

Eastern Highlands & Upper Ohio River Valley



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Seesaw temperatures plunged to record-low levels in December, soared to well-above average temperatures in January, and were followed by mostly seasonable, wintry weather in February. The season left birds somewhat bewildered, as northern gulls massing for migration early in December were found lingering through the period along the ice-free shores of Lake Erie for much of the remaining winter. A tremendous number of "half-hardy" songbirds (including numbers of Gray Catbird, Hermit Thrush, and Eastern Phoebe) appeared across the Region well into the dead of winter. This accords with the decade-long trend toward a compression of the migration for several non-passerines, notably Sandhill Crane and Turkey Vulture.

Abbreviations: C.C.S.P. (Caesar Creek S.P., Warren/Greene, OH); G.L.R. (Green Lane Res., Montgomery, PA); H.B.S.P. (Headlands Beach S.P., Lake, OH); Hoover (Hoover Res., Delaware/Franklin, OH); K.P.W.A. (Killdeer Plains W.A., Wyandot, OH); L.N.S.P. (Lake Nockamixon S.P., Bucks, PA); M.B.S.P. (Maumee Bay S.P., Lucas, OH); O.N.W.R. (Ottawa N.W.R.); P.V.P. (Peace Valley Park, Bucks, PA); P.I.S.P. (Presque Isle S.P., Erie, PA); Y.C.S.P. (Yellow Creek S.P., Indiana, PA).

WATERFOWL THROUGH VULTURES

A strong fall flight of Greater White-fronted Geese had up to 16 visit M.B.S.P. 4 Dec (BZ), 8 in Hamilton, OH 17 Dec (R. Cottrell), and up to 8 on Sandy Creek, Wood, WV through 24 Dec (J. Benedetti, RE, m.ob.). Considered accidental in midwinter only 10 years ago, Greater White-fronted was widely noted from Ohio this season, with 5 in the sw. (Hamilton, Montgomery, and Clark), 5 in cen. counties (Marion, Wyandot), and one in the n. (Erie). The spring flight rarely matches that of fall, so 49 in Pickaway, OH 20-21 Feb (E. Reiner, B. Sparks) made a dramatic sight, while an excellent count of 12 came from L.N.S.P. 11 Feb (D. Farbotnik). Cackling Goose is known to be a regular fall migrant, and some linger into the winter: one was at

M.B.S.P. 4 Dec (BZ), 3 were in Clark 11 Dec (DO) and 3 in Clinton, OH 7 Jan (CS), 2 were in Lake, OH 3 Jan (JP), and 7 were at P.V.P. 6 Jan (AM). The species remains a rare spring migrant, with 2 noted 12 Feb at Castalia, Erie, OH (JP) and 4 at G.L.R. 9 Feb (KC, GAF). A Ross's Goose in Erie, OH 17 Dec (ph. C. Rieker et al.) may have been the same bird as reported from Bay Village, Cuyahoga 9 Jan (L. Richardson) and Wellington Res., Lorain 28-29 Jan (D. & J. Hoffman, S. Snyder). One spent 21 Dec-7 Jan in the company of 23 Snow Geese in Clinton, OH (LG m.ob.); and singles seen 4-8 Jan near Circleville, Pickaway, OH (TBn, G. Stauffer) and 22-24 Jan in Darke (C. Ploch, R. Schieltz) added substantially to the few mid-winter records for Ohio. A Ross's Goose was among the mixed goose flock near Parkersburg, Wood, WV 18-23 Dec (J. Tharp II, m.ob.) and occasionally crossed the river into Ohio at Belpre, Washington. Apparently part of the spring flight, one was at O.N.W.R. 12 Feb (JP) with 200 Snow and 14 Greater White-fronted Geese. Ohio's 7th Ross's Goose for the season appeared in Highland 16-21 Feb (TBn) with



This potential Bullock's Oriole found near Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 5 January 2006 (here) remained through the season. Photograph by Steve Wolfe.

