

THE BIRDS OF CENTRAL OHIO
*AN ANNOTATED CHECKLIST FROM
FRANKLIN AND SURROUNDING COUNTIES*

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Local bird checklists are an enduring Ohio tradition. In recent decades, many have routinely been compiled for venues like parks and wildlife areas; these usually consist simply of names of birds observed, listed in taxonomic order and without annotations. Checklists have covered the state as a whole, but also individually at least half its 88 counties, many of which offer details beyond species names. These details may include seasonal occurrences both typical and extreme, migrant/wintering/breeding status, records of unusual numbers observed, preferred local habitats and diets, and changes discerned in these data over time. Some works date back more than a century and a half, such as Read's 1853 list of 146 species for northeastern Ohio counties. A few are products of a lifetime's effort by a single observer, while most benefit from the work of many. This checklist is one of the latter.

Franklin County's bird records rank very high among Ohio counties for the numbers of species involved, the quality of their verification, and their historical depth. Fifteen Ohio species were first formally recorded there as living birds: king eider, white-winged scoter, cattle egret, Mississippi kite, golden eagle, prairie falcon, rufous hummingbird, red-cockaded woodpecker, Bell's vireo, black-throated gray warbler, green-tailed towhee, Bachman's sparrow, Harris's sparrow, yellow-headed blackbird, and Bullock's oriole. Central Ohio observers in neighboring Union, Delaware, Licking, Fairfield, Pickaway, and Madison counties have added sixteen additional first state records: Eurasian wigeon (1906), cinnamon teal (1895), common eider (1895), black scoter (1876), surf scoter (1917), magnificent frigatebird (1980), Harris's hawk (1917), purple gallinule (1877), long-billed curlew (1907), ruff (1872), long-tailed jaeger (1928), Sabine's gull (1926), black-legged kittiwake (1925), Franklin's gull (1906), spotted towhee (1946), and Henslow's sparrow (1872). Annotations for additional species verified in the seven counties are included below, yielding a list of the 372 bird species of central Ohio thus defined. Accounts for 24 others—hybrids, exotics, introductions, birds identified only as to genus, several temporarily in limbo as to status, and half a dozen North American species reported but not firmly verified in the region—are included as indented entries without bold-faced names.

Unlike other Ohio regions dominated by other major cities—Cleveland (Williams 1950, Rosche 2004), Cincinnati (Kemsies and Randle 1953), Toledo (Campbell 1940 and 1968, Anderson et al. 2002), or Dayton (Blincoe 1964, Mathena et al. 1984)—the central Ohio area has never been covered by a detailed checklist. Accumulated records from such a well-studied area should be of interest to a larger body of observers in the region. Based on this area's long and extensively documented history, it will also serve to chronicle changes in birdlife in the central region of Ohio over nearly two centuries.

Among the first lists of the avifauna of an area dominated by a large American city was "List of the Birds of the District of Columbia," published as a 22-page pamphlet in 1862, then in 1883 as a 166-page annotated version *Avifauna Columbiana*, by the eminent Elliott Coues and his friend and collaborator D. W. Prentiss. They, like J. M. Wheaton of Columbus, were among the founders of the American Ornithologists' Union in the latter year. At that time they offered their view of the changes in birdlife in and near Washington, D. C. in a way a Columbus observer of the day would have found familiar:

They have also noted, as far as their knowledge enabled them to do so, the changes in the Avifauna resulting from the growth of a great city. Twenty or twenty-five years ago, with a population of about 60,000, the National Capital was a mud-puddle in

winter, a dust-heap in summer, a cow-pen and pig-sty all the year round; there was good snipeshooting within the city limits, and the country all about was as primitive as the most enthusiastic naturalist could desire. But...we have changed all that; Washington has grown up to 180,000, and become "citified" into quite a respectable establishment; the suburban wilderness has been reclaimed from Nature and largely given over to Art; while Ornithology has long been more assiduously and successfully pursued within than without the walls of the Smithsonian Institution.

Study of the birds of such a well-defined area, especially when conducted over many generations, must yield knowledge about how habitats and other conditions have been altered, and how the local abundances and behaviors of birds may have changed as a result. Certainly in an area like Franklin County, as in the District of Columbia, environmental changes wrought on the landscape by exploitation of the forests and wetlands, then agriculture, and later by urbanization can be tracked by close study of its birds. Additionally, historical shifts in human attitudes and behaviors toward birds can be recognized by repeated observations, over time, of local species. Finally, as we cannot too often hear, much larger changes in the health of our natural environment may in important ways be assessed by attention to that of our birdlife, especially in areas densely populated by humans.

Ornithologist John Maynard Wheaton's rudimentary first Ohio checklist was published in 1861, and his detailed *Report on the Birds of Ohio* appeared in 1882, in both cases just a year before Coues and Prentiss's corresponding works involving nearly the same latitude. Little noted has been Wheaton's 15-page appendix to his *Report* titled "Check list of Ohio birds, with dates of their occurrence." Wheaton said of these entries that "these dates apply to birds observed in the vicinity of Columbus, so that, excluding the birds unnoted, we have a list of the birds of Franklin county." With adjoining counties we have in effect the first list—now of 372 species—for the region. For their part, Coues and Prentiss were to record 226 for the District of Columbia, where today's list numbers 335 (Maryland Ornithological Society 2016). The list presented below may be regarded as a modern update of Wheaton's, including records and annotations made possible by more than a century and a quarter of additional observations in the central counties of Ohio.

The sources of this checklist

Our region does not possess a remarkable variety or extent of productive bird habitats, but rather owes its extensive list to a history beginning with diligent local work begun in the nineteenth century, led by Wheaton (1840-1887), Theodore Jasper (1814-1897), Oliver Davie (1856-1911), and William L. Dawson (1873-1928). Later, numerous skilled local observers, collectors, curators, and researchers added much to our knowledge. Milton B. Trautman (1899-1991) published in 1940 his monumental work of meticulously conducted field observations, *The Birds of Buckeye Lake*, valuable far beyond its narrow compass, providing observations and other data available nowhere else; this and other fruits of his seventy years of work with local birds have guided all his successors. Margaret Morse Nice (1883-1974) conducted her classic studies of song sparrows in Columbus 1927-1936 in publications exemplifying new approaches to the natural histories of birds. Extensive bird studies spanning the state were conducted by Lawrence E. Hicks (1905-1957), supplying many publications on Ohio records and important specimens to the collections of the Ohio State University Museum of Biological Diversity (OSUM). Edward S. Thomas (1891-1982) curated that collection 1931-1962, published many ornithological papers, and for 59½ years wrote a weekly natural history column in the *Columbus Dispatch* that often treated bird observations. Donald Borror (1907-1988) accumulated many local specimen records of bird vocalizations, and wrote widely on this and other ornithological topics; the Borror Laboratory of Bioacoustics at the OSU Museum is but one result of his labors. In 1989 and 2001 local resident Bruce Peterjohn published editions of his authoritative *The Birds of Ohio*, works that set high standards for accuracy and comprehensiveness in an Ohio monograph. The names of many other important contributors are to be found in the list and the literature cited below.

This checklist recognizes records of 372 wild bird species for the seven counties of central Ohio, with at least 162 confirmed as local nesters. Records verified by existing or recorded museum specimens are included, along with nearly all those documented by published peer-reviewed sighting reports, favoring in the case of rarity those accompanied by other physical evidence such as photographs, recordings, or the testimony of trusted witnesses. In a few cases such testimony, obtained via written communication, has

alone served to verify records. In the annotations, efforts have been made to include the earliest historical records and specimens, significantly large numbers of individuals recorded, extreme migratory dates, and other details of local interest beyond those to be found in the standard references.

Also inserted in this annotated list—indented, in brackets, and without bold-faced names, or in the Appendix—are two dozen other taxa reported or inferred but not accepted for inclusion in the list of accepted species, including the following:

--- eight recorded hybrid forms (Ross's goose x snow goose, mallard x American black duck, cinnamon teal x blue-winged teal, green-winged teal x American wigeon, hooded merganser x common goldeneye, "Brewster's" and "Lawrence's" warblers, and eastern meadowlark x western meadowlark). None of these qualifies as a species eligible for the list, but they are included as significant and often recognizable forms, some with multiple regional records;

--- two groups of records identified only to the generic level (*Selasphorus* and *Plegadis*), deemed important because in certain plumages Allen's hummingbird *S. sasin* may be virtually indistinguishable from the locally far more numerous rufous hummingbird *S. rufus* without careful in-hand examination. Our ibises present similar problems, at least outside the breeding season.

--- five unestablished species, observed and identified here but known or presumed to have been artificially introduced, or of captive origin, despite records of establishment or instances of accepted wild origin elsewhere in Ohio or at least North America (barnacle goose, mute swan, trumpeter swan, monk parakeet, sky lark). Some of these have a foreseeable potential to join this list eventually should their local populations prosper and be accepted as established, or the wild origin of individuals be recognized;

--- two taxa recorded here, distinguishable and recognized as full species by authorities outside North America but not currently by the American Ornithologists' Union: "common teal" *Anas crecca crecca*, and "Audubon's warbler" *Setophaga coronata auduboni*. Future taxonomic changes adopted by the AOU may add these and/or other taxa to the North American list as well as to that for the region;

--- one distinctive and oft-reported variant form ("Oregon junco") which lost full species status recently enough (1983) to cause confusion.

--- six species cited in print by knowledgeable persons but lacking fully satisfactory evidence of their presences here: whooping crane, roseate tern, black-backed woodpecker, band-tailed pigeon, ivory-billed woodpecker, and McCown's longspur.

The availability of specimens from the seven counties in our area may be roughly assessed by the number of specimens each contributed to the Ohio State University Museum's skin collections in the days when such specimens were routinely accumulated: Franklin 1156, Fairfield 531, Licking 356, Delaware 286, Pickaway 97, Union 33, and Madison 29. These disparities in numbers certainly reflect different habitat types in the counties over the historical period—when extensive wetlands and mature wooded areas once produced more avian variety in a region now dominated by urban settings and agriculture—but even more importantly the number of local observers and collectors involved.

No attempt has been made to account for occurrences, however well-documented, of escaped exotic birds with no conceivable claim to wild status in the region: examples include troupial (Hicks 1933a), Baikal teal (Trautman 1935), various psittacids, francolins, chukars, canaries, Java finches, etc. The OSU Museum possesses 88+ specimens of 68 species, including some native to North America, donated by the Columbus Zoo, none of which is considered here. Escapes from pet bird enthusiasts and zoological collections have at times been the source of local reports of exotic species; for example, in December 1975 penguins reportedly escaped from the Columbus Zoo and were said—improbably—to have "strayed all over the city" (WCB 20-21:49). There is some anecdotal evidence that free-flying exotics may increase in numbers near Ohio State University at the end of the academic year, when students are known to liberate pet birds (and almost always ensure their demise) upon leaving the campus.

There are some sources of uncertainty in the existing record. Only a few pages of Wheaton's unpublished papers—mostly correspondence—are preserved, and very little he may have informally recorded about local birds during the period 1882-1887 (nearly 20 per cent of his adult years) is known to survive. In addition, he usually recorded no more with his many study specimens than attaching numbers to them and identifying them as to species, and thus his extant collection of 606 skins (most of it now held at the Ohio Historical Society) certainly contains many specimens collected in central Ohio, but is of little use for the purposes of this checklist. The OSU Museum probably possesses over 700 specimens, including many from our seven-county region, amassed by Theodore Jasper between 1866 and 1897, but as he almost never attached his name or much collection data to them, those recorded herein are based either

on his handwriting, corroborations in the ornithological literature, other Museum records, or careful conjecture. Quite a few of the fragile tags he may have employed are missing among the specimens, and his few published writings are now widely ascribed to another person. None of his personal papers are known to survive, and unfortunately the same is true of those of his voluble, well-published, but enigmatic colleague Oliver Davie, which may have perished along with at least part of Davie's large specimen collection in a rumored fire at his downtown Columbus bookstore circa 1900-1903. The rest of his extensive collection, numbering 570 specimens, was said to have been donated after his demise to what the local newspaper called the "Audobon Society" in 1914 (*Ohio State Journal* 6/21/1914), and had largely disappeared via storage in inappropriate settings, though there are indications that at least some of the eye-catching specimens—a once-mounted flamingo is an example—ended up in OSUM. A newspaper article (*Cincinnati Enquirer*, 7/20/1898:4) reported the sale by Davie of Jasper's specimens to the Ohio State Museum in 1898. Davie claimed to have prepared for publication during that period a 700-page text accompanied by a hundred colored plates, titled *Life Histories of the Birds of Ohio* (see a flyer and signed correspondence among Hine's papers at OHS), which is acknowledged in questionable sources (among them *Franklin County at the Beginning of the Twentieth Century* [1901:402], and Moore [1930:449]) as if already published; the whereabouts of the text remain a mystery. As to locations, certain records unfortunately not documented in the literature as to county are not included in this list unless upon being consulted the observer or another reliable source of evidence attributed the record to one of the seven counties treated here.

Modern estimates of the status of many bird species cannot always accurately be compared to older ones. The most reliable nineteenth-century ornithological records originate from birds shot, carefully examined, and preserved in accredited institutions. Few birds need be collected today, almost never for purposes of identification or local documentation. Today's transportation, communication, and optical technologies make far more frequent and accurate field observations possible. The county's early observers used comparatively primitive field glasses (see such equipment in use in the frontispiece of Dawson's work of 1903), but modern field optics and cameras more reliably produce decisive or at least useful evidence of bird occurrences. Today's observers of course benefit in oft-unrecognized ways from the accumulated knowledge made possible by the work of their predecessors. Pioneers however, by contrast and by definition, were mostly on their own.

Vital in the preservation of the region's records have been various institutions: the Ohio State University and the Ohio Historical Society, as well as venerable organizations such as the Wheaton Club, aided at times by the Columbus Natural History Society and the Columbus Audubon Society. Many publications, national and local in scope, have preserved records from the county. Careful observers in the field who have reported their finds and preserved specimens of course provide the basis for most records. The Ohio Bird Records Committee has for decades verified occurrences of rarities seen in the state, archived records of unusual occurrences, and aided the composition of the official Ohio checklist. Bruce Peterjohn, a former resident of central Ohio whose research has helped greatly to authenticate Ohio's bird records, has provided important evidence. Thanks to all these sources, our knowledge of our birdlife is refined with each significant observation recorded. Beyond the invaluable work of their predecessors, the access today's observers possess to advanced and easier communication will ensure that additions and careful refinements to this list will continue over time.

The area's bird habitats

The seven central Ohio counties treated in this list share similar habitats, more largely differing in ways that involve local human history. Records from Franklin County dominate because most of the early ones come from the regional center of human observers—what was to become the urban center of Columbus, with its large population, its academic institutions, roads, and means of communication; the exceptions have included considerable careful work in Pickaway County and later in Fairfield County. Habitats among the seven counties differed little in their original state: elevations were much alike, with similar hardwood forest types throughout with more prairie grasslands in the southwest; the drainage was dominated by the Olentangy and Scioto Rivers. Certain new habitats changed with time; urbanization has erased much bird habitat, though the construction of reservoirs in the neighboring counties provided new settings for occurrences of bird species. As to the physical setting for these accomplishments, the area covered centers on 540 square miles of Franklin County straddling the 40th degree of north latitude and the 83rd degree of west longitude. Columbus is now reckoned the sixteenth-largest city in the United States, and

Franklin County, with a human population of over 1,200,000, ranks thirty-third among U.S. counties. Its glaciated topography is fairly flat, varying gradually from 670 feet above sea level along the Scioto River where it leaves the county in the southwest to 1130 feet in the extreme northeast near New Albany.

Habitats over the historical period here began with a landscape mostly of primeval forest of several hardwood mixes intersected by two substantial rivers running north to south, laced with ravines and fed by creeks, as well as associated wetlands such as beaver ponds, sloughs, seasonally flooded riparian areas, and marshlands. Incursions of prairies from the west also contained variably wet areas with drier grassy uplands breaking up the forest cover. Early accounts described certain areas near the rivers as “marshy and malarious” (Harris, p. 9). As for Columbus, Wheaton (1882:418) mentioned the “swamp prairies south of the city,” and Hubbard (p. 153) the “natural scarcity of timber” in certain areas south of town. These and other discontinuous local extensions of the Darby and Pickaway Plains called “barrens” (Lee 1892), were first well described by Caleb Atwater (1819; see also Sears 1926, Trautman 1981). In the old days, to these open areas must be added forested tracts of indeterminable size periodically cleared, mostly by burning or girdling, for hunting, agriculture, and ceremonial purposes by aboriginal people during their presence here.

By 1790, new settlers in what is now the state of Ohio numbered about three thousand. The first named settlement of people of foreign origin in the region was Franklinton, founded in 1797 on the west bank at the Forks, where the Whetstone (now Olentangy) River joined the Scioto. This low-lying area had been fertile land tilled by the Wyandot tribe (the *Ohio Gazetteer* of 1833 [pp. 207-8] relates of the village that “adjoining it, on the east, is a large prairie of 200 acres, of most exuberant fertility”), but frequent flooding eventually prevented it from flourishing as a site for the new settlers, and it was eventually annexed by Columbus, soon built on higher ground on the east bank. At this time much of the county’s ancient forest cover had been broken only by burns and small rude clearings, accompanied by floodplains and marshes adjacent to the rivers, with original prairie tracts mostly found in disconnected fashion in the southwest quadrant.

Though there are a few variably credible anecdotes, our knowledge about the county’s birdlife in these early days is mostly inferential, except for archaeological data from remains found in middens, etc. at human sites nearby; few such sites have been preserved and then carefully excavated in the region itself, however. Doubtless the seven counties’ lists of birds could be much enlarged if we knew more about the avifauna of a more pristine era. Early ornithologists such as Wilson, Audubon, and Nuttall visited Ohio, but spent little time away from the Ohio River and Lake Erie during travels headed westward, leaving only a few tantalizing details about their local experiences along the way. Publications more fully treating the birdlife of the state first appeared in 1838, with works from Jared P. Kirtland (listing 223 Ohio species) and Caleb Atwater (more informally treating about 75); they include only a few data for Franklin County, with a human population of about 5,000 by that time.

The first systematic investigations of local birds began with J. M. Wheaton, who in 1861 published a basic state list of 285 species, then in 1882 his comprehensive *Report on the Birds of Ohio*. In both works nearly all his first-hand knowledge seems to have come from field work in his native Franklin County. In the *Report* he offers on pages 585-7, for example, a list of birds observed in his mid-city garden—187½ by 75 feet, and only a block from Statehouse Square—on Fourth Street, numbering 113 species; he was born, practiced medicine, and died at this address at the age of 46 (Rea 1956). By 1882 modern scientific ornithology had begun its work, but nearly 90% of the county’s original forest cover had been logged, accompanied by grievous losses among conspicuous forest species such as the wild turkey, the pileated woodpecker, the common raven, the Carolina parakeet, the ruffed grouse, the wood duck, and the passenger pigeon, along with prominent prairie species such as the greater prairie-chicken and the swallow-tailed kite, all of whose declines in numbers he or his informants had personally witnessed, and soon regarded as rare or extirpated. To such observations may be added his remarks on commoner species in an earlier paper (1874:577-8):

In the vicinity of Columbus the Marsh and other hawks, and in fact nearly all the larger birds, have greatly diminished in number. Even the Pewee is much less numerous than formerly, probably for the reason that modern improvements have taken the place of his favorite breeding places. Very few water-fowl remain during the summer, compared with the number which formerly bred with us. As intimated, this is, no doubt, due more to the changes in the face of the country than to the fear of man or direct destruction by him. On

the other hand, many birds have increased in numbers, and some have made their first appearance in the State within the last thirty years. Prominent among these are the Rough-winged Swallow, Loggerhead Shrike, Lincoln's and the Lark Finch [Lark Sparrow], Bobolink, Cow-bird, Black-throated Bunting [Dickcissel], King-bird, Quail, and Woodcock. It will be noticed that all the birds of these two groups are resident or summer resident, none of the birds which do not, or have not, bred with us being especially affected. I may further call attention to the fact that nearly if not all of the birds of the first group nest on trees or in secluded forests, while those which are increasing in number nest upon the ground or on low trees and bushes in open land.

Coues and Prentiss (1883:30), in their contemporaneous work on birds of the District of Columbia (comparable in many ways then and now to the central Ohio counties), wrote that “[t]he Wild Turkey has been practically exterminated, though still lingering near us; and so has doubtless the Sand-hill Crane. The Pileated Woodpecker is nearly in the same predicament, though still seen once in a while.” Ohio observers also joined them in reporting that rivers and creeks no longer flowed as constantly and clear as they had earlier, correctly attributing this to the removal of tree cover (James 1888, Trautman 1977:8-9). The ensuing altered hydrology also had a great effect on birdlife. In 1882 there still persisted in the county some altered remnants of primeval prairie grasslands. Portions of these grasslands and savannas had earlier in the century been dedicated to cattle-grazing, a practice which at least retained habitats attractive to certain prairie species, habitats that were to be drained, plowed, and dedicated to crops in times to follow.

A study of the birds of what has become a largely urban county inhabited by more than a million humans must take full account of other interactions with *Homo sapiens*. The impact of the deliberate killing of birds, through hunting for food or plumage or sport and later as pests to be controlled, is now often overlooked but well worth mention in a historical context. Throughout the twentieth century, Franklin County has exceeded all others in the state in the number of hunting licenses issued. In early days, certain eradications of wildlife were a civic duty: 1807 Ohio tax law mandated that along with cash a landowner was to furnish squirrel scalps in numbers (varying between 10 and 100) determined by the township clerk (Dambach p. 210, Lee p. 294). Bounties were paid for remains of hawks, even those that often preyed on squirrels. As recently as a century ago, many species of interest at the time as food or items for sale, or merely as recreational targets, were still widely hunted or trapped, but the excesses of commercial harvesting made regulation necessary. In Columbus, the Legislature in 1874 had by law protected yearlong the “crossbill or corncrake, dummock, Eur. Blackbird, great tit or blue tit, grossbeak, hedge sparrow, Hungarian robin, nightingale, redstart” (Dambach 224), for what that was worth. Such was the extent of knowledge about birds among the governmental officials for whom Wheaton was only eight years later to produce his most important work.

It is sobering to look at old lists of wild birds sold as food (see De Voe 1867). In 1883 Coues and Prentiss wrote of birds commonly for sale in markets of Washington, D.C. that cedar waxwings were “when they grow fat... frequently offered for sale,” that harriers were “one of the species [of hawks] more frequently exposed for sale in the markets,” that pileated woodpeckers were just as often vendors’ goods, and even that great horned owls were “sometimes found in markets.” Dutcher related in the *Auk* (2003) a report from game wardens of 80,000 frozen snow buntings, destined for the gourmet trade, discovered by game protectors in cold storage in a city on the east coast. The repugnant excesses of the feather trade have been well documented. A few species once regarded as extirpated or much reduced in numbers—the aforementioned wild turkey and pileated woodpecker for example, and the wood duck—have recovered, mostly with restoration efforts aimed at wiser harvests of game species. Those still legal to hunt require, and now receive, ongoing watchful protections and active enforcement by wildlife agencies that are required to maintain viable populations. Certain surprisingly generous legal bag limits of our era—for example 25 rails per day—seem now, in view of much-diminished rail numbers, unlikely to threaten such species any more than realistic ones, and perpetuated only to placate hunters. Eliminations of wild birds regarded as pests have probably been attempted often in the county, but except in cases where government wildlife managers have encouraged it—among raptors, for example—have not been well documented. Overall, modern statutory protections (beginning with the Lacey Act of 1900 followed by the Bird Treaty Act of 1918) for certain birds were considerable and effective, but for others came too late.

The unintentional poisoning of birds was widely recognized here when bird mortality was witnessed on the urban OSU campus in 1964 following spray treatments for Dutch elm disease (WCB 10:28). Soon thereafter populations of piscivorous birds like cormorants, pelicans, and certain raptors were

widely noticed to be receding continent-wide, then rebounding after uses of DDT and certain other organochlorine compounds were banned in 1972. Less dramatic contaminations have seldom been so decisively dealt with, however. Other environmental threats—towers and windows, pet cats and urban raccoons, introduced viral diseases, etc.— have justly been blamed for mortality or reductions in reproductive success among native birds, as more importantly have been large populations of deliberately introduced species that occupy many territories and food sources. Trautman (1977:19) observed that the 1975 Buckeye Lake Christmas Bird Count tallied 4814 birds of 83 native species and 9251 of just three exotic ones (rock pigeon, European starling, and house sparrow), commenting on how severe must be the effect of such a disparity on our native avifauna.

Troubling as these threats have been, the ongoing eradication of habitats by human activities has taken by far the greatest toll on our birdlife. The eventual extinction of the passenger pigeon, for example, however staggering the extent of slaughter by human hunters, was decided nearly as much by the fatal erosion, mostly through logging, of its colonial life-style that depended on unbroken mature-forest nesting habitats. Trautman (1940:49) wrote of the Buckeye Lake area in the 1920s that “[i]t was in this period that the average farmer’s enthusiasm for a weedless, brushless, intensively cultivated farm reached its height. It was so great as to leave the impression that the farmer had developed an almost innate hostility to all nature other than the plants he cultivated and the animals he owned.” This attitude seems as commonly held today, abetted by new technologies, especially chemical aids to agriculture, that make it a prime antagonist of biodiversity in our rural areas. The history of changes imposed on local bird habitats can be briefly illustrated by five increasingly powerful tools used to advance human land use over the years:

1. **AXE** Clearing away trees was the first radical change humans wrought in the landscape. In the 1820s, stumps still hampered wheeled traffic along Wolf Ridge, later to be called High Street, in Columbus (Hooper 1920:33). Consequent transformations of large tracts of primeval forest to open country with scattered much smaller and younger wooded tracts altered conditions for all wildlife. Woodland birds retreated, and species of open habitats, from kestrels to larks, moved in. The change was rapid: Kirtland wondered in 1838 (p. 180) if the cowbird deserved a place on the Ohio list, but by 1864 (Christy 1936:88) it was regarded as abundant. Among forest birds, certain breeding species were able to adjust to new circumstances, but others moved close, or actually succumbed, to extirpation, and many relationships among fauna were radically changed. Dynamite was not easily available until the 1880s, so it was a common practice to girdle huge primeval trees on homesteads, then later to plant crops around their leafless remains; this practice at least provided habitats for martins, bluebirds, swallows, swifts, woodpeckers, etc. as these trees decayed. Since then the routine and easier removal of snags and dead or hollow trees everywhere has discouraged cavity-nesters in ways mostly unheeded through the present day. Related alterations led to the widespread practice of allowing livestock, especially hogs, to forage in remaining woodlots, eating eggs and erasing forest understory habitats for many bird species.

2. **SHOVEL** Atwater wrote that “the country lying between the Scioto and Miami rivers, had the twentieth part of its surface covered, during the months of March, April, and May, with water” (1838:98). Both farmers and city-dwellers wanted to control water, and here this usually involved draining wetlands, channelizing runoff, damming or redirecting streams, and, eventually, tiling to dry out croplands. Many water-loving species were greatly affected, with much-reduced numbers adapting to habitats that had become less than ideal. River dams, many built in the early twentieth century, erased gravel bars and encouraged siltation, while eliminating many edge habitats. By 1882, the year of Wheaton’s *Report*, there were 230 drain tile manufacturers in the state, and the *Drainage Journal* estimated that as much tiling had been done in Ohio during that year alone as in all previous years combined (Howe 1900: I, 627). By 1960 it was estimated drain tile installed in Ohio laid end to end would reach to the moon (Nolte 2000). The county Metro Parks system, in preparing an 800-acre tract then planted in corn for restoration as prairie in 2010, had to remove over 130 *miles* of tile to do so.

3. **PLOW** Next to be altered were many grasslands. The eradication of prairie vegetation and associated wetlands in the larger tracts, enabled by advanced plow designs of the 1830s, greatly changed bird populations. A significant number of grassland species managed to cope for varying periods, but others were more rapidly extirpated or nearly so (prairie-chickens, kites, cranes, then bitterns and rails, etc.). For a while, agricultural practices often included pastureland for livestock, where some of the more adaptable prairie species were able to survive in reduced populations. With time, however, land-use trends have

increasingly favored monocultures of a few field crops rather than farm animals, with further losses of diversity. Dense shelterbelts, usually of exotic plants that benefited fewer bird species, were themselves removed to increase acreage for crops protected by chemicals. Disappearances of meadows and even planted rotation crops such as clover and alfalfa have further reduced variety among habitats, and in recent decades declines in grassland species have surpassed those of other local settings.

4. **TRACTOR** Industrial-scale mechanized farming led to further losses of habitat via reductions in varied field crops, pastures, and orchards, in favor of fall plowing, fence-to-fence planting, early haying, and the present dominance of corn, soybeans, and winter wheat as crops. Herbicides reduced cover, and insecticides food, for many bird species. A few artificial habitats in agricultural settings, in the form of old-fashioned wooden outbuildings, certain cover and rotation crops, farm ponds, martin-houses, etc., continued for a while to invite the more adaptable open-country birds. Later, farmland welcomed an increasingly narrow spectrum of bird life, and by the current day highly developed rural lands provide acre for acre less diverse habitats and fewer native birds than do far more densely settled urban and suburban neighborhoods.

5. **BULLDOZER** Farmland itself is now disappearing here with urbanization, as ever-growing industrial sites, housing tracts, highways and parking lots, etc., prevail. Over a quarter of Franklin County's surface is now covered with buildings, pavement, and chemically-treated lawns, while areas dominated by native plants are increasingly difficult to find among outlying crop fields. Some birds have adjusted uneasily to urban infrastructure and buildings (swallows, swifts, nighthawks), bird-feeders (species capable of wintering with their help, some breeders, and their avian predators), woodlots and plantings (native birds capable of flourishing in shrinking patches of habitats in an increasingly urban matrix), landfills (gulls, crows, vultures, etc.), and reservoirs and flooded quarries (migrant waterfowl, gulls and terns, shorebirds, and some passerines). At the same time, urban settings have disproportionately benefited certain very prolific exotic species (rock pigeons, house sparrows, European starlings, mute swans, along with introduced non-migratory Canada geese), all of which pose vigorous competition for native birds. In the suburbs, unnatural proliferations of raccoons, opossums, coyotes, and free-ranging cats have done incalculable damage to birds, especially those nesting on the ground.

Many of the birds whose names appear on the list that follows are migrants here—wintering locally or south of us, with many nesting mostly to our north. A few are seldom-seen wanderers whose normal ranges lie far away. Some are extinct, and others have abandoned—or recently adopted—our part of their ranges. Habitat losses here have always been troubling for regular transients, but elsewhere—in breeding ranges to our north and at wintering sites in central and south America—they have become increasingly critical. The latter areas especially are in various stages of experiencing the same logging of virgin forests, draining of wetlands, new crop monocultures, and urbanization that have threatened bird diversity here. Among local nesters, a host of species whose local breeding numbers have been reduced by over two hundred years of unchecked development—cuckoos, flycatchers, vireos, thrushes, warblers, tanagers, orioles—are further declining because of habitat eradication on their wintering grounds farther south in the Americas. It may be unrealistic to expect our southern neighbors to deprive themselves there of what we have so stubbornly claimed as our rightful domain here, but perhaps they may yet learn from our example.

The local news is not all grim, however. Some results, at times unintended, of human-influenced habitats such as canals and flooded quarries, and in more recent decades especially the construction of reservoirs, and artificial or restored wetlands, grasslands, and native tree plantations in parks, have preserved some diversity in our avifauna. On 1/11/1984, for example, ~7000 diving ducks of various species were found resorting to quarry ponds—many for sewage treatment--south of Columbus (*WCB* 1(28):11), an unprecedented gathering at the time, and certainly not in an area designed for the purpose. This took place where little more than a century earlier ancestral swampy areas along the river and the Ohio and Erie Canal feeder had hosted uncounted waterfowl. Today many other species are more likely to persist in wooded areas and prairies protected in public lands, as well as near areas allowed to flood, even dam pools, flooded quarries, etc.

Recently, mindful management in parklands has allowed some recoveries among species once common which had grown rare. The parks' intentional efforts on behalf of wild birds—including routine discouragement of bloated deer populations—have been welcome, substantial, and effective. It seems

likely that many bird species will continue to be more often found in areas deliberately set aside for them: see for example the more than 80 records cited below from Pickerington Ponds Metro Park alone, a unique spot earlier rescued by The Nature Conservancy, as well as recent discoveries in newly-restored prairies in Battelle Darby Creek MP, where with new land acquisitions and restorations dozens of bird species were added to that park's checklist in 2011 alone. A few substantial privately-owned tracts containing productive habitats, such as Green Lawn Cemetery (cited for records more than 50 times below) have to varying extents been maintained with wild birds in mind. The large artificial reservoirs of the region—Buckeye Lake, and Delaware, Alum Creek, O'Shaughnessy, Madison, Deer Creek, Hargus Lake, and Hoover Reservoirs, continue to invite concentrations of waterfowl, gulls and terns, and shorebirds. The reservoirs improve the potential for bird abundances nearby in supplying tracts of scarcer habitats, especially beaches and mudflats, flooded forest, and large expanses of deeper open water. Their tendency to silt up, however, is marked; Hoover Reservoir's highest counts of diving birds mostly come from the first few years after it was flooded in the mid-1950s, when at times 30,000 migrating ducks were estimated to be present, and the lower, not the upper, part of the reservoir hosted reports of migrant shorebirds.

Numerous corporation-owned flooded quarries and wetlands in the Scioto River watershed have invited large numbers of birds, but many are now nearly inaccessible to observers, though still likely to benefit migrants. Among the reservoirs of the region, Buckeye Lake has by far the longest history, back into a time when it was the largest body of water in central Ohio. Early on, it had been a chain of natural glacial kettle lakes and wetlands, later dammed beginning in the 1830s as part of the Ohio Canal's construction, well over a century before other reservoirs in the region. It was no surprise then that records of nearly all of the region's—and the state's—rarer water-loving species, observed largely by Columbus ornithologists, were found there in the early days until more recent development diminished its attraction for wild birds. Bird students of the area like Fritz Griffith, whose love of shorebirds resulted in an enormous collection of photographs from Licking County, and local experts going back to Irving A. Field, offer records to document bird populations of an earlier day in what were interesting different habitats. Trautman's *The Birds of Buckeye Lake* (1940) added immeasurably to our knowledge of the region's birdlife. Attentions by municipal and county parks have often preserved important habitats for birdlife. On a more modest scale, everywhere today back-yard bird feeders, martin houses, nest-boxes installed on behalf of bluebirds and kestrels and wrens and chickadees, nesting towers variously intended to assist ospreys or swifts, as well as attentions from government wildlife agencies on behalf of certain game species and raptors, are part of the picture of variably successful intentional interventions on behalf of birds in the region.

Wheaton's major work on birds was composed when Franklin county's population was around 50,000. In times to come, the urbanization of an area with a population now more than twenty times as large will surely continue. Even in urban settings across the region, more and more areas that have provided marginal habitats to adaptable species will be lost as modern buildings, alterations to watercourses, and pavements dominate. On the other hand, increasing efforts on behalf of the natural environment may offset some losses in numbers and diversity of bird species that might otherwise have occurred. As one important example, commendable efforts on the part of city and county park systems to acquire properties to restore, foster, and protect native environments will likely allow at least small numbers of important native species to persist and even to re-establish themselves here. The message is mixed, but includes hope.

Using this checklist

Except where other locations are specified, all sight records and specimens mentioned in this text come from Franklin County, Ohio and six adjacent counties. This work was originally conceived as covering the avifauna of Franklin County, but has been revised to include surrounding counties. Ornithologists from Franklin County did much of the important work in these areas, with the exception of Pickaway County, where local experts had independently done much work on local birds well back into the nineteenth century. The author has included prominent records from Pickaway County, but recommends the more extensive scrutinies planned by these authors in times to come. References to published works, including a few treating other areas and topics that are helpful in studying the birdlife of this region, appear in the Literature Cited pages below. Numbers in parenthesis in the text refer to page numbers when only one of a cited author's book-length works is cited there, or include the year of publication otherwise. In the interest of saving space, records cited in the text are not complete; names of observers, precise locations,

and other details are usually omitted, but when available may be found in the cited sources. Only in the case of quite unexpected species have efforts been made to include each and every acceptable record accumulated, and by and large only general estimations of historical changes in abundance and distribution are provided, as befit the information available. In a very few cases, recent sensitive nestings of species quite rare in the county have not been pinpointed as to location, in the interest of minimizing disturbances.

The use of otherwise valuable older Christmas Bird Count data has been limited occasionally by some skepticism in the case of unfamiliar or hard-to-identify species reported by anonymous observers. An obvious example is the pronounced spike in reported purple finch numbers during the mid-1970s, when introduced look-alike house finches had begun arriving in the state. Compilers have been increasingly careful in vetting such reports, and the numbers of experienced observers have grown; these new conditions lend additional credibility to recent reports. As it happens, no rarity included here relies solely on CBC reports, and CBC records have been uniquely valuable in monitoring early-winter abundances of birds over many decades.

In decisions about which records to include on this list, Trautman's practice in his 1968 Ohio checklist—to include only those verified by specimens curated in accredited museums—has not been emulated. Practices have changed, and collecting birds merely for the purpose of establishing their occurrence has largely ceased as accumulated records, advances in photography and field identification, oversight by editors of publications, and peer review by a state records committee have ensued, while the numbers and resources of competent observers have increased. The slight, and ever diminishing, degree of uncertainty introduced in this way is now further offset by growing knowledge of bird populations and distribution, aided by numerous levels of authentication. Where physical evidence in the form of museum specimens is available, the earliest known local examples are recorded here, as are citations to publications offering available photographs, etc.

Documentation of the region's list is extraordinarily good, with local voucher specimens for over 230 species, fully two-thirds of those included. A problem seldom acknowledged is the dispiriting number of specimens mentioned in the literature that can no longer be located; most of these were lost from private collections, but a few have apparently been mislaid or lost by misadventure in museums and other institutions. Much of Kirtland's collection in Cleveland was lost to insect infestations, and some at least of Oliver Davie's in Columbus was said to have been destroyed by fire, and many more to have been lost by organizations to which they were donated. This material is missing in any event now; a newspaper article (*Ohio State Journal* 6/21/1914:11) states that 570 "stuff birds" from Davie's exhibit at Olentangy Park were given to the local Audubon Society in that year; they cannot now be located as such, though a few may have found their way into the OSU collection. J. M. Wheaton's even larger study collection persists but lacks documentation such as date and location. Museum budget restrictions and today's cautious attitude toward the use of poisons such as arsenic compounds in specimen preservation (Albrecht 1993) may possibly lead to inadequate protections for specimens in the future. The archives of the Ohio Bird Records Committee are housed at OSUM, and available for consultation in the case of state rarities. Decisions therein of course remain provisional, just as Trautman wisely acknowledged as the case even for museum specimens.

As for understanding any checklist, all bird records depend of course not only upon the occurrence of birds to report, but upon the presence of skilled observers who record them in a permanent form. Over many generations, the volume of reliable observer reports has grown so that much more useful estimates of changing abundance and distribution, extreme dates of occurrences, etc. can be ventured. A pioneering authority like Wheaton had fewer precedents or current data to guide him in assessing accurately if certain local species were gradually increasing or decreasing in numbers, or if a given occurrence was significantly late or early. Nor did he have a large number of skilled informants to alert him to significant occurrences. He was compelled to rely on 25 years of field experience squeezed into a busy medical and administrative career, reports from a few local observers he felt he could trust, and the continent-wide knowledge emerging with published scientific studies that was to result in the establishment of the American Ornithologists' Union only the year after his last work was published.

The routine collecting of specimens was the universal practice of Wheaton's day, but it has been largely abandoned today. Accumulated museum specimens continue to advance our understanding, but seldom are new ones required. Observer numbers and their equipment have improved considerably since, as has the ease of sharing data. Today, inexpensive detailed field guides, more convenient transportation and communication, and knowledge accumulated and shared about bird occurrences in the county over the generations and made available by multiple venues for reporting, make many more reliable records

available. Wheaton did not always think it necessary to describe with care the overall setting for his observations, including habitats and the changes they were undergoing, much of which had to await Trautman's research begun nearly half a century later. Taken together, all these factors may make our current bird populations seem more various in comparison to earlier ones than they perhaps really are. Certainly the modern reader of Wheaton's work will be impressed with the much greater intimacy and variety of birds he regularly found in urban Columbus, but balancing this with his necessarily more constrained abilities to assess the entire county's birdlife, on horseback or by buggy or rowboat, all while conducting a busy medical practice, is a difficult task. Wheaton was very concerned with ornithological history—his "Bibliography of Ohio Ornithology" (1882:594-612) remains useful today—but like all pioneers he himself was soon to recede into that history.

It has not been possible to include certain records in this list. Various editors and compilers have differed in practices to identify Ohio records as to county or city over the years, and many were relatively unconcerned with details of local interest. For example, many published records may be ambiguous as to the counties involved.

Terms of abundance used herein are defined as follows: abundant=reliably present in season, typically in considerable numbers; common=regularly expected in fair numbers; uncommon=usually present in small numbers; rare=found with some regularity but in very small numbers (i.e., more than ten times in the past fifty years, but fewer than five times in any given year); accidental=very few records (fewer than ten overall), with no reliable pattern of occurrence; hypothetical=said of remarkable anecdotal reports conceivably correct but not entirely satisfactory because unpublished, of hearsay status, or lacking adequate information or independent confirmation, etc. Nomenclature and ordering of the species treated is current as of July 2016, in the Fifty-seventh Supplement to the AOU Check-list.

Twenty-four entries in the species accounts are not counted in the total of 372 species for the region, and are identified as such because the entries are indented and not in bold face. These may be hybrids, probable escapes from captivity, unestablished, unacknowledged, hypothetical, extinct, or unidentified as to species. A few were probably part of the area's avifauna—whooping cranes are one example—but the known records are unfortunately not substantial enough to confirm them.

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Abbreviations in this text: *AB*=*American Birds**; *AFN*=*Audubon Field Notes**; AMNH=American Museum of Natural History; AOU=American Ornithologists' Union; *Aud Sec II**=1941-46 issues of *Audubon Field Notes*; BNA= Birds of North America (AOU); *BL*=*Bird Lore**; CBC=Christmas Bird Count archives); *Cardinal*=*The Cardinal* (journal of the Audubon Society of the Sewickley Valley); *CD*=*Columbus Dispatch* (weekly Sunday nature column by E. S. Thomas 1922-1981, and by J. Fry 1981-2009); E=egg/eggs; *fide*=accepted on the word of a trusted informant; *FN*=*Field Notes**; *in litt.*=garnered from written communication; MP= Metro Park; MCZ=Museum of Comparative Zoology (Harvard); m. obs.=multiple observers; MS=unpublished manuscript/typescript verified by handwriting or personal attribution; MS OSUM=handwritten field notes of the Wheaton Club archived at OSUM, draft compilations, and correspondence of curators; NAB=*North American Birds**; NMNH= National Museum of Natural History (Smithsonian Institution); NWR=National Wildlife Refuge; OBBA=Ohio Breeding Bird Atlases; *OBNH*=*Ohio Birds and Natural History*; *OC*=*The Ohio Cardinal*; OHS=Ohio Historical Society; *Ohio J. Sci.*=*Ohio Journal of Science*; *OSMSB*=*Ohio State Museum Science Bulletin* (1928a); OSU=Ohio State University; OSUM=Ohio State University Museum (skin, skeleton, or egg specimens) joint collection with the OHS); pers. comm.=based on direct communication from an informant; pers. obs.=based on the author's observations; ph.=photograph exists; *Redstart*=*The Redstart* (journal of West Virginia's Brooks Bird Club); WA=state Wildlife Area; *WCB*=*Wheaton Club Bulletin*. Museum specimens are round skins unless their collection numbers are preceded by E (egg) or S (skeleton). Species verified as nesting in the the county are marked with an asterisk after the species name.

* These six titles are variously-named incarnations of a continuous publication of continental bird records, first sponsored by the National Association of Audubon Societies 1899-1946, later the National Audubon Society 1946-1996, then 1997-present by the American Birding Association.

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SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna autumnalis*. Two, photographed visiting a suburban Worthington pond 17-18 May 2015 (ph., L. Weyenberg *et al.*), were Franklin County's first recorded; their appearance was accompanied by many others in the eastern US in that year. The following closely-related species had been more often seen in the state until recent years, whereupon *autumnalis* has become more often observed, with more than twenty reported over the past decade, most often as single individuals, but with one record of more than a dozen. In this spring, *autumnalis* were reported in eight other eastern states, with no *bicolor* reports north of the extreme southeast. These warm-weather strays to our region from the Rio Grande region of Texas and south-central Florida are scarce and rather tame. They most often visit quiet shallow ponds, often as mated pairs, may perch in trees, and are active by night. Often also called red-billed whistling-duck.

Fulvous Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna bicolor*. An accidental visitor to Ohio shallow-water wetlands; like its congener the black-bellied whistling-duck *D. autumnalis* it is a southern species, appearing here only as a vagrant. Ohio's second record was found here in Baumgardner Pond in late August 1963 (*AFN* 17(1):36, Trautman, MS OSU Archives), then twelve over Buckeye Lake 11/24/1969 (R. S. Little, *WCB* NS 15), three at Pickerington Ponds 4/5/1979 (Thomson 177), and two at Minerva Park 10/11/1981 (*WCB* 1(26):6). At least one more recent report is interesting but not adequately substantiated. It is difficult to characterize such infrequent visits, and this species has not been reported in recent decades. Apparently they may wander north, often in small flocks, with regional records in spring, summer, and fall. They may appear in suburban ponds as well as in wilder settings.

Greater White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*. Once a rare migrant, more often reported in recent decades. All records come from the period late November-early April. Field reports can be tainted by confusion with barnyard forms. Among recent Franklin County records are six 3/24/1962 (*AFN* 16(3):332), one 12/8/1980 (*WCB* 1(25):15), two 3/15-4/13/2000 (*OC* 23(3):98), one 4/2/2001 (*OC* 24(3):123), four 11/27/2005 (*NAB* 59(1):70), one 11/26/2006 (*OC* 30(1):4), and one at the Hoover Dam 11/10/2009 (*OC* 33(1):4). Wintering and high count: one at Hoover Reservoir 1/4/1986 (C. Bombaci *in litt.*), and as many as 15 from early Jan-15 Feb 1997 at Pickerington Ponds MP (*OC* 20(2):40); two spent 3/15-4/13/2000 there (*OC* 23(3):98). Recent reports here, though more frequent, still tend to have been of a few birds associated with flocks of Canada geese, such as 15 at Prairie Oaks MP on 1/18/2014 (*fide* I. Shulgina). There are reasons to suspect an old OSUM specimen #421 may have come from Franklin Co., but its tag is missing; an undated specimen from the Wheaton collection (OSUM #1955) is from Fairfield County. The field-distinguishable *flavirostris* race of Greenland was documented along the Ross-Pickaway county line 12/30/1984-1/6/1985 (Peterjohn 2001:49).

Snow Goose *Chen caerulescens*. Wheaton deemed it rare in the county, citing a flock of about 20 adult white Snow Geese in the spring of 1874; the “blue goose,” a dark color morph formerly regarded as a separate species, was first recorded in Ohio in Columbus by Wheaton (1882:519) with two in the fall of 1875. Trautman (2006:36) wrote his discovery in 1927 of a blue individual along the Scioto was so remarkable that the *Columbus Dispatch* published a photo and story. Davie (1898:96) had reported that one bird, a blue-morph individual “captured alive four miles south of Columbus, was kept in the City Park for a year, where it associated with the swans,” and Wheaton that another, wounded later that year, had been induced to join the first. Now a rare-uncommon migrant, far likelier in fall. Trautman (2006:37) recounts a story from the fall of 1969 when wind displaced enough geese from their normal flyway to impede all air traffic near Cleveland, Columbus, and Pittsburgh (of the ~3000 he observed 88% were “blue geese”). On 10/21/1969, 750 blue and 80 white geese were seen by others over Columbus (*WCB* 15(33)). Our high count is an older one: a remarkable ~10,000 “blue geese” during a ten-hour flight over Columbus 10/20/1939 reported by Hicks (Campbell 1940:39). The white morph of our “lesser snow goose” subspecies *C. c. caerulescens*, which Campbell (1940:38) estimated to constitute only 7.5% of the local snow goose population at the time, has come to predominate here. A migrant has lingered as late as 5/13/2000 (*OC* 23(3):98), and a summertime stay in Dublin 7/18-31/1995 (*OC* 18(4):128) was deemed by Peterjohn Ohio’s only one of an uninjured bird; he also cites as unique in Ohio an overwintering individual on the OSU campus 1964-65 (both 2001:51). An early fall migrant spent 9/17-22/1976 here (*AFN* 31(2):183), and the high count of 70 for the Columbus CBC came in 2003. Since then small numbers have been found in mid-winter passages with some regularity. The population of these geese has recently exploded in the Arctic, but locally reported sightings have not increased much in proportion because the region lies between flyways; many migrant flocks, however, may pass over so high as to go unnoticed, even while they are calling. Specimen 11/11/1926 OSUM #1773 (blue morph).

Ross’s Goose *Chen rossii*. Traditionally migrants of flyways farther west, Ross’s geese have noticeably increased in the region since Ohio’s first accepted record in 1982, likely due to a burgeoning population encouraged by habitat changes in the Arctic. Its numbers, as well as those of the previous species, have mushroomed in recent years until its arctic nesting grounds seem threatened (Ryder & Alisauskas 2013). Presumably Franklin County’s first appeared 2/25/1997 in Columbus (*FN* 51(3):754), and this species has been found since on occasions in ones and twos, most often at Pickerington Ponds, averaging two to four per winter. One even haunted the busy OSU campus 11/29-30/2011 (*OC* 35(1):4). Recent steep spikes in numbers of nesting Ross’s in the Arctic promise more records, though snow geese are on the increase as well, along with the ever-growing likelihood of confusable hybrid forms (see next entry). No local specimens are known.

[Hybrid Snow x Ross’s Goose *Chen caerulescens* x *C. rossii*. This form was photographed 3/26/1989 during a winter’s stay at Hoover Reservoir (*Birding* 25(1):53, *AB* 43(2):320), having evidently been witnessed as early as 11/19/1988 (*C. Bombaci in litt.*), and by all accounts such hybrids have grown increasingly common here and elsewhere in the Midwest since that time, their variable intermediate field characteristics causing much confusion. See also *OC* 31(1):64].

Brant *Branta bernicla*. Accidental in fall/winter; vagrant brants here seem to be snagged occasionally among more common geese flocks during fall and winter movements. Peterjohn (p. 55) cited “at least four” fall records from the area, which included one at Onion Island in Buckeye Lake on 10/13/1879, and a lengthy stay 10/23-11/10/1977 (*AB* 32(2):211) mostly in Delaware County, the last day of which however was spent at Blendon Woods MP. Later records include one on 12/6/1959 (*AFN* 14(3):312), one found at Green Lawn Cemetery 2/13/1960 (*WCB* 6:24), one undated from Fairfield County(#1955), and another in several spots in the county 1/26-28/2013 (*NAB* 67(2):264, (*OC* 36(2):40) along the Olentangy River.

[Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*. Trautman (1935a:5) in his state checklist wrote of this Old World species: “Casual. One record. Possibly an escaped cage bird.” Thomson reported one on the Scioto River above Greenlawn Dam 10/6-7/1982 (*WCB* 1(27):16). Today usually routinely dismissed as escapes from captivity, records of this Old World species in fall and winter seem far from random in distribution but

are subject to re-evaluation (the origin of specimens may be evaluated by stable isotope analysis) should further study change its status in the state.]

Cackling Goose *Branta hutchinsii*. Granted full species status by the AOU only in 2004, but since Audubon's day variously recognized and reported as "Richardson's" or "Hutchins's" goose, often based on diminutive size alone. A few poorly documented early local specimens and photographs are said to represent this species. Wheaton (1882:522) treated "Hutchins' goose" as a rare migrant along the Lake Erie shore; Field reported that Wm. Harlow possessed a live specimen from Buckeye Lake (1903:134, [ph., Dawson 580]). The first verified local individual wintered at Blendon Woods MP 12/13/1972-4/6/1973 (Fry 1974), and one was noted at Hoover Reservoir 3/8/1987 (C. Bombaci *in litt.*). Two were near the Hoover Dam 1/21/2001 (*OBNH* 2(3):112) and the local high counts have been four in Columbus 1/21/2005 (*OC* 28(2):44) and at Pickerington Ponds 1/5/2009 (*fide* B. Sparks), six on OSU's west campus 1/12/2009 (*fide* A. Boone), and 12 at Prairie Oaks MP 2/5-6/2013 (*NAB* 67(2):264). Reports of this locally rare goose, normally seen on the Mississippi flyway well to our west on migration, are on the increase, with recent spikes in arctic goose populations and occasional deviations from more westerly traditional migratory routes. Its larger subspecies can be difficult to distinguish in the field from smaller subspecies (e.g. *parvipes*; see *OC* 31(1):64) of the following. One was reported taken at Blendon Woods MP in the fall of 1955 (*WCB* 1956); the nature center there possesses a mounted specimen of this species, which lacks data (pers. obs. 2011).

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis**. In 1838 Atwater (p. 93) gave it as a common migrant along the Scioto in the early nineteenth century, and described domesticated birds even then. Wheaton (1882:521) recorded it 10/17/1874, calling it common in migration, a sometime winter resident, and perhaps rarely a breeder in "retired locations." He reported migrants so favored a spot here along the Olentangy River that sportsmen refrained from shooting them because "they were too near town to be *wild* geese." Davie (1898:98-99) described at length a pair of semi-domesticated geese that nested over ten years on a nearby farm, reportedly migrating south each autumn then back in the spring. Diminishing Canada geese numbers remained worthy of report into the 1950s, whereupon the introduced *maxima* subspecies began to appear in Ohio, courtesy of propagation by government wildlife agencies, and is now an abundant nuisance species. The first recorded productive local nest of this now-ubiquitous sedentary population yielded five young on 4/14/1976 (*WCB* 20-21:51, *CD* 11/14/1976). Varying numbers of other wild subspecies have been described, and *Branta* taxonomy remains in flux. The *B. c. interior* form that breeds in James Bay is an often-seen wild migrant here; some of them may wear orange neck-bands courtesy of Canadian wildlife staff, and these birds are noticeably smaller than our resident *maxima* geese in direct comparison. No local specimens are in curated collections, though OSUM #422, a "wild goose" dated 4/1/1879—probably a Jasper specimen—is quite possibly from central Ohio.

[Mute Swan *Cygnus olor**. Trautman reported it in the state as early as 1925, adding (1935:16) that one had spent three weeks during the late summer of 1933 at Buckeye Lake. Borror (1950:15) reported "two or three birds along the Scioto River, between Griggs Dam and Bellepoint, since 1944." A pair was at Pickerington Ponds in August 1976 (*CD* 8/29/76), five at another county site for three weeks in January 1989 (*WCB* 2(5):6), and a high count of nine near Columbus on 12/13/2009 (*fide* T. Slemmer). Peterjohn (2001:56) stated the inland breeding population was fewer than ten pairs; there are certainly more today, but wildlife agencies often removed eggs or young, or even adults, upon request or when they proved to be nuisances. Since 2016 ODNR has been killing mute swans in an effort to support populations of introduced trumpeter swans in the state. Consequently, though this feral species has apparently established itself in the wild in some northern Ohio localities since the 1980s, it has not yet demonstrably done so in central Ohio. This would require freedom from dependence on feeding by humans and evidence of steady range and population expansions, and a history of nesting in the wild with offspring through a substantial number of generations.]

