

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

By Craig Caldwell

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck

The Mt. Vernon, **Knox**, bird remained at least until 15 Dec (*vide* Jim McCormac). (See the summer 2012 *Cardinal*.)

Greater White-fronted Goose

The first two showed up at ONWR on 02 Dec (m. obs.). Buck Creek SP, **Clark**, hosted the high count of 45 on 23 Jan (Brian Menker) and 38 were at Killdeer on 17 Feb (Cody Kent). Sightings came from 25 counties.



Winter finches were the prime attraction at Spring Grove Cemetery, Hamilton, but this juvenile Greater White-fronted Goose garnered the focus of photographer Allan Claybon on 16 Feb 2013.

Snow Goose

These were present all season, with most of the reports coming in Dec and Feb. The high count was 125, by Jill Bowers at Mercer WA on 23 Feb. Forty-eight counties contributed reports.

Ross's Goose

A few had arrived in Oct and Nov, but the first of this winter weren't reported until 05 Dec, at Caesar Creek SP, **Warren** (Paul DuBuc). Funk Bottoms WA, **Wayne**, hosted up to nine for much of Feb (Ben Morrison saw that many on 04 Feb and m. obs. did so on 14 Feb). One spent the last week of Dec paddling about the downtown Cleveland waterfront near the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame (m. obs.). Reports came from 20 counties.

Brant

Renee Tressler found one in Peninsula, **Summit**, during the 16 Dec Cuyahoga Falls CBC. Another was reported on 22 Dec during the Portsmouth, **Scioto**, CBC. Irina Shulgina, Alex Champagne, and Dave Slager each reported one, probably the same one, at different locations

along the Olentangy River, **Franklin**, on 26, 27, and 28 Jan).

Cackling Goose

The high count was 12. Scott Myers found them in the Thomas Wetlands, **Paulding**, on 14 Jan and many observers reported that many from the Darby Bend section of Prairie Oaks MP, **Franklin**, on 05 and 06 Feb. There were several scattered reports of 10 and 11 birds as well. Thirty-three counties had sightings.

Canada Goose

Every county provided at least one report of this species, though a couple of them had a single sighting. The highest of the many four-digit counts was 5000, achieved on 08 Jan in the Island Road Quarries, **Pickaway** (Gene Stauffer), and on 21 Feb as the sum of multiple flyover flocks in **Ottawa** (Ryan Steiner).

Mute Swan

Dana Bollin reported 68 in East Harbor SP, **Ottawa**, on 04 Jan; 30 were still (or again) there on 15 Feb for Robert Dodge. Reports came from 43 counties.

Trumpeter Swan

Sightings were concentrated in the northwest marshes and Killdeer, where they have been introduced, but 21 counties as far south as **Butler** and **Warren** contributed reports. Ron Sempiet counted 39 at Killdeer on 13 Dec.



Allan Claybon braved the elements at Caesar Creek SP, Warren, for a great close-up of this Ross's Goose on 07 December 2012.

Tundra Swan

These were scattered in 40 counties statewide.

Elliot Tramer estimated 2200 in CPNWR on 16 Dec. The 03 Feb ONWR census turned up 800, the second-highest number (Ed Pierce *et al.*, *fide* Douglas Vogus).

Wood Duck

Small numbers were present all winter. The two highest counts were of 11 on 11 Dec and nine on 16 Dec at the Great Miami Mitigation Bank, *Montgomery* (Amanda Lawson, Jason Sullivan, and Chris Zacharias). Thirty-nine counties had sightings.

Gadwall

The high count, 451, came during the 22 Jan Kelleys Island census (Tom Bartlett *et al.*) Robert Foppe and Jennifer Smolenski noted about 400 in the Castalia pond, *Erie*, on 07 Feb. Reports came from 55 counties.

Eurasian Wigeon

Robert Royle picked one out of thousands of other waterfowl in Deer Creek WA, *Fayette*, on 25 Feb. Another dropped in at Wright Marsh, *Wayne*, the same day (m. obs.).

[Eurasian X American Wigeon]

One at Castalia pond, *Erie*, on 17 and 18 Feb, was originally thought to be a pure Eurasian but was later determined to be a hybrid (m. obs.)

American Wigeon

Mary Warren counted 118 in the Castalia pond, *Erie*, on 27 Jan. Robert Hershberger provided the second-highest number, 85, from Wright Marsh, *Wayne*, on 28 Feb. Forty-two counties had sightings.

American Black Duck

Killdeer hosted about 500 on 17 Feb (Cody Kent), the largest of several triple-digit numbers from there and Killbuck WA, *Holmes/Wayne*. Sixty-five counties yielded sightings.

[American Black Duck X Mallard]

About half of the reports of this hybrid were from Blendon Woods MP, *Franklin*, though 15 counties were represented. Laura Jenkins counted 50 at Blendon on 10 Jan.

Mallard

Only *Carroll*, *Lawrence*, and *Van Wert* did not provide reports. Auriel Fournier spent a day traveling Green Creek, *Sandusky*, and estimated 16,000 were along its more than 30 mile length. The Thomas Wetlands, *Paulding*, held 2500 to 3000 from late Jan to late Feb (Doug and Micki Dunakin).

Blue-winged Teal

The few reports were all in Dec and Feb. Several locations in *Franklin* held these, with a high count of eight at the Hoover Reservoir

dam on 10 Feb (Nancy Falcon). Single sites in *Montgomery*, *Portage*, and *Wayne* also had sightings.

Northern Shoveler

A Cincinnati Bird Club field trip turned up about 100 at Rocky Fork on 01 Dec. Ben Warner reported the same number at the Castalia pond, *Erie*, on 18 Feb. Forty-four counties yielded sightings.

Northern Pintail

Funk Bottoms WA, *Wayne*, provided the two highest counts, 250 on 18 Feb (Ken and Helen Ostermiller) and 800 on 28 Feb (Robert Hershberger). Robert's were flybys as he watched from the observation tower. The highest count from elsewhere was the 105 which Robert Foppe and Jennifer Smolenski noted at Cowan Lake, *Clinton*, on 28 Feb. Reports came from 53 counties.

Green-winged Teal

The Bowl, *Harrison*, is on Scott Pendleton's home turf; he saw between 100 and 125 Green-wingeds there on several Dec dates. The high count elsewhere, 80, was by J.W. Rettig and Brian Wulker at Fernald on 15 and 16 Feb respectively. Forty counties provided reports.

Canvasback

Thirty-five counties hosted these. Cullen Park, *Lucas*, held 800 on 19 Feb (Greg Links). Sherrie Duris *et al.* noted 380 at the Brenner Marina, also *Lucas*, on 23 Feb and there were a few other triple-digit sightings.

Redhead

Cory Chiappone provided the high count of 700, at Eastlake Power on 24 Feb. Dan Gesualdo saw about 400 off Lake Point Park, *Ottawa*, on 31 Jan. Sightings came from 52 counties.

Ring-necked Duck

Fernald had triple-digit counts throughout the season; the high was 650 on 17 Jan (Robert Foppe and Jennifer Smolenski). The most elsewhere was 220 in the Price Road lakes, *Portage*, on 02 Jan (Larry Rosche). Reports came from 52 counties.

Greater Scaup

A trickle of fall and Dec reports led to larger numbers of Jan and Feb sightings. The only three-digit counts were 100 on 11 Jan at South Shore Park, *Lucas* (Greg Links), 132 on 22 Jan around Kelleys Island (Tom Bartlett *et al.*), and 200 on 14 Feb at East Harbor SP, *Ottawa* (Allen Chartier). The largest inland flock was 29, found by Emily Leto on O'Shaughnessy Reservoir, *Delaware*, on 17 Feb. Thirty-two counties, mostly in the northern half of the state, provided sightings.

Lesser Scaup

Sherrie Duris's explorations along the *Lucas* shore gave us the two highest counts: 1200 at the James Haley Boardwalk on 10 Jan and 975 at Bayshore on 22 Jan (however, see the next entry). The highest count away from Lake Erie was 200, at Eastwood MP, *Montgomery*, on 27 Feb (Amanda Lawson). Fifty-six counties yielded sightings.

Scaup sp.

Several observers estimated that 5000 scaup, no doubt mostly Lesser, were at Bayshore on 24 Jan.