18 Snow Geese. The spring Snow Goose flight in Ohio included 38 at Buck Creek S.P., Clark 19 Feb (JMc). The Region's peak Snow Goose concentration was 50,000 on the Hamburg C.B.C., Berks, PA 2 Jan (RK). Adding to several Ohio records, an apparent Snow Goose × Ross's Goose hybrid was nicely documented at Woodlawn Cemetery in Toledo, 28 Jan (MP, ph. S. Leatherman), and an apparent Snow Goose × Greater White-fronted Goose hybrid was reported from Wood, WV 18-23 Dec (RE). Two ad. Mute Swans appeared 11 Dec in Cabell, WV (DP). Two untagged Trumpeter Swans were at L.

Ontelaunee, Berks, PA 2 Feb (M. Spence). A modest fall flight of Tundra Swans peaked 5 Dec with 200 over w. Stark (W. Sarno), 150 over Oglebay Park, Ohio, WV (SA), and 91 at Tappan L., Harrison, OH (T. Ford). The next day found 42 s. to Wood, WV (JB).

Away from L. Erie marshes, 5500 Mallards was a notable count at Hoover 12 Dec (M. Hagar). Once exceptional in mid-Jan, the 30 Northern Pintails at K.P.W.A. are further evidence of the mild season (LG); an early spring concentration of migrants numbered 239 at Big Island W.A., Marion, OH 18 Feb (CB). Wintering flocks of 60+ Northern Shovelers in both Hamilton and Clermont, OH were noteworthy (RF). A male Eurasian Wigeon at Y.C.S.P. 21-26 Feb was early (MH et al.). A male Common (Eurasian Green-winged) Teal at Alcoa Marsh, Lancaster 27 Jan+ (m.ob., ph. T. Johnson) was the 3rd in as many years in the Region. The 340 Redheads at C.C.S.P. 22 Feb (LG) was a sizable flock so early in the season; 340 Ring-necked Ducks in Hamilton, OH 24 Dec (RF) were equally notable so late in the season.

The fall flight of scoters included 17 Black Scoters off Cuyahoga, OH 3 Dec (NA), 4 Surf Scoters at G.L.R. 4 Dec (GAF, KC), and a Black Scoter in Wood, WV 16-21 Jan (RE, JB), a county first. White-winged Scoters remain scarce on L. Erie, with one or 2 w. to the Islands 6 & 18 Dec (L. Brohl, TB, m.ob.). Inland, 14 could be found on the Susquehanna R. in Dauphin, PA 4 Dec (fide AH), and 2 appeared on Cheat L., Monongalia, WV 6-15 Dec (JB, MO). After a weak showing in recent years, Harlequin Duck was encountered several times in the Central Basin: a female was in Lake, OH 7 Dec (JP),

another in Erie, OH 26 Jan (SZ), and 2 were at H.B.S.P. 18 Feb (E. Bacik); the same 2 may have been a bit farther e. earlier in the season at P.I.S.P. 16 Dec (ph. JM). Long-tailed Ducks were scattered across the Region, with 2 s. to the New R., Summers, WV 13 Dec and 2 Feb (BWs, M. Hank). The 1831 Common Goldeneyes around Kelleys I., L. Erie 21 Feb (TB) was normal for the season. Bufflehead fortunes in the Western Basin continue their 15-year increase, with 1944 counted around Kelleys I. 15 Jan (TB et al.). This adds credence to estimates of 4000-5000 staging, if not wintering, in the vicinity of the L. Erie Islands—

a sizable concentration anywhere in North America. On the same count, 3665 Common Mergansers were in line with seasonal expectations for the Western Basin. The 50 Hooded Mergansers at Hoover 13 Jan (CB), and 170 in *Hamilton*, OH 9 Jan (RF) further attest to the mild season. An apparent Hooded Merganser × Common Goldeneye hybrid persisted in the Region, appearing 11 Feb at C.C.S.P. (R. Asamoto).