[Trumpeter Swan *Cygnus buccinator*. The most recent accepted record of this northern species as wild in Ohio comes from 1900 (Henninger 1902, 1919), and

there is no firm evidence that wild swans have ever nested here (Whan 2000). Nevertheless, wildlife officials introduced them in the state 1996-2006, intending to establish a viable breeding population of a charismatic and conspicuous species. Whether this comes to pass will require decades for such a long-lived species, which may not breed until five years of age. Trumpeters found occasionally in central Ohio most likely have escaped from waterfowl owners, or the non-migratory introduced populations in Ohio, even perhaps augmented by those from other midwestern states and Ontario, driven south by frozen water; none of these introduced birds apparently undertake long regular migrations like those of wild swans. Nests are as close as Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area, not far north of the defined area here.]

Tundra Swan *Cygnus columbianus*. Wheaton (1882:582) recorded but one, on 3/19/1877. Though lying away from today's customary flyway across the northeastern corner of the state, Franklin County has had modest high counts of ~75 in the fall (Pickerington Ponds first week of November 1984, *WCB* 1/29:7), and ~60 of these uncommon migrants on the less expected midwinter date of 1/24/2005 (*OC* 28(2):44). Previously, five had persisted nearly winter-long at Pickerington Ponds 1/14-3/7/1989 (*WCB* 2(4):20-21, *AFN* 43(2):320). Spring migrants pass mostly in March, but include one 5/7/79 (*OC* 2(1):4), and a bird that sojourned at Pickerington Ponds 3/20-5/13/1994 (*OC* 17(3):92). An early fall record came from 10/2/2011 (*OC* 35(1):4).

Wood Duck *Aix sponsa**. Once abundant, then nearly extirpated in Ohio until protected in 1914 (Earl 1907), it had been restored in 47 mostly northern counties by 1935 (Hicks 1935a:143). It may have two broods in a year, and has since largely recovered its numbers and is again hunted legally, nesting in every Ohio county today. Trautman (1977:14) suggested small remnant populations had rebounded through adaptation toward more generalized nesting habits. High count 290 at Pickerington Ponds 8/10/1979 (*OC* 2(3):6) during one of the conspicuous post-breeding assemblages of adult males. It is rarely found in midwinter; two were seen on the Scioto River 1/23/2005 (*OC* 28(2):44) and there is a specimen from 12/3/1970 (OSUM #15823); it is fairly regular in small numbers early in winter for recent local CBCs, with a high of 12 in 2007, and early males regularly show up again in small numbers in March. Among the more common ducks nesting locally, it is found in wetlands or nesting boxes in woodlands adjacent to streams. Like the hooded merganser, a cavity nester; the two species may compete for sites, but the wood duck predominates here. Loss of tree cavities may cause them to resort to artificial ones; eleven young hatched from a disused Columbus chimney in 1957 (*Auk* 82(2):425). Specimen 9/25/1944 OSUM #8892.

Gadwall *Anas strepera*. An uncommon migrant, formerly more numerous. Gadwalls' unwariness around hunters contributed to a decline in their numbers in an earlier era, but eradications of their breeding grounds in the prairie potholes in mid-continent have doubtless played a more important role since. Bent (126:85) gives its breeding range as formerly including Ohio, and there are some nesting records from along Lake Erie (Peterjohn p. 63), but there is no such conclusive evidence from our region. Trautman (1940:186) remarked on these migrant's lack of wariness about hunters, calling it "tameless or stupidity." Scarce in mid-winter, e.g., one at Blendon Woods 1/13/1979 (*OC* 2(4):2); a high winter count of 100 on 2/21/1957 (*AFN* 11(4):349) probably represented early northbound migrants, just as a 12/30/2007 CBC count of 64 probably did so for late southbound birds. Wheaton (1882:525) recorded one on 3/28/1877; he called it "not very common." Its spring migration may persist into May. Specimen 11/3/1966 OSUM #13259.

Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope*. A rather rare migrant, nearly always in spring, e.g. Ohio's first at Buckeye Lake 3/29/1902 (Peterjohn 2001:64), one in Columbus 3/31/1925 (*WCB* 38(2):118), one Mar-Apr 1947 (*AFN* 1(4):154), two 3/16/1957 (*AFN* 11(4):349), three on 3/22/1959 (*AFN* 13:295), one 3/30/1961 (*AFN* 15(4):414), one 3/15/1987 (*AB* 41(3):438), and another at Hoover Reservoir 4/10/1993 (C. Bombaci *in litt.*). Ohio's first specimen (Jones 1903:215), once at Denison University but apparently since lost, had been collected 3/29/1902 at Buckeye Lake. It most often associates with American wigeons, and these taxa are known to produce hybrid young, which are too often identified as pure Eurasians when mature. Females, whose numbers must be close to those of males, are difficult to separate from females of American wigeon, and no doubt often overlooked. Almost annual in the state during the '40s and '50s, it has become harder to find; Peterjohn (loc. cit.) reports 22+ sightings in or near Columbus 1960-2000. Late was one at Hoover Dam 5/1/1956 (I. Rickly, MS OSUM). High counts were of three drakes at Hoover

Reservoir (Limes, MS OSUM) on 3/16/1957, and as many on 3/22/59 (*AFN* 13(4):374). There are no known fall records for Franklin County, but Peterjohn records a long winter stay at Buckeye Lake 12/30/1938-3/1/1939. No specimen is known from Franklin County, but OSUM has a specimen (#3602) of a drake collected in the Scioto River in Delaware County 4/16/1926.

American Wigeon *Anas americana*. Wheaton (1882:525) called it an abundant migrant here. Now fairly common in passage, especially in spring when it may appear as early as late February, with a high autumn count of 153 at Blendon Woods 10/28/1978 (*OC* 1(3):7) and a high count of 116 for the 1979 Columbus CBC. Peterjohn (2001:64) gave it rare status as a breeder (fewer than five pairs most years) in the Lake Erie marshes. In open water below Hoover Dam, 6-14 wintered 2000-2001 (*OC* 24(2):60, *OBNH* 2(3):114), with smaller numbers since. Peterjohn (p. 66) reported occasional flocks of 200-400 may be found in the central counties in fall, and 15-40 during winter near Columbus. Specimen 10/18/1967 OSUM #13537.

American Black Duck *Anas rubripes**. A fairly common migrant, locally wintering, with a high count from little Thoreau Lake at Blendon Woods (a notably important wintering area in the state) of 1042 on 2/8/1980 (*OC* 2(4):1). Trautman (1940:176) observed it had increased in our area 1860-1934, while other waterfowl numbers declined; he called it the most numerous migrant duck at Buckeye Lake as his study period ended, and thirty years later stated it still rivaled the mallard in abundance (1968:264). In 1940, Campbell (p. 41) had estimated they outnumbered mallards by more than two to one in the state; they outnumbered all other waterfowl species on the Buckeye Lake CBCs of 1934-1943, with 9035 tallied (Trautman 1945). Their numbers are in decline overall in recent decades, however. Overwhelmingly a migrant, one local breeding pair was substantiated in 1927 in Westerville (Hicks 1935b). High count 2335 in a Columbus sewage treatment pond 12/8/1952 (Schuer, MS OSUM). Specimen 4/10/1872 (OSUM #321).

[Mallard x American black duck *Anas platyrhynchos* x *Anas rubripes**. While unusual, still the most numerous hybrid duck found in the wild here, with high counts of 25 at Blendon Woods MP on 1/14/2012 (*fide* A. Sewell) and 50 there 1/10/2013 (*OC* 36(2):2013); ten were present 1/21/2016 (*fide* S. Malinich). Its numbers once increased enough to cause some apprehension about the genetic swamping of *rubripes*. There are several variations and back-crosses, making identification of these birds less than straightforward at times. Overall occasionally seen here; the earliest of four specimens at OSUM is #10007, a male collected in Madison Twp. along Blacklick Creek 2/28/1958.)]

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos**. The familiar mallard has been a common-abundant migrant, stalwart winterer, and fairly common nester both recently and in Wheaton's day. Curiously enough, Trautman (1940:175) verified but a single nest in twelve years' study at Buckeye Lake; its numbers were to exceed those of the American black duck not long thereafter. As many as 109 were found at Battelle Darby MP on 1 June 2013 (*OC* 36(4):132). Prolific, a hen was reported with seven newly-hatched young here as late as mid-December (*OC* 33(2):50). High count 3766 for the Columbus CBC of 12/28/1985 (*AB* 40(4):780), and a flooded quarry near Frank Road held 2300 as late as 1/11 in 1955 (Thomson, MS OSUM). A specimen taken 3/6/1926 is OSUM #3144.

Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors**. A fairly common migrant still, but with numbers much reduced from those of the past. About a hundred at Battelle-Darby MP 4/5/2012 (*OC* 35(3):84) were an unusual gathering. Nesting in Ohio mostly in the western Lake Erie marshes, and a rare breeder locally, with the first several broods reported in summer 1942 near Columbus (Hicks 1945:316), and an egg set collected 5/13/1961 (OSUM #E4269). Five molting drakes were at Pickerington Ponds on 7/4/1979 (*OC* 2(2):4). The least cold-tolerant of our common waterfowl, it leaves the breeding grounds early and is rare in winter, e.g. three drakes 2/24/76 at Blendon Woods MP (*WCB* 20-21:50), one 1/1/1988 (*AB* 42(2):271), 14 in two Columbus locations 2/4/2013 (*NAB* 67(2): 2013); OSUM has a specimen #10241 from 12/26/1963. Northbound migrants are not expected until the last week of March. An early specimen comes from 4/10/1872 OSUM #321.

Cinnamon Teal *Anas cyanoptera*. A western species, preferring placid marsh waters year-long. Ohio's first record was a drake collected at Buckeye Lake in Fairfield County on 4/4/1895 (Davie 1898:82, OSUM #3708). Another male in alternate plumage was observed at Delaware Wildlife Area, Delaware County, on 4/19-26/1986 (AB 40(3):477); fall records are not so easy to confirm, when young birds and females are easily overlooked. These were the state's first and fifth recognized records of this species

[Hybrid Blue-winged x Cinnamon Teal *Anas discors* x *Anas cyanoptera*. Studied at Blendon Woods was this apparent hybrid on 4/10/1974 (Trautman & Fry 1976, OC 3(4):13, 49).]

Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata**. A fairly common migrant, e.g. 40 at Hoover 11/9/1997 (OC 21(1):6), and 80-plus on 3/24/2009 at Pickerington Ponds (*vide* R. Thorn). A mid-summer record comes from 7/9/1985 (OC 8(2):12); Wheaton (1882:528) observed that non-breeders at times long overstayed the appearances of spring migrants, as is the case today, with records of pairs at Pickerington Ponds 6/7/2004 (OC 27(4):140) and 8/22/2006 (OC 30(1):5), without further evidence of breeding until a female with eight ducklings was photographed at the Darby wetlands 5/24/2011 (D. Slager), with another brood discovered later that season there, and more 2012-2015 (J. Watts, pers. comm.) seemingly constituting a new small breeding population. Earlier the first observed inland brood, of 10 young, was noted in Delaware County in June of 1956 (WB 69:280). Rare in midwinter, e.g. two below Hoover Dam 1/2/2001 (OC 24(2):61), and not an early spring migrant. Specimen 4/8/1878 OSUM #334.

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*. An uncommon migrant today; Trautman (1940:179) called it "a favorite with sportsmen" at the time: large, tasty, and easily decoyed. Midwinter records are very few, e.g. seven on 12/26/1981 (AB 36(4):556), and one on 1/7/1997 (OC 20(2):43); a single bird was seen 1/12-2/24/1984 (OC 7(4):12). A few northbound pintails may move through in early February, and many typically stage early spring movements, often dodging ice, with average flocks of 40-50 in March, and high counts of ~200 at Baumgardner's Pond on 3/16/1941 (Thomson, MS OSUM) and 120 on 3/11/2003 (OC 26(3):103). One was unusual at Battelle Darby Creek MP on 8/14/13 (OC 36(1):5), and adults with young were seen at Delaware WA during 1989 (first OBBA, 1991). Henninger, whose major vantage point in the late nineteenth century was the Scioto River south of the county (WB 14(3):80), reckoned it the most abundant of the ducks. Hybrids with the mallard have been occasionally reported, without confirmation. Specimen 4/10/1879 OSUM #340.

Green-winged Teal *Anas crecca carolinensis**. Abundant for Wheaton (1882:526), and a common migrant today. High local count 40+ on 3/2/2000 (OC 23(3):99). Well-adapted to mudflats, this small duck is often the waterfowl most likely to accompany shorebirds in such settings. Rarely overwinters in small numbers—one was at Blendon Woods 1/22/1975 (WCB 20-21:43)—it proceeds northbound slowly, with regular arrivals here in early March. Hicks (1935a) knew of no local nesting records, but later a female with six ducklings was verified here 7/19/1981 (AB 35(6):944). An old specimen (OSUM #317) dates from a century earlier, on 3/10/1881.

["Common Teal" *Anas crecca crecca*. From 3/16-30/1976 many observers witnessed a male at Pickerington Ponds (CD 4/4/1976, AFN 30(3):727, WCB 20-21:51). Earlier, Schuer (MS OSUM) had reported a "possible green-winged x common teal (horizontal bar faint)" at Scioto Lakes 11/11/1951. Because this well-marked form, long recognized as a separate species in the Old World, is a perennial candidate for taxonomic splitting and inclusion in the North American checklist, these records are included here. As of the time of the 1976 sighting, one inland North American specimen existed, a drake collected in Shelby County, Ohio, on 3/18/1910, #5520 at OSUM (CD 4/4/1976), which no doubt explains why Trautman (1935a) includes this taxon in his first state checklist as "casual."]

[Hybrid Green-winged Teal x American Wigeon. *Anas crecca* x *Anas americana*. One was in Columbus 3/31/1982. (AB 36(5):858).]

Canvasback *Aythya valisineria*. An uncommon migrant. Wheaton called it "rather rare" inland; his specimen is from 3/30/1877 (1882:583). Probably the duck most eagerly sought as food, especially when

shot in late fall. Found in winter in small numbers, with high numbers of 63 on the 1975 Columbus CBC and 35 on 2/19/2009 (*fide* R. Thorn) probably augmented by migrants. In spring, 64 migrants (53 drakes) were on the Scioto River 3/20/1960 (M. Trautman, ODW survey). Summering birds include one at Blendon 6/1-7/1/1982 (*OC* 5(2):52), and another at Pickerington Ponds 6/11/1989 (*OC* 12(4):3). An early southbound migrant was found in Columbus 10/9/2000 (*OC* 24(1):7). Specimens #488492 and 488747 at USNMH were collected in Columbus 10/24/1961.

Redhead *Aythya americana*. An uncommon migrant, traditionally more numerous in spring, and for the table second only to the canvasback for epicures. Wheaton (1882:583) first records it locally from 3/25/1875. Much favored for the table, its numbers nevertheless recovered somewhat after the cessation of legal spring hunting in 1914 and the prohibition for sale of wild waterfowl in 1919. Rare in midwinter; a few occasionally join puddle ducks in reliably open water, such as below the Hoover spillway, e.g. 6-7 through most of the winter of 2001 (*OC* 24(2):61). The high Columbus CBC count of 22 came in 1975; 80 were seen in Columbus 1/11/2004 (*OC* 27(2):54), and 80-90 were in the lower reaches of Hoover Reservoir 2/24/2004 as part of its early statewide movements (*fide* R. Lowry). High count ~2700 at a sewage treatment pond with migration well underway on 4/7/1956 (Thomson, MS OSUM). Has overstayed here as late as 7/1/1982, and one summered in 2008 through 10/21 (*NAB* 63(1):76).

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*. A fairly common migrant, sometimes wintering when open water allows. Maxima in spring ~500 on 4/3/1979 at Pickerington Ponds (*OC* 2(1):5), ~1200 in a quarry south of Columbus 3/2/1975 (Thomson 180), and ~4000 at the south end of Hoover Reservoir 3/27/1956 (Trautman, MS OSU Archives). It has lingered as late as 30 May, in 2009 (*OC* 32(3):113). Less often seen here in fall. An adult pair was in the Frank Road ponds 7/15/1941 (Thomson, MS OSUM), without further evidence of nesting. Winter records include a high count of 191 for the 2008 Columbus CBC and high counts of 125-156 on the Scioto 12/20/1996-1/10/1997 (*OC* 20(2):44). Late on 5/27/1995 (*OC* 18(3):90) and 5/30/2009 (*OC* 32(3):113). Specimen 9/16/1880 OSUM #5278.

Greater Scaup *Aythya marila*. By far the scarcer scaup inland, for which reliable field identification criteria were late to develop. Trautman (1931) and Hicks (1935d) believed that Wheaton, L. Jones, Field (author of *Birds of Licking County*) and other early authorities routinely misidentified it, and it was far rarer than they imagined. He seems to have been right. Trautman was unable to locate a single correctly identified specimen of *marila* in any Ohio museum; largely due to his efforts, seventeen specimens from central Ohio—mostly Buckeye Lake—were added to the OSUM collection in subsequent years. Thomas wrote (*CD* 3/14/1954) that he had seen only four in the Columbus area over the preceding twenty years. It is now rare and appears less than yearly in verified records here, with a maximum of three at Blendon Woods 3/22/1981 (*OC* 4(1):18); in 2011, two were seen at Hoover Reservoir on 3/10 (*fide* P. Hurtado) and two at Battelle Darby Creek MP 4/16 (*fide* D. Slager). No specimens are known from Franklin County, but 12 at OSUM are from Fairfield County. The earliest verified Ohio specimen comes from Ottawa County in 1946.

Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis**. Trautman (1940:194) regarded it as the most numerous duck at Buckeye Lake 1922-28, but by 1934 noted that its numbers had fallen short of those of four other duck species. Uncommon in winter, with a high Columbus CBC count of 47 in 2007. Can be numerous in spring, with an overall high count of 11,047 in the deep end of Hoover Reservoir (Franklin Co.) in its heyday on 4/9/1956, with ~10,000 still present on 4/26, and only 250 by 4/29 of the same year (Thomson, MS OSUM). About 1000 were at Pickerington Ponds 4/3/1979 (*OC* 2(1):6). Hicks (1935a:143) reported an adult with five young in a slough south of Columbus during the summer of 1919, and C. Walker two young with a female along Jackson Pike 6/14/1924 (MS OSUM). May linger long: a lone drake was at Pickerington Ponds as late as 6/6/2007 (*OC* 30(4):143) and another at Blendon Woods 1-18 June 1978 (*fide* J. Fry). Specimen 3/20/1882 OSUM #364.

King Eider *Somateria spectabilis*. Can be found in vast numbers in certain marine settings, though averaging appearances only every year or two along the Lake Erie shore, and even less often seen this far inland, usually in late fall and winter. A specimen from 11/4/1880 (OSUM #16087) is the head of a bird shot on Darby Creek near Harrisburg, later found by Wheaton being prepared for market (1882:536, 583). His identification was confirmed by Ridgway (Wheaton, MS at OHS); this was apparently the first record

of this species for Ohio. There is also another specimen of a female (OSUM #12559), one of two immature birds killed by electric lines in Jackson Township 11/26/1960. OSUM has another specimen, #2525, collected from a group of three at Buckeye Lake on 12/2/1926 (Trautman 1940:199). Another local specimen, from Madison County on 8/1/1952, is #23511 at Cornell.

Common Eider *Somateria mollissima*. Davie (1898:93) owned a mounted female of this species collected 11/11/1895 at Buckeye Lake by William Harlow; it apparently represented Ohio's first record. Like many of his specimens, it has been lost. It was not questioned by other authorities of the day, but Trautman (1940:199, 2006:65-66), who had not seen the specimen, later raised the possibility of misidentification. Eiders of either species are seldom seen on shallower inland waters, and distinguishing females of any age can be tricky.

Harlequin Duck *Histrionicus histrionicus*. One, either a female or an immature bird, was observed on the Delaware County segment of Hoover Reservoir on 11/27/1997 (*OC* 21(1):7) for an unusual record well inland from Lake Erie.

Surf Scoter *Melanitta perspicillata*. Unmentioned by Wheaton, and regarded by Trautman in 1940 (p. 201) as the rarest scoter locally, it remains scarce, but has become the scoter most often reported here in recent years, with records into May e.g., three at Pickerington Ponds 5/10-11/1997 (*OC* 20(3):87). Jones, in announcing the first record in the state—two taken by E. S. Thomas on 4/28/1917 at Buckeye Lake—remarked “It has been supposed that this scoter would be found on Lake Erie at some time, but this artificial body of water seems to have furnished a greater attraction” (1917:166); in fact, there are probably many more on Lake Erie, but verifiable specimens are far more difficult to obtain there. It is found here more often in spring than in fall, when migrants may occur as early as mid-October. Lengthy winter records (Peterjohn 91) include one of two young birds at the Hoover Reservoir dam 1/2-1/17/1993 (*OC* 16(2):39); a specimen from 3/22/1965 (OSUM #10489), a female, had stayed since 2/28 in the dam spillway (*WCB* 10:33, *CD* 3/14/1965). Nine specimens at OSUM come from Fairfield County. All three scoter species were present in Franklin county on 11/5/1977 (*AFN* 32(2):211).

White-winged Scoter *Melanitta fusca*. Once the most likely scoter, it now appears less often and its reported numbers have been eclipsed by those of the above species. Rare as singletons in migration and winter, with occasional counts of multiple individuals. High count eight in Columbus 1/31/1959 (*AFN* 13(3):296, *CD* 2/22/1959), judged by Peterjohn (p. 92) the state's only inland winter flock. Lost specimens include one of which Wheaton (1882:538) wrote: “Many years since I saw an adult bird said to have been taken on the Scioto River, near this city.” He goes on to recount another specimen he examined, taken at Buckeye Lake in December 1876 “in company with the last species” [referring to the black scoter]; it is possibly OSUM #399, which lacks complete collection data. It seems to have been the first verified state record of this species.

Black Scoter *Melanitta americana*. A rare visitor, seen more often in recent decades, as are its congeners, but remains the least likely scoter locally. What appears to have been a first state record of this species, a young male, was collected by Jasper at Buckeye Lake in December 1876 (Wheaton 1882:538, Jones 1903:46, Trautman 1940:201). Davie (1898:94) reported “a female of this duck was killed December 3, 1895, on Alum Creek...The specimen is now in my collection”; that specimen has been lost, along with much of his collection. Seen singly or in small numbers, usually on reservoirs in fall and winter, more seldom in spring, with a late date of 4/19/1994 (two birds near the Hoover dam [C. Bombaci *in litt.*]). One frequented Antrim Lake 11/9 through 11/16/2012, whereupon it was found dead (*fide* I. Shulgina). Barring the possible contribution of the latter, OSUM has no Franklin County specimens, but thirteen Central Ohio specimens—all females—come from Buckeye Lake in Fairfield County where Trautman did his waterfowl research.

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*. A rare-uncommon migrant and winter visitor, less likely in fall. Wheaton (1882:534) specified no county records, but called it rare in the interior of the state. Griggs (1901:40) deemed it “occasional” on the OSU campus at the time. Flocks of hundreds were seen from time to time in the region a century ago at Buckeye Lake (Trautman 1940:198). Taxidermist Davie (1896:157) reported “February 21st, 1885, I prepared five skins of this Duck, all males, which were killed in the immediate vicinity (Franklin Co., O.), and a number were seen hanging at the restaurant doors.” Their

overall numbers are smaller today, with 12 seen an unusual high count in Columbus in the fall of 1959 (AFN 14(1):39), and even four at Blendon Woods MP 4/5/1987 (*vide* C. Bombaci). A lone female spent 11/4-16/2008 at Sharon Woods MP (NAB 63(1):76) for a long stay, but was outlasted by another 1/1-2/10/2013 at Hoover Reservoir (OC 36(2):42). A specimen from 2/13/1899, a drake taken in Columbus, is OSUM #1616.

Bufflehead *Bucephala albeola*. An uncommon migrant in small numbers on larger bodies of water in fall, when it arrives near the end of October, and may abide until freeze-up in winter when conditions permit. Wheaton (1882:533) regarded it as an abundant migrant and winter resident in Ohio, without remarking on its local numbers; today, a good day's count here is barely in double figures. Fewer are seen passing through in spring, mostly departing by 20 April (Trautman 1940:197; his high count over many years at Buckeye Lake was 65). The Franklin County high number was 12 in mid-winter at Greenlawn Dam 2/7/1994 (OC 17(2):40). Specimen 4/10/1881 OSUM #378.

Common Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*. An uncommon migrant in early spring, with fewer in late fall. With pintails, among the first northbound waterfowl migrants, and even in late January when conditions permit. A few may winter, with local numbers running as high as 100-300 (Peterjohn p. 98, who judged this the state's largest recorded inland concentration), but the high count of ~1000 on 2/28/1974 in a Columbus quarry (Thomson 1983:181) surely represented spring migrants. Its fall migrations begin in October; a female quite early on the Scioto River 8/30/2008 was likely the same bird—possibly injured—found there later on 9/15 (NAB 63(1):76). Specimen 1/10/1925 OSUM #3117.

Hooded Merganser *Lophodytes cucullatus**. Fairly common as a migrant, with a late spring date of 5/25/1981 (OC 4(1):20). As fish-eaters, merganser populations have fared somewhat better than those of other waterfowl more esteemed by experienced hunters and diners. The Columbus CBC high count of 181 came from 2008. Unusual was a mid-winter count of 81 on 1/16/93 (OC 16(2):39), as were 63 at Greenlawn Dam—a favored resort—1/10-2/10/1995 (OC 18(2):50). For a spring high, 150 were on Hoover Reservoir 4/10/1997 (OC 20(3):87). Hoover Reservoir has held 10 of the top 17 Ohio CBC records for this species (Trautman 2010). A surprisingly rare nester; neither Hicks (1935b) nor Trautman (1940) was able to confirm local rumors of breeding pairs until 5/14/1942, when a female with ten young was discovered at a Columbus sewage pond (Hicks 1945; specimen apparently lost), the first of what have since proved to be occasional nestings locally, where this species may benefit from wood duck boxes for the purpose. Two specimens taken in the Scioto River in town 3/10/1881 are OSUM #s 286 and 287.

[Hooded Merganser x Common Goldeneye *Lophodytes cucullatus* x *Mergus merganser*. An apparent hybrid between these two distinctive but closely-related species was found 2/12/2014 in Griggs Reservoir, and probably the same seen through March of that year (ph., OC 37(2):57)].

Common Merganser *Mergus merganser*. An uncommon migrant here, arriving in spring migration as early as late February or early March with breakup of ice, and more sparingly southbound from late November through December. High winter counts are unusual, but include 100+ in the Scioto River south of Columbus on 11 and 19 Jan and 8 Feb 1942 (WCB 8:11). Later, ~500 were found in the Scioto River 3/1/1941 (Thomas MS OSUM), ~1000 at O'Shaughnessy Reservoir 3/11/1940 (Peterjohn 20001:100) and 2000 estimated at Buckeye Lake 3/20/1924 (Trautman 1940:205) as more timely migrants. It was by far the most numerous merganser for the Buckeye Lake CBCs 1934-1943, with 1066 once tallied during the period (Trautman 1945), and a maximum of 2000 estimated at Buckeye Lake on 3/20/1924. Recently confirmed as a nester in several of the more pristine northeastern Ohio rivers (OC 29(3):110). Specimen 3/20/1881 OSUM #279.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*. Uncommon as a migrant, and quite rare here in winter, such as one at Griggs Dam as late as 1/9/2001 (OBNH 2(3):117); far more abundant on Lake Erie from fall tapering into spring. Wheaton considered it by far the rarest of the mergansers here; he had never seen more than half a dozen males at once. One summered in 1992 (OC 15(4):105), and another frequented the Columbus sewage ponds 6/1-12/1954 (E. S. Thomas, MS OSUM), with no further hints of breeding. Its sole nesting record in the state came from Ottawa County on 5/27/1956, with a hen and two ducklings

observed (Trautman 2006:76). As a migrant, generally arrives later in spring, with high counts of 1050 in the deep end of Hoover Reservoir on 3/5/2005 (*NAB* 59(2):43) and 500 lingering there on 4/1/1993 (*OC* 16(3):83). Specimen 11/8/1927 OSUM #3133.

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*. An uncommon gregarious migrant. A high spring count of 250 arrived on 4/27/1958 in Columbus (*AFN* 12(4):357), and ~300 one autumn (Peterjohn p. 106). As for occurrences in late spring, on 5/17/1989 ten remained at Pickerington Ponds (*OC* 12(3):6), one on the OSU Campus 5/24/1948 (Borrer, MS OSUM), and a pair 6/10/2004 (*NAB* 58(4):523); breeding-plumaged pairs of this species have summered with some regularity in Ohio without conclusive evidence of nesting. Early to return was one 9/17/1951 (Schuer, MS OSUM). Rare in mid-winter here; one was found at Blendon Woods 1/22/1975 (*WCB* 1(20-21):1975) and another at Pickerington Ponds 1/19/1993 (*OC* 16(2):39). Wheaton reported collecting one 4/27/1873 (1882:583), but no Franklin County specimen is known to survive, though OSUM has 29 from the adjacent counties.

Northern Bobwhite *Colinus virginianus**. Wheaton (1882:449) wrote: “Abundant resident. Breeds. This well-known bird is an exception to all others of the order, in that it was probably absent or at least confined to but few locations in the State at the time of its first settlement, and has steadily increased in numbers as the forest has been cleared away, while others have diminished.” He went on to remark that bobwhites appeared “not unfrequently in the streets, on the houses and in gardens of large cities,” presumably including Columbus, where coveys were found in Clintonville into the 1950s (m. obs. MS OSUM). Over-hunting, especially for the market (early reports tell of 1-2 shooters taking 100+ per day), was eventually restricted, and it was illegal to hunt Ohio bobwhites from 1912 through 1959, but the remnant local populations remained susceptible to blizzard weather (especially in the harsh winters of 1912/1913, ‘17/’18, ‘35/’36, ‘44/’45, ‘76/’77, and ‘77/’78), having conspicuously failed to recover since the latter dates (Trautman 1939:99-100). This and the shrinking of cover in pastureland, thickets along streams, and hedgerows have made it a distinct rarity here since that time, with birds only occasionally seen—e.g., four at Pickerington Ponds 1/12/1981 (*OC* 3(4):15) and another near lower Hoover Reservoir 8/21 of the same year (C. Bombaci *in litt.*), and off and on since in the outer counties—many likely from hobbyists’ releases, and probably nearly all birds reported here in recent decades have been of less than wild provenance. Specimen 10/16/1874 OSUM #623.

Gray Partridge *Perdix perdix**. An Old World species, introduced beginning circa 1909 to serve hunters, and eventually—though only temporarily—considered established in Ohio, with its heyday in the 1920s and ‘30s. Hicks (1935a, 1935b) reported it persisting as “very local and uncommon or rare” as a breeder in Franklin County and elsewhere at the time; thereafter plummeting local numbers were reported into the 1950s with small remaining concentrations as close as Madison County as late as the early 70s (Westerskov 1956, Peterjohn 2001:137). An isolated Franklin County covey of four birds on 7/24/1955 at the sewage disposal property south of town (Schuer, MS OSUM) appears to have been the county’s last reported. Two were collected on 12/4/1965 near Sedalia in Madison County (#s 10781 and 10782). A wild bird seen in Pickaway County on 5/4/1968 was Trautman’s last Ohio sighting (Trautman 2006:102). He (1940:224) had suggested that heavy clay soil that clung to their feet tended to doom these birds where it predominated in the environment. Now extirpated statewide as a wild bird, and it is reasonable to question whether it should, as a demonstrably failed introduced exotic species, have a place on the state or county lists.

Ring-necked Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus**. Another exotic species, successfully introduced in Ohio in 1896, and stocked by the state beginning in 1919; it was most abundant during the following 40 years. Since that time elimination of native habitat by modern “clean” farming practices has gradually but considerably reduced this hardy Asian species’ numbers, with many populations sustained only by frequent releases and the provision of subsidized grasslands planted at least in part on their behalf. As early as 1903 Jones (220) had warned it might “prove a menace to the agricultural interests by too great an increase in numbers”; it largely spared agriculture, but competed with native grassland birds, to the detriment of the latter (Moseley 1946). The most recent double-figure Columbus CBC count came in 1983, with 16 birds found. Though small numbers may be found in scattered rural areas, a lasting healthy self-sufficient wild population would now be quite unlikely in Franklin County. Specimens: one 11/25/1924 (OSUM #3386), and another from 3/15/1973 which apparently flew into a window downtown (OSUM #16250).

Ruffed Grouse *Bonasa umbellus**. Wheaton (1860:19) wrote it was “still common in the more thickly wooded parts of the state,” then in 1882 (p. 579) that “very few remain in the immediate vicinity of Columbus,” adding that it “was formerly much more numerous and widely distributed than now, but has decreased in numbers with the rapid clearing away of timbered lands.” Jones (1903:84) noted an alarming decline statewide due in part to unregulated hunting as well, especially for the market. De Voe (p. 159) wrote: “They are smuggled in by ‘poachers’ or ‘pot hunters,’ to avoid the proper ‘game laws,’ who then sell them under the name of owls, or some other fictitious name...” Modern game-management theory declares it flourishes best in forest edge, openings, or successional habitats following deforestation...this is convenient for the timber companies, of course. Jones (1903:85), however, described its habitat as “deep woods.” Trautman (1977:15) felt the grouse benefited from “less dense woodlands,” and therefore had attained its greatest abundance 1850-1885 in Ohio. Hicks (1935a:147) estimated that these birds “occurred in every county of the state two centuries ago,” and related that in the forested Black Swamp areas of Ohio barrels of these birds were packed and shipped to Toledo and Detroit between 1840 and 1880. Trautman wrote he had never seen this species in the state until 1927, despite diligently searching for it, and had never encountered it during his prolonged and intensive studies at Buckeye Lake (1940:223). Certainly over the last 125 years it has been of infrequent occurrence in this county. Last reported by the Columbus CBC on 1/2/1967, an “unquestionable study at fifteen feet” (*AFN* 21(2):214). A grouse captured in a Columbus garage was one of two fairly recent freakish occurrences cited by Peterjohn (p. 141, no date).

Greater Prairie-Chicken *Tympanuchus cupido**. Until the mid-nineteenth century, witnesses reported Ohio prairie-chickens as “quite numerous on our small prairies” (Kirtland et al. 1874:202). Later they were still present, though scarce, in such settings, thus local in Franklin County’s southwestern quadrant. OSUM specimen #660 was a male shot 7 miles west of Columbus (within today’s city limits) on 11/16/1878 (Wheaton 1979:62); Wheaton also offered a second-hand report of two more birds flushed near the same spot “a few years since” (1882:446), as well as several remaining in Delaware County near Radnor (op. cit. p. 63); there are contemporaneous reports from Pickaway, Union, Madison, and Fairfield counties. While likely still a nester in the region at that time it has gone unreported since. By 1857, a reduced 140-day hunting season, with no bag limit, had been instituted in Ohio in an unsuccessful effort to regulate the number of prairie-chickens killed each year (Dambach 1948). Later Davie (1898:175) wrote it was still “a rare resident in Northwestern and Central Ohio. Probably breeds.” Not long thereafter, competition from nest-parasitizing introduced pheasants may have helped to finish off our remaining prairie-chicken populations. By 1903, Jones was to pronounce it extirpated, though isolated Ohio reports of a few arguably wild birds continued into the ‘30s. In 1911 the Legislature declared it officially extirpated in the state, along with the white-tailed deer, the otter, and the wild turkey (Dambach 225). A Marion County reintroduction project in 1933-34 failed (Trautman 1935b, 1977:14). Remains of this species, found in middens in Scioto County (NMNH specimen #346594), together with those of the ivory-billed woodpecker (Goslin 1945), probably signal some open riparian-floodplain grasslands adjacent to mature forests along the Scioto in prehistoric times.

Wild Turkey *Meleagris gallopavo**. Wheaton wrote of it in 1882 (444): “Formerly abundant and resident, breeding throughout the State...Thirty years since it was quite common in Middle Ohio, but rapidly decreased in numbers, until it has been extremely rare in this county during the last ten years.” Ten years later, Lee reported (p. 296) that “[a] citizen now living assures the writer that he has shot a great many wild turkeys between Parsons Avenue and Franklin Park,” doubtless in reference to days long before in Columbus. Howard Jones (1906:4) wrote that the last turkey in Pickaway County had been killed at the mouth of Little Walnut Creek (the locale, more than a century and a quarter later, of the first great egret nests inland in Ohio, in the fall of 1869). By 1903 Dawson (p. 432) believed, or at least hoped, small numbers of this woodland species may have lingered in remoter areas of Brown, Highland, and Adams counties. By this time only 3-10% of Ohio’s original forest remained, and hunting remained only lightly regulated. Later, Hicks (1935a:149) was to treat it as extirpated in the state. The first releases in a very successful restoration project began in 1952, with hunting again permitted by 1966 (Trautman 1977:16). It is now a widespread forest resident statewide (still augmented by releases), with some small but apparently viable and even growing populations even in urban Franklin County, such as at Blendon Woods. A tally of 68 for the 2010 Columbus CBC was the recent high count of an apparently steadily growing population in parklands with dense tracts of trees. These birds may at times be unexpectedly encountered spilling into

wooded urban neighborhoods. No documented voucher specimen was found, as is often the case with game birds.

Pied-billed Grebe *Podylimbus podiceps**. In 1882 (p. 568), Wheaton's assessment was that of an abundant migrant "known to every boy who has wandered with a gun along any of our creeks and rivers"—particularly in spring—and a local wetland nester. It has been less regular and reduced in numbers since, especially as a breeder. Hicks (1935a:140) cited all the central counties as nesting sites. Hardy as a visitor, requiring only open water: ten survived the winter of 1988-89 (*OC* 12(2):9), with four observed at a favored spot above Greenlawn Dam 1/22-2/6/2000 (*OBNH* 1(3):104) and 22 there 2/17/2012 (pers. obs.). High count 55 at the Columbus sewage ponds 9/20/1954 (Thomson, MS OSUM). Listed as a local nester for the first *Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas* (1991) and the second *Atlas* as well (2016). There are numerous recent June and July records, but nesting, difficult to determine, remains often unconfirmed unless eggs, chicks, or birds carrying food are observed. Specimen 4/15/23 OSUM #3135.

Horned Grebe *Podiceps auritus*. During Wheaton's day a rather common migrant, more frequent in fall, not very different from today's status. An unusual high count of ~250 came from lower Hoover Reservoir on 11/9/1997 (*OC* 21(1):3). Thirty-four found in Columbus 12/4/1977 (*AB* 32(3):327). Rare in winter, with Columbus CBC counts of three in 1956 and 1992; as many as five, likely early migrants, were in a quarry early on 2/15/1994 (*OC* 17(2):38). Nine of these relatively weak fliers were admitted to a Columbus rehabilitation facility 14 January 1999 in the wake of unusual ice-storms statewide (Burton 1999); they probably represented a tiny fraction of the numbers disabled at the time. In spring horned grebes may be seen in basic or alternate plumage, or more likely stages in between; one in breeding array was lagging behind at Battelle Darby Creek MP on 5/30/2011 (*NAB* 5(3):434), with another there remarkably late on 6/13/2012 (pers. obs.). Specimen 4/15/1923 OSUM #3135.

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*. A rare-uncommon migrant, mostly in spring and fall, on reservoirs. A mid-winter record came from 1/21/1945 (*AUD* sec II 47(3):21, *WCB* 2:2). During its longest recorded stay, one on 3/14/1959 was joined by another on 3/20, both remaining apparently through 4/13 at the Scioto Lakes quarries along Frank Road (*WCB* 4:37). Still a curiosity on 3/11/62 (*CD* 3/25/1962, OSUM #12695); six were reported in Franklin County that year. Has been reported in spring here as late as 5/20/1926 (Borrer:14). In fall, six were present in a Columbus borrow pit 11/5/1975 (*AB* 30(1):81) for the high count. Single birds were seen in lower Hoover Reservoir 11/13/1981 (*AB* 36(2):182) and 12/19/1982, 11/15/1985, 12/18/2001, 3/3/2008 (*fide* J. Lowry), and 12/11-13/2010 (C. Bombaci, *in litt.*). Frozen Great Lakes evidently led to the grounding of three in the county in 1994 (*OC* 17(3):76), sent to the Ohio Wildlife Center after being found in downtown Columbus streets by a storm 9-12 February (Burton 1999), but no reports emerged here during the even larger regional movement of spring 2003, when 190+ lost birds were recorded statewide (*OC* 26(3):99-100). Unusually widespread freezing in the Great Lakes led to record numbers of stalled migrants in the eastern US, with numerous reports in open water in the county during the first half of March in 2014.

Eared Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*. The world's most abundant grebe, though in the eastern US only a rare visitor on the Great Lakes and reservoirs and occasionally even small ponds. Doubtless this locally less familiar western species, seldom present in its more distinctive breeding plumage, has been overlooked or misidentified from time to time. Ohio's first accepted record came only in 1941 (Peterjohn:2001:9). High count three in a local quarry on 3/20/1972 (Thomson 171). The earliest spring record here came from 3/15/2000 (*OC* 23(3):96), with others 3/22 and 4/1/1993 (*OC* 16(3):80), 3/23/1957 (*AB* 11(4):348), and another 3/24-4/13/2000 (*OC* 23(3):96), with a markedly late spring record on 5/19-22/1981 (*AB* 35(5):828, *OC* 4(1):15, *WCB* 1(25):16). Somewhat more often seen in fall, mostly in November, with two on 11/5/2004 (*NAB* 60(1):67). A specimen was taken in Fairfield County 11/17/1971 (OSUM #16537). The winter of 2011/12 yielded several unusual records in the state, including one as late as 5-6 January at a quarry in Prairie Oaks MP (J. Pontius, ph., m. obs.).

Western Grebe *Aechmophorus occidentalis*. An accidental migrant, with three reported in the region: in Columbus 11/28/1956 (*AFN* 11(1):29), and another at a quarry in the city 4/25-5/13/1964 (Thomson *CD* 4/27/64); the May date of the latter is probably erroneous, in view of a male collected at Scioto Lakes (quarries) 4/27/64 (OSUM #10253), unless two individuals were involved, a possibility not supported by

Thomas's *Columbus Dispatch* column of 5/10/1964, where he does not confirm a lengthy stay. Other local reports of Ohio records of this western stray, nearly all at inland reservoirs Nov-April, include one on 10 May 1958 at Buckeye Lake (Thomson 1983:171).

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia**. Abundant, and present in North America since the seventeenth century, but routinely ignored by ornithologists; Peterjohn is willing to treat it in some detail, but Trautman, Jones, Dawson, and Wheaton ignore it. For this and other reasons, this species' status in the state, especially long ago, is thus less than clear. Other introduced alien species—starlings, house sparrows, and especially game birds—have been far better documented, though the rock pigeon, as an unprotected species, remains a perennial favorite for hobbyists, students of bird behavior and physiology, BB-gunners, and pest-control planners; many hunters will admit they are as tasty as mourning doves, and meatier. Said to be diminishing somewhat as a resident statewide, perhaps due to more efficient farm operations in rural areas and better management of rubbish plus depredations by raptors in urban settings. Nevertheless, the Columbus CBC briefly held the all-time state high count, 4036 in 1997, at least until the Hamilton-Fairfield count reported 16,604 the following year. Still, Columbus had the maximum counts for 10 of the state's top 15 CBC totals since the Count admitted reports of this species in 1974; local counts for 2011-13 were 1231, 926, and 901. Peterjohn (2001:254-5) reported that Columbus columbids have been observed flying daily up to forty miles to find food—spilled corn is a favorite—in rural settings. Roosts of a few to more than 500 (12/23/1956, Schuer, MS OSUM) continue over the county in a variety of human-influenced settings, both urban and rural. Specimen 2/29/1928 OSUM #7508.

[Band-tailed Pigeon *Patagioenas fasciata*. Hypothetical. No further evidence has been discovered to support Trautman's statement (1935a:16) that "[a]t least two have been noted in the vicinity of Columbus during the past fifteen years." No details or subsequent reports are known. Borror (1950:12) treated the status of this species of the far West as an "exotic" locally, apparently based entirely on Trautman's assertion.]

Eurasian Collared-Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*. Occasional local reports of this invasive exotic species, both offhand and formal, most often from Clintonville neighborhoods, came to light during the 1990s and 2000s, some very suggestive but none unequivocal. Based on the species' verified incursions into Ohio since the state's first specimen record in 2001 (from Crawford County and later deposited at OSUM, since lost in a freezer failure), some local reports may well have been valid, but even the best photographs obtained did not show diagnostic details such as the undertail coverts. Its history elsewhere in Ohio—a nest was eventually confirmed in 2010, in Logan County (*OC* 33(3):167)—led to surmise it would join the county's official avifauna in the near future, and satisfactory evidence was finally found in the form of a calling bird photographed 6/15/2011 in Prairie Oaks MP (*vide* T. Hammer), then a pair along Alum Creek 12/25/2011 (*vide* C. Wilcox). The quite modest local numbers of this comparatively benign non-native species may persist here, as it continues its spread from Florida northwest through the continent (Whan 2007); in Ohio, they are somewhat easier to find in the northwest.

Passenger Pigeon *Ectopistes migratorius**. According to Wheaton (1875:11) they were abundant and "resident most of the year." By 1882 (p. 441) he was to call it "formerly an extremely abundant summer resident and migrant, appearing in all seasons. Now, much less abundant and irregular." Twenty years after these words were published its extinction in the wild was apparently complete. In the fall of 1821, a large roost estimated at 3¼ by 2 miles in extent hosted millions of birds 2-3 miles southeast of Worthington (anonymous, *New Hampshire Patriot* 12/17/1821). In Pickaway County, the *Circleville Herald* reported on 4/12/1861 that locally 215,000 had been shipped the previous week in barrels to the east. Between 19 January and 6 April that same year, one Columbus company shipped 161,200 birds in 403 barrels (Lee 298). Prices for live birds in the Columbus Central Market at State and Fourth Streets ran as low as five or six cents per dozen (Davie 1898:186); buyers could ask that birds be killed, whereupon the vendor "dislocated the bird's neck between his teeth" (Wheaton 1882:441). One of Lee's informants (p. 297) reported "he used to set his traps for them at the present corner of Town and Fourth streets" in Columbus; Wheaton's house was later built at this very intersection. Wheaton (1882:441) reported from Columbus that "...until about 1855, these Pigeons were extremely abundant in central Ohio, having at that time a roost and breeding place near Kirkersville, Licking county, and large numbers were to be seen till nine

o'clock and after, flying westward from the roost, and in the afternoon about four o'clock till sundown returning. At these hours they were never out of sight, and often dozens of flocks were in sight at once." Trautman (1940:270-72) offers considerable detail on this Bloody Run roost, reporting a specimen captured there as late as 1879. The *Columbus Dispatch* on 4/9/1939 ran a memorable account of a ninety-mile-long flight that had passed over the city in the spring of 1855. Davie (1898:185) observed "At the present writing (1897) it seems to be on the same parallel with the American Buffalo of the Western plains, almost, or very nearly exterminated. Both were seen in countless thousands, and today it is not easy to procure examples of either. The late Maj. Bendire, writing in 1892, says that 'it looks now that the total extermination of the Wild Pigeon might be accomplished within the present century.'" The world's last widely-known wild passenger pigeon was said to have been shot in Pike County in 1900; the specimen (OSUM #2540) is on display at the Ohio Historical Society in Columbus (for a slightly later Indiana date however, see Butler 1903:98-99). Specimens from central Ohio include two from 3/1/1875 (OSUM #1609 & #1757), an undated specimen #9326 from Delaware County, and the undated #13133 in the Carnegie Museum.

White-winged Dove *Zenaida asiatica*. Quite rare as a vagrant, though its reports may be increasing in frequency in the region, perhaps only because of increased numbers of observers. One was photographed in Delaware County on 28 April 2007 (*OC* 30(3):107), and a vocalizing male was later photographed in a Columbus back yard near OSU 6/12/2010 for the state's eighth accepted record at the time (*NAB* 64(4):590-91).

Mourning Dove *Zenaida macroura**. Apparently abundant and prolific today as it was in Wheaton's era. It likely benefited from the felling of the forests. In 1903 Dawson (429) voiced a common opinion: "There seems to be a growing tendency among sportsmen to regard the Dove as a game bird. Only recently a gentleman in close touch with sporting circles boasted that he had killed fifty in a day, not far from Columbus. I cannot but feel that this is to be deplored...it does not seem, upon sober thought, that its value either as meat or as a flying target begins to equal that of its tender song, and its confiding presence in our midst." Legal hunting was discontinued in 1922, and after a brief renewal 1975-77 was again forbidden until resumed in 1994; since then significant reductions in its local numbers (other than Christmas Bird Counts: after a high count of 2953 for that of 12/26/1982 numbers have varied from 1003 to 389) have not been conclusively demonstrated. It has local nesting records in every month of the year, and in many settings urban and rural. Davie wrote (1882:87) that "All the nests of the Carolina Dove which I have found on the ground in Central Ohio, where the soil is clayey and cold, the eggs were often addled, and this applies to other partially ground-nesting birds, such as the Brown Thrasher." Part of the local population migrates south between November and late February; typically, one banded in Columbus 7/7/1926 was shot in Georgia on 1/1/1927 (*OSMSB*:73), and others banded here have been retrieved as far away as Mexico to the south and Labrador to the north. Specimen 7/20/1950 OSUM #7914.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo *Coccyzus americanus**. Nested on the OSU campus in former days (Griggs 1901:41), admittedly when the environs were wilder, and in all the counties of the state (Hicks 1935a:154). An erratically uncommon nester today here in areas of appropriate habitat, such as luxuriant thickets and brushy areas such as in ravines, often near water. It typically arrives in early May and a few may linger more silently rather late into fall. Nomadic to some extent, and its numbers here may vary considerably from year to year, seemingly based on the abundance of insect prey; for example, they are more numerous when periodical cicadas break out. Habitat loss in their wintering ranges in Central and South America is blamed for an overall decline in numbers. They outnumber black-billed cuckoos here today, and like them may feed nestlings into mid-October at times. Both cuckoos may move about and call by night as well as by day. A typical early local appearance here comes from 4/27 (*Ohio Naturalist* 3(5):401), and a significantly late one from 11/11 in 1931 (Borror 1950:21). Specimen 5/16/1885 OSUM #794.

Black-billed Cuckoo *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus**. Wheaton (1882:391) called it a "very common summer resident," and the previous species only "common" at the time. He noted the role of sporadic insect outbreaks (notably hairy caterpillars—which both cuckoos' digestive systems are well adapted to handle—and periodical cicadas) in their irregular overall numbers year by year. Wheaton remarked that the cuckoos "were quite numerous in the central portions of the State. From their habits they are not often seen" (1860:371). Hicks (1935a:154) stated they outnumbered the previous species in about 20 eastern

unglaciated counties in his day. Now, however, an uncommon migrant and rare-uncommon nester here, its recent reported numbers running about one-third those of the yellow-billed at best. They are apparently somewhat more adapted to denser and drier more mature woodlands, including conifers, than the latter. Their numbers are in decline across their range, with pesticides aimed at its caterpillar prey, along with deforestation, as likely causes. One arrived at Pickerington Ponds pretty much on time 4/29/81 (*OC* 4(1):26). A subadult was in a Columbus suburb 6/22/2005 (*OC* 28(4):146), and a southbound migrant was noted as late as 10/15 (Bent 176:83). Specimen 5/24/1950 OSUM #7911.

Groove-billed Ani *Crotophaga sulcirostris*. A quite rare individual mistakenly reported for Columbus on 8/10/1980 in *AB* 35(2):190 was instead found on that date near Alum Creek Reservoir, four miles into Delaware County (Peterjohn 2001:264). OSUM has Ohio's two specimens: #10104 on 10/30/1963 from Ottawa County, and #16295 from Holmes County on 10/23/1972.

Common Nighthawk *Chordeiles minor**. In 1874, Kirtland et al. (263) wrote that it “deposits its eggs on the bare ground, often in the middle of a field,” and in Wheaton's day too nests of nighthawks were usually found here in settings such as fallow fields; an incubated set of two eggs collected 6/12/1890 (OSUM #E3311) in Franklin County, for example, was found in “a slight depression in the ground.” Bales's egg collection at OSUM includes 16 sets collected from ground nests dating from as late as 1913; the seventeenth, from 1931, was found on a roof. Nighthawks nested in abandoned quarries on Kelleys Island in Lake Erie as recently as 1954 (Dexter 1956:13). As early as 1903, however, Dawson (343) was to write “[i]n Columbus it is a familiar feature, hawking fearlessly above High Street, and nesting, as in many other cities, upon the tarred and gravelled roofs of flat-topped buildings.” Such roofs had gradually come into wide use after the Civil War. Hicks (1935a:156) pronounced nighthawks present, relying on such a nesting strategy, in nearly every Ohio city with a human population of more than 5,000, often absent in smaller communities. Now, nests in towns grow scarcer every year, at least in part because gravel ballast is evermore seldom employed on roofs and flying insects have become less numerous in cities; increased egg depredation by urban crows and raccoons is a factor as well. Males generally roost, long axis parallel to a limb, in trees; Trautman (1940:281) wrote they much preferred black walnuts and honey locusts for the purpose, trees whose bark colorations most closely matched those of their plumage. Spring migrant flocks tend to number in the dozens at best, moving at higher altitudes than in fall. They usually arrive by 5-10 May. Very early local records come from 4/16/1899 (OSUM specimen #882), 4/18/2011 (*fide* M. Skinner) and 4/19/1985 (*OC* 8(1):23); Trautman (MS OSUM 5/6/1963) reported a “large flight” in Columbus 4/26/63; judging by what he writes elsewhere (1940:281) this may have involved ~25 seen during the day. The highest twilight counts of fall movements usually come from late August-early September, and include a description of circle-soaring by “at least several thousand” over the OSU campus 9/3/1968 (Mueller 1970), 3000+ on 9/3/1976 (Thomson 1983:206), and 2500 on 9/3/1992 (*OC* 16(1):21). Later in fall, 224 migrants were observed over Clintonville 10/3/2006 (*OC* 30(1):20). One entered the OSU campus's main library on 10/22/1965 (*WCB* 11:46). Late records were two in Columbus 11/5/2015 (*OC* 39(1):17) and one seen and heard calling on 11/20/1975 at High St. and Morse Rd. (J. Stahl, *WCB* 1(20-21):42). Odd-looking local fall specimens from OSUM were sent to H. C. Oberholser during the 1930s and '40s (see for example Aldrich 1936), who identified several as western subspecies such as *hesperis* (#7464, 9/3/1936), *howelli* (#7487, 8/28/1936), and *sennetti* (#12021, 8/31/1938); other subspecies attributions among OSU specimens are *asseriensis* (#12016) and *henryi* (#12025). An earlier examination of the OSU specimens by Hicks (1938) found no county examples of *sennetti* (*Auk* 55(3):534).

Chuck-will's-widow *Antrostomus carolinensis*. Discovered by Ohio's ornithological community only in 1932, as nesters in Adams County, and studied by OSU and Wheaton Club ornithologists (Thomas 1932). One was collected the following year near Dayton (Blincoe, *Auk* (50(3):362). As far as is generally known, a quite rare stray as far north as Franklin County, although there are 37 records from Point Pelee alone, just across Lake Erie in southern Ontario (A. Wormington, *in litt.*). Its distinctive insistent call was heard in a limestone area in Upper Arlington near the Scioto on the interesting date of 6/7/1952 by earwitnesses, in person and over a telephone, at the time the species' northernmost known occurrence in Ohio (*WB* 65(1):43, Thomas MS at OHS). Floyd Chapman, a witness to that 1952 event, also heard them singing in two different years in the Walhalla Ravine during the 1960s and '70s (precise dates unknown; J. Fry *in litt.*). A migrant was discovered by daylight on a log at Green Lawn Cemetery 5/2/1983 (*AB* 37(5):876). A Hamilton County specimen #35258 at the Cincinnati Museum is said to have come from 2/28/1994, and

that museum added another found in Clermont County on 12/12/2005, attesting to this species' occasional hardiness. Our ignorance about its breeding range is well hinted by many regional records of calling males, without further data, from Ohio well into Ontario.