Harlequin Duck

The four reports, all of single birds, are:

During the Lake Erie Islands, *Erie/Ottawa*,

CBC on 16 Dec (*vide* John Pogacnik)

Off North Perry, *Lake*, on 27 Dec and 20 Feb (John Pogacnik)

At Conneaut on 28 Dec, 29 Dec, and 05 Jan (m. obs.)

Surf Scoter

Sightings were frequent from mid-fall through winter into Mar. The high count for this season was six, which John Pogacnik saw off North Perry, *Lake*, on 06 Jan. Several *Cuyahoga*, *Erie*, and other *Lake* locations hosted four or five. The highest inland count was three, at the Findlay Reservoirs on 22 Dec (m. obs.). Two on the Ohio River at Meldahl Dam, *Clermont*, on 23 Feb were just barely in Ohio (Bill Stanley). *Franklin* and *Hamilton* also contributed sightings.

White-winged Scoter

Ray Hannikman and Jerry Talkington saw about 50 flashing their way past Sims Park, *Cuyahoga*, on 11 Jan (*vide* Nancy Anderson). Nancy herself noted 14 in the water there on 03 Dec, the second-highest number. The inland high count was six, at the Twin Peak Gravel Pit #1, *Montgomery*, on 24 Jan (John Habig). Other reports came from *Brown*, *Clermont*, *Erie*, *Hancock*, *Lake*, *Lorain*, *Lucas*, *Richland*, *Union*, and *Warren*.

Black Scoter

John Pogacnik's lake watches off North Perry, *Lake*, again paid dividends; he saw 11 of this species there on 12 Jan. *Cuyahoga* provided two counts of 10, off Bay Village on 30 Dec (Craig Caldwell *et al.*) and at Sims Park on 09 Jan (Cory Chiappone). Single birds at the Findlay Reservoirs from 12 to 28 Dec and at Clear Fork Lake, *Richland*, from 06 to 31 Dec were the only inland sightings (both by m. obs.). A few reports also came from *Erie*.

Long-tailed Duck

Two observers each found three, Lisa Brohl off

South Bass Island, *Ottawa*, on 02 Jan and Dick Hoopes at Eastlake Power on 22 Feb. Sites in *Ashtabula*, *Cuyahoga*, and *Lorain* held one or two birds on several dates. Inland singles graced the *Franklin* end of Hoover Reservoir from 01 Jan to 10 Feb (m. obs.) and the Ohio River shore at Meldahl Dam, *Clermont*, on 25 Jan (William Hull).

Bufflehead

Every count greater than 75 came from the waters around Kelleys Island; the highest was 450 on 21 Jan (Tom Bartlett). Eastlake Power hosted the 75 on 09 Feb for Sherrie Duris and Deb Tefft. Forty-seven counties produced reports.

Common Goldeneye

Tom Bartlett *et al.* noted over 5100 during the 21 Feb Kelleys Island census, and there were several more three- and four-digit counts there in Jan. The highest number elsewhere was Sherrie Duris's 200 at Bayshore on 01 Jan. The highest inland number was a "conservative estimate" of 150 at Eastwood MP, *Montgomery*, on 22 Feb (John Habig). Sightings came from 39 counties all the way south to *Adams*.

Hooded Merganser

Kent Miller found about 350 at Mogadore Reservoir, *Portage*, on 02 Jan, the highest of many triple-digit counts. Sixty-nine counties had sightings.

Common Merganser

Tom Bartlett's CBC team found 4600 at East Harbor SP, *Ottawa*, on 04 Jan. Other *Ottawa* sites and some in *Erie* and *Lucas* produced smaller four-digit counts. The highest inland number was 200, seen 16 Feb at Rocky Fork (Bill Stanley), and Buck Creek SP, *Clark*, on 23 Feb (Doug Overacker). Reports came from 42 counties.

Red-breasted Merganser

Lake Erie hosts huge numbers of these: Jen Brumfield estimated 32,000 off Wendy Park on 05 Dec and Tom Bartlett tallied about 25,000 around Kelleys Island on 21 Jan. The highest inland count was a mere 22 at Hoover Reservoir on 26 Jan (Charles Bombaci). Thirty-three counties produced sightings.

Ruddy Duck

Rick Asamoto provided the two highest counts on 08 Dec, 1500 at Ferguson-Metzger Reservoir and 1700 at Bresler Reservoir. Both sites are in *Allen*. He also noted the third-highest concentration, 640 at Rocky Fork on 09 Feb. Reports came from 50 counties.

Northern Bobwhite

The six reports are of:

Three by Junior Barnes on 19 Dec in his *Highland* garden

One on 30 Dec and two on 17 Jan in Junior-Barnes's Field and Forest Birding Area, *Highland*

Seven below Kim Davis's feeders in *Delaware* on 31 Dec

One by Kenn Kaufman at the Oak Harbor Conservation Club, *Ottawa*, on 12 Jan; he notes it had undoubtedly been released by that hunt club.

One by Ryan Wick in Symmes Township, *Hamilton*, on 16 Feb.

Ring-necked Pheasant

The only double-digit count was by Kyle Brooks, who found 25 near Charlie's Pond, *Pickaway*, on 04 Dec. Thirty-one counties provided sightings.

Ruffed Grouse

The six reports are of:

One near Tappan Lake, *Harrison*, on 15 Dec (Atlee A. Yoder)

One during the Hocking Hills CBC, *Athens/Hocking/Vinton*, on 05 Jan (*vide* Audubon)

One in *Harrison* SF on 10 Jan (Scott Pendleton)

Two near her *Vinton* home on 17 Feb (Debbie Goslin)

One in Denmark Township, *Ashtabula*, on 18 Feb (Diane Hiener)

Four (three drumming and one a flyby) in *Carroll* on 23 Feb (Kent Miller and Ben Morrison)

Wild Turkey

A trio of observers counted 102 at Malabar Farm SP, *Richland*, on 09 Jan. The next highest number was Randy Rowe's 40 west of Wooster, *Wayne*, on 02 Jan. Sixty-seven counties produced reports.

Red-throated Loon

The three reports are:

At the Hoover Reservoir dam on 09 Dec (Al La Sala), presumably the same bird which was reported there in Nov

Off Cahoon Park, *Cuyahoga*, on 15 Dec (Jen Brumfield)

At West Branch SP, *Portage*, on 01 Jan (Wes Hatch and Terri Martincic)

Pacific Loon

One was reported in *Richland*; the OBRC has the data.

Common Loon

Thirty-six counties from Lake Erie to the Ohio River provided sightings. The high count was 42 southbound flybys near Sugarcreek, *Holmes*, on 05 Dec (Ed Schlabach). Jen Brumfield's 35 off

Edgewater Park, *Cuyahoga*, on 05 Dec and Dan Gesualdo's 13 in Volunteer Bay, *Erie*, on 25 Dec were the only other double-digit counts.

Pied-billed Grebe

William Hull and Joe Kappa found what I assume are the same 80 birds at East Fork on 11 and 12 Dec, respectively. The most elsewhere were 33 at the Camp Dennison gravel pits, *Hamilton*, on 01 Jan (Jonathan Frodge). Reports came from 63 counties.

Horned Grebe

The high count of 155 was off Cahoon Park, *Cuyahoga*, on 15 Dec (Jen Brumfield). East Fork hosted the second-highest concentration, 30 on 09 Feb (Leslie Houser). Thirty-six counties produced sightings.

Red-necked Grebe

The four locations with sightings are:

Buck Creek SP, *Clark*, two birds on 09 Dec (Doug Overacker)

Evans Lake, *Mahoning*, one on 15 Dec (Craig Holt)

Hoover Reservoir, one from 10 to 17 Feb (m. obs.)

Maumee Bay, *Lucas*, one on 16 Dec (*vide* Matt Anderson)

Western Grebe

One was reported in *Cuyahoga*; the OBRC has at least one report.

Double-crested Cormorant

Victor Fazio III provided the two highest counts, 450 in outer Sandusky Bay, *Ottawa*, and 235 on Turning Point Island, *Erie*. He scoped both sites on 01 Jan. Paul Krusling tallied the highest number away from Lake Erie, 30 at the mouth of White Oak Creek, *Brown*, on 21 Jan. Twenty-nine counties provided reports.

American White Pelican

John Pogacnik saw this unusual winter visitor soaring above the north end of the Edison Bridge over Sandusky Bay, *Ottawa*, on 23 Dec.