A Red-throated Loon passed the watch point in *Lake*, OH 10 Dec (JP). Mid-winter Common Loons were restricted to sw. Ohio (LG) and P.I.S.P. (JM). One was quite late on the Penn-Warner Tract, *Bucks*, PA 27-29 Jan (DF, CR). Three Red-necked Grebe reports were limited to Pennsylvania, as was the only Eared Grebe, a bird at P.I.S.P. 5-6 Dec (C. Wood, J. Dunn). Up to 2 Northern Gannets wintered in the Central Basin along the L. Erie shorelines of *Lorain*, *Cuyahoga*, and *Lake*, OH (T. Lepage, RHn, J. Talkington, ph. JP, m.ob.). An American White Pelican on the Ohio R., in *Cabell*, WV 17 Feb (WA, T. Igou) was completely unexpected. The 45 Double-crested Cormorants at Winfield Locks, *Putnam*, WV 26 Dec dwindled to 25 for the winter (DP, m.ob.). Inland, the winter Black-crowned Night-Heron roost along the Olentangy R., *Franklin*, OH numbered a record 10 birds (D. Horn, A. Sewell, m.ob.). Along the Cuyahoga R. in Cleveland, the species wintered in exceptional numbers, with 75 accounted for through Jan. An increase to 95 in early Feb suggests newcomers from elsewhere in the Region (PL, m.ob.). Two Great Egrets appeared within this roost 8 Dec (MSr), while a flock of 6 lingered at East Harbor S.P., *Ottawa*, OH 26 Dec (I. Kern) and a single wintered at Crab Creek, *Mason*, WV (R. Talbert, G. Rankin, m.ob.). A Turkey Vulture 5 Jan over *Carey*, *Wyandot*, OH (Z. Baker) was late for the nw. corner of the state. The 6 over *Lima*, *Allen*, OH 28 Jan (M. Moser) and a lone bird farther n. over *Toledo* 25 Jan (MP) were coincident with a spring-like warm-up. The species continues to winter within more forested e. areas and took up residence in the Hinckley, *Medina*, OH "buzzard" roost 15 Jan, when 9 were noted (J. Kolo-Rose). Steeped in tradition and lore, the return of the "Hinckley Buzzard" on the ides of March was as much a sign of spring for northeastern Ohioans as the swallows of Capistrano; no more. Black Vultures continue to push their n. limits in sw. Ohio, with 45 in a *Wilmington*, *Clinton* roost (CS) and one in *Clark*, OH 16 Dec (DO).

RAPTORS THROUGH GULLS

Of 3 Ohio Northern Goshawks for the season, a subad. at East Harbor S.P., *Ottawa* 8 Dec may have represented a late migrant (J. McCormac); others were s. to *Logan* 3 Jan (T. Shively) and *Clinton* 8 Jan (D. Morse, Jr.). One at *Greenbottom* W.A., *Cabell*, WV 9 Feb (WA)



These Sandhill Cranes were nicely documented in Greenfield Township, Erie County, Pennsylvania on 30 December 2005. Photograph by Jerry McWilliams.

was away from the high country. Leaving little left to conquer, Bald Eagles were found nesting in *Cuyahoga*, OH—that state's most urbanized county, home to metropolitan Cleveland. Among the larger concentrations for the Region, 70 Bald Eagles were along the Lackawaxen R., *Pike*, PA 31 Jan (J. Wilson), and 54 were counted in *Hardy*, WV 8 Jan (MO). Golden Eagles in Pennsylvania included singles in *Huntingdon* 11 Feb (GG), *Luzerne* 20 Jan (R. Koval), and *Berks* 15 Jan (fide L. Goodrich). Two wintered at The Wilds, *Muskingum*, OH (A. Parker); one along the Ohio R.



These Harlequin Ducks, photographed 16 December 2005 at Presquisle State Park, Pennsylvania, may have been the same two that were found 18 February at Headlands Beach State Park, Ohio, to the west. Photograph by Jerry McWilliams.

at *Lesage*, *Cabell*, WV 16 Dec was a local first in winter (HS); and one at K.P.W.A. 11 Feb (J. Estep) furnished the only report away from the e. Highlands. There were 10 reports of Peregrine Falcon and nine of Merlin from Pennsylvania, while in Ohio wintering Merlins are branching out from their suburban haunts. Notable Jan reports came from *Pickaway*, *Wyandot*, *Union*, *Warren*, *Highland*, *Adams*, and *Hardin*. Ohio's 2nd Prairie Merlin (subspecies *richardsoni*), an ad. male, ap-

peared at K.P.W.A. 4 Jan (ph. B. Mathys). A record high number, 488 American Kestrels were noted on the P.W.R.S. (fide GG).