Eastern Whip-poor-will *Antrostomus vociferus**. Wheaton (1882:382) found them scarce in Columbus, but rather common in the countryside west of town, where many nested. He stated he had never found them on limestone or clay soil, but only on outcroppings of sandstone. Overall he relegated them to “the more hilly portions of the state” (1860:15). Davie (1898:283) collected two eggs here on 5/28/1887. Later, Dawson (p. 340) wrote “I have seen half a dozen of them near Columbus and presume they breed in some of the ‘runs.’” Hicks (1935a:155-6) reported them breeding in the county, but in reduced numbers, which must be quite small in the present day. Active strictly nocturnally, they are detected as migrants only infrequently, usually by voice in spring; the Borror Lab (#7440) has recordings of 62 songs from a male in Columbus 5/4/1965. As for better-verified breeding locations, Trautman & Trautman (p. 212) wrote of one site along Lake Erie: “On a few occasions when I was attempting to sleep in a station wagon along a dirt road, a bird would alight on the roof and sing. No amount of my thumping on the ceiling of the station wagon or throwing objects such as shoes at the bird would keep it from returning to sing.” More than deep forest or open fields, they prefer open stands of younger trees and sparse brush on forest margins. Most arrive in late April—an early record is 3/24/1979 at Green Lawn Cemetery (*OC* 2(1):14)—and one singing in urban Bexley on 5/23/50 (Thomas, MS OSUM) would have been late for anything but a breeder. A late-lingering bird was detected along the Scioto River on 10/10/1997 (*OC* 21(1):18). Their range in the state has been shrinking, and suburban development has insured that even calling spring migrants are less often heard here today. Despite fielding far fewer censusers, Ohio's first Breeding Bird Atlas (1982-1987) detected breeding in significantly more counties than the second Atlas (2016, p. 218). Specimen a set of two eggs 5/12/1893 OSUM #E3304.

Chimney Swift *Chaetura pelagica**. Common, and found nesting and roosting since the clearing of the forests most often in chimneys and similar structures rather than natural cavities (see Audubon's *Ornithological Biography* 1:166 ff. and Wheaton 386-7). Still, Trautman & Trautman (2006:216) reported finding several Ohio nests in hollow trees, mostly sycamores near wetlands, as well as in abandoned houses and privies. Howard Jones (1886:187) described an ancient hollow sycamore along Darby Creek not far south into Pickaway County where a very large nesting colony persisted. Wheaton (1882:386-7) observed swifts' favorite chimneys in the 1870s were those at the State House, and family groups of these birds have also utilized small residential stacks into the present day. For the time being, as large old chimneys are removed and smaller newer ones sealed, concentrations of migrant swifts at remaining roosts seem to be increasing in size, even while their overall local numbers are decreasing. Modern fall roosts of these diurnal migrants produce large numbers, with as many as 8000+, mostly at school chimneys, estimated at night roosts between 8/16 and 10/8/2004 (*OC* 28(1):14). A high count of ~4500 at a Dublin school chimney 9/15/2003 (*vide* J. Bowman) was matched by 4400-4500 found spending the night in a single Bexley building 9/18/2007 (*OC* 31(1):19). During fall, migrants may also swarm by day in impressive numbers at sites where insects abound, such as over marshes and ponds. Smaller spring roosts are more transient and less often noticed, but one numbered 500+ near Columbus 5/1/2001 (*OC* 24(3):133). Scouts have appeared as early as 3/25/2000 (*OC* 23(3):106) and 4/8/1980 (*WCB* 1(25):13). Quite late was one 11/7/1979 in Columbus (*AB* 34(2):168), and there are a few less well-documented reports into December. Specimen 10/24/1949 OSUM #7962.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird *Archilochus colubris**. A fairly common visitor and nester today, “very common” in 1882 according to Wheaton (1882:388). Trautman reported having seen 32 migrants in two hours at Buckeye Lake 9/3/1951. Davie (1898:292) reported that in Ohio “the Ruby-throat prefers nesting in the branches of the buckeye to all other trees,” and the locally exotic *Aesculus pavia* is still recommended for hummingbird gardens. Trautman & Trautman (2006:217) cautioned that “no person should approach and peer into a nest without glasses or other eye protection,” because of the fierce defense put on by the female parent. Especially during and after the nesting season, their appearances at feeders or flowers are likelier caused by insects attracted there rather than nectar. Especially early was one on 4/13/1993 in Columbus (*OC* 16(3):87). In 2012, several reports from the county of this species at dates as early as the second and third weeks of March were reported, but could not be verified; evidently unusually mild weather may encourage first-alternate males to stage early arrivals across the region (*vide* L.

Chambers), but overeager hummer hosts have proved especially prone to mistakes in identification. In a quick glance, it is easy to misidentify hummingbird moths (mostly *Hemaris* spp.) as these birds. Two broods are usually raised—by the females—and adult males usually depart before September. The rest largely move south by mid-September, and nearly all have vacated the area by the third week of October. There are a few November records, and an immature bird lingering at a Westerville feeder from early in the month through 11/30/2002 was at the time the late state record (*OC* 26(1):14), since narrowly superseded by one in Lucas County on 1 December. An all-white individual haunted feeders at Inniswood MP until the quite late date of 11/22 in 2013 (*vide* J. Kleinrichert, ph.). Specimen 6/1/1936 OSUM #7558.

Rufous Hummingbird *Selasphorus rufus*. A rare fall/winter visitor. Has established new records in recent decades as a successful pioneering migrant, aided in part by more widespread and prolonged artificial feeding, new alertness by observers, and especially in-hand scrutiny of juveniles. An adult male in Westerville 8/15-18/1985 (*AB* 40(1):119) was Ohio's first verified record (*OC* 10(1):33-34), and another in Columbus 8/9-10/1989 was the fourth (*AB* 44(1):100). The Westerville bird was observed eating insects in flight or trapped in spiderwebs, nectar at salvia blossoms, and mountain ash berries, as well as sugar-water at the feeders (Counts 1985). An adult female in Columbus 10/27-12/6/2002 had been banded as a hatch-year migrant in South Carolina the previous winter (*OC* 26(2):62), and was the first of the species to occur in the county in December. A juvenile female lingered at Blendon Woods 10/27-12/29/2003 (*OC* 27(2):61); an adult female spent 10/17-12/12/2008 in Bexley (*OC* 32(2):66), and another was photographed near Grove City 11/10-20/2013 (*vide* A. Chartier). There are no verified records of spring migrants here; they could occur as early as March, when feeders are seldom provided, and their stays would probably be far less prolonged. Our latitude is well south of its breeding range. There are no known local specimens. The state's first specimen, a rare green-backed variant, was collected in Guernsey County on 7/25/1991 (Ohio University Museum #9001, V. Fazio 1991).

[*Selasphorus* species hummingbird. Undetermined as to species, an immature/female came to a Dublin feeder 10/27/1993 (*OC* 17(1):22) and one spent 11/12-12/6/2005 at another (*OC* 29(1):18 & 29(2):64). Though other far less likely birds of the genus could not be ruled out, these were in all likelihood *S. rufus*, based on regional frequency of occurrence.]

Yellow Rail *Coturnicops noveboracensis*. Inconspicuous and seldom reported, too often as wounded individuals, such as one found in a Columbus parking lot 10/12/2007 (*OC* 31(1):11), and its true abundance here is far from clear. Trautman (1940:232) wrote "it is only by the merest chance that an observer unaccompanied by a trained dog ever sees this species," echoing an opinion by Chubb (Wheaton 1882:594). Still less likely, apparently, is flushing the same bird twice in a row. Most often found in wet meadows, sometimes in fall crop stubble. All the rail species were more commonly seen in the old days; Wheaton collected a yellow rail in Franklin County 4/29/1879 (1882:582). There are three eggs of this species at OSUM (#E4068) from 6/10/1907 in Pickaway County (*OC* 31(1):58-60); this seems to be as far south as this species has been verified nesting in Ohio, and local nesting farther north lacks specimen evidence; Howard Jones reported having collected them "frequently" in Circleville in fall and spring (Wheaton 1882:512). Hicks reported one in Westerville 5/16/1928 (*WB* 41(1):43, *OJS* 31(6):507), and there is a specimen of another found dead across the county near Harrisburg on 4/10/1927 (OSUM #2815), as well as a mount (#863) at OSUM of another captured alive on the campus on 4/13/1966; all these dates fall in the spring migration season for this species. Migrant males may utter their distinctive vocalizations into May; by and large however, yellow rails are more often detected by sight during the less hurried fall migration, typically in early October, when spooked by walkers in or near wetlands or agricultural fields. The Cincinnati Museum has two old specimens, collected there on the puzzlingly early date of 2/28/1881 (Fisher collection).

Black Rail *Laterallus jamaicensis*. Rare, seldom heard or seen, an elusive migrant in marshland and wet meadows. Wheaton (1882:511) included this species only in a footnote, having no positive evidence of its occurrence in the state. In Franklin County, Hicks reported one 4/4/1927 at Baumgardner's Pond, and, remarkably, one the preceding day in the Alum Creek Swamp in Westerville (*WB* 41(1):43). Jones (Wheaton 1882:511) was "almost positive he had secured a specimen near Circleville." Trautman describes a concerted effort to verify one at Buckeye Lake 6/10/1923 (Trautman 1940:232), and cites two

central Ohio records 4/1 and 4/22/1927 (1940:233). A relatively weak flier, it can occur in odd settings as a migrant. As with the yellow rail, only hints exist of its real numbers, though its “cake-eatER” vocalizations in spring are even more distinctive. Later in the year, black downy young of commoner marsh species may easily be mistaken for this one. Very rarely detected here, its reported numbers may increase with marsh restorations and increased vigilance. Only three confirmed Ohio nesting attempts are known, the most recent not far away at Charlie’s Pond in Pickaway (a pair seen 6/1-23/2008) and another pair in Pike County early June-5 July in the same year (*OC* 31(4):17, *NAB* 62(4):555). No specimen from the region is known to exist; OSUM preserves one Ohio specimen, from the Ross Lake colony in Cincinnati in 1890.

King Rail *Rallus elegans**. In 1882, Wheaton knew the “Indian Hen” as a common migrant, acknowledging some local nesting reports; earlier, in 1860 (p. 20) he had written that he knew of only two local specimens at the time. OSUM has a specimen of one collected on the Scioto peninsula 7/26/1879. He noted that it was “apparently more numerous than any others of the family except the Green Heron.” This rail’s numbers declined along with the extent of its habitat, and a Franklin County report, once rather routine, has become noteworthy today. Trautman wrote that its statewide declines became obvious circa 1930 (1968:270). The “marsh hen” formerly nested in marshes, ditches, creek margins, etc., but has no unequivocal breeding records in Franklin County recently, though successful nests at Prairie Oaks MP in 2004 (on 7/18, *OC* 27(4):142), at Pickerington Ponds 7/21/2004 (*vide* G. Stauffer) and Glacier Ridge MP in 2011 (m. obs.) were each barely outside the county, as was one from 6/9/1928 (OSUM #3393, with ten eggs), and successful wetland restorations seem likely to invite more. Four reports, totaling nine birds, came from Pickaway County in July 2004. Trautman reported 45-50+ nesting pairs each year at Buckeye Lake in the 1930s, predicting its decline with vanishing wetlands (1940:229). Nesting was suspected but not confirmed at Battelle Darby Creek MP 2012-2015. Recently seldom detected in Ohio away from a few marshes near Lake Erie, and furtive as a migrant, it has resumed nesting here in restored habitats. In the old days, Davie (1888:20) reported collecting eggs a couple of miles from downtown Columbus in May 1877; Bales (MS OSUM) took 92 eggs from eight nests in the county at Baumgardner Pond 1910-1918, and Hicks reported eight nests in the Westerville Swamp during a study 1924-33 in what he called the largest remaining cattail habitat in the county (1935b:178). One spring migrant was seen here as early as 4/24 in 1978 (*OC* 1(1):8), and a late one was shot by a hunter near Groveport 11/18/1950 (Goslin, MS OSUM). Jasper collected a hen (OSUM #476) on 7/26/1879 near the “Starch Factory,” on the later industrial peninsula where Scioto Audubon Metro Park now stands. Specimen 7/26/1879 OSUM #476.

Virginia Rail *Rallus limicola**. Once a fairly common nester in substantial wetlands with cattails (Wheaton 1882:582), and it still nests sparingly (e.g., Battelle Darby Creek MP 2011-2016). Reports consist mostly of birds heard in such habitats during the spring migration season. More nests seem likely with the establishment of larger wetlands in parks, but it will remain a vocal but secretive quarry. One was collected 10/12/1967 downtown in Goodale Park (OSUM #13556), and this species is more than occasionally a victim of collisions with buildings, etc.; one was rescued from a cat in Columbus late on 12/2/1997 (*vide* Thomson). May overwinter from time to time at springs, seeps, etc. A count of four came on the rather early date of 3/9/1983 (*AB* 37(5):876); one was taped calling near Georgesville 4/19/1975 on a more expected schedule (Borror Lab #13369). An adult with five chicks was observed at the Honda Wetlands 6/23/2014 (*OC* 37(4):152). The earliest existing nest specimen is a set of eight eggs collected above ankle-deep water in a Columbus swale 5/8/1897 (OSUM #E4085).

Sora *Porzana carolina**. Wheaton (1861a) reported soras were “frequently shot in the vicinity of Columbus.” Once numerous in larger marshlands as a nester and migrant, now less often reported even in passage spring and fall, including one in town as late as 5/14/97 (*OC* 20(3):0), and an infrequent but vocally conspicuous nester, perhaps increasing along with restored habitat. Nearly all reports from the 1970s and ‘80s emanated from Pickerington Ponds, including confirmed nestings in 1978 and 1980. Newer wetlands will invite more, but it likely will not begin to regain its former numbers until substantial cattail stands in deeper wetlands appear, and this is likely to occur only at parks, specifically lately Glacier Ridge and Battelle Darby Creek MPs. An early sighting came from 25 March 1978 at Pickerington Ponds (*OC* 1(1):8), and two calling birds at Battelle-Darby 6/187/2013 (*vide* R. Thorn) and a late one there 10/19 were detected during the same year. Specimen 4/15/1907 OSUM #485.

Purple Gallinule *Porphyrio martinicus**. A rare wanderer from the south, with eleven local records, including a successful nest. It is a relatively weak flyer, liable to being carried north by strong winds during spring migration. Davie (1898:128) wrote it had “been taken several times in Central Ohio in June and July.” Ohio’s first specimens were four collected in the spring of 1877, first in southwestern Ohio and soon thereafter near Circleville in Pickaway County on 5/10/1877 (Wheaton 514). There is a Westerville specimen from 5/17/1928 (Hicks 1929, OSUM #3817) as well as one from urban Drexel Ave. in Bexley 5/5/1967 (OSUM #13363). Remarkably nested once, a pair discovered 6/15/1962, with eight young by 7/4 (CD 7/22/1962, WB 4(1):43, Auk 81(2):224-6), at Baumgardner’s Pond in Jackson Township, more renowned as the site of many botanical discoveries. This was North America’s northernmost nesting site for the species until a Richland County breeding record in 2010 after a weather-assisted incursion of the species (J. Herman, NAB 64(3):421). County records include a locally unique fall instance 8/24/1970 at Pickerington Ponds (J. Fry *in litt.*), and single birds 5/9-20/1988 in Columbus (OC 11(3):14) and 5/8/2011 at Battelle Darby Creek MP (NAB 65(3):437). Other local specimens are recorded from 5/17/1928 (OSUM #3603), 7/4/1962 (OSUM #12796), and 5/5/1967 (OSUM #13363).

Common Gallinule *Gallinula galeata**. Once a numerous migrant and uncommon nester, now increasingly hard to find here and statewide, largely due to widespread losses of wetlands with native aquatic vegetation. Now uncommon here in migration even at fair-sized marshy sites. As with soras, recent nesting reports came sporadically from Pickerington Ponds during the ‘70s (CD 9/17/1978). Gallinules have been reported through the ‘00s (with a high count of 15 on 8/26/2006 at Pickerington Ponds, *vide* A. Sewell), and perhaps new wetlands will provide more. An early arrival came 3/25/1917 in Columbus, and a migrant headed south was running late here on 11/4/2001 (OC 25(1):10). Another found for the 2002 Columbus CBC was one of only 11 winter records for Ohio. Specimens from 5/10/1878 (OSUM #497) and 4/30/1931 (OSUM #3817) come from Columbus.

American Coot *Fulica americana**. Wheaton (1882:512) and Dawson (1903:456) called it a plentiful migrant before and after the advent of the twentieth century. Later, during his twelve-year study at Buckeye Lake, Trautman (1940:235) estimated the number of coots shot by hunters there exceeded those of all other waterbirds combined. A generation earlier, Dawson had quoted Wheaton as observing “they are considered a nuisance by sportsmen, and a fraud by amateurs who sometimes mistake them for ducks,” but “because of the amazing dearth of ducks” he offered (1903:456-7) an eyewitness account of a coot-hunt at the Lake. Trautman (2006:118) admitted to relishing them as food, writing “I have seen marsh owners give a brace of mallards to a man who washed their car, but they never offered him coot.” It is now a fairly common migrant and rare-uncommon in winter where open water persists, much diminished in numbers from days gone by, but still doing somewhat better than other rallids. High counts are of migrants: ~900 on Hoover Reservoir 4/7/1956 (Thomson, MS OSUM), 618 at Pickerington Ponds 4/15/1978 (OC 1(1):8), 653 there 11/5/1979 (OC 2(3):9), and a high count of 156 for the Columbus CBC in 2007, with 129 on the 2013 count. Alum Creek Reservoir sheltered ~4050 on 10/15/1976 (Thomson 1983:189). In summer usually seen as non-breeders, but it is fully confirmed as a nester only with great difficulty, such as a family discovered at Pickerington Ponds 6/2/2004 (OC 27(4):143). Specimen 5/3/1881 OSUM #498.

Sandhill Crane *Antigone canadensis**. Atwater (1838:94) described it as living along the Scioto nearly year-long, but gives no more precise information; great blue herons were sometimes called “sandhill cranes” in the old days, and both might have been called “blue cranes,” but Atwater mentioned cranes and herons in the same sentence. Wheaton (1882:508) had not seen one here and regarded it as a rare migrant statewide. A few known nesting sites remained in the state into the 1920s; Trautman wrote in 1968 that the most recent reported Ohio nesting had come in 1926. Its more westerly migratory pathway still does not often bring many migrants to the central counties, mostly in fall, but regional numbers have swelled in recent years. One bird was observed in Union County 6/21 into August in 1954; cranes now remain very local but increasing breeders in the state, nesting 2010-2016 in central Ohio, beginning with a pair successful in Slate Run MP, (m. obs.); a pair frequented Pickerington Ponds June-October 2011 (m. obs.), with nine gathered in mid-December 2011 (*vide* J. Watts), where a pair raised a colt in 2012 and returned in 2015. High counts of migrants grew from 34 on 11/1/1959 (AFN 14(1):40) to 230 on 11/30/2007 (NAB 5/30/2007, OC 30(4):147); 450 were estimated at Deer Creek Reservoir in Pickaway County on 11/20-22/1995 (OC 19(1):22). Increasingly frequent winter records include one 1/1-7/1984 at Pickerington Ponds (AB 38(3):322), and three there 2/18/2005 (NAB 60(2):229), not to mention 105 counted over Dublin

12/30/2013 (*NAB* 67(2):266). The successful nesting during the spring of 2012 was widely observed, and part of a steep increase across its range in this flyway, both as a migrant and a nester.

[Whooping Crane *Grus americanus*. Hypothetical. Long ago a widespread migrant and locally nesting and wintering bird in central and eastern North America. By the mid-nineteenth century its numbers were plummeting, and in 1903 Coues (ii, 848) was to write it was “scarcely known in the Eastern and Middle States.” Davie (1898) called it a rare spring and fall migrant in Ohio, and Trautman (1940:148) stated this species formerly “probably occurred at more or less regular intervals during migrations” in central Ohio. There are five published reports of specimens (all seemingly lost) taken in the Cincinnati area in the nineteenth century, and Henninger (1902) cited two from south-central Ohio, one a winged bird kept as a pet. Columbus ornithologist Theodore Jasper wrote (1873:3) “One that I received from Dubuque, Iowa, which was caught on the Mississippi by a trapper, and has been living with me nearly four years, was at first very ferocious and could only be approached with great difficulty, but is now perfectly tame.” Davie was to write later (1886:144) that this bird had remained eighteen years with the chickens in Jasper’s yard on South Sixth Street in Columbus. Wheaton (1882:508) reported that “Mr. Mapes, a competent ornithologist, informed me that he saw a flock of over fifty of these birds flying over this city [Columbus] on the 26th of November, 1876.” Wheaton’s treatment of this report shows his customary scrupulousness, but the evidence seems too thin to accept. Migrant numbers would have been reduced here by 1876, and this species tended to move in family groups rather than large flocks in migration (Johnsgard 1983, Johnsgard pers. comm.); it is possible distant snow geese or even white pelicans were involved at such a date. Birds introduced to Wisconsin and Florida and Louisiana in recent attempts to re-establish a migratory eastern breeding population may be seen here in times to come, as they have elsewhere in Ohio; it was likely one of these birds that was reported to have touched down briefly at the municipal landfill south of Columbus on 11/20/2003 (pers. comm.), which exactly matched that year’s reports of stops by airplane-led migrations from Wisconsin to Florida.]

Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus*. Accidental-rare locally, with at least three confirmed recent records: one on 10/11-16/2004 at Pickerington Ponds (*OC* 28(1):9), during a year in which an unprecedented dozen-plus appeared in the state, then a pair videotaped copulating in a Battelle Darby Creek MP marsh 5/26/2011 (*NAB* 65(3):436), with no further evidence of nesting; another showed up not far up the same road on 5/13-14/2014 (ph. R. Clark), with it or another present between these sites on 5/24 (*vide* W. Becker). Over recent decades stilt records have multiplied in Ohio, and we may see these rather unmistakable birds more often in years to come—even as breeders—following Ohio’s first substantiated nest in 2008 in Seneca County (*OC* 31(4):20). Back in 1898, Oliver Davie (133) had written that it “perhaps breeds” in Ohio, and Wheaton (1882:463) wrote of the species in Ohio: “Rare summer visitor. Perhaps breeds.” They have been most likely found in extensive shallow wetlands May-August in the state, are vocal and unmistakable when found, and their presence is likely to be noticed, even by observers unfamiliar with them.

American Avocet *Recurvirostra americana*. A rare-uncommon migrant in wetlands, mostly in late summer and fall, increasingly reported in recent decades. Wheaton (1882:462) regarded the species as extremely rare in Ohio (C. Uller had collected a female at Lake St. Marys in 1882, OSUM #1602), and did not know it from the county; and in 1950 Borror did not include it in his central Ohio checklist. Davie however wrote he had examined a Buckeye Lake specimen from October of 1884 (1886:138). Peterjohn (172) averred Ohio’s first documented record since 1882 involved a bird collected in 1936 (OSUM #7123) in Ashtabula County, and dated Franklin County’s first records from the 1950s; they involve one on 9/9/1953 (*AFN* 8(1):22, called by Thomas “the first for the area”), five reported near Columbus on 6/1/1954 (*AFN* 8(4):315), one 9/20/1954 (*AFN* 9(1):30) then 16 from Fairfield County 5/3/1980 (Thomson 1983:190). Another was found 7/13/1980 (*Redstart* 48(1):44). These appearances tended to occur during droughts in its western nesting range. New habitats in parklands have attracted them more often recently in

fall migration, e.g. one in Columbus 9/15-25/1987 (*OC* 11(1):8), two at Pickerington Ponds 9/19/2006 with one remaining 10/10 (*OC* 30(1):12), two along the Scioto 8/14/2008 (*NAB* 63(1):78), four at Pickerington Ponds 7/26-27/2009 (*NAB* 63(1):40), three at Greenlawn Dam 9/25-27/2009 (*NAB* 64(1):73), three at Pickerington Ponds 10/30/2009 (*NAB* 64(1):73), another at Battelle Darby Creek MP 7/17-18/2010 (*NAB* 64(4):589), and three below the Hoover dam 7/26/2014 (*OC* 37(4):153). Less often reported in spring, when however flocks may appear, such as ten in Licking County 4/21/1974 (Peterjohn 2001:173). More often than other sandpipers, avocets may be seen swimming in deep water, as was the individual at Battelle Darby (pers. obs.). Bent offers a local late date of 10 November in an unspecified year (142:46).

Black-bellied Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*. Deemed a “rather rare” migrant locally by Wheaton (1882:456, 580), who mentions a specimen from August 1875 that has not been located. It remains rather rare as a May migrant in spring this far east; seen somewhat more often in fall, it frequents beaches and mudflats more than does its congener the golden-plover, hence as Wheaton observed it is more commonly seen along the Lake Erie shore. Trautman (1928) pointed out that their spring occurrences in the central part of the state depended on weather deflecting them eastward during migratory flights; in fall, they tend to move more widely and leisurely and over a more extended period; he collected three specimens at Buckeye Lake at this season. Along with both yellowlegs and the golden-plover, this species remains designated in the Ohio Revised Code chapter 1533.02 as a game bird, only currently disallowed for hunting. Four were at the Columbus sewage ponds rather late on 11/13/1952 (Thomas, MS OSUM), and there is a still later date here from the first half of December (Peterjohn 164). Henninger (1910a) called it “rare in Ohio,” and knew of only three specimens, one collected by Davie in Columbus 5/12/1876, which has been lost. The majority of recent local fall sight records come from the shorebird refugium at the shallow end of Hoover Reservoir in Delaware County. There is no Franklin County specimen at OSUM.

American Golden-Plover *Pluvialis dominica*. Wheaton (1882:457) called it an Ohio migrant “usually abundant in spring, common in the fall...the most abundant of the strictly migrant species of the family.” By 1903 however, Dawson (p. 484) was to call it “formerly abundant, now much less common or rare.” Another statement by Wheaton (1882:457) may also in part account for these discrepant views: “[t]hey are the only birds of the family whose size, abundance, and other qualities entitle them to any consideration as a game bird.” Once widely sold in markets, their populations recovered somewhat with legal protections. A supple long-winged migrant of western flyways in spring, when gales may however bring large numbers to central Ohio, occasionally as early as late March, weeks in advance of the previous species. April migrants are still undergoing molt at our latitude. Rare-uncommon migrants near Columbus, they may be abundant fairly close in former prairie areas of Madison, Union, and Marion counties, where observers—and food sources—are fewer. A large count of 500+ was estimated in Franklin county 12 miles southeast of Columbus 4/18/1924 (Pontius 1924), regarded as a “very rare accident” and the first local record in a quarter century, but spring of 1956 brought many more; the largest passages numbered 2000+ fairly early on 4/7-8 in fields near Galloway (Trautman, MS OSU archives). A record 2500 in Pickaway County 4/2/1967 (Peterjohn 2001:165) is surpassed by others of 5000+ from counties to the northwest. In fall, the local high count of 125 was made in Columbus 10/2/1979 at Bolton Field (*Redstart* 47(2):98). They generally pass through southbound by October, though ten were present as late as 11/10/1977 (*AFN* 32(2):212); Borror (1950, p. 18) gives a late date of 12/1/1949 for central Ohio. A specimen from Columbus 4/16/1877 is OSUM #2008; a local fall specimen from 10/18/1885 is OSUM #588.

Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus*. Wheaton (1882:459) called it a “not common” spring migrant—with a single personal observation in May of 1880 at a Columbus brick-yard—and common in fall; this may in part reflect these birds’ haste to pass north as the breeding season approaches and tendency to disperse southbound afterward more slowly and in cohorts of age-classes. Trautman, however, regarded it as “tolerably common” in both seasons. Not legally hunted since 1928, and one would think a bird weighing little more than an ounce in its feathers hardly worth the trouble for the table. It remains uncommon, often in small groups, on wetland borders and puddles in fields in spring and late summer and fall. Moves north rather late for an arctic-nesting shorebird, mostly in May; one spring migrant was reported here as late as 6/14/2013 at Battelle Darby Creek MP (*OC* 36(4):136), where a high count of 57 had been made 5/14/2011 (*vide* D. Slager). Moves south in smaller groups less hurriedly July-Oct. Local specimen 9/2/1876 OSUM #2011.

Piping Plover *Charadrius melodus*. Now rare-accidental here, this Federally-endangered species has been extirpated as a breeder in the state since 1942 (Campbell 1968), along with the less-disturbed beaches on which it once raised its young. It was formerly known to nest in each Ohio county along the Lake Erie shore (Trautman 1968:271). Now seldom seen even in migration, though diminished nesting numbers in the upper Great Lakes are slowly recovering with elaborate protections. Wheaton (1882:460) ranked it as a “not common migrant” in the interior of Ohio, having collected a specimen in August 1856 (1882:580) from a flock of five on a sandbar in the Scioto River (1861a:19); such a number seems unimaginable in Ohio today, even along the Lake Erie shore. Trautman (1940:237) knew of at least five central Ohio records 1929-1937; Hicks collected a female at Buckeye Lake. Quite scarce in Franklin County now, with single birds detected 8/21/1956 (*AFN* 11(1):29) and 9/13/1970 (*WCB* 10:28). Peterjohn (169) stated “the majority of inland sightings are from the Columbus area, where they normally appear only once or twice each decade,” presumably referring largely to autumn records from numerous observers on the often-extensive mudflats at the shallow end of Hoover Reservoir in Delaware County; these plovers are seen fairly often in recent years. The Great Lakes population’s decline has been halted and even reversed for the time being, but a central Ohio migrant today remains a remarkable event. No Franklin County specimen is known to exist, but there is one from Buckeye Lake (OSUM #7503 on 9/16/1937), and another from the Hebron Fish Hatchery (OSUM #15464 from 8/8/1969), both in Licking County.

Killdeer *Charadrius vociferus**. An adaptable and resilient species, regarded as an abundant migrant (beginning in February northbound and August southbound) and common breeder by Ohio authorities for the past century and a half, even though formerly hunted for food and sport. Recorded throughout the year, but far less commonly in the cold months, when spates of milder temperatures may encourage them to appear, presumably from farther south. Killdeers may accompany other shorebirds, but seek out habitats unlikely to attract them. They may nest in the open in short grass and rock-strewn areas, even quiet gravelled parking lots and rooftops. Chicks are observed here as early as 4/25, in 2000 (*OBNH* 1(4):156), and have been recorded a month earlier at times. High counts are of course likeliest in fall, and in Columbus numbered 370 at Battelle Darby Creek MP on 8/8/2013 (*OC* 36(1):10) and ~200 migrants later in town on 10/7/1980 (*OC* 3(3):15); Deer Creek SP in Pickaway Co. had 253 on 15 December 2015 (*OC* 39(2):55). Specimen 3/29/1880 OSUM #593.

Upland Sandpiper *Bartramia longicauda**. Wheaton (1882:490) called the “field plover” a common resident and breeder mid-April through September and an abundant migrant, often forming large flocks. A denizen of western prairies, it benefited from eradications of forests here. Trautman (1928:43) regarded it as a common summer resident in central Ohio, where on 8/8/1926 he witnessed more than 200 migrants feeding in a single field; such gatherings are never seen here today. Later, Hicks (1935a:152) assigned it a variable status as “rare to common,” nesting in 76 of Ohio’s 88 counties. Since the ‘50s its decline has steepened sharply statewide (Osborne & Peterson 1984). Trautman (MS OSUM 11/10/1971) pointed out it shared wintering grounds with buff-breasted sandpipers and Eskimo curlews in areas of Argentina where subsistence hunting was very common, having noted elsewhere (1940:239) that “large numbers” had been “shot for the market and for sport” in the U.S. Later (1977:17) he was to call its local decline “spectacular.” Probably more important than threats in South America were changes in agricultural practices that erased many of this bird’s former nesting habitats in the North since that time. In 1978, four monitored pairs produced 12 young here (*OC* 1(2):6). It has been scarce in former local haunts: after a published report from once-reliable Bolton Field (12 present 6/10/1979 *fide* Thomson); in 6/12/2004 (*OC* 27(4):144) a few pairs were witnessed there, and once more in April-July 2011 (m. obs., *NAB* 65(3):436), and breeding suspected, with scantier reports into 2015 (m. obs). While barely persisting as a probable nester in the county—e.g. three birds also at Don Scott Field 6/19/2007 (*OC* 30(4):148), and present there the following summer (*OC* 31(4):21) and again through 2015—they are rarely detected now, even in passage, usually at these airports, which have also often been the sites for strayed western meadowlarks in the county. When present, they may perch on exposed fenceposts, power lines, or lone trees, like meadowlarks, and are not dedicated to watery habitats. They generally nest in deep grass and clover, and there are rumors a few desperate pairs may have attempted nesting in soybean fields in nearby counties. Wheaton (490) averred he had never seen one wading in water. They may go unnoticed or at least unmentioned in certain localities, but they seem all but extirpated from our region. As for extreme dates of occurrence, one was found early in Columbus by E. S. Thomas on 3/26 (Bent 146:57); they depart early,

with some moving south as early as 13 July (*OSMSB*:43), and a late local date was 10/11/1932 (Borror 1950:19). A specimen from Columbus collected on 9/16/1878 is OSUM #522.

Eskimo Curlew *Numenius borealis*. Almost certainly extinct today, though formerly abundant as a migrant in the central flyway northbound and in Labrador, the Maritimes, and New England southbound, as well as off-course elsewhere headed to and from the Arctic. Christopher Columbus reported huge clouds of southbound birds in October before he made landfall in the New World that might well have been this species, perhaps accompanying plovers. Wheaton (1882:493) called it a “not common spring and fall migrant” in Ohio, but quite rare locally in his day, attesting to having seen a single bird in Columbus “accompanying a flock of Golden Plover, in autumn, several years since.” This was likely the record he listed (p. 581) for Columbus in October 1869 in his work’s first appendix. Before that time the numbers of “dough-birds” reportedly surpassed that of their companion golden-plovers in the central flyway—where some observers had likened their numbers to those of the passenger pigeon (Bent 142:128). Such multitudes are hardly imaginable for us today. By the 1890s, indiscriminate market hunting had so reduced the numbers of this unwary species that Dawson (1903:536) treated it as a rare migrant in the state; there is known to be only one extant Ohio specimen (the undated OSUM #12918), from near Sandusky in Erie County); it is probably more or less of that same era. There were a few intriguing but ultimately inconclusive reports of this species elsewhere in the Americas decades ago, but it seems to have joined the passenger pigeon in oblivion.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*. Unknown as a local bird to Wheaton (1882:491), who followed earlier authorities in calling it the “Hudsonian Curlew,” and known to Trautman (1940:240-1) in the region only via a few reports just outside the county. A more reliable Franklin County record had to await a sighting 9/22/1978 in Columbus (*AB* 33(2):183). It tends to be seen over water—that is to say often the Great Lakes in Ohio—in its largely east/west migrations in Ohio, and consequently is rare here, likelier seen singly in fall when its migration is less urgent, and at such times wandering more often inland. Spring records are likeliest in the second half of May, and have at times involved larger numbers of birds, its customary westbound flocks perhaps briefly displaced here by unfavorable weather: on 5/23/2010 a flock of 50-60 was seen over Hoover Reservoir in Delaware County, with six seen near Gahanna in Franklin County two days later (*OC* 33(3):163). Trautman (2006:137) in his later years surmised that many or even all of the historical local reports of the long-billed curlew (q.v.) may have pertained instead to this species.

Long-billed Curlew *Numenius americanus*. Peterjohn was skeptical about old reports of this species in central Ohio. Wheaton wrote that he had examined several specimens from Buckeye Lake (Wheaton 1882:491-2) which he apparently had not acquired, and earlier Kirtland (220) mentioned specimens taken in 1837 and 1841. OSUM has three specimens #s 1707, 3055, and 3056, thus verified but lacking data. As for sight records, a flight of seven was reported at Buckeye Lake on the morning of 31 May 1902 by Field (1903:136)--Lynds Jones (who grew up in Iowa--where many curlews still nested at the time [MS 1902]), accompanied Field and the other observers, writing “there was no mistaking them.” Another flight of seven was reported 5/30/1924 in Ottawa County by Trautman and others; later, they concluded they had actually seen whimbrels (Trautman 2006:137). Trautman added that examinations of two mounts or skins thought to be curlews were instead whimbrels, concluding that “The Long-billed Curlew must be relegated to the hypothetical list until substantial evidence is obtained.” (Trautman 2006:137). Accepted here in the modern era by Peterjohn was only one sighting, apparently with no specimen or photo involved—ironically from Trautman and others--at the O’Shaughnessy Reservoir on 5/22/1926 (Trautman 1940:241).

Hudsonian Godwit *Limosa haemastica*. Wheaton (1882:481), calling it a rare migrant, reported a flock of eight in the spring of 1858 in a Columbus brick-yard, and a specimen (now lost) from May 1861 near the city. Bent (142:288) offers a local record as early in the year as 4/21. Like many large shorebirds its populations suffered from hunting into the first third of the twentieth century (Peterjohn 185, Trautman 2006:138). They remain rare-uncommon fall migrants today, far rarer in spring, with reports such as 8/31-9/15/2006 (*OC* 30(1):13), 9/7/2011 five birds at Battelle Darby Creek MP (*vide* G. Stauffer), 9/30/1967 (*WCB* 14:29), 10/14/1978 (*AFN* 33(2):183), and one juvenile running late at Pickerington Ponds 11/16/2012 (*OC* 36(1):11). Flocks of these long-distance migrants usually miss Ohio, especially inland spots, on their mostly oceanic route to wintering grounds in the southern hemisphere, though when off-course or facing storms they may stop here along the way; they are still less likely to stray or linger during

their more urgent mid-continental journey north in the spring. Like many other shorebird migrants adopting the same strategy, Hudsonian godwits have been most often reported nearby in autumn at the upper end of Hoover Reservoir in Delaware County at times when extensive mudflats and shallows are exposed, with occasional visitations reported near spots of similar foraging habitat such as near Greenlawn Dam (Thomson 1994:122, n.d.).

Marbled Godwit *Limosa fedoa*. First taken by a son of Dr. Jasper near Columbus on 4/21/1879 (Wheaton 1882:480/581, specimen lost). Wheaton did not support Davie's claim (1898:143) that it was "known to breed in Northern Ohio," though some still may be found nesting in several midwestern states (including Iowa in Wheaton's day) and provinces in prairie marshlands. A male (OSUM #1603) was collected at Buckeye Lake 10/8/1881. Trautman (1940:241) attested to only one central Ohio record since, of five individuals in southern Delaware County in 1925. As a large wader, nesting in the Great Plains rather than the Arctic, it has probably suffered more than many other shorebirds from human pressure. Less strict than the preceding species in its northbound route, it is still a rare migrant here, with tightly-scheduled spring records of single birds on 4/21 in Columbus (Bent 14:288), 4/25/1948 (Thomson, MS OSUM), at Pickerington Ponds on 4/26-28/1980 (OC 3(1):18), at Bolton Field 4/27/1993 (OC 16(3):85) and one at Delaware WA 4/26-29/1997 then nine there on 5/1/1997 (OC 20(3):94), with fall records on 9/2/1974 at Pickerington Ponds (WCB 20-21:41), another in the county in the fall of 2011 (OC 36(1):11), and an undated observation at the Greenlawn Dam (Thomson 1994:122). The local high count is 14 birds at Pickerington Ponds 4/17/2013 (OC 36(3):99), a significant Ohio number in spring away from Lake Erie.

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*. Wheaton (1882:461) called it rare inland, a just assessment of this distinctively beach-loving migrant today, and neither he nor any other early ornithologist recorded it locally. It is not choosy in its choice of food: Pete Whan recalled a photo on the wall at the Manomet Bird Observatory showing turnstones on the beach discovered pecking at the corpse of a drowned man. Trautman (OSMSB 44) wrote it had been seen several times in central Ohio in May, with but one fall record for the interior counties; later (1940:246) he was to offer a dozen reports from the Buckeye Lake area over 21 years. It is more likely seen in late spring, when it may follow plows in fields, looking for arthropods. Eight were found in the city sewage disposal ponds 5/23/1955, with one persisting as late as 6/15 (Thomson, MS OSUM). At Pickerington Ponds, one was present 5/11/1980 (OC 3(1):17), with another found 5/19/2009 (*fide* R. Asamoto). Newly restored habitat invited five at the Battelle Darby Creek MP wetlands on 5/22/2011 (*fide* D. Slager), with one remaining until 5/26 (*pers. obs.*). The county high count of 32 occurred there on 5/23/2013 (OC 36(3):98). Fall turnstones are far less numerous, with a late record of one in fall below Hoover Dam 9/26/1957 (Thomson MS OSUM), one of the unusual shorebird records following the initial flooding of the reservoir. OSUM has three specimens from Buckeye Lake in 1929, #3192 (5/21), #3193 (9/17), and #3197 (10/8), but none from Franklin County.

Red Knot *Calidris canutus*. Wheaton (1882:478) regarded it as a "rare spring and fall migrant" in mid-state, reporting but a single personal sighting near Columbus 10/18/1876; a male later collected 5/27/1878 at Buckeye Lake, one of a pair, is #147 at OSUM, and one of few Ohio spring records away from the Lake Erie shore. Trautman (1928,1940) wrote it had gone unreported from central Ohio since Wheaton's time. It prefers coastal settings, and often moves between the breeding grounds and the Atlantic coast in single flights, so it remains a rare migrant in our region, especially as numbers of the expected subspecies *C. c. rufa* have noticeably declined recently overall. One report came from 9/14/1968 (WCB 14:32), and an unusually late spring record from Pickerington Ponds on 6/8/1986 (AB 40(5):1210), but new parks' habitats may attract more. At present most central Ohio records come from the shallow end of Hoover Reservoir in Delaware County in dry autumns, when juveniles prevail. OSUM has a fall specimen from Licking County, #13821 on 8/2/1968. One was at Pickerington Ponds 8/24/2005 (OC 29(1):12). Another was reported in this county unexpectedly late on 10/16 and 10/22/1978 (OC 1(3):12), but there is an Ohio specimen at OSUM from the shore in Lucas County (#6880) collected far later on 1 Dec.

Ruff *Calidris pugnax*. In 1882, Wheaton (1882:489) stated that fewer than a dozen instances of the occurrence of this Old World species were on record from all of North America. He included Theodore Jasper's collection of an immature bird at Buckeye Lake in Licking County on 11/10/1872 (OSUM #1604), Ohio's first record, but did not report an adult male collected later by Jasper in Columbus, by the Scioto River "near the starch factory" on 4/28/1878 (OSUM #1605, Borrer p. 5). This, the county's only record,

is mistakenly described by Peterjohn (2001:203) as from the Buckeye Lake area. Wheaton does mention this site, near a bird-rich wet forest not far below the city center, lying between the canal and the Scioto River, part of which is now occupied by Scioto Audubon MP. As it was close to his home, Jasper frequented this area, studying and collecting birds: see accounts there for Wilson's phalarope and red-cockaded woodpecker. Regional records of ruffs, here a species of marshland and wet meadows, are understandably likelier in spring when males are in conspicuous plumage, but also include a female collected in Licking County (OSUM #9422, Trautman 2006:153) on 5/4/1957, and another there on 5/19 of the same year (AB 11(4):350). Juveniles and females are likely more often overlooked among yellowlegs and stilt sandpipers, though considered together they must certainly outnumber adult males. A molting adult female was found in Fairfield County 150 yards east of the Franklin County line in Pickerington Ponds MP's Pintail Marsh on 8/27/2006 (OC 30(1):15).

Stilt Sandpiper *Calidris himantopus*. Early authorities such as Wheaton (1882:471) regarded it as very rare, and did not know it from the region. In 1928 (42), Trautman was to pronounce it as "probably much less rare than it was formerly considered," perhaps because "rather an easily overlooked bird," no doubt referring to the general resemblance in fall of post-breeding birds to yellowlegs, whose habits they largely share. He cites one spring record, and a flock of five seen repeatedly 9/15-10/22/1924 at Buckeye Lake, (OSMSB:42). Bent (142:130) gives a delayed Columbus-area date of 10/4, surpassed in 2011 by a bird at Battelle Darby Creek MP running quite late on 3 Nov (OC 35(1):12). Overall, it is quite scarce in spring, when birds in distinctive breeding plumage almost exclusively move north well west of us in the central flyway, and an uncommon fall migrant in flooded fields and more often moderately deep water in marshland, beginning with well-marked adults beginning molt in early July, followed by more cryptic juveniles and molted adults; high count 33 at Battelle Darby Creek MP on 9/12/2011 (*fide* D. Slager). Its less frequent spring records include one below Hoover Dam 5/15/60 (WCB 5:22), two 5/10/1976 (AB 30(4):848), two 5/11/1978 (AB 32(5):1014), one 5/19/2010 at Pickerington Ponds (NAB 64(3):422), and a high count of five adult-plumaged birds at the Darby wetlands 5/22/2011 following severe storm winds from the west (NAB 65(3):437).

Sanderling *Calidris alba*. Wheaton (1882:581) and Trautman (1928, 1968) agreed this aptly-named species was far less common here than on the Lake Erie shore; the former records only one sighting here, on 10/7/1874. It remains decidedly infrequent as a migrant today, preferring open shoreline habitats hard to find here, though it may at times be found elsewhere on muddy ground. In spring, a very early individual was seen 4/23/1984 (AB 38(5):917); overall it has proven likelier in the fall migration, with one record as late as 11/7 (Bent 142:277), but is not reported every year. Up to four were in a quarry in town 7/24-28/2013 (m. obs., OC 36(4):137). Eight were below Hoover Dam on 9/20/1957 (Thomson, MS OSUM) just after the reservoir was flooded, and 12 on 8/10/1969 (Thomson 193). Trautman (1940:250-251) relates an observation of two pale-plumaged Sanderlings escaping a foraging Cooper's hawk by moving from black mud to a patch of snow at Buckeye Lake on 10/31/1925.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*. For inland sites, Wheaton (1882:478) reckoned this migrant rare in spring and rather common in fall in the state. He personally observed it here only in October, "frequencing the gravelly shores of streams," as can be the case today with this latest-abiding of our shorebirds. He singled out Shadeville, a village along the Scioto south of Columbus, for mention as a source of many specimens. Maxima 275 at upper Hoover Reservoir in the fall of 1980 (*ph* Peterjohn), ~125 in Columbus 11/1/1959 (AFN 14(1):40) and 40 there in mid-winter on 1/30/1971 (AB 25(3):586); E. S. Thomas reported "two lingered at Columbus till February" in 1959-1960—staying until at least 2/20 of that year below Hoover Dam where reservoir outflow almost never freezes (AFN 14(3):313, Thomas 1960:22). It is regular in small numbers in spring here, and usually among the latest shorebirds to pass north in appreciable numbers, often into June. Migrants are often seen in the thousands along Lake Erie in spring and fall, but it is far less numerous in central Ohio, with peak numbers strongly affected by the extent of suitable habitat, which for this species may include mudflats as well as shallow pools. Trautman offered some interesting detailed observations of dunlins and companion migrant shorebirds in the region (1940:256). Older specimens from Columbus include OSUM #1988 from 10/18/1876 and #s 540 and 541 from 11/3/1880.

Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii*. According to Wheaton (1882:474), a "rare spring and fall migrant in March, September, and October...I am quite certain that I met with this species in March, 1857, and took

one specimen...from the borders of a pond in a cornfield...since which time I have taken a single specimen in September [probably OSUM #1982 from 9/2/1876], on the gravelly shores of the Scioto river in the immediate vicinity of this city...Mr. Oliver Davie has a specimen taken in the same locality the following October.” A specimen from Lucas County as late as 12/16 in 1939 is #7590 at OSUM. Spring records of Baird’s are quite unusual anywhere in Ohio, and Wheaton’s March specimen has not been found, though there is a specimen at OSUM (#9420) from South Bass Island on 4/15/1956 and another from Auglaize County 5/21/1953 at the Cincinnati Museum, a male collected at Lake St. Marys fish hatchery by Kemsies. One report came from the Licking County fish hatchery on 5/11/1964 (*WCB* 10:28). This species tends to prefer the slightly higher, often grassy, margins of pools and mudflats used by other shorebirds. Trautman’s 1928 estimation of Baird’s as locally rare remains the case for Franklin County, though increased numbers have gathered in Delaware County since the construction of Hoover Reservoir. High count 15, in Columbus 9/21/1941 (*Aud Sec II*, 43(6):570). Early southbound, perhaps a failed breeder, was one 7/29-30/1987 (*OC* 10(2):5). A local specimen from 9/2/1876 (OSUM #1982) is Wheaton’s, possibly the one cited above.

Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla*. In Wheaton’s words (1882:473), “in this vicinity the Least Sandpiper is of rather rare occurrence in small flocks in spring, but in the fall they are more abundant than [the Semipalmated Sandpiper].” Now readily found in appropriate places from late April through May and July-October, with 173 tallied at Battelle-Darby MP on 8/27/2012 (*OC* 36(1):12). It is a relatively common shorebird migrant where habitat exists, with broad schedules for migratory movements; Trautman noted (1940:253) that their June appearances could represent either late northbound or early southbound birds. Rather confiding, they prefer higher borders of wetlands; an observer standing on dry ground at such locations will often find they are the closest “peeps” in view. It has lingered as late as 11/10/2012 southbound in Franklin County (*OC* 36(1):12), but they are hardy, wintering on the east coast, and have at times overwintered elsewhere in Ohio, even well inland. An early spring arrival was one found in Hilliard 4/16/2000 (*OBNH* 1(4):158). Specimen 8/9/1885 OSUM #536.

White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis*. Wheaton (1882:476) wrote he met with this species “but once, in a locality known as the ‘Broom-corn fields,’ near Shadeville, in this county, late in October, 1875,” a specimen from the occasion may be #1981 at OSUM. By 1928 (p. 42) Trautman estimated it an “uncommon migrant...seen more frequently in spring than fall...Formerly considered a rare bird in the interior and only once recorded from the central district previous to 1922.” He observed (1940:253) it appeared in puddles and sky-ponds, adding that “the shores of the [Buckeye] lake seemed wholly unsuited for it.” A fairly scarce migrant in early June, with 18 at Battelle Darby Creek MP 6/2/2012 (*AB* 66(4):669), and eight remaining nine days later (*fide* J. Watts), and in fall 12 young birds at the same location 9/12/2010 (*fide* D. Slager). Late fall records include one 10/28/1961 (*AFN* 16(1):37) and three at Pickerington Ponds 11/8/2010 (*OC* 34(1):13); there is a late Columbus-area record from 11/15 (Bent 142:265). Specimen OSUM #3315 from 5/12/1926.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Calidris subruficollis*. Has become a fairly rare-uncommon fall migrant here, found more or less yearly in small numbers. Davie (1886:134, Wheaton 491) mentioned having collected one 8/31/1876 “in company with Semipalmated Plovers and Semipalmated Sandpipers on a gravelly bank of the Scioto River”; he gave it to the predecessor institution of the OSU Museum, but the specimen has not survived. A male from Columbus on 9/7/1877 is OSUM #574. As a migrant it prefers drier situations, such as expanses of fairly short grass in broad lawns, sod farms, upland margins of wetlands, etc., where it generally avoids open water and periodically stops and lifts its head above the cover to peer about (Trautman 1940:258). Flocks tend to be tame, and will approach wounded members, leading to increased mortality from hunters in the old days. Migrants may pass many days in a productive stopover spot in fall migration; there is an Ohio record of four or more individuals of this species spending as much as two weeks in September feeding at an unusual site: mowed-grass median strips in a busy Lake Erie beach parking lot (one individual with a mis-shaped bill participated throughout--Zwiebel 2005). Bent (146:77) reported a quite rare spring occurrence for the Columbus area on 5/6/1923, calling it the “only record”; no spring specimen is known to exist, and Peterjohn does not acknowledge this one (he cites only two spring records for the state); the record is also included in the Wheaton Club Migration Data document (OSUM archives) for the period. Claugus reported one bird’s leisurely post-breeding presence in Columbus 9/6-21/1941 (*Aud Sec II* 43:6), after populations were recovering from losses in the Great Plains following their

legal protection in 1918. Four reports in Columbus during the fall of 1970 were notable (*AFN* 25(1):65), but 97 reported in the state in 2007 included about 40 birds with lengthy stays, with as many as 18 at the upper end of Hoover Reservoir (*OC* 31(1):14), seen by observers on repeated occasions. One at Battelle Darby MP on 8/26/2012 was fairly early (*vide* D. Overacker), and the latest county dates involve singles on 10/6/1955 (Thomson, MS OSUM) and 10/20/2014 (*OC* 38(1):14), making this a specialty of September by and large.

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*. Wheaton's remarks of 1882 (p. 475) apply today, except that modern 'cleaner' fields attract fewer birds: "a very common spring and fall migrant...seen in large flocks in spring, but oftener in small companies...[in] wet cornfields and meadows. In the fall solitary individuals are the only ones I have observed frequenting the shores of streams and ponds..." Trautman (1940:255) agreed, observing "The spirit of flock unity, very noticeable in spring, was almost absent in fall. The birds fed singly or in small groups, and when flushed flew more or less independently." The high counts were at least 2000 in choreographed flight at freshly-restored wet prairie at Battelle Darby Creek MP on 4/13/2011 (*NAB* 65(3):436), with ~600 at Bolton Field on 4/12/1981 (Thomson 194), and ~420 in the county 4/12/1985 (*OC* 8/1:21). High fall counts involved 120 at Pickerington Ponds 8/18/2006 (*NAB* 60(1):68) and 147 at Battelle Darby Creek MP on 8/8/2012 (*NAB* 67(10):70). Lingered individuals were found in Columbus on 11/8/1981 (B. Andres, MS OSUM) and on 11/28 of an unstated year (Bent 142:180); Borrer (1950:19) offered a late central Ohio record on 12/1/1949. Early was one seen 3/16/1980 (*OC* 3(1):18), and there is a specimen (OSUM #530) from 3/29/1880. Late northbound was one 5/21 in Columbus (Bent 146:179), and several at Battelle-Darby MP on 6/3/2013 (*OC* 36(4):138); one on 7/1/1978 (*OC* 1(2):6) was likely an early returnee. The bulks of individuals in a flock of pectorals can vary more widely than those of any other shorebird species, at times confusing identification. Specimen 3/29/1880 OSUM #530.

Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*. Abundant at the Lake Erie shore, this small peep was, in the words of Wheaton (1882:472), "a regular migrant in this vicinity, though more abundant in the fall than spring...frequent[s] the gravelly and sandy shores of streams or muddy banks of ponds." Trautman (1928:44) called it a "tolerably common" migrant in central Ohio in his day. It often associates loosely, preferring slightly wetter parts of the habitat, with least sandpipers in migration, but arrives and lingers here a bit later in spring (e.g., unlikely in late April, but with two still on 6/5/1955 in Columbus [Thomson, MS OSUM]) and fall, with an early southbound adult appearing 7/12 (Bent 142:254), and one lingering below the Hoover Dam as late as 12/6/1958 (*WCB* 3(1):3). It is fairly common today, when and where its often unpredictable wetland habitat is found. High count 147 at a sewage pond just south of downtown 5/30/1955 (Thomson, MS OSUM). Specimen 7/21/1870 OSUM #545.