Great Blue Heron

ONWR hosted 91 during the 02 Dec monthly census (Ed Pierce *et al.*, *vide* Douglas Vogus). Allan Chartier found 88 at East Harbor SP, *Ottawa*, on 15 Jan. Eighty counties had sightings.

Great Egret

There were about 20 reports, half of them in Jan and the rest split evenly between Dec and Feb. All but one were of single birds. Craig Caldwell flushed eight from a roadside ditch at the intersection of Routes 2 and 269, *Erie*, on 19 Jan. The rest of the reports came from other *Erie* lo-

cations and sites in *Brown, Clermont, Lucas, Scioto, Summit, Wayne, and Wood*.

Cattle Egret

David Weaver found a hardy one south of Fredricksburg, *Holmes*, on 16 Dec.

Black-crowned Night-Heron

Up to 16 were seen along the Olentangy River in *Franklin* throughout the season (m. obs.). The high count of 51 came on 08 Jan from the mouth of Cold Creek, *Erie* (Dan and Lynn Gesualdo). Reports also came from *Butler, Licking, Lucas, Ottawa, Lorain, and Wood*.

Black Vulture

Ryan Steiner saw about 60 at Mohican SP on 10 Jan, a large concentration for so far north. More unusual still, a single soaring individual caught Tom Kemp's eye in *Wood* on 09 Jan as did one in *Ashtabula* for John Pogacnik on 19 Jan. The 50 at Paint Creek SP, *Highland*, on 13 Jan were in the heart of their Ohio range (Tommy Grav). Thirty-one counties provided reports.

Turkey Vulture

Most of the birds had withdrawn from northern locations by Dec but began pushing back north in Feb. Soso Creary saw about 200 over East Elementary School, *Athens*, on 15 Jan. The next-highest count was 150, by Perry D. Her-shberger near Farmerstown, *Holmes*, 29 Dec. Seventy-two counties had sightings.

Osprey

One was reported during the Delaware Reservoir CBC on 16 Dec; this is a couple of weeks after the last of them usually depart the state.

Golden Eagle

The six locations with sightings, listed chronologically, are:

The Wilds and vicinity, *Guernsey/Muskingum*, one or two seen between 01 Dec and 19 Jan (m. obs.)

Mosquito Lake, *Trumbull*, one on 05 Dec (*vide* Robert Lane)

Kelleys Island, one on both 15 and 16 Dec (John Pogacnik)

East of Ragersville, *Tuscarawas*, one on 27 Dec (James F. Yoder)

Killdeer, one on 09 Feb (Mark Ruane)

East of Martinsburg, *Knox*, one on 18 Feb (Casey Tucker)

Northern Harrier

Killdeer hosted 42 on 10 Feb (Amber Hart). Most of the double-digit counts were from there or nearby. The most elsewhere were the 14 seen during the OOS day at The Wilds, *Muskingum*, on 19 Jan (Tom Bartlett). Seventy-one

counties produced reports.

Sharp-shinned Hawk

Mike Williams found three along Washburn Road, *Marion*, on 18 Feb. There were many "twos" from the 61 counties with sightings.

Cooper's Hawk

Greg Links and Larry Rosche each counted eight. Greg's were at Maumee Bay on 16 Dec and Larry's at the Barberton Salt Ponds, *Summit*, on 20 Jan. Reports came from 75 counties.

Northern Goshawk

Five were reported with rudimentary or no supporting data, from *Ashtabula, Geauga, Portage, and Summit* (2). Beginning with the next issue, the Cardinal will not publish any sightings which have not been documented to the OBRC.

Bald Eagle

Dan Gesualdo found 26 at Pickerel Creek WA, *Sandusky*, on 31 Jan. Mike Williams counted 37 along Washburn Road, *Marion*, (just south of Killdeer) on 18 Feb, the "Most fabulous raptor day I've ever had". Seventy-three counties had sightings.

Red-shouldered Hawk

Bill Stanley counted 10 on 05 Jan along his East Fork area CBC route. Mike Williams' Washburn Road tally on 18 Feb included five Red-shouldered. Sixty-four counties provided reports.

Red-tailed Hawk

Reports came from every county but *Meigs*. Chuck Anderson and Tom Kemp spent six hours traveling 120 miles of roads in *Wood* on 17 Feb and tallied 28. Amanda Lawson counted 21 on 09 Feb in the much more limited area of Killdeer. Ed Schlabach reported a rare (in Ohio) "Harlan's" morph on 05 Dec.

Rough-legged Hawk

These began trickling into Ohio in late Oct; sightings didn't pick up until the second week of Dec and then were frequent almost to the end of Feb. Participants in the OOS trip to The Wilds, *Muskingum*, on 19 Jan saw up to 14 there and nearby. The most seen elsewhere was seven, in *Geauga* on two dates and once in *Wyandot* (m. obs.). Reports came from 43 counties.

Virginia Rail

Up to three were counted in Spring Valley WA between 08 and 16 Dec (m. obs.). One report was from the southern, *Warren*, section and the rest were from *Greene*. The Lake Erie Islands CBC, *Erie/Ottawa*, tallied one on 16 Dec (*vide* John Pogacnik). Other reports came from the regular winter "rail spots" in *Holmes* and at Springville Marsh NP, *Seneca*.

Sora

Sam Corbo heard and saw one in the *Greene* section of Spring Valley WA on 16 Dec.

American Coot

Todd Deal estimated more than 1100 were at Rocky Fork on 19 Jan for the only four-digit report. Members of a Cincinnati Bird Club outing found the next highest number, 850, in the Old Highland Stone gravel pits, *Highland*, on 01 Dec. Fifty-eight counties had sightings.

Sandhill Crane

Kirk Westendorf carefully tallied 1922 on 23 Dec along his CBC route in western *Hamilton*, which included Miami Whitewater Forest and Fernald. The next highest number, about 850 in six flocks, passed over Scott Myers' house in *Paulling* on 22 Dec. Twenty-eight counties produced reports.

Killdeer

Bill Stanley counted 77 on 15 Dec during his CBC efforts in *Adams*. Ed Schlabach found 49 near the town of Killbuck, *Holmes*, on 14 Dec. Reports came from 64 counties.

Greater Yellowlegs

Robert Royse found a straggler at Deer Creek Reservoir, *Fayette/Pickaway*, on 12 Dec.

Lesser Yellowlegs

Kent Miller and Ben Morrison saw and heard a seriously out-of-date bird on 07 Jan. A Cooper's Hawk flushed it in the Castalia fish hatchery, *Erie*.

Western Sandpiper

Another out-of-date individual was seen at the *Richland* end of Pleasant Hill Lake on 11 Dec (David Weaver), 12 Dec (Gary Cowell), and 29 Dec (m. CBC obs.).

Purple Sandpiper

The five locations with sightings, listed chronologically, are:

Headlands, where up to three were seen from late Nov to 12 Dec and a single bird on 18 and 20 Jan (m. obs.).

Huron pier, *Erie*, one on 15 Dec (Dana Bollin) and 22 Dec and 05 Jan (both David Clark)

Lake Erie Islands, *Erie/Ottawa*, three during the 16 Dec CBC (*vide* Audubon)

Wendy Park, one on 27 Dec (David Weaver) and 30 Dec (Jen Brumfield)

Cleveland's East 72nd Street vantage point, one from 04 to 09 Feb (m. obs.)

Dunlin

The five chronological reports are:

Forty-three during the 02 Dec ONWR census

(Ed Pierce *et al.*, *vide* Douglas Vogus)

One at the *Richland* end of Pleasant Hill Lake on 05 Dec (Gary Cowell)

Two at Berlin Lake, *Mahoning/Portage*, on 11 Dec (Kent Miller)

One at the Findlay Reservoirs on 14 Jan (m. obs.)

Two at Conneaut on 19 Jan (John Pogacnik)

Wilson's Snipe

The high count was the eight which Paula Lozano found at Cuyahoga County Airport on 22 Dec during the Cleveland CBC. Smaller numbers were fairly widespread; reports came from 22 counties.

American Woodcock

The only Dec sighting was during the Wilmot CBC (*Holmes/Stark/Tuscarawas/Wayne*) on 21 Dec. The earliest "spring" arrival noted was two which Gale Wulker heard on 29 Jan at the Camp Dennison gravel pits, *Hamilton*. Bill Stanley found 11 for the high count in the vicinity of the East Fork horseman's parking lot on 27 Feb. The next highest number was five in Possum Creek MP, *Montgomery*, on 07 Feb (Jason Sullivan and Chris Zacharias). Eleven counties provided sightings.