Two Virginia Rails lingered in *Bucks*, PA 26 Dec (CR); 3 at *Altona* Marsh, *Jefferson*, WV 17 Dec (MO) dwindled to one in Feb. The Ohio Sandhill Crane fall flight was relatively weak through Dec, with 700+ birds recorded from five w. counties. Mid-winter birds included 7 late migrants in *Auglaize*, OH 1 Jan (J. Bowers), 17 in *Hamilton*, OH 6 Jan (RF), and up to 78 in *Erie*, PA 23-30 Dec (T. Wallin). A wintering flock of 8 at *Funk Bottoms* W.A., *Ashland*, OH (T. Shue) was dwarfed by the 45 through the winter at *Plain Grove*, *Lawrence*, PA (MV, m.ob.). A Lesser Sandhill Crane was reported in *Greenfield* Twp., *Erie*, PA 30 Dec (ph. JM). The return flight of cranes began 16 Feb with 3 at *Pickerington* Ponds *Franklin*, OH (JW). The 16 birds 21 Feb at *Acton* L., *Preble*, OH had Bill Heck asking "Didn't they just leave?" Indeed, the winter window between fall and spring flights of the species has narrowed from roughly 10 weeks to just six over the past 25 years.

Among the shorebirds, distinguishing late-fall/winter residents from early spring migrants requires assessment of their behavior and habitat use. Two Killdeer flying northward over *Castalia*, *Erie*, OH 23 Jan (MSr) and 2 in *Hardin* 30 Jan (R. Counts), despite the early dates, fit the profile for "spring" migrants, surely birds encouraged by the warm spell. A Greater Yellowlegs was in *Summers*, WV 17 Dec (C.B.C.). A Spotted Sandpiper on the *Shenandoah* R., *Jefferson*, WV 17 Dec (C.B.C.) was exceptional. A Least Sandpiper lingered through early Feb near *Walnut Bottom*, *Cumberland*, PA (m.ob., ph. GM), while another was found at *Beech Fork Lake* S.P., *Cabell*, WV 28 Dec (M. Griffith, J. Keating). Single Purple Sandpipers made their annual pilgrimage to H.B.S.P. 1-5 Dec (G. Meszaros) and P.I.S.P. 16-17 Dec (JM, Adam Troyer); another was reported from *Eastlake*, *Lake*, OH 11 Dec (RHn), on which date a Red Phalarope was also found. Early spring American Woodcocks were widespread across the Region 3-4 Feb.

Two late jaegers off *Cuyahoga* 2 Dec (PL) were left unidentified, as was one at P.I.S.P. 1 Dec (JM). A Pomarine Jaeger 20 Feb off *Lake* OH (JP) fits a developing "spring" pattern of occurrence on L. Erie. Inland concentrations of Bonaparte's Gull are few, so 1300 at Hoover 1 Dec was notable (CB); the normal phenology of the species on L. Erie was apparently al-

tered, as a Dec absence from many sites was followed by a clear influx in mid-Jan: the species is normally absent here late Jan–Feb. Where these concentrations occurred, about

12 Little Gulls were discovered. A flight of 8600 Bonaparte's Gulls at H.B.S.P. 23 Jan included 6 ad. Little Gulls (VF), while the 4000 Bonaparte's at Avon L., Lorain, OH 11 Jan harbored 2 (SZ), and up to 6 were at P.I.S.P. 4 Dec–15 Feb among up to 5000 Bonaparte's (25 Jan; JM). The hooded gulls are largely migrants