Western Sandpiper *Calidris mauri*. Neither Wheaton, Dawson, nor Lynds Jones includes it in a state list, and though Davie acknowledged its presence in the east in a general way, only with the work of Trautman in the '20s and '30s (1940:251-2) at Buckeye Lake was its status in the region clarified. Field identification of this species, especially in fall, when it is far likelier to be encountered even though considerably less easily identified, requires careful scrutiny. It is perhaps the continent's most numerous shorebird except for the woodcock, but as a bird of the west, a fraction of whose population winters along seashores in the east, it is best regarded as an uncommon local fall migrant today on mudflats, seen with other small sandpipers. It is easily overlooked or misidentified, and spring birds are quite scarce here. It is now most often reported nearby at the shallow upper end of Hoover Reservoir in Delaware County in autumn, where as many as 50 were observed 9/18/1982 (Peterjohn 192). All published county records are from the southbound migration, such as one 7/23/2009 (*OC* 32(3):160). Later migrants were in Columbus 8/7/1941 (*Aud Sec II* 43(6):570), with counts of four on 9/16/1978 (*OC* 1(3):13), and one on 10/13/2008 (*NAB* 63(1):78). It has been found in the region into mid-November at times. A Buckeye Lake skin comes from 9/12/1925 (Bent 142:265, OSUM #3344).

Short-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus griseus*. Wheaton apparently never identified either dowitcher as such in central Ohio, regarding them as subspecies (1882:580), and Trautman (1928) called this one a rare migrant in the area. The long-known distinct populations of dowitchers were not split as species until 1950, hence most offhand reports in Franklin County prior to that time are imprecise as to specific identity, at least in the absence of specimen evidence. Field identification techniques, some of them pioneered by Trautman and Campbell decades before the split, made more reliable records possible in subsequent years.

It is now a rare-uncommon Franklin County migrant—with no records confirming anything other than the expected *hendersoni* subspecies, which breeds in west-central Canada's prairie marshes—in spring and fall, e.g. fourteen at the city sewage ponds on 5/14/1955 (Thomson, MS OSUM) and one in Columbus 7/24-30/1987 (OC 10(2):6). High count 66 over Thoreau Pond 8/22/1984 (CD 9/3/1984). Upper Hoover hosted 136 on 9/17/1974 (Thomson 195). In fall, dowitchers seen after mid-September may, and after the first week of October almost certainly, represent the following species; Bent does cite one reported short-billed in Columbus quite late on 10/16/1921 (142:115). Both dowitchers frequent fairly shallow marshland and mudflats as migrants.

Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus*. Jones (1903:68) mentioned Wheaton's indecision about this dowitcher (he had treated it only in an appendix, and as a subspecies), and recognized the temporary split made 1895-1910 by treating it as a separate species, offering two specimens from Cincinnati as evidence. Aided by the optics of his day, probably few distant dowitchers could, at least on sight, conclusively be identified as to species in the field. Very early (March and April) and very late dowitchers (October and November) are likelier to be of this species. Now it is seldom reliably reported anywhere in the state during its March-April spring migration, which largely takes place well west of Ohio in the central flyway; one was well photographed 4/11/2015 at Battelle-Darby MP (*vide* R. Clark). In central Ohio they are only rare in fall, and not even reported yearly, though dowitchers seen here after early October are quite likely of this species. Plumage differences vs. *hendersoni* short-billeds are subtle (easier to note in juveniles), but long-billed migrant flocks may alone be in molt, and often show missing flight feathers, and they are talkative, their 'peek' calls distinctive. Trautman collected eight central Ohio fall specimens now retained at OSUM. In later years, typical sight records include two found in late Sept 1979 at Bolton Field (WCB 1(25):10); more recently, others were there 10/26/2003 and at Pickerington Ponds 10/6/2007 (OC 31(1):15) with four 10/30/2013 (pers. obs.), and several at the latter location as late as 11/12 in 1997 (OC 21(1):15).

Wilson's Snipe *Gallinago delicata*. An abundant migrant in his time according to Wheaton (1882:470). though he called them "fickle," "erratic," and "eccentric" in their behavior. It is the only shorebird species with regular Ohio records throughout the year. By 1928 Trautman regarded it as still common, and in 1962 reported up to 80 per day could be found in the region in spring (AFN 16(4):418), but decidedly fewer in fall. An infrequent nester in Ohio well to the north, it has no verified records here, though one present at Battelle-Darby MP from early June into 6/28/2015 (C. Winstead, ph.) was intriguing. It remains a legal game species, though fewer snipe hunters are active these days. Prefers well-vegetated shallow boggy spots in migration. Early spring arrival 3/8 (Bent 12:96), with presumably another early as a fall returnee on 7/24/2010 (OC 33(4):210). May occasionally winter if conditions are right, e.g. 11 in January 1967 (WCB 13:33) and six through the winter of 1980-81 (OC 3(4):15); icy weather reduces their numbers but snow may increase the ease with which they can be seen when present. Found for the Columbus CBC only once in recent decades. High counts of ~100 were flushed from a rough wet field in Pickerington Ponds 4/20/2005 (OC 28(3):101) and ~250 in a similar area in Battelle- Darby Creek MP on 4/3/2013 (*vide* J. Watts). Specimen 4/14/1952 OSUM #S346.

American Woodcock *Scolopax minor**. Wheaton (1882:468) called it a very common local breeder, but by 1928 (p. 41) Trautman was to call the species "no longer common and apparently decreasing in central Ohio"; he remarked (1940:249) that in Wheaton's day hunters' bags of 20-50 birds were not unusual, because parts of central Ohio then "consisted chiefly of swampy lowland woods and wet brushy fields." Unlike those of some other game birds, the woodcock's diminished numbers were, he felt, less due to overshooting than to loss of habitat caused by ditching and tiling of wet areas. It nests sparingly in remaining habitat—wet woods with nearby openings for displays—and is most active in the dark or at twilight. Now uncommon and localized here as a breeder, as a migrant it continues in fair numbers on occasion. A 1976 count numbered 42 in Columbus on 4/12 (Thomson 196). Five were calling in Clintonville in grass verging urban Indianola Avenue sidewalks on 3/9/1952 (Thomas, MS OSUM). One specimen was collected as late as 11/2 in 1885 (OSUM #511). A woodcock observed in Westerville 2/13-21/1985 was thought to have overwintered locally (AB 39(2):173, OC 7(4):16) but would not have been unprecedented as an early arrival; March birds (such as one 3/8 [Bent 142:77]) are more likely arriving migrants. Eggs—a shorebird's standard four—were found at Green Lawn Cemetery as early as 20 March 1966 (WCB Vol 11, September 1966:47). Specimen 4/16/1877 OSUM #1968.

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius**. By all accounts has historically been a common migrant and local breeder in field margins or weedy areas near lakes and streams, even quiet roadside ditches, where females of this polyandrous species lay eggs in a number of nests for several males to incubate, then remain to guard their territories. Where such settings remain relatively undisturbed in the county, this species is able to exploit them, but its overall numbers here have declined along with this preferred habitat. Its distinctive retreat across water is reminiscent of that of flying fish, and in fact these sandpipers have been noticed since Audubon's observations evading predators by "flying" underwater (Sutton 1925, Murie 1928, Willis 1994, pers. obs.). Unlike other shorebirds nesting at our latitude, they may also perch on wires or clamber about in bushes. Largely insectivorous. Not often observed in sizeable flocks here, though Trautman describes southbound migrants roosting at Buckeye Lake in numbers as high as forty (1940:245). Early spring arrivals were 4/5/2015 in the Columbus area (*vide* R. Clark) and another 4/12/1980 at Pickerington Ponds (*OC* 3(1):17). They typically depart in August-September, so quite tardy were birds in Columbus 11/5/2012 (*OC* 36(1):11) and 11/7/1923 (Bent 146:97, Borror 1950:19). Specimen 4/16/1875 OSUM #575.

Solitary Sandpiper. *Tringa solitaria*. An uncommon—and often solitary—migrant at shaded pools and muddy water, with many questionable old reports. The largest reported movement was ~500 over Buckeye Lake on 4/24/1948 (H. Mayfield 1948). Long ago, Kirtland (Christy 1936) asserted it "breeds in Trumbull County." Wheaton (1882:85-6, 581) reported this species for the periods 4/24-7/29/1873 and 5/28-7/25/1874 in the county, calling it "in part [a] summer resident," and relating "I have seen the Solitary Sandpiper here during all the summer months, and once found the young in the care of their parents...four or five miles south of this city." He went on to assert "[a]n egg, presented to me by Mr. O. Davie, which was taken in an open field bordering the Scioto River, as possibly of this species...The fragments of this egg are now in the collection of the Smithsonian Institution." Davie himself (1898:146) gave the date of collection as "the latter part of May, 1877," and described it in detail, adding that the "female parent of this egg was shot as she left the nest." H. Jones's artists (1886) illustrate this egg in their figure 13, plate 68; of it, he wrote (pp. 313-314) that the Smithsonian collection "contains five specimens, of which the one illustrated was a part. The others are entirely different in markings," and also that this species' "eggs have never been positively identified in Ohio" (*ibid.* xxxviii:c). He refers to Coues, who wrote that the only eggs of this species he had ever seen were two from Kirtland's cabinet in the NMNH (1874:499) and that their identity was "open to question." Lynds Jones (1990:75) had this to say: "There seems good evidence that this sandpiper breeds sparingly from the vicinity of Columbus northward. I have seen individuals in each summer month." A number of shorebird species nesting only well north of Ohio have been seen here in each of the summer months, of course. There is no June specimen for Ohio at OSUM. Trautman & Trautman (2006:131) wrote of Wheaton's report only that the author "is too meticulous an observer to be taken lightly." The NMNH has an egg specimen #B17259 labeled as that of a solitary sandpiper, collector unspecified, from Columbus, Ohio, with a date of June 1875. A 1903 catalog of prices for birds' eggs asked \$15 for a solitary sandpiper egg, equaling in price that of an Everglades kite or a white-tailed ptarmigan. Trautman (1940:244) observed two pairs apparently courting in July at Buckeye Lake and found birds present May through July in four different years, but obtained no positive evidence of nesting there. Todd (1940:222) offered an intriguing report of possible nesting not far away in western Pennsylvania. Coues (1903[2]:834) reported "I found a pair in 1883 in the mountains of West Virginia, under circumstances which left no doubt that they were settled for the summer." Bent (142(2):3) reported that not until 1903 was this species determined to nest only in Canada and Alaska; he gave for the area of Columbus a late departure date of 1 June, and an early arrival date southbound of 3 July. A few solitaires are now known to breed as near as the northernmost U.S., but modern authorities agree this species, unlike any other North American shorebird, everywhere uses abandoned nests in trees, rather than the ground, so the Ohio reports must be regarded with skepticism. The closely related green sandpiper (*T. ochropus*) of the Old World habitually lays eggs in abandoned nests. High count a hardly solitary 53 at a city sewage pond 7/2/1941 (Thomson 191) with 45 still there on 8/4 of the same year (MS OSUM). An early date comes from Columbus on 30 March, *vide* E. Thomas (Bent 142:2). Borror (p. 19) gives a significantly late date for central Ohio of 5 November in 1930. Specimen 8/30/1885 OSUM #563.

Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca*. Listed by Wheaton (1882:484) as a common spring and fall migrant, more numerous in fall, and so it remains, at least in today's more limited habitats. It and its

smaller brethren were legally hunted in Ohio until 1928, and remain on the game list. A denizen of wetlands, where its long legs enable it to forage in deeper water than most of its companions; it also tends to be more skittish than some accompanying waders. Forty-five birds were found in a prairie pond at Battelle Darby Creek MP 4/9/2011 (OC 34(3):86). Hardy: there is a local record from as early as 21 Feb (Bent 142:333). A returning migrant appeared 12 July (Bent 142:335). Rather late southbound were three on 11/24/1977 (AB 32(2):212) and one in or near Columbus 11 December (Bent 142:336). Yellowlegs seen early, in March, or late, in November and December, are likelier to be this more rugged species; an old name is “winter yellowlegs.” Three were found for the Buckeye Lake CBC as late as 12/27/1964. Specimen 9/8/1879 OSUM #554.

Willet *Tringa semipalmata*. Quite rarely reported inland in the early days. Wheaton never saw one, and in 1928 Trautman (1928:43) could cite only one central Ohio specimen, from Licking County in September. Hicks (1937a) found but one Ohio record from the nineteenth century, and only seventeen were reported in the state between 1900 and 1937, including one 9/10-18/1924 near Columbus. This species winters in South America and moves north and west in flocks, seldom lingering in its Ohio passages. Spring flocks briefly appear in surprising numbers at times; a flock of 124 was photographed perched on the railings of a walkway over upper Hoover Reservoir (~5 mi north of the Franklin County line) on 4/28/2012 (NAB 66(3):480), with as many reported elsewhere in the state on that same date. Its reported numbers in Ohio have improved recently, it seems, but it remains fairly rare here. High counts in Franklin County are of only 12, on both 4/30/1979 (*Redstart* 4(4):154) and 5/2/1994 (OC 17(3):97). A spring migrant was observed as late as 5/16/2013 at Darby Creek (OC 36(3):97). Six were seen at the city sewage treatment ponds 8/13/1955 (Thomson, MS OSUM), and eight in flight over Green Lawn Cemetery 4/19/1985 (OC 8(1):19). One was seen 27 July 2012 at Darby Creek (OC 35(4):128). A late record came from 10/9/2008 at Pickerington Ponds (*vide* G. Stauffer), and they have lingered into November in the state on their less communal return to the wintering grounds. All local records identified as to subspecies have been the larger and less heavily marked “western willet” *T. s. inornata*; the distinguishable eastern form *T. s. semipalmata* has been reported only once in Ohio, on 5/12/1952 at the St. Marys fish hatchery in Auglaize County (Clark & Sipe 1970:29), with a specimen at the Cincinnati Museum Center.

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*. Wheaton (1882:485) recognized the “yellow-shanks” as more numerous than its marshland congener the “greater tell-tale” (*T. melanoleuca*), and as adapted somewhat more to muddy shallows than the gravel shoals of Ohio’s rivers in days before the proliferation of dams. Trautman (1940:243) estimated its migrant numbers averaged four times those of the greater yellowlegs in his day. The ratio holds today, even though the overall numbers of both may have diminished along with their local habitats. Davie (1898:145) concluded there was “no doubt that a few of the Lesser Yellowlegs breed in Central Ohio...a sportsman brought me a male bird on the 28th of June 1886,” further averring that a female collected on 14 June 1888 had eggs in the oviduct and an apparent brood-patch. While it is apparently not beyond credibility that a bird still migrating could be in this condition, there seems to be no other recorded instance of this phenomenon in Ohio, so skepticism seems called for in this case. Maximum count 130 at a city sewage pond 9/21/1957 (Thomson p. 191). Early 3/7/1983 (AB 37(5):876). Quite late was one on 11/18/1978 (OC 3(1):18). Specimen 9/17/1885 OSUM #557.

Wilson’s Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor*. Wheaton and other nineteenth-century authorities estimated it might breed rarely in the northwestern part of the state, and time has proved them right, but they seldom reported finding it in central Ohio at any time of year, even as a migrant. Trautman (1928:41) wrote it had gone unreported here for many years, including by Wheaton. He reported its feathers had often been sought for decorating women’s hats (2006:158). Predating the height of the feather frenzy among milliners, the tag on Jasper’s specimen (OSUM #1601) of an alternate-plumaged female from 6/9/1874 (an intriguing summer date) reads: “Killed on the Canal betw[een] the City and Jul[ius] Woods starch factory. Swam like a duck on the canal.” Wilson’s is the phalarope least likely to spend much time afloat; as a migrant it may often be seen leaping from muddy ground to catch flying insects. Our high spring count was 14 on 5/14/2013 (OC 36(3):99). Bent (12:46) gives a remarkably late record near Columbus on 11/10/1882. A rare-uncommon migrant now, with a smattering of more or less yearly records over the past two decades, far more often in fall. Earlier in the year, one was found at Pickerington Ponds on 5/13/1980 (OC 3(1):18) then others on 7/27/1979 (OC 2(2):8) and two at Battelle-Darby Creek MP 7/28/2014 (OC 37(4):155); what was presumably an early returning migrant lingered as long as 7/6-29/1985 here (OC

8(2):21). It may be found late in southbound stopovers, with a remarkably late record on 12/4/1981 at Pickerington Ponds (AB 36(3):299).

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*. Regarded as locally rare by Wheaton (1882:467) and very rare by Trautman (1940:259). Now seemingly more often encountered, in fall and even on occasion in spring. A male specimen (OSUM #1600) was taken in Columbus by Theodore Jasper; on the tag of this specimen he notes it was one of “2 of them I shot 6 Sept 1869 on the Scioto betw the City and the Harrisburgh [sic] bridge. They were exactly alike, ♂ and ♀.” Wheaton reported (1882:467) that one of these had gone to his collection, and the other to Davie’s, but only the male is known to survive, at OSUM. Davie recorded having received another killed by a boy on the Olentangy 9/17/1885 (1886:136). Hicks collected one on O’Shaughnessy Reservoir 3/28/1933, calling it only the third state specimen, and “very rare” inland (*Auk* 51(1):82, OSUM #3983). Borror reported one late migrant on 6/11/1938 (1950). Recent records are more numerous, and include one from 8/28/1933 (OSUM #3983), and others from 10/8/1978 in Columbus (AB 33(2):183), 9/17&24/1979 (OC 1(3):13), 10/28/1980 (AB 35(2):189), 9/20/1992 at Pickerington Ponds (OC 15(1):17), and more unusual spring reports of one wintering below Hoover Dam until 5/15/1960 (Shuer, *WCB* Vol 5, June 1960:22), two other migrants on 5/17-22/2010 (OC 33(3):165) at Pickerington Ponds, and one at Battelle-Darby Creek MP 5/13-16/2012 (OC 35(3):92). High counts came during autumn 2012 at Battelle Darby MP: four were present on 8/20-24th (m. obs.), three on the 27th, and a group of five afloat on a pond at the latter location 9/12/2011 (D. Slager, pers. obs.). An unusual July record came from Columbus 7/28-29/1985 (OC 8(2):21).

Red Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius*. Trautman collected Ohio’s first specimen, a male found above the O’Shaughnessy Dam on 9/29/1927 (OSUM #3252, Hine 1928), and he recounts three later seen at Buckeye Lake (1940:258). An infrequent migrant, nearly always reported straying in fall from Arctic seas. The first Franklin County record of this species was filmed, even walking beneath a tripod and between the legs of the observer, below the freshly-flooded Hoover Dam on 9/29/1957 (A. Claugus, MS OSUM); the film has apparently been lost. An early fall record came from 9/12/1959 (*AFN* 14(1):40, *CD* 10/18/1959), collected in the Hoover Dam spillway, fate of the specimen unknown. Also found here 9/16 and 10/8/1978 (AB 33(2):183) as well as on the regionally more routine date of 10/28/1980 (AB 35(2):189). More recently one was on the Olentangy at the OSU campus 10/20/2005 (*NAB* 60(1):68). Far more often found on open water rather than mudflats, and locally tends to move late in the year (into November) more often than its congeners; Trautman (1940:258) reported birds seen at Buckeye Lake 11/2/1929, 10/28/1933, with three 9/27/1968 (Thomson 1983:196). Campbell’s careful summary of western Lake Erie records (*Auk* 55(1):89-94) included no spring occurrences. A single quite unlikely spring record, of a female molted into colorful alternate plumage, was photographed at Battelle Darby Creek MP during a stay 5/13-16/2013 (OC 36(3):99); spring records of this highly pelagic migrant number in the single digits in Ohio. No Franklin County specimen has been located; there are four from September-November in adjacent counties (Fairfield [two], Licking, and Delaware) at OSUM.

Parasitic Jaeger *Stercorarius parasiticus*. A specimen collected on Buckeye Lake (Perry County section) on 9/2/1919, not held at OSUM, is vouched for by Trautman; he also described a personal sighting of another immature bird on 10/16/1926 over this lake’s Fairfield County portion (1940:259-60).

Long-tailed Jaeger *Stercorarius longicaudus*. Very rare historically. There is one brief record, accepted by the OBRC, an immature bird copiously photographed below Hoover Dam on the morning of 10/8/2003 (J. Sauter, *OC* 27(1):11). It was apparently feeding in part on injured fingerlings in the spillway pool. Young jaegers may often undertake inland routes to the sea on their first migrations, but are difficult to verify as to species without careful descriptions, good photos, or a specimen. One had been collected over Buckeye Lake on 9/2/1928 (OSUM #3599, Trautman & Walker 1930); a young dark-plumaged male, it was apparently Ohio’s first specimen of this species. Jaegers confirmed in our region have uniformly been young of the year apparently improvising southbound routes on their first migration.

Black-legged Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*. A rare winter visitor. All recent records are from deep water near dams or in old quarries: the first locally an immature just above the dam in Hoover Reservoir on 12/28-29/1970 during the local CBC (*CD* 1/10/1971), with another on 12/14-16/1983 above Greenlawn Dam (*AFN* 38(3):323), yet another 1/1-11/2009 (*NAB* 63(2):256) from Hoover Dam, and an adult—quite

rare inland in Ohio—there on the unusual dates of 2/28-3/8/2009 (*NAB* 63(3):427, m. obs.). Another immature bird was found on a flooded quarry, Antrim Lake, on 1/1/2014 (*fide* C. Winstead), and intermittently seen through 1/9 (ph. P. Hurtado). Ohio's first specimen was a yearling taken at Buckeye Lake on 11/7/1925 (Trautman 1926, OSUM #3601).

Sabine's Gull *Xema sabini*. Most often seen as juveniles on the southbound migration. Trautman (1940:265) observed an immature male at close range over Buckeye Lake (Fairfield County), whereupon he collected OSUM #3600 on 10/9/1926 (Hine 1927, Peterjohn 2001:239-240), said at the time to be the furthest south recorded in eastern North America, and Ohio's second record (the first, said to have been collected by Winslow in the Cleveland harbor long ago, was apparently destroyed by vermin in a museum there before 1882 [op. cit.]) Central Ohio sightings have since been reported from Hoover Reservoir (Delaware and/or Franklin County) on 10/22/1969 (*WCB* 15:31, Thomas *CD* 11/16/1969), and on 10/4/1970 (MS OSUM, Thompson 1983:200, *AB* 25(1):66), and from Deer Creek Reservoir in Pickaway County on 11-12 October 1987 (Peterjohn 2001:239, *AB* 42(1):80), and another there 5/13/2016 (M. Shuter).

Bonaparte's Gull *Chroicocephalus philadelphia*. For Wheaton in 1882 (p. 551) uncommon and irregular, though overall the most numerous gull inland, where at times it appeared in "considerable flocks" in spring as a northbound migrant. Now less often seen in spring (March-April) and more often in fall (September-November) here, with some moving along rivers in migration, at times appearing in small flocks over adjacent farm fields, wetlands, or reservoirs. Otherwise its Ohio migrations far more often take place in the north eastward and westward, with most of these gulls using the Great Lakes as a corridor to and from nesting sites in Canada and wintering areas along the Atlantic coast. Usually now far outnumbered here by ring-billed and herring gulls. Published reports from Hoover Reservoir have high counts of ~2000 on 11/14/1991 (*OC* 15(1):18) and an exceptional mid-winter record of ~500 on 1/5/1998 (*OC* 21(2):44).. Only seldom recorded over the past fifty years by the Columbus CBC, but for the past 20 years they have become fairly regular for the Hoover Reservoir CBC (mostly in Delaware Co.), with a high count of 607 on 12/17/2005. Specimens include a male from Columbus on 4/4/1878 (OSUM #232), and an undated individual #228, probably of the same era.

Little Gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus*. A local rarity, with an immature bird observed to the north at O'Shaughnessy Reservoir in Delaware County on 3/22/1949 (Thomas & Hengst 1949), and Trautman collected the state's first specimen, an immature female, in Fairfield County over Buckeye Lake on 11/7/1970 (OSUM #15820, Trautman & Trautman 1971). Not unexpected was a first Franklin County record, another young bird well documented in lower Hoover Reservoir 11/3-9/2012 (*OC* 36(1):13), associating with Bonaparte's gulls. At the time there were only nine other recognized Ohio records away from Lake Erie, all at reservoirs, but one or several were found on inland reservoir beaches in late August of 2014, with one at the southern end of Alum Creek SP 8/19-25/2014; earlier sightings at C. J. Brown Reservoir and later ones at Delaware SP suggested the same bird could have been involved at this unexpected time and place.

Laughing Gull *Leucophaeus atricilla*. A rare stray here in spring and fall, not yearly in occurrence, and most often in immature plumages. In recent decades this coastal species has proved likeliest to appear as singletons at Ohio gull roosts at inland reservoirs at least as often as along Lake Erie. Franklin County records include single birds on 10/10/1937 (Borror 1930), 5/6/1971 (*WCB* 16:39), 10/8&10/1977 (*AFN* 32(2):213), 7/19-24/1978 (*AFN* 32(6):1169), 3/31/1979 (*AB* 33(5):777), 7/20/1988 (*fide* K. Miller), 9/15/1994 (*OC* 18(1):26), 5/16/1999 (*OC* 22(3):72), 5/6/2001 (*OC* 24(3):130), 8/10/2003 (*OC* 27(1):12), 4/29-5/5/2007 (*OC* 30(3):106, and one at the Battelle Darby Creek MP wetlands 5/16/2012 (*fide* T. Bain). Storms brought 35 on 10/28/84 (Peterjohn) to Alum Creek reservoir with winds from the west.

Franklin's Gull *Leucophaeus pipixcan*. Now a rare-uncommon migrant, most often as off-course juveniles in fall, it went unnoticed or at least unreported here by Wheaton and his contemporaries. Ohio's first was recognized and collected 10/15/1906 from a pair over Buckeye Lake (Jones 1907b), but was seldom noted in the state till the '30s (Campbell 1939). A prairie gull of the west-central plains, it is as likely to show up in settings such as wetlands or along shores, and may accompany ring-billed gulls foraging for insects in freshly-plowed fields. Its occurrences may be aided by prolonged westerly gales.

Local records include single birds 10/10/1937 (Borrer 1950:20), 4/17/1975 (*AB* 29(4):860), 10/10/1977 (*AB* 32(2):213), 7/19-24/1978 (*AB* 32(6):1169), 11/1/1987 (C. Bombaci *in litt.*), 4/20/1989 (*OC* 12(3):7), 10/24-11/8/1999 (*OC* 23(1):12), 8/13 and 10/23 and 11/4/2000 (*OC* 24(1):15), and one rather late at Battelle-Darby Creek MP 5/15-16/2012 (*AB* 66(3):481); high counts include 18 in Columbus on 10/16/1976 (*AB* 31(2):184) and 10 on lower Hoover Reservoir 9/28/2009 (*OC* 33(1):19), usually following steady winds from the west. Alum Creek Reservoir hosted 35 in October 1984. There are four OSUM specimens from nearby Buckeye Lake, but none is known to have been collected in Franklin County.

Ring-billed Gull *Larus delawarensis*. For Wheaton (1882:549), far less often seen than the Herring Gull, both spring and fall: he himself had recorded only two of them here, one on 3/3/1877. By 1903, neither Lynds Jones nor Dawson, who both lived in Lorain County with its Lake Erie shoreline, had ever seen one in Ohio; the former related several reports from others, adding “[c]ertainly in my experience the species has been all but unknown in Ohio” (Jones 1907). It later became an uncommon migrant inland along larger rivers in spring and Oct-Nov (mostly juveniles), and abundant enough to lure the feather trade. The first Ohio nest in the modern era was recorded in 1966 along the Lake Erie shore (Campbell 1968:139). Fourteen younger birds summered locally in 1978 (*AFN* 32(6):1168), with increasing numbers in recent years; ~300 gathered at Alum Ck SP 7/19/2014 (*OC* 37(4):156). After decades of gull population outbreaks, it is now by far Ohio’s most numerous larid (Dolbeer & Bernhardt 1985), with local high counts of ~5000 for the 12/22/1996 Columbus CBC (*AB* 51(2):374) and an estimated 10,000 in the deep end of Hoover Reservoir during the gull invasion of 3/1/2009 (*OC* 32(3):122). Thousands commuted daily to and from the county landfill Jan-Feb 2012-2016 (pers. obs.), with a night roost said to be largely in Alum Creek Reservoir. Subadult birds become harder to find in mid-winter. Older birds are likelier to spend late fall and winter in fair numbers in central Ohio as long as water remains unfrozen, locally roosting at night on unfrozen segments of local reservoirs. OSUM has seven specimens from Buckeye Lake, but oddly no documented Franklin County specimen is known.

California Gull *Larus californicus*. There is a single accepted record, a bird in fresh adult plumage—contrasting with still-molting local gulls present—at the lower Hoover Dam marina on 4/29-30/2012 (*OC* 35(3):92); it was also photographed later north into Delaware County during ensuing days. This locally accidental western species has been recognized on many occasions along the Lake Erie shore, especially during the winter of 2011-12, and this individual, the second latest recorded in the state, and the only one in full breeding plumage, numbered among a handful ever verified in Ohio away from Lake Erie.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*. Wheaton (1882:548) reckoned it the most frequent gull in spring, seen in small groups moving north along the rivers, and collected one in the county on 3/25/1873. Later, Moseley (1912:340) described Humane Society efforts to enlist Sandusky schoolchildren to feed these birds, considered imperiled at the time, when gulls had been sought for the feather trade. Since then it has flourished, with breeding first ensuing along Ohio’s Lake Erie shore in 1945, then several inland nesting sites established in recent years in Ohio, one as far south as Gallia County near a power plant on the Ohio River (Argabrite et al. 2005). Occasionally immatures and non-breeding adults show up here in summer; a pair tended a nest, later to fail, on a quarry island in town in June of 2015 (J. Muller, pers. comm., ph.). Now an uncommon migrant spring and fall, with smaller numbers wintering, e.g. a count of 40 on 1/8-11/1996 at Greenlawn Dam (*OC* 19(2):48). Larger numbers may from time to time gather at winter die-offs of gizzard shad, etc. in reservoirs, such as ~250 in the south end of Hoover Reservoir in the remarkable March 1-3/2009 gull incursion (pers. obs.). 150+ were at the city landfill as early as 11/23/2011 (*vide* J. Stenger), and many more uncounted in throngs of thousands of gulls there later during winters to follow. High Columbus CBC count only 39, in 2014; this and previous recent counts averaged 16 birds; cold winters bring more to the county, but none of the counts cover the county landfill, where many hundreds are typically present, and may well roost by night in county reservoirs to the north. There seems to be no specimen from the county identified as such.

Thayer’s Gull *Larus thayeri*. A first-year individual of this western species joined a large flock of gulls near the county landfill on 1/28/2012 (ph. P. Hurtado) for the county’s first recognized record, and one of very few discerned inland in Ohio; since then, several have been reported as more attention is paid to the landfill’s winter flocks. Some controversy (well summarized by Pittaway 1999) persists about the full species status of this taxon. Its presence here, accompanied by two lesser black-backed gulls and a

glaucous gull, signals the increasing local importance of large mid-state landfills to wintering gulls of several species, especially near unfrozen reservoirs providing safer roosting sites by night. As long as such conditions prevail, many thousands of gulls may gather at or near working landfills during winter days, and unusual species such as this one may join them.

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucooides*. Accidental-rare inland, usually accompanying unusual numbers of other large gulls. Trautman (1940:263) studied one at Buckeye Lake 12/26/1937-1/1/1938. In *WCB* 1(1):3 appears this unattributed report: "Iceland gull, seen Apr 12 [1941] and for a period of nearly a week after," but its precise location, presumably in central Ohio, goes unmentioned; few observational details are offered, and the date would be quite late, making it questionable in several respects. One in immature plumage was seen repeatedly by many observers above Hoover Dam 3/1-3/2009 (*NAB* 63(3):427); another present 1/19&28 and 2/23/2014 (*OC* 37(2):61), was among several reported in or near town during the winters of 2013-14 and 2014-15 when Lake Erie was virtually icebound and many gulls dispersed inland to open water; single Icelands were reported in town as late as early March at such times.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*. Until recently a quite rare or at least seldom recognized winter visitor, usually in immature or non-breeding plumages, accompanying groups of other large gulls, e.g. 12/26/1990 (*AB* 45(2):280). A third-cycle bird was seen in Columbus 3/12-15/2001 (*OC* 24(3):131), another 2/11-22/2005 (*NAB* 60(2):230), and a first-cycle individual at Hoover Dam 3/1-13/2009, accompanied by another in the county (*NAB* 63(3):427, m. obs.). Two were near the landfill in SW Franklin County 1/28/2012 and three adults there 1/28/2014 (ph., P. Hurtado), with one at the Hoover Dam 4/24/2012 (*fide* R. Asamoto), and another there 1/5/2014 (*fide* M. Collins), and an adult near the landfill 1/23/2014 (ph. Hurtado). This species has been steadily increasing in winter numbers and lengths of stay in the U.S. and Ohio since the 1970s, first along Lake Erie and later at various inland bodies of water as well.

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*. A rather rare wanderer inland, this large very pale gull may join major winter gull movements during unusual spotty availabilities of food. It has been present, or at least more often noticed and reported, away from Lake Erie in recent decades. At least one, and as many as five, in first-cycle plumage were seen by many observers 3/1-23/2009 in the county not far above Hoover Dam (*NAB* 63(3):427). One was present in a dense gull flock near the county landfill 1/15/2012 and others there 1/23&28/2014 (both ph. P. Hurtado) and 3/7/2015 (*fide* B. Sparks).

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*. A rare but apparently increasingly frequent winter visitor, the world's largest gull species. Wheaton (1882:547) recorded a probable sighting here. The first local record was an adult female collected from the Olentangy River on the OSU campus 12/16/1907 (OSUM specimen #72 [Jones 1908]), and brought to the OSU Museum "before it was cold," according to curator Hine. One was found in a local quarry pool 11/17/1962 (Thomson 1983:197). Another appeared 1/26 and 1/30-31/1983 at Greenlawn Dam (*WCB* 1(27):16, *AB* 37(3):307), with an immature there 10/27/1999 (*OC* 23(1):13), another 12/31/2000 (*OBNH* 2/3/124) and 1/30-31 (*AB* 37(3):307), and one at Hoover Dam 3/17-25/2001 (*OBNH* 2(4):172). Four were reported in the winter of 1994, with two-year birds 1/29-2/6 and another 2/22, plus an adult 2/3-5 (*OC* 17(2):43, 71). An undetermined number, probably fewer than ten, were found here during the enormous March 2009 gull influx just above the Hoover Reservoir dam (*NAB* 63(3):427), and more during the cold winter of 2014-15 in open water and at the county landfill (m. obs.). A juvenile bird observed at Alum Creek SP 8/9-22/2014 was way out of season (*NAB* 68(1):79).

Least Tern *Sternula antillarum* These tiny terns, resembling white swallows in flight, have been quite rare Ohio visitors to reservoirs and wetlands, river sandbars, etc. Dawson (1903:648) gives it as rare in the Columbus area, without further detail; Wheaton had reported two in May 1862 (1882:562, 584) along the canal south of town. There are no accepted Ohio nesting records. Its appearances here are infrequent, and seem to be fewer over time; they reportedly suffered greatly from the feather trade, and have not recovered locally as migrants for unknown reasons. The local high count of five visited Pickerington Ponds 8/25/1975 (M. Bolton, pers. comm.); five had also been observed at Buckeye Lake 5/28/1924 (Trautman 1940:267). Single birds were found at upper Hoover Reservoir and Alum Creek Reservoir (both in southern Delaware County) during the '80s (*AB* 35(2):189, 42(1):83, etc.), with another briefly at the latter location on 6/8/2013 (*fide* R. Thorn), one of a mere handful of modern summer records in Ohio. Trautman collected a male at Buckeye Lake in Licking County 6/10/1957 (OSUM #11000).

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*. Wheaton did not treat the Caspian Tern as such; most nineteenth-century Ohio authorities apparently had difficulties identifying terns, perhaps because they were difficult to collect and observers' optics often inadequate to the task of identification in the field. He, for example, called the roseate tern—not on today's official Ohio list—a “not common spring and fall migrant,” a description better befitting Caspian tern—omitted on his Ohio list. Lynds Jones, who regularly studied nesting roseate terns in Massachusetts, left it to others to include it in their Ohio lists, and did not claim a sighting here in his work of 1903 (even he, however, did later report one in Canadian waters of Lake Erie [Jones 1904]). The gull-billed tern as well is reported by Ohio observers of days gone by, also without existing specimens or adequate documentation, and is understandably not recognized on today's official state list. Two Caspian tern specimens were finally taken in Ohio in 1883, identified as such, and preserved for Cincinnati's Cuvier Club collection (Butler 1929), just after the publication of Wheaton's work. OSUM has twelve specimens, none from Franklin County. Field 1903:132 reported one Caspian at Buckeye Lake, rather late on 5/31/1902, and a few have been seen here throughout the summer in recent years. Today the Caspian tern is a rare-uncommon migrant, somewhat likelier here in spring (early on 3/28/2007 [NAB 61(3):440]) and on 4/18-26/1988 at Greenlawn Dam (OC 11(3):16). Its local fall migration usually takes place from late July through September, with nine birds on 8/3/2009 (OC 33(1):21). The Franklin County high count is only ten, at Greenlawn Dam 5/9/1997 (OC 20(3):97), but a post-breeding swarm of 47 was observed (*fide* A. Ebert) at the Alum Creek beach on 8/18/2015, when still larger gatherings regularly occur at this season farther north.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*. Wheaton (1882:563) called it a common spring and fall migrant. Since his time, this marsh-nesting tern has not adapted well to subsequent obliterations and alterations—many of the latter intended to attract popular game birds at the cost of habitat for others (see Trautman & Trautman 2006:184)—in its nesting grounds in northern Ohio. Only intermittently have very small numbers of nesting pairs in Ohio been reported in recent years, always from remote protected marshes near the Lake Erie shore; Peterjohn (250-252) describes their decline in some detail. Introduced mute and trumpeter swans often drive them from ancestral nesting grounds farther north in Michigan, and may perhaps threaten any remaining Ohio terns here as well. Black terns have recently still been seen inland as sparse migrants over wetlands or occasionally joining fall gull roosts. The local high count of 46 at Pickerington Ponds 5/11/1980 (OC 3(1):19) dwarfs all those of more recent years, including the high fall count of 25+ gathered at Greenlawn Dam on 8/14/1994 and 35+ at Buckeye Lake the same day, with 11 at Delaware WA earlier on 8/4 (OC 18(1):27), during isolated migratory flights in the central counties. One migrant at the Dam on 4/30/1981 was early (OC 4(1):25), and another at Pickerington Ponds on 5/28/1981 (OC 4(1):25) was rather late, though not so late as remarkable reports on 6/14 there in 1978 (OC 1(2):7) and on the same date at the Battelle-Darby wetlands in 2013 (ph. J. Pontius). A few fall migrants may still be briefly seen hawking insects over healthy wetlands as soon as July, continuing into September, e.g. one over a marsh at Battelle Darby Creek MP 9/4/2011 (*fide* D. Slager) for the only local report of that season; four spring migrants visited this location on 5/15/2012 (ph. I. Shulgina).

[Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*. Thomson (1983:201) reported six Ohio records, including having photographed one himself in Delaware County's segment of Hoover Reservoir on 19 July 1971. Additionally, two old specimens at OSUM, one #1913 from Wheaton's collection, and another early example #246 without a tag, lack location data, and were probably birds from far away traded or purchased by Wheaton and Jasper. Apparently Thomson's photograph has not appeared in publications, and has not been otherwise available, and no other Ohio report of this species has been persuasively documented. Langdon noted in an article about Cincinnati birds that he possessed a specimen, relating that Dury had taken it “near the mouth of the Little Miami, in September, 1878” (1879:187), later cited by Wheaton without details (1882:561). Borror (1950:11) grants hypothetical status via three published reports, one of them Langdon's, another an interesting but unsatisfying sight account from Doolittle in 1919 in Lake County (Doolittle 1920). Peterjohn declined to include this species in his 2001 work (see Peterjohn 1987:30). Sight records of *S. dougallii* so far from its known haunts require careful details, especially in view of many inadequate or mistaken reports of the rarer terns over the years in the Great Lakes area. The only museum specimen said to be attributed to Ohio is a set of eggs allegedly collected by G. K. Snyder on 6/18/1904 at Starve Island in Ottawa County, now #93590 at the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology; at least 500 miles from known nesting sites, this record seems highly dubious. The Field Museum

in Chicago does have a verified specimen #347766 of an adult male shot on the Indiana shore of Lake Michigan 8/14/1916, and at a nearby spot on the Michigan shore one was well described on 6/21/1997 (Michigan BRC).]

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*. Now far from common here, having declined with the eradications of its once large and shifting island nesting colonies in Lake Erie. Wheaton (1882:554) regarded it as irregular in occurrence here, adding it sometimes appeared in considerable migrant flocks in spring along the Scioto, but in the fall only “a solitary individual sometimes lingers for several days.” Peterjohn (p. 246) records the area’s largest count, of ~100 in the Delaware County portion of Hoover Reservoir on 9/8/1981. The modern county high count of only 16 was filmed in fall near Hoover Dam on 9/15/1957 (Clausus, MS OSUM); 15 adults were at Battelle Darby Creek MP wetlands on 6/1/2012 (ph. J. Baldwin). Its overall numbers, like those of other terns and gulls, suffered much from the millinery trade long ago, and its former nesting colonies on Lake Erie have been erased further since, largely by the synergy of human disturbances and increased predation by gulls (Trautman, *OC* 39(2)); today only two small assisted colonies survive in the state, at Ottawa NWR and Willow Point WA. Trautman (1940:267) marveled at the dearth of migrants at our latitude in November, when large numbers remained at Lake Erie until mid-December; fewer do so today, and a typical recent late record of a single bird comes from 9/28/2009 (*fide* G. Stauffer). Early spring dates involved one on 4/12/1988 (*OC* 12(3):7) and four on 4/16/1957 in Columbus (Borror, MS OSUM), and another spring migrant was rather late in passing through on 5/22/1981 (*OC* 4(1):25).

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*. Two adults at Alum Creek Reservoir in Delaware County were reported on 6/5/1993 (*AB* 47(5):1114, Peterjohn 2001:247) during heavy weather, for the state’s second generally-accepted observation of this rare and seldom-recognized migrant.

Forster’s Tern *Sterna forsteri*. At best an uncommon migrant today, somewhat more likely in fall, when more often seen than the common tern in recent years. Wheaton, who omitted this species in his 1861 Ohio list, corrected his report in 1882, calling it “not very common” in spring and fall in Ohio. He had collected one in the county in October of 1862 (1882:560, 584), his sole local experience with the species. It continues to be scarce here. One was timely for spring on 4/18/1975 (*AB* 29(4):860). Its fall passage may span August through early October (e.g., one at the sewage ponds 10/9/1954 [Thomson MS OSUM]). In spring, maxima six on 4/20/1957 (*AFN* 11(4):349), five on 4/8/1990 (*OC* 13(3):9), and four on 4/14/2012 (pers. obs.). The oldest specimen from Columbus is Wheaton’s, probably the one he cites, and is dated only as from the fall of 1861 or 1862 on its tag (OSUM #2784).

Royal Tern *Thalasseus maxima*. Accidental, a salt-water species with a single record 3/3-7/2011, near the Hoover Reservoir Dam (m. obs., *OC* 34(3):89, *NAB* 65(3):437). Unusually severe weather in Texas on 3/1 suggested it may have been a storm-blown vagrant from the Gulf Coast. This was Ohio’s second verified record of this species, and the state’s earliest record of any tern species.

Red-throated Loon *Gavia stellata*. An infrequent migrant, in spring and roughly twice as often in fall, on reservoirs. Formerly more rarely seen; one found frozen 1/13/1954 just outside the county at the O’Shaughnessy Dam (OSUM #8084) was the first reported in the region since 12/12/1923, when a female (OSUM #1744) had been collected near Columbus (Geist, *OSUM Sci. Bull.* 1(1):11). Hoover Reservoir was flooded in 1956, affording much more appropriate local habitat, and additional records for this species, including the county record number of five in Hoover Reservoir 3/24/2015 (*fide* A. Champagne, *OC* 38(3):117). One southbound migrant was rather early here 10/19-27/1976 (*AFN* 30(1):78); reports of this species usually occur November-December. Peterjohn called it accidental in mid-winter; inclement weather brought two grounded individuals to the Ohio Wildlife Center 13-20 January 1999 (Burton 1999), among many more across the state. Spring movements take place in March and April. This slinky and less bulky loon is capable of utilizing—and taking flight from—smaller bodies of water than the following; the 1923 specimen was collected on a “small pond near Columbus” (Geist, *loc. cit.*). Not yearly; typical was one repeatedly seen in the deep end of Hoover Reservoir 11/17-21/2012 (G. Stauffer et al., ph), one there on 12/26/2013, and it or another 1/1/2014 (*OC* 37(2):57).

Pacific Loon *Gavia pacifica*. One in basic plumage was photographed on Alum Creek Reservoir in Delaware County on 5/21-22/1990 (*AB* 44(3):433) for the state’s second accepted record, with another

there 11/24-26/1996. Though quite rare, this western species may have been occasionally overlooked here before or since Ohio's first accepted state record in 1985, and should be kept in mind.

Common Loon *Gavia immer*. Wheaton (1882:564) considered it a "common spring and fall migrant and winter resident," adding "it often appears in companies of from six to ten, and furnishes ample shooting to sportsmen who find them the most expert of all divers." It was widely known that "(t)heir flesh is of of the poorest eating, being very tough and rank" (De Voe 157). Local numbers probably increased somewhat with the cessation of this sport, as well as the provision of suitably large bodies of deeper still water, but few loons endure our entire winter these days, even where ice-free areas remain; Peterjohn (p. 3) called them accidental in February, citing one or more otherwise undated records for Columbus in that month. Occasionally—quite seldom in breeding plumage—summers here, e.g. two on 6/2/1976 (AB 30(5):960), and one on 6/10/1979 (Redstart 47(2):46). There are records for each month of the year. The first southbound migrants appear in mid-October, and smaller numbers of northbound loons, with a markedly shorter average stay here, are seen by mid-March. Highly unusual were counts of 357 in Delaware County on 12/1/1986 (Peterjohn 2001:3), and in Franklin County 170 on 12/9/1978 (AB 33(3):285) and 250 the following fall (Redstart 47(2):98). Only time and better control of pollutants will tell if recent alarming declines in their numbers will recede or continue. Specimen 5/8/1881 OSUM #185.

Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregata magnificens*. Ohio's first was collected in Fairfield County in the spring of 1880 by Emmet Adcock (Davie 1886:161, Trautman (1968:312) and later retained as a mounted specimen in the office of Dr. S. Renshaw of Sugar Grove (Davie 1898:74), but its present whereabouts if any are unknown. The chances of a mount of a species this large surviving for over 130 years outside an institutional setting are likely next to none. The Trautmans collected another one not far north in Morrow County on 10/2/1967 (OSUM #13510).

Northern Gannet *Morus bassanus*. Accidental, with two records. On 11/10/1993, an immature bird grounded in a Gahanna yard was captured and subsequently died of its injuries at the Ohio Wildlife Center (fide D. Burton); the specimen was taken to OSUM, but was later lost when a freezer failed. This bird was quite possibly that observed three days earlier flying south by a driver along Interstate 71 in Medina County (OC 17(1):12). At the time, this was Ohio's third inland gannet record; one, a moribund male (OSUM #11006, OSUM #S206), had been found in Union County on 11/27/1958.

Double-crested Cormorant *Phalacrocorax auritus**. One, a curiosity at the time, was grounded during a storm in April 1860 on a farm in Gahanna (Lee p. 298). Wheaton's first report here came from September 1861 (1882:584); six years later, Dury (1930) was to report large numbers nesting in Mercer County years earlier following the construction of Grand Lake St. Marys. An informant told Troutman they had nested at Buckeye Lake circa 1880 (1940:160), and Earl (1907) reported mounting a skin from there. Jasper prepared a specimen from the Lake as a model for his painting in *The Birds of North America* (1903, p. 13, plate XIII). Other breeders were photographed on Lake Erie islands as late as 1939 (Langlois 1950). Increasingly rare into the mid-twentieth century, but since the ban on DDT a fairly common migrant and isolated local breeder in recent years. Interesting but inconclusive summer records here included two birds roosting in a quarry 7/10/1970 (AFN 24(5):690). Wintered in Columbus 1987-88 (AB 42(2):270), with 30 south of town on 1/28/2007 (OC 30(2):53), and is now fairly regular in small roosts near unfrozen water, such as near the Greenlawn Dam. A migrant flock of as many as 450 in Columbus 11/3/1989 (AB 44(1):97) was fairly late, and at the time considered the largest ever reported inland in Ohio. An immature bird was reported 6/10-12/1979 (OC 2(2):3) at Pickerington Ponds. The first Franklin County nests were verified in a Columbus heronry (a year earlier the site of the county's first reported great egret nests) in a McKinley Avenue quarry 6/10/2007 (OC 29(4):194), with four nestlings seen four days later; nesting at this site has continued through 2016, with ~forty nests estimated on 6/17/2011 (NAB 65(4):626) and ~200 birds estimated 6/20/2014 (OC 37(4):150). Both species seem devoted to nest sites on trees on sites more or less completely surrounded by still water, and were accompanied by 40+ great blue heron nests. No local specimen has been preserved.

American White Pelican *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*. In days gone by apparently more common than presently, though numbers are recovering somewhat since the banning of DDT and other poisons. Wheaton deemed it a "not rare spring and fall migrant." Davie (1898:70) reported in the fall of 1861 "a

large flock...in the vicinity of Columbus, one specimen of which is still preserved in the museum of Starling Medical College...[another] was taken...on Big Walnut Creek Sept 15, 1892, ten miles south of Columbus, now in Dr. Jasper's collection." This collection also includes #276 at OSUM, taken at Buckeye Lake 10/25/1874). Other than that latter specimen, in that era larger bird specimens were usually made into mounts, which seldom survive the ravages of time. Since then no more than rare and irregular, but also recently on the increase at seasons outside breeding time, with sporadic sightings in the county in recent decades. Seven were over downtown on 11/13/1962 (Trautman, MS OSU Archives). One visited a quarry in the city 9/9/1970 (WCB 16:38). Another was near Columbus as late as 11/29 in 1975 (AFN 30(3):724); one or two were at Hoover Reservoir on 9/5 and 10/14/1986 (AB 41(1):94), another found at the Greenlawn Dam on 12/2-6/1998 (*fide* G. Stauffer et al.), and it or another seen from time to time in the vicinity until two weeks later; they were the state's latest records at the time (OC 22(2):25), when holiday shoppers were treated to pelicans sailing over downtown in a snow squall. Five dominated Pickerington Ponds 4/1-8/2004 (OC 27(3):98) as part of a record 37 reported in the state that spring. OSUM has five specimens, three from Buckeye Lake and two from Columbus, the latter #s 13759 and 13760 collected on 9/16/1967.

Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis*. Accidental, with a single published sight record—on 9/18/1996 (AB 51(1):62, Peterjohn p. 14)—from a pond along a freeway in Groveport following the passage of Hurricane Fran. Four of Ohio's first seven records of this southern maritime species came from sites well inland during the warmer months.

American Bittern *Botaurus lentiginosus**. Wheaton (1882:505) called the "Indian Hen" more numerous "than any others of the family except the Green Heron" here. Later it still nested locally (Hicks 1935a:142), but habitat loss has taken a heavy toll. Even migrants are seldom reported these days, usually from smaller marshlands apparently unfit for nesting, where its unmistakable vocalizations are heard from late March into April. It seems highly selective about breeding habitat here; Trautman (1940:167-8) reported as many as 100-200 migrants in fall and 4-20 per day in spring at Buckeye Lake in the '20s, but authenticated only a single nest there, in 1928. More recently a likely nester at Pickerington Ponds 5/12/1988 (OC 11(3):10), with two migrants since seen as early as 3/28/2007 (NAB 61(3):439). Only restored wetlands in parks seem to offer chances even a few bitterns might regularly nest here in the future: at the new Darby wetlands, at least two persisted, calling, into June 2011 with at least one in July 2012 and June 2013 (m. obs), with eight calling on 5/17/ 2014 (pers. obs). Hardy; one seen over several days for the 12/30/1972 Columbus CBC (AB 27(2):318) at Blendon Woods apparently overwintered through 3/3/1973 (AB 27(2):318), feeding on mice (*fide* J.Fry). Specimen 4/16/1877 OSUM #441; oddly, OSUM has no eggs of this species from the county in its collection.

Least Bittern *Ixobrychus exilis**. Once an elusive but routinely-recorded species of wetlands dominated by cattails, increasingly hard to find over the past 75 years as this habitat has diminished. Trautman (1940:169) reported 40-90 nests a year at Buckeye Lake during the '20s, and Lynds Jones (OC 28(2):81) 50 bitterns during a brief May visit there in 1902. To the south, Calamus Swamp nearby in Pickaway County harbored dozens of nests; though no longer regularly raided as it was during the heyday of egg-collecting, nests are unconfirmed there recently. The species is now found latest among the family, usually calling in early May, as migrants in marshlands, but there have been very few documented nesting records recently; one to four were present 5/13-6/7/1978 at Pickerington Ponds (OC 1(1):4) with one nest found (AB 32(6):1167), and typical among summer reports without confirmed nestings was one there as late as 6/1-9 in 1979 (OC 2(2):3). Recent nests have been observed in larger stands of cattail, at Glacier Ridge and Battelle Darby MPs. When present, young may most easily be seen clambering clumsily on cattail stalks in late June and early July. Specimens: five sets of eggs (22 total) collected on 5/30/1898 in a spot five miles south of downtown Columbus are at OSUM (#s 4307, 4308, 4347, 4348, and 4349). One from Delaware County on 9/16/1978, OSUM specimen #16377, was rather late.

Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias**. By the late nineteenth century, gunners' depredations of this slow-flying and reportedly tasty target had reduced their numbers here and across the state, and wetland habitats were on the wane, though Wheaton (1882:500) could still call them common. Hicks, observing that it no longer nested in 13 of 33 counties known to have hosted heronries earlier, reported nesting in four Franklin County sites 1918-1935 after their legal protection (1935a:141). Among today's large local colonies most accessible to human observers are several at Pickerington Ponds. A post-breeding roost at Hoover Dam has

grown from 40 to 100+ in recent years, and another near New Albany to 30 or more. Dozens of herons nest with cormorants and egrets visible from the Shrum Mound site in a disused Columbus quarry. Formerly scarce in winter; one was found dead, shrouded in ice, during -14°F temperatures on 1/4/1964 (OSUM specimen #10232), but Wheaton (p. 501) cited a healthy bird collected here during sub-zero weather. He surmised sycamore trees were often chosen for nesting because the colors of their limbs and leaves provided camouflage for the birds (1882:501); at any rate, sycamores also flourished along streams, where the birds often foraged, and—because they were not a favored lumber tree—were more often left undisturbed. In 1988-89 as many as 40-50 wintered in Columbus (OC 12(2):9), and in varying numbers they are now fairly regular at the season when and where undisturbed open water—even narrow drainage ditches—and roosting habitat persist. Specimen 6/1/1883 OSUM #E1445.

