Brumbaugh).

Swainson's Thrush: BSBO banded 438 at Navarre between 31 Aug and 19 Oct, representing 12% of all birds banded in their three-month season. There were widespread sightings in the northern half of the state throughout Sep but the only report from south of Columbus was Jay and Paula Stenger's of one at Shawnee Lookout, **Hamilton**, on 07 Sep.

Hermit Thrush: The reports were concentrated in Oct. David Russell saw 10 at Hueston Woods on 21 Oct and Doug Overacker reported the latest, at Buck Creek on 08 Nov.

Wood Thrush: The last were seen at the Cincinnati Nature Center, **Clermont**, on 11 Oct (m. obs.).

American Robin: Residents and migrants were seen throughout the period. Some impressive flocks were noted: up to 200 were seen on several dates up to 12 Oct at Springville Marsh (Tom Bartlett, m. obs.), Betty Hardesty estimated 800 in **Hancock** on 28 Oct, and Shaker Lakes had about 200 on 23 Nov (Scott VanValkenburg).

Gray Catbird: Catbirds were widely seen in time and space, though most of the sightings were in Sep and Oct. The last noted was on 09 Nov in Grandview, **Franklin** (Rob Thorn).

Northern Mockingbird: Elliot Tramer noted an apparent decline in northwest Ohio; he saw only one in **Lucas** during the whole season. There were scattered reports from other northern locations but oddly only one from the southern half of the state, on 03 Aug at Cedar Bog, **Champaign**, (Doug Overacker).

Brown Thrasher: The last of several reports of migrants was from Buck Creek on 05 Oct by Doug Overacker.

European Starling: More reviled than reported, this species was seen in large flocks at several locations. Examples include 500 in downtown Wooster on 17 Nov (Su Snyder) and an incredible 10,000 at Springville Marsh on 01 Nov (Tom Bartlett, m. obs.).

American Pipit: The first report was of a flyover at ONWR on 27 Sep (Craig Caldwell) and they were seen to the end of the period. Jeffrey Miller noted a flock of 190 in Walnut Creek on 02 Nov and 450 were estimated at Headlands and Mentor Lagoons on 03 Nov (Ray Hannikman, Jerry Talkington, and Suzanne Wagner).

Cedar Waxwing: Aaron Boone saw recently fledged young in two **Champaign** locations on 21 and 24 Sep. Flocks were widely reported, with 495 counted during the 20 Sep CVNP census (Dwight Chasar, m. obs.) and over 100 on two Nov dates at Ira Road in CVNP (Tom and Mary Anne Romito).

Blue-winged Warbler: There were fewer than 10 reports. The Romito's 11 Aug sighting at Ira Road in CVNP,

could have been a breeding bird. The last migrant was seen 12 Sep at Blendon Woods, **Franklin** (Rob Thorn).

Golden-winged Warbler: Three individuals were reported: 17 Sep in Germantown, **Montgomery** (Jean Kuns), Shawnee Lookout, **Hamilton**, on 20 Sep (Linda Osterhage), and at Farbach-Werner Preserve, **Hamilton** on 22 Sep (Laura Keene).

Tennessee Warbler: This species was widely reported, starting with one in Jean Kuns' Germantown, **Montgomery**, yard on 24 Aug. The last was a straggler at Headlands on 01 Nov (Jerry Talkington).

Orange-crowned Warbler: There were a remarkable nine reports from the four banded on Kelleys Island, **Erie**, 18 Sep (Tom Bartlett, John Lortz, and Pat Hayes) to the rather late 22 Nov sighting in Byers Woods, **Ashland** by Su Snyder and Gary Cowell.

Nashville Warbler: These were seen in about 20 locations. The earliest was at Buck Creek on 30 Aug (Doug Overacker). Most sightings were in Sep, and the last was one banded on Kelleys Island, **Erie**, on 19 Oct (Tom Bartlett, m. obs.).

Northern Parula: The earliest migrant was seen at Mentor Lagoons on 29 Aug (Ray Hannikman and Jerry Talkington). The last was seen at Navarre on 14 Nov (BSBO).