through the Region, with the scarcer hooded species also more often encountered in spring and fall. In keeping with the extraordinary mid-season presence on L. Erie of Bonaparte's and Little Gulls, an ad. **Black-headed Gull** was discovered 7 Jan and a **Franklin's Gull** 2 Jan, both from Lorain, OH (JP)—only to be topped by an ad. **Laughing Gull** in alternate plumage that wintered along the Lorain–Cleveland lakefront (ph. JP, m.ob.). A **Black-legged Kittiwake** at P.I.S.P. 3 Dec (JM) may have wandered to various Central Basin locales in *Cuyahoga* and *Lake*, OH 17 Dec–1 Jan (LR, JP, m.ob.). Two reports of **Mew Gull** from the Central Basin of L. Erie are pending committee review. The gull variety this season (15 species in the Central Basin) was not coincident with vast gull numbers, as Ring-billed Gulls were limited to peak concentration of 80,000 at Lorain Harbor, *Lorain*, OH 7 Jan (JP). In the highlands, a record 35,683 Ring-billed Gulls were counted on the *Bernville* C.B.C., *Berks*, PA 1 Jan (*vide* RK).

Ad. California Gulls were reported by gull watchers in the Central Basin in *Cuyahoga* 30 Dec (RHn), at *Conneaut* 16 Jan (JP), and in *Lorain* 26 Jan (SZ), while one was detected e. to P.I.S.P. 20 Feb (JM). Are there really that many California Gulls on L. Erie, or are we

seeing a highly mobile individual? A seasonal average 14 Lesser Black-backed Gulls from L. Erie included 3 from the Western Basin on Kelleys I. 15 Jan (TB et al.). Ohio's token inland report came from



This juvenile Black-legged Kittiwake photographed at Presque Isle State Park, Pennsylvania on 3 December 2005 may have been the same bird that was seen later along Lake Erie in Ohio. Photograph by Jerry McWilliams.

land report came from Mosquito L., *Trumbull*, OH 22 Jan (EK). An ad. Thayer's Gull in mid-Feb on Kelleys I., *Erie* (VF et al.) was a rare find for the L. Erie Islands. Elsewhere in the Western Basin, up to 2 each of Iceland and Glaucous Gulls visited the Maumee R., in *Lucas* (*vide* G. Links). White-winged gulls were scarce

in the Central Basin, where no more than 4 Glaucous Gulls and 3 Iceland Gulls were briefly encountered at any given site. The Eastern Basin, as seen at P.I.S.P., hosted more typical numbers, with 4 Thayer's Gulls, up to 15 Iceland Gulls, and 25 Glaucous Gulls (JM, BC et al.) for the season. Away from L. Erie, a Glaucous Gull in *Luzerne*, PA 12 Dec furnished a 2nd county record (WR), and 8 on the S. Bucks County C.B.C., PA was a record high number there (*vide* AM). A remarkable 11 Iceland Gulls were present during the season at Tullytown, *Bucks*, PA (*vide* AM). An apparent Great Black-backed Gull × Herring Gull hybrid appeared in *Lake*, OH 7 Dec (J. Brumfield) and another at P.I.S.P. 10 Feb (JM), where a Herring Gull × Glaucous Gull hybrid was seen the next day (BC). A Great Black-backed Gull was inland to Hoover 11 & 22 Feb (D. Linzell, J. Hammond, R. Schroeder).

DOVES THROUGH PIPITS

A White-winged Dove at Upper Makefield Twp. 9–20 Dec was a first for *Bucks*, PA (M. Rusnak). In se. Pennsylvania, Barn Owl is on the verge of extirpation, so 2 on the Hamburg C.B.C., *Berks*, PA (*vide* RK) made welcome news. A minor flight of Snowy Owls appeared as the season progressed. In addition to 5 or

more along the L. Erie shoreline (SZ, m.ob.) from *Ottawa* to *Cuyahoga*, there was a notable presence in the nw. sector of the Region, where 3 birds appeared in Jan in *Paulding* and *Van Wert* (DMD, J. & J. Perchalski) and another in *Wood* 10 Jan (ph. T. McGlaughlin). Snowy Owls in Pennsylvania were e. to *Berks*, PA 18–27 Dec (M. Wlsawnski), *Mifflin* mid-Dec–9 Jan (K. Spicher), and *Centre* 22 Jan+ (m.ob.). Lingered Rufous or Rufous/Allen's Hummingbirds in Pennsylvania included a Rufous/Allen's at *Albion*, *Erie* 11 Dec (M. Lipinski), a Rufous in *Beaver* 7 Dec (R. Hoge), and a Rufous in *Bucks* 7 Dec (*vide* AM). The West Chester, *Butler*, OH Anna's Hummingbird remained through 24 Dec (Dan & Wanda Schmidt, m.ob.).