Great Egret *Ardea alba**. Wheaton (1882:501) collected one as early as 8/8/1873, calling it a common visitor in July, August, and September, with no spring, winter, or breeding records. Hunting in the southern U.S. for the millinery trade likely reduced this post-breeding northward dispersal of egrets to rare status by 1903 (Dawson p. 472), with a recovery evident beginning in the '20s following new laws and measures for protection. Breeding reports came anew from the western Lake Erie marshes beginning around 1940, then steadily increased thereafter. In the summer of 1996, central Ohio's first known inland-nesting egrets were observed nine miles south near Ashville, Pickaway County (Garver 1997). The first Franklin County nesting, by 2-3 pairs, was confirmed on a quarry island in Columbus 6/4/2006 (OC 29(4):194), one of only three active inland nesting sites known in the state at the time, and has continued through 2015, when more than thirty active nests were estimated (pers. obs.). This small colony has contributed to newly routine summer appearances of egrets along the Scioto. The earliest reported arrival in the state was one in Pickaway County 3/24/1990 (Peterjohn 2001:33). Recent larger counts include 28 birds in Columbus on 8/20/2006 (OC 30(1):9), 30 on 7/23/2007 (OC 30(4):144) and 40 near the Shrum Mound 7/24/2013 (OC 36(4):134); fall migrant numbers such as 90 seen on 9/21/2012 above the Greenlawn Avenue dam (*vide* R. Thorn) had probably been augmented by the new local nesters. Hardy, with Ohio records in all months of the year and recorded here as late as 12/12/2004 (OC 28(2):47), 12/23 in 1975 (AB 30(3):724), and 2/1/2010 along the Scioto River (NAB 64(2):254).

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula*. Wheaton (1882:502) reported finding five immature birds in Granville, Licking County, in the summer of 1859, but never saw one here; Field cites one record from Buckeye Lake 8/20/1901 (Field 1903:134). Snowy egrets were by that time an important species in the plume trade, about which Moseley (1947) wrote they were “too beautiful to be allowed to live, and were sacrificed on the altar of Dame Fashion.” They were unpredictably seen as far north as Ohio, though less likely to be hunted in any organized way here, as nearly all visitants were immature individuals lacking the most sought-after plumes. Now rare visitors, still mostly with records of wandering post-breeding-season birds, e.g. at nearby Griggs Reservoir 8/23/1933 (*Auk* 51(3):401), or 7/2-3/2007 at Greenlawn Dam (OC 30(4): 145). Still rarer spring records here of adults such as on 4/20/1976 (AB 34(4):847) and 4/24/1978 (OC 1(1):4) probably accompanied the establishment of a small breeding colony on Lake Erie's West Sister Island at the time. Presumable northbound migrants may be seen here into the latter half of May, such as one in a West Side field 5/16/2011 (J. Watts, ph.).

Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea*. Wheaton (1882:502) knew of no definite records in the state. Two immature birds were observed 7/2/1916 in Canal Winchester (Ryder 1916), but Ohio had few twentieth-century records until the 1920s, following the abolition of plume-hunting, when immature birds resumed showing up in late summer as vagrants after the nesting season. Less often, adults in blue plumage showed up on a similar schedule, e.g. one 8/14-9/11/1925 in Columbus (OSMSB:49). Hicks (1931) compiled unprecedented records of 1185 white-plumaged birds reported in the state between 7/19 and 9/24 in 1930, observing “[d]uring the invasion of the summer of 1930 and subsequently, not a single bird of this species in the adult plumage was reported in Ohio.” He found 77 at Buckeye Lake that year. Nesting was first documented in 1983 in NW Ohio. Increasing numbers of migrants (including adults) have appeared in our county at other seasons, e.g. 9/21/1980 (AFN 35(2):188), an adult at Pickerington Ponds 4/29-5/21/1981 (WCB 1(25):16, OC 4(1):15), 5/22/89 (OC 12(3):4), 5/9/2005 at Pickerington Ponds (NAB 59(2):430), and three adults at Battelle Darby MP as enticingly late as 5/28/2012 (OC 35(3):88). Appearing at Three Creeks MP in 2009 were an immature 8/29 and an adult 9/13 (NAB 64(1):72). Of special interest because so late were five adults at Walnut Woods MP on 6/22/2012 (*vide* J. Watts), two of a mere handful of June

records of adults in Ohio away from the Lake Erie marshes. An adult at Pickerington Ponds 7/22/2014 (*OC* 37(4):151) was still unusual. A state record-early arrival occurred at Blendon Woods MP, an adult on 3/19/78 (*AB* 32(5):1013, *OC* 1(1):4). Specimen 4/11/1964 OSUM #10255.

Tricolored Heron *Egretta tricolor*. A visitor very rarely reported away from the Erie shore. A single record of an adult came from 4/28-30/1981 at Pickerington Ponds (*WCB* 1(25):16, *AFN* 35(5):828, *OC* 4(1):15). This species has been suspected as a nester in Sandusky Bay and on West Sister Island in Ottawa County, but conclusive documentation is lacking; a pair was seen in the West Sister colony during the nesting season of 1978 by a researcher studying great blue herons (Parris 1979), as was a pair of little blue herons whose nest was not found either; adults of both pairs were observed making daily trips to and from the colony. At any rate it seems likely the lone Columbus individual was headed north at the time.

Reddish Egret *Egretta rufescens*. A second Ohio record for this species, a rare white morph more often encountered in salt-water settings well south of Florida, was seen by many observers 9/3-18/2014 in wetlands shared by Union and Delaware counties (*OC* 38(1):9). White *E. rufescens* were nearly extirpated in the United States by plume hunters in the early twentieth century, with recent shares of the U.S. population recovering to a range from 5-7% (BNA #633).

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*. After its U.S. appearances in the early 1940s arriving from Africa in Florida, and the first confirmed nest there in 1953, Ohio's first cattle egret was reported in Franklin County 5/23/1958 (*AFN* 12(4):357). Rare and not a yearly visitor since, with records most often of April-May migrants in alternate plumage visiting pasture-like settings, with or without cattle, all adults likely returning to their several western Lake Erie shoreline breeding colonies. Unlike other members of the family, they are very seldom seen standing in water, and their diet consists largely of insects. Trautman (2006:22) suggested "Upland Egret" as a more appropriate common name. One was early here on 4/15/1995 (*OC* 18(3):89), as was another on 5/10/1971 (*vide* J. Fry); also northbound were two at Pickerington Ponds MP 6/2/2004 (*OC* 27(4):141), another there 6/5/2009 (*OC* 32(34):155), and another still later at Battelle Darby Creek MP on 6/13/2010 (*NAB* 64(4):589); as for return flights, an immature bird had reached the Greenlawn Avenue dam area 8/11-14/2014 (m. obs.). There are far fewer fall records for some reason, but our high count of seven came on the unexpectedly late date of 11/14/1978 (*AFN* 33(2):189) in the southern part of the county. One sojourned in Bexley for three weeks in the fall of 1979 (*WCB* 1(25):11), and single birds have lingered in the county as late as 12/4/1987 (*AB* 42(2):270) and 12/12/1979 (*WCB* 1(24):11).

Green Heron *Butorides virescens**. Wheaton deemed it an abundant summer resident, the most numerous heron in the state, and "everywhere a well-known and unpopular bird" (1882:503), without elaborating on his choice of the latter adjective, although many observers of his era chose to be scandalized by the species' conspicuous habit of defecating in flight upon being disturbed. He noted it had become less numerous here than formerly, and "once unsuspecting, it has become quite shy and wary." It was at one time a common breeder along the Olentangy on the OSU campus (Griggs 1901:40). Later, Hicks (1935a:141) was to report nesting pairs in every county in the state, and in general this seems to be the case today. It usually arrives in mid-April. Preferring trees and shrubs near or over water, unlike its cousins it is not strictly a colonial nester, and is often seen away from their haunts; Dawson observed multiple nests might be found in old orchards (1903:476). Still widely distributed, but having declined overall in numbers, these herons are no longer common in the county, and local as nesters in trees or brush near ponds or streams. A high recent count was a fall gathering of ten at Greenlawn Dam 8/19/1999 (*OBNH* 1(2):58). It does not winter here, but has been seen as late as 12/8/1957, in Grandview (Schuer, MS OSUM). Specimen 9/5/1876 OSUM #1963.

Black-crowned Night-heron *Nycticorax nycticorax**. Wheaton (1882:504) wrote: "The Night Heron is not an uncommon bird in all suitable localities in the State, probably breeding in retired swamps." He reported (1861a:19) that it had been "taken on the Scioto River." Many years of hunting and wetlands eradication later, Hicks (1935a:141) verified nesting by the species only in Franklin and 14 other counties between 1918 and 1935. Still, five to ten thousand nests had been estimated on remote West Sister Island in Ottawa County in 1934 (Campbell 1940:35). A subsequent decline statewide since may be attributable to poisons such as DDT in the environment and/or eradications of nesting habitats (Trautman 1977:17). Now of enigmatic status locally as a nester in former sites. Six apparent migrants were in Groveport

4/23/1978 (*OC* 1(1):4), and an immature bird was seen nearby 6/17/1979 (*OC* 2(2):3). In 1995 an adult was seen 6/12 below Greenlawn Dam with up to three other birds including a juvenile on 7/10 (*OC* 18(4):127-8). Six near the Fifth Avenue bridge over the Olentangy 7/20/2004 (*OC* 27(4):141), five there 8/15 the same year (*OC* 28(1):7), and an adult with a young bird at Pickerington Ponds 8/17/2007 (*OC* 31(1):9) were suggestive, and summer reports near the OSU campus, Pickerington Ponds, and a limestone quarry island in San Margherita (*vide* J. Muller 2015) have accumulated with evidence of local nesting. Two spent the fall season at Greenlawn Dam in 2003 (*OC* 27(1):7). As for wintering, one was collected 12/18/1913 near Columbus, the specimen now lost (Hine 1914). Another late record in what has become a tradition came from 12/27/1925 (*BL* 28(1):39), with one for the Columbus CBC 12/27/1931 (*BL* 34(1):61), and several wintered at Greenlawn Dam, seen February 1961 (*CD* 2/5/1961) with another found there 1/15/1970 (*WCB* 15:35); many other winter records have ensued at open water. From at least late 1996 through early 2012, groups of up to eighteen, adults and first-year birds, overwintered at a warm-water outlet along the Olentangy River on the OSU campus, where others had less frequently been reported wintering as far back as the '50s (m. obs., MS OSUM); few other winter roosts are known in the state, mostly at power plants with heated water outflows. The OSU roost dispersed late in 2012 with the removal of roller dams and consequent lower water levels along the Olentangy, and sporadic winter sightings farther south have been reported since, especially near the Scioto confluence and less often just above the Greenlawn Dam. Specimens 9/8/1881 OSUM #458 (young) and #459 (adult).

Yellow-crowned Night-heron *Nyctanassa violacea**. Tolerant of human presence but unverified in Ohio prior to 1928—when a pair with eggs was discovered 5/16/1928 on a nest in Logan County on the east shore of Indian Lake (Walker, OSUM #3604)—its first local observation came from Worthington in 1943 (Thomas, MS OSUM), and Trautman collected one in Pickaway County 8/4/1962 (OSUM #12829). As nesters here they seem devoted to tall hardwoods in the vicinity of streams. Discovered flourishing most widely in 1964, when two nests were found along Little Darby Creek, one along Big Darby, one near the Leatherlips Memorial, three along South High St., and one at Minerva Park (*WCB* 10:29, June 1965). Small local colonies have persisted for years at a time since the 1950s (three pairs in 1954 *vide* E. S. Thomas, *AFN* 8(4):315), including in Upper Arlington (with the high count of 40 birds, including 28 nestlings and 12 adults in six nests during the '70s [J. Fry *in litt.*]), near the Olentangy in Clintonville (6/15/2008 and nesting in Overbrook Ravine 1987-2000, m. obs.), below Greenlawn Dam 1992-96 with an individual there 4/28/2000 (*OBNH* 1(4):150). One collected in Pickaway County 8/14/1962 is #10829 at OSUM. From at least 1996-2012 a small colony along Alum Creek in easternmost Columbus has become the county's longest enduring; records of three pairs seen nesting a quarter-mile north in 1954—the county's first recorded breeders—suggest this colony may have a much longer history (Thomas 6/1/1954 MS OSUM, *AFN* 8(4):315). The 2013 nesting season was seemingly a failure for the Alum Creek birds, with a single bird seen 5/4/13, and two seen briefly later, without further evidence of nesting (A. Espinoza, pers. obs.). One lonely bird returned to this site in 2015, (m. obs.) but found no companions. Elsewhere, one was feeding 6/14/2009 below the Greenlawn Dam near a previous nest site unused since the '90s (*vide* R. Thorn). Usually arrives late March-early April, with an earliest reported date of one seen 3/21-4/14 in 1992 (*OC* 15(3):73). Nest construction has begun as late as 5/9/2013 (m. obs.), and nests vacated by mid-late July at the Columbus site, early for the species. Fall migrants from elsewhere, mostly immatures, are rarely seen, and have most often been reported here in September; they have appeared into November elsewhere in the state.

White Ibis *Eudocimus albus*. Our two records of this rare stray from the south, both of juveniles, came from the county in 2005: one along Little Walnut Creek 7/19 and it or another on 7/23 at Big Darby Creek (*OC* 28(4):141, ph). These and other contemporaneous Ohio reports of this species, one from Summit County and another from Greene County, arose during a two-week period, and locations, dates, and plumage in photos involved in four sightings of immature birds during that July in Ohio cannot rule out the possibility that no more than two individuals were involved. All but one--an adult at Delaware WA on 5/7/1997 (*OC* 20(3):83)--of the state's ten-plus records have occurred during late summer and early fall, when young ibises seem most prone to wander northward. Unusual was a spring record, an adult found at Delaware WA on 7 May 1997 (*OC* 20(3):83). All Ohio records come from watery inland locations, beginning in 1968 (Schell 1968).

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*. A rare visitor to wetlands during migratory periods, with a first Ohio record in 1848. Wheaton (1882:594) reports testimony of one caught in a Greene County back yard in 1878 that oddly enough was reported as “partly domesticated.” Keeping wild birds as pets was not frowned upon in the nineteenth century; Jasper kept a whooping crane in his Columbus yard for many years, and Kirtland eagerly recommended that native waterfowl be raised on farms. This ibis species was recorded in the county 6/2/1956 (Thomson, MS OSUM), and on 5/19/1974 at Pickerington Ponds (WCB 1(19):54). Fall reports have come late, from 11/1-5/1980 (ph. OC 3(3):7-8, 11) and 11/12-16/1980 (WCB 24:15, CD 11/16/1980), arguably involving the same individual. Two were near Pickerington Ponds 4/16/1995 (*fide* C. Bombaci). One was at Battelle-Darby MP 5/2/2015 (ph. J. Muller). With its increased irregular wandering in the region, records of this species in nearby areas over the past few decades augur more frequent sightings here in times to come.

White-faced Ibis. *Plegadis chihi*. An immature bird was well photographed and witnessed by many at Pickerington Ponds 7/15-17/2012 (m. obs.); it was accompanied by two other immature dark ibises of indeterminable species. This was the county’s single verified record; one was found in Delaware County on 6/6/1994 (Peterjohn 2001:42). Ohio is now roughly equidistant from the customary ranges of the two *Plegadis* ibises, and has more than 20 accepted records of this genus.

[*Plegadis* ibis sp. In the autumn months into winter and among young birds at any season, ibises of this genus can be very difficult to differentiate in the field. Several published sight records of birds said to be glossies exist that could have involved either *P. falcinellus* or *P. chihi*: on 11/1-7/1980 for example, an individual was treated only as a “dark ibis” in AB 35(2):188), and one at Blendon Woods 4/16-5/15/1981 treated as *Plegadis* only in OC 4(1):16), as was a flyover pair in Worthington 8/27/2013 (OC 36(10):8). Two immature ibises accompanying the 2012 white-faced ibis could not conclusively be identified as to species, but were thought to be glossies. Hybrids within this genus, while unusual, are said to be increasing, and blur distinctions still further.]

Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus*. Unknown in the county in Wheaton’s time, when a rare or accidental winter visitor mostly in southwesternmost Ohio; it was not long before it was recorded nesting in that part of the state. The first local record, a specimen collected in mid-wandering north of Reynoldsburg 2/6/1895 (Davie 1898:195), is lost, along with so many of Davie’s specimens. Another published record came from Blendon Woods, also in winter, on 1/6/1974 (WCB 1(19):52). The Hoover Reservoir CBC of 12/16/2006 reported three in the air (OC 30(2):54), with several seen in the reservoir area irregularly through 2014, even in summer. Increasing, perhaps with climate moderation; several records now come irregularly—usually in the colder months—each year for this once-remarkable species of the south. Breeding as far north as Licking County was documented as early as 1959 (Greider & Wagner 1960), but no local nesting records have come to light as yet, though there are several June sightings. Specimen 9/15/1967 OSUM #13658.

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura**. Wheaton (1882:438) reported declining local numbers of vultures since about 1850, along with the disappearance of wintering individuals here, though they were found at that season near Circleville not far south. It was known mostly as a nester in caves or hollow trees or fallen logs and since increasingly in abandoned rural buildings; Davie (1886:110) wrote of finding a colony of about ten nesting pairs in large hollow sycamores “on the Olentangy River, about one mile from Columbus” in 1885. There is now a dearth of suitable vulture nest sites in the county, but a number of established roosts remain. Winter sightings have substantially increased; all Ohio CBC records of 200 or more have occurred since 1998, winter-long roosts of 100 or more are now routine in sites in several southern counties, and migrant turkey vultures are seen in large numbers over urban Columbus in their protracted and leisurely migrations. Thomson (183) counted ~300 likely migrants at Hoover Dam as early as 2 March in 1956 (MS OSUM), and 279 at the roost there in the autumn season on 9/3/1975 (1983:183). Now it is not unknown in winter, probably rare as a nester in remoter areas, and numerous and conspicuous as a migrant, with many records across the entire year. Specimen 5/13/1880 OSUM #E4123.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus**. Once a nester in many parts of the state (though Kirkpatrick [p. 369] wrote it had been “difficult to get a shot at them” to confirm it), it had diminished to rare migrant status by the mid-twentieth century. The banning of DDT apparently contributed to a resurgence of their numbers beginning in the 1970s. One seen at Pickerington Ponds on 7/3 in 1982 was intriguing (*OC* 5(2):52), but Franklin County’s first verified modern nesting record was to come—from that very location—only in 2006, likely aided by the State’s successful reintroduction project begun in 1996, with three young fledged (*OC* 29(4):162). By 2009 two pairs were to start nests there, one later abandoned, on provided poles less than a half-mile apart. One banded pair has nested regularly there 2007-2016. Reintroduced birds at first relied on provided waterside nest platforms, then utility towers, and a few of their offspring have since adopted natural sites, though not yet in the county, as far as is known. Ospreys had tended to avoid sharing ancestral nesting localities with eagles, here and especially in Ohio’s large Lake Erie marshes, where ospreys are still seen only as birds of passage (Jones 1903:101), but in the heart of Columbus’s industrial area along Haul Rd. the rivals have repeatedly nested only a few hundred yards apart on the same body of water (m. obs.). Quite early local appearances came from 3/7/2012 (ph. J. Nye) and 3/9/1991 (*AB* 45(3):452); most ospreys arrive in April, and an early date for return to a local nest was 3/20/2012 (*vide* B. Sparks). Four early migrants bound for the central and south American wintering grounds were near Columbus 8/11/2007 (*OC* 31(1):10), and local families have been observed dispersing as early as mid-July. Ten adults and eight immatures were counted at the north end of Hoover Reservoir on 8/9/2015, with seven counted at Alum Creek (*OC* 39(1):9). Accidental in the cold season; a late migrant was observed here 11/14/1982 (*AB* 37(2):186), with one even later on 12/1/2007 (*OC* 31(2):13). Specimen 11/12/1881 OSUM #744.

Mississippi Kite *Ictinia mississippiensis*. A rare visitor reported in recent decades, and a potential nester. Wheaton apparently knew of no records in the state; Dawson (1903: 645) called it “conjectural” in Ohio based on sightings in nearby states. Since their time, archaeological remains of this species have come to light from an Ohio site (Wetmore 1932, Goslin 1955), and one overflying Green Lawn Cemetery 5/13/1978 (Thomson 1983:183, L. Champney *in litt.*) was Ohio’s first living individual reported. There are three other county sight records: 4/27/1995 at Green Lawn Cemetery (*vide* J. Fry), another there 5/2/2002 (*OC* 25(3):113), and one photographed on the interesting dates of 6/15-16/2009 in Worthington (*OC* 32(3):157), viewed nearby on 6/16 (*vide* D. Horn). Delaware County hosted another 6/23-24/1987 (Peterjohn 2001:109). These kites in recent years have been opportunistic nesters well north of their previous range, with the state’s first documented nest in Hocking County in 2007 (*OC* 30(4):146), and single nests at a location farther north in that county in 2010-2013 (second *Breeding Bird Atlas*:136-7). Elsewhere at our latitude it has often been detected—even as a nester—in human-dominated sites such as suburbs.

Bald Eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus**. Columbus founder Lucas Sullivant, exploring the area in the late eighteenth century, reported a nest of eagles among “serpent-infested rocks” above the Scioto River, likely in what is now Marble Cliff (Lee 138-9). Wheaton (1882:435-6) called it a common resident in some Ohio localities, and a rare migrant or winter visitor here, adding that during the spread of a fatal disease among cattle in the 1850s, large numbers of these eagles invaded the northern part of the county to feed upon the carcasses. Early in the historical era these birds frequented large bodies of water, hence were found mostly along Lake Erie and major rivers, then by the mid-nineteenth century also the canal reservoirs; Wheaton related a report that it probably bred at the Licking Reservoir (Buckeye Lake) in his time. Its first report for the Columbus CBC came in 1929, and ten (8 adults) were tallied on the 12/15/2013 count. An OSUM specimen (#3809) came from one taken in a trap baited with catfish (2/5/1931). Protective efforts—and cessation of persecution by humans—aided by a ban on certain organochlorines, have led to a recovery of this species from near extirpation in the state, and they are now probably more widespread—aided further by new artificial bodies of water—than in pre-settlement days. These recoveries have occurred despite urbanization; in fact, some pairs have readily adapted to nearby human activities; several young birds were photographed jumping on a trampoline in a suburban backyard in northern Ohio a few years ago (http://www.ohiobirds.org/news.php?News_ID=172). Adaptation to road-kill carrion and more hunters’ gut-piles has offered new food sources, especially in winter. In Ohio they have attempted ground nests, and one pair raised young in a goose bucket 18 inches above water in a pond; more have nested in dry woodlots. J. Blakeman (pers. comm.) has called today’s eagles “behaviorally almost another species of raptor” compared to those of the past. A nest near a flooded quarry on the industrial south side of Columbus (*OC* 32(2):56) and another near Groveport in 2009 were the first known to produce young in the

county in modern times (*vide* OBBA), and a year later more nests came to light along the Scioto River, near where larger creeks enter its flow. No Franklin County specimens seem to be in museums, though Davie (1882) reported six from the county were given to him for taxidermy between 1878 and 1880.

Northern Harrier *Circus cyaneus**. Wheaton (1882:418) wrote: “In the vicinity of Columbus it was once rather common, and bred in the swamp prairies south of the city.” He goes on to aver it was more numerous here in summer than in winter, unlike the present day. Hicks (1935a:146) seems to include Franklin among 51 Ohio counties where it bred in his time, and called it (1933c) “everywhere common to abundant as a winter resident, being excelled in numbers only by the Sparrow Hawk.” Bales announced having found the state’s fourth nest in Pickaway County 5/19/1910 (*WB* 23(1):44). Trautman (1940:218) stated that before 1926 as many as 45 a day could be seen in winter near Buckeye Lake, numbers nearly unimaginable today. Now, after decades of persecution and habitat loss, it has been extirpated as a breeder in many parts of the state, and is nowhere common in summer; the first Breeding Bird Atlas estimated 15-25 breeding pairs, none in Franklin County (Peterjohn & Rice 1991); the more inclusive second Atlas results show fewer confirmed breeders but possible nestings in Franklin and three adjacent counties. One was near Columbus on the date of 7/20/1980 (*AB* 34(6):899), and there are a number of unconfirmed reports of an apparent pair with a juvenile May-October 2011 and 2012 in Battelle Darby Creek MP’s restored prairies (m. obs.). Now mostly an uncommon visitor to remaining marshes and grasslands from fall to spring, where it may share the habitat on a day/night time-sharing basis with short-eared owls. High count for the Columbus CBC was a healthy 25 on 12/22/1929; sightings amounting to a total of only 20 have been tallied over the past two decades by this CBC, however, with a high count of six in 2006, but 17 were counted in Darby Creek MP alone 1/20/2014 (L. Sours, *OC* 37(2):59). Specimen: four eggs from a nest at Baumgardner’s Pond 5/19/1910 are OSUM #E1564.

Sharp-shinned Hawk *Accipiter striatus**. Rather rare, and resident year-long in the county, according to Wheaton (1882:420). Tends to hunt in deeper cover, and for smaller prey in general, than the larger Cooper’s Hawk, which prefers woodland edges and more thinly-treed areas. Reclusive, it favors conifer groves for roosting and nesting, and has not adapted nearly so readily to urban settings as has the following species; it continues only as an infrequent and comparatively furtive nester today. Hicks (1935a) estimated its statewide nesting population to be about a fourth that of the Cooper’s hawk, and its numbers in proportion may be less today; while its accumulated Ohio reported CBC numbers are about one-third those of *A. cooperii*, six reported for the Columbus CBC of 2011 was the local high count; the 2013 count was four, versus 24 for the Cooper’s hawk. Summered 1981 (*AB* 35(6):944). Specimen 12/6/1889 OSUM #690.

Cooper's Hawk *Accipiter cooperii**. Once mostly found in rural spots (Jones 1903:90), it is increasingly noticeable as a nesting resident in city settings over recent decades, where birds at feeders, roosting pigeons, rodents, etc., are reliably easy sources of food. That shooting is forbidden in cities may be a factor in its urban incursions, as with those of crows and owls. Urban accipiters have fewer predators and an inexhaustible source of food, allowing them to pursue a life-style with little human interference, in fact with our help. Moseley (1946) estimated that during the year 1945 the number of hawks and owls killed within 30 miles of Bowling Green probably exceeded 3,000, though shooting raptors was illegal at the time; this species was a favorite target because it readily preyed on barnyard fowl and game birds such as bobwhites and pheasants. Fairly common now in remnant tracts of fairly mature trees. Bolder and more numerous than the sharp-shinned, and more given to hunting in open areas, where the larger females routinely take prey as large as pigeons and squirrels. Its reports outnumber those of the previous species in the twenty most recent Columbus CBCs 313 to 45, and it ranks second among diurnal raptors in these counts. Specimen 5/1/1881 OSUM #694.

Northern Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*. Large secretive accipiters of dense forests farther north, goshawks have always been rare to quite rare visitors Oct-May, with few unequivocal records. Wheaton had not seen it here, and it has been mistakenly reported since by inexperienced observers. Dawson (1903:402) reported capturing one 3/13/1901 on the OSU campus, but the specimen has not been preserved. It is possible a retreat from the state accompanied the extermination of the passenger pigeon, formerly a favored and very numerous prey item. Walker (1928a:25) reported for central Ohio “seven records in the past six years,” a frequency unknown in the present day. Hicks reported one during his 1924-1933 study in the county

(1935b:180); it was collected, but the specimen has not been found. There are fewer than ten published reports since then, the latest a comparatively unmistakable adult 5/11/1999 at Green Lawn Cemetery (*OC* 22(3):68) during a season in which this species was reported at unusually late spring dates in northern Ohio. They undoubtedly stage periodic or at least occasional southward winter incursions here, but at our latitude in the state there seem to be too few verified records for any significant local pattern to be discerned. Adults are far easier to identify than young birds, and informal reports of the latter require extra scrutiny. Goshawks favor concealed rather than exposed perches, and generally hunt from low flight. Elsewhere grouse are a favorite prey, and their disappearances in Ohio parallel those of goshawks. This species has been reported, reliably or not, somewhere in Ohio in 42 of 60 recent CBC seasons (Troutman 2010), but its status in Franklin County puts it among the most rare and enigmatic of our raptors. Its most recent inclusion on a Columbus CBC came in 1929. No Franklin County specimens were found in a search of large scientific collections in the United States; OSUM has only three Ohio specimens, from Ottawa, Clermont, and Auglaize counties.

Harris' Hawk *Parabuteo unicinctus*. There is a published record (Earl 1918) of two seen together nearby in Pickaway County just south of Harrisburg; this species is characterized by cooperative hunting. The adult male was collected on or about 12/24/1917, and is now OSUM #14005. This is the only record for Ohio, as well as eastern North America, of this species of the southwestern U.S. and Central America.

Red-shouldered Hawk *Buteo lineatus**. In 1903 Dawson (p. 407) and Jones (1903:93) called it Ohio's second-most numerous diurnal raptor at the time, outnumbered only by the American kestrel. Kirtland (1874:223) too had reckoned it outnumbered the red-tailed hawk in northeastern Ohio, and it remained numerous elsewhere in the state. Not so common since, it has nonetheless staged a modest general recovery statewide from lows in the mid-twentieth century perhaps caused by contaminants and persecution. Interestingly, it was the only buteo found nesting near Buckeye Lake during Trautman's dozen years of careful study there (1940:213). It prefers wetter areas, denser cover, and chooses less conspicuous perches than does the red-tailed. Newly adapted to more urban settings, including Columbus, pairs are now known to nest yearly in stable forested areas such as parks and ravines, usually reusing successful nest sites. Five were reported as wintering 2001-02 (*OC* 25(2):60), and the Columbus CBC has garnered 11 sightings over the past 20 years. Specimens: three eggs collected in the county by Oliver Davie 4/15/1881 (OSUM #E1354); the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology has three skins collected in Clintonville in 1901 and 1902, likely in areas where multiple nests persist to the present day.

Broad-winged Hawk *Buteo platypterus**. Rare here as a nester, according to Wheaton (1882:429). In our day, Wheeler (2003:211) calls it "overall one of the most common breeding raptors in the US and Canada," but since it prefers large (100 acres or more) dry mature forest tracts it continues to nest here only sparingly as our least common, and least conspicuous, nesting buteo. Nestings in the summers of 1976, 1977, and 1979 at different locations in Blendon Woods (*AFN* 33(6):867, *CD* 7/10/1977) were followed closely, with sparse but regular nestings since elsewhere in the county, even a bird reported on a nest in suburban Minerva Park 5/13/1987 (*WCB* 1(31):23). It has been described as comparatively quiet and sluggish, even tame, and last to arrive and first to depart among local hawks; still, Bent gives extreme dates of 3/20 and 11/12 for the Columbus area (167:253), while admitting that errors of identification are more likely than usual with this species. They tend not to do much soaring on territory, and Trautman (1940:215) called it "extremely retiring" in its habits. Broad-wings are most often seen here as gregarious wind- and thermal-riding fall migrants, with a high count of ~250 overhead 9/17/1978 (Thomson 1985), with smaller numbers seen as late as mid-October. Despite Jones's opinion (1903:94), winter reports are highly dubious; the nearest regular wintering areas are few in southern Florida, with the vast majority of eastern broad-wings moving into Texas, then passing the season in southern Mexico and Central and South America. Northbound migrants in April-May are less often noted and fewer in numbers than southbound ones, with a high count of 55 on 4/25/1959 (*AFN* 13(4):374). Specimen a female taken in Columbus 4/15/1897 (OSUM #720).

Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis**. A common resident in Wheaton's day, common enough in ours, a bird of upland landscapes with mature trees near open country, often seen soaring conspicuously, including over urban areas. He describes (1882:428) a local pair of white-plumaged red-tails, eventually shot but apparently not preserved, which shared only a single normally-colored tail feather between them; leucism is

found from time to time in Ohio red-tails. Another specimen from the same collector (Jasper), OSUM #1611 on 11/20/1895, originally thought to be a dark western form *calurus*, was pronounced by Oberholser to be *B. j. borealis* of local origin; reported dark-morph red-tails in Ohio probably require in-hand study to determine their true status. The State paid 50 cents apiece for heads of red-tails in the 1880s (H. Jones 1906:178), an amount equivalent to about \$11 today. Not a single red-tail was observed in the breeding season during Trautman's years of study at Buckeye Lake, and Hicks (1935a:145) called it much reduced in numbers in his day, but it has since apparently recovered fairly well with maturing forests and protection from persecution, and is now probably our most often observed raptor. A high Columbus CBC count of 52 comes from 2012, when wintering birds from the north were present. Specimen 12/12/1874 OSUM #711.

Rough-legged Hawk *Buteo lagopus*. Has always been irregular, usually a rare-uncommon winter visitor, with nearest nesting grounds more than 500 miles to our north; Wheaton (1882:431) examined only one local specimen, collected in Columbus, since lost. A few arrive in November or even earlier (one was in the county 10/27/2013 (m. obs.), but larger numbers are evident much later, such as 24 near Columbus 1/17/1970 (AFN 24(3):510), when uncharacteristically the majority were darker-plumaged birds. Individuals with pale underwing linings are more commonly seen here. Like other arctic raptors, variable in its local numbers from year to year, with some suggestions of periodicity. Hunts small mammals in open country, and seemingly better adapted to tree perches (conspicuously on branches that often seem too slight to support its weight) than the harriers that share its hunting grounds. Despite Jones's opinion (1903:95) a diurnal hunter, but seems to be more active in lower light conditions during the day. Moves back north March-April. The high count for the Columbus CBC was six in 2005. Specimen 10/28/1901 OSUM #56.

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*. A rare migrant locally, probably overwintering in bygone days. Wheaton allowed (1882:433) that it may have been a year-long resident long ago. Now slowly recovering in the local record, accompanying an overall reduction in shooting and poisoning in remote breeding grounds in eastern North America. A female collected 2/12/1878 (OSUM #1573) by Jasper in Franklin County is arguably Ohio's oldest surviving specimen for the record. A specimen from five miles west of Columbus went to Davie on 12/13/1881 (*Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club* 7(2):123), but has been lost; he wrote (1886:108-9) that "within the last ten years seven specimens have come into my possession, all having been taken in Central Ohio, in winter or early spring." He offered details (1882) from the county on six bald and three golden eagles brought to him for taxidermy: "[t]he last specimen of Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) was killed a few miles west of Columbus. It was said to have killed several young calves in the neighborhood, upon which the bird was seen feasting. A number of the bald eagles in the above list were young birds, lacking the white head and tail, and for the most part were killed by rifles, a few with shot guns, and two by the use of strychnine upon a dead carcass." Jones (1903:96) found it necessary to debunk stories of eagles attacking children. Most local sightings come from October and November, with fewer in March and April; three, two of them adults, were over Columbus 4/28/1980 (*OC* 3(1):15). Two records come from the 1920s in the Scioto bottoms in January and February (*OSMSB*:25), and one migrant was moving quite early in Columbus 9/16/2008 (*NAB* 63(1):77). Maximum three (two adults) on 4/28/1980 (*OC* 3(1):15).

Barn Owl *Tyto alba**. In pre-settlement days, Ohio provided limited habitat for this owl of the south, and our winters invited little pioneering on their part. Kirtland et al. (1874:258) wrote "[t]he Barn Owl will probably be found resident in Ohio, but as yet we do not know of a specimen being seen within its limits." Even in an era when plenty of old-fashioned barns were still part of the landscape, Butler (1890:800) was to write: "In 1879 there were but five known records of the Barn Owl in Ohio, and none in Indiana." Wheaton (1882:406) cited Ohio's earliest record in the state, from 1861, and a local report of another (*Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club* 4(1):62) for 11/2/1878; Davie showed him a Gahanna specimen, the county's first, taken 5/1/1881 (1882:593, Earl 1934:8). These were at the time Ohio's northernmost records, and many subsequent reports were to come, from hollow sycamores along the Scioto (Earl 1934) rather than barns. Eventually their numbers grew as agriculture, with its associated pastures, meadows, and outbuildings— attractive to rodents and suitable for nesting, etc.—proliferated (Jones 1903:101). Young have been observed in the state in each month of the year (Trautman 1968:278). Perhaps moderating climate played a role: Moseley (1947) wrote that "[a] glance at the feet of these birds will show why they are not fond of winter weather much north of Ohio" (see also Stewart 1952). Two were found dead, one in Columbus, apparently victims of cold conditions and deep snow, on 11/28/1950 (*WB* 64(3):164). Before the end of the

century Davie (1898:509) was to report “I know a farmer not far from Columbus who raises these birds in confinement and they thrive well.” By 1907 Hine (p. 290) regarded it as “rather common” on the OSU campus. Hicks (1935a:154) was later to call it the state’s second most common owl, nesting in 84 of 88 counties, including Franklin. Subsequent changes in Ohio farming practices may have led to a decline as rapid as its rise, from which the species has not recovered, and it is now rare overall, reported thinly around the state outside a few strongholds where modern agricultural regimes do not prevail (Colvin 1985). The Ohio Division of Wildlife reported only 14 known nests in the state in 1989 (*OC* 12(40:9)). Still, one had been taken in urban Clintonville on 2/18/1942 (OSUM #S441), and a fledgling was found perched on a car in an Upper Arlington driveway off Tremont Rd.; the egg-laying date for the latter individual was estimated to have been around 1 September (*CD* 12/22/1963). Earl (1934:139) adduced a local specimen “taken in November with filaments of down adhering to its breast.” A few staked-out birds were still to be found for nine Columbus CBCs during the 1960s and ‘70s, including three at Green Lawn (*WCB* 13:58), and a family numbering as many as six persisting behind the Ohio Union on the OSU Campus as late as 1976 (*WCB* 1(20-21):51). Most Franklin County owls are year-round residents. Trautman (1940) called it “one of the most strictly sedentary birds of the area,” though dispersing young banded birds have been refound hundreds of miles to the south. Currently known nest sites in the county number in the single digits, and tend not to be publicized; as many as 15 young in three clustered nests were recently present in the county, where plans are afoot to encourage an owl species known to tolerate many human activities. Specimen 8/2/1926 OSUM # 2896.

Eastern Screech-Owl *Megascops asio**. Continues as a fairly common resident, aided by its adaptability to human-influenced settings. A cavity dweller, it is fond of small mammals and insects active by night, as well as the occasional roosting bird. Wheaton (1882:409) offered an anecdote about a screech-owl making repeated attacks by night on silhouettes of caged canaries thrown onto window-shades in the city. In older urban neighborhoods with mature trees near ravines and parks it remains more common than many observers realize, and it is said their territories in cities average smaller than elsewhere. They have been known to mob migrant saw-whet owls showing up on their territories; three were observed doing so in Clintonville on 3/14/2007 (*vide* P. Gardner). Sunny days during cold spells may induce them to bask in view at the opening of a tree cavity, but otherwise it takes special efforts or luck, usually at night, to see one; hearing the eerie call is a more likely eventuality, via cracked bedroom windows on cooler nights. Trautman (1952:6) suspected its decreasing numbers during Buckeye Lake CBCs over the previous twenty years reflected a statewide decline. Still, most recordkeepers regard it as the most numerous owl in the county. A local specimen is from 2/7/1934 (OSUM #6657); another, undated, is #291741 at Harvard; collected by Oliver Davie, it must have come from several decades earlier.

Great Horned Owl *Bubo virginianus**. An uncommon resident here, overall reduced in numbers by forest removal and shooting. Henninger (1902:84) wrote it was “killed on any occasion,” and between 1910 and 1930 Ohio wildlife officers—ever vigilant to control bird populations in their terms--gave away free boxes of shotgun shells for the purpose. Earl (1934:142) wrote of this species that “[h]is fierce hoot is now less heard than formerly for his numbers are much depleted. The law offers him no protection and every man’s hand is raised against him.” In less threatening recent years a few have followed prey into larger rural and urban woodlots, parks, old cemeteries, etc. where abandoned hawk or heron or even crow nests may serve its purposes, with night-roaming household pets a new diet item. Our earliest-nesting raptor, with local egg dates as early as mid-January, it is a rough ecological counterpart of the red-tailed hawk, often using hunting territories on a time-shared basis of night and day (Springer & Kirkley 1978). The high count for the Columbus CBC was 16 on 12/23/1978. Specimen 3/8/1882 OSUM #773.

Snowy Owl *Bubo scandiaca*. Rare, in winter, with a downward trend locally over recent decades. Wheaton (1882:413) asserted that the county never hosted large numbers of this prominent species during their occasional invasions of the state, and this has generally proved true since his time. Lee (p. 298) reported one captured near Columbus as early as 1846, not a memorable invasion year in the U.S. Davie (1886:96), who as a taxidermist had reason to know, attested for his era only that “in Central Ohio several specimens are taken regularly every winter.” Studies of two major snowy owl incursions in Ohio, by county residents Thomas (1928a) and Hicks (1932a), treated reports of 264 birds, 143 of them killed or captured, but without a single occurrence in Franklin County, although owls had been found in the state on those occasions nearly as far south as the Ohio River, in Scioto County. Most sightings came from rural

areas, but this denizen of the arctic tundra seems fairly indifferent to our species' presence: our high count of five, in winter 1964-65 (*WCB* 10:31-33), included birds in open areas along Parsons and Indianola Avenues, on the OSU campus, and at Greenlawn Dam; one was in urban Bexley 12/17/1967 (*WCB* 15:30) and another in a gravel pit just south of Green Lawn Cemetery the following month (*WCB* 15 :59). At least three were briefly seen during Columbus incursions 12/30/2013-1/16/2014 (m. obs.). As for extreme dates of occurrence, one arrived near a Columbus sewage pond as early as 11/15 in 1964 (*WCB* 10:30, *CD* 12/13/1964), and another stayed remarkably late, through 5/24/1968, on OSU farmland west of the Olentangy River in Columbus (Thomson 204, ph.), giving this arctic owl county records in seven months of the year. None has appeared for a Columbus CBC since 1975. No Franklin County specimen with collection data has been found and reported, even though these owls were in days gone by routinely shot, then at times mounted as souvenirs, such as one "shot in a barnyard while disturbing chickens" (OSUM 1575, 1/8/1931).

Barred Owl *Strix varia**. In Wheaton's day (1882:412) a common resident. Earlier, Kirkpatrick (1859:378) and Kirtland et al. (1874:255) had called it the state's most common owl. Since then its numbers have fluctuated with the fortunes of denser mature woodlands; in the years following 1960 they were usually outnumbered statewide by great horned owls in CBCs, but the situation has gradually reversed since the '80s. In recent decades they have made successful inroads into rural and suburban woodlots here as well as urban settings with larger trees, especially wooded ravines and riparian stands of trees. Despite some predation from horned owls, they are less troubled by human persecution in such habitats, and usually outnumber their larger counterparts in certain older urban neighborhoods, where they may often be heard calling, even by day, in spring; the 2010 Columbus CBC detected only two horned owls, and a record ten barred owls; corresponding horned/barrred ratios for 2011 were 4 and 6, with 5 and 7 in 2012, 2 and 12 in 2013, and 4 and 9 in 2014. These birds are faithful to nest sites, such as abandoned hawk and crows' nests, broken-off decaying stubs of large tree limbs, etc., and are now fairly common in the county where habitat exists. Specimen 12/8/1874 OSUM #761.

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus**. Wheaton (1882:410) described it as a "somewhat irregular, but at times abundant winter visitor," and a rare bird in summer. It is far less often reported today. Green Lawn Cemetery was a warm spot for observations from the '20s (one-two found each winter 1925-1928, *OSMSB*:26), then more sporadically into the '70s (e.g. two at Green Lawn 3/30-4/1/1979 [*OC* 2(1):14], but not recently. This owl's numbers remain difficult to assess because of its highly secretive and undemonstrative nocturnal habits, but they are certainly no longer common, but rare, judging by infrequent public reports, e.g. at least one Thomas found in a conifer—still standing on Como Ave.—in Clintonville in mid-March 1964 (*CD* 3/22/1964), several from CBCs in the '80s, one detected in Gahanna on 1/1/2001 (*OC* 24(2):67), etc. Thomas (*CD* 3/22/1970) reported being shown one in the southern part of the county, which according to the property owners had wintered there for nearly ten years. Winter roosts are most often found in dense evergreens, and have at times involved double-digit numbers here; such gatherings have been despoiled by great horned owls in years gone by. Jones (1903:103) wrote that "[i]ts confidence in its protective colors and attitude often proves fatal." Scruples about publicizing owl roosts are especially often observed in the case of this species, as observer pressure too easily causes them to abandon sites; two publicly reported were perhaps too eagerly sought in Walnut Woods MP during the winter of 2014-5 (*OC* 38(2):65). Its favored hunting grounds—open spaces such as marshes and meadows with scattered brush near conifer groves or other dense cover—are much reduced here. It still may nest here on a casual basis, but no recent records are widely known. Its Ohio nests are most often found in well-concealed old nests of crows or hawks, or even squirrel drays, usually in conifers. Migrants, themselves quite rarely found, predominate in November and April, and are reported yearly, but seldom in our county. Specimen 11/15/1896 OSUM #S454.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus**. Wheaton (1882:411) regarded the "prairie owl" as very common in winter, at times in considerable numbers, and a rare summering bird in Ohio, presumably breeding. In 1906 Bales (*WB* 23(1):45) collected eggs from four nests just south in Pickaway County along Darby Creek (a clutch of five eggs is now OSUM #E3244), but there seem to be no firm records of local nesting here, though it is certainly possible now, and likely in the old days. Its normal winter presences, lasting normally from late October into April, now depend on habitats rapidly shrinking except in scarce parklands, as well as productivity on the northern nesting grounds and the shifting abundances of rodent prey, importantly

voles (*Microtus* spp.). It much prefers ground roosts to trees, though it habitually uses short elevated hunting perches like fenceposts, corn shocks, etc., in open expanses. Identification in flight, especially in dim light, versus the more arboreal long-eared owl, poses under-appreciated problems where their habitats overlap. Loosely gregarious in the hunt., short-ears also often share hunting territory with harriers on a day/night time-sharing basis, though they may also hunt by day at times, preferring cloudy weather. Irving reported to Dawson having seen as many as fifty at once in cattail swamps at Buckeye Lake (Dawson 1903:377). Trautman (1940:280) reported wintering short-ears there were once routinely shot by pheasant and rabbit hunters who thought they were “chicken hawks.” As many as seven were seen from time to time on the OSU Farms along Kenny Road during the winter of 1973-74 (CD 1/27/1974), and larger numbers are infrequently found in or near airports and parks with extensive grasslands through the present day. Last reported from the Columbus CBC in 1979, but seen in grasslands outside that circle, such as Pickerington Ponds and Battelle Darby Creek MPs, in recent winters, with at least five observed at once at the latter location during 2010-11 (m. obs.) and returning in following years. Seven were found perched at dawn on vehicles at a military motor pool adjacent to airport fields in Whitehall east of Columbus on 2/9/2011 (*vide* R. Rogers). Specimen from Columbus 3/1/1875 OSUM #753.

Northern Saw-whet Owl *Aegolius acadicus**. Wheaton (1882:415-6) pronounced this inconspicuous species very rare here, but its true numbers have always been difficult to ascertain. Recent systematic banding operations dedicated to this species nearby in Ross and Hocking counties have demonstrated fall migrants may at times be considerably more common in central Ohio than previously known (Williams-Sieg 2007). Hicks (1935) recorded nesting in Locking County. As for its local breeding status, Davie (1889:447) wrote he possessed two specimens of nestlings taken 5/28/1889 in a wood near Worthington, with a total of four newly fledged birds observed; the specimens have not been located. Dawson (p. 381) reported a family of six observed on the OSU campus 7/7-11/1901. A juvenile was captured in Columbus 6/6/1923 (OSMSB:8, OSUM #12818). Hicks (1934a:202) witnessed adults as late as May at Green Lawn Cemetery in 1927, 1932, and 1933, with a juvenile in 1933; three were detected in Worthington 5/13/1973 (WCB 18:27). One was observed eating a cardinal at Green Lawn in April during the '90s. From the north, Jones reported it had been found “on several occasions in an outhouse of one of the lake summer resorts” (1903:106). Saw-whets roost by day in nest cavities or in dense evergreens such as cedars and yews as well as tangled vines and brush, and are reluctant to flush. Nesting by this secretive species remains possible here today, though unreported publicly in recent years. Judging by reports, it is now mostly a rare-uncommon migrant, peaking in March/April and October/November, but retiring and seldom detected. Observed wintering on occasion, such as in a Columbus suburb 1/25-2/20/2004 (OC 27(2):61); Wheaton (1882:587) reported one found apparently frozen to death in his downtown neighborhood 1/11/1876.

Belted Kingfisher *Megaceryle alcyon**. Wheaton (1882:389) wrote that some of the abundant local kingfishers often departed during icy periods in January, as is less often the case today, though they are no longer truly abundant. Later, thousands were shot across the state as fish hatcheries were established (Trautman & Trautman 2006:219), but the productivity of waters for fishes has far more often declined due to deforestation and pollution, rather than the depredations of kingfishers; obviously, fishes and kingfishers had reached a mutual balance long before humans came on the scene. Where clearer and cleaner ponds, creeks, and stretches of rivers remain, kingfishers remain fairly common and conspicuous in the warm months, and from November to April smaller numbers pass the winter where open water persists. During a winter canoe trip down the Scioto River from Columbus to Circleville on 2/18/1985 a count of 25 was made, better than one kingfisher per mile (OC 7(4):18) along this less than pristine waterway. Their numbers seem to be rallying: the Columbus CBC of 2009 tallied 30, an all-time high count superseded by 35 counted the following year, with 36 reported in 2012. Specimen October 1967 OSUM #13689.

Barn Owl *Tyto alba**. In pre-settlement days, Ohio provided limited habitat for this owl of the south, and our winters invited little pioneering on their part. Kirtland et al. (1874:258) wrote “[t]he Barn Owl will probably be found resident in Ohio, but as yet we do not know of a specimen being seen within its limits.” Even in an era when plenty of old-fashioned barns were still part of the landscape, Butler (1890:800) was to write: “In 1879 there were but five known records of the Barn Owl in Ohio, and none in Indiana.” Wheaton (1882:406) cited Ohio’s earliest record in the state, from 1861, and a local report of another (*Bull.*

Nutt. Orn. Club 4(1):62) for 11/2/1878; Davie showed him a Gahanna specimen, the county's first, taken 5/1/1881 (1882:593, Earl 1934:8). These were at the time Ohio's northernmost records, and many subsequent reports were to come, from hollow sycamores along the Scioto (Earl 1934) rather than barns. Eventually their numbers grew as agriculture, with its associated pastures, meadows, and outbuildings— attractive to rodents and suitable for nesting, etc.—proliferated (Jones 1903:101). Young have been observed in the state in each month of the year (Trautman 1968:278). Perhaps moderating climate played a role: Moseley (1947) wrote that “[a] glance at the feet of these birds will show why they are not fond of winter weather much north of Ohio” (see also Stewart 1952). Two were found dead, one in Columbus, apparently victims of cold conditions and deep snow, on 11/28/1950 (*WB* 64(3):164). Before the end of the century Davie (1898:509) was to report “I know a farmer not far from Columbus who raises these birds in confinement and they thrive well.” By 1907 Hine (p. 290) regarded it as “rather common” on the OSU campus. Hicks (1935a:154) was later to call it the state's second most common owl, nesting in 84 of 88 counties, including Franklin. Subsequent changes in Ohio farming practices may have led to a decline as rapid as its rise, from which the species has not recovered, and it is now rare overall, reported thinly around the state outside a few strongholds where modern agricultural regimes do not prevail (Colvin 1985). The Ohio Division of Wildlife reported only 14 known nests in the state in 1989 (*OC* 12(40):9). Still, one had been taken in urban Clintonville on 2/18/1942 (OSUM #S441), and a fledgling was found perched on a car in an Upper Arlington driveway off Tremont Rd.; the egg-laying date for the latter individual was estimated to have been around 1 September (*CD* 12/22/1963). Earl (1934:139) adduced a local specimen “taken in November with filaments of down adhering to its breast.” A few staked-out birds were still to be found for nine Columbus CBCs during the 1960s and '70s, including three at Green Lawn (*WCB* 13:58), and a family numbering as many as six persisting behind the Ohio Union on the OSU Campus as late as 1976 (*WCB* 1(20-21):51). Most Franklin County owls are year-round residents. Trautman (1940) called it “one of the most strictly sedentary birds of the area,” though dispersing young banded birds have been refound hundreds of miles to the south. Currently known nest sites in the county number in the single digits, and tend not to be publicized; as many as 15 young in three clustered nests were recently present in the county, where plans are afoot to encourage an owl species known to tolerate many human activities. Specimen 8/2/1926 OSUM # 2896.

Eastern Screech-Owl *Megascops asio**. Continues as a fairly common resident, aided by its adaptability to human-influenced settings. A cavity dweller, it is fond of small mammals and insects active by night, as well as the occasional roosting bird. Wheaton (1882:409) offered an anecdote about a screech-owl making repeated attacks by night on silhouettes of caged canaries thrown onto window-shades in the city. In older urban neighborhoods with mature trees near ravines and parks it remains more common than many observers realize, and it is said their territories in cities average smaller than elsewhere. They have been known to mob migrant saw-whet owls showing up on their territories; three were observed doing so in Clintonville on 3/14/2007 (*fide* P. Gardner). Sunny days during cold spells may induce them to bask in view at the opening of a tree cavity, but otherwise it takes special efforts or luck, usually at night, to see one; hearing the eerie call is a more likely eventuality, via cracked bedroom windows on cooler nights. Trautman (1952:6) suspected its decreasing numbers during Buckeye Lake CBCs over the previous twenty years reflected a statewide decline. Still, most recordkeepers regard it as the most numerous owl in the county. A local specimen is from 2/7/1934 (OSUM #6657); another, undated, is #291741 at Harvard; collected by Oliver Davie, it must have come from several decades earlier.

Great Horned Owl *Bubo virginianus**. An uncommon resident here, overall reduced in numbers by forest removal and shooting. Henninger (1902:84) wrote it was “killed on any occasion,” and between 1910 and 1930 Ohio wildlife officers—ever vigilant to control bird populations in their terms—gave away free boxes of shotgun shells for the purpose. Earl (1934:142) wrote of this species that “[h]is fierce hoot is now less heard than formerly for his numbers are much depleted. The law offers him no protection and every man's hand is raised against him.” In less threatening recent years a few have followed prey into larger rural and urban woodlots, parks, old cemeteries, etc. where abandoned hawk or heron or even crow nests may serve its purposes, with night-roaming household pets a new diet item. Our earliest-nesting raptor, with local egg dates as early as mid-January, it is a rough ecological counterpart of the red-tailed hawk, often using hunting territories on a time-shared basis of night and day (Springer & Kirkley 1978). The high count for the Columbus CBC was 16 on 12/23/1978. Specimen 3/8/1882 OSUM #773.

Snowy Owl *Bubo scandiaca*. Rare, in winter, with a downward trend locally over recent decades. Wheaton (1882:413) asserted that the county never hosted large numbers of this prominent species during their occasional invasions of the state, and this has generally proved true since his time. Lee (p. 298) reported one captured near Columbus as early as 1846, not a memorable invasion year in the U.S. Davie (1886:96), who as a taxidermist had reason to know, attested for his era only that “in Central Ohio several specimens are taken regularly every winter.” Studies of two major snowy owl incursions in Ohio, by county residents Thomas (1928a) and Hicks (1932a), treated reports of 264 birds, 143 of them killed or captured, but without a single occurrence in Franklin County, although owls had been found in the state on those occasions nearly as far south as the Ohio River, in Scioto County. Most sightings came from rural areas, but this denizen of the arctic tundra seems fairly indifferent to our species’ presence: our high count of five, in winter 1964-65 (*WCB* 10:31-33), included birds in open areas along Parsons and Indianola Avenues, on the OSU campus, and at Greenlawn Dam; one was in urban Bexley 12/17/1967 (*WCB* 15:30) and another in a gravel pit just south of Green Lawn Cemetery the following month (*WCB* 15 :59). At least three were briefly seen during Columbus incursions 12/30/2013-1/16/2014 (m. obs.). As for extreme dates of occurrence, one arrived near a Columbus sewage pond as early as 11/15 in 1964 (*WCB* 10:30, *CD* 12/13/1964), and another stayed remarkably late, through 5/24/1968, on OSU farmland west of the Olentangy River in Columbus (Thomson 204, ph.), giving this arctic owl county records in seven months of the year. None has appeared for a Columbus CBC since 1975. No Franklin County specimen with collection data has been found and reported, even though these owls were in days gone by routinely shot, then at times mounted as souvenirs, such as one “shot in a barnyard while disturbing chickens” (OSUM 1575, 1/8/1931).

