

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

By Craig Caldwell

Greater White-fronted Goose

These were scattered across the state and throughout the season — see the accompanying map. Robert Hershberger saw 18 along Prairie Lane, **Wayne**, on 15 Feb. The second-highest count was 10, shared by Brandon Brywczynski at Independence Dam SP, **Defiance**, on 16 Dec and a host of observers in the Darby Bend unit of Prairie Oaks MP, **Franklin**, on 18 Jan.



Snow Goose

These, too, were seen all season. Kirk Westendorf noted 25 at Armleder Park on 02 Dec; Jen Moore and Jason Parrish saw 20 at Big Island on 23 Feb. Reports came from 44 counties.



A pair of Ross's Geese was a welcome post-holiday gift for photographer Dane Adams on 26 Dec in Wellington, **Lorain**

Ross's Goose

The earliest flew over Bill Stanley's **Clermont** home on 07 Dec. The last of the season was at

Funk on 23 Feb (Jeff Harvey, David Weaver), but it was seen again in Mar. Steven L. Hochstetler picked out three of them in a flock of Canada Geese as they passed near Loudonville, **Ashland**, on 15 Feb. Fourteen counties contributed sightings.

Brant

Both sightings were on 01 Dec. Shane Myers found his in Veterans Memorial Lake, **Hancock**, and John Pogacnik another in Ashtabula harbor.

Cackling Goose

These were here all season. The high count was seven, by Rick Asamoto at the Barrett Paving gravel pits, **Montgomery**, on both 28 and 31 Dec. Thirty-one counties produced reports.

Canada Goose

Paul Sherwood estimated 5600 at the Wellington Upground Reservoir, **Lorain**, on 28 Dec, and there were many more four-digit counts. Only **Putnam**, **Van Wert**, and **Williams** did not provide sightings.

Mute Swan

The mouth of Cold Creek, **Erie**, held up to 32 on several dates (m. obs.). The highest count elsewhere was 22, at Avon Power on 10 Jan (Jen Brumfield). Reports came from 48 counties.

Trumpeter Swan

About 100 were gleaned stubble corn fields along Route 2 near ONWR on 08 Dec (Julie Heitz). Other **Lucas** and **Ottawa** sites produced many counts in the 20 to 50 range. The highest count away from Lake Erie was the 15 which Corey Husic found near The Wilds on 01 Jan. Thirty-two counties had sightings.

Tundra Swan

The 01 Dec ONWR monthly census produced 2869 (Ed Pierce *et al.*, *vide* Douglas Vogus). The inland high count was 200; they flew over Linda Gilbert's house in **Geauga** on 07 Dec. Forty-two counties provided reports.

Wood Duck

These were present all winter though they were scarce in Jan. The Blendon Woods pond held 20 on 28 Feb (Julie Beehley and Reid Greiner), and other sites had counts up to 18. Twenty-seven counties produced reports.

Gadwall

Tom Bartlett found 625 on and about Kelleys Island on 05 Dec; about 450 remained the next day. Paul Sherwood counted 371 at Medusa

Marsh, **Erie**, on 23 Dec. Brian Menker's 128 in Old Reid Park, **Montgomery**, on 03 Dec was the highest inland count. Sightings came from 48 counties.

Eurasian Wigeon

Leroy E. Yoder discovered one at Mohawk Dam, **Coshocton**, on 23 Feb; the bird remained into Mar for multiple observers. Paul Sherwood, Mary Warren, and others saw one at Castalia Pond, **Erie**, also on 26 Feb. One briefly stopped at Funk on 26 Feb (*vide* Jen Brumfield).

[Eurasian x American Wigeon]

One spent 22 Feb into Mar at Fernald (m. obs.).

American Wigeon

Su Snyder *et al.* estimated 210 were along Wilderness Road on 25 Feb. The next highest number was 93, at Castalia Pond, **Erie**, on 30 Dec (Paul Sherwood). Thirty-eight counties provided sightings.

American Black Duck

Blendon Woods regularly hosts substantial numbers of this species; Andy Sewell noted about 300 there on 18 Jan. Sixty-four counties produced reports.

[American Black Duck x Mallard]

No doubt some of these lurk within most flocks of Black Ducks. Rachel Kohnke identified seven at Mosquito Lake on 23 Feb. Sixteen counties had sightings.

Mallard

Gene Stauffer found about 1600 at Deer Creek SP, **Pickaway**, on 26 Dec. Other sites yielded additional four-digit counts. All but six counties yielded sightings.

Blue-winged Teal

The five reports were:

One in ONWR on 01 Dec (Ed Pierce *et al.*, *vide* Douglas Vogus)

One during the Paint Creek Area CBC on 15 Dec (*vide* Audubon)

Two on the Ohio River at Gallipolis, **Gallia**, also on 15 Dec (Rennie Talbert)

One along Alum Creek, **Franklin**, on 17 Dec (Ben Warner, Sean Williams)

One at Eastwood MP, **Montgomery**, on 22 Dec (Robert Reed)

Northern Shoveler

Victor Fazio III was surprised to note that the 146 at Castalia, **Erie**, on 30 Jan outnumbered the Mallards. Counts to 115 were achieved there on other dates. The high elsewhere was Gregory Bennett's 74 at Springfield Lake, **Summit**, on 08 Dec. Thirty-five counties provided reports.

Northern Pintail

Sue Snyder and friends estimated 850 were along Wilderness Road on 25 Feb. The only other triple-digit count was 120, by Jen Moore and Jason Parrish at Big Island on 23 Feb. Reports came from 35 counties.

Green-winged Teal

Riverside NA hosted 47 on 14 Dec (Brian Wulker). Brian also found the second-highest number, 38 at Fernald on 22 Dec. Thirty counties produced sightings.

[Green-winged Teal x Gadwall]

One which was apparently this hybrid touched down at Old Reid Park, **Clark**, on 03 Dec (Doug Overacker *et al.*).

Canvasback

Jan and Feb each had many more reports than Dec. The highest estimate, 800 to 1000, came from Edgewater on 19 Dec (Jen Brumfield) and 20 Dec (Thomas Olson). The largest count away from Lake Erie was 81 at Lost Bridge on 08 Jan (Brian Wulker). Fifty-three counties provided sightings.

Redhead

Ryan Lesniewicz counted 567 at Marblehead Light SP, **Ottawa**, on 25 Feb. Irina Shulgina made the highest inland count, about 350 at Lake Corazon, **Union**, on 21 Feb. Reports came from 55 counties.

Ring-necked Duck

Brian Wulker contributed another high count, 278 of these at Fernald on 22 Dec. Fifty counties had sightings.

Greater Scaup

The waters around Kelleys Island hosted 2000 to 2500 for Tom Bartlett on 13 and 14 Dec (but see Scaup sp. below). Robert Jackson saw about 500 off Avon Power on 04 Feb. The inland high count was 110 on the Ohio River at Higginsport, **Brown**, on 13 Feb (Brian Wulker). Forty counties produced sightings.

Lesser Scaup

Tom Bartlett found 1000 to 1500 at Kelleys Island on 13 and 14 Dec (but again see Scaup sp. below). Gravel pits off Franklin-Trenton Road, **Warren**, held the highest inland count, 50 on 28 Feb (John Habig). Fifty-two counties provided reports.

Scaup sp.

Tom Bartlett estimated 17,000 in addition to the specific numbers above were off Kelleys Island on 13 Dec.

Harlequin Duck

The four sightings are:

One off the Huntington Reservation, **Cuyahoga** from 05 to 08 Dec (m. obs.)

One at Lake Shore Park, **Ashtabula**, on 11 Dec (Craig Holt)

One flyby at John Pogacnik's **Lake** home on 25 Dec

One on the Ohio River at BelPre, **Washington**, on 26 and 27 Dec (Derek Courtney *et al.*)



Dale Gaul worked for the perfect shot to convey the magnificent plumage of this Harlequin Duck, photographed on 05 Dec at Huntington Reservation, **Cuyahoga**.

Surf Scoter

The high count of 11 came from the mouth of Old Woman Creek, **Erie**, on 19 Dec (David Lumpkin). Other Lake Erie sites held up to nine. The two on a lake at Indian Springs Campground, **Hamilton**, on 15 Dec were the only inland number exceeding one (Brian Wulker). In addition to the already-named counties, **Ashtabula**, **Cuyahoga**, **Lake**, **Lorain**, **Warren**, and **Wyandot** also had sightings.