Very early spring Tree Swallows are known from the last days of the winter period within the Region, so it is tempting to label the 2 at O.N.W.R. 3 Feb (P. Sherwood) as merely extraordinary over-migrants. Confounding this interpretation is the unprecedented wintering of a Tree Swallow at Glacier Ridge Metropark, *Union*, OH through 8 Feb (*vide* JW). A Tree Swallow circling a nest box in *Athalia*, WV 26 Feb (HS) was surely a new arrival. For the 2nd year in a row, Northern



A Least Sandpiper at Walnut Bottom, Cumberland County (here 21 January 2006) remained at least into early February, a very unusual record for Pennsylvania. Photograph by Geoff Malosh.

Rough-winged Swallows wintered at the Northeast Water Treatment Facility, *Philadelphia*, PA. An amazing 125 were found there on the Pennypack C.B.C. in mid-Dec, and 95 were still present 7 Jan (D. McGovern). Several of these birds survived into Mar, unheard of for this Neotropical migrant.

Northern Shrikes numbered 5 in *Erie*, PA 1 Dec–11 Feb (JM, m.ob.) and 5 on the Pennsylvania Winter Raptor Survey (*vide* GG). The only Loggerhead Shrike report came from *Tucker*, WV 28 Jan (C. Rucker, K. Sturm). Red-breasted Nuthatches staged a substantial invasion of the e. highlands, spilling into the w. in more modest numbers, with 32 noted at *Winton Woods*, *Hamilton*, OH 12 Jan (Jack Stenger). Two Common Ravens in *Union City*, PA were unusual for *Erie* (D. Peters),

SA Normally confined in winter to sheltered waterways such as the Ohio R. and then only through the first half of the season, Eastern Phoebe were striking for their widespread persistence through this winter season: one could be found anywhere, it seemed, throughout the period. Within the s. riparian micro-climates (where at best of casual occurrence in winter), the species was numerous, with 15+ individuals reported through Jan along the Ohio R. counties from *Hamilton* through *Scioto* n. to *Ross* (Jay Stenger, R. Foppe, VF, m.ob.). Stenger notes that in the first 34 years of the Cincinnati C.B.C., phoebes appeared 44% of the time vs. on 72% of the last 25 years' counts. In sw. Pennsylvania, there were 5 phoebes (*vide* PH), while 4 in *Cabell*, WV 28 Dec (C.B.C.) were also in an Ohio R. county. Beyond these limits, noteworthy individuals wintered in *Kanawha*, WV (H. Good), through 28 Jan at Lake City Wastewater Plant, *Erie*, PA (EK), at G.L.R. 28 Jan (*vide* KC), at Spring Valley W.A., *Warren*, OH 24 Jan (J. Beale), in *Fayette*, WV 13 Jan (D. Beutler), in *Preston*, WV 12 Jan (J. Boback), at Chagrin Falls Park, *Lake*, OH 12 Jan (JP), at C.C.S.P. 8 Jan (S. Tackett), at Shaker Lakes, *Cuyahoga*, OH until 8 Jan (J. West), and at Woodbury W.A., *Coshocton*, OH 4 Jan (*vide* G. Miller). Normally, a 26 Feb report from the L. Erie shoreline in *Cuyahoga*, OH (PL) would be treated as an early spring migrant, but this season turned many such clear-cut distinctions on their heads.

and their presence in sw. Pennsylvania throughout the year is a "new phenomenon" (PH). A **Common Raven** reported from Fernwood S.F., *Jefferson*, OH 29-31 Jan (p.a., SA et al.) would represent a substantial range extension. A number of sizable crow roosts were reported, led by the 50,000 estimated on Wheeling I., *Ohio*, WV 17 Dec (SA). Spreading in the West Virginia panhandle, 7 Fish Crows were found in *Hardy* 25 Feb (MO). After a unique fall record for the L. Erie Islands, a Tufted Titmouse was a welcome addition to the Kelleys Island C.B.C. 18 Dec (TB et al.).