Yellow Warbler: A few were seen in Aug in areas of the CVNP where they breed (m. obs.). The latest northern bird was seen at Lorain on 24 Sep

(Craig Holt) and the last of the period in Walnut Hills, **Hamilton**, on 27 Sep (Frank Renfrow).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: The earliest sightings were also the farthest south, at Miami Whitewater Forest, **Hamilton**, on 15 Aug (Jay Stenger, m. obs.). Small numbers were seen throughout the state until 16 Oct at a yard in Findlay (*vide* Betty Hardesty).

Magnolia Warbler: As with the Chestnut-sided Warbler, the first migrant was observed in the southern half of the state; one was reported 06 Aug in College Hill, **Hamilton** (Steve Pelikan). BSBO banded 101 between 21 Aug and 10 Sep at Navarre. There were reports from about 20 other locations and the latest was 15 Oct at Springville Marsh (Tom Bartlett, m. obs.).

Capo May Warbler: The sightings were in this species' usual tight window from 29 Aug at Blacklick Woods, **Franklin/Fairfield** (Rob Thorn) to 13 Oct at Navarre (BSBO).

Black-throated Blue Warbler: The BSBO banders at Navarre tallied 78 between 25 Aug and 18 Oct, which were the earliest and latest dates of the dozen reports.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: This species lived up to the "widespread migrant, usually abundant" description in Harlan (2008); it was reported from about 25 locations in 15 counties. The earliest, yet again, was in **Hamilton**, on 25 Aug (Lori Brumbaugh). Ed Schlabach found 60 in **Tuscarawas** on 11 Oct and Tom Bartlett's team banded 254 on

Kelleys Island, **Erie**, on 19 Oct. The last sighting reported was 21 Nov from Medina (Helen and Ken Ostermiller) but some sightings should be expected through the winter.

Black-throated Green Warbler: Aaron Boone found a presumably resident singing male in Mohican SP on 26 Aug. The first probable migrant noted was in Germantown, **Montgomery**, on 30 Aug (Jean Kuns). Small numbers were seen in many locations until the last on 18 Oct in widely separated Armleder Park, **Hamilton** (Kirk Westendorf and Erik Burkholder) and Walnut Creek, **Holmes** (Jeffrey Miller).

Blackburnian Warbler: Rob Thorn commented that his 32 sightings in the Columbus area were more than triple his count in a typical year. Those **Hamilton** eyes again reported the first bird of the period on 17 Aug (Kirk Westendorf and Erik Burkholder); the latest of the approximately 20 sightings was also there (Lori Brumbaugh).

Yellow-throated Warbler: Jean Kuns had four stop in her yard between 26 Aug and 17 Sep, and Lori Brumbaugh reported the last from Cincinnati's Clifton neighborhood on 05 Oct.

Pine Warbler: The first report was from Armleder Park, **Hamilton** (Albert Scruggs) and the last was an immature at an Alliance feeder on 22 Nov (m. obs.).

Prairie Warbler: Elliot Tramer noted that the 16 Sep bird in Oak Openings, **Lucas**, was the first fall migrant he had seen in his 50 years of

birding in northern Ohio. The only other sightings were on 23 Aug and 17 Sep in **Montgomery** (Jean Kuns) and one banded 18 Sep on Kelleys Island, **Erie**, (Tom Bartlett, m. obs.).

Palm Warbler: Small numbers were seen from 18 Sep on Kelleys Island, **Erie**, (Tom Bartlett, m. obs.) to 22 Nov at East Fork (Donald Morse, Jr.).

Bay-breasted Warbler: Julie West banded two at NCSL on 27 Aug. Others were reported from about 15 sites until the last two seen on 14 Oct in **Hamilton** (Lori Brumbaugh).

Blackpoll Warbler: This species was numerous and widespread. The first was seen on 28 Aug at Hoover Dam (Rob Thorn) and BSBO banded 327 at Navarre between 06 Sep and 19 Oct, the last date reported.