Black-legged Kittiwake

One, and possibly up to three, visited *Lake*. John Pogacnik saw one on 31 Dec and 01 Jan off North Perry and Jerry Talkington saw one a few miles west at Eastlake Power on 03 Jan.

Bonaparte's Gull

Some were present until the last of the winter season, three in *Ottawa* on 24 Feb (Brett Moyer). They were again reported a week later, for the first "spring" sighting. Chris Pierce estimated 5000 were off Wendy Park on 09 Dec; there were several other four-digit reports from *Cuyahoga* and one from *Lorain*. The highest inland count was 200 in Delaware WA on 03 Dec (Ben Warner). Reports came from 35 counties.

Black-headed Gull

One was reported on and off between 11 and 23 Dec at Wendy Park. It or another was reported on 30 Dec at Conneaut. The OBRC has documentation from both locations.

Little Gull

On 20 Jan John Pogacnik saw one off North Perry, *Lake*, and it or another was off Headlands the same day (*vide* Jen Brumfield).

Franklin's Gull

Ryan Golterman and Craig Holt saw one at Pine Lake, *Mahoning*, on 15 Dec. What was probably a different bird stayed at Metzger Marsh, *Lucas*, on 20 and 21 Dec (m. obs.). Both records

appear to be the first winter sightings in those counties, though not for Ohio.

Mew Gull

One was reported at Lorain Harbor; the OBRC has documentation.

Ring-billed Gull

Many tens of thousands, perhaps as many as 100,000, were off various *Cuyahoga* viewpoints in Jan (m. obs.). The highest inland count was about 4500 at the Findlay Reservoirs on 15 Dec (Jeff Loughman), and about 1000 made it almost to the Ohio River in *Brown* on 29 Jan (Brian Wulker). Reports came from 75 counties.

California Gull

One was reported off Edgewater Park, *Cuyahoga*, and the viewer filed with OBRC.

Herring Gull

Dick and Jean Hoffman and Craig Caldwell separately estimated 10,000 at Cleveland's East 72nd Street on 24 Jan. Many other reports from Lake Erie approached that number. The highest well away from the lake was Tom Bartlett's 1900 at the *Seneca* landfill on 15 Jan. Fifty-one counties produced sightings.

Thayer's Gull

One Nov sighting preceded this season's first, two birds at the Avon Lake power plant, *Lorain*, on 07 Dec (Kent Miller and Ryan Steiner). The next one didn't show up until 19 Dec, at the Findlay Reservoirs (m. obs.). At least one frequented Cleveland's East 72nd Street site between 23 Jan and 10 Feb (m. obs.). The high count was three, found there on 03 Feb (Jen Brumfield) and on the Maumee River at Grand Rapids, *Henry/Lucas* on 09 Feb (Tom Kemp, m. obs. of one). Reports also came from *Lake* and *Ottawa*.

Iceland Gull

Sightings were fairly steady from late fall to mid-Feb and continued thinly into Mar. Up to six (30 Jan by Jen Brumfield) were at Cleveland's East 72nd Street for most of Dec and Jan. There were multiple sightings at other *Cuyahoga* sites and locations in *Lake*, *Lorain*, and *Lucas*. One or two on the Maumee River near Grand Rapids in Feb moved back and forth between *Henry* and *Wood* (m. obs.).

Lesser Black-backed Gull

Tom Kemp counted 20 at Grand Rapids, *Wood*, on 07 Feb. Smaller numbers were all along the Lake Erie shore for essentially the whole season. Twenty counties had sightings; of them only *Clermont* and *Warren* are south of Columbus.

Glauous Gull

Though there were three Nov sightings, the first

of this season was 19 Dec at the Ottawa River Interpretive Trail, *Lucas* (Sherrie Duris). Six was the high count; Andy Avram found them at Eastlake Power on 07 Feb. Every Lake Erie-shore county except *Ashtabula* contributed multiple reports and inland *Allen*, *Henry*, and *Stark* also had a few sightings.



The East 72nd Street warm water outlet in Cleveland was teeming with gulls on 28 Jan 2013, yielding a nice photo-op of this juvenile Glaucous Gull for Laura Keene.

Great Black-backed Gull

All the Lake Erie counties and *Wood* produced multiple sightings. Inland, single reports came from *Allen* (four birds), *Defiance*, *Franklin*, *Hancock*, and *Wyandot*. The high count was 400, at Cleveland's East 72nd Street on 23 Feb (Jen Brumfield).

[Herring X Great Black-backed Gull]

Victor Fazio III identified one at the Oberlin Reservoir, *Lorain*, on 06 Jan and John Pogacnik found one at Cleveland's East 72nd Street on 26 Jan.

Pomarine Jaeger

One spent from 03 to 07 Dec at Headlands and at least one was in the Edgewater-to-Wendy Park area, *Cuyahoga*, between 04 and 15 Dec (m. obs. at both locations). John Pogacnik spotted one off North Perry, *Lake*, on 09 Dec.

Parasitic Jaeger

Three reports from *Cuyahoga* and one from *Lorain* have been forwarded to the OBRC.

Rock Pigeon

Two reports of 300 arrived. Paul Hurtado counted them at Griggs Reservoir, *Franklin*, on 08 Jan. Gary Cowell and Jason Hull found them on 17 Jan on and around a silo in *Ashland*. Reports came from 77 counties.

Eurasian Collared-Dove

The OBRC has reports from *Clark*, *Clinton*, and *Wayne*.

Mourning Dove

Every county produced at least one report. Lorraine Heizer found more than 800 in Forestville, **Hamilton**, on 15 Feb. The second-highest number was 420, by Robert Hershberger at his home in **Holmes** on 05 Jan. Robert said, "This was the most unreal number of mourning doves I ever saw at one place..."

Barn Owl

The earliest report was from Crooked Run NP, **Clermont** on 02 Dec (Suzanne Clingman); it was not seen again. The second report was from the CedarOak Farm owl grove at Killdeer on 01 Jan (m. obs.), that bird was seen repeatedly until 09 Feb. A **Holmes** farm hosted two for many visitors on several dates. Single birds were reported in **Ashland**, **Brown**, **Franklin**, **Marion**, **Tuscarawas**, and **Wayne**. Eight multi-county CBC's also produced reports so additional counties might also be represented.

Eastern Screech-Owl

Greg Links counted seven on his CBC route in Maumee Bay on 16 Dec. The high count not during a CBC was Tom Bartlett's four on Kelleys Island on 21 Feb. Fifty-one counties had sightings.

Great Horned Owl

Each of six counties produced reports of three birds. Fifty-nine counties overall contributed sightings.



Chuck Slusarczyk weathered the Lake Erie cold to obtain this outstanding shot of a Parasitic Jaeger at Edgewater Marina, **Cuyahoga**, on 14 Dec 2012.

Snowy Owl

Five were reported:

From 08 Dec to mid-Mar at several **Paulding** locations (Doug and Micki Dunakin; m. obs.)

On 11 Dec in Troy Township, **Geauga** (Ipper Collens)

On 17 Dec near Mt. Hope, **Holmes** (m. obs.)

On 12 Jan along I-71 in **Wayne** (Norah Robinson)

On 13 and 14 Jan near Haskins, **Wood** (Kerry Wilbur and Jack Leow, respectively)

Barred Owl

Michael Horn tallied five in Blacklick Woods MP, **Franklin**, on 26 Jan. There were three reports of three birds from the 52 counties with sightings.

Long-eared Owl

Rebecca Hinkle found two roosts in ONWR that between them held 14 birds; she saw them on at least two Feb dates. A trio of observers found seven in Killdeer on 10 Jan. Reports also came from **Coshocton**, **Cuyahoga**, **Hamilton**, **Hancock**, **Holmes**, **Huron**, **Lorain**, **Stark**, **Tuscarawas**, **Wayne**, and **Wood**.

Short-eared Owl

The high count was 20, by Patti Smith at Killdeer on 01 Jan, and all of the smaller two-digit counts also came from there. Other reports came from 30 counties as far south as **Hamilton**.

Northern Saw-whet Owl

Two parties totaling three observers reported three at Killdeer on 20 Jan. Several reports were of two birds. Twenty counties provided sightings.