Ruby-crowned Kinglets enjoyed success wintering across Ohio, where they sometimes linger into Jan along the Ohio R. and its tributaries: of 3 recorded on Kelleys I. in Dec, at least one wintered (TB et al.). Two additional mid-winter records from the n. came from *Cuyahoga* (NA et al.), while a *Logan* bird 29 Jan (DO) was a local rarity. A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was seen on the S. Bucks County C.B.C. (R. Mellon). A combined count of 418 Carolina Wrens from *Bucks*, PA C.B.C.s was led by a record 141 on the Central Bucks County C.B.C. (fide AM). Across the Region, Hermit Thrushes drew comment, most observers noting an abundance rarely seen in winter, e.g., 95 on Kelleys I., *Erie*, OH 18 Dec (TB, JP, m.ob.) and 52 on the three C.B.C.s in *Bucks* (fide AM). American Robins found plenty to tide them over in the Region, as more than 10,000 were Christmas-counted in Dec in *Bucks* (fide AM), and 4100 were counted 27 Jan at Hanging Rock Park, *Lawrence*, OH (VF). Gray Catbird was yet another half-hardy species that took advantage of the mild season; among the more notable reports for location or count were: singles at C.C.S.P. 27 Jan (CS), Lakeshore Park, *Lake*, OH 20 Jan (JP), Newtown Falls, *Trumbull*, OH 4 Jan-1 Feb (EK), until 14 Jan in *Putnam*, WV (K. Kazmierski et al.), *Greenbrier* S.F., *Greenbrier*, WV 5 Jan (BWs), and Rockmill W.A., *Hocking*, OH 31 Dec (E. Reiner)—plus 20 on the S. Bucks County C.B.C., PA (fide AM). Five Brown Thrashers on that count was likewise an excellent total. Flocks of 20+ American Pipits were reported from *Wood* and *Hardy*, WV in mid-Dec (K. King et al.), but there was only one mid-Jan report from the n., in *Mahoning*, OH (G. Bennett).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

The Upper Bucks County C.B.C. found 149 Myrtle Warblers 18 Dec; 80 were tallied in a survey of the Ohio Brush Creek riparian corridor in *Adams*, OH 20 Jan (VF); and 30 were at Indian Creek W.A., *Brown*, OH 26 Jan (RF). A male Audubon's Warbler appeared at *Castalia*, *Erie*, OH 19 Feb (ph. BZ). Indicative of the

mild times, Pine Warblers enjoyed another banner season, with 3 n. to *Lucas*, OH, where one wintered near Maumee Bay S.P. (ph. BZ), and another appeared at Wildwood Park 18 Feb (MP). Two in Mt. Airy Forest, *Hamilton*, OH 23 Feb (S. Pelikan) may have been early spring arrivals, while one in *Bucks*, PA 2 Feb (B. Keim) more likely wintered. A **Summer Tanager** visited a Columbus feeder late Dec-8 Jan for Ohio's 2nd winter record (ph.; fide JMc). The northernmost wintering Chipping Sparrow visited a *Cuyahoga*, OH feeder (NA). A Clay-colored Sparrow was in New Britain Twp., *Bucks*, PA 23 Dec (DF). Eastern Towhees



This adult female Long-tailed Duck was one of two found on the Beaver River, Beaver County, Pennsylvania on 8 January 2006. Photograph by Geoff Malosh.

were noted in above-average numbers across the Region, with some extraordinary concentrations in the Ohio R. Valley. Ohio Winter Atlas efforts revealed hundreds wintering through *Adams*, *Scioto*, and *Lawrence*, OH, with single flocks up to 50 and 60 birds (VF). The Lark Sparrow at Limerick, *Montgomery*, PA was present through 5 Feb (S. Grunwald); another at Chambersburg, *Franklin*, PA was cooperative 10 Jan+ (m.ob., ph. GM). Late Lincoln's Sparrows in Pennsylvania included singles on the *Indiana* County C.B.C. 26 Dec (Len & Linda Hess) and the *Pittsburgh* C.B.C. 31 Dec (J. Valimont). A male Oregon Junco was present in Tionesta Twp., *Forest*, PA 4 Feb-2 Mar (F McGuire, ph.).