White-winged Scoter

These were widespread; 31 counties produced sightings. Jen Brumfield counted 82 birds in several flocks off Huntington Reservation, **Cuyahoga**, on 31 Jan. Preston Franklin and Brian Wulker saw 39 along the Ohio River bank in **Hamilton** on 15 Feb; this was the highest inland count.



Leslie Sours was delighted with the opportunity to photograph this White-winged Scoter at Greenlawn Dam, **Franklin**, as it carefully working its way across the icy surface to open water on 02 Feb.

Black Scoter

These were scattered but regular until mid-Jan, after which only four sites hosted them. One of these was the Eastlake power plant, **Lake**; two birds on 06 Feb (Dave Chase) and one on 22 Feb (Daniel and Kevin Parsons) were the only reports in that month. The high count was nine, shared by Kent Miller at Edgewater on 03 Dec and Bev Walborn from a further west Lake Road cliff, also in **Cuyahoga**, on 29 Dec. The only sighting away from Lake Erie was of a single bird at Eastwood MP, **Montgomery**, from 19 to 23 Dec (m. obs.). **Ashtabula**, **Lorain**, and **Lucas** also contributed sightings.

Long-tailed Duck

Tom Bartlett counted 23 as he ferried from Marblehead (**Ottawa**) to Kelleys Island (**Erie**) on 09 Dec. Debby Schuster found 20 at Mosquito Lake on 23 Feb. The accompanying map shows the 26 counties which these birds visited.



Bufflehead

The Kelleys Island area boasted about 750 on 13 Dec (Tom Bartlett). The most elsewhere was the 121 which Paula Lozano tallied along her CBC route in **Cuyahoga** on 29 Dec. The inland high was 35; Chris Zacharias found them at Eastwood MP, **Montgomery**, on 14 Dec. Fifty-one counties had sightings.



This obliging group of Bufflehead offered photographer Dane Adams a close view on 03 Jan at Spitzer Marina, **Lorain**.

Common Goldeneye

Tom Bartlett was on Kelleys Island on 26 Feb; he estimated more than 8000 goldeneye were there. He said, "Thousands of diving ducks mainly in open waters to the east of the island. The actual number is likely much higher but heat waves made ID impossible." Max Gustafson saw about 1000 from Cleveland's East 55th Street marina on 03 Jan. The inland high count was 80. It was shared by Amanda Lawson at Eastwood MP, *Montgomery*, on 31 Dec, Eric Elvert at Eastwood on 14 Jan, and Don Keffer at Mosquito Lake on 23 Feb. Reports came from 55 counties.

[Common Goldeneye x Hooded Merganser]

Alex Champagne identified one on the Scioto River at Hoover Park on 12 Feb; it stayed there another day for others to see. What was probably the same bird appeared a few miles downstream at Scioto Audubon MP on 24 Feb, and was seen there intermittently into Mar. Both locations are in *Franklin*.



This [Common Goldeneye x Hooded Merganser] hybrid drake was photographed with Common Mergansers by Paul Hurtado on 12 Feb below Griggs Dam in Hoover Park, *Franklin*.

Hooded Merganser

LaDue hosted 350 on 03 Dec (Kent Miller) and there were several more three-digit counts. Fifty-three counties provided reports.

Common Merganser

Jen Brumfield and Philip Chaon estimated 4200 to 4500 at Cleveland's East 55th Street marina on 03 Jan. The highest count away from Lake Erie was 140 birds, seen on 13 Feb where Straight Creek meets the Ohio River in *Brown* (Brian Wulker). Fifty-eight counties produced reports.

Red-breasted Merganser

Jen Brumfield estimated 12,000 passed East 55th Street on 03 Jan and 15,000 went by Wendy Park on 21 Jan. Both locations are in Cleveland. The highest inland count was 100; Kent Miller found them at LaDue on 03 Dec. Reports came from 54 counties.

Ruddy Duck

The Wellington Upground Reservoir, *Lorain*, held 500 on 01 Dec (Helen and Ken Ostermill-

er). Rocky Fork Lake, *Highland*, hosted 250 on 07 Dec (Rick Asamoto). Fifty-one counties produced sightings.

Northern Bobwhite

The reports by individuals are listed; in addition three CBC tallies included bobwhites.

One at Marysville Reservoir, *Union*, on 01 Dec (Irina Shulgina)

One on Gilson Road, *Columbiana*, on 19 Dec (Chuck McClaugherty)

Two on 30 Dec and one on 30 Jan in *Highland* (Junior Barnes)

Two in Zoar Acres, *Warren*, on 24 Jan (Leslie Houser)

Two at her *Miami* home on 16 Feb (Rebecca J. Reinke)

One at Killdeer on 18 Feb (Irina Shulgina)

Ring-necked Pheasant

Kyle Brooks found 34 in the vicinity of Charlie's Pond, *Pickaway*, on 08 Jan. The other double-digit counts were 12 at a *Gallia* farm on 27 Dec (Derek Dunaway) and two groups totaling 11 at Darby Creek on 10 Jan (Carl Winstead). Twenty-four counties provided sightings.

Ruffed Grouse

The reports are:

One on 11 Dec, two on 18 Dec, and one on 25 Jan in different areas around Clendening Lake, *Harrison* (Scott Pendleton)

Three at The Wilds on 21 Dec (Susan Nash).

One at Salt Fork SP, *Guernsey*, on 29 Dec (Chris Zacharias)

One in Harrison SF on 24 Feb (Scott Pendleton)

Three during the Cadiz CBC, *Harrison*, on 04 Jan (*vide* Audubon)

Wild Turkey

Kent Miller and Ben Morrison estimated 175 on 09 Jan at a farm in Osnaburg Township, *Stark*, whose owner puts out feed. The next highest number is the 100 which Sheila Joyce found in an *Erie* corn field. Forty-eight counties yielded sightings.

Red-throated Loon

Five locations produced reports which probably represent at least four and as many as six birds: One on 01 and 02 Dec at Caesar Creek (Leslie Houser, Bob Powell). It had first been seen on 29 Nov.

One at C.J. Brown Lake, *Clark*, on 07 Dec (Michael Hatfield and Sam Rockingwell)

One passing his *Lake* house on 07 Dec (John Pogacnik)

One at the Hoover Reservoir dam on 26 Dec (Keith Laakkonen) and again (?) on 01 Jan (Gene Stauffer)

One at Alum Creek Reservoir, **Delaware**, on 27 Dec (Mikey Lumerding)

Common Loon

Steve Landes saw the latest of the season from the Scioto River Trail, **Franklin**, on 23 Feb, though sightings resumed in Mar. The high count was a dramatic 112 which passed John Pogacnik's **Lake** home on 07 Dec. No other count exceeded 10. The accompanying map shows which counties were visited.



Pied-billed Grebe

The highest of many double-digit numbers was Bob Powell's 50 at Caesar Creek on 19 Dec. Forty-five counties produced reports.

Horned Grebe

Kent Miller saw about 100 in the waters near CLNP on 03 Dec. The next-highest count was 45, by Jen Brumfield off Sims Park, **Cuyahoga**, on 06 Dec. LaDue hosted the highest inland count, 30 on 01 Dec (Kelly Kozlowski and Matthew Valencic). Reports came from 40 counties.

Red-necked Grebe

Two stayed near CLNP for most of Dec; they or two others were there for most of Feb (m. obs.). Curiously, the only report between those months was of a single bird passing John Pogacnik in **Lake** on 11 Jan. Two also briefly appeared off Rocky River Park, **Cuyahoga**, on 20 Dec (Jen Brumfield). One spent from 15 to 18 Feb far south on the Great Miami River in Hamilton, **Butler** (m. obs.). Reports also came from **Clermont**, **Richland**, **Summit**, and **Wood**.

Eared Grebe

One which showed up on Cleveland's eastern waterfront on 25 Nov was seen almost daily at several locations until 07 Dec (m. obs.). It or another spent 22 to 29 Dec near CLNP (m. obs.) and was briefly joined by a second one on 23 Dec (Kent Miller).