Rufous Hummingbird

The following table summarizes data provided by Allen Chartier, whose banding efforts have greatly increased our knowledge of the movements of this species. (All of these were also listed in the fall, 2012, **Cardinal**, because they arrived in that season.)

Location and County	Age	Sex	First Observed	Banded	Last Observed
BSBO, Ottawa	HY	F	13 Sep	27 Nov	21 Jan
North Olmsted, Cuyahoga	Ad	M	~23 Sep	see notes	21 Jan
Canal Winchester, Fairfield	AHY	F	~15 Oct	06 Dec	03 Jan
Circleville, Pickaway	HY	F	~27 Oct	25 Nov	01 Feb
Findlay, Hancock	HY	M	29 Oct	21 Nov	01 Jan
Chillicothe, Ross	HY	F	~01 Nov	25 Nov	05 Dec
Canton, Stark	AHY	F	~01 Nov	11 Dec	14 Dec
Lewis Center, Delaware	AHY	F	21 Nov	25 Nov	04 Jan
Williamsburg, Clermont	HY	F	22 Nov	14 Dec	23 Jan

HY = Hatch Year, AHY = After Hatch Year, Ad = Adult

A tilde (~) preceding the date means the exact date is unknown.

The North Olmsted bird was not banded; its identity was provided by Jen Brumfield.



This juvenile Snowy Owl was photographed by Bruce Glick northeast of Berlin, **Holmes**, on 17 Dec 2012.

Hummingbird

Additional sight records which were not confirmed to species came from *Greene* and *Union* (fide Allen Chartier).

Belted Kingfisher

Kirk Westendorf's western *Hamilton* CBC route yielded seven on 23 Dec. Several observers reported four. Seventy-five counties produced sightings.

Red-headed Woodpecker

Two parties achieved the high count of eight. Irina Shulgina saw hers at Killdeer on 05 Jan; Cindy Rowe and Kelli Rowe scoured OOPMP for theirs the next day. Reports came from 62 counties.

Red-bellied Woodpecker

David Carr's Newtown Bottoms, *Hamilton*, CBC route yielded an impressive 40 on 30 Dec. Bill Stanley tallied the most not on a CBC, 12 in Cincinnati Nature Center's Rowe Woods, *Clermont*, on 26 Jan. All 88 counties had sightings.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

A CBC route in Spring Grove Cemetery, *Hamilton*, provided seven for Wyatt Westerkamp on 23 Dec. Steve Pelikan found the highest non-CBC count there on 01 Jan, and several other sites yielded four birds. Reports came from 53 counties statewide, though weighted to the south.

Downy Woodpecker

Not surprisingly, Downys shared "all-county" honors with Red-bellieds. Brian Wulker found 41 along his Cincinnati CBC route on 30 Dec. Kelleys Island produced the highest non-CBC count, 26 by Tom Bartlett on 21 Feb.

Hairy Woodpecker

Three parties found eight, one in each month. Eighty-three counties produced reports; *Gallia*, *Mercer*, *Morgan*, *Noble*, and *Van Wert* came up dry.

Northern Flicker

Tom Bartlett's 21 Feb sojourn on Kelleys Island yielded 39 and a couple of CBC routes produced numbers in the 20s. Only *Fayette*, *Meigs*, *Morgan*, and *Van Wert* did not have sightings.

Pileated Woodpecker

Bill Stanley found nine in *Adams* during his 15 Dec CBC efforts. Amanda Lawson almost tied him with eight in Englewood MP, *Montgomery*, on 01 Jan. Seventy-four counties provided reports.

American Kestrel

Kathi Hutton counted 12 at The Wilds and vicinity, *Guernsey/Muskingum*, on 19 Jan. That number and Amanda Lawson's 11 at Killdeer on 09 Feb were the only double-digit reports. Reports came from 82 counties.

Merlin

Cuyahoga hosted triples at two locations. Sally Isacco and Karen and Rich Kassouf found them in Brookside Reservation on 31 Dec. Dick and Jean Hoffman saw that many in Lake View Cemetery on several dates. There were many reports of two birds. Sightings came from 29 counties, mostly northern ones but including *Clermont* and *Hamilton*.

Peregrine Falcon

Fourteen different sites in *Cuyahoga* (6), *Franklin* (2), *Lake* (1), *Lorain* (1), *Summit* (2), and *Wood* (2) each produced two birds. They and 19 other counties produced single-bird sightings.

Budgerigar

I always like to report obvious escapees, so here goes. Tom Forwood, Jr., saw a blue budgie in Kingsville, *Ashtabula*, on 25 Jan while visiting non-birder friends; they said it had been at their feeders since Aug.

Least Flycatcher

Isaac Troyer discovered this most unusual winter bird near his *Holmes* home on 27 Dec; several others saw it that day and the next.

Eastern Phoebe

There were scattered reports (in both time and space) throughout the season. Twenty counties from Lake Erie to the Ohio produced them. Steve Pelikan saw three in Glenwood Gardens, *Hamilton*, on 08 Dec.

[Scissor-tailed X Western/Couch's Kingbird]

A hybrid of uncertain parentage was near Pipe Creek WA, *Erie*, between 09 and 16 Dec. The OBRC has photographs and testimony.



A hike in the woods after trees are bare of leaves can provide stunning winter views of Pileated Woodpeckers. Allan Clayton captured this image on 30 Dec 2012 at Cowan Lake, *Clinton*.

Northern Shrike

Christina Donnelly reported three at Killdeer on 16 Feb. Several observers saw two there on other dates, and doubles were also found at sites in *Ma-honing*, *Muskingum*, *Ottawa*, and *Wayne*. Twenty-six counties, mostly northern and central but also including *Scioto*, produced reports.



Photographer Dane Adams captured amazing detail in this close-up of a Northern Shrike perched in Lawrence Woods SNP, *Hardin*, on 12 Jan 2013.

Blue Jay

These were seen everywhere (in every county, at least). Greg Links found 78 in OOPMP during his 05 Jan CBC efforts. The next highest number was Larry Rosche's 69 on 01 Jan at a private wildlife area in *Portage*.

American Crow

Only under-birded *Van Wert* did not produce a sighting. Margaret Bowman estimated 7500 were over Coshocton (city) on 24 Jan. She said, "The sky was almost black with them, and hundreds were still in the trees along the river... It was impossible to count, as they were streaming in sheets and waves, mostly west and northwest." There were other four-digit counts from *Clark*, *Pike*, and *Richland*. In contrast, Dick and Jean Hoffman said of *Cuyahoga*, they were "completely absent from places we expect at least some to be found."

Common Raven

Many reports continue to arrive from the College Hill Road area of *Knox*; the OBRC has some of them.

Horned Lark

Mike Williams encountered about 1000 along Washburn Road, just south of Killdeer in *Mari-on*, on 18 Feb. Greg Links saw about 800 along rural roads in *Sandusky* on 29 Dec. Seventy counties provided reports.

Tree Swallow

The four reports are:

One over the Little Miami River at Armleder Park on 10 Dec (Stanley Hedeon)
 One during the Cuyahoga Falls CBC, *Portage/Summit*, on 16 Dec (m. obs.)
 Six at Maumee Bay on 13 Feb (Dana Bollin)
 One in the *Warren* section of Spring Valley WA on 27 Feb (J.W. Rettig)

Cave Swallow

Mike Egar documented three which he saw at Edgewater Park, *Cuyahoga*, on 03 Dec.

Carolina Chickadee

The only triple-digit count, 127, was by Brian Wulker, who crisscrossed his Cincinnati CBC route in *Clermont* and *Hamilton* for nine hours on 30 Dec. The highest non-CBC number was 52 by Karen Hook on 16 Feb at her many feeders in *Meigs*. Reports came from 64 counties.

Black-capped Chickadee

Greg Links found 89 in OOPMP on 05 Jan while participating in a CBC. Tom Bartlett had the next highest count, 65 on 21 Feb on Kelleys Island. Thirty-nine counties provided sightings. Ed Schlabach noted in *The Bobolink*, "Modest numbers wintered south of the year-round resident range."

Tufted Titmouse

Brian Wulker's hours of CBC travel yielded 67 in *Clermont* and *Hamilton* on 30 Dec. Karen Hook's *Meigs* feeders again provided the highest count not on a CBC, 57 on 16 Feb. Only *Van Wert* lacked at least one sighting.