The ad. Harris's Sparrow present in Oakland Mills, *Juniata*, PA in the fall remained through the period (Aden & David Troyer), and a first-winter Harris's was in Seemsville, *Northampton*, PA 5-15 Dec (B. Mescavage). A strong showing of Snow Buntings in Ohio was highlighted by a flock of 400 in *Paulding* and *Defiance*, OH 15 Dec (fide DMD). Lapland Longspurs reached far sw. Ohio in double digits; in West Virginia, 2 made it to *Hardy* (M. Johnson et al.) and 2 to *Putnam* (S. Aaron).

A Dickcissel spent the entire period at a feeder at C.C.S.P. (LG, M. Ruane, m.ob.). Single Brewer's Blackbirds in Pennsylvania were reported from *Allegheny* 8 Dec and *Beaver* 22 Dec (B. Shema). Absent from most reports in the Region, the flock of 82 Rusty Blackbirds in *Jefferson*, WV 30 Dec (MO) stands apart. An ad. Baltimore Oriole 14 Jan through Feb in

Peter's Twp., *Washington* ignored oranges and fed on peanut butter (MV); 2 others were noted in *Bucks*, PA during Jan-Feb (AM, J. Hritzo et al.). Ohio reports came from a Dayton feeder, where an ad. male visited 27 Dec and 26 Feb (ph. J. Barkeley), and from *Clermont* 3 Jan (J. Bens). A potential Bullock's Oriole was present in Bethlehem, *Northampton* 5 Jan+ (S. Wolfe, RW, ph., vt.); the back appeared to show a "scalloped" pattern, possibly indicative of Baltimore Oriole genes.

A Pine Grosbeak reported from New Indiana, *Indiana* 26 Dec is among very few reported in the Region in recent years (M. Peterson, fide MH). A strong fall passage left good numbers of Purple Finches across the s. portions of the Region. Flocks of 20-25 w. along the Ohio R. Valley were commonplace, while 120 were at L.N.S.P. 25 Dec (CR) in the east. Otherwise, winter finches did not leave the e. highlands, where Red Crossbills included 5 in *Berks* 20 Jan (KG) and 6 at Powdermill Nature Reserve 31 Dec (ML). Common Redpolls numbered 14 in *Bradford* 26 Dec (T. Gerlach), and 60 Pine Siskins were in *Huntingdon*, PA (D. Wentzel), while 70 Evening Grosbeaks were near Maple Grove, *Luzerne*, PA 5 Jan (R. Mose).

Observers (subregional editors in boldface) OHIO: Nancy Anderson (NA), Tom Bain (TBn), Tom Bartlett (TB), Charlie Bombaci (CB), Mike Busam, Doug & Micki Dunakin (DMD), Vic Fazio (VF), Robert Foppe (RF), Larry Gara (LG), Ray Hannikman (RHn), Ned Keller, Ethan Kistler (EK), Greg Links, Paula Lozano (PL), Jim McCormac (JMc), Kevin Metcalf, Doug Overacker (DO), M Plessner (MP), John Pogacnik (JP), Larry Rosche (LR), Carleton Schooley (CS), Matthew Studebaker (MSr), John Watts (JW) Sean Zadar (SZ), Brian Zweibel (BZ). PENNSYLVANIA: Kevin Crilley (KC), Ben Coulter (BC), Devich Farbotnik (DF), George A. Franchois (GAF), Greg Grove (GG), Paul Hess (PH), Margaret Higbee (MH), Armas Hill (Philadelphia Birdline), Rudy Keller (RK), Mike Lanzone (ML), Robert C. Leberman (RCL), Geoff Malosh (GM), Jerry McWilliams (JM), August Mirabella (AM) William Reid (WR), Mark Vass (MV), Cameron Rutt (CR), Rick Wiltraut (RW) WEST VIRGINIA: Scott Albaugh (SA), Wendell Argabrite (WA), John Boback (JB), Jeanette Esker, Richard Esker (RE), Matt Orsie (MO), David Patick (DP), Harry Slack (HS), Barry Williams (BWs). ☺

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