Cerulean Warbler: Jay Stenger and Jon Seymour saw one each in Miami Whitewater Forest, **Hamilton**, on 15 and 24 Aug, respectively. The only other report was by Adam Yoder, a 24 Aug sighting in **Coshocton**.

Black-and-white Warbler: The approximately 20 sightings began 24 Aug at both Springville Marsh (Tom Bartlett, m. obs.) and Navarre (BSBO). The latest was at Three-Creeks Park, **Franklin**, on 09 Oct, by Rob Thorn.

American Redstart: These were reported from 13 counties throughout the state. The Romitos' 04 Aug bird at Ira Road in CVNP, was probably a breeder. Migrants were seen from late Aug to 06 Oct, when one was banded at NCSL (Julie West). Bill Shively saw seven at Delaware SP on 09 Sep.

Prothonotary Warbler: The three reports were of single individuals at Ira Road in CVNP on 11 Aug (Tom and Mary Anne Romito), Magrith Preserve, **Hamilton**, on 17 Aug (Kirk Westendorf and Erik Burkholder), and Cedar Point, **Erie** on 29 Aug (Elliot Tramer).

Worm-eating Warbler: Adam Yoder saw one on 10 Aug in **Coshocton**; he labeled it a migrant because the nearest known nesting site is 25 miles away.

Ovenbird: The BSBO Navarre team banded 76 birds between 20 Aug and 24 Sep. The species was seen in at least 10 counties, with the latest on 11 Oct in Farbach-Werner Preserve, **Hamilton** (Laura Keene).

Northern Waterthrush: The first was not seen until 25 Aug at Navarre (BSBO), a rather late start. The last migrants were seen 28 Sep at Sheldon's Marsh (Craig Caldwell) and Springville Marsh (Tom Bartlett, m. obs.).

Louisiana Waterthrush: Fred Losi heard three along Tinkers Creek in the Bedford Reservation, **Cuyahoga**, on 02 Aug. The Romitos found one on 17 Aug in Schoepfle Gardens, **Lorain**.

Kentucky Warbler: There were five reports, from 26 Aug in Mohican SF, **Ashland**, (Aaron Boone) to 22 Sep in **Holmes** (Ed Schlabach).

Connecticut Warbler: This usually elusive warbler was seen 13 times. The first was at Mentor Lagoons on 23 Aug (Suzanne Wagner) and the last at Farbach-Werner Preserve, **Hamilton**, on 15 Oct (David Brinkman).

Mourning Warbler: There were nearly 20 sightings of this species. BSBO banded six at Navarre between 24 Aug and 22 Sep. Three total were seen in the Clifton area of Cincinnati on 19 and 22 Sep (Lori Brumbaugh). The latest was in Miami Whitewater Forest, **Hamilton**, on 28 Sep (David Brinkman, m. obs.).

Common Yellowthroat: This species was reported from nearly 20 locations. Residents seen in early Aug gave way to migrants by the end of the month. The last report was of single bird banded at Springville Marsh on 26 Oct (Tom Bartlett, m. obs.).

Hooded Warbler: One seen in **Highland** on 14 Aug could have been a summering bird (Helen and Ken Ostermiller). Five migrants were at Headlands on 23 Aug (m. obs.) and the latest sighting was 09 Oct in **Franklin** (Rob Thorn).

Wilson's Warbler: The sightings were all of one or two birds, from 25 Aug at Navarre (BSBO) to 10 Oct in CVNP (Clyde Witt).

Canada Warbler: This sought-after bird was seen in 10 locations beginning 06 Aug in College Hill, **Hamilton** (Steve Pelikan). This is early for migration but also far from any of its few Ohio breeding locations. The latest report was on 26 Sep from **Hancock** (Sue Baxter).

Yellow-breasted Chat: The first of seven reported sightings was a bird banded 29 Aug at NCSL (Julie West). The last was banded at Navarre on 15 Oct (BSBO).