Double-crested Cormorant

Paul Sherwood noted at least 300 from Sandusky's Jackson Street pier, **Erie**, on 02 and 05 Dec. Several counts in the 100 to 300 range came from **Cuyahoga**. Observers reported the inland high of 25 at locations along the Scioto River, **Franklin**, during the first half of Jan. Thirty-three counties provided sightings.

Brown Pelican

"Brownie", who was first noted on 24 Jun, was last reported on 11 Jan while roosting at Cleveland's 55th Street marina. The OBRC will acknowledge all who provided reports during its stay.

American Bittern

One spent from mid-Dec into Jan southeast of Apple Creek, **Wayne** (fide Andy R. Troyer).

Great Blue Heron

The ponds at the intersection of Routes 2 and 169 near Bayview, **Erie**, hosted large numbers until they iced over; Paul Sherwood counted 154 Great Blues there on 27 Dec. The most elsewhere was 45, at Charles Mill Lake, **Ashland**, on 16 Dec (Gary Cowell). Reports came from 76 counties.

Great Egret

Reports were scarce after 15 Dec, though the high count of four was achieved on 24 Dec at the Routes 2/269 intersection, **Erie** (Paul Sherwood). One or two stayed there into early Jan. Other Dec sightings came from **Ashland**, **Erie**, **Lucas**, **Ottawa**, **Richland**, and **Stark**. The remaining Jan reports were of single birds along the Cuyahoga River in Cleveland on 05 Jan (Karen and Rich Kassouf) and 16 Jan (Philip Chaon) and the mouth of Cold Creek, **Erie** on 15 Jan (John Schoenlein). There were no Feb sightings.

Black-crowned Night-Heron

Paul Sherwood provided the high count of 87, from the Sandusky, **Erie**, coal docks on 02 Dec. Nearby Cold Creek's mouth hosted up to 41 on several early Jan dates (m. obs.). At least 11, and as many as 14, counties had sightings.



Always a treat to photograph, Dane Adams encountered this Black-crowned Night-Heron in an exquisite setting 04 Jan at Cold Creek, **Erie**.

Black Vulture

An apparent deer carcass dump in **Pickaway** attracted 120 on 01 Jan (Leslie Sours). The second-highest count was 45, in a single kettle over the Mohican SP campground, **Ashland**, on 11 Jan (Gary Cowell). Thirty-two counties contributed reports.

Turkey Vulture

Reuben S. Erb counted 145 near Walnut Creek, **Holmes**, on 21 Feb. Stefan Mozu Gleissbird noted 80 above his home in **Athens** on 31 Dec. Reports came from 56 counties.

Golden Eagle

The Wilds and adjacent Ohio Power lands provided many reports of one or two birds, most of them coming during the OOS field trip on 18 Jan. Jim McCormac forwarded a report from Fred Lau, complete with trail camera photos taken 22 Dec, of one feeding on a deer carcass in **Pike**.

Northern Harrier

Leslie Sours found 17 in various parts of Darby Creek on 20 Jan. Tom Bartlett counted 13 at Killdeer on 11 Jan. More than 60 counties provided reports.



Ron Sempiet observed this Northern Harrier patrolling the fields of Delaware SP on 19 Feb.

Sharp-shinned Hawk

Most reports, which came from 52 counties, were of single birds. However, **Delaware**, **Franklin**, **Summit**, and **Wyandot** each produced a twofor.

Cooper's Hawk

These sightings also were mostly of single birds, but there were many doubles and three reports of three. Seventy-three counties produced sightings.

Northern Goshawk

An observer sent a report to the OBRC from **Wayne**. Internet venues have reports from **Franklin** and **Union** which were not detailed for the OBRC.

Bald Eagle

Tom Bartlett counted 32 at Kelleys Island on 14 Jan. Deborah Thomas saw 26 at Old Woman Creek, **Erie**, on 22 Feb. The inland high count was 17, by Doug Marcum at Lake Rockwell, **Portage**, on 28 Dec. Seventy-five counties provided sightings.

Red-shouldered Hawk

William Hull and Bill Zimmerman noted five along their CBC route in **Clermont** on 29 Dec. Three observers each reported four birds. Reports came from 61 counties.



Though they prefer to nestle deeper in the trees than their larger cousins, this Red-shouldered Hawk posed for Tom Fishburn on 15 Feb at Coe Lake, **Cuyahoga**.

Red-tailed Hawk

Gary Cowell and Julie Wittmer patrol a CBC route in northeastern **Knox**; on 15 Dec they counted 18 Red-taileds along it. Tom Bartlett found 13 at Kelleys Island on 11 Jan. Only **Carroll**, **Henry**, **Logan**, and **Putnam** did not provide a sighting.

Rough-legged Hawk

The accompanying map shows how widespread the reports were; no doubt the birds were present in much of the northwest as well. Charles Slusarczyk, Jr. counted 13 while viewing Cleveland Hopkins Airport from the 100th Bomb Group restaurant on 28 Feb. Locations in **Geauga** and **Muskingum** shared counts of 10.



Virginia Rail

Su Snyder found one at the traditional *Holmes* marsh on 11 Jan.

Sora

Wes Hatch and Kelly Kozlowski got good looks at a very late bird at Frohring Meadows, *Geauga*, on 05 Dec. The year's second to last sighting was way back on 28 Oct, itself a slightly later than usual date, but there are a few previous winter records.

American Coot

Mark Gilsdorf posted the highest count, an impressive 1500 at the Old Highland Stone gravel pits, *Highland*, on 18 Dec. The next largest count by a single observer was Rob Thorn's 140 at Watermark Lake, *Franklin*, on 05 Jan, though a couple CBCs achieved totals in the high hundreds. Fifty-three counties produced sightings.

Sandhill Crane

David A. Brinkman saw about 100 heading south-southwest over his *Hamilton* home on 02 Jan. Douglas Robinson noted about 80 in flight in *Butler* on 01 Dec. Thirty-three counties produced reports.

Killdeer

Charlie Saunders found 12 at the Riverside NA on 15 Dec. There were several counts of 10 during the month. Fifty-one counties had sightings.

Sanderling

John Pogacnik discovered an errant one at Conneaut on 10 Dec.

Dunlin

Six remained at ONWR for the 01 Dec census team to find (Ed Pierce *et al.*, *fide* Douglas Vogus). Two spent 01 to 04 Dec at Conneaut (m. obs.); perhaps they were the same birds which had been seen there on 28 Nov. A team of three found one at Riverside NA during a CBC on 14 Dec.

Purple Sandpiper

The five locations which provided sightings (some of which might have been of the same birds) are: The Cleveland Harbor outer breakwall, two on 07 Dec (m. obs.)

Cleveland's North Coast Harbor, one on 05 Dec (Diane Boswell)

Conneaut, one on 01 Dec (m. obs.)

Huron, *Erie*, one on 01 Dec (Dan Sanders and Doreene Linzell)

Wendy Park, one on 09 Dec (Philip Chaon)

Baird's Sandpiper

A single individual posed for the participants of a Cleveland Museum of Natural History outing

in West Branch SP, *Portage*, on 08 Dec (*fide* Jen Brumfield).

Least Sandpiper

One lingered at ONWR until 01 Dec (Ed Pierce *et al.*, *fide* Douglas Vogus)

Wilson's Snipe

Sightings were scattered in both space and time; the accompanying map displays the former. On 15 Dec Rennie Talbert had the high count of 20 birds gathered by a small pond at a West Branch Road farm, *Gallia*, on 15 Dec. The day before, Brian Wulker had found 13 scattered along the Great Miami bank in Riverside NA.



Wilson's Snipe can be a difficult bird to add to a January sighting list in Ohio, as most have moved on to warmer climates. Su Snyder found the right habitat and an indulgent individual for this wonderful photo on 09 Jan in *Holmes*.



American Woodcock

There were no Dec sightings. Bill Stanley's *Clermont* bird on 04 Jan was the only sighting in that month. The next was a duo on 19 Feb which Kathi Hutton found at her Fairskies Farm, *Clermont*. Possum Creek MP, *Montgomery*, provided the high count of eight on 21 Feb (m. obs.). *Athens*, *Coshocton*, *Fayette*, *Hamilton*, *Holmes*, *Ross*, *Warren*, and *Wayne* also contributed reports.