Barred Owl *Strix varia**. In Wheaton’s day (1882:412) a common resident. Earlier, Kirkpatrick (1859:378) and Kirtland et al. (1874:255) had called it the state’s most common owl. Since then its numbers have fluctuated with the fortunes of denser mature woodlands; in the years following 1960 they were usually outnumbered statewide by great horned owls in CBCs, but the situation has gradually reversed since the ‘80s. In recent decades they have made successful inroads into rural and suburban woodlots here as well as urban settings with larger trees, especially wooded ravines and riparian stands of trees . Despite some predation from horned owls, they are less troubled by human persecution in such habitats, and usually outnumber their larger counterparts in certain older urban neighborhoods, where they may often be heard calling, even by day, in spring; the 2010 Columbus CBC detected only two horned owls, and a record ten barred owls; corresponding horned/barred ratios for 2011 were 4 and 6, with 5 and 7 in 2012, 2 and 12 in 2013, and 4 and 9 in 2014. These birds are faithful to nest sites, such as abandoned hawk and crows’ nests, broken-off decaying stubs of large tree limbs, etc., and are now fairly common in the county where habitat exists. Specimen 12/8/1874 OSUM #761.

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus**. Wheaton (1882:410) described it as a “somewhat irregular, but at times abundant winter visitor,” and a rare bird in summer. It is far less often reported today. Green Lawn Cemetery was a warm spot for observations from the ‘20s (one-two found each winter 1925-1928, *OSMSB*:26), then more sporadically into the ‘70s (e.g. two at Green Lawn 3/30-4/1/1979 [*OC* 2(1):14], but not recently. This owl’s numbers remain difficult to assess because of its highly secretive and undemonstrative nocturnal habits, but they are certainly no longer common, but rare, judging by infrequent public reports, e.g. at least one Thomas found in a conifer—still standing on Como Ave.—in Clintonville in mid-March 1964 (*CD* 3/22/1964), several from CBCs in the ‘80s, one detected in Gahanna on 1/1/2001 (*OC* 24(2):67), etc. Thomas (*CD* 3/22/1970) reported being shown one in the southern part of the county, which according to the property owners had wintered there for nearly ten years. Winter roosts are most often found in dense evergreens, and have at times involved double-digit numbers here; such gatherings have been despoiled by great horned owls in years gone by. Jones (1903:103) wrote that “[i]ts confidence in its protective colors and attitude often proves fatal.” Scruples about publicizing owl roosts are especially often observed in the case of this species, as observer pressure too easily causes them to abandon sites; two publicly reported were perhaps too eagerly sought in Walnut Woods MP during the winter of 2014-5 (*OC* 38(2):65). Its favored hunting grounds—open spaces such as marshes and meadows with scattered brush near conifer groves or other dense cover—are much reduced here. It still may nest here on a casual basis, but no recent records are widely known. Its Ohio nests are most often found in well-concealed old nests of crows or hawks, or even squirrel drays, usually in conifers. Migrants, themselves quite rarely found,

predominate in November and April, and are reported yearly, but seldom in our county. Specimen 11/15/1896 OSUM #S454.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus**. Wheaton (1882:411) regarded the “prairie owl” as very common in winter, at times in considerable numbers, and a rare summering bird in Ohio, presumably breeding. In 1906 Bales (*WB* 23(1):45) collected eggs from four nests just south in Pickaway County along Darby Creek (a clutch of five eggs is now OSUM #E3244), but there seem to be no firm records of local nesting here, though it is certainly possible now, and likely in the old days. Its normal winter presences, lasting normally from late October into April, now depend on habitats rapidly shrinking except in scarce parklands, as well as productivity on the northern nesting grounds and the shifting abundances of rodent prey, importantly voles (*Microtus* spp.). It much prefers ground roosts to trees, though it habitually uses short elevated hunting perches like fenceposts, corn shocks, etc., in open expanses. Identification in flight, especially in dim light, versus the more arboreal long-eared owl, poses under-appreciated problems where their habitats overlap. Loosely gregarious in the hunt., short-ears also often share hunting territory with harriers on a day/night time-sharing basis, though they may also hunt by day at times, preferring cloudy weather. Irving reported to Dawson having seen as many as fifty at once in cattail swamps at Buckeye Lake (Dawson 1903:377). Trautman (1940:280) reported wintering short-ears there were once routinely shot by pheasant and rabbit hunters who thought they were “chicken hawks.” As many as seven were seen from time to time on the OSU Farms along Kenny Road during the winter of 1973-74 (*CD* 1/27/1974), and larger numbers are infrequently found in or near airports and parks with extensive grasslands through the present day. Last reported from the Columbus CBC in 1979, but seen in grasslands outside that circle, such as Pickerington Ponds and Battelle Darby Creek MPs, in recent winters, with at least five observed at once at the latter location during 2010-11 (m. obs.) and returning in following years. Seven were found perched at dawn on vehicles at a military motor pool adjacent to airport fields in Whitehall east of Columbus on 2/9/2011 (*vide* R. Rogers). Specimen from Columbus 3/1/1875 OSUM #753.

Northern Saw-whet Owl *Aegolius acadicus**. Wheaton (1882:415-6) pronounced this inconspicuous species very rare here, but its true numbers have always been difficult to ascertain. Recent systematic banding operations dedicated to this species nearby in Ross and Hocking counties have demonstrated fall migrants may at times be considerably more common in central Ohio than previously known (Williams-Sieg 2007). As for its local breeding status, Davie (1889:447) wrote he possessed two specimens of nestlings taken 5/28/1889 in a wood near Worthington, with a total of four newly fledged birds observed; the specimens have not been located. Dawson (p. 381) reported a family of six observed on the OSU campus 7/7-11/1901. A juvenile was captured in Columbus 6/6/1923 (OSMSB:8, OSUM #12818). Hicks (1934a:202) witnessed adults as late as May at Green Lawn Cemetery in 1927, 1932, and 1933, with a juvenile in 1933; three were detected in Worthington 5/13/1973 (*WCB* 18:27). One was observed eating a cardinal at Green Lawn in April during the ‘90s. From the north, Jones reported it had been found “on several occasions in an outhouse of one of the lake summer resorts” (1903:106). Saw-whets roost by day in nest cavities or in dense evergreens such as cedars and yews as well as tangled vines and brush, and are reluctant to flush. Nesting by this secretive species remains possible here today, though unreported publicly in recent years. Judging by reports, it is now mostly a rare-uncommon migrant, peaking in March/April and October/November, but retiring and seldom detected. Observed wintering on occasion, such as in a Columbus suburb 1/25-2/20/2004 (*OC* 27(2):61); Wheaton (1882:587) reported one found apparently frozen to death in his downtown neighborhood 1/11/1876.

[Ivory-billed Woodpecker *Campephilus principalis*. Wheaton wrote (1882:394) of this species: “Doubtless they were once residents of this State, but in default of any direct and positive evidence to that effect, they should not be admitted to our list.” Based on persuasive archaeological evidence (e. g. Goslin 1945, Wetmore 1943b), this species’ place on the Ohio list now seems secure. Recent finds of historical sight records of occurrences in Indiana, Kentucky, and West Virginia, as well as the discovery of a published first-person Ohio report, from 1804 in Miami County at about the latitude of Columbus (Hopkins 1804:40, Leese 2011), offer some hope that one day an old central Ohio record may surface. Hypothetical.]

White Ibis *Eudocimus albus*. Our two records of this rare stray from the south, both of juveniles, came from the county in 2005: one along Little Walnut Creek 7/19 and it or another on 7/23 at Big Darby Creek (OC 28(4):141, ph). These and other contemporaneous Ohio reports of this species, one from Summit County and another from Greene County, arose during a two-week period, and locations, dates, and plumage in photos involved in four sightings of immature birds during that July in Ohio cannot rule out the possibility that no more than two individuals were involved. All but one--an adult at Delaware WA on 5/7/1997 (OC 20(3):83)--of the state's ten-plus records have occurred during late summer and early fall, when young ibises seem most prone to wander northward. Unusual was a spring record, an adult found at Delaware WA on 7 May 1997 (OC 20(3):83). All Ohio records come from watery inland locations, beginning in 1968 (Schell 1968).

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*. A rare visitor to wetlands during migratory periods, with a first Ohio record in 1848. Wheaton (1882:594) reports testimony of one caught in a Greene County back yard in 1878 that oddly enough was reported as "partly domesticated." Keeping wild birds as pets was not frowned upon in the nineteenth century; Jasper kept a whooping crane in his Columbus yard for many years, and Kirtland eagerly recommended that native waterfowl be raised on farms. This ibis species was recorded in the county 6/2/1956 (Thomson, MS OSUM), and on 5/19/1974 at Pickerington Ponds (WCB 1(19):54). Fall reports have come late, from 11/1-5/1980 (ph. OC 3(3):7-8, 11) and 11/12-16/1980 (WCB 24:15, CD 11/16/1980), arguably involving the same individual. Two were near Pickerington Ponds 4/16/1995 (*fide* C. Bombaci). One was at Battelle-Darby MP 5/2/2015 (ph. J. Muller). With its increased irregular wandering in the region, records of this species in nearby areas over the past few decades augur more frequent sightings here in times to come.

White-faced Ibis. *Plegadis chihi*. An immature bird was well photographed and witnessed by many at Pickerington Ponds 7/15-17/2012 (m. obs.); it was accompanied by two other immature dark ibises of indeterminable species. This was the county's single verified record; one was found in Delaware County on 6/6/1994 (Peterjohn 2001:42). Ohio is now roughly equidistant from the customary ranges of the two *Plegadis* ibises, and has more than 20 accepted records of this genus.

[*Plegadis* ibis sp. In the autumn months into winter and among young birds at any season, ibises of this genus can be very difficult to differentiate in the field. Several published sight records of birds said to be glossies exist that could have involved either *P. falcinellus* or *P. chihi*: on 11/1-7/1980 for example, an individual was treated only as a "dark ibis" in AB 35(2):188), and one at Blendon Woods 4/16-5/15/1981 treated as *Plegadis* only in OC 4(1):16), as was a flyover pair in Worthington 8/27/2013 (OC 36(10):8). Two immature ibises accompanying the 2012 white-faced ibis could not conclusively be identified as to species, but were thought to be glossies. Hybrids within this genus, while unusual, are said to be increasing, and blur distinctions still further.]

Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus*. Unknown in the county in Wheaton's time, when a rare or accidental winter visitor mostly in southwesternmost Ohio; it was not long before it was recorded nesting in that part of the state. The first local record, a specimen collected in mid-wandering north of Reynoldsburg 2/6/1895 (Davie 1898:195), is lost, along with so many of Davie's specimens. Another published record came from Blendon Woods, also in winter, on 1/6/1974 (WCB 1(19):52). The Hoover Reservoir CBC of 12/16/2006 reported three in the air (OC 30(2):54), with several seen in the reservoir area irregularly through 2014, even in summer. Increasing, perhaps with climate moderation; several records now come irregularly—usually in the colder months—each year for this once-remarkable species of the south. Breeding as far north as Licking County was documented as early as 1959 (Greider & Wagner 1960), but no local nesting records have come to light as yet, though there are several June sightings. Specimen 9/15/1967 OSUM #13658.

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura**. Wheaton (1882:438) reported declining local numbers of vultures since about 1850, along with the disappearance of wintering individuals here, though they were found at that season near Circleville not far south. It was known mostly as a nester in caves or hollow trees or fallen logs and since increasingly in abandoned rural buildings; Davie (1886:110) wrote of finding a colony of

about ten nesting pairs in large hollow sycamores “on the Olentangy River, about one mile from Columbus” in 1885. There is now a dearth of suitable vulture nest sites in the county, but a number of established roosts remain. Winter sightings have substantially increased; all Ohio CBC records of 200 or more have occurred since 1998, winter-long roosts of 100 or more are now routine in sites in several southern counties, and migrant turkey vultures are seen in large numbers over urban Columbus in their protracted and leisurely migrations. Thomson (183) counted ~300 likely migrants at Hoover Dam as early as 2 March in 1956 (MS OSUM), and 279 at the roost there in the autumn season on 9/3/1975 (1983:183). Now it is not unknown in winter, probably rare as a nester in remoter areas, and numerous and conspicuous as a migrant, with many records across the entire year. Specimen 5/13/1880 OSUM #E4123.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus**. Once a nester in many parts of the state (though Kirkpatrick [p. 369] wrote it had been “difficult to get a shot at them” to confirm it), it had diminished to rare migrant status by the mid-twentieth century. The banning of DDT apparently contributed to a resurgence of their numbers beginning in the 1970s. One seen at Pickerington Ponds on 7/3 in 1982 was intriguing (*OC* 5(2):52), but Franklin County’s first verified modern nesting record was to come—from that very location—only in 2006, likely aided by the State’s successful reintroduction project begun in 1996, with three young fledged (*OC* 29(4):162). By 2009 two pairs were to start nests there, one later abandoned, on provided poles less than a half-mile apart. One banded pair has nested regularly there 2007-2016. Reintroduced birds at first relied on provided waterside nest platforms, then utility towers, and a few of their offspring have since adopted natural sites, though not yet in the county, as far as is known. Ospreys had tended to avoid sharing ancestral nesting localities with eagles, here and especially in Ohio’s large Lake Erie marshes, where ospreys are still seen only as birds of passage (Jones 1903:101), but in the heart of Columbus’s industrial area along Haul Rd. the rivals have repeatedly nested only a few hundred yards apart on the same body of water (m. obs.). Quite early local appearances came from 3/7/2012 (ph. J. Nye) and 3/9/1991 (*AB* 45(3):452); most ospreys arrive in April, and an early date for return to a local nest was 3/20/2012 (*fide* B. Sparks). Four early migrants bound for the central and south American wintering grounds were near Columbus 8/11/2007 (*OC* 31(1):10), and local families have been observed dispersing as early as mid-July. Ten adults and eight immatures were counted at the north end of Hoover Reservoir on 8/9/2015, with seven counted at Alum Creek (*OC* 39(1):9). Accidental in the cold season; a late migrant was observed here 11/14/1982 (*AB* 37(2):186), with one even later on 12/1/2007 (*OC* 31(2):13). Specimen 11/12/1881 OSUM #744.

Swallow-tailed Kite *Elanoides forficatus*. Observers as far north as Wisconsin complained it was “at one time quite numerous on our prairies, and quite annoying to us in grouse shooting” (Barry 1854). Wheaton (1882:419) wrote of this species’ occurrence in Ohio: “Formerly an abundant summer resident; now a rare visitor.” Davie (1898:198) mentioned two Ohio specimens in his collection, the first taken 8/22/1878 allegedly “in the act of pursuing chickens” near Pataskala (in Licking County some five miles east of the Franklin County line, where the corpse was initially thought to be a bald eagle from P. T. Barnum’s show and discarded, then rescued; a Rev. Permort secured and cleaned up the skin, and presented it to Dr. Wheaton (Wheaton 1879). The other local record came on 7/10/1883 from Sugar Grove in Fairfield County, 20 miles from Franklin County. Dawson wrote (1903:394) the former had been “presented to Dr. Wheaton,” but in any event both specimens seem lost, though one may be OSUM #1637, which lacks a tag with collection data. Kirkpatrick (1859), and Jones (1903), attest to this species’ former numbers in the state’s open areas; earlier, Wilson had called it “very abundant in...the extensive prairies of Ohio” (1828(1):94). Despite those old testimonies, no first-hand Ohio nesting reports persist, nor even do any documented Franklin County sight records. It seems most kites withdrew rather abruptly from the state in mid-century, before many local occurrences were reliably documented. It is possible old records for Franklin County may be recovered of a species once deemed common even well north of our latitude; see especially Friedmann (1950:85-90). Latest reported near central Ohio as a specimen (OSUM #10160) from Ross County 8/29/1898 near Chillicothe (*WB* 9(3):82, *WB* 45(1)43, *Ohio Naturalist* 7 #5:3).

Mississippi Kite *Ictinia mississippiensis*. A rare visitor reported in recent decades, and a potential nester. Wheaton apparently knew of no records in the state; Dawson (1903: 645) called it “conjectural” in Ohio based on sightings in nearby states. Since their time, archaeological remains of this species have come to light from an Ohio site (Wetmore 1932, Goslin 1955), and one overflying Green Lawn Cemetery 5/13/1978 (Thomson 1983:183, L. Champney *in litt.*) was Ohio’s first living individual reported. One waqs observed

in Delaware County 6/23-24/1987 (Peterjohn 2001:109). There are three other county sight records: 4/27/1995 at Green Lawn Cemetery (*vide* J. Fry), another there 5/2/2002 (*OC* 25(3):113), and one photographed on the interesting dates of 6/15-16/2009 in Worthington (*OC* 32(3):157), viewed nearby on 6/16 (*vide* D. Horn). Delaware County hosted another 6/23-24/1987 (Peterjohn 2001:109). These kites in recent years have been opportunistic nesters well north of their previous range, with the state's first documented nest in Hocking County in 2007 (*OC* 30(4):146), and single nests at a location farther north in that county in 2010-2013 (second *Breeding Bird Atlas*:136-7). Elsewhere at our latitude it has often been detected—even as a nester—in human-dominated sites such as suburbs.

Bald Eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus**. Columbus founder Lucas Sullivant, exploring the area in the late eighteenth century, reported a nest of eagles among “serpent-infested rocks” above the Scioto River, likely in what is now Marble Cliff (Lee 138-9). Wheaton (1882:435-6) called it a common resident in some Ohio localities, and a rare migrant or winter visitor here, adding that during the spread of a fatal disease among cattle in the 1850s, large numbers of these eagles invaded the northern part of the county to feed upon the carcasses. Early in the historical era these birds frequented large bodies of water, hence were found mostly along Lake Erie and major rivers, then by the mid-nineteenth century also the canal reservoirs; Wheaton related a report that it probably bred at the Licking Reservoir (Buckeye Lake) in his time. Its first report for the Columbus CBC came in 1929, and ten (8 adults) were tallied on the 12/15/2013 count. Protective efforts—and cessation of persecution by humans—aided by a ban on certain organochlorines, have led to a recovery of this species from near extirpation in the state, and they are now probably more widespread—aided further by new artificial bodies of water—than in pre-settlement days. These recoveries have occurred despite urbanization; in fact, some pairs have readily adapted to nearby human activities; several young birds were photographed jumping on a trampoline in a suburban backyard in northern Ohio a few years ago (http://www.ohiobirds.org/news.php?News_ID=172). Adaptation to road-kill carrion and more hunters' gut-piles has offered new food sources, especially in winter. In Ohio they have attempted ground nests, and one pair raised young in a goose bucket 18 inches above water in a pond; more have nested in dry woodlots. J. Blakeman (pers. comm.) has called today's eagles “behaviorally almost another species of raptor” compared to those of the past. A nest near a flooded quarry on the industrial south side of Columbus (*OC* 32(2):56) and another near Groveport in 2009 were the first known to produce young in the county in modern times (*vide* OBBA), and a year later more nests came to light along the Scioto River, near where larger creeks enter its flow. No Franklin County specimens seem to be in museums, though Davie (1882) reported six from the county were given to him for taxidermy between 1878 and 1880.

Northern Harrier *Circus cyaneus**. Wheaton (1882:418) wrote: “In the vicinity of Columbus it was once rather common, and bred in the swamp prairies south of the city.” He goes on to aver it was more numerous here in summer than in winter, unlike the present day. Hicks (1935a:146) seems to include Franklin among 51 Ohio counties where it bred in his time, and called it (1933c) “everywhere common to abundant as a winter resident, being excelled in numbers only by the Sparrow Hawk.” Bales announced having found the state's fourth nest in Pickaway County 5/19/1910 (*WB* 23(1):44). Trautman (1940:218) stated that before 1926 as many as 45 a day could be seen in winter near Buckeye Lake, numbers nearly unimaginable today. Now, after decades of persecution and habitat loss, it has been extirpated as a breeder in many parts of the state, and is nowhere common in summer; the first Breeding Bird Atlas estimated 15-25 breeding pairs, none in Franklin County (Peterjohn & Rice 1991); the more inclusive second Atlas results show fewer confirmed breeders but possible nestings in Franklin and three adjacent counties. One was near Columbus on the date of 7/20/1980 (*AB* 34(6):899), and there are a number of unconfirmed reports of an apparent pair with a juvenile May-October 2011 and 2012 in Battelle Darby Creek MP's restored prairies (m. obs.). Now mostly an uncommon visitor to remaining marshes and grasslands from fall to spring, where it may share the habitat on a day/night time-sharing basis with short-eared owls. High count for the Columbus CBC was a healthy 25 on 12/22/1929; sightings amounting to a total of only 20 have been tallied over the past two decades by this CBC, however, with a high count of six in 2006, but 17 were counted in Darby Creek MP alone 1/20/2014 (L. Sours, *OC* 37(2):59). Specimen: four eggs from a nest at Baumgardner's Pond 5/19/1910 are OSUM #E1564.

Sharp-shinned Hawk *Accipiter striatus**. Rather rare, and resident year-long in the county, according to Wheaton (1882:420). Tends to hunt in deeper cover, and for smaller prey in general, than the larger Cooper's Hawk, which prefers woodland edges and more thinly-treed areas. Reclusive, it favors conifer

groves for roosting and nesting, and has not adapted nearly so readily to urban settings as has the following species; it continues only as an infrequent and comparatively furtive nester today. Hicks (1935a) estimated its statewide nesting population to be about a fourth that of the Cooper's hawk, and its numbers in proportion may be less today; while its accumulated Ohio reported CBC numbers are about one-third those of *A. cooperii*, six reported for the Columbus CBC of 2011 was the local high count; the 2013 count was four, versus 24 for the Cooper's hawk. Summered 1981 (AB 35(6):944). Specimen 12/6/1889 OSUM #690.

Cooper's Hawk *Accipiter cooperii**. Once mostly found in rural spots (Jones 1903:90), it is increasingly noticeable as a nesting resident in city settings over recent decades, where birds at feeders, roosting pigeons, rodents, etc., are reliably easy sources of food. That shooting is forbidden in cities may be a factor in its urban incursions, as with those of crows and owls. Urban accipiters have fewer predators and an inexhaustible source of food, allowing them to pursue a life-style with little human interference, in fact with our help. Moseley (1946) estimated that during the year 1945 the number of hawks and owls killed within 30 miles of Bowling Green probably exceeded 3,000, though shooting raptors was illegal at the time; this species was a favorite target because it readily preyed on barnyard fowl and game birds such as bobwhites and pheasants. Fairly common now in remnant tracts of fairly mature trees. Bolder and more numerous than the sharp-shinned, and more given to hunting in open areas, where the larger females routinely take prey as large as pigeons and squirrels. Its reports outnumber those of the previous species in the twenty most recent Columbus CBCs 313 to 45, and it ranks second among diurnal raptors in these counts. Specimen 5/1/1881 OSUM #694.

Northern Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*. Large secretive accipiters of dense forests farther north, goshawks have always been rare to quite rare visitors Oct-May, with few unequivocal records. Wheaton had not seen it here, and it has been mistakenly reported since by inexperienced observers. Dawson (1903:402) reported capturing one 3/13/1901 on the OSU campus, but the specimen has not been preserved. It is possible a retreat from the state accompanied the extermination of the passenger pigeon, formerly a favored and very numerous prey item. Walker (1928a:25) reported for central Ohio "seven records in the past six years," a frequency unknown in the present day. Hicks reported one during his 1924-1933 study in the county (1935b:180); it was collected, but the specimen has not been found. There are fewer than ten published reports since then, the latest a comparatively unmistakable adult 5/11/1999 at Green Lawn Cemetery (OC 22(3):68) during a season in which this species was reported at unusually late spring dates in northern Ohio. They undoubtedly stage periodic or at least occasional southward winter incursions here, but at our latitude in the state there seem to be too few verified records for any significant local pattern to be discerned. Adults are far easier to identify than young birds, and informal reports of the latter require extra scrutiny. Goshawks favor concealed rather than exposed perches, and generally hunt from low flight. Elsewhere grouse are a favorite prey, and their disappearances in Ohio parallel those of goshawks. This species has been reported, reliably or not, somewhere in Ohio in 42 of 60 recent CBC seasons (Troutman 2010), but its status in Franklin County puts it among the most rare and enigmatic of our raptors. Its most recent inclusion on a Columbus CBC came in 1929. No Franklin County specimens were found in a search of large scientific collections in the United States; OSUM has only three Ohio specimens, from Ottawa, Clermont, and Auglaize counties.

Harris's Hawk *Parabuteo unicinctus*. There is a published record (Earl 1918) of two seen together nearby in Pickaway County 4 miles south of Harrisburg; this species is characterized by cooperative hunting. The adult male was collected on or about 12/24/1917, and is now OSUM #14005. This is the only record for Ohio, as well as eastern North America, of this species of the southwestern U.S. and Central America.

Red-shouldered Hawk *Buteo lineatus**. In 1903 Dawson (p. 407) and Jones (1903:93) called it Ohio's second-most numerous diurnal raptor at the time, outnumbered only by the American kestrel. Kirtland (1874:223) too had reckoned it outnumbered the red-tailed hawk in northeastern Ohio, and it remained numerous elsewhere in the state. Not so common since, it has nonetheless staged a modest general recovery statewide from lows in the mid-twentieth century perhaps caused by contaminants and persecution. Interestingly, it was the only buteo found nesting near Buckeye Lake during Trautman's dozen years of careful study there (1940:213). It prefers wetter areas, denser cover, and chooses less

conspicuous perches than does the red-tailed. Newly adapted to more urban settings, including Columbus, pairs are now known to nest yearly in stable forested areas such as parks and ravines, usually reusing successful nest sites. Five were reported as wintering 2001-02 (*OC* 25(2):60), and the Columbus CBC has garnered 11 sightings over the past 20 years. Specimens: three eggs collected in the county by Oliver Davie 4/15/1881 (OSUM #E1354); the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology has three skins collected in Clintonville in 1901 and 1902, likely in areas where multiple nests persist to the present day.

Broad-winged Hawk *Buteo platypterus**. Rare here as a nester, according to Wheaton (1882:429). In our day, Wheeler (2003:211) calls it “overall one of the most common breeding raptors in the US and Canada,” but since it prefers large (100 acres or more) dry mature forest tracts it continues to nest here only sparingly as our least common, and least conspicuous, nesting *buteo*. Nestings in the summers of 1976, 1977, and 1979 at different locations in Blendon Woods (*AFN* 33(6):867, *CD* 7/10/1977) were followed closely, with sparse but regular nestings since elsewhere in the county, even a bird reported on a nest in suburban Minerva Park 5/13/1987 (*WCB* 1(31):23). It has been described as comparatively quiet and sluggish, even tame, and last to arrive and first to depart among local hawks; still, Bent gives extreme dates of 3/20 and 11/12 for the Columbus area (167:253), while admitting that errors of identification are more likely than usual with this species. They tend not to do much soaring on territory, and Trautman (1940:215) called it “extremely retiring” in its habits. Broad-wings are most often seen here as gregarious wind- and thermal-riding fall migrants, with a high count of ~250 overhead 9/17/1978 (Thomson 1985), with smaller numbers seen as late as mid-October. Despite Jones’s opinion (1903:94), winter reports are highly dubious; the nearest regular wintering areas are few in southern Florida, with the vast majority of eastern broad-wings moving into Texas, then passing the season in southern Mexico and Central and South America. Northbound migrants in April-May are less often noted and fewer in numbers than southbound ones, with a high count of 55 on 4/25/1959 (*AFN* 13(4):374). Specimen a female taken in Columbus 4/15/1897 (OSUM #720).

Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis**. A common resident in Wheaton’s day, common enough in ours, a bird of upland landscapes with mature trees near open country, often seen soaring conspicuously, including over urban areas. He describes (1882:428) a local pair of white-plumaged red-tails, eventually shot but apparently not preserved, which shared only a single normally-colored tail feather between them; leucism is found from time to time in Ohio red-tails. Another specimen from the same collector (Jasper), OSUM #1611 on 11/20/1895, originally thought to be a dark western form *calurus*, was pronounced by Oberholser to be *B. j. borealis* of local origin; reported dark-morph red-tails in Ohio probably require in-hand study to determine their true status. The State paid 50 cents apiece for heads of red-tails in the 1880s (H. Jones 1906:178), an amount equivalent to about \$11 today. Not a single red-tail was observed in the breeding season during Trautman’s years of study at Buckeye Lake, and Hicks (1935a:145) called it much reduced in numbers in his day, but it has since apparently recovered fairly well with maturing forests and protection from persecution, and is now probably our most often observed raptor. A high Columbus CBC count of 52 comes from 2012, when wintering birds from the north were present. Specimen 12/12/1874 OSUM #711.

Rough-legged Hawk *Buteo lagopus*. Has always been irregular, usually a rare-uncommon winter visitor, with nearest nesting grounds more than 500 miles to our north; Wheaton (1882:431) examined only one local specimen, collected in Columbus, since lost. A few arrive in November or even earlier (one was in the county 10/27/2013 (m. obs.)), but larger numbers are evident much later, such as 24 near Columbus 1/17/1970 (*AFN* 24(3):510), when uncharacteristically the majority were darker-plumaged birds. Individuals with pale underwing linings are more commonly seen here. Like other arctic raptors, variable in its local numbers from year to year, with some suggestions of periodicity. Hunts small mammals in open country, and seemingly better adapted to tree perches (conspicuously on branches that often seem too slight to support its weight) than the harriers that share its hunting grounds. Despite Jones’s opinion (1903:95) a diurnal hunter, but seems to be more active in lower light conditions during the day. Moves back north March-April. The high count for the Columbus CBC was six in 2005. Specimen 10/28/1901 OSUM #56.

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*. A rare migrant locally, probably overwintering in bygone days. Wheaton allowed (1882:433) that it may have been a year-long resident long ago. Now slowly recovering in the local record, accompanying an overall reduction in shooting and poisoning in remote breeding grounds in eastern North America. A female collected 2/12/1878 (OSUM #1573) by Jasper in Franklin

County is arguably Ohio's oldest surviving specimen for the record. A specimen from five miles west of Columbus went to Davie on 12/13/1881 (*Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club* 7(2):123), but has been lost; he wrote (1886:108-9) that "within the last ten years seven specimens have come into my possession, all having been taken in Central Ohio, in winter or early spring." He offered details (1882) from the county on six bald and three golden eagles brought to him for taxidermy: "[t]he last specimen of Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) was killed a few miles west of Columbus. It was said to have killed several young calves in the neighborhood, upon which the bird was seen feasting. A number of the bald eagles in the above list were young birds, lacking the white head and tail, and for the most part were killed by rifles, a few with shot guns, and two by the use of strychnine upon a dead carcass." Jones (1903:96) found it necessary to debunk stories of eagles attacking children. Most local sightings come from October and November, with fewer in March and April; three, two of them adults, were over Columbus 4/28/1980 (*OC* 3(1):15). Two records come from the 1920s in the Scioto bottoms in January and February (*OSMSB*:25), and one migrant was moving quite early in Columbus 9/16/2008 (*NAB* 63(1):77). Maximum three (two adults) on 4/28/1980 (*OC* 3(1):15).

Red-headed Woodpecker *Melanerpes erythrocephalus**. In Wheaton's day and for decades thereafter this savanna-dweller was called far and away the county's (and western Ohio's) most abundant woodpecker, though often persecuted as a presumed agricultural pest. Later, Hicks (1935a:157) reported it continued to breed in every county in the state, pointing however to its decline versus other woodpecker species, and suggesting its abundance had perhaps been overestimated because it frequented areas near highways. With time, competition from introduced birds for nest cavities, increased removal of dead and decaying trees, creosote treatment of utility poles, and its warm-weather habits conducive to mortality via vehicles have taken their toll, and it is now scarce, especially as a nester, in the county. Trautman (2006:222) counted as many as 40 a day found as traffic roadkills during Ohio surveys during the '20s and '30s. Families nest in open woodlots with mature nut trees. Research in the region suggests these beleaguered birds may at times benefit from exotic suburban settings such as golf courses (Rodewald et al. 2005). In the warm months it is largely insectivorous, and Jasper (1873:2) wrote long ago that "[t]he girdled, or deadened timber, common among cornfields, is his favorite retreat, whence he sallies out to make his depredations." Variable numbers of wintering birds, however, are closely related to the mast crop, and thus fluctuate periodically, though falling noticeably overall in recent decades. Trautman (1945, 1952) over ten years of winter surveys at Buckeye Lake, found 187 in five odd-numbered years and only one in the five even-numbered ones, likely due to biennial peak productions of nuts of local beech trees; he attributed their steadily falling overall numbers to habitat losses. The Columbus CBC of 1956 tallied 117, but all counts since 1965 have been in the single digits. Interestingly, the count of 1/2/1966 recorded none at all, while only 25 miles distant and but a week earlier the Buckeye Lake count had found 105 (*WCB* Vol 11, September 1966:39). Among migrants, movements—fewer than in days gone by—arrive in May and depart in September for the most part. Small and shrinking populations at county parks persist, aided in part by dead and dying trees allowed to stand, as well as living oaks and hickories. Specimen 6/3/1875 OSUM #843.

Red-bellied Woodpecker *Melanerpes carolinus**. A common and distinctively vocal resident in the county now and in bygone days. Its numbers have apparently recovered somewhat after deforestation, or at least ceased to decline, and it is now probably our second most common woodpecker, its numbers falling short only of the downy's. By and large it prefers mature woodlots to the more varied haunts of that species, though it seems nearly as fond of feeders. The high recent count for the Columbus CBC was 165 in 2009, following three other record high counts during the preceding seven years. It inhabits larger woodlands, and may also be found in small parks, shade trees, and riverside thickets. Its competitions with starlings for nest cavities are often lost. Specimen 10/13/1874 OSUM #858.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker *Sphyrapicus varius*. As formerly, a common migrant in late March through April and usually less conspicuously mid-September through mid-October. It is a rare nester in Ohio, restricted to the far northeastern counties. Usually seen in spring migrant numbers here in April, though it has exceptionally been observed as late as 6/1/2008 (*OC* 31(4):30). Its southward migrations take place mainly in September. An increasingly regular visitor in winter, often in or near conifers or sweetgums, with a high count for the Columbus CBC of 21 in 2010. In winter still most often reported at Green Lawn Cemetery, with numbers no doubt influenced by observer effort and conifer plantings, where the record

spring count of 50 was also made during spring migration on 4/5/1963 (Thomson 208). Specimen 5/8/1877 OSUM #834.

Downy Woodpecker *Picoides pubescens**. Today, as formerly, a common resident species here. Now our most numerous woodpecker at all seasons, likely because markedly adaptable as to habitat, making use of fencerows, brush, and scattered trees as well as dense woods. Its nest cavities are generally too small to attract competition from starlings. Readily joins mixed-species flocks in winter, and also the woodpecker most often seen at backyard feeders. Curiously, Kirtland (1838:179), a lover of birds but also an orchardist, devoted more lines to this, which he called the “sap-sucker,” than to any other Ohio bird species in his 1838 *Report*, where he vilified it as “one of the most destructive enemies of our orchards,” and asserted “it becomes the farmer and horticulturalist to carry on a war of extermination against the sap-sucker.” Wheaton (1861a:14) went to great lengths to explain that woodpeckers cannot suck sap, and that their attentions to fruit trees, while they at times injured fruits, also included the destruction of many harmful insects. The high count for the Columbus CBC was 261 in 2006. B. Master obtained photographs of a rare melanistic individual in his yard in Worthington on 2/6 and 4/19/2010. The oldest local specimen, from 11/8/1874 (OSUM #2561), is Wheaton’s.

Hairy Woodpecker *Picoides villosus**. Resident and rather common in Wheaton’s era (1882:395), now less so, in numbers that in part reflect changes in forest cover. The cavities it uses are large enough to be appropriated by starlings as well as house sparrows, which may concentrate its nests in deeper woods less preferred by these competing non-native species. Largely devoted to fairly mature woodlands, but found more widely outside the breeding season, it is, though fairly vocal, overall shyer than the preceding species. Once learned, its calls will most often attract attention to its presence. An uncommon resident, often overlooked and more easily encountered in winter. The Columbus CBC high count came in 1997, with 34; statewide on such counts, it is outnumbered by the preceding species by more than five to one. Specimen 1/19/1956 OSUM #9413.

Red-cockaded Woodpecker *Picoides borealis*. Accidental. Theodore Jasper wrote on the tag for Ohio’s first record and only specimen (from Columbus, on 3/15/1872, OSUM #1614): “It was in the company of another of its own kind and 2 or 3 Sapsuckers, nuthatches, etc., and shot from a high [sic] tree betw Canal & Scioto river.” Curiously, Wheaton does not mention this record. E. S. Thomas’s article in the *Columbus Dispatch*, reprinted in *OC* 2(4):4-5, compares the OSUM specimen with photos of another Ohio example discovered and extensively photographed about thirty miles south of this spot, also in spring, in Hocking County 4/22-5/4/1974; it remains Ohio’s only other well-verified record (*OC* 3(4):4-5).

[Black-backed Woodpecker *Picoides arcticus*. Jones (1903:113) cited OSU Museum curator J. S. Hine as authority that the species is “occasional in Franklin County,” but no additional details have been found to support this assertion. The 13 accepted Ohio reports of this species come from the northern counties in late fall and winter, and there is only one during the last three decades (1984, *AB* 39(1)61). The University of Colorado has a specimen from L. R. Freeman (of Madisonville, Hamilton County), collected in 1878 in the “Ohio Valley,” which may or may not even involve Ohio. Wheaton (1882:397) rather reluctantly accepted it to the state list on third-hand evidence, and mentions no Franklin County records. Without further evidence any recent historical presence in our county seems highly unlikely. Hypothetical.]

Northern Flicker *Colaptes auratus**. Wheaton (1882:402) regarded it as abundant, though present in variably smaller numbers in winter. As a delicacy and an easy target in flight and therefore favored among pot hunters, according to Trautman “often used in the making of potpies” (1940:285), it was given the protection of a closed season in the state by 1857, and complete protection ten years later (Dambach 1948:211, 224). It is still a fairly common migrant, mostly in late March-April and September-October, and a less common nester and winterer. At one time, its local winter numbers were said to fluctuate noticeably with the hackberry crop (Walker 1928a). It is also fond of acorns, and ants as food in the warmer months, thus often seen foraging on the ground, or at insect infestations in trees. Seen in open woods, farmsteads, suburban tree lots, and given to conspicuous high perches. Starlings have won many contests for its nest cavities. High counts ~80 migrants on 4/17/1963 at Green Lawn Cemetery (Thomson

209), and 84 for the 2011 Columbus CBC. Winters at our latitude, where at Green Lawn 41+ were extraordinary for the date 2/15/1952 (Schuer, MS OSUM). Evidently its winter numbers may alter biennially with the mast crop; Trautman reported finding them more numerous at such intervals by a ratio of 66.7 to 42.2 (WCB 1952, 3(7):6). Specimen 4/18/1881 OSUM #875.

Pileated Woodpecker *Dryocopus pileatus**. A resident whose fortunes since settlement rose and fell in concert with those of large tracts of mature forest. In 1882 (pp. 394-5) Wheaton wrote that forty years earlier the “Black Logcock” had evidently been common, but that he himself had seen only one in the county, back in April 1861. He related “[o]ld citizens smile as they tell of the fun they had trying to kill with sticks, these birds which frequented the trees on the grounds of the ‘first school house.’” Because larger, as slow and direct in flight, and equally good eating (Trautman, n.d.), it was an even more sought-after target among gunners than the flicker. Maslowski (2010:206) wrote of the Cincinnati area that “large bunches could be seen hanging from storefronts” throughout the nineteenth century. By 1903 Jones (p. 114) wrote a few remained “where some heavy timber is still allowed to stand,” but it was at the time on the brink of disappearing from Ohio. Trautman (1977:17, 1940:286) believed its extirpations preceded extensive destruction of its habitat, in part because of shooting, and further suggested a “mutation” by about 1920 may have allowed it to modify its feeding and nesting habits, enabling it to recover. Indeed, Hicks (1935a) had noted “a very marked increase in most of its range since 1920.” Whatever the means, it has in any event adopted scattered mature woodlots among more open settings, abandoning an apparent dependence on large unbroken expanses of mature trees. Aided by protections for forests in parklands, it has regained a portion of its former range, with a noticeable increase in Franklin County since the ‘60s, though it remains a less than common nester here. High counts of 13 come from the Columbus CBCs in 2012 and 2013. No known specimen comes from the county.

[Ivory-billed Woodpecker *Campephilus principalis*. Wheaton wrote (1882:394) of this species: “Doubtless they were once residents of this State, but in default of any direct and positive evidence to that effect, they should not be admitted to our list.” Based on persuasive archaeological evidence (e. g. Goslin 1945, Wetmore 1943b), this species’ place on the Ohio list now seems secure. Recent finds of historical sight records of occurrences in Indiana, Kentucky, and West Virginia, as well as the discovery of a published first-person Ohio report, from 1804 in Miami County at about the latitude of Columbus (Hopkins 1804:40, Leese 2011), offer some hope that one day an old central Ohio record may surface. Hypothetical.]

American Kestrel *Falco sparverius**. Now an uncommon nester and more frequently seen as a winterer, much reduced in numbers since Wheaton’s time, when he called it “the most abundant species of the family, and does not appear to be decreasing with cultivation, as is the case with most others.” He averred (1882:426) that every wintering kestrel he examined proved to be a female, a coincidence that has not endured, though it is acknowledged that males are likelier to move north at that time. The State for decades paid a bounty for all raptors killed, including this one, as early as the 1870s, though shooters seldom avidly pursued kestrels (Trautman 1940:50). Davie (1898:229) reported it tolerant of human disturbances: “I have eggs of this species taken from a crevice in a stone quarry on the Scioto River, where the birds have nested for years.” Henninger (1902:83) affirmed it was “[f]requently seen in towns” in south-central Ohio. Trautman (1940:223) called it “the only hawk which has benefited by the presence of man,” and Hicks (1935a:147) estimated its numbers exceeded the sum of all other raptors’ numbers in the state at the time. It has not, however, prospered recently. Trautman (1952:5) noted a “spectacular decrease,” stating that from 1922 to 1933, a single observer at Buckeye Lake could see 12-40 birds in a single day. The Columbus CBC found 353 during the ‘80s, 206 during the ‘90s, and 63 during nine counts in the ‘00s; the 2000 count’s total of two was an all-time low, and next six counts produced single-digit numbers, with seven in 2012; ten were tallied in 2013. Though its presence in some rural areas elsewhere in Ohio may seem less diminished, here the species has not recently embraced many urban nest sites (a pair had successfully nested in a martin house in Worthington in 1970 [WCB 16:33]), many favored grassland hunting grounds are no more, and starlings compete everywhere for cavities. Rural nest boxes installed on utility poles and behind highway signs have proved attractive to some in recent years, but associated traffic fatalities may have increased as a result. Migrations north in March and south in November in recent years do not seem to have changed their overall numbers locally. Specimen 12/3/1876 OSUM #733.

Merlin *Falco columbarius*. A rare-uncommon migrant. In 1838, Kirtland (178) wrote of this species: “rare, but may be seen early in autumn following the flocks of birds that are gathering for their migrations,” and Wheaton (1882:579) called it “far from common” in the vicinity of Columbus, offering a winter record from 2/19/1873. Much later it suffered to a lesser degree than the peregrine falcon from certain organochlorides in the environment, and its numbers have recovered without artificial introductions, perhaps in part because it less often preys on fish-eating birds, including more small mammals and insects in its diet. One state-record early fall migrant on 8/10-9/30/2004 (*OC* 28(1):8) near Union Cemetery may have been the same that returned to winter there in subsequent years; three were present there in the winter of 2014-5 (*OC* 38(2):66). Another eclipsed that record in 2008 by showing up at Pickerington Ponds on 8/8 (*NAB* 63(1):77). Hicks reported five here 8/20-26/1932 (*BL* 34(6):402). Since then, one regularly seen along High St. in Clintonville beginning on 7/24/2015 may have been part of a nesting pair (*fide* J. Simonis and others). As elsewhere, evidently increasing as a winter resident over the past thirty years, especially in or near mature conifer plantings, with a maximum up to three wintering at Green Lawn Cemetery 2006-07 (*OC* 30(2):55) and on 2/26/2015 (*OC* 38(2):66), and six widely reported at five locations in the winter of 2009-10. An apparent early spring migrant had appeared 3/8/1981 (*OC* 4(1):21). With recent confirmations as a very rare breeder in the state in the modern era, it is a potential urban nester here in times to come, having adopted such settings elsewhere in recent decades (preliminary findings of the second Breeding Bird Atlas). Specimen OSUM #53 from 9/25/1901.

Gyrfalcon *Falco rusticolis* There are at least two confirmed records in the region, the most recent a female collected by F. P. Ward at Deer Creek Reservoir west of Circleville in Pickaway County on 12/23/1971, now specimen #500364 at the Smithsonian. Henninger had reported that in 1910 Hine had shown him a mounted specimen at OSUM acquired at a location ~10 miles from the aforementioned in Washington Court House in Fayette County on 1/30/1907, “caught in a trap while feeding upon a hen” (*Ohio Naturalist* 7(5):13, *WB* 23(1):58), which is now OSUM #37.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus**. Rare here in Wheaton’s day, though he called it “not uncommon” as a migrant in the north along Lake Erie’s shore (1882:423), where it was known to follow duck and shorebird migrations. He supposed this cliff-nester might breed in northern Ohio, but L. Jones (p. 98) disagreed, along with all authorities before the recent introductions. Jones (1903:97) cites a Columbus specimen from Dr. Jasper, now lost; it is likely that which served as a model for the painting in Studer & Jasper’s (p. 7 in *Birds of North America*), and may be that mentioned by Davie (1886:99) as “killed on the Scioto River.” Jones also mentions (*loc. cit.* p. 98) a sight record here by Dawson 3/5/1902. Formerly rare in winter: two were seen on the OSU campus 1/6/1922 (*OSMSB*:26), and one was observed 12/30/1973 (Scott 1997, etc.) near Darbydale (*WCB* 1(19):52). Another wintered in Columbus 1987-88 (*AB* 42(2):271) but only after introduction projects, intended to reverse losses largely due to organochlorine poisoning, were well underway. There had been other losses; Trautman (1940:220) relates that “[d]uring the last six years of this investigation [1929-34] State and public organizations and individuals expended considerable effort to kill this species whenever possible,” but official wildlife management goals have shifted, and shooting, now illegal, has apparently had a negligible effect in recent years. There were no verified nesting records for the state until hacked birds produced the state’s first known successful nest, in the artificial cliffs of downtown Toledo, in 1988; both parents were banded birds released outside Ohio, as were Franklin County’s first pair (with three young) in the State Office Tower in 1994, a nesting site since that time at least into 2015. In 2009, a second county nest site was reported at the OSU Stadium, which apparently subsequently failed (*OC* 32(4):158); one or even two birds have continued to haunt the site in winter, without further evidence of nesting. Now somewhat more commonly seen: sightings of birds of less-than-wild provenance and dubious subspecific identity are routine since the 1990s, from which migrating wild birds can be difficult to separate. Like certain other species (e.g., trumpeter swan and *maxima* Canada goose) deliberately introduced as breeders in Ohio, not all our falcons display normal migratory behaviors, often remaining year-round where released. A bold hunter; the earliest known extant local specimen, from 10/15/1901 (OSUM #2559, Dawson p. 389) was captured after it entered a room on the OSU campus.

Prairie Falcon *Falco mexicanus*. An accidental stray from the west. One was found shot at Rickenbacker Air Force Base on 1/21/1983, captured, and examined (*AB* 37(3):307). This record was

treated by Peterjohn (p. 135) as Ohio's first confirmed, and is now one of more than half a dozen records, another of which was found shot nearby in Fairfield County on 22 January 2004; it died under care nine days later and was subsequently deposited at OSUM; the specimen was later lost in a freezer failure (*OC* 28(2):49).

[Monk Parakeet *Myiopsitta monachus*. Originating from escaped captive populations, this South American species has established itself in Florida and in urban settings farther north than our latitude, with a place on the state lists of Indiana and Illinois, for example. It has not done so well here, but the possibility should be envisioned, as a number of occurrences have been recorded in Columbus and suburbs over the past 50 years, with a "nest the size of a bushel-basket" in May 1972, reported on Columbus's east side (*CD* 12/3/1972, Trautman & Trautman 2006:193), and a bird tallied for the Columbus CBC 12/29/1973 present there since June of that year (Trautman MS 1/6/1973), still present 3/12 and 4/28/1974 (*WCB* 1(19):52-3). Evidently the 1972 structure proved to serve as a roost site rather than a nest. This species nested in Greene County in 1973 and in 1980 in Hamilton County, and sightings have come from Lucas and Cuyahoga counties. The Ohio Revised Code (927.70[A]) forbids the possession of free-flying birds of this species, interpreting it as an agricultural pest. A specimen at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History (#65963) comes from Columbus in the spring of 1974, and this species has been reported occasionally since, e.g. three reported flying in town in spring 2005 (*OC* 28(3):103). All the establishment criteria for other introduced species (see Mute Swan above) apply to this one, including especially not relying upon artificial feeding in winter. For now it has no place on the Franklin County list, though its history here is significant and perhaps premonitory.]

Carolina Parakeet *Conuropsis carolinensis*. In 1773, David Jones (Booth 1994:141) noted a "great flock of parrots at the Great Lick, northeast of Kiskapookee [said to be near Circleville, a dozen miles south in Pickaway County]," noting "these birds are in great abundance around the Scioto in winter and probably could be seen much further north in summer." In 1838 Atwater (pp. 94-5) described these now-extinct parakeets as still occurring up the Scioto as far as Columbus; its breeding status here is unknown. Wheaton wrote in 1882 (p. 404) that it had not appeared "for several years," and cited published records from the state. He added that a reputable witness had seen a flock of 25-30 in elm trees on Capitol Square downtown in July 1862, at a time when cattle still grazed on the Statehouse lawn. This is the latest widely-recognized occurrence witnessed and reported in the state. Davie (1898:252), however, did assert that "[t]he last record we have of this bird being taken in Ohio is October 9th, 1884. A specimen was shot by Mr. A. Lee Hoskinson, near Newark, and mounted by S. G. Hamilton, taxidermist of that city. The bird was seen about the place for several days and was heard screaming all the night before it was killed. It is still in Mr. Hoskinson's possession." Jones (1903:223) supposed it was "not impossible that this was an escaped cage-bird," but offered no evidence to support this hypothesis. McKinley (1977:5) suggested a way in which this specimen might have found its way into the OSUM collection as catalog #12493, obtained from the Moseley collection in 1960 and relaxed from a mount. Tragically, until it was too late too few attempts seem to have been made to breed captive birds in order to preserve a population of this, North America's only native psittacid (Nowotny 1898). OSUM possesses seven specimens; as often happens with extinct species, four lack data, and may include Ohio examples, including the aforementioned.

Olive-sided Flycatcher *Contopus cooperi*. This fairly distinctive large flycatcher is a rare-uncommon migrant, arriving late in spring, with no local April records but many sightings of northbound individuals from mid-May into June. Its numbers seem to be declining, perhaps due to deforestation on its wintering grounds in South America. Wheaton (1882:371) reported being "almost positive" he had seen it once in the county, though several records from his contemporaries seem questionable. It is now seen and heard here during migration, usually found hawking insects from an exposed twig high in a tree near an open area. An unexpectedly lengthy spring stay in Worthington apparently extended from 5/18 to 6/6/2009 (*OC* 32(3):128). Maximum four at Green Lawn Cemetery 5/27/2001 (*OC* 24(3):133). The state's early spring specimen came from 5/4/1870, a male collected in Columbus (OSUM #991), and B. Master photographed one in Worthington on 5/2/2012 (*in litt.*) for the earliest arrival. Southbound, it has returned as early as

7/30/2014, at Sharon Woods MP (OC 37(4):158) and 8/13/1932 (BL 39(5):396), and has been seen into September, with one at Hoover Dam as late as 9/18/2010 (*vide* R. Thorn) and a quite unusual report as late as 10/8/2011 in Westerville (OC 35(1):16). There is only one accepted Ohio nesting record for this species of the north, from the Pymatuning Bog in Ashtabula County in 1932.

Eastern Wood-Pewee *Contopus virens**. Abundant in Wheaton's day (1882:372), and certainly a common and vocally familiar nester in woodlands—and certain less ideal circumstances—today, singing tirelessly day-long, from May and at times well into September. It usually shares upper levels of mature forest trees with red-eyed vireos and their companions, but may be found in more open settings. Howard Jones of Circleville (1906:85) wrote they frequently occupied fruit and shade trees in town in his day. Blacklick Woods hosted 24 on 8/26/2012 (OC 36(10):17). Extreme reports here date from 4/26/2004 (NAB 58(2):368), and from 10/18/2001 (OC 25(1):21). Specimen 5/18/1883 (OSUM #992).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher *Empidonax flaviventris*. Wheaton (1882:380) regarded it as a common but elusive migrant “in thickets in woodland and gardens of the city,” but it is uncommon today; he also speculated that it may have bred in the state, but this seems unlikely and has not been documented. Reports of fall *Empidonax* flycatchers can be unreliable, especially if based on plumage alone; voice (call) and in-hand measurements are always more helpful. In this case, its yellow throat, not its belly, most helps in identifying silent individuals of this species in the field in Ohio. Reported as early as 5/4/1956 at Green Lawn Cemetery (H. Schuer, MS OSUM), but usually arrives ten days or so later, with one present as late as 6/3/2013 (OC 36(4):141). Most often found in damp woods and brush as a migrant. Early to return in fall were individuals on 8/12/1979 (OC 2(3):17) and 8/15/1937 (BL 39(5):396), and there are records in the state well into September. Specimen 5/23/1937 OSUM #12054.

Acadian Flycatcher *Empidonax vireescens**. No longer “abundant” (Wheaton 1882:374), it is a common local migrant and usually at least uncommon nester here, occupying territory fairly low in the insect-rich shadowed understory of wet dense woodlands, less often in smaller younger woodlots. Once learned, its persistent vocalizations confirm its presence, sometimes into September. Hicks (1935a:158) reported it breeding in 85 of the state's 88 counties, and it remains the most numerous and widespread nesting *Empidonax* flycatcher in the county as well as in the state overall. It may at times arrive even earlier than the least flycatcher in spring; one was detected 4/23/1957 in Columbus (Thomson, MS OSUM), with late records of birds on 10/7/2012 (OC 36(1):17) and 10/24/2015 (OC 39(1):19). Specimen 5/30/1871 Univ. Conn. Museum.

Alder Flycatcher *Empidonax alnorum*. An uncommon spring migrant, seldom verified in fall because silent migrants are unreliably distinguishable from the following species, even in the hand. It summers farther north overall, though apparently quite rare and local to a bit south of our latitude in the state, with records in Madison County (Peterjohn 2001:310). It lacks confirmed Franklin County breeding records. This and the willow flycatcher were regarded as variants of “Traill's Flycatcher” *E. traillii* until officially recognized as two species in 1973. Hints of its separate status go back into the nineteenth century, and it was the contrasting vocalizations of birds from distinct parts of “Traill's” range that settled the matter. Both occur here as migrants, with this species evidently arriving somewhat later on average, with a fairly early record at Blendon Woods MP 5/10/2009 (OC 32(3):129). One calling here on 5/2/2012 was a state early record (AB 66(3):481). Borrer made diagnostic recordings of *alnorum* on 5/24/1960 southeast of Columbus (Borrer Lab #4674) and 5/19/1964 at Whetstone Park (Borrer 1973, Borrer Lab #6915). Another migrant was singing here 5/18-28/1976 (AFN 30(4):849), with another as late as 6/4/2000, with no further evidence of nesting (OC 23(4):154). Specimens: OSU's Borrer Laboratory has three late-May audio recordings of males in Columbus, #s 4674, 6915, and 12258; three old local egg sets at NMNH labeled as *alnorum* from 6/12/1885 (#s B2241-5/, -6/and -7), are probably of the following species. There seem to be no identified fall specimens of this species for the county, hence no physical evidence of this presumably regular silent southbound migrant.