Summer Tanager: Curiously, this species was more often sighted than Scarlet Tanager, despite its more restricted range in Ohio. The two seen by Fred Losi in Bedford Reservation, **Cuyahoga**, on 02 Aug were unexpectedly far north. The last bird was seen by Elliot Tramer on 02 Oct at Oak Openings, **Lucas**, site of an isolated breeding population.

Scarlet Tanager: One was at Buck Creek on 10 Aug (Doug Overacker). A few migrants were seen throughout the state until the last on 14 Oct in **Hancock** (Sue Baxter).

Eastern Towhee: This species was seen throughout the period. The 20 Sep CVNP census found 22 (Dwight Chasar, m. obs.).

American Tree Sparrow: Gabe Leidy reported the first at Mentor Marsh on 24 Oct. They were seen through the end of the period, mostly in northern counties but also as far south as Bethel, **Clermont** on 10 Nov (Jeff Brown).

Chipping Sparrow: Parents with flightless young were reported from several counties in early Aug. The latest migrant was reported 13 Nov from Gahanna (Rob Thorn), though a few will probably be seen in December.

Clay-colored Sparrow: One was banded on Kelleys Island, **Erie**, on 19 Oct (Tom Bartlett, m. obs.).

Field Sparrow: There were many sightings throughout the period. Though the latest reported was on 09 Nov at Sandy Ridge, **Lorain** (Tom and Mary Anne Romito), they can be expected into winter in the southern counties.

Vesper Sparrow: One in a *Hancock* yard 12 Aug was probably a local nester (Bob Sams). The last migrant was seen 18 Nov in Winton Woods, *Hamilton* (Jay Stenger).

Lark Sparrow: The sole report was from James Yoder, an immature bird in a known nesting area of *Tuscarawas* on 16 Aug.

Savannah Sparrow: These were widely reported throughout the period. Ed Schlabach found 80 in eastern *Holmes* on 22 Sep.

Grasshopper Sparrow: Lori Brumbaugh saw a likely breeder on 02 Aug near The Wilds, *Muskingum*. The last of the other six sightings was on 04 Oct in *Tuscarawas* (Ed Schlabach).

Henslow's Sparrow: Aaron Boone found singing males in two *Highland* locations on 04 Aug. There were seven other reports, with the latest on 21 Aug at the old Coliseum site in CVNP (Gabe Leidy).

Le Conte's Sparrow: The small number of reports was in keeping with most years' tallies but much lower than last year's. Jerry Talkington and Suzanne Wagner found one to three at Headlands on several dates between 01 Oct and 04 Nov. Paul Wharton saw one in Miami Whitewater Forest, *Hamilton*, on 04 Oct. Sightings in Armleder Park, *Hamilton*, on 27 and 30 Nov were very late (Kirk Westendorf and Erik Burkholder).

Nelson's Sparrow: This species was reported from 10 locations, with multiple sightings at several of them. The earliest was at the CVNP

Coliseum site on 20 Sep; birds were seen there until 09 Oct (Gabe Leidy, m. obs.). One to three were at Miami Whitewater Forest between 28 Sep and 14 Oct (m. obs.). Jerry Talkington and Suzanne Wagner saw one to five at Headlands until 05 Nov.

Fox Sparrow: The earliest of the many sightings was on 07 Oct in Hueston Woods (David Russell). The highest count was seven at Alum Lake, *Delaware*, on 21 Nov (Rob Thorn). The latest report was from Su Snyder at Byers Woods, *Wayne*, on 22 Nov, though some no doubt remained into December.

Song Sparrow: This species was widely reported over the entire period. The 20 Sep CVNP census counted 95 (Dwight Chasar, m. obs.).

Lincoln's Sparrow: The first was seen at the Lorain spoil dump on 17 Sep (Gabe Leidy) and the last on 18 Oct at Springville Marsh (Tom Bartlett, m. obs.). The high count was 11 in *Tuscarawas* on 10 Oct (Ed Schlabach).

Swamp Sparrow: These were present throughout the period. Gabe Leidy found 50 at Jaite, CVNP, on 29 Sep.