Red Phalarope

One which arrived at Edgewater on 23 Nov stayed until 03 Dec (m. obs.). It or another

appeared at Wendy Park on 27 Dec (Heather Johnson).



This Red Phalarope lingered at Edgewater Marina, Cuyahoga, through early December and was photographed on 01 Dec by Tom Fishburn.

Pomarine Jaeger

Usually these visit in Nov and Dec, but Tim Janski discovered one at Avon Power on 28 Feb.

Black-legged Kittiwake

At least one shows up almost every year, but they seldom remain long. A first-year bird broke precedent by spending the entire month of Jan along the Cleveland lakefront. Another was a rare inland record at Antrim Park, *Franklin*, from 04 to 10 Jan. Both yielded almost daily reports.

Sabine's Gull

Another regular fall visitor confounded expectations: John Pogacnik discovered one at Conneaut on 10 Dec, a good three weeks after they've usually passed through here.

Bonaparte's Gull

Jen Brumfield and Philip Chaon noted about 3000 at Cleveland's East 55th Street vantage point on 03 Jan. The highest count away from Lake Erie was Jason Sullivan's 100 at Caesar Creek on 11 Dec. Reports came from 30 counties.

Little Gull

Several Cleveland lakefront sites hosted these. Jen Brumfield noted a second-cycle bird on 23 Dec and one adult on each of several Dec and early Jan dates. She and other observers also found a first-year bird throughout Dec. The species' only other location was Conneaut, where John Pogacnik saw an adult on 10 Dec.

Ring-billed Gull

These are of course numerous, even inland, such as the 10,500 which Jeff Loughman estimated at the Findlay Reservoirs on 04 Dec. The high "count" was 22,000 off Wendy Park on 21 Jan (Jen Brumfield). Sixty-eight counties provided reports.

California Gull

Birds in *Lake* and *Lorain* were reported to internet sites but not to the OBRC.

Herring Gull

The highest of many large Cleveland-area numbers was 17,000 off Wendy Park on 12 Jan (Tom Bartlett). The highest number away from Cleveland was 3500 on the Ottawa River, *Lucas*, on 13 Jan (m. obs.). Findlay reservoirs hosted the largest inland concentration, 1500 on 04 Dec (Jeff Loughman). Fifty-five counties had sightings.

Thayer's Gull

One which arrived at Cleveland's East 55th Street marina in late Nov remained until 06 Dec (Jen Brumfield). Jen also provided the highest count, four birds at Wendy Park on 19 Jan. Lake Erie sightings came from other *Cuyahoga* locations, *Lake*, *Lorain*, and *Lucas*. Singles also visited inland *Defiance*, *Hancock*, *Stark*, and *Wood*.

Iceland Gull

Robert Foppe and Jennifer Smolenski saw one at East 72nd Street, Cleveland, on 06 Dec; Jeff Loughman and Robert Sams found one at Findlay Reservoirs the same day. These were the first of the season but followed a single mid-Nov bird. The season's last spent 23 to 26 Feb on the Scioto River in Columbus, though there were many Mar sightings to come. Jen Brumfield and Elizabeth McQuaid counted seven on the Cuyahoga River in Cleveland's Scranton Flats on 15 Feb. The largest inland number was the three which Scott Myers found at Independence Dam, *Defiance*, on 23 Jan. *Allen*, *Ashtabula*, *Erie*, *Lake*, *Lorain*, *Lucas*, *Stark*, *Summit*, and *Wood* also contributed sightings.

Thayer's/Iceland Gull

Indeterminate birds were reported in *Cuyahoga*, *Franklin*, and *Hancock*.



An accidental visitor to central Ohio and cause for enthusiasm for winter birders, this "Kumlein's" Iceland Gull was photographed by Paul Hurtado on 23 Feb on the Scioto River in Franklin.

Lesser Black-backed Gull

For once a highest gull count was inland: Jeff Loughman and Robert Sams found 15 at Findlay Reservoirs on 06 Dec. Edgewater hosted 13 on 03 Jan for the second-highest count (Jen Brumfield). The accompanying map shows how widely scattered these formerly-rare gulls were.



Glaucous Gull

David Weaver reported 43 at Avon Power on 12 Feb, far and away the most I've ever heard of here. The next highest number was 19, which Jen Brumfield and Elizabeth McQuaid counted at Collision Bend on the Cuyahoga River in Cleveland on 15 Feb. The inland high was three, at the Findlay Reservoirs on 06 Dec. Jeff Loughman and Robert Sams said they were, "Massive, whitish, honking big bill. Surprisingly easy to identify, even at 300+ yards." *Defiance, Delaware, Erie, Franklin, Lake, Lucas, Mahoning, Montgomery, Stark, and Wood* also provided reports.

Great Black-backed Gull

Jen Brumfield was awed by more than 300 off Huntington Reservation, *Cuyahoga*, on 09 Jan. Other large numbers came from every county touched by Lake Erie. Inland sightings were of singles but for Jonathan Frodge's "2 first winter birds loafing on ice near shore" on the Ohio River at Meldahl Dam, *Clermont, Belmont, Delaware, Franklin, Hamilton, Hancock, Jefferson, Montgomery, Stark, Tuscarawas, and Wood* were the other inland counties.

[Laughing x Ring-billed Gull]

Ben Warner and David Weaver believe the bird they saw at Wendy Park on 09 Dec was this hybrid.

[Herring x Glaucous ("Nelson's") Gull]

Kent Miller saw one at the Waynesburg gravel pit, *Stark*, on 03 Feb.

[Herring x Great Black-backed Gull]

Kelleys Island hosted one on 06 Dec (Tom Bartlett).

Unknown Gull Hybrids

A few birds of apparently mixed but indeterminate parentage were reported from *Lorain* and *Cuyahoga*.

Gull sp.

Jen Brumfield reported 20,000 of many species at Cleveland's East 55th Street on 03 Jan.

Rock Pigeon

Jack Stenger's CBC route in *Butler* covered 40 miles; he counted 525 pigeons along it on 14 Dec. Charlie Saunders found 300 along only two miles of the Great Miami River, also in *Butler*, on 19 Dec. Reports came from 76 counties.

Eurasian Collared-Dove

Reports from *Clark, Mercer, and Wayne* were on internet sites but were not sent to the OBRC.

Mourning Dove

The high count was 155, by Jack Stenger along his 14 Dec CBC route in *Butler*. All counties except *Meigs, Monroe, and Noble* had sightings.

Barn Owl

The reports are:

On 05 and 21 Dec, one at the Hebron Fish Hatchery, *Licking* (Margaret Bowman, Jeff Bartosik)

On 20 Dec, two during the Wilmot CBC, *Holmes/Stark/Tuscarawas/Wayne* (*vide* Audubon)

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

On 19 Jan and 04 and 09 Feb, two at the Mel Miller farm, *Holmes*, which may also be included in one of the above CBCs (Robert Hershberger, Cristy J. Miller)

On 21, 26, and 28 Jan, one in a closed area visible from Pickerington Ponds MP, *Fairfield* (m. obs.)

On 16 Feb, one in a pine tree near Sugarcreek, *Tuscarawas* (Reuben S. Erb)

Eastern Screech-Owl

Matt Kemp wandered around *Wood* on 29 Dec; his 65 miles yielded 13 owls. Greg Links *et al.* found 10 along their CBC route in *Lucas* on 30 Dec. At least 42 counties produced reports.

Great Horned Owl

Junior Barnes' "Field and Forest" birding area in

Highland held four on 26 Dec. Many reports had three birds. Forty-five counties provided sightings.

Snowy Owl

This winter's huge irruption brought these visitors to more than half of our counties. The most in one view was five, which Diane Boswell enjoyed at North Coast Harbor, Cleveland, on 05 Dec. **Cuyahoga** also produced several views of three or four at a time at both of its airports. Jim McCormac's article in this issue gives a more detailed account of this almost unprecedented event.

Barred Owl

Jen Brumfield twice found four in **Cuyahoga**, on 13 Feb in Huntington Reservation and on 23 Feb in Rocky River Reservation. Reports came from 47 counties.