Red-breasted Nuthatch

Larry Rosche counted 26 in a private *Portage* wildlife area on 01 Jan. Single reports in *Ashland*, *Clermont*, and *Hamilton* shared the next highest number, 20. Larry Gara commented that the two at his Wilmington, *Clinton*, feeders for the entire period "made the winter tolerable". Reports came from every county except *Lawrence*, *Mercer*, *Noble*, and *Shelby*.

White-breasted Nuthatch

This was another "all counties" species. Greg Links' OOPMP CBC route yielded 39 on 05 Jan and there were many non-CBC numbers in the 20s.

Brown Creeper

Greg Links said, "Creeper, creepers, everywhere! Conservative count" about the 46 he found in Wolf Creek Park, *Sandusky*, during the Fremont CBC on 29 Dec. The second-highest number was 14, also on a CBC, at and near the Hebron Hatchery, *Licking*, on 15 Dec (Alex Paton). Nine at Riverbend Recreation Area, *Hancock*, on 09

Jan was the highest non-CBC count (Shane Myers). Seventy-six counties had sightings.

Winter Wren

These were present all season, but reports were more frequent after mid-Dec. Four observers each found four birds, in *Cuyahoga* (2), *Jefferson*, and *Summit*. Fifty-four counties had sightings.

Marsh Wren

The four locations whence came reports are: Spring Valley WA (*Greene* section), two or three between 08 and 16 Dec (m. obs.)

Millersburg CBC circle, *Coshocton/Holmes*, two on 14 Dec (*fide* Audubon and Ed Schlabach).

CPNWR, one on 16 Dec (Elliot Tramer)

Pete's Pond Preserve, *Lake*, one on 18 Jan (John Pogacnik) and 19 Jan (Mary Anne and Tom Romito)

Carolina Wren

Every county except *Henry*, *Putnam*, *Van Wert*, and *Williams* produced sightings. Mark Gilsdorf's CBC route in *Brown* produced 35 on 05 Jan. The highest non-CBC count was 15 by Bill Stanley *et al.* on a Cincinnati Bird Club trip to East Fork on 23 Feb.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

An extraordinary sighting was reported during the 22 Dec Portsmouth CBC, *Scioto*, with "good documentation" which was not made available to the *Cardinal*.



This *Varied Thrush* found itself far from its usual wintering grounds in the far west, and was photographed in Avon Lake, *Lorain*, by Chuck Susarczyk on 07 Dec 2012.

Golden-crowned Kinglet

The high count was 31, in Lake Katherine SNP, *Jackson*, on 15 Dec (Dave Slager), and there were several more double-digit counts. Sixty-nine counties produced reports.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet

These were scarce but found throughout the season. Several observers reported two. *Butler*,

Clermont, *Fayette*, *Franklin*, *Hamilton*, and *Warren* all had non-CBC reports and 16 CBCs found them as well. The CBCs added between 11 and 13 additional counties as far north as *Ashtabula* and *Ottawa*.

Eastern Bluebird

Kirk Westendorf found 76, most of them at Fernald, during his 23 Dec CBC efforts. The high count not on a CBC is hard to determine (not every eBirder notes whether the checklist is for a CBC) but appears to be between 30 and 50. Reports came from 81 counties.

Townsend's Solitaire

Tom Bartlett found one at the Kelleys Island Quarry Road Condominiums on 28 Dec; it was seen on and off until 22 Jan. Tom documented it for the OBRC and many folks traveled to "collect" it.

Hermit Thrush

The 22 Jan Kelleys Island census produced seven (Tom Bartlett *et al.*). Three locations on four dates each yielded the second-highest count of four. Thirty-three counties had sightings.

American Robin

Kirk Westendorf estimated 2000 in United American Cemetery, *Hamilton*, on 31 Dec, and there were several other four-digit reports from that county between 29 Dec and 08 Jan. They were found almost statewide, but somehow no one saw any in *Gallia*, *Morgan*, or *Noble*.

Varied Thrush

This wanderer shows up almost annually in Ohio, but I know of no previous winter with what were apparently three different birds. Their locations were Avon Lake, *Lorain*, between 07 and 09 Dec; Fresno, *Coshocton*, from 24 Jan to 24 Feb; and Parma Heights, *Cuyahoga*, from 17 to 19 Feb. The *Cuyahoga* bird was in Karen and Rich Kassouf's yard; Rich documented it for the OBRC. Ed Schlabach called the *Coshocton* bird "a stunningly beautiful male [which] even sometimes sang its unique song". It and the *Lorain* bird were also well described and photographed; the OBRC is sorting through the documentation sets and will attribute them to the hosts and reporters.

Gray Catbird

Single birds were scattered around the state; reports came from 13 counties. Of them, *Lucas*, *Richland*, and *Summit* are north of mid-state.

Northern Mockingbird

Brian Wulker encountered 12 along his CBC route in *Hamilton* on 30 Dec. There were also two reports of nine birds and two of 10 in

central and southern counties. The species was statewide, however: 71 counties had sightings.



The parking lot at Maumee Bay SP was unusually busy on 02 Dec 2012, filled as it was with enthusiastic birders sporting spotting scopes, binoculars, and large lenses all focused on a flock of Bohemian Waxwings. Dane Adams captured the image of this handsome bird.

Brown Thrasher

One spent from at least 30 Dec to 26 Jan at Blendon Woods MP, **Franklin** (m. obs.). In the far north, the Grand Rapids/Waterville CBC (**Fulton/Henry/Lucas/Wood**) turned up one on 05 Jan. Another individual spent a week starting 22 Jan in Mentor Marsh SNP, **Lake**. Sightings also came from **Adams, Butler, Clermont, Cuyahoga, Delaware, Fairfield, Geauga, Hamilton, and Hancock**. It seems to be a to-sup which of Gray Catbird or Brown Thrasher is the hardier.

European Starling

Every county produced at least one report, though several had only one or two. Ben Warner estimated an intimidating 65,000 inhabited Kelleys Island on 12 Dec. The only other five-digit number was 15,000, members of a flock of them and several blackbird species coming to a roost near Bayshore (m. obs.). There were a couple of dozen reports in the 1000 to 9999 range.



*While it's highly unusual to see an Ovenbird having a Christmas Eve feast of walnuts on the snow covered ground, it was one of at least two present in Ohio. Craig Fritz photographed this bird in Olmstead Falls, **Lorain**, on 24 Dec 2012.*

American Pipit

The East Fork dam spillway hosted 90 on 29 Dec (Brian Wulker). They apparently stayed to be part of the 152 tallied on the 05 Jan CBC for that area. Late Jan reports from **Ashland** and **Hamilton** had 70 (m. obs.). Sightings came from 36 counties.

Bohemian Waxwing

Usually these infrequent visitors are single birds, or occasionally two or three are together. The 11 at Maumee Bay on 01 Dec were a shock; even the five which remained the next day were a treat. Andy Sewell documented the 11 for the OBRC. One bird spent a week, starting 11 Jan, at Holden Arboretum, **Lake**. The OBRC has documentation of the Holden bird and will be crediting the authors.

Cedar Waxwing

Greg Links found 135 in Secor MP, **Lucas**, on 12 Jan, and the 01 Dec CVNP Towpath Trail census turned up 118 (Douglas Vogus *et al.*). Fifty-three counties provided reports.

Lapland Longspur

Killdeer hosted flocks totaling about 700 on 18 Jan (Kent Miller). The 250 which Irina Shulgina noted along Washburn Road, **Marion**, the same day might have been some of them, as that road is just south of Killdeer. Ben Warner's 200 in **Delaware** on 16 Dec was the largest count elsewhere. Forty-six mostly northern counties had sightings.

Snow Bunting

Sightings began in earnest in mid-Oct and continued to be frequent well into Mar. The high count was about 300, in the Thomas Wetlands, **Paulding**, on 07 Dec (Doug and Micki Dunakin). Forty-three counties, as for longspurs mostly northern, produced reports.

Ovenbird

Holdovers from fall are becoming more common. One spent from 12 to 16 Dec in the OSU Jennings Hall courtyard (m. obs.). Perhaps it then moved to Blacklick Woods MP, **Fairfield**, where one showed up 28 Dec and was seen until 03 Jan when a Cooper's Hawk took it (m. obs., Diana Morse). Olmsted Falls, **Cuyahoga**, had sightings on 30 Dec (*vide* Audubon), 26 Jan (Dan and Lynn Gesualdo), and 15 to 17 Feb (Patrick Miller). How many birds these last three events represent is an open question.