White-throated Sparrow: A few were seen 20 Sep at two locations; they were recorded through the end of the period. Flocks of over 100 were seen 13 Oct in Monroe Township, *Coshocton* (Leo Deininger) and on 09 Nov at Maumee Bay SP (Elliot Tramer).

White-crowned Sparrow: An adult was seen several times between 12 July

and 25 Aug at Headlands (m. obs.). Even more unusual for its far southerly location on the date, another adult was seen 01 Aug in Armleder Park, **Hamilton** (Mark Gilsdorf). Late Sep brought the first “expected” migrants, and the species was reported through the end of the period. The BSBO banding station at Navarre recorded two of the western *gambelii* subspecies, rarely observed in Ohio.

Dark-eyed Junco: Fred Losi saw a probable summering bird at the Hemlock Creek Picnic Area of Bedford Reservation, **Cuyahoga**, on 02 Aug. The first reported winter arrivals were in Lebanon on 24 Sep (John Habig) and they were seen statewide through the end of the period.

Lapland Longspur: Rob Thorn saw one at Pickerington Ponds, **Fairfield**, on 23 Oct and there were four other scattered sightings in Nov.

Snow Bunting: The first were seen 21 Oct in **Cuyahoga**, **Hancock**, and **Summit**. There were many reports in Nov from northern counties, with a high count of 70 in **Hancock** on 11 Nov (Betty Hardesty).

Northern Cardinal: Cardinals were widely reported throughout the period, with up to 10 visiting some feeders in Nov as territoriality declined. Jim Fry watched parents feeding young in his **Hocking** yard until 29 Oct.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Tom and Mary Anne Romito saw residents and migrants at Ira Road in CVNP until 15 Sep. Most appeared to have left the state by late Oct but Betty Hardesty reported a straggler in **Hancock** on 18 Nov.

Blue Grosbeak: Aaron Boone saw five between two **Highland** sites on 04 and 06 Aug. Elliot Tramer saw two at the disjunct Oak Openings breeding area on 15 Aug. Three were seen by multiple observers at Armleder Park, **Hamilton**, until 29 Aug. Adam Yoder found a very late nest with young in **Tuscarawas** on 16 Sep.

Indigo Bunting: The last report was of five in Portman Park, **Fairfield**, on 07 Oct (Rob Thorn).

Dickcissel: Frank Renfrow saw some carrying food in Armleder Park, **Hamilton**, on 02 Aug. Up to 20 were seen at Fernald, **Hamilton**, between 23 Aug and 07 Sep (m. obs.). The last report was from **Tuscarawas** on 11 Oct (Ed Schlabach).

Bobolink: There were many sightings in Aug and Sep, with the last being a single bird in **Holmes** on 09 Oct (Ed Schlabach). Elliot Tramer reported 120 flying over Cedar Point on 29 Aug.

Red-winged Blackbird: Scattered residents became huge flocks of migrants as the season progressed. An example is the 7,500 estimated in a Columbus roost on 02 Nov (Rob Thorn). About 20,000 were seen at Springville Marsh on 18 and 25 Oct; about 2,000 remained on 06 Nov (Tom Bartett, m. obs.).

Eastern Meadowlark: Ed Schlabach counted 31 in eastern **Holmes** on 05 Oct. The last reported was at Killdeer Plains on 16 Nov (Doug Overacker); they sometimes linger there through winter.

Yellow-headed Blackbird: One was seen at Springville Marsh on 28 Sep (Tom Bartlett, m. obs.).

Rusty Blackbird: These were reported in small numbers throughout the state starting in early Oct. The largest flock noted was of about 400 on Krause Road, near ONWR, on 04 Oct (Helen and Ken Ostermiller); almost 200 were seen in Kiser Lake SP, **Champaign**, on 14 Nov (Aaron Boone). Elliot Tramer watched 99 eating dogwood berries at Cedar Point on 29 Oct.

Brewer's Blackbird: Aaron Boone found and photographed two in **Champaign** on 31 Oct, and Doug Overacker saw one at Killdeer Plains on 16 Nov. Anna Scarbrough saw an uncounted number in a shifting flock of mixed blackbirds on 26 Oct in **Hancock**.