Long-eared Owl

Tom Kemp found one in **Lucas** on 01 Dec; it had been preceded by a single Oct sighting. The Mosquito Lake area produced both the high count, three on 24 Dec (Don Keffer) and the last of the season, one on 23 Feb (Dan Donaldson). Sightings there resumed in March. The accompanying map below shows their distribution.



Short-eared Owl

These arrived in Nov and stayed into Mar. Dan Donaldson counted 15 from Zion Ridge Road, **Muskingum**, which traverses the Ohio Power lands near The Wilds. Observers found 10 to 12 in that area on other dates. The high count elsewhere was eight, by Charles Slusarczyk, Jr. at Cleveland Hopkins Airport on 19 Dec. The accompanying map on the right shows how widespread these visitors were.

Northern Saw-whet Owl

Armler Park provided the season's last sighting on 20 Feb (James Shelton); indeed it was the only report that month. The latest of the few Jan sightings was Tom Bartlett's on Kelleys Island on 14 Jan. Jen Brumfield and Gerry Wesley found three in CLNP on 14 Dec. **Franklin, Lake, Richland,** and **Stark** also contributed one or two sightings.

Rufous Hummingbird

Two of the 10 which arrived in fall remained past the end of Nov; these data are courtesy of Allen Chartier:

Location and County	Age	Sex	First Observed	Banded	Last Observed
North Royalton, Cuyahoga	AHY	F	~01 Oct	08 Dec	11 Dec
Westerville, Delaware	AHY	M	~12 Oct	(not banded)	14 Dec

AHY = After Hatch Year
A tilde (~) preceding the date means the exact date is unknown.

Belted Kingfisher

William Hull and Bill Zimmerman noted five along their **Clermont** CBC route on 29 Dec. Susan Nash did the same while CBC-ing near The Wilds on 21 Dec. About 70 counties provided sightings.



The rattling call of the Belted Kingfisher got the attention of photographer Allan Clayton at Fernald on 03 Dec.

Red-headed Woodpecker

Killdeer produced the highest count, 15 on 14 Jan (Ron Sempier). Michael Hershberger found 12 in his neighborhood near Mt. Hope, **Holmes**, on 12 Jan. Reports came from at least 50 counties.



Red-bellied Woodpecker

David Carr *et al.* found 34 during their 25 miles of CBC counting in eastern **Hamilton** on 29 Dec. At least four individuals and survey teams achieved counts between 20 and 30. All but seven counties yielded reports.



Red-bellied Woodpeckers add a noisy yet familiar spirit to the barren winter landscape. This photo is by Tom Fishburn on 15 Feb at Coe Lake, Cuyahoga.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

Spring Grove Cemetery, **Hamilton**, hosted five on 26 Jan (m. obs.), and several locations held four on other dates. Forty-eight counties produced sightings.



Paul Hurtado photographed this Yellow-bellied Sapsucker on 07 Jan at Green Lawn Cemetery, Franklin.

Downy Woodpecker

Three parties each found 27 during surveys or CBCs. However, the ONWR monthly survey on 05 Jan bested them with 34 (Ed Pierce *et al.*, *fide* Douglas Vogus). Reports came from every county except **Meigs**, **Putnam**, **Shelby**, **Van Wert**, and **Vinton**.

Hairy Woodpecker

CVNP monthly Towpath censuses produced

the high counts of 11 on 07 Dec and 16 on 01 Jan (Douglas Vogus *et al.*). Three solo observers each found eight in other locations. Seventy-five counties had sightings.

Northern Flicker

Lisa Phelps' CBC route in **Marion** includes Big Island; she found 21 flickers during her count on 29 Dec. Tom Bartlett *et al.* found 15 on Kelleys Island on 15 Jan for the highest non-CBC number. Eighty counties provided reports.

Pileated Woodpecker

The high counts again came from CVNP monthly censuses, seven on 07 Dec and nine on 01 Jan (Douglas Vogus *et al.*). April Brown noted five at her **Preble** property on 04 Feb. Reports came from 66 counties.

American Kestrel

Killdeer produced 15 for Ron Sempier on 05 Dec. Kent Miller's CBC route in **Holmes** turned up 12 on 20 Dec. At least 80 counties provided reports.



This American Kestrel found the Lorain Impoundment to have abundant hunting grounds and was impressively captured in this photo by Tom Fishburn on 28 Dec.

Merlin

Lou Gardella reported that three arrived in Calvary Cemetery, **Cuyahoga**, in late Oct and were still there in mid-Jan. Eight locations, three of them cemeteries, hosted two. Thirty-one counties produced sightings.

Peregrine Falcon

Paula Lozano found three along her CBC route in western **Cuyahoga** on 29 Dec; they might be the same three which Jen Brumfield saw during a vigil at Edgewater the same day. Many reports, which came from 27 counties, included two birds.

Eastern Phoebe

Curiously, there were more reports during Jan than in either Dec or Feb. All sightings were of single birds (no surprise there!). They came from 20 counties of which **Ashland** and **Wayne** are the northernmost.

Loggerhead Shrike

An observer sent a report from *Hamilton* to the OBRC.

Northern Shrike

These began arriving in Oct; the last was sighted near The Wilds on 20 Feb (Anthony Fry). That area held two on 18 Jan (m. obs.) as did Killdeer on 19 Jan (Irina Shulgina). The accompanying map shows their distribution.



White-eyed Vireo

John Pogacnik provided this account of a very late sighting in *Lake*: "I was at the Lake Erie Bluffs Park west of the Lane Road entrance yesterday (12/2) and had a white-eyed vireo. The bird was in some dense brush and was accompanied by several golden-crowned kinglets and a yellow-rumped warbler." I found fewer than 10 previous Dec records.



A classic bird of prey, this Merlin was a cooperative subject for Rick Asamoto on 20 Dec at Englewood Metropark North, *Montgomery*.

Blue Jay

Paula Lozano counted 50 in western *Cuyahoga* on 29 Dec during her CBC duties. Irina Shulgina equaled that number at Killdeer on 16 Feb. *Meigs*, *Putnam*, and *Van Wert* did not produce sightings.

American Crow

David A. Brinkman wrote from *Hamilton* on 10 Jan, "On my way home birds were streaming across Glenway Ave. and flying directly over my house for the next two minutes. I would put the range at between 7,000-10,000 birds!" *Mahoning* and *Muskingum* roosts also provided numbers in the thousands. *Henry*, *Putnam*, and *Van Wert* can't be crow-less, but no one reported any from them.

Common Raven

The OBRC received reports from *Delaware* and *Harrison*. The Committee did not receive details of internet reports from *Jefferson*, *Knox*, *Morgan*, *Richland*, and *Trumbull*.

Horned Lark

Tom Bartlett tallied 685 in *Wyandot* during a CBC on 03 Jan. Seventy-one counties provided sightings.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow

Two hardy, and seriously lagging, individuals spent 30 Dec to 02 Jan at the Lebanon, *Warren*, wastewater treatment plant (John Habig).

Tree Swallow

This species IS hardy; they're our first swallows to arrive and the last to leave – not counting oddballs like the two above. Examples of both are in these seven reports:

One on 15 Dec and 10 on 30 Dec at Maumee Bay (Laura Stiefel, Greg Links)

One or two on several dates between 15 Dec and 04 Jan at Riverside NA (Mike Busam, Charlie Saunders, John Hull)

Ten on 22 Feb at Rocky Fork (Rick Asamoto)

One on 22 Feb along Wilderness Road (Andy R. Troyer)

Four on 23 Feb at Spring Valley WA, *Warren* (Sue Tackett)

One on 28 Feb at a gravel pit on Roxanna-New Burlington Road, *Greene* (Christopher Collins and Greg Sagasser)

Carolina Chickadee

Brian Wulker's *Clermont* CBC route produced 68 on 30 Dec. David Carr found 61 along his eastern *Hamilton* route on 29 Dec. Non-CBC lists ranged up to 55 birds. Reports came from 61 counties.

Black-capped Chickadee

Kelleys Island produced 74 for Tom Bartlett on 15 Jan. Thirty-six counties had sightings.

Chickadee sp.

Reports of indeterminate species came from 22 counties. Most are along the fairly broad band of overlap where even vocal birds can be hard to name.

Tufted Titmouse

Joshua Eastlake found 35 in Cincinnati Nature Center's Rowe Woods, **Clermont**, on 31 Jan. Eighty counties provided reports.