Common Yellowthroat

The seven reports, all of single birds, were:

On 02 Dec during the monthly ONWR census (Ed Pierce *et al.*, *vide* Douglas Vogus)

From 10 to 16 Dec in the OSU Jennings Hall courtyard (m. obs.)

On 15 Dec, seen and heard during the Quail Hollow SP CBC at Mogadore Reservoir, **Portage** (Kent Miller)

On 22 Dec at Prairie Lane, **Wayne**, during the Wooster CBC (Andy R. Troyer)

On 27 Dec during the Ragersville CBC, **Coshocton/Holmes/Tuscarawas** (*vide* Audubon and Ed Schlabach)

On 05 Jan during the East Fork CBC, **Brown/Clermont** (*vide* Audubon)

On 10 Feb at Fernald (William Hull)

American Redstart

One was reported during the 16 Dec Cuyahoga Falls CBC, **Summit/Portage** (*vide* Audubon).

Cape May Warbler

One was reported on Kelleys Island during the 16 Dec Lake Erie Islands CBC (*vide* John Pogacnik).

Magnolia Warbler

One hung around the Dennis Kline residence in **Holmes** from 12 Nov to 24 Dec, spending part of its time in their greenhouse (*vide* Robert Hershberger and Ed Schlabach). This is Ohio's first December record; the previous late date was 19 Nov 1972 according to Peterjohn.

Black-throated Blue Warbler

A female visited Clara and Wayne Yoder's feeders in **Wayne** between 14 and 23 Jan (m. obs.). The only previous winter sighting was noted by Peterjohn as from 04 to 05 Dec 1993.

Palm Warbler

One was seen intermittently at a **Holmes** feeder between 03 and 25 Jan (m. obs.)

Pine Warbler

One spent much of Jan visiting a **Wayne** feeder (m. obs.). The Ragersville CBC reported two in **Tuscarawas** on 27 Dec (*vide* Audubon and Ed Schlabach). One of them might have been the bird seen elsewhere in **Tuscarawas** from mid-Jan into Mar (Ed Schlabach).

Yellow-rumped Warbler

The 125 which David Carr *et al.* reported in the Newtown Bottoms, **Hamilton**, area on 30 Dec was about half of the Cincinnati CBC total. Ben Warner found 80 on Kelleys Island on 12 Dec for the second-highest number. Reports came from 58 counties.

Yellow-breasted Chat

James F. Yoder discovered one in **Tuscarawas** on 27 Dec during the Ragersville CBC (*vide* Audubon and Ed Schlabach). This is the latest, though not sole, winter record in Peterjohn.

Eastern Towhee

Fifty-five counties hosted this showy sparrow. Kirk Westendorf found 26 in western **Hamilton** during his CBC efforts on 30 Dec. The highest non-CBC number was Mark Artmayer's 15 in Mitchell Memorial Forest, **Hamilton**, on 05 Jan. Dick and Jean Hoffman saw a singing individual in Lake View Cemetery, **Cuyahoga**, on 05 Feb.

American Tree Sparrow

Tom Bartlett carefully tallied 591 while participating in the 01 Jan Killdeer Plains CBC, **Marion/Wyandot**. The most seen not on a CBC was 305, in ONWR on 15 Jan (Ryan Lesniewicz). Every county but **Lawrence, Morgan, and Van Wert** provided reports.

Chipping Sparrow

Six was the maximum count. Leslie Houser found that many on the Ohio shore at Meldahl Dam, **Clermont**, on 09 Feb, as did Christopher Collins in Woodland Cemetery, **Montgomery**, on 15 and 16 Feb. At least 22 counties had sightings; some reports were during multi-county CBCs.

Field Sparrow

Fernald and nearby areas yielded 25 for Kirk Westendorf on 23 Dec while CBC-ing. Several individuals reported between 20 and 25 during non-CBC efforts. Sixty counties provided sightings.

Savannah Sparrow

Ed Schlabach found 20 near Ragersville, **Tuscarawas**, on 27 Dec, during a CBC. Andy Sewell's Kingston CBC route in **Ross** yielded 12 on 01 Jan. Reports came from 28 counties.

Grasshopper Sparrow

Matthias Troyer reported one in **Tuscarawas** during the Ragersville CBC on 27 Dec and Jeffrey A. Miller saw it again on 01 and 05 Jan (*vide* Ed Schlabach).

Nelson's Sparrow

Ed Schlabach discovered one in **Tuscarawas** during the 27 Dec Ragersville CBC. It remained at least until 16 Feb, making it Ohio's second January and first overwintering record according to Peterjohn and Kent Miller.

Fox Sparrow

Newtown Bottoms, **Hamilton**, hosted 21 for David Carr *et al.* during their 30 Dec CBC trek. The next highest number was eight, in Armleder Park on 11 Jan (Brian Wulker). Forty-eight counties provided sightings.

Song Sparrow

David Carr's crew also took this species' high-count prize with 219 in Newtown Bottoms (See

Fox Sparrow). Donna Clark had about 50 at her *Montgomery* home on 15 Feb for the highest non-CBC tally. Every county but *Henry* and *Van Wert* had sightings.

Lincoln's Sparrow

One spent from 10 to 25 Dec in the OSU Jennings Hall courtyard (m. obs.).

Swamp Sparrow

David Carr *et al.* counted 57 in Newtown Bottoms (See Fox Sparrow). Ned Keller's 25 at the Shawnee Lookout CP boat ramp, *Hamilton*, on 05 Jan was the highest count not during a CBC. Reports came from 56 counties.

White-throated Sparrow

For a change from Newtown Bottoms, the 23 Dec Western Hamilton CBC provided the high count, the 120 which Kirk Westendorf tallied on his route. Lake View Cemetery, *Cuyahoga*, hosted 58 for Karen and Rich Kassouf on 16 Feb, the highest non-CBC number. Seventy-seven counties contributed sightings.

Harris's Sparrow

Gary Cowell documented one which he found in Byers Woods, *Ashland*, on 01 Dec; it was seen intermittently until 19 Jan (*vide* Ed Schlabach). One lingered from 01 Jan into Apr in the *Franklin* section of Pickerington Ponds MP and was documented by Paul Gardner, Paul Hurtado, Kathi Hutton, and multiple internet sources. Another spent 05 Jan to 09 Feb at a home near Charm, *Holmes*. The last generated several sets of documentation for the OBRC; attribution will follow.



This Nelson's Sparrow was a long-staying rarity which Ed Schlabach discovered and photographed several weeks after its arrival by Kent Miller on 24 Jan 2013.

White-crowned Sparrow

Reports came from 74 counties. David Carr *et al.*'s 325 at Newtown Bottoms on 30 Dec (see Fox Sparrow) was, said David, the "Highest ever CBC count for this territory. Most [were] at Armleder and Anderson Green Space." About 200 remained at Armleder Park on 25 Jan (William Hull and Brian Wulker). Several of the

gambelii subspecies were seen; one which Mark Shieldcastle had banded at BSBO earlier in the season was recaptured there on 16 Feb (*vide* Ryan Steiner). Another spent its fourth winter in a row at Shari Jackson's and Ronnie Macko's feeder in *Stark*.

Golden-crowned Sparrow

The wanderer which first appeared at a *Hancock* feeder in the spring of 2009 returned for its fourth consecutive winter (Kent Miller, Cory Chiappone).



This wayward Harris's Sparrow was a life bird for many enthusiastic new birders during its several months of viewing opportunities at the Pickerington Ponds feeders. This photo was taken by Paul Hurtado on 20 Jan, 2013.

Dark-eyed Junco

Every county except *Van Wert* provided sightings. Greg Links counted 259 along his 05 Jan CBC route in OOPMP. The highest count not part of a CBC appears to be Amanda Lawson's 132 in Englewood MP, *Montgomery*, on 01 Jan. At least five individuals of the "Oregon" group were reported; one of them spent most of Jan and Feb at Paul Hurtado's *Franklin* feeder. Two of the *cismontanus* ("Cassiar") subspecies were reported.



The Oregon subspecies group of Dark-eyed Junco is uncommon in Ohio. This bird was well documented on by Paul Hurtado 08 Dec 2012 during its winter visit to his home in Franklin.

Summer Tanager

One spent 26 to 28 Jan at Dorinda Whitsett's *Hamilton* feeder; Dan Gesualdo photographed it on its last day.