Willow Flycatcher *Empidonax traillii**. Wheaton (1882:376) reported the first Ohio nest of “Traill's” near Columbus on 6/5/1874, and called it a common species here. He described a favored spot as a low wet area with numerous nests, a weedy strip of willow saplings a mile long and fifty yards wide along the railroad tracks between the city and the Lunatic Asylum. Nesting Willow Flycatchers prefer thickets or

scattered brush in open areas near wetlands, and are as uncommon and declining today as this habitat, at times occurring in loose colonies. Floyd Chapman verified two nests in the old Westerville Swamp 6/25/1927 (MS at OSUM). High counts 20 along the Heritage Trail 7/17/2012 (*OC* 35(4):134), and 12 singers in a stronghold at Pickerington Ponds on 6/4/2003 (*OC* 26(4):156). It has been demonstrated that females of this and the previous species may sing (Kroodsma 1984). Dawson (p. 332) gives a quite early nest date of 5 May. Most migrants arrive in the second week of May; a late local record comes from 9/18/2002 (*OC* 26(1):15). Specimen 6/4/1896 Univ. Mich. #191370.

Least Flycatcher *Empidonax minimus*. An uncommon migrant now, though Wheaton (1882:379) regarded it as common in his day. It is usually the earliest among the *Empidonax* flycatchers to arrive in spring; five were early northbound on 4/25/1989 (*OC* 12(3):9), with another in Columbus 4/25/1990 (*OC* 13(3):10). One was found rather late in the city on 6/8/2010 (*NAB* 64(4):590), and another vocalizing here as late as 7/16/2005 (*OC* 28(4):148) defies easy explanation, as there is no documented breeding record, though the second Breeding Bird Atlas draft has reported nesting as close as NE Hocking County, despite an overall decline in the state. Presumable returnees were in Battelle Darby Creek MP as early as 11 Aug 2012 (*vide* D. Slager), and more routinely through 9/27/2006 (*OC* 30(1):21). Found in open woodland, thickets, shade trees in migration. The largest published number was a phenomenal spring movement of ~300 at Green Lawn Cemetery 5/14/1981 (Thomson 1983:210). Specimen 5/10/1878 OSUM #1000.

Eastern Phoebe *Sayornis phoebe**. Wheaton (1882:370-1) noted a local decline in its numbers as a nester, guessing—paradoxically—that it might have been caused by the increasing use of stone and concrete in construction. No doubt it is still less often found here now, but at least has well adapted to the use of such materials as nesting sites, in bridges and culverts, also quiet sites such as outbuildings, mausoleums, small rural church porches, etc. Trautman's study at Buckeye Lake (1940:293) revealed that every nest observed was attached to or upon a man-made structure. Flamboyant, it is easily noted when present. Wheaton mentions (p. 371) a nest taken here “from the beams of a freight car which had recently made a trip of forty-five miles. The five eggs which it contained were perfectly fresh, and, except one, unbroken.” It persists as an uncommon but familiar nester, often found in human constructions hosting insects near water, and the first flycatcher to arrive in spring, e.g. one 2/27/1988 (*OC* 11(2):14). Twelve migrants were at Green Lawn Cemetery by 3/26/1998 (*OC* 21(3):64). Rare in winter, e.g. one 1/27/2007 (*NAB* 61(2):261, when a favorite food is winter-emerging adult stoneflies (*Capniidae*) near streams. Specimen 5/12/1880 OSUM #E3103.

Great Crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus crinitus**. For Wheaton, this was a common summer resident, often adopting nest boxes provided in the city (1882:369). In 1935 it nested in every Ohio county, according to Hicks, and apparently does so in the present day (Ohio Second Breeding Bird Atlas II). It now nests uncommonly here, most often in tree cavities in deciduous woodlands, the sites often—more than those of the titmouse or blue grosbeak—festooned with a signature snakeskin (or its modern counterpart, a swatch of plastic sheet), perhaps useful in deterring predators (Strecker 1926); snakes are among the most common predators of this species' young. Veteran oologist Price (1972:18) wrote that he was surprised to find that five of sixteen nests examined in Paulding County contained no snakeskins. Nest specialist Howard Jones (p. 190) surmised “[a]s a rule, the nest is not very clean or tidy, and it may be that the snake-skin used has an odor pleasant to the birds.” Though a bright and striking bird, it is far more often heard than seen in its leafy domain. Thomas described a modern nest of this species in a bird box in 1972 (*CD* 7/30/1972). One arrival was early on 4/15/1994 (*OC* 17(3):100), and another lingered until 10/8/1927. Gabrielson (*WB* 27(4):421-434) provides an excellent study of a pair. Hicks (1932b) described a remarkable flight of nine on the very late date of 11/16/1931 near Westerville, collecting one (OSUM #3860). High counts 14 at Sharon Woods 5/11/1988 (*OC* 11(3):18) and 12 near Hoover reservoir 6/29/2014 (*OC* 37(4):159). Specimen a male from 5/8/1875 (OSUM #2570).

Western Kingbird *Tyrannus verticalis*. A rare and colorful visitor in our area, with eight county records, transients mostly found on perches in open areas in autumn. One was seen along the Scioto River 8/25/1950 (*AFN* 4(1):19), and another collected in Columbus on 8/18/1958 (specimen, OSUM #10077), one on the OSU farm 9/6/1969 (*WCB* 15:31), one near Darbydale in the summer of 1969 (*WCB* 15:33), and another in town 8/29/1976 (*AB* 31(2):185). Late records come from near Hoover Reservoir 10/10/1971 (*AB* 26(1):72) and Green Lawn Cemetery 10/6/1974 (*WCB* 1(20-21):41). One was seen at Glacier Radge

MP 6/8-9/2014 (*OC* 37(4):159, without evidence of nesting. A rare spring record exists, from 5/13/1964 at Whetstone Park (Thomson 211, *WCB* #10 June 1965, *CD* 6/7/1964). Trautman collected a female in Delaware County 9/5/1978 (OSUM #16846). One seen 9/14/1986 (*vide* Peterjohn) was near Hoover Reservoir. None has remained longer than a few days. There is a single Ohio nesting record, from 1933 in Lucas County, with four specimens: two juveniles collected 7/29 (OSUM #s 3957 [male] and 3958 [female]) along with two adults, one a female collected 7/30 (OSUM #3959) and the other a male collected 9/9/1933 (OSUM #6798).

Eastern Kingbird *Tyrannus tyrannus**. No longer an abundant summer resident as it was a century or more ago, due largely to habitat losses, here and apparently also in northern South America; insect controls have also discouraged them here. Wheaton (1882:367-8) attributed its large numbers in his day to the clearing of forests and the construction of waterworks and orchards, and they remain likeliest today in thinly-treed meadows and fields and other insect-rich habitats resembling savanna or prairie edge near water. They often make themselves conspicuous by fierce attacks on potential predators, even the largest ones—a smaller bird chasing a crow or a hawk is quite likely to be a kingbird—and an older name was “*Tyrannus intrepidus*.” Observers have reported that other species seem to have chosen nest sites close to those of this one in order to benefit from their protection. Urbanization, however, has not served them well, and they are more localized and uncommon as nesters today. On 8/20/1975 Alum Creek reservoir hosted 28 (Thomson 1983:211). The recent high Franklin count was of eight migrants at Sharon Woods on 5/9/2007 (*vide* C. Bombaci). An early arrival came on 4/21/1974 at Blendon Woods (*WCB* 1(19):53). Migrates early in fall, with local late dates of 9/17/80 (*OC* 3(3):23) and 9/18/2009 (*OC* 33(1):26); early October occurrences are infrequent. Specimen 5/1/1875 OSUM #978.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus forficatus*. A quite unlikely western species here, though there are hints its breeding-season and fall vagrancy reports are erratically expanding eastward, where happenstance observations of this eye-catching bird are increasing; burgeoning observer numbers may contribute to all the increases, however. In more than a dozen Ohio records spanning months from May to August since 1980, seldom has it remained where discovered for more than a day or two. Most often found as lone vagabonds in open rural country, hawking for insects from prominent perches such as poles, dead trees, wires, or edge shrubs. There is only one record for Franklin County, an adult bird found at Battelle Darby Creek MP on 7/10/2006 (*OC* 29(4):168), only the second July record for the state. An old record, Ohio’s second, was collected in Marysville in Union County on 5/31/1905 (*WB* 17(2):64), and another was seen in Pickaway County on 7/1/1934 (Borror 1950:11).

Loggerhead Shrike *Lanius ludovicianus**. Shrikes doubtless became more common nesters here after the felling of the forests. Wheaton (1882:310) wrote that ignorant or unscrupulous vendors tried to pass off downy young shrikes as mockingbirds—popular in the caged-songbird trade—in the downtown Columbus market. Readers may imagine the consternation that ensued in the parlors of unlucky bird-lovers. Hicks (1935a) later recorded breeding in 77 of Ohio’s 88 counties. At that time a familiar denizen of osage-orange and hawthorn scrub in open country, this shrike occasionally ventured into suburban territory: Floyd Chapman (1929) banded six young near Cleveland Avenue 5/5/1929, and Thomson found a nest along Bethel Road 6/15/1942 (both MS OSUM). It was often an early migrant in fall, and Jones (1903:167) had it wintering as far north as Columbus; Dawson noticed one during a walk in what was apparently Walhalla Ravine in Clintonville 1/13/1902 (*WB* 14(1):17), Trautman collected one four miles south of town on 1/21/1928 (OSUM #3370), and among six Columbus CBC records since 1925 one was reported as recently as 12/21/1986 (*AB* 41(4):894). Once fairly easily found atop thickets and on utility wires in rural and even suburban settings, for unclear reasons this predator has been all but extirpated from the region since the ‘80s, its mysterious decline influenced at least in part by the widespread adoption of fence-to-fence planting and pesticide use in suburban settings. Trautman (1977:18) noted its declining presence in the state by that time, after having seen as many as fifteen daily around Buckeye Lake in the ‘30s. The first Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas found 20 possible or confirmed nesting records in the region 1982-1987 (including Madison and Pickaway counties), and its more intensive successor only one nest and five possible ones, with none confirmed in central Ohio. One photographed in appropriate surroundings just a mile NW in Union County as recently as 4/9/2011 was seen only briefly thereafter (*OC* 34(3):92). Specimen 4/20/1887 OSUM #2256.

Northern Shrike *Lanius excubitor*. Coues (1903:370) gave four rather unpleasant common names for this species: Great Northern Shrike, Nine-Killer, Butcher-Bird, and Shamble-Sticker. This far south it has been a quite rare winter visitor to rural fields, from November to as late as April, where it hunts rodents or smaller birds from isolated treetops, power lines, and fencerows. In less characteristic habitat was one reported near mature forest canopy at Blacklick Woods (county unspecified) in January of 1965 (*WCB* 11:32, MS OSUM). Wheaton (1882:592) retracted his assertion that it bred in Ohio (the closest known breeding grounds are hundreds of miles to our north), but field identification versus the previous species can be subtle without good optics or the bird in hand. In his accounts of this and the previous species he seems to show some of the uncertainty about the shrikes often evident among authorities of the day; some regarded them merely as twin subspecies, and others as three species. In 1860 (p. 16) he reported finding only a single individual in the vicinity. In recent years its local numbers, small and shrinking as they are, have surpassed those of the loggerhead shrike on CBCs, and now, however infrequently seen, it is overall the likelier shrike species in the region, e.g. one at Pickerington Ponds 2/5/2012 (ph., m. obs.). An early Columbus specimen from 12/12/1873 is a male collected by Dr. Jasper, now OSUM #1329.

White-eyed Vireo *Vireo griseus**. An invader from the south. Wheaton (1882:305) regarded it as a common summer resident in southern Ohio, but had never seen one in the vicinity of Columbus, nor had Howard Jones (p. 167), one county to the south in Circleville. Two decades later Lynds Jones (1903:171) reported it then ranged north to the southern border of Franklin county, but that observers here found it no more than an infrequent visitor. Later, Hicks (1935a:167) gave Franklin County as within the northern limit of its 35-county southern breeding range. Today, nesters may be found in thick brushy areas throughout the state, though less readily in the northern third and the northwestern quadrant. They are fairly common here today. Early were two on 4/13/2001 at Greenlawn Dam (*OBNH* 2(4):175); normal arrival dates cluster near the end of the month. Notably late was another on 12/15/1992 in Whetstone Park; it was eating a seed, for lack of anything better (*AB* 47(1):102); recently one was repeatedly reported in the county through 1/5/2015 (*fide* L. Sours, *OC* 38(2):66). Specimen 4/29/1965 OSUM #10645.

Bell's Vireo *Vireo bellii**. A species of the west, having adopted Ohio as its easternmost regular outpost (Patten 1999). Locally, it seems less dependent on riparian settings than Bell's in more arid parts of its range. It is now an increasingly regular uncommon summer resident, when ours has in recent decades hosted more reports than any other area in the state. One found by an OSU ornithology class at Whetstone Park 5/26-27/1962 (*CD* 6/17/1962) with audio recording the same day (OSUM #13679, Borrer Lab #5844), and singing through at least mid-July (*CD* 7/22/1962) was the first recognized for Ohio, though a female reported at Green Lawn Cemetery on 5/10 and 5/13 of the same year was likely correctly identified (*CD* 6/17/1962). Another male appeared at Green Lawn on 5/19/1966, and was also taped (Borrer 1970:12). In 1985, a nest with four eggs during the period 5/9-31 in Columbus (*OC* 8(1):27) occurred the same year as an unmated male reported at Blendon Woods 5/13-25 (*OC* 8(1):27, *WCB* 1(30):7), two singing at Darby Creek MP 6/26 (*OC* 8(2):15), and another seen at Whetstone Park 9/25 (*WCB* 1(30):7). More recent records include a singing male in Hilliard 5/18-27/2003 (*OC* 26(3):111, Borrer Lab #s 285405&6), another 6/20/2004 (*OC* 27(4):146), and three singing males in Hilliard among five in the county during June 2007 (*OC* 30(4):153). One was noted 5/8/2006, which later nested (*OC* 29(3):124); they or others nested in the same busy OSU campus area location in 2007 (*OC* 30(3):109) and 2008 (*OC* 31(4):31), with two other males singing in Hilliard 6/22/2008 (*NAB* 62(4):536) and one there 5/27/2009 (*NAB* 63(3):428) through mid-June (*OC* 34(3):165), and another 5/18/2010-6/5/2010 (*NAB* 64(3):422, 64(4):590), with a pair repeatedly observed in the spring and summer of 2011, a male singing on the campus 5/4/2012 (*fide* D. Slager), and two males and a female and at least one nest in Hilliard in May-June of 2012 and 2013, with three seen as late as 8/19 of the latter year (*OC* 36(1):18), perhaps fleeing severe droughts farther west; one lingered there until 9/14/2012 (*NAB* 67(1) 72; nesting was confirmed there in 2013 (*OC* 36(4):142) and 2014 (m. obs.). Davie (1898:425) remarked that one observer had never found a cowbird's eggs in this vireo's nest (see also Bent 157:255-56) in its western range, and it would be interesting to learn if more naive Ohio birds have matched this accomplishment. They prefer patches of thick brush in large open areas here, such as old fields, and are often found near eye level in exposed areas along roadways, railroad tracks, or field margins. Its scratchy peevish song is ear-catching and distinctive. Specimen 7/26/1969 OSUM #15400.

Yellow-throated Vireo *Vireo flavifrons**. Wheaton (1882:303) considered it an uncommon breeder in quiet open forest stands here, favoring hardwoods, and called it “a rare visitor” in May in gardens. Its numbers today overall remain constrained by the extent of such habitats. Hicks (1935a) recorded it as breeding in 79 Ohio counties, but as a highly local nester preferring edges and gaps in certain forest types, such as oaks in more rugged terrains. Usually sings from lofty spots in the canopy, but not always nesting high. High count 11 migrants at Sharon Woods MP 5/13/1989 (*OC* 12(3):11). Davie (1898:420) reported collecting a set of four eggs of this species in Franklin County on 6/2/1885. An early migrant record comes from OSUM curator J. Hine on the OSU campus on 3/23 (*Ohio Naturalist* 3(4):375). One was still in song 9/18/2010 at Hoover Dam (*fide* R. Thorn), with another silent as late as 10/14/1991 (*OC* 15(1):21). Specimen 5/5/1871 OSUM #1342.

Blue-headed Vireo *Vireo solitarius*. An uncommon migrant in the late nineteenth century, and so it remains today. Frequents the broken understory of high woods, conifers or mixed hardwoods and conifers, generally closer to ground level than its red-eyed and yellow-throated cousins. Often the first northbound vireo to arrive, with early records here on 3/29/2001 (*NAB* 55(1):307) and 4/1/1982 (*AB* 36(5):859); some winter much farther north than the other vireos, even as close as Virginia. High count 20+ migrants in Columbus 4/27/1995 (*OC* 18(3):97). Often among the latest vireos in fall, with our latest recorded passing through on 11/1/2003 (*OC* 27(1):15). Summering birds have been reported, e.g. in 2006 (*OC* 29(4):169), but while nests are locally regular in the unglaciated portions of the state, local breeding remains unverified, presumably because its nesting habitat requirements are not met here. Specimen 5/18/1897 Field Museum #15206.

Philadelphia Vireo *Vireo philadelphicus*. Wheaton (1882:299) called the “Brotherly-love Vireo” a not very common migrant, though he had once reported a surprising 20-30 in beech woodland on 16 September (Coues 1874:233). Dawson (298) reported his only record was of two on the OSU campus on the quite early spring date of 4/22/1902; another early arrival appeared on the campus 4/27/1960 (*WCB* 6:25). Now an uncommon migrant, and usually the latest northbound vireo in spring, when most often found in woodland understory or low in the canopy. Among our migrant vireos, its thinner vocalizations are often the least likely to be heard, or at least to command attention; Wheaton called them “mute when on their migrations” here (1882:300). High recent counts number nine on 5/26/1997 (*OC* 20(3):101), with others of six at Green Lawn Cemetery 5/19/1973 (Thomson 219) and as many in a single tree in Whetstone Park 5/20/1956 (Schuer, MS OSUM). Late fall migrants were in Columbus on 10/4/1980 (*OC* 3(3):27), and 10/12 in an unspecified year (Bent 197:362). OSUM specimen #8543 is from 9/25/1944, and another from 9/16/1873 is NMNH #83170 (see Wheaton in Coues 1874 above).

Warbling Vireo *Vireo gilvus**. A fairly common and vocal nester at wooded margins of open areas, especially fond of tall cottonwoods. Wheaton (1882:302) reported it as abundant along streams and in shade trees along urban streets, habitats sharing characteristics attractive to this species; today, riverside groves and parklands are more likely to attract them. These vireos inhabit the higher portions of mature trees beginning in early May, and males are daylong singers, even on the nest; one may estimate the length of a streamside walk in season by the number of their songs heard in cottonwoods along the way. Formerly they favored lines of trees along roads, and many were victims of municipal tree-spraying during its heyday. Hicks (1935a:167) regarded it as a breeder in all Ohio counties; its numbers may have decreased overall since then, but not its wide distribution. A few males may resume vocalizing September-October, just before departure, perhaps in response to migrants arriving from the north. An early record comes from 4/20/1989 (*OC* 12(3):11), and Bent cites a Columbus-area arrival on 4/19 (197:372). Specimen 5/20/1876 OSUM #1339.

Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus**. Remains quite common as a migrant and nester in mature woods, shade trees, and riparian corridors. Now as a hundred years ago our most numerous and familiar vireo. Trautman (1940:342) estimated as many as 400 pairs nested annually in his Buckeye Lake study area. Arrives in late April, and tends to nest and forage fairly low in the forest cover. An adult with a fledgling was reported as late as 8/4/2006 (*OC* 30(1):25). It is a tireless singer; Dawson (296) reported hearing one here “singing with undiminished vigor on the seventh day of October, at high noon,” an anomaly even for this vocal species. It has lingered in silence as late as 11/19 in 2006 (*OC* 30(1):21). The high count of 40

migrants came on 5/21/1960 at Green Lawn Cemetery (Thomson 1983:219). Specimen 5/27/1870 OSUM #1335.

Blue Jay *Cyanocitta cristata**. A common and vocal nester, found mostly in dry woodlands and suburban treelots, preferring oaks and beeches. This, the smallest of our corvids, shares their behavioral repertoire: noisy gatherings, egg-stealing and other banditry, group harrassment of raptors, and signs of superior intelligence. They may at times nest close to human habitations, even on disused window-sills (pers. obs.) or porch trellises, but are always notably wary, and tend to be silent at this time. The local breeding population is partly migratory, diurnally in May and September (high summer count 64 on 6/28/2014 in Greenlawn Cemetery [*vide* Bukovac *OC* 37(4):160]), with its winter residents supplemented by migrants from further north. They may suffer population losses—apparently temporary recently—from viral outbreaks. A recent high Columbus CBC count of 598 came on 12/26/1982 (*AB* 37(4):566); the 2012 count tallied 306, with 349 in 2013, 201 in 2011, and 203 in 2015. Specimen 10/18/1885 (OSUM #2575).

Black-billed Magpie *Pica hudsonia*. The region has one record, a bird near O'Shaughnessy Reservoir in Delaware County 12/31/1956 (Thomson 1983:212); Thomson had written that it "might have been an escape" (loc. cit.), but Peterjohn, who cautioned readers about the possibility of escaped magpies, cites Thomson's as one of three acceptable records (2001:340). Elsewhere Thomson described a trick in which friends of Trautman brought back a dead magpie found during a western trip and threw it in his front driveway. Trautman prepared a skin from the specimen, which is now in OSUM; there seems to be no firm evidence as to whether he truly regarded it as a local record or sought to embarrass the jokesters.

American Crow *Corvus brachyrhynchos**. This species was treated by Wheaton (1882:364) as an abundant nester in the state; he nevertheless observed that over the previous twenty years it had become "except when migrating, hardly common" in central Ohio, where it bred but remained only in mild winters. He attributed declines in their local numbers in part to losses of large riverbank trees used as roosts and an attack by an unspecified disease. A generation later Dawson (p. 7) reported its numbers had rebounded, and offered a wise comment that applies to other species as well: "Concerning the relative abundance of Crows, as compared with former times, little can positively be determined. The continued denudation of our timber throws many species into false prominence, which may be altogether misleading." Later, Trautman (1940:309) observed that the concentrations of spring transients in the Scioto bottomlands south of Columbus had become uniquely numerous in the region since 1922. Crows were widely reviled, and they remain designated as a game species. Moseley (1947:31) reported that "[a] few years ago, when shells were provided to Crow hunters by the state, Max Kempker of Toledo shot between six and eight thousand of these pests each year," and probably some Central Ohio gunners strove for comparable results. Persecution by humans in rural areas, along with safer and warmer winter conditions in cities, have led to increased urbanization of this intelligent species over the years, for some as year-long residents. City crow flocks may have suffered more from the West Nile virus, but seem to be recovering slowly, though the virus remains active. One winter roost of ~1000 reported in Columbus in February 1989 (*OC* 12(2):11), and a high CBC count of 5100 in 1966, are small compared to those routine in certain other much smaller Ohio cities near our latitude, such as Springfield and Coshocton. The 2012 Columbus CBC tallied 245 and that for the following year only 300, but many CBC participants tend to arise too late to witness the pre-dawn dispersals of this species' large roosts. Specimen 4/10/1878 OSUM #1037.

Common Raven *Corvus corax*. Useful reports of its precise distribution in Ohio in the old days are surprisingly hard to come by (Busam 2000). Langdon (*J. Cincinnati Society of Natural History*, 1878:115) quotes Dr. Rufus Haymond, in a list of the "Birds of Franklin Co., Indiana" (*Ind. Geol. Report*, 1869), who wrote: "The Raven was once numerous in this section, yet now so rare that I have seen but one during the past twenty years." This county is adjacent to Ohio, just northwest of Cincinnati. This observation suggests Ohio's raven population held a place well into a very early era for local ornithology. On the topic, Kirtland (1838:180) wrote only that "the raven sometimes spends the winter as far north as the south shore of Lake Erie," then by 1864 he was to call the species "occasional, becoming very rare" (Christy 1936). Also in 1838, Atwater (93), writing in Circleville, included the raven in a list of 36 species he called "constant residents" of Ohio. Perhaps ravens were taken for granted, for while they were apparently widespread in an earlier era, few counties possess first-hand records; the most recent came in the form of a specimen (Wheaton 1882:364), collected 9/3/1879 near Marysville, Union County. Seemingly, no modern

raven specimen known from Ohio has been found to survive in any curated museum collection, the Marysville specimen having been lost in a fire at an Indiana museum only a few years ago. Nonetheless, partial remains in archaeological sites in several other Ohio counties have repeatedly confirmed its former presence, and at any rate, while it seems reasonable to surmise that ravens were once present and even numerous in central Ohio, a few have been slowly reappearing, even perhaps breeding, in recent years as close as Knox County.

[Eurasian Sky Lark *Alauda arvensis*. This exotic species was widely imported into the New World, and in Ohio most successfully, though briefly, by the Cincinnati Acclimatization Society during the 1870s (Langdon 1878). Apparently a similar effort failed in Columbus; even though free-flying sky larks survived briefly here, even while reproducing elsewhere in the state, the species has no place other than as a curiosity on this list. Wheaton (1882:235) wrote: “Col Harris says of their introduction in this city, (i.e. [Harris 1861]) ‘In the autumn of 1851, Mr. Bateham [Ohio’s second Secretary of Agriculture], on his return from England, brought a cage of the real English Skylarks, which, after keeping a few weeks at his residence, near the Lunatic Asylum, were set at liberty in the grove back of that institution. They very shortly disappeared entirely, and no doubt perished, either in the severe winter which followed, or by the hand of the fowler.’” Jones (1903:223) misconstrued Harris’s words of 1861, applying them to the later Cincinnati introductions, but it is clear Franklin County too had a brief dalliance with these imported birds (see Wheaton 1882:602). They were more successfully introduced in Hawaii, British Columbia, and the state of Washington around the same time, where except in Washington they persist in at least small numbers to this day; the British Columbia population is at risk.]

Horned Lark *Eremophila alpestris**. Known only as an infrequent winter visitor in Ohio until the late nineteenth century, it eventually took advantage of ongoing human alterations of the landscape for nesting. Dawson (p. 206) observed that its increase in numbers here was “doubtless due to the continued denudation of timber and the consequent restoration of land to the prairie conditions suitable for this plains-loving bird.” It was breeding in every Ohio county by 1935 according to Hicks (1935a:159), who recorded a lengthy nesting season, having found sound and well-constructed nests February through July inclusive. Now a fairly common nester in or near agricultural or grassy fields, decreasing locally along with the latter. In winter, ~100 were in a field at Kenny & Lane near the OSU campus on 12/17/1951 (Thomas, MS OSUM); the 2012 Columbus CBC located only six there. Three field-distinguishable subspecies have appeared in the county. Davie (1898:316) wrote of locally-nesting *E. a. praticola* that “Mr. James E. Gould found young birds near Blacklick, Franklin Co, July 14, 1893. So far, this makes the breeding range of the Prairie Horned Lark in Ohio extend from the central portion northward east and west” (specimen 2/24/1882 OSUM #1010). *E. a. alpestris* has only wintered here (local specimen 2/25/1928 Univ. Mich. #91576), with high counts of flocks of ~600 on 2/18/1928 (Walker & Trautman 1936:153) and 1202 for the Darbydale CBC of 12/16/1972. Licking County records of 1000-1500 have been reported (Peterjohn 2001:346). Local specimens of the Arctic-breeding *E. a. hoyti* are OSUM #s 1012 and 3075; this large, pale subspecies has occurred here in very small numbers with wintering flocks of the other forms; it has not been verified in recent years, but careful scrutinies of lark flocks have apparently become unfashionable.

Purple Martin *Progne subis**. Abundant urban nesters in the nineteenth century, when according to Wheaton (1882:293) some “old fogies” still made use of natural cavities in trees, etc. instead of artificial sites. For the past hundred years and more, however, no recorded instance has been found of its nesting in the wild here. In early days martin houses were quite popular, even downtown. Still, a letter-writer to the *Ohio State Journal* on 9/22/1831 remarked: “I certainly do not know of any other way in which so much additional beauty may be given to Columbus, as by merely taking down all the martinboxes. The martin is a savage bird, beyond all question, and to retain him among us may justly be compared as a badge of barbarism, for we find that the Indians have always been fond of him.” (Lee, 296-7). Reported fall roosts have numbered up to 50,000, e.g. at the Ohio Penitentiary 8/17/1964 (*Redstart* 31(4):93) with 30,000 as recently as 8/25/1970 (*AB* 25(1):25). Its numbers here are now much reduced; our great fall gatherings are no more, and by 1980 a 26 July roost of 450 in Columbus was worthy of report (*AFN* 34(6):900). Martins

now nest locally in artificial containers, mostly in rural settings, urban boxes having become infeasible as well as unfashionable. March arrivals can be fatally early for the scouts involved, but those who win the gamble may accrue a genetic advantage in the population. Late was one on 10/7 in Columbus (Bent 179:508); there are, unsurprisingly, no Columbus CBC records of this species. Specimen 5/5/1880 OSUM #1309.

Tree Swallow *Tachycineta bicolor**. Wheaton (1882:287-8) wrote that it was, “in the vicinity of Columbus, rather rare except during the migrations; formerly they were abundant, and nesting in the holes of dead trees along the rivers.” At that time they were not reported to use artificial nest boxes, a more recent adaptation; nowadays, dead trees along the rivers are less often tolerated by humans, but these swallows may now be found at times in snags but also martin houses, as well as bluebird and wood duck boxes. Still, Hicks (1935a:159) did not include it as a Franklin County nester, and OSUM possesses no county specimen, but it has been regular in migration and an irregular and localized nester since, its numbers in proportion to the abundance of wetland habitats and associated insects, as well as cavities for nests. It is capable of adapting to dietary fruit late in the year when insects are harder to find, but has apparently not done so often at our latitude. Generally present from late March as the year’s first swallow species here; quite early was one observed during the period 2/16-17/1957 feeding on insects frozen in lake ice in Columbus (AFN 11(4):350). They may linger into November with favorable weather. One was found in southern Delaware County on 1/4/2006 and thereafter, apparently picking midges from ice; it was thought to have survived into spring at the location (J. Watts, pers. comm.). R. Tuttle conducted a six-year study of this species nesting in Delaware County (*Sialia* 9:3-7, 34).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx serripennis**. Judged by Wheaton (1882:291) an abundant summer resident, and the second-most common swallow in the region; he commented that pairs “frequently place their nest in the most frequented places,” and offered extensive descriptions of nest sites downtown. No longer often a denizen of the inner city, it continues to nest uncommonly, usually in isolated pairs but also at times in small loose colonies numbering as many as 80, especially in niches, quarry walls, and streambanks. Abandoned kingfisher burrows and drainpipes are favorite sites, as well as adopted excavations made by other swallows and mammals. They have been known to utilize exhaust pipes of vehicles parked for extended periods in spring. This species may occupy sites here in clayey soils along streambanks, while *Riparia* swallows prefer looser and more erodible soil in drier habitats. Loss of forest cover has erased some riverside habitat for this species, and as the most versatile nesting swallow they may still occasionally resort to crevices in bridges, etc., as they commonly did in Wheaton’s day, who reported (1882:292) they built “on the projecting caps of the large pillars in the porticos of the State House.” A very early arrival came on 3/9/1983 (AB 37(5):877), but not expected until early April; in fall, often flocks earliest among the swallows, in late July and early August. Nevertheless, a single bird was seen here as late as 10/31/2013 (OC 36(1):18). Specimen 6/15/1897 Univ. Mich. #191407.

Bank Swallow *Riparia riparia**. Wheaton (1882:290) called this smallest of our swallows a once common summer resident, but by the time he wrote its numbers had diminished with losses of nesting sites and competition with the rough-winged swallow, which is more flexible in its choice of nest sites. Bank swallows’ colonies may however be much tighter and larger; a hundred or so pairs seen in a small network of burrows near the city sewage treatment plant 6/12/1954 (Schuer, MS OSUM) was not especially remarkable. Their local numbers declining, these swallows are now decidedly uncommon as breeders, excavating nesting tunnels near the tops of bluffs, sand or aggregate piles, quarries, and roadcuts, rather than nesting in boxes or structures; certain remaining colonies are located in off-limits industrial properties difficult for observers to access. As an example, about forty pairs nested during the ‘70s in a quarry south of town, beginning as early in the year as 4/20/1976 (Thomson *fide* Claugus, MS OSUM). Has appeared early on 4/12/1980 (OC 3(1):21), with two on the same date in 2005 (OC 28(3):106). It is overall the swallow latest to arrive and earliest to depart each year, flocking in July at times, but may be seen as stragglers into September. As many as a million were estimated in a single autumn gathering along Lake Erie 8/8/1931 (Campbell 1968:180), and eight to ten thousand staged near the Scioto River 25 miles south of Columbus in Pickaway County 7/20-21/2011 (pers. obs., ph.). The latter group was observed taking turns exposing their underparts on fresh blacktop, probably in an effort to rid themselves of parasites acquired in the nesting burrows. A specimen from 5/4/1874 is OSUM #1318.

Cliff Swallow *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota**. Wheaton in 1882 (288) called the “eave swallow” once a very common summer resident, later to become uncommon and local. He had written earlier (1861a:16) only that “five or six years ago, a colony of these birds built their nest upon a mill on Alum Creek, and remained there for two or three years.” They were few in the county at the time, but eventually these swallows adapted to the exteriors of wooden barns and other farm outbuildings, which furnished nest sites, after which the introduction of house sparrows—and some have said the practice of painting barns—set back their numbers. Langdon (1880:124) lamented the eradication by house sparrows of a large nesting colony of this species under a Cincinnati bridge, and the sparrows seem to have played a similar role here in urban settings. Between 1920 and 1935 this swallow nested in 38 counties, though Hicks (1935a:160) reported that “very few counties have...more than a hundred pairs known to breed.” Maslowski (2010) wrote that in 1942 the known nests nearest to Cincinnati were on a barn in Hocking County. In 1955, Thomas related that a small colony on a Fairfield County barn was the only one known in central Ohio (*CD* 6/19/1955). By 1981 they were said to nest in only five Ohio counties, including Franklin, where the county-line bridge over Hoover Reservoir hosted 8 nests in 1977, with one of them on the southern, Franklin County side (White, MS OSUM), then 100+ by 8/17/1980 (*OC* 3(3):25). They have since adapted to sites such as dam structures or the undersides of bridges, where house sparrows have as yet made few inroads, and are greatly increasing their presence; some such colonies in the state now feature over a thousand of their gourd-shaped mud nests, and it appears they have at times occupied every bridge over the Scioto from the central counties 1882^{uth} to the Ohio River. Ectoparasite build-ups, however, may inhibit successful use of the same sites yearly; Wheaton commented (1882:289) that he had “never known them to build on the same structure more than three years successively.” Earliest recorded locally on 14 April in Columbus (Bent 179:483), they are widely seen later in the month. After a high count here on 8/14/1991 of 110 (*OC* 15(1):20) overall numbers have continued to grow, with extraordinary September migrant flocks of ~1500 found in Pickaway County in 2000 (*OC* 24(1):18) and 2004 (*OC* 28(1):16). Specimen 5/4/1874 OSUM #1312.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica**. Our most commonly seen swallow a century ago, though in fewer spots today, as its reluctance to adapt to urban settings is decisive here. In the distant heavily-forested past it may have resorted in smaller numbers to hollow trees, rock crevices, etc. Now much diminished once more as a nester with urbanization and the continuing disappearance of old-fashioned farm buildings, where formerly they typically occupied the interiors and cliff swallows the eaves. Somewhat tolerant of humans, they may establish local colonies in other structures such as picnic shelters, bridges, and culverts, or even rural front porches, where they will tenaciously harass human neighbors. Next to the tree swallow, has the family’s longest routine stays in the region, with records from 29 March 2013 (*OC* 36(3):105) into November, and may at times be found remaining on territory after other swallow species have gathered in pre-migratory flocks. Has arrived as early as 4/6, in 2009 (*OC* 32(3):131). Thomson (1983:212) reported ~3000 in central Ohio on 5/8/1960. Specimen 7/7/1935 OSUM #7151.

Carolina Chickadee *Poecile carolinensis**. Wheaton (1861:2,1882:223) called it an uncommon breeder that did not winter in Franklin County, presumably replaced then by the following species. By 1903, Jones was to write (p. 205) it bred only as far north as Columbus; Dawson (1903:249) had never found one here, asserting that the eight chickadee specimens at OSUM at the time were all of the following species (where today there is but one 19th-century specimen from Franklin County, #2457, Wheaton’s, taken 11/9/1874, later confirmed by Oberholser as *P. a. praticus*). Hicks (1935a:162) doubted his predecessors’ abilities to discriminate carefully between the chickadees, however, and the same may be said of casual observers today. *P. carolinensis* has come to be recognized as today’s resident chickadee, with good numbers in winter. In 1940 Trautman was to call it “definitely more numerous in winter than at any other season,” reporting as many as 200 migrating along the Scioto River over a fifteen-minute span in October 1963 (*AFN* 18(1):43); interestingly, this occurred during an invasion year of the following species. A record 629 were reported for the 2010 Columbus CBC, perhaps signalling a continuing rebound from West Nile virus mortality. Specimen OSUM #S618 from 10/5/1944 is one of only two local examples at OSUM.

Black-capped Chickadee *Poecile atricapillus**. Now quite rare here. Wheaton (1882:223) wrote that in the mid-nineteenth century it had been as abundant in Franklin County as the titmouse, since which time it had become quite infrequent, and in Columbus only a winter visitor. Half a century later Hicks (1935a:161) gave Richland as the closest Ohio county in its range, stating “there is considerable evidence

to indicate that this species is gradually retreating to the northward,” and being replaced by *Carolinensis*; he added that Jones, Dawson, and “most field workers in Ohio...decidedly mis-stated the range of both species,” endorsing E. S. Thomas, who wrote (1928b) that he had never seen one in central Ohio, but was later to report irregular winter incursions here in the 1950s and ‘60s, a few reaching as far south as Hocking County in 1957 (Thomas 1958). He recorded the earliest arrival on 10/27/1964 (*WCB* 10:30, *AFN* 6[3]:1989), and also the first specimen in 75 years, verified as *P. a. atricapillus* (the “eastern Black-capped Chickadee”) by Oberholser, who had pronounced Wheaton’s specimen of 11/9/1874 the subspecies *P. a. practicus*, the “Appalachian Black-capped Chickadee”. In 1954 Trautman reported ~50 per day in 10-15 November, surpassing his total count during the previous 15 years, including the incursions of 1951-52. In 1961 it was deemed “plentiful by December” in Columbus (*AFN* 16(1):41). The Columbus CBC of 12/28/1963 reported its high count of 299, versus 100 Carolina chickadees (*AFN* 18(2):190). Wintering birds tended to head north into mid-April, and it is from this period that OSUM recordings of songs were made: 4/16/1964 (#6741), 4/24/1965 (#7368), and 4/8/1969 (#9844). Since the ‘60s, seldom showing up here, with still smaller and less frequent winter irruptions into the 1980s (*AB* 31(2):185), and only quite rare recently other than a scantily documented incursion 1999-2000, with two reported at Blendon Woods MP 1/1/1999 (*fide* C. Bombaci). Visual distinction from the previous species is subtler than relying on vocalizations, but there are local documented instances of their adopting one another’s songs; see an OSU experiment <http://kb.osu.edu/dspace/handle/1811/54727> . There are only five Franklin County specimens at OSUM, the earliest Wheaton’s from 11/19/1874, OSUM #2457.

Tufted Titmouse *Baeolophus bicolor**. A resident breeder, seemingly recovering from recent declines some have attributed to the West Nile virus. Like the cardinal, it is a more southern species benefiting from rising temperatures, drying of soil, certain introduced plants, etc., but still liable to mortality from sleet storms that seal off food with ice. Wheaton (1882:221) called it an abundant resident, especially in the city in winter, a cavity nester sometimes placing nests “in the holes and niches of buildings” during his era. M. Nice published observations of titmice in Columbus during winter (*WB* 45(2):87) in 1933. Now more familiar as a fairly common woodlands specialist, resorting to deeper cover in winter, when readily joining vocal mixed-species bands, and a frequent visitor to backyard feeders. A three-mile census in Blacklick MP during the winter of 2014-5 produced 45 (*OC* 38(2):67). Many articles report that titmice may be attracted to human voices, flitting nearby. A study at OSU revealed titmice may exhibit cannibalism (Stewart 1955), exhibiting another human behavior. Their numbers have fallen in recent years, perhaps due to virus infections; its highest Columbus CBC count was 307 in 1932; the high for the decade 1999-2009 was 154 in 2007. Specimen 11/17/1894 Field Museum #15100.

Red-breasted Nuthatch *Sitta canadensis*. Wheaton (1882:225) called it a rather common migrant in his day; it is less so today. Winters uncommonly, its numbers said to vary somewhat on a roughly biennial schedule associated with cone crop abundances in the north. Post-nesting birds have appeared as early as mid-July, but usually show up in September, and may flock loosely, often easiest to find in conifer stands; they also appear at bird-feeding stations. The reported high count is a remarkable 45 spring migrants on 4/23/1981 at Green Lawn Cemetery (Thomson 1983:213). The first Ohio nest was reported in 1931, but apparently none has been confirmed from Franklin County. Consequently a rare non-breeder in summer, most recently seen here as late as 6/17/2003 (*OC* 26(4):157). A count of as many as 41 was reported for the 12/18/2005 Columbus CBC. Specimen 9/10/1874 OSUM #1512.

White-breasted Nuthatch *Sitta carolinensis**. Very common in Wheaton’s time (1882:224), now a common and familiar cavity nester in stands of mature trees and a visitor to nearby feeders, thickets, and streamsides. Mostly resident, but more conspicuous in winter, vocal and readily joining mixed-species flocks. High count 188 for the 2010 Columbus CBC. A singing male was recorded 2/26/1954 in Columbus (Borror Lab #724). A leucistic specimen, showing a shadow of gray on the crown but with otherwise all-white plumage, comes from Columbus on 10/2/1972 and endures as OSUM #16186. Specimen 11/8/1874 OSUM #1511.

Brown Creeper *Sitta carolinensis**. Wheaton (1882:227) knew it as a common migrant and winter resident, not a nester. It seems best today to call it uncommon as a migrant, and more often seen as a winter visitor. Its song was recorded here as early as 2/26 in 1954 (Borror Lab #723). Hicks (1935a:162) reported nesting in Ohio only from Ashtabula County, but it is known to be more widespread today, for

example with nesting recorded each year 2004-2010 in flooded woodland above Hoover Reservoir in Delaware County (*OC* 27(4):146, etc.), as well as an apparent nest below Greenlawn Dam active on 4/28/2000 but abandoned by 5/8 (*OC* 23(3):108), and a singing male 6/13/2007 in Columbus (*OC* 30(4):154), where attention by the new OBBA has since confirmed nesting. Creepers usually nest behind loosening bark on a tree trunk, a strategy unique among North American birds. Widespread mortality of trees, such as that among ashes (*Fraxinus* spp.), may invite more of them in a temporary fashion. A typical southbound arrival date of creepers from the north is 9/28/2006 (*OC* 30(1):22). Maximum count 115 on the 12/26/1981 Columbus CBC (*AB* 36(4):556). Specimen 3/22/1895 Field Museum #15091.

House Wren *Troglodytes aedon**. Our nineteenth-century authorities apparently took the species for granted, offering few details; Dawson (266) did note that this rather aggressive bird seemed to be crowded out by house sparrows and Bewick's wrens in his day. Hicks (1935a:163) ascribed it to all Ohio counties, but less commonly from the southern quarter of the state due, he surmised, to competition with Bewick's wren at the time (Roads 1924). As a species of the north, it remains harder to find in southern parts of unglaciated Ohio to this day, and some models predict it extirpated in Ohio with climate warming (Matthews et al: 287). Despite an early arrival record of 3/30/2000 (*OC* 23(3):108), it is of unlikely occurrence here until mid-April. Now nests fairly commonly in natural cavities in scrubby areas, woodland/stream edge, yards, or in flowerpots, shelving, and abandoned or purloined nests of other birds; males may build numerous half-completed "cock-nests." A decidedly vocal species through the breeding period. Fledglings have been fed as late as 9/16/2000 (*OC* 24(1):20). Trautman (1940:316) described yearly post-nesting movements from areas near farms and houses into brushy areas in woods. May rarely be seen into November; a highly unusual—and contested—winter report of three was recorded from two veteran observers in Columbus for the CBC of 12/26/1971 (*AB* 26(2):322). Specimen 4/26/1895 Field Museum #15079.

Winter Wren *Troglodytes hiemalis*. Wheaton (1882:232) reckoned it far more numerous as a migrant than as a wintering bird, and supposed it may have bred farther north in the state. Moves March-April and October for the most part. At all seasons, these mouse-like wrens haunt dense cover in cool, dark, dank woods amid rocks and fallen trees. A high count of 60 came from Green Lawn Cemetery 4/18/1975 (*AB* 29(4):861), and 38 were tallied 4/17/1989 there (*OC* 12(3):10). As for nesting, Davie (1898:474) averred "[t]he late Dr. Wheaton took young birds of this species in central Ohio, whose plumage indicated they had shortly left the nest." Wheaton did not confirm this, but they may have been collected after his last publication; OSUM has an undated adult specimen #2433 from his collection. Its breeding status locally remains enigmatic at best. Territorial males were apparently present 6/1/2006 (*OC* 29(4):169) and during the summer of 2007 (*OC* 30(4):154). Found uncommonly in mild winter months; all Columbus CBC numbers over the past 75 years are at best in single digits. A Wheaton Club member reported that while sleeping with a window open in the third week of January 1976, he awoke upon feeling something running up his back, which proved to be a winter wren (*WCB* 20-21:49). Specimen 10/15/1969 OSUM #15536.

Sedge Wren *Cistothorus platensis**. Wheaton (1882:234) called it a rare summer resident in Ohio. Hicks (1935a, 1935b) included our region in its breeding range, but only as very local. Bent (1964:274) gives Columbus as the southernmost limit of its Ohio nesting range, but it has since been found breeding into Kentucky (Palmer-Ball 2003). It remains a sporadic and furtive nester, semi-colonial at times, in damp meadows of tall reeds and sedges or grassy margins of marshes, rare-uncommon in May, with an early arrival on 5/3/2009 (*OC* 32(3):132) but seemingly somewhat more often found in July through September, apparently double-brooded. Males build numerous dummy nests. Some studies suggest that later Ohio nesters may have moved in from well to the north for a second nesting, an unusual strategy (Bedell 1996, Palmer-Ball 2003:118-9). Up to nine territorial males were at Battelle Darby Creek MP in the summer of 1997 (*OC* 20(4):164), and later five birds and a nest were found there 8/16/2001 (*OC* 25(1):23), with as many present at that time in 2012 (pers. obs.) and 2013 (*OC* 36(4):143); pairs were seen at Darby Creek MP 6/26 and 14 and 28 July (*OC* 37(4):161). Presumable migrants or late breeders were two on 9/25/04 (*OC* 28(1):16), and singing has been noted in October. There are no known local winter records. Typical spring migrants were two reported at Pickerington Ponds 5/9/1981 (*OC* 4(1):29), while 4-6 in the county 8/1/2006 (*OC* 30(1):22), ~12 on 8/4/2013 (*OC* 36(1):19) and several tape-recorded singing near

Georgesville on 8/5/1969 (Borror Lab #s 10307 & 10308) were seemingly on the alternative schedule. Specimen 7/8/1939 OSUM #12123.

Marsh Wren *Cistothorus palustris**. Wheaton (1882:233) knew it here as a migrant only; Trautman later (1940:319) wrote that “hundreds and sometimes thousands were daily present” at Buckeye Lake during the spring migration and that at least 200 pairs nested in the marsh there. He recorded a bird wintering there on only one occasion. He observed that it was “present in all of the large cat-tail marshes of the state and often extremely abundant in such places, but the usual sparseness of such habitats makes the species quite local.” Such is even more the case today, when few nesters are found in the southern two-thirds of the state. It has nested at Pickerington Ponds (e.g. Thompson 112, *CD* 6/24/1975) at times when extensive cattails were present, but unequivocal recent records even of migrants have seldom been reported since 2000. As for wintering birds, one was seen as late as 11/2/2007 on the OSU campus, *fide* A. Boone) and on 12/12/2011 at the newly-restored Darby wetlands, when three were found (ph. R. Silvey), with two remaining 1/3/2012 (*fide* I. Shulgina), then 3/17/2012 (pers. obs.) and 1/9/2014 (*fide* Shulgina). Nesting was suspected there but not confirmed until 5/13/14 (*fide* C. Morrow); the county’s previous record was in the early ‘90s at Pickerington Ponds; one was carrying food there 7/10/2014 (*OC* 37(4):161). Like its companion bitterns, it has been seldom detected as a migrant, largely because of the loss of extensive wetlands with cattails and bur-reeds even as stop-over habitat. A local specimen (OSUM #12124) from 7/8/1938 has been identified as of the expected “prairie” subspecies *C. p. iliacus*. The oldest regional specimen comes from Columbus 5/17/1885, and is OSUM #1506.

Carolina Wren *Thryothorus ludovicianus**. Kirtland wrote (1838:183) that he had not heard reports of “the Great Carolina Wren” north of Cincinnati. By Wheaton’s time (1882:228) it was increasing and familiar in Franklin County, a vocal species haunting underbrush, thickets, farmyards, and urban green spots alike. It shares the house wren’s habits of invading human spaces to nest and roost. Later, Hicks (1935a:163) was to report it as a nester in every Ohio county, albeit rare and local in some. It has been repeatedly and sometimes severely beaten back in numbers by cold weather, most notably nearly extirpated in many areas by the blizzards of 1917-1918 (Trautman 1940:317) and 1977-78 (Peterjohn 2001:371), among others. Resilient, but only near the end of the millenium did it appear to recover former abundances, and it again now apparently nests in every Ohio county. This species will likely continue at times to suffer noticeable swings in local populations due to difficulties finding food under ice cover; some may survive sleety weather by foraging in open outbuildings, caves, or under decks, exposed roots of fallen trees, etc. Columbus CBC numbers have varied from single digits in the ‘70s to an all-time high of 190 in 2006. Specimen 2/20/1873 Univ. Cal. Berkeley Museum #103436 was collected by Wheaton.

Bewick’s Wren *Thryomanes bewickii**. First reported in Ohio in 1879 (Dury & Freeman), leading Wheaton to accept it to the state list in an appendix (1882:588). Not long thereafter, Jones (1903:199) was to remark Bewick’s was supplanting the house wren in its southern range, calling it common “nearly as far north as Columbus.” Hicks (1935a:163) included Franklin and Union among 61 Ohio counties in its nesting range at the time, and regarded it as expanding its range, in part into new habitat created by erosion of hillside slopes on rural homesteads abandoned during the Depression. Rare in the cold months, with only 27 Ohio CBC records in the twentieth century and only seven since 1949, it was reported as “wintering in Linden third consecutive year” for the Columbus CBC of 12/26/1928 (*BL* 31(1):48), where Floyd Chapman found a nest in a mailbox the following spring (MS OSUM). A very early spring date was 3/17 (Bent 195:182), and Borror recorded a male in song 3/28/1961 (Borror Lab #5001). Specimen #12789 at OSUM came from 3/3/1962 in Pickaway County. In 1943, Thomas (1943) discovered a bird in Columbus he felt may have been a hybrid with the house wren. He reported (*CD* 5/22/1949) that he and four friends in Clintonville each reported singing males in their yards over a period of five weeks in the spring of 1949. For obscure reasons, after a peak in the ‘30s and ‘40s its numbers plummeted—Thomas called it “infrequent” in the aforementioned article—and since the ‘60s few reports have been substantiated, with the latest reported a lone singing male in Spring Hollow in Sharon Woods 5/5/1983 (*WCB* 1(27):17), and the most recent Ohio record an apparently unsuccessful Pike County pair 4/2/1998 (*OC* 21(3):65). USF&WS is reviewing whether the named Appalachian subspecies *T. b. altus* is valid for the purpose of considering it for endangered status across its former range (James & Green 2009); it has been suggested that the darker plumage of specimens of this taxon may have been caused by widespread airborne coal dust in the region earlier in the twentieth century. Specimen 3/25/1952 OSUM #15467.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher *Poliptila caerulea**. A common migrant, with a few arriving as soon as early April, and a fairly common and vocal nester in remaining mature forest, most easily found in lofty hardwoods close to water. Davie (1898:496) wrote of taking “eight beautiful nests on a little island in the Scioto river, Franklin county, Ohio, May 27, 1885,”—a concentration that would be extraordinary today—and he observed that they “prefer the elm and the willow to all other trees.” (1882:23). Their nests are works of art similar to, and worthy of, the hummingbird’s. Early arrivals came on 4/7/1876 (Wheaton 1882:571) and 4/12/1948 (Borrer, MS OSUM), with high single-observer counts of 10 migrants on 4/23/1988 (*OC* 11(3):19), 19 on 4/30/1981 (Thomson 216), and 25 on 9/7/2014 (*OC* 38(1):232. On 4/24/2009, 25+ were tallied at Prairie Oaks MP (*OC* 32(4):132). Normally departs into October, but also recorded well after gnat season in Columbus on 11/22/1953 (Schuer, MS OSUM). Specimen 5/5/1874 OSUM #1542.

Golden-crowned Kinglet *Regulus satrapa*. A fairly common migrant—usually more often seen, and its very high thin calls especially heard, in April and late September-early November, and an uncommon winterer, when it favors conifers. It has a handful of records as a nester in mature spruce and less often pine stands in the northern part of the state, with none known near here. May be found in mixed foraging flocks in winter, with 25 on the 12/22/1979 Columbus CBC (*AB* 34(4):488), and a high spring migrant count of 75+ here on 4/4/2000 (*OBNH* 1(4):166). Migrants may arrive as soon as early March, but most pass through in April, with late spring dates of 5/18/1989 (*AB* 43(3):489) and an enigmatic local specimen #54085 at the Royal Ontario Museum said to date from 6/8/1875. Specimen 4/16/1875 OSUM #1536, now fairly common. There are no conclusive breeding records in the state; many migrants are

Ruby-crowned Kinglet *Regulus calendula*. An abundant migrant formerly, according to Wheaton singing here in spring and even at times in fall. High count 120 at Green Lawn Cemetery 4/26/1959 (Thomson 215). An April-early May migrant overall, but a notably late northbound bird passed through 5/31/1925 and an early southbound one on 8/22/1931 (both Borrer 1950); by and large they pass south September-October. One in Delaware County on the intriguing date of 6/4-6/1995 (*OC* 18(4):133) was judged to be a non-breeder. Rare but perhaps increasing in winter, e.g. with a county specimen from 2/6/1975 (OSUM #16443), three found here 12/16/1978 (*AB* 33(4):486), one 1/21/1981 in Columbus (Trautman, *WCB* 1/25/18), one on 2/16/1998 (*OC* 21(2):65), and another in mid-winter 2007 (*NAB* 61(2):261). Specimen 4/27/1943 OSUM #8501.