Common Grackle: This species was recorded into mid-Nov; no doubt, they were present through the end of the period. Some notable flocks included about 2,500 at Buck Creek on 27 Sep (Doug Overacker); 1,000 at North Chagrin Reservation, **Cuyahoga**, on 26 Oct (Leo Deininger); and 15,000 in **Hancock** on 11 Nov (Betty Hardesty).

Brown-headed Cowbird: Tom Bartlett's team had about 800 at Springville Marsh on 26 Oct, by far the largest number reported. Others were reported throughout the period.

Orchard Oriole: Reports of four sightings in Aug were received; these probably represent both summering birds and migrants. The last report was of a fairly late individual in **Hancock** on 23 Sep (Betty Hardesty).

Baltimore Oriole: Many observers throughout the state found this species into mid-Sep. There were no Oct sightings, but a very late adult male showed up on Kelleys Island, **Erie**, on 20 Nov (Tom Bartlett and Paul Fleming).

Pine Grosbeak: One reportedly made a brief visit to a feeder in **Washington** on 18 Nov. The OBRC is awaiting a submission.

Purple Finch: The earliest report was from Navarre on 17 Sep (BSBO); they were seen there into Nov and elsewhere through the end of the period. The largest number seen was 10, by many observers at East Fork on 22 Nov.

House Finch: Almost half of the reports were from state parks and rural locations rather than from developed areas. However, Rob and Sandy Harlan found 75 at West Creek, a suburban park in **Cuyahoga**, on 11 Oct.

Red Crossbill: The earliest report was of a bird that flew over Matt Anderson's house in Whitehouse, **Lucas**, on 12 Oct. About 10 other single birds were seen across the northern counties by the end of Nov. Some were by themselves and some were with feeding flocks of White-winged Crossbills.

White-winged Crossbill: The first sighting was of a single bird at Headlands on 30 Oct (Jerry Talkington). There were four other reports, all in the last three days of Nov, foretelling the dozens of sightings to come in Dec and Jan. The largest flock was of 140, which flew over

Rocky River Park, **Cuyahoga**, on 28 Nov (Gabe Leidy).

Common Redpoll: Jean Long saw one at her feeder in **Hancock** on 28 Oct and another was on Kelleys Island, **Erie**, on 22 Nov (Tom Bartlett and Paul Fleming).

Pine Siskin: The first of over 50 sightings was of seven on 11 Oct at Gordon Park, **Cuyahoga** (Rob and Sandy Harlan). Many sightings were of one two birds, but Gabe Leidy saw a flock of almost 300 on the Wake Robin Trail, **Lake**, on 19 Oct, and Su Snyder found close to 100 at Secrest Arboretum, **Wayne**, on 08 Nov.

American Goldfinch: These were widely reported, mostly in the northern half of the state. The 20 Sep CVNP census found 345 (Tom Bartlett, m. obs.).

House Sparrow: This bird was noted in urban, suburban, and rural areas. The largest number, 313, was reported by Betty Hardesty from **Hancock** on 16 Sep.

Literature Cited

Harlan, R. N. (Ed.) 2008. *Ohio Bird Records Committee annotated checklist of the birds of Ohio*. Published privately by Ohio Bird Records Committee.

Lehman, P. E. and E. S. Brinkley. 2008. The changing season: cornucopia. *North American Birds* 63:16-32.