Red-breasted Nuthatch

Charles Bombaci and Thomas Fetta each saw five. Charles's were at Hoover NP on 14 Dec and Thomas's in his **Hamilton** yard. Forty-four counties produced sightings.

White-breasted Nuthatch

A trio of CBC counters found 26 in Waynesville, **Warren**, on 19 Dec. Kent Miller came close to that with 21 in **Holmes** on 20 Dec, also during a CBC. Reports came from 78 counties.

Brown Creeper

C.J. Brown Lake's shore and vicinity, **Clark**, hosted 21 during a CBC on 20 Dec (Brian Menker). Tim Haney counted 20 in Ottawa Park, **Lucas** on 30 Dec. The only other double-digit number was Tom Bartlett's 13 on Kelleys Island on 06 Dec. Sixty-seven counties provided sightings.

House Wren

One showed up during the 20 Dec Wilmot CBC, **Holmes/Stark/Tuscarawas/Wayne** (*vide* Audubon). Joe Jennings reported another during a search of two watersheds at the border of **Hocking** and **Perry** on 04 Jan.

Winter Wren

Mark Shieldcastle found four in the woods of the Green Creek Hunt Club, **Sandusky**, on 04 Jan. Forty-two counties produced reports.

Marsh Wren

Seven or eight were reported:

One heard at Armleder Park on 02 Dec (Eric Burkholder and Kirk Westendorf)

One at Darby Creek on 04 Dec (James Muller) and the same one or another on 19 Jan (Irina Shulgina)

One in the Miami Whitewater Forest wetlands, **Hamilton**, on 16 Dec (Linda Osterhage)

One along the Wake Robin Trail, **Lake**, on 21 Dec (Tom Frankel)

Two during the Wooster, **Wayne**, CBC on 21 Dec (*vide* Audubon)

One in Spring Valley WA, **Greene**, on 14 Jan (Amanda Lawson)

Carolina Wren

David Carr *et al.* found 72 along their Newtown Bottoms, **Hamilton**, CBC route on 29 Dec, and David wrote, "This total surpasses our previous high (53 in 2006) for this territory. Carolina Wrens seemed to be everywhere today." William Hull and Bill Zimmerman noted 31 during their CBC efforts in **Clermont**, also on 29 Dec. Reports came from 76 counties.

Golden-crowned Kinglet

Riverside NA was hopping on 14 Dec; Brian Wulker found 32 of these sprites there. At least 70 counties produced sightings.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet

Though these were present all season, by Feb reports were sparse, and almost all reports were of single birds. Three individual birders each found two: Roger Casto in Columbus on 10 Dec, Brian Wulker at Riverside NA on 14 Dec, and Bill and René McGill at East Fork on 30 Dec. In addition, seven CBCs tallied more than one. Fourteen counties provided sightings.

Eastern Bluebird

The Great Miami Wetland Mitigation Bank, **Montgomery**, hosted 60 on 12 Jan (m. obs.). The next highest count was 41, in Hoover Meadows, **Delaware**, on 01 Jan (Charles Bombaci). Seventy-six counties generated reports.

Swainson's Thrush

Dean Porter saw one in Sycamore SP, **Montgomery**, on 01 Dec, about a month after it should have departed.

Hermit Thrush

Tom Bartlett *et al.* found eight on Kelleys Island on 15 Jan. Reports came from 29 counties.



True to its name, the winter population of Hermit Thrush can be quiet and secretive, but Irina Shulgina found a very cooperative subject for this photo on 06 Feb at Kiwanis Riverside Park, Franklin.

American Robin

Jack Stenger counted 770 along his **Butler** CBC

route on 14 Dec. There were many reports with numbers in the 100 to 400 range. All but nine counties had sightings.

Gray Catbird

The *Greene* section of Spring Valley WA hosted one between 30 Jan and 04 Feb (m. obs.); it provided the only Feb sightings. The high count of three came from the North Chagrin Reservation, *Lake*, on 04 Dec (Zack Hribar and Doug Marcum). At least 17 counties produced reports.

Brown Thrasher

All of the individual reports were of single birds, though three CBCs reported two. Nineteen counties provided sightings.

Northern Mockingbird

William Hull and Bill Zimmerman tallied 11 in *Clermont* during the 29 Dec CBC. The highest count not during a CBC was Philip Chaon's five at Cuyahoga County Airport on 14 Jan. Reports came from 63 counties.

European Starling

Paul Hurtado discovered a huge flock near the Columbus police impound lot on 08 Dec. He wrote, "VERY hard to accurately estimate numbers, but 25-100K. The flock included a very small percentage of Common Grackles and as many or fewer Red-winged Blackbirds...they were roosting [in phragmites], like a thick black blanket covering approximately 1.3-1.5 acres..." He also noted 3000 to 7000 at the SWACO landfill, *Franklin*, on several dates. All but six counties produced reports.

American Pipit

Eric Burkholder found about 20 at Armleder Park on 07 Dec. Twenty-five counties provided reports.

Cedar Waxwing

Two careful counts each tallied 156. Douglas Vogus *et al.* found them along the Towpath Trail in CVNP on 01 Jan; Tom Kemp's were along his *Lucas* CBC route on 04 Jan. Kent Miller found 110 in Quail Hollow SP, *Stark*, on 08 Jan. Forty-nine counties had sightings.

Lapland Longspur

Most of us are used to seen a few of these in flocks of Horned Larks, but large concentrations do show up. Charles Bombaci found about 1000 on 08 Jan at a property on Maloney Road, *Delaware*, whose owner puts out feed. Tom Bartlett noted 570 in *Wyandot* during a 03 Jan CBC. Robert Hershberger found two flocks, each of at least 400 birds, in *Wayne* on 05 Jan. Fifty-three counties produced reports.

Snow Bunting

The same *Delaware* property which hosted the large longspur flock held about 1000 buntings on 14 Feb (Jim Kreimer). Tom Bartlett's 03 Jan CBC efforts in *Wyandot* yielded 598. Usually we find them on the ground, or perhaps perching on a low fence, but David Weaver saw about 60 arrayed along power lines in *Wayne* on 09 Feb. Fifty counties provided sightings.



Photographer Dane Adams was accommodated with a quick pose from this lovely Snow Bunting on 04 Jan in *Seneca*.

Ovenbird

A straggler showed up at the OSU Browns Amphitheater on 04 Dec (Irina Shulgina).

Orange-crowned Warbler

Tom Bartlett *et al.* found one at the Barney Quilter CCC Camp, *Sandusky*, on 28 Dec and 01 Jan. Another spent 19 Jan to 11 Feb consorting with kinglets in a pine grove near Charm, *Holmes* (James E. Yoder).

Palm Warbler

Michael Hershberger saw one northwest of Bunker Hill, *Holmes*, on 08 Dec. Levi and Melvin Troyer found one in their barn near Apple Creek, *Wayne*, on 11 Dec. David Troyers reported to *The Bobolink* RBA that two had visited his feeder in *Holmes* near Baltic between 12 and 24 Dec.



A common but always gratifying winter visitor of rural Ohio, this Lapland Longspur was snapped by photographer Ron Semper on 21 Feb by Washburn Road in *Marion*.

Pine Warbler

Eric Schlabach and a few other observers saw one at his home in North Canton, **Stark**, on many dates between late Nov and 29 Jan. Leslie Warren's home in **Mahoning** hosted one for intermittent sightings between 02 Dec and 16 Feb. The Ashland County CBC on 20 Dec tallied three.

Yellow-rumped Warbler

Reuben S. Erb found about 90 along the **Holmes** Rails-to-Trails on 12 Jan. Kent Miller saw several flocks totaling about 50 birds around Mogadore Reservoir, **Portage**, on 17 Jan. Reports of this hardy fruit-eating warbler came from 61 counties.

Spotted Towhee

The OBRC has one observer's report from **Holmes**.



Su Snyder provided nice photo documentation of this Spotted Towhee, an accidental visitor to Ohio, taken at a residence in Shreve, Holmes, on 16 Dec.

Eastern Towhee

William Hull and Bill Zimmerman's CBC efforts in **Clermont** on 29 Dec yielded 25. Other double-digit counts came from **Athens**, **Fairfield**, **Hamilton**, and **Vinton** among the 58 counties with sightings.