Dorinda Whitsett photographed this rare-in-winter Summer Tanager in her *Hamilton* backyard on 26 Jan 2013.

Northern Cardinal

Whew! Every county produced reports of our state bird. David Carr *et al.*'s 30 Dec efforts (See Fox Sparrow) yielded 144. Mike Williams reported 100 along Washburn Road, *Marion*, on 18 Feb, his "most fabulous raptor day" (See Bald Eagle and various hawk accounts). Shari Jackson and Ronni Mack had 57 at their *Stark* feeders on 16 Feb.

Indigo Bunting

Three late Dec CBCs (Cincinnati, Mohican SF, and Ragersville) each reported one (*fide* Audubon).

Dickcissel

One was reported during the Caesar Creek – Spring Valley CBC (*fide* Audubon).

Red-winged Blackbird

Larry Rosche estimated 160,000 at the Barberton Salt Ponds, *Summit*, on a 20 Jan Cleveland Museum of Natural History field trip. He annotated the report, "This is an enormous roost that has been in this area for decades." He also reported that a mere 75,000 had been there on 25 Dec. Up to 40,000 were noted in the vicinity of Bayshore during the second half of Jan (m. obs.). These two were the only sites with counts exceeding 900. Sixty-nine counties had sightings.

Eastern Meadowlark

John Moore found up to 18 at the Great Miami Mitigation Bank, *Montgomery*, on several Dec dates and 25 there on 27 Jan. Killdeer and its vicinity hosted 11, the highest number elsewhere, on 01 Jan (Tom Bartlett). Reports came from 37 counties.

Yellow-headed Blackbird

At least one was seen by m. obs. on many dates between 16 Dec and 18 Jan in the Bayshore blackbird flock (see Red-winged Blackbird). Greg Links found seven there on 11 Jan. Andy R. Troyer found a male among other blackbirds near Apple Creek, *Wayne*, on 16 Dec. Brief feeder visits were recorded in *Holmes* on 27 Dec (Emery Yoder) and in *Knox* on 01 Jan (*fide* Jim McCormac).

Rusty Blackbird

Greg Links noted 135 among the Bayshore blackbirds on 11 Jan (see Red-winged Blackbird); smaller triple-digit counts came on other days (m. obs.). The highest number elsewhere was 75, noted at three locations. Thirty-nine counties produced reports.

Brewer's Blackbird

The 10 reports of this scarce and oft-misidentified species are:

Thirteen at home in *Wayne* on 03 Dec (Jonas E. Miller)

One seen and heard in his *Holmes* yard on 18 Dec (Robert Hershberger)

One during the Fremont CBC, *Sandusky*, on 29 Dec (*fide* Audubon)

One on the GAR Highway, *Sandusky*, on 01 Jan (Dan and Lynn Gesualdo)

One during the Gypsum CBC, *Erie/Ottawa/Sandusky*, on 04 Jan (*fide* Audubon)

Two at the Castalia hatchery, *Sandusky*, on 04 Jan (Tom Bartlett, Larry Rosche, and Judy Semroc)

One west of Charm on 06 Jan (Milan H. Yoder)

Three at Bayshore on 18 Jan (Kent Miller and Ben Morrison)

One on the University of Findlay campus, *Hancock*, on 03 Feb (Steve Landes)

Three on Wilderness Road, *Wayne*, on 23 Feb (Steve Landes)

Common Grackle

Larry Rosche's 20 Jan field trip to the Barberton Salt Ponds found 145,000 (see Red-winged Blackbird). The most elsewhere were the 20,000 which Ben Morrison estimated in *Stark* on 23 Feb. Seventy-one counties had sightings.

Brown-headed Cowbird

The Barberton ponds also hosted 10,000 of these for Larry Rosche. Up to 5000 were at Bayshore (see Red-winged Blackbird about both sites). The only other four-digit report was Bill Doss's 2000 along State Route 276 in *Clermont* on 01 Jan. Reports came from 61 counties.

Orchard Oriole

A very hardy adult male frequented a jelly feed-

er in Orrville, **Wayne**, from about Thanksgiving into March (*fide* Bruce Glick and David Weaver). They're usually gone not long after Labor Day.

Baltimore Oriole

One was repeatedly seen in Holmesville, **Holmes**, from 12 Nov through Dec (*fide* Robert Hershberger, m. obs.). Winter holdovers of this species are becoming less uncommon.

Purple Finch

The trails at Germantown MP, **Montgomery**, hosted 32 females on 16 Dec (Chris Zacharias). There were many reports in the 10 to 20 range. Fifty-nine counties produced sightings.

House Finch

Laura Gooch noted 150 at the Shaker Lakes NC, **Cuyahoga**, on 20 Feb. The second-highest number was 120, which Greg Links noted among the blackbirds at Bayshore on 17 Feb. All counties but **Morgan** had sightings.

Red Crossbill

By the end of Nov, 22 counties had hosted these; by the end of Feb that number was 25. The high count was the 10 which James E. Yoder found near Fredericksburg, **Wayne**, on 03 Dec. Karen and Rich Kassouf found nine in West Park Cemetery, **Cuyahoga**, on 01 Jan. Other cemeteries had up to eight. Curiously, the last reports of the season were of single birds on 17 Feb at two locations, though sightings resumed in Mar and carried into Apr.



Dane Adams photographed a lovely male Red Crossbill which was feasting in the Sweet Gum trees of West Park Cemetery, Cuyahoga, on 07 Jan 2013

White-winged Crossbill

I heartily agree with Ed Schlabach's comment, "It was a great season for this delightful northern finch." The high count of 100 was in Mohican SP, **Ashland**, on 08 Nov (Robert Hershberger and Greg Miller). There were dozens, if not

hundreds, of double-digit counts. Reports came from about half of our counties.

Common Redpoll

Daniel Parsons and Linda Gilbert each noted about 150. Daniel saw his swarm in East Cleveland Township Cemetery, **Cuyahoga**, on 16 Dec. Linda's were at her feeders in **Geauga** on 11 Jan; the day before she had about 100 and commented then, "they were everywhere in the yard! Haven't ever seen an invasion like this!" Several other northern counties contributed triple-digit counts, and double-digit flocks extended to the Ohio River. Half of our counties had sightings.

Hoary Redpoll

The OBRCC is sorting out multiple reports from **Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Portage,** and **Summit**.

Pine Siskin

The high count by a single observer was 120, by Anne Rau at her feeders in **Licking** on 21 Jan. Donald Morse, Jr., commented that the 100 which he saw at his **Clermont** home on 20 Dec were "in a feeding frenzy" and there were several other reports of about 100. Sixty-six counties produced reports.



*It proved to be an exciting winter with Pine Siskins seen at backyard feeders over much of the state. Ron Sempier snapped a picture of this beauty in his backyard in **Marion** on 13 Dec 2012.*

American Goldfinch

Kim Carter had 60 to over 100 at her feeders in **Athens** on several dates. Mike Zook had about 100 at his in **Ashtabula** on 16 Feb, and there were many counts between 50 and 100. Only **Morgan** and **Van Wert** lacked reports.

Evening Grosbeak

A feeder near the border of Mohican SE, **Ashland**, kept a flock (and birders) busy from 01 Dec to at least 17 Feb. Counts there varied minute by minute, but the highest I found was Dick Lee's

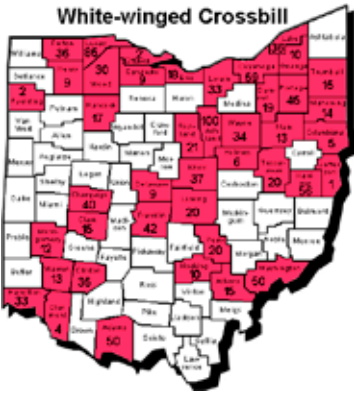
48 on the last day. The highest count other than at the above feeder was 17 by John Herman in Monroe Township, *Holmes*, on 09 Feb; some stuck around there to 28 Feb. Thirty-seven counties provided reports.

House Sparrow

Victor Fazio III noted about 1000 at Bay View, *Erie*, on 04 Jan. Reports came from all counties except *Meigs* and *Morgan*.

WINTER VISITOR MAPS

Courtesy of Ethan Kestler. These maps dramatically show the extent of this winter’s invasion by northern birds. (The numbers within each highlighted state are the high counts available to Ethan and do not always match those in the Species Accounts.)



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