The editorial staff of the *Ohio Cardinal* thanks all of the individuals and organizations who made their field data available to us through reports submitted directly to us by mail and e-mail, as well as through online resources managed by the Ohio Ornithological Society and other means.

| | | |
|--|-----------------|----------------------|
| Rick Asamoto | Rob Edelen | Andrew W. Jones |
| Emil Bacik | Eddie Ehrman | Steve Jones |
| Bob Baran | Ted Elwood | Julie Karlson |
| Joe Barber | Jason Estep | Kenn Kaufman |
| Paula Bartlett | Ben Fambrough | Kim Kaufman |
| Tom Bartlett | Ginny Fantetti | Laura Keene |
| Sue Baxter | Paul Fleming | Ned Keller |
| Cindy Beckman | Robert Foppe | Jack Kemp |
| Gregory Bennett | Teresa Forbes | Tom Kemp |
| Andy Bess | Frank Frick | Tom Kingzett |
| Black Swamp Bird Observatory (BSBO) | Jonathan Frodge | Ethan Kistler |
| Mark Bogosian | Jim Fry | Kevin Kline |
| Steve Bobinick | Larry Gara | Robert Klips |
| Michael Bolton | Lou Gardella | Dave Kramer |
| Charlie Bombaci | Louis Gaynor | Jean Kuns |
| Aaron Boone | Ann Geise | Jay Lehman |
| Jill Bowers | Linda Gilbert | Gabe Leidy |
| David Brinkman | Mark Gilsdorf | Dave Lewis |
| Jeff Brown | Bruce Glick | Jean Long |
| Willis Brubaker | Laura Gooch | John Lortz |
| Lori Brumbaugh | John Habig | Fred Losi |
| Jen Brumfield | Ray Hannikman | James Lundberg |
| Albert Bruncak | Betty Hardesty | Ronnie Macko |
| Eric Burkholder | Rob Harlan | Diana Malas |
| Mike Busam | Sandy Harlan | Terri Martincic |
| Craig Caldwell | Debra Hausrath | Bernard Master |
| Steve Carbol | Pat Hayes | Jim McCormac |
| Steven Carleton | Bill Heck | Jim Michael |
| Allan Chartier | John Herman | Sarah Michael |
| Ann Chasar | David Hess | Jeffrey Miller |
| Dwight Chasar | John Hill | Julie Morris |
| Allan Claybon | Judy Holbrook | Donald Morse, Jr. |
| Chris Clingman | Craig Holt | Jim Mundy |
| Suzanne Clingman | Dave Horn | Nancy Ortman |
| Tim Colborn | Gabe Hostetler | Linda Osterhage |
| Rebecca Cooper | Nancy Howell | Helen Ostermiller |
| Gary Cowell, Jr. | Jason Hubbard | Ken Ostermiller |
| Leo Deininger | William Hull | Mel Otten |
| Dave Dister | Kathi Hutton | Doug Overacker |
| Laura Dornan | Shari Jackson | Steve Pelikan |
| Bill Doss | Laurance | Robert Scott Placier |
| | Jeanblanc | Bob Powell |

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Joanne Pugh | Julie West |
| Frank Renfrow | Kirk Westendorf |
| Larry Richardson | Paul Wharton |
| Keith Robinson | Mary Jo White |
| Mary Anne Romito | Jack Williams |
| Tom Romito | Sean Williams |
| Rob Royse | Stephen Williams |
| David Russell | Kelly Williams-Sieg |
| Rob Saklosky | Clyde Witt |
| Bob Sams | Mark Witt |
| Charlie Saunders | Becky Wright |
| Anna Scarbrough | Gale Wulker |
| Regina Schieltz | Adam Yoder |
| Ed Schlabach | James Yoder |
| Albert Scruggs | John Zahnen |
| Jon Seymour | Bill Zimmerman |
| John Shavits | |
| Mark Shieldcastle | |
| Bill Shively | |
| Bruce Simpson | |
| Su Snyder | |
| Bill Stanley | |
| Jack Stenger | |
| Jay Stenger | |
| Paula Stenger | |
| Herman Stidom | |
| Bert Szabo | |
| John Szanto | |
| Jill Taber | |
| Jerry Talkington | |
| Rob Thorn | |
| Andrea Tibbels | |
| Tim Tolford | |
| Elliot Tramer | |
| Matt Valencic | |
| Scott VanValkenburg | |
| Suzanne Wagner | |
| Leslie Warren | |
| Jan Watkins | |
| Owen Watson | |
| Wayne Wauligman | |
| Mark Wessel | |