American Tree Sparrow

On 07 Jan Brian Wulker noted "massive bouncing flocks all over the [Armleder Park] middle fields. Dozens would flush each step in some places along the trails..." He estimated they totaled about 325 birds. There were four other reports (two each from **Franklin** and **Ottawa**) of 300 or more. Seventy-nine counties produced sightings.

Chipping Sparrow

These were thinly scattered in space and time. The high count was three, achieved by Brenda Bricker in Green Lawn Cemetery on 03 Dec and Julie Beeghley and Reid Greiner at Hoover Dam on 17 Dec (both **Franklin**). Twenty-one other counties also provided reports.

Field Sparrow

These apparently piled up near the Ohio River.

Bill Stanley had 25 at his **Clermont** home on 19 Dec and Amy Ingham's feeders in **Lawrence** hosted 30 on 15 Jan. At least 50 counties had sightings.

Vesper Sparrow

One straggler visited Dan Stiley's **Hamilton** feeder on 08, 10, and 11 Dec. On 18 Dec in the Ashland University wetlands, **Richland**, Gary Cowell found another which he rightly said was "VERY LATE". Usually they're gone by late Nov.

Lark Sparrow

Leroy Schlabach reported that on 14 Dec he last saw the one which had showed up at his home in **Tuscarawas** in Oct.

Savannah Sparrow

These were patchily distributed in 17 counties statewide. The three highest counts all came from Armleder Park, 10 on 08 Dec (Jonathan Frodge), 12 on 19 Jan (Mark Gilsdorf), and 17 on 29 Dec (David Carr).

Henslow's Sparrow

They've bred in the Deer Creek WA, **Fayette**, for several years, and Robert Roysel found a straggler there on 01 Jan.

Le Conte's Sparrow

Kent Miller found a late bird in CLNP on 03 Dec. It was obviously happy there because it was seen regularly until 17 Feb.

Nelson's Sparrow

Carl Winstead saw one at Darby Creek on 02 Dec, about a month after their usual passage. Another briefly appeared at CLNP on 03 Dec (Paul Sherwood, Ben Morrison).

Fox Sparrow

Bill Stanley's **Adams** CBC route produced 14 on 14 Dec; all but one were in a single location. Linda Gerding's **Butler** feeder hosted nine on 14 Feb, and she said they "at first stayed under the blue spruce trees, scratching at the ground. But they became bolder and now chase the other sparrows out from under the feeder tray." Reports came from 35 counties.



With its ruddy coloring contrasted against the snow, Su Snyder had an excellent backdrop for this image of a Fox Sparrow on 15 Feb in Stark.

Song Sparrow

David Carr *et al.* counted 258 in Newtown Bottoms, **Hamilton**, during the 29 Dec CBC. Jack Stenger found about 100 at gravel pits near Lost Bridge on 01 Jan. Eighty counties provided sightings.

Lincoln's Sparrow

One dropped in on Cassidy Ficker in **Clermont** on 19 Dec; it was lagging about six weeks behind their usual schedule.

Swamp Sparrow

David Carr's CBC team found 33 in Newtown Bottoms, **Hamilton**, on 29 Dec. Darby Creek hosted 25 on both 04 Dec (Irina Shulgina) and 15 Dec (Amy and Kevin O'Neil). Fifty-one counties produced reports.

White-throated Sparrow

Not surprisingly, CBC routes produced the highest counts. William Hull and Bill Zimmerman found 110 in **Clermont** on 29 Dec and Greg Links 75 at Maumee Bay the next day. Seventy-one counties had sightings.

Harris's Sparrow

The OBRC has a formal report from **Fairfield**. Reports from **Ottawa**, **Wayne**, and **Wood** appeared on internet sites but were not provided to the OBRC.



On 02 Jan Tom Guisinger photographed what he declared the most interesting bird to visit his Lancaster, **Fairfield**, feeders in 50 years: this Harris's Sparrow that he had observed since mid-December.

White-crowned Sparrow

Armleder Park hosted 75 on a couple of dates. The Newtown Bottoms CBC route, which includes Armleder, produced 115 on 29 Dec (David Carr *et al.*). Fifty-eight counties provided sightings.

Golden-crowned Sparrow

The long-lived individual who first appeared in **Hancock** early in 2009 returned for his fifth winter; the OBRC has gleaned some posts from internet sources but none were directly submitted this winter.

Dark-eyed Junco

Tom Bartlett's CBC route in **Wyandot** produced 203 on 03 Jan. Tim Haney counted 150 in Woodlawn Cemetery, **Lucas**, on 30 Dec. This

was the only species reported in every county. "Oregon"-type birds were reported in **Franklin**, **Montgomery**, and **Seneca**, and Cassiar-types in **Builer**, **Clermont**, **Franklin**, **Geauga**, **Hancock**, **Knox**, and **Richland**. A "pink-sided" form was reported in **Knox**.

Summer Tanager

One visited Leslie Warren's feeder in **Mahoning** intermittently between 02 Dec and 23 Jan.



Jeff Harvey photographed this Summer Tanager, a rare winter visitor, at Leslie Warren's home in **Mahoning** on 08 Dec.

Northern Cardinal

Douglas Vogus *et al.* counted 95 along the Towpath Trail in CVNP on 01 Jan. Only **Henry**, **Putnam**, and **Shelby** did not provide a cardinal report.

Indigo Bunting

One was reported as coming to a feeder in **Holmes** between 11 Dec and 07 Jan (*vide* The Bobolink RBA).

Bobolink

Kent Miller found one in CLNP on 03 Dec. He wrote, "Last late bird of incredible 15 minute, 3 bird sequence in grassy field in center of impoundment. Bird stayed in field for the next hour making short flights within the field usually giving familiar, distinct chip notes as it took flight." (The other two stragglers were the Le Conte's and Nelson's sparrows; he saw only the former.)

Red-winged Blackbird

Kent Miller found about 8000 along Deerfield Avenue, **Stark**, on 20 Feb. He and others had seen about 5000 there earlier in Feb. Sixty-one counties produced sightings.

Eastern Meadowlark

Norman Hershberger counted 60 along a short stretch of County Road 61 in **Holmes** on 12 Feb. Jason Sullivan saw 55 at the Great Miami Wetland Mitigation Bank, **Montgomery**, on 10 Jan and 20 to 40 on other dates. The high count elsewhere was 25, at Darby Creek on 30 Jan (Irina and Kate Shulgina). Michael Hershberger reported that several of them were singing near his home in **Holmes** on 28 Jan, when the temperature was minus 15. One visited the Dunakins' feeder in **Paulding** on 06 Feb. Reports came from 40 counties.

Yellow-headed Blackbird

The reports are:

In the Deerfield Avenue area of **Stark**, one on 11 Dec (Laura Dornan) and intermittently between 03 Feb and 21 Feb (m. obs).

Two miles east of Apple Creek, **Wayne**, one on 22 Dec (Levi and Melvin Troyer)

Near Dalton, **Wayne**, one on 03 Feb (Kent Miller) and two on 15 Feb (James F. Yoder)

Two miles south of Charm, **Holmes**, two on 19 Feb (Eli M. Miller)

Rusty Blackbird

Donald Pfeister reported 62 in Norton, **Summit**, on 14 Feb. A couple of other counts approached that one, but most were of 15 or fewer birds. Thirty-eight counties provided sightings.



*Su Snyder focused her lens on this Rusty Blackbird as it foraged for seeds in the **Stark** snow on 15 Feb.*

Brewer's Blackbird

Five of these scarce visitors showed up:

One at Armleder Park on 08 Dec (Jonathan Frodge)

One by State Route 590, **Ottawa**, on 05 Jan (Tom Bartlett)

Two in Clarksburg, **Ross**, on 06 Jan (Mark Maier)

One south of Dalton, **Wayne**, on 24 Feb (Doreene Linzell and Dan Sanders)

Common Grackle

Jacob Roalef estimated 50,000 were northbound in the Deerfield Avenue area of **Stark** at dusk on 03 Feb. This number dwarfs the second-highest, 3000 from Kent Miller at another **Stark** location on 10 Jan and also from Gary Cowell near Mansfield, **Richland**, on 27 Feb. Reports came from 61 counties.

Brown-headed Cowbird

The high count was 2000, by John Cefus in North Lawrence, **Stark**, on 04 Feb. As usual, they were part of a larger flock of Red-winged Blackbirds and grackles. In the opposite corner of the state, Stricker's Grove, **Hamilton**, hosted about 1800 on 22 Dec (Brian Wulker). Fifty-six counties provided reports.

Blackbird sp.

On 25 Feb David Weaver was east of Barberton, **Summit**, and reported "A wide band of birds kept coming in a solid line which never seems to end. They flew over at an estimated rate of 150-200+ a second!" He put the total at more than one million birds.

Baltimore Oriole

I couldn't get details to flesh out a second-hand report of one visiting a Marietta, **Washington**, feeder in Feb. This is the third year in a row with a winter oriole report.

House Finch

Tom Hissong noted 76 at Aullwood Audubon Farm and Center, **Montgomery**, on 02 Jan. Seventy counties produced sightings.

Purple Finch

Tom Bartlett *et al.* found a total of seven in two locations on Kelleys Island on 15 Jan. Forty-two counties provided sightings.

Red Crossbill

Steven L. Hochstetler saw and heard a single fly-over north of Loudonville, **Ashland**, on 08 Jan.

White-winged Crossbill

Two flew over Christy J. Miller near Millersburg, **Holmes**, on 22 Dec. John Herman discovered three in Mansfield Cemetery, **Richland**, on 10 Jan.

Common Redpoll

Two were in the Darby Bend unit of Prairie Oaks MP, **Franklin**, on 08 Dec (Bama Clark) and one in Columbus on 10 Dec (Roger Casto). Two CBCs reported a total of three. Seven birds at Oakwoods NP, **Hancock**, on 20 Jan (Jeff Loughman) seems a high number for a non-invasion year, but has precedents.

Pine Siskin

The largest reliable count was by Jacki Byers; she had up to seven feeder visitors between 14 and 17 Feb in **Ross**. At least 22 counties produced reports.

American Goldfinch

David Carr *et al.* tallied 123 during their **Hamilton** CBC efforts. The largest count not during a CBC was Wes Hatch's 65 in Punderson SP, **Geauga**, on 01 Dec. Reports came from 79 counties.

Evening Grosbeak

Jeffrey Pontius reported one in Grove City, **Franklin**, on 04 Dec, and wrote, "Heard calling and seen well through binoculars. Bird was flying over pond and heading North."

House Sparrow

The farms along Deerfield Avenue, **Stark**, site of so many large blackbird flocks, also hosted 400 House Sparrows on 03 Feb (Jacob Roalef). About 80 counties had sightings.



*This enigmatic bird at an I-70 rest area in **Licking** needed further inspection to determine it was a leucistic House Sparrow, photographed on 03 Feb by Irina Shulgina.*

CONTRIBUTORS

The Species Accounts could not be written without the data provided by these contributors either directly to the Editor or by posting to an on-line venue. I thank you.

Dane Adams	Christopher Collins	Tom Guisinger	Robert Jackson
Scott Albaugh	Derek Courtney	Max Gustafson	Tim Jasinski
Rick Asamoto	Gary Cowell	John Habig	Joe Jennings
Carole Babyak	Leo Deininger	Scott Hackett	Heather Johnson
Junior Barnes	Dan Donaldson	Carrie Hampton	Sheila Joyce
Tom Bartlett	Laura Dornan	Tim Haney	Karen Kassouf
Jeff Bartosik	Tim Dornan	Scott Hannan	Rich Kassouf
Julie Beeghley	Doug Dunakin	Rob Harlan	Don Keffer
Brian Bendlock	Micki Dunakin	Sandy Harlan	Ned Keller
Gregory Bennett	Derek Dunaway	Jeff Harvey	Matt Kemp
Charles Bombaci	Joshua Eastlake	Wes Hatch	Tom Kemp
Steve Borgis	Eric Elvert	Michael Hatfield	Rachel Kohnke
Diane Boswell	David L. Erb	Julie Heitz	Kelly Kozlowski
Margaret Bowman	Reuben S. Erb	John Herman	Dan Kramer
Brenda Bricker	Bob Evans	Andrew J.	Bob Krajewski
David A. Brinkman	Victor Fazio III	Hershberger	Jim Kreimer
Kyle Brooks	Jan Ferrell	Michael Hershberger	Keith Laakkonen
April Brown	Thomas Fetta	Norman Hershberger	Steve Landes
Jen Brumfield	Cassidy Ficker	Perry D. Hershberger	Bob Lane
Brandon Brywczyński	Bob Finkelstein	Robert J. Hershberger	Denise Lane
Eric Burkholder	Tom Fishburn	Dennis Hills	Jason Larson
Mike Busam	Robert Foppe	Tom Hissong	Fred Lau
Jacki Byers	Tom Frankel	Steven L. Hochstetler	Amanda Lawson
David Carr	Preston Franklin	Dick Hoffman	Ryan Lesniewicz
Roger Casto	Jonathan Frodge	Jean Hoffman	Greg Links
John Cefus	Anthony Fry	Craig Holt	Doreene Lintzell
Alex Champagne	Lou Gardella	Leslie Houser	Scott Long
Philip Chaon	Dale Gaul	Zack Hribar	Jeff Loughman
Allen Chartier	Linda Gerding	John Hull	Paula Lozano
Dave Chase	Linda Gilbert	William Hull	Mikey Lumerding
Melissa	Mark Gilsdorf	Paul Hurtado	David Lumpkin
Chidester-Bluck	Stefan Mozu	Corey Husic	Mark Maier
Bama Clark	Gleissbird	Kathi Hutton	Doug Marcum
Allan Claybon	Reid Greiner	Amy Ingham	Chuck McClaugherty

CONTRIBUTORS

Jim McCormac	Robert Reed	Dan Stiley	Emery A. Yoder
Bill McGill	Rebecca J. Reinke	Jeff Stone	James E. Yoder
René McGill	Jacob Roalef	Jason Sullivan	James F. Yoder
Elizabeth McQuaid	Douglas Robinson	Sue Tackett	Leroy E. Yoder
Brian Menker	Sam Rockingwell	Rennie Talbert	Milan H. Yoder
Cristy J. Miller	Robert Royse	Deborah Thomas	Chris Zacharias
Eli M. Miller	Greg Sagasser	Rob Thorn	Bill Zimmerman
Jeffrey A. Miller	Robert Sams	Elliot Tramer	
Kent Miller	Dan Sanders	Allen Troyer	
Michael R. Miller	Charlie Saunders	Andy M. Troyer	
Jen Moore	Eric Schlabach	Andy R. Troyer	
Ben Morrison	Leroy Schlabach	David Troyer	
James Muller	John Schoenlein	Levi Troyer	
Shane Myers	Brad Schooley	Martha E. Troyer	
Susan Nash	Debby Schuster	Melvin Troyer	
Thomas Olson	Ron Sempier	Michael Troyer	
Amy O'Neil	Judy Semrock	Casey Tucker	
Kevin O'Neil	Andy Sewell	Matthew Valencic	
Linda Osterhage	James Shelton	Douglas Vogus	
Helen Ostermiller	Paul Sherwood	Christina Voise	
Ken Ostermiller	Mark Shieldcastle	Bev Walborn	
Doug Overacker	Irina Shulgina	Peggy Wang	
Jason Parrish	Kate Shulgina	Ben Warner	
Daniel Parsons	Michele Skolmuch	Leslie Warren	
Kevin Parsons	Charles Slusarczyk, Jr.	Mary Warren	
Richard Pendlebury	Jennifer Smolenski	David Weaver	
Scott Pendleton	Dave Snyder	Josh Wengerd	
Brad Perkins	Su Snyder	Gerryl Wesley	
Donald Pfeister	Leslie Sours	Kirk Westendorf	
Lisa Phelps	Jeff Spalding	Sean Williams	
Ed Pierce	Barb Sponseller	Carl Winstead	
John Pogacnik	Terry Sponseller	Julie Wittmer	
Jeffrey Pontius	Bill Stanley	Brian Wulker	
Dean Porter	Gene Stauffer	Aden Yoder	
Bob Powell	Jack Stenger	Atlee A. Yoder	
Fred Rau	Laura Stiefel	David H. Yoder	