Eastern Bluebird *Sialia sialis**. In Wheaton’s day a very common breeding species, but said to be absent in winter (1882:213). Since then, a victim of local disappearances of its nest holes in standing dead trees and wooden fence-posts, orchards, and old-style agricultural buildings, as well as the spread of the house sparrow and the starling. It still nests in tree cavities in the county, even in downtown Columbus locations such as Schiller Park (pers. obs.), but its recovering numbers here are now supported significantly by way of artificial nest-boxes and dedicated volunteers. It is resilient; Davie (1898:505) described a nest placed in the wheel of a railroad car temporarily immobilized by a strike in town. Hardy, it has steadily increased its winter presence over recent years, with a Columbus CBC maximum of 92 on 12/15/2013. Migrants usually arrive, depart, and overwinter on a schedule similar to that of robins. A specimen from 4/2/1880 is OSUM #1567. Trautman reported an early arrival on 2/8/1925 (1940:329). A set of five eggs was collected 4/23/1890 (OSUM #E2018), and an early local nesting came from 3/28/1981 (*vide* D. Tuttle); eggs have reportedly been laid into September.

Veery *Catharus fuscescens**. A fairly common migrant and a rare nester in or beneath the understory of damp mixed woodlands in central Ohio. Davie wrote (1898:498) that it was “quite common” as a breeder in central Ohio, and that he had taken a nest here on 5/27/1885 “at the base of a sapling in swampy woods,” but other authorities do not confirm his estimation of the abundance of this northern nester. He refers to an illustration of a nest collected 5/21/1884 in Franklin County in Jones’s *Illustrations of the Nests and Eggs of Birds of Ohio* (p. 210). One was seen at Green Lawn Cemetery on 6/2/1957 (Schuer, MS OSUM), and another singing in Blendon Woods 6/7/2011 (pers. obs) in appropriate habitat was reported month-long. The Borrer Lab has five late-May recorded songs from Blendon Township in 1962, ’64, ’67, ’69, and ’72,. Wheaton, Hicks, and Trautman do not name it among the region’s nesters, but Breeding Bird Atlas II work (p. 327) reports continued local nestings in the present day in dense woods. Trautman conceded

(1940:329) that “there is a possibility that the species nested in the area in early historic time.” Noted as a migrant as early as 8/9/1980 (*OC* 3(3):26) in Columbus, with a high fall count of 15 observed on 9/21/2006 (*OC* 30(1):22), and many more estimated by ear as fly-overs by night each fall; late records come from 10/11/2014 (*OC* 38(1):24). Trautman (1940:329) observed that “During autumn the species seemed less than half as numerous as it was in spring. This scarcity may have been caused almost entirely by the inconspicuousness of these shy birds in the profuse vegetation of late summer and early fall.” Has arrived as a northbound migrant as early as mid-April (*Ohio Naturalist* 3(4):375), and on 4/14/1967 (Borror Lab #8942), with 25 at Green Lawn Cemetery 4/28/1985 (*OC* 8(1):2), but typically in May. Specimen 9/17/1956 OSUM #11039.

Gray-cheeked Thrush *Catharus minimus*. A fairly common migrant, its arrivals averaging later in spring than those of other thrushes. An early spring arrival showed up on 4/28/1985 (*OC* 8(1):26), with another lingering as late as 6/2/1957 (Thomson, MS OSUM) and one on the same date on 1928 (Trautman 1940:329). Late heading south were two in Columbus 10/23/1996 (*OC* 20(1):27). Vocalizations from late September and early October southbound flights numbering 100+/hour have been reported heard overhead by night over Westerville during favorable weather (Peterjohn 2001:394). Trautman (1940) observed this thrush was as often found as a migrant in open upland beech-maple woods as the lowlands preferred by its congeners. Specimen 5/1/1944 OSUM #8475.

Swainson's Thrush *Catharus ustulatus*. A common migrant, more often reported as seen in spring and heard overhead in fall, passing north through local woodlands into early June. A southbound individual was seen as early as 8/24/2011 (*OC* 35(1):18), and a freshly-killed one on the same day (L. Helm, *in litt.*). According to Wheaton (1882:207) the most numerous of the migrant *Catharus* thrushes, substantiated a century later by a remarkable maximum of ~400 migrants observed on 5/14/1981 at Green Lawn Cemetery (Thomson 216). Early were single birds on 4/6/2011 (pers. obs.) and 4/11/2001 (*NAB* 55(3):307); singing was recorded 5/6/1970 (Borror Lab #10503). Very late in Columbus, a specimen was collected on 11/28/1963 (OSUM #10721). An undated skin collected here by Wheaton is #20451 at the Cincinnati Museum of Natural History.

Hermit Thrush *Catharus guttatus*. A common migrant, much more evident in spring, and a rare winterer, increasingly often discovered probably due to larger observer numbers. Most often found on or near ground level in thickets, detected by its call in winter or its ethereal song in spring. Most breed farther north. It is a rare but regular nester in hemlock glens in a few spots in the region, but habitat for the purpose seems to be scarce here. Northbound migrants may exceptionally be reported in mid-March—Dawson (218) reported one here 3/19/1903—but as it generally arrives in April; birds found earlier could represent rare wintering individuals. Moves south mostly in October, lingering into December, even later with a January record in 1985 (*OC* 7(4):20) typical of a wintering bird. High count ~50 at Green Lawn Cemetery 4/17/1989 (*OC* 12(3):10), with a high CBC count of 16 on 12/18/2005. Specimen 5/2/1881 OSUM #1553.

Wood Thrush *Hylocichla mustelina**. Easily detected by a distinctive song persisting April through August. After severe losses due to habitat destruction here and in Central America it is now an uncommon nester in remaining dense woodlands, sometimes relatively close to quiet human habitations. Davie (1882) aptly describes its haunts as “dark thickets and low marshy places shaded by trees of thick foliage.” Price wrote that “most nests have been found in the forks of tiny trees in deep shade in the woods.” A forest bird, it nevertheless may tolerate smaller ungrazed woodlots and fairly narrow tracts of mature trees along streams—even though such areas increase the threat of cowbird parasitism—and in 1935 Hicks granted it likely breeding status in all 88 counties. H. Jones reported an albino bird in Pickaway County seen on 1 August 1879 (Wheaton 1879), and both Ohio Breeding Bird Atlases have since reported others. Hicks (1935c) described one Ohio wintering record, a bird in Columbus 1928-29; few mid-winter reports anywhere in the state have ensued, and usually even tardy individuals have departed by mid-October. Its Ohio CBC records number fewer than ten, one assumed carefully verified. High migrant count 26 at Green Lawn Cemetery 5/16/1981 (Thomson 217); as with other thrushes, its fall migration is more prolonged but far less conspicuous than that of spring. Specimen 5/8/1875 OSUM #1545.

American Robin *Turdus migratorius**. Historically an abundant nester, probably scarcer previously when more restricted to forests, but able to benefit from urban lawns, shade trees, etc. It was both a

favorite cage bird and gunners' target in pioneer days (Audubon 3:15). Wheaton (1882:204) reported they arrived in late February and departed by November. Trautman's Buckeye Lake studies (1940) had similar results—though he felt robins' overall numbers had increased—but today nomadic flocks, sometimes immense, may appear in November-January or more often not at all, related to proliferations of fruit-bearing ornamental plantings. Four-figure winter counts have often been tallied since the 1960s (e.g. 4000-5000 on 1/30/65 [WCB 10:32], 6986 for the 2010 Columbus CBC), but still larger January counts have occasionally ensued, as in Columbus and suburbs in 2007 (OC 30(2):61). Flocks may also be absent for long periods in winter, depending upon the availability of food. Two eggs were hatched in a local nest as early as 6-7 January in 1966 (AFN 20(2):223), and Harrison (1975:156) reported an unsuccessful nest (young born) in Columbus in the previous year. Specimen 4/3/1875 OSUM # 2630.

Varied Thrush *Ixoreus naevius*. This species of the far west is a quite unusual winter stray, still with more than twenty records in the state, including two fairly long stays here, both, as is typical in the east, devoted to sheltered feeders: 1/14-23+/1982 in Harrisburg (ph., AB 36(3):300) and a markedly lengthy one of nearly four months' duration in Reynoldsburg 12/3/83-3/31/1984 (AB 38(3):324, 38(4):596, 38(5):919).

Gray Catbird *Dumetella carolinensis**. As historically, a common and vocal nester in dense shrubby sites in edge habitats along roads, fields, creeks, etc. Their territories there are quite small, and the nest, placed low, is not always well hidden but fiercely defended. Rarely winters; there is a late high count of nine during the period 12/22/1992-1/3/1993 in Columbus (OC 15(2):40), but later in winter off-season catbirds are still less frequent, such as one photographed in Worthington 1/26-2/18/2010 (*vide* B. Master). One even definitely wintered 1980-81 (OC 3(4):20), accompanying a snipe locally, when catbirds wintered farther north in Lorain and Erie counties. A presumable early spring arrival record comes from the OSU campus on 4/5/1945 (WCB 2:5). This vocal if unmusical species rarely sings after mid-July, but its peevish calls may readily be heard thereafter. High counts ~60 migrants at Green Lawn Cemetery 5/10/1958 (Thomson 217) and 35 probable breeders along the Heritage Trail 7/17/2012 (OC 35(4):136). Specimen 5/3/1895 Field Museum #15090.

Brown Thrasher *Toxostoma rufum**. Familiar and common for Wheaton (1882:211), and Hicks (1935a:164). Called the "French mockingbird" (a vernacular name as often, but less fittingly, bestowed on the loggerhead shrike), and fairly common to common in Ohio into the mid-twentieth century. Locally now an uncommon nester in the county, when not singing staying low in dense shrubs, thorny tangles, hedgerows, etc. It is found far more often in rural settings, though migrants will appear in urban back yards. Most often seen during spring displays beginning perhaps as early as late March or when accompanying fledglings late June through July on country lanes; otherwise mostly heard or glimpsed on singing posts or in brief flight. Less conspicuous as a southbound migrant and quite seldom reported in winter, e.g. one 1929-1930 (Hicks 1935b), one on 2/2/1947 (specimen OSUM #12082) and on the same date another bird in 2007 (NAB 61(2):261); one passed 1/5-9/1974 at a Minerva Park feeder (WCB Series 19, Dec 1974:52). Five were reported in the state fairly early on 3/17/2012, with one at Battelle Darby Creek MP (pers. obs.). High migrant count 40 on 5/30/1965 at Green Lawn Cemetery (Thomson 217). Specimen 5/8/1880 OSUM #1484.

Northern Mockingbird *Mimus polyglottos**. Kirtland (1838) wrote it was "never seen in the northern counties of the state," where most sightings even into the early years of the twentieth century were suspected to involve escapes, as they were among the popular cage birds of the day. Wheaton reported having taken one in Franklin County in 1855 (1882:210). The eager nidologist Howard Jones, for example (1886:271), wrote he had found only one of its nests in central Ohio. In 1875, Wheaton regarded it as rare in the wild this far north, though live mockingbirds were brought from farther south and sold in the city market (1882:210). In 1898 Davie (p. 462) found it worth mentioning "a pair that lingered about the grounds in the vicinity of the Ohio State University during the summer months of 1887." By 1904 Lynds Jones announced that the theory that the mockingbirds of northern Ohio were all escaped cage birds probably needed to be abandoned. The first Pickaway County nest was soon found 5/21/1907 (Bales 1911:48), and by 1911 half a dozen nest sites had been identified. Eventually Hicks (1935a:164) was to count Franklin and 58 other southerly counties in its breeding range, calling it "extremely rare and local" in the northern ones, "very local except in a dozen southeastern counties," and everywhere "partial to osage orange hedges," then later multiflora rose plantings, both diminished artificial habitats today. They now

are fairly regularly found in the region along fenceline vegetation or around houses in agricultural areas, and also, more sparingly, in urban settings, where they seem fond of railroad rights of way and other isolated brushy areas. With time, perhaps it has been climate moderation and introduced plants with fruits that persist through the cold months that have allowed numbers to become year-long residents throughout most of Ohio over the past fifty years, fairly commonly at the latitude of Franklin County, where singing has been heard as early as 28 January (*OC* 25(2):68). A high winter count was 66 for the 12/26/1981 Columbus CBC (*AB* 36(4):556); a total of 40, however, for the 2012 Columbus CBC was regarded as significant at the time; the bitter winter of 2013 yielded only 17 for the count. Specimen 4/2/1928 OSUM #3435.

European Starling *Sturnus vulgaris**. The starling goes unmentioned by Wheaton in 1882, as this species had been unsuccessfully introduced elsewhere in the state only a decade earlier. Davie (1898:337) mentioned a possibly wild Greenland specimen from 1851, called it established in New York City, and was led to remark that “[i]ts handsome plumage, sprightly, social habits, retentive memory, and pleasing imitative voice have made it a great favorite as a cage bird.” Now ubiquitous—and pretty much unthinkable as a cage bird—this alien species has been recognized as an overwhelming competitor responsible for losses among many native birds, especially larger cavity-nesters. After the first failed releases in Cincinnati in 1872, it was eventually recorded in the wild in Ohio in 1916 (Hicks 1933b), then first documented locally 11/20/1921 (Walker 1928a:70; Trautman, who was not present at the occasion, gives the date as 10/21/1921 [1940:336]). Franklin County’s first nest was reported 5/12/1925 (*OSMSB* 70), following a winter in which ~200 daily had been seen near certain barns south of Columbus (Trautman 1940:336). By the first week of August 1934, observers were surprised to find two Columbus roosts totaled ~20,000 (*Cardinal* 4(2):25), and Hicks (1934b) reckoned it had supplanted the American tree sparrow as the most numerous wintering bird in the state. Trautman (1940:336) likened its increase in numbers to that of the decrease of the passenger pigeon’s in its suddenness, reporting Hicks found 132,300 of them on tiny Cranberry Island on Buckeye Lake on 11/10/1935, a number that would be unremarkable today. Starlings now stage huge assemblies in autumn, with an estimated one million in a Columbus roost as early as 1963 (*Redstart* 31(1):22), and five years later in the small Mirror Lake Hollow on the OSU campus were roosts Giltz estimated at more than 100,000 (*WCB* 1(19):52). Large numbers also winter here; the Columbus CBC high count was 46,947 in 2005. Ohio State University faculty conducted extensive studies on local starling flocks and their movements (e.g. Hicks et al. 1933-34, Thomas 1934, Burt & Giltz 1968). The first county specimen, from 2/27/1926 in Reynoldsburg, is OSUM #1778, and the first eggs collected in the county were six on 4/28 of the same year (OSUM #E2720).

Bohemian Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus*. In 1950, Bent reported in his *Life Histories* (197:78) an undated sighting of this northern species in Delaware (Delaware County) as one of two winter records from central Ohio; the other was found not far away in Quincy, Logan County (Curl 1932). His principal informant for the region was Trautman, but nothing on the source of the Delaware report has come to light. Despite published rumors elsewhere in the literature, this species does not warrant inclusion other than that for Delaware County. Coues, in his *Birds of the Colorado Valley*, however, mentions Bohemian waxwings in southern Ohio in earlier days (1878:467).

Cedar Waxwing *Bombycilla cedrorum**. Wheaton (1882:296) called this gregarious species a “usually abundant resident,” while acknowledging its nomadic ways. He regarded it as highly arboreal, reporting he had never seen one alight on the ground. Their presence is often signalled only by a chorus of piercing thin *zee* notes high in the canopy, and their numbers in such hard-to-see feeding flocks can easily be misjudged. Patterns of their movements are less than predictable, as are their nesting dates. Overall less common in winter, but waxwings may appear in larger aggregations at that season, chronicled periodically here by E. S. Thomas, aided by readers of his weekly newspaper column. Now usually a fairly common but erratic social wanderer—a more accurate description than “migrant”—into June, then thereafter neither as conspicuous or colonial, a nester in open woods and shade trees; 40 were found in midsummer at Griggs Reservoir 6/9/2012 (*OC* 35(4):136). At this time waxwings consume many insects, but favor fruits later in the year. They may be encountered in any season. Higher counts include 500-1000 on 3/5/1958 in Columbus (*CD* 3/23/1958) and 800+ on 11/10/2002 (*OC* 26(1):17). County specimen 5/24/1895 Univ. Mich. #191592.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus**. An alien species first released by enthusiasts, now a common-abundant resident locally; it was called “superabundant” on the OSU campus as early as 1901 (Griggs 43). Jones (1903:221) traced its Ohio origins to 53 pairs set free in Cleveland, Warren, and Cincinnati 1869-72. A specimen was collected in Columbus as early as 3/7/1878 (OSUM #1294). Davie (1898:365) commented on its extraordinary adaptability: “[a] nest, which was composed of steel turnings of a lathe, was lodged on a beam in the Panhandle shops at Columbus. Two broods had been raised in this nest in one season.” By 1903 Dawson (p. 42), observing its depredations in the county, indulged in some invective: “Of late the choicest rural sites have been appropriated, and the cliffs once sacred to the gentle Swallow, now resound with the vulgar bletherings and maudlin mirth of this avian blot on nature.” Outside the breeding season it roosts communally in cover such as conifers or dense brush, at which time it forms large skittish flocks. As recently as the 1940s Columbus field reports, even from parklands, often showed them outnumbering any other species by a factor of at least ten. Its numbers have waned noticeably (and in parts of its native Old World range often precipitously), especially in rural settings, from those of former days, with less pasturage and fewer horses in use, declining use of haystacks, better refuse management, and perhaps—one dares to hope—competition from starlings. Its slow decline has continued over recent decades. The Columbus CBC’s numbers peaked at 6040 house sparrows on 12/28/1985; tallied recently were 1816 in 2009, 965 in 2010, 1413 in 2011, 977 in 2013, and 1387 in 2015. *The Independent* reported on 8/2/2015 that while this species was declining seriously in Europe, that in Antwerp 1,263,000 plucked and frozen house sparrows from China were confiscated by customs officials on 1/28/1997; nearly two million had been seized by customs in Rotterdam in 1993; both shipments were bound for Italy. Enigmatically, these birds have largely disappeared from London in recent years.

American Pipit *Anthus rubescens*. Wheaton was familiar with it as a common migrant. His early list (1861a:16) says “the Tit Lark...is quite abundant in the vicinity of Columbus during the colder season of the year, frequenting river bottoms and sandy places.” He later wrote (1882:237) that in fall it was “quite abundant” as a migrant, when numbers “sometimes visit the city alighting in the streets and on buildings,” a spectacle we seem unlikely to witness today. It is not an arboreal species, so presumably more numerous here then, and even today, than in prehistoric times. This arctic/alpine tundra nester is a vagabond outside the breeding season, with at least a few local records here in all months save June and July. Trautman (p.333) recorded spring flocks as large as 500 at Buckeye Lake, and R. Rogers 200+ at Slate Run MP on 3/28/2015. Today found uncommonly in damp barren areas such as low spots in croplands, depleted marshes, mudflats, feedlots, etc., in spring and somewhat more often in fall. Still rare in late fall/winter, but recently increasing or at least more often observed, with a high count of 27 for the 2003 Columbus CBC; mid-winter records come from 1/26/1980 (*AB* 34(3):278), and four individuals 2/23/2011 (pers. obs.). Regularly moves in large numbers mid-March to mid-May, then mid-October to early December. Late to depart during spring migration was one 5/23/1980 at Pickerington Ponds (*OC* 3(1):23). Specimen 10/8/1874 OSUM #1470.

Sprague’s Pipit *Anthus spraguei*. This western species has only a handful of Ohio records. The only reliable local report, from the central Ohio grasslands of Pickaway County, came from I. Kassoy near Kingston on 2/6/1972 (*WCB* 17:66, September 1972).

House Finch *Haemorhous mexicanus**. As its name suggests, a species of the American southwest, deliberately released in the 1940s near the Atlantic coast and subsequently established here. The origin, direction, and duration of its spread was not unlike that of the European starling earlier in the century, though its presence is far less troubling. Its much-anticipated first local report came in July 1974 (*CD* 7/7/1974), with a single bird later for that year’s CBC, and nesting records by 1978. True to its common name, most often reported in habitats near human dwellings, hence more often urban than rural. Still a fairly common nester, even on front-porch plant baskets, though its reported numbers have declined somewhat in recent years: the high count for the Columbus CBC was 950 in 1995, then 287 in 2007 and 622 in 2008, 382 in 2009, 270 in 2010, 445 in 2011, 547 in 2012, 341 in 2013, and 396 in 2014. A state-record 2000+ were counted in the hamlet of Ashville in Pickaway County, on 12/8/1985 (Peterjohn 2001:554). The state’s overall birds/hour ratio for this species on CBCs fell from a high of 5.08 in 1994 to 1.65 in 2009 (Trautman 2010). Specimen 7/30/1977 OSUM #16817.

Purple Finch *Haemorhous purpureus**. An uncommon migrant and winter wanderer reported over the past 150 years, now most often reported from feeders. High counts included flocks of ~40 reported in Columbus during the fall of 1980 (AFN 35(2):191), but Columbus CBC numbers have averaged in single digits over the past 20 years, despite a sudden suspicious spike in reports of “purple finches” accompanying the local arrival of house finches in the 1970s. Nesting was documented in at least four territories in the OSU golf course 4/12-7/16/1972 (WB 85(3):351-2, WCB 18:26), with none verified there in subsequent years, though three seen on 5/14/1988 were suggestive (OC 11(3):26. Median spring arrival time has been 4/17, with southbound arrival 10/25 (Bent 237(1):276-7). Prefers maple, elm, and various weed seeds in season here. An old specimen from Columbus from 2/27/1896 is Field Museum #15153.

Red Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*. Rare and seemingly more erratic than the following species, in cold weather, with a few interesting occurrences in other seasons as well. Wheaton wrote: “I saw a specimen said to have been taken in this vicinity in the winter of 1859-60,” and noted the acquisition, via Oliver Davie, of “a male shot with a pistol by C. Hinman from a flock of 8-10 in conifers in his Columbus garden” on the intriguing date of 18 June 1878 (Wheaton 1879:62), now OSUM #2162, which A. R. Phillips (tag data) identified as *L. c. neogaea*. Three were at Green Lawn Cemetery 12/18/1925 with siskins (Thomas 1926). OSUM #10234 is a window-kill, its crop filled with pine seeds, from 4/2/1964 (CD 4/20/1964) on Hamilton Road, which three different crossbill experts have identified variously as *L. c. pusilla*, *L. c. benti*, and *L. c. neogaea* on museum tags. Subsequent studies have found that differences in calls, rather than plumage and measurements, are more reliable in subspecies identifications. D. Borror taped a calling flock that grew to 15 at Blendon Woods 4/12-16/1970 (WBC 16:37). E. S. Thomas observed one eating white pine seeds in Clintonville on the unexpected date of 8/27/1972 (WCB 18:24); 5-6 were observed elsewhere in town that day (AB 27(1):70), with one seen the ensuing winter at a Clintonville birdbath on 2/24/1973. There is another August record, from the 30th in 1985 (AB 40(1):123), and one from September on the 29th in 1979 (OC 2(3):26). Bent (237(1):512) gives an early normal arrival in Columbus of 10/11. Local reports come from ten months of the year. More recently, in 2009 one was reported heard and seen on 3/28 in Hilliard (NAB 63(3):429) and another on 2/3 at Green Lawn Cemetery (fide G. Stauffer). In 2012, the same location hosted at least seven on 11/26/2012 (ph. I. Shulgina). Maximum 20 on 1/31/1976 (AFN 30(3):727). A pair in Ross County in April 1973 (Thomson 1983:235) provided Ohio’s only confirmed nesting, which was apparently unsuccessful.

White-winged Crossbill *Loxia leucoptera*. Seemingly unknown to our area’s nineteenth-century observers, but present in appreciable numbers here during occasional winter incursions from the north since, most recently in 2012-13. At such times their flocks are partial to conifer seeds, both on the tree and the ground, as well as fruits of sweetgums. Groves of fruiting mature trees are preferred. One visited Green Lawn Cemetery 1/3/1920 (OSMSB 27), where 20+ were present 1/31/1976 (AB 30(3):727) and as many in certain later years. One was singing 2/5/1996 (OC 19(2):51), and two found 12/8/1997 (OC 21(2):49), an example of rarely-seen incursions in consecutive winters. A late crossbill report came from 4/29/1981 (OC 4(1):37). During the winter of 1963-64, 15 were tallied for the Columbus CBC, only the second record for the count; 62 were in hemlocks later on 1/19/1964, and Trautman reported one at Green Lawn Cemetery 2/16/64 (fide E. Thomas). The county participated in a memorable statewide invasion of these birds in the winter of 2008-9, with numerous reports, mostly involving crossbills feeding on conifers, through the period; this incursion alone raised the number of Ohio CBCs having ever recorded this species from 21 to 27 (Troutman 2010), and Franklin County hosted at least 140 reported, when especially preferred were hemlock seeds in ornamental plantings (OC 32(2):84). Fifteen at Green Lawn 11/8/2012 were the first seasonal arrivals (NAB 67(1):73), with 25-30 the next day, and similar sightings continued through February; 20+ were in a Clintonville back yard feeding on hemlocks obviously at arm’s length away 1/21 that same year (pers. obs.). Specimen 1/15/1954 OSUM #9307.

Common Redpoll *Acanthis flammea*. Strictly a rarity here according to the early ornithologists, with winter irruptions since recently ranging into fair numbers from time to time, but far from yearly in appearance. E. S. Thomas called the local invasion of redpolls in the winter of 1968-9 the first substantial one since 1923. In the winter of 1981-82, 100-150 were reported in Columbus (Peterjohn p. 558), with fewer in subsequent irregular appearances. Fond of alder and birch seeds, they also may feed on sycamore and sweetgum fruits here. Late records: one visited a feeder 3/14/2000 (OC 23(3):115), and another

photographed at a Worthington feeder as late as 4/12-15/2007 (*OC* 30(3):118) was especially unusual after a winter with very few reports of redpolls in the state. Specimen 3/14/1970 OSUM #15682.

Hoary Redpoll *Acanthis hornemanni*. Accidental, with one report, 12/19/1968-1/19/1969 (*AFN* 24(3):510, *WCB* 15:35, Peterjohn:559). Ohio CBC records show accepted reports of this species are outnumbered by those of the common redpoll about 7000 to one. One reported here 1/30-2/5/1978 was published as undocumented (*AFN* 32(3):361). In the interim Trautman (MS OSU Archives), in a letter to L. Campbell on 1/6/1973 expressed some skepticism about many hoary redpoll reports: “at most a subspecies, our Hoaries are probably all males seen before mid-February. When redpolls arrive in Nov. the whitish tips on the body feathers give all except the immatures a hoary cast, which appears to wear off by mid-Feb. I have seen thousands on the breeding grounds in Alaska, none with this glaucous sheen.” At present, the AOU gives several distinguishable forms—*A. h. hornemanni* and *exilipes*— full species status. Studies on the breeding grounds are difficult to undertake, and the species-level status of the two redpolls remains questionable to some experts.

Pine Siskin *Spinus pinus**. Wheaton (1882:575) found it on three occasions in Columbus, during November and December. More recently, they have been erratic but occasionally fairly common winter visitors, and at times opportunistic nesters. The high CBC count of 483 for Columbus came in 1975, the state’s second- highest CBC siskin count recorded by the time, but Count numbers here since have been few, with only 105 birds over the past fifteen years, often associated with goldfinches. By contrast, estimated was an astonishing throng of 1500-1800 feeding on European alder seeds in Minerva Park 11/22/1971 (*WCB* 18:66) and ~600 reported in town during the winter of 1975-76 (*AB* 30(3):727). Alder and birch seeds are favorites with siskins, as with redpolls, and when present are found largely in scattered ornamental plantings here; according to Audubon, sweetgum seeds were also sought. A nest was observed at Green Lawn Cemetery 4/22-5/6/1973 (Thomson 1983:236), with other attempts suspected or confirmed during spring 1981 (*AB* 35(5):831), spring 1982 (*WCB* 1(26):8-9), summer 1986 (*AB* 40(5):1212), and 5/30/1988 (*OC* 11(3):26). Specimen 1/22/1979 OSUM #15665.

American Goldfinch *Spinus tristis**. Common-abundant migrant, winterer, and nester July-Sept. Wheaton remarked (1882:322) that it was the only local nester “with us whose nest is ever placed in a peach tree”; this may be related to later leafing-out of peach trees, making them less attractive to other passerines, nearly all of which nest much earlier. Margaret Morse Nice witnessed a pair building a very early nest in Columbus 5/30/1930; this activity was eventually curtailed by the birds and the nest finished by 7/15 (*WB* 51(2):123), in accordance with their customary schedule, which is thought to be timed to that of maturing thistle seed, an important food source. Denizens of weedy fields, successional damp habitats, and suburban vegetation, wandering flocks of chattering “summer canaries” in winter may tolerate the loose companionship of siskins, redpolls, or other finches. Columbus CBC numbers show an upward trend over the past 25 years. Specimen 8/31/1876 OSUM #2253.

Evening Grosbeak *Coccothraustes vespertinus*. Once a species of the west, it invaded the northeastern states and provinces in the late nineteenth century. Wheaton had not seen it, but offered a secondhand report of one collected here in the fall of 1847 (1861a:17), and Dawson (p. 36) knew of only one record, Kirtland’s from 1860, in the state as of 1903. Their local numbers grew sporadically thereafter. The winter of 1961-2 marked what E. S. Thomas called “by far the greatest flight in Ohio history,” but local records are vague as to their numbers; for Ohio, 137 locations tallied at least 3300 birds, and Fairfield County grain dealers were said to have sold more than three tons of sunflower seeds that season (*AFN* 16(3):335). Grosbeaks were reported here in winter through the ‘70s, mostly beginning in the odd-numbered years, with good flights in 1969-72 and 1975-76. Now a very seldom- reported winter visitor, with a last report of many birds—25 in Columbus—on 1/19/80 (*AB* 34(3):279), and 40 near Big Darby Creek 10/28 later that year (*fide* A. Staffan). Seldom seen over ensuing years, when their numbers in the east have demonstrably shrunk overall. A late local date was 5/7/1958 (*AFN* 12(4):358). One fall migrant was early here on 9/29/1979 (*OC* 2(3):25), and a report of a single bird came from the 2006 Columbus CBC. Its breeding grounds are far to the north, but Thomas’s column for 3/27/1955 in the *Columbus Dispatch* is entitled “Evening Grosbeak nests in Vinton County,” well south of here. No local specimen is known, but OSU has 30 Ohio examples, 20 from the southern half of the state; all but four were found in November-February.

Lapland Longspur *Calcarius lapponicus*. In forested days doubtless rarer and mostly restricted to prairie openings; by 1882 Wheaton (324) was to call it a “common and tolerably regular winter visitor in the vicinity of Columbus from December 1 to March 20.” Then, as now, they gathered in remote wide-open areas in skittish flocks, joining snow buntings, larks, and wintering sparrows. It is now an uncommonly-seen social nomad in fields and quiet rural roadsides outside its breeding season, occasionally in three-digit numbers near freshly-spread manure (which is often warm and laced with seeds) or when snowy weather concentrates these birds in blow-outs in fields, along berms, etc. Columbus CBC records show few reports of large numbers until 1983 birds were tallied on the OSU Farms 12/15/2013; areas in the county outside the circle have far more extensive habitat for longspurs; ~400 longspurs seen at Battelle Darby MP on 2/13/2014 included many sunning in the top of a tree, an unusual sight (*vide* J. Watts). It has been seen in showy full breeding array in April elsewhere in Ohio; its published local late date is 4/12 (it has lingered as late as early May elsewhere in the state), with a 40-year median departure date of 3/25, and median arrival in fall of 11/15 (Bent 237(3):1607). A male and a female from 2/12 in 1875 are OSUM #1143 and #1142; a third Franklin County specimen from soon thereafter is apparently now NMNH #203070, identified as the paler, regionally quite rare subspecies, the “Alaskan longspur” *C. l. alasensis* (Wetmore 1943a); this specimen is identified as Wheaton’s, and dates from 2/19/1875.

Smith’s Longspur *Calcarius pictus*. Unknown to the older chroniclers, and only in the 1950s recognized as a rare spring migrant in the region. Changes in agricultural practices, and perhaps a loss of common knowledge about successfully finding these longspurs, diminished local reports to zero after subsequent decades. Trautman (1968:310) called it a “regular, very local spring transient in central and western Ohio.” In the southwestern part of Franklin County (especially Seeds and Young Rds.), with a maximum 250 found on 4/15/1956 (*AFN* 10(4):338), with other flocks as large as 200 (with ~100 Lapland longspurs) east of Grove City on 4/20/1965 (*AFN* 19(4):482, with 11 audio records #7347 at the Borror Laboratory from the same date), ~150 on Young Rd. in early May 1965 (*CD* 5/9/1965), 7-12 birds on 4/7/1968 (*WCB* 13:59) and 100 on 3/6/1971 (*WCB* 16:39) with ~100 Lapland longspurs. There have been no verified local reports since the ‘70s, although migrant flocks have been found in several western Ohio counties recently as a result of careful searching for these scarce and often well-camouflaged migrants. Smith’s numbers ~200 come from Madison County 4/20/1965, and Ross and Pickaway counties numbers around 250 at the same time. There are several November records in Ohio, but Franklin County has none from fall, when longspurs would be still more difficult to detect. Most often reported here formerly during April in corn-stubble infested with leftover foxtail (*Setaria* sp.) in large fields; elsewhere they had also been regularly found in grasslands associated with airports. Smith’s have appeared regionally as late in the year as 5/9/1956 in Pickaway County (*WCB* 1(2):18), where two flocks had been found on 4/20/1965, the larger of ~300 birds (Trautman MS OSU). No winter records have been reported, though such a discovery is conceivable. There are no known Franklin County specimens, but skins at OSUM come from nearby in adjacent Madison and Pickaway counties. Median local arrival ~4/1, departure ~5/1 (Bent 237(3):1634).

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*. Wheaton (1882:323) regarded them as rare and irregular in central Ohio, and reported only three encounters, including a flock of about 200 birds seen during a snow storm on 2/19/1875, the day on which he collected the unusual Lapland longspur subspecies (q.v.). Surely in those days a winter trip in the countryside—by horse and buggy on remote, unpaved, and often deeply snowy rural roads, with no optics except perhaps 2X opera glasses—was more adventurous, and less productive, than it might have been. Griggs (1901:43) later called this bunting common on the OSU campus in the cold months. Today it is a fairly regular winter visitant in country settings beginning in late October, uncommon rather than rare, with a few high counts in snowy weather. Not always easy to find, its numbers are easiest to assess on snowy days along the margins of plowed or salted farm roads or snow-free areas in fields—especially those with fresh dressings of manure, which contain seeds—where they may associate with larks and longspurs. During large incursions such as in December 1973 and February 2014, snow buntings in numbers were reported here alighting in trees, a seldom-witnessed behavior (*CD* 1/27/1974). The largely urban Columbus CBC has but two reported in the past 25 years, in 2005 and 2010. They may arrive here in early November, and one in near-breeding plumage lingered as late as 4/7/1978 (*OC* 1(1):23). Near Darby Creek, a flock of 75+ was found 1/3/2001 (*OBNH* 2(3):131), and on 2/13/2014 ~1000 were estimated in two locales to the west at Battelle Darby MP (*vide* J. Watts). Frank Chapman took two famous walks in the streets of Manhattan in 1886, identifying the feathers seen on women’s hats; he found 37 species represented, among which the snow bunting’s numbers ranked fifth (behind cedar waxwing,

common tern, northern flicker, and northern bobwhite), of those identified. Four specimens at OSUM (#s 2167, 1140, 1141, and 101) are from the Wheaton collection, but have no further data.

[McCown's Longspur *Calcarius mccownii*. There is one central Ohio report (Thomson 1983:231; notes of W. H. Claugus at OSUM) involve a sighting from Newark in Licking County. Claugus's notes read "a small flock of these birds was studied for many minutes (15-20) by Prior and Claugus on Feb. 19, 1928, on N. 21st St...Prior's circled number is grossly exaggerated according to my own estimated notes...Thomson's (1983) number [one, ed.] in error." See Wheaton Club remarks and MS card notes by Claugus at OSUM. Adequate documentation is missing, and it seems the Wheaton Club was unwilling to validate this unprecedented sight report. Thomson called it "hypothetical." No Ohio report of this least-likely North American species of *Calcarius* has been accepted].

Ovenbird *Seiurus aurocapilla**. A common migrant over a century ago (Wheaton 1882:268), and one of only four warblers (with cerulean warbler, common yellowthroat, and yellow warbler) said by Hicks (1935a:172) to nest in every Ohio county at the time. Still fairly common in passage, but like many ground nesters has become harder to find here as a breeder, discovered singing, and far less often walking about, foraging in remaining larger, drier, open understories of deciduous woodlands. It is a frequent victim of cowbird parasitism, as well as free-ranging cats, and its habitat may also be degraded by introduced exotic night-crawlers (*Lumbricus* spp.) that hamper nest concealment and enable predators. One migrant was singing daylong in marginal habitat on the OSU campus as late as 6/2/1971 (*WCB* 17, Sept 1972), and other reports came from more inviting locales in MPs during June 2011. Probable nestings are reported yearly, but are not easy to verify; the latest Atlas had no regional confirmations, but quite a few records of likely nesting. The extensive dry mature woodlands it prefers are hard to find here. A high reported count of 23 migrants was observed at Sharon Woods MP on 5/13/1989 (*OC* 12(3):12). One passed through early on 4/17/1941 at Green Lawn Cemetery (Borror, MS OSUM). A fall migrant was banded in Columbus as late as 10/20/1955 (Burt, MS OSUM). Still later was another photographed at a suburban feeder 12/3-4/2002 (*OC* 26(2):63). Even later one spent 12/2/2011-1/14/2012 at a feeder at Inniswood MP (ph. J. Kleinrichert), one of 15 Ohio winter records. Specimen 5/23/1939 OSUM #11203.

Worm-eating Warbler *Helmitheros vermivorum**. A "rare summer resident" in the 1880s, presumably breeding (Wheaton 1882:241). Now a rare-uncommon migrant in late April and May then late August and September. Not named as a Franklin County nester by Hicks (1935a:167), but cited as such in his Westerville study (1935b), and perhaps still a scarce nester in large tracts of quiet mature woods with a shady understory, likelier in steeper terrains. There are no indisputable breeding records in recent years, and the species is to date described only as possible in regional surveys such as the second Breeding Bird Atlas. It is among the most furtive nesters in its habitat—mainly unglaciated Ohio—and admittedly difficult to confirm as such, as its behavior resembles that of the ovenbird. It may often be seen foraging in clusters of dead leaves. Like other ground-nesters, it has suffered in our marginal portion of its southerly Ohio range from loss of habitat and interference by non-native species. It eats insects rather than worms, foraging in leaf clusters in trees. Early date 4/18/1900 in Columbus (Bent 203:46), and late 9/2/2014 (*NAB* (1):80). Specimen 4/20/1897 Field Museum #15221.

Louisiana Waterthrush *Parkesia motacilla**. An uncommon but vocally conspicuous ground nester, often noted among the first migrants of spring songbirds; Wheaton (p. 270) reported it often appeared with the first yellow-throated warblers. Early records come from 3/7 (Bent 203:502) and 3/14/2009 (*NAB* 63(3):428), and its song may often be the only one heard in chilly early days of spring. Finding it abundant as a breeder "in the ravines above Worthington," Wheaton pronounced it a local nester of irregular distribution, and rarely noticed as a migrant passing through. Scarcer as a nester today, this wary bird is when present most easily found by its sweet strident song in heavily wooded areas along relatively undisturbed brooks—a setting no longer easy to find here except in a few well-preserved areas—where it may be seen flying or walking, wagging its tail, along the streamside. It is not unusual for local breeders to cease singing by mid-May. One on 7/17/1994 (*OC* 17(4):134) was said to have been a southbound migrant; according to Bent (203:502-3) silent birds pass through 9/1 on average with a late date recorded on 10/11, and are far less often noticed. Specimen from Wheaton 4/25/1878 California Academy of Science #36935.

Northern Waterthrush *Parkesia noveboracensis*. Now an uncommon migrant, most often noticed northbound in May—well after the previous species—also preferring damp woods and brushy wetland edges, where most often found walking on muddy ground, wagging its tail. In Wheaton’s time regarded as more numerous, but it was, as he pointed out, often visually confused with the previous species and hence mistakenly regarded as a local breeder. This species favors slow-moving or stagnant water to the fresh streams preferred by the Louisiana. They first appear here in mid-April, well after *motacilla*. It is often missed in its silent autumn passage in August and September. Late records come from Columbus 10/6/2002 (*OC* 26(1):18) and 11/21/2012 (ph. I. Shulgina.); one extremely delayed was reported on 1/3/2011 (*fide* R. Thorn) a mile north of the county line near Hoover Reservoir, one of seven Ohio winter records. A specimen dated 9/25/1876 (OSUM #2376) is in the Wheaton collection.

Golden-winged Warbler *Vermivora chrysoptera**. Wheaton (1882:243) cited a rare Franklin County nest in Groveport, calling this our second-rarest warbler, next to the orange-crowned (Kirtland’s warbler and several vagrants were unrecorded here at the time). Davie (1898:430) observed that “swampy lands that skirt small woods are its favorite resorts in central Ohio”—with a general similarity of its haunts to those of its cousin the blue-winged. It is often found near wet clear-cuts, and among saplings below power-lines, nesting on the ground. Hicks (1935a:168) cited it as a breeder in 15+ Ohio counties, adding it was “reported...to have nested formerly in Franklin County.” Now with no recent local nesting records, becoming ever rarer even as a migrant, usually reported arriving between 5 and 15 May when the distinctive songs of northbound males may be heard. “Many” migrants were reported here in the spring of 1958 (*WCB* June 1958:2). One was reported 6/1-2/1978 (*OC* 1(2):12), and a male summered in 1984 (*AB* 38(6):1027). High count 5-8 in Clintonville on an unspecified day in mid-May 1971, seen by E. S. Thomas and others (*CD* 5/23/1971). Early was one on 4/23/1985 (*OC* 8(1):28); Dawson (1903:658) had given an early Ohio arrival date of 4/22 nearly a century earlier. Late was another returning individual on 10/2/1993 (*OC* 18(1):35). A county specimen from 6/9/1867 (NMNH #B13422) seems likely to have been a local nester during its heyday. The second Breeding Bird Atlas has pronounced it extirpated in Ohio.

Blue-winged Warbler *Vermivora cyanoptera**. A rather common summer resident in Wheaton’s day (1882:242), nesting on the ground or slightly above “in the edge of solitary woods,” it is today mostly a rare-uncommon migrant, nesting sparingly in early successional groves and overgrown meadows. Hicks (1935a:168-9) wrote it summered in 90% of the state’s counties but was nowhere common, and apparently decreasing, perhaps because of “reversion of thicket areas to forest.” Trautman (1940:349) reported it was a scarce migrant during his investigation at Buckeye Lake, and that no nesting was recorded; still, he noted that “the species nested throughout most of central Ohio and was rather numerous in many sections,” and of the Lake area “...if no unfavorable changes occur it appears probable that the species may be found nesting there in the future.” Somewhat more flexible in choosing nest sites, its populations appear to have been out-competing—mostly in a friendly genetic way—those of its cousin the golden-winged warbler. Columbus arrivals date from as early as 22 April (Bent 203:66) and departures into early October. Maximum three migrants on 5/5/1965 at Green Lawn Cemetery (Thomson 20). Specimen 5/13/1971 OSUM #15923.

[“Brewster’s Warbler” *Vermivora cyanoptera* x *V. chrysoptera*. Hicks (1935a:168) gave Franklin as one of the five counties most often reporting this rare recognizable hybrid form, e.g. “several... recorded near Columbus during the summer months of 1928” (Hicks 1929:44). This and the following form may sing confusable songs. In 1979 one was seen as late as 6/1-21 (*OC* 2(2):11), and another was reported apparently returning to a Columbus territory for the third consecutive year in 1980 (*AFN* 34(5):784). More typically, one migrant spent 4-5 May 2008 at Blendon Woods MP (*OC* 31(3):28), then departed. No local specimens are at OSUM.]

[“Lawrence’s Warbler” *Vermivora chrysoptera* x *V. cyanoptera*. Significantly rarer than the preceding, differing mostly in displaying more of *chrysoptera*’s visible features; with back-crosses, the visible distinctions can be difficult to assess. Wheaton knew it as a “species” of the day, but apparently never saw one. Hicks (1935a:168) offered an example from the county. Reported in Minerva Park

5/24/1960 (*WCB* 6:26), in Columbus 5/6/1988 (*OC* 11(3):21) and 5/2/2012 in Worthington singing the golden-winged song (*vide* B. Master). Descriptions of four different Franklin County hybrids—including apparent back-crosses with the above taxon—in early May of 2006 constituted the most recent high count (*OC* 29(3):127). No local specimens are at OSUM.]

Black-and-white Warbler *Mniotilta varia**. A “common summer resident” and breeder in Wheaton’s account (1882:238). It forages like a hyperactive creeper along the trunks and larger limbs of trees. It has earlier arrivals here than most warblers because it relies less on opening leaves as sources for insect food. Now still a common migrant but a sparse ground nester here; bred sparingly into the ‘20s (Hicks 1935b) and still less often in recent years in deciduous wooded ravines in extensive forest plots, with females seen in town 6/9/1979 (*OC* 2(2):11) and 6/23/2002 (*OC* 25(4):177), with mostly inconclusive more recent reports during the breeding season (see account for ovenbird). Nest predation in urban park woodlands takes a heavy toll. R. Thorn observed a female feeding young in Big Walnut Park during the summer of 2006, with a male singing on territory there 6/7/2009. Arrives in mid-April, with an early Columbus record of 4/4/1969 (*WCB* 15:32). Generally moves south quite early as well; Peterjohn (2001:452) offers normal departure dates 8/5-15, though one has lingered here as exceptionally late as 11/12/1974 (*AFN* 29(1):67), and another discovered in Dublin 1/10/2006 is Ohio’s latest of three winter records (*OC* 29(2):67). Specimen 5/9/1877 OSUM #1355.

Prothonotary Warbler *Protonotaria citrea**. Apparently Wheaton (1882:240) did not know it, even as a migrant, in the county. Davie (1898:427) regarded it as a breeder only in western Ohio (i.e., Grand Lake St. Marys), but later Dawson (1903:115) reported sightings along the Olentangy 4/28&30/1902, but did not confirm local nesting. Since then a scarce and seldom-detected migrant; as a breeder, historically increasing somewhat in areas where sustained slow spring flooding of mature deciduous woodlands is regular, and stumps and snags present. Our only cavity-nesting warbler, it has occupied flowerpots and disused pitchers on rural porches near creeks; Bent (203:23) relates the story of a pair that nested three years running in the pocket of an old hunting coat hung in an Illinois garage. Hicks (1935a:167) named Franklin as one of 29 counties with breeders in very specialized habitats; few of these sites remain important today, as stands of flooded trees are often transitory in nature, especially so when not protected. One example is a nest report from urban Minerva Park in 1964 (*WCB* 10:29). Now a rare migrant and highly localized breeder in a few patches of appropriate habitat. Nearby, it is far more common nearby in southern Delaware County, where hundreds have benefited from nest-box projects placed in flooded areas above the reservoir. Probably spilling off from this healthy population, pairs have been reported in recent years in riparian woods in the county along the Scioto River and Big Walnut Creek, and future reports from Olentangy River backwaters seem likely. Moves in late April and early May, then less obviously in August into early September. An exceptional late record comes from 11/11/1963 (Trautman, *AFN* 18(1):43), and a very early one from 3/29/2007 (*OC* 30(3):113); another had been found at an OSU farm pond as early as 4/6/1947 (Thomas, MS OSUM). Specimen 7/10/1935 Pickerington Ponds NMNH #592352.

Swainson’s Warbler *Limnithlypis swainsonii*. Verified as nesting only south of Ohio, regularly as close as Kentucky and West Virginia. In those states its nearest haunts are shady wet areas, especially in the dense sites known as “rhododendron hells” where this furtive warbler is most often seen moving on or near the ground in a lethargic manner. There are few conclusive records in Ohio, but one comes from as far north as the Ohio shore of Lake Erie (an overshooting migrant banded on 4/28/1998 [*OC* 21(3)]), and a few others from southeastern and east-central Ohio. Accidental in Franklin County, with one record of another overeager migrant, seen by an estimated 550+ observers and photographed on 4/27-28/1985 at Green Lawn Cemetery (*OC* 8(1):3-5).

Tennessee Warbler *Oreothlypis peregrina*. A variably fairly common migrant, one of several species whose returning fall numbers are said to vary widely dependent on spruce budworm (*Choristoneura* sp.) population fluctuations in Canadian conifer forests. Trautman (1940:350) remarked that no warbler varied in its apparent migrant numbers from year to year so much as this one. Wheaton (1882:245) regarded it as rare in spring and abundant in fall in his time. Recently this contrast seems not so evident, at least in terms of detected numbers. In spring, males can be especially vociferous high in shade trees in mid-May, with one as early as 4/24/1998 (*OC* 21(2):67), and another singing as late as 6/12/2010 (*NAB* 64(4):590). Two

near Greenlawn Dam on 6/13/1996 (*OC* 19(4):119) were of interest. Bent (203:88) gives an early arrival in Columbus of 4/25. Usually a September migrant in fall, one was notably tardy on the campus on 11/28/2014 (M. Lutmerding). High count 39 on 5/11/1988 (*OC* 11(3):21). Specimen 9/20/1874 NMNH #202881 (Wheaton).

Orange-crowned Warbler *Oreothlypis celata*. Wheaton knew of only three specimens from Ohio, having himself taken two of them in the county in May 1875 (1882:244). He called it the least often observed warbler in Ohio in his time; this seems to be a result of a migratory pathway that closely follows the Mississippi Valley northbound. Trautman (1940:350-1) called it rare, observed only “ten times in six years between 1922 and 1934” at Buckeye Lake. Now regarded as a rare-uncommon migrant, easier to find in its more leisurely fall passage (Sept-Nov, among the latest of the warblers), when it is often found in weedy fields. Hardy, it may pass through northbound in mid-April, with a local state-record early arrival here on 4/12/1981 (*OC* 18(1):35). It is therefore relatively tolerant of cold, and has persisted into winter, with county records 8-15 December 2003 (*OC* 27(2):64), and wintering 12/26/1926-2/10/1927 (lowest temperature 2 degrees F.) at Green Lawn Cemetery (Walker 1928b), one in Hilliard 2/13-3/8/2007 (*OC* 30(2):62 & 30(3):113), and another in Columbus 1/4/2009 (*NAB* 63(2):257), giving this species local records in each chilly month. Specimen 10/7/1944 OSUM #9930.

Nashville Warbler *Oreothlypis ruficapilla*. A fairly common migrant today, as it was in Wheaton’s time (1882:243), favoring taller trees in spring and in fall shrubby growth and thickets in or near woodlands. Often appears in large active numbers in pulses during spring warbler movements during the first two weeks of May; this is largely a nester of northern Michigan and Canada. Trautman counted 80 at Buckeye Lake on 15 May (1940:351), and Thomson 40 on 5/2/1970 at Green Lawn Cemetery (Thomson 220). A casual Ohio nester, with only a handful of records, all well to our north. Of uncertain status was one found 7/14/2012 at Prairie Oaks MP (*vide* S. Stoklosa). Early here on 4/14/2006 (*NAB* 60(3):375), and one late on 12/14/2014 on the OSU campus (*vide* A. Champagne). High count 35 migrants on 5/13/1989 (*OC* 12(3):11). Specimen 10/15/1898 OSUM #2603.

Connecticut Warbler *Oporornis agilis*. Has been reckoned a rare migrant by most Ohio authorities; Wheaton (1882:272) collected only two examples, one in May and one in September. Dawson (180) reported having never encountered one in the field in Ohio, though he mentions finding a specimen at the OSU Museum from 10/8/1898 that he himself had seen alive the previous day, which led him to wonder if this species might often be misidentified in fall as an immature male Kentucky warbler (#2611 is a Franklin County specimen of *O. agilis* from 10/10/1898). By contrast, Trautman (1940:369) wrote that in 1929 nearby at Buckeye Lake “15 to 25 birds were noted daily between May 22 and 25,” reporting having heard the strident song from more than 300 yards away; he also averred (p. 154) that this secretive species proved significantly easier to observe between 7 and 8:30 a.m. Tends to stay low on migration, often pacing the ground in damp thickets, in spring usually in late May; Borror tape-recorded 16 singing males in Franklin County between 14 and 27 May. Silent migrants are far less often detected in fall, when folklore says it is partial to stands of jewelweed (*Impatiens* sp.); at this season, it is most often detected on the way east to a southward migration along the Atlantic seaboard. Early records include individuals on 4/28/2012 (ph., *AB* 66(3):482), 5/3 (Bent 203:523) and 5/13/2001 (*OC* 24(3):140). Early fall arrivals included birds on 9/7/2014 in Franklin (R. Clark) and Union (B. Mathys). Maximum three late on 10/6/1958 at Green Lawn Cemetery (Thomson 224). Bent (203:518) remarked that these birds are “excessively fat in fall, so fat in fact that it is difficult to make a good specimen of one.” Among seven Franklin County specimens at OSUM, the earliest are two singing migrants (#s 12242 and 10586) from 5/23/1939, and the latest #2611 from 10/12/1898, the record late date given by Peterjohn (2001:466) for Ohio.

Mourning Warbler *Geothlypis philadelphia*. Wheaton collected six, pronouncing it a rather rare migrant (1882:276). So it remains today, when it tends to appear late in May during the spring migration, skulking in damp, well-leaved-out thickets rather than high in trees, most often males located by their distinctive but infrequent vocalizations, thus more often missed when augmented, but of course less vocal, numbers return in fall. Breeders are found only in the northernmost counties. Five were tallied at Green Lawn Cemetery on 5/28/1974 (Thomson 224), and three there 5/25/1988 (*OC* 11(3):12). In fall, immature birds are easily confused with the Connecticut warbler; Trautman (1940:371) noted both species additionally largely shared migratory schedules and habitats in central Ohio, but the mourning warbler averaged twice as numerous, at

least at Buckeye Lake. Extreme dates were two early on 5/2/1992 (*OC* 15(3):85), with a retreating bird in autumn as early as 8/13/2013 (*OC* 36(1):22) and another as late as 11/1 in central Ohio (Bent 203:533). A northbound male taken by Jasper on the west bank of the Scioto River was pretty early on 5/8/1875 is OSUM #1440, and others were not abnormally late on 6/4/1963 (OSUM #10202) and 6/4/1968 (OSUM #13806).

Kentucky Warbler *Geothlypis formosa**. Wheaton (1882:273), who called it a rare and localized summer resident and breeder in Ohio overall, had never seen one here. Later, Hicks (1935a:172) verified it as a nester in 40 Ohio counties, all south of Franklin. Today a seldom-noticed migrant and sparse and local nester on or near the ground in the thick moist understory of larger dense hardwood-forest tracts, most reliably recently in such Franklin County habitat in Blendon Woods and Battelle Darby Creek MPs. It is said to favor skpicebush (*Lindera* spp.) or at least its habitat. Shy, and often found on or near the ground, where it walks rather than hops. Langdon (Wheaton 1882:274-5) gives an elaborate account of its nesting. Early records come from 4/17 (Bent 203:512) and 4/20/1992 (*OC* 15(3):85), with an average spring arrival of 5/4 (Bent). A ceaseless singer: Chapman (1902:369) counted 875 songs uttered by a single male over three hours' time. Infrequently seen and inconspicuous here as a migrant in fall into September, with a quite late record from 10/10/1982 (*AB* 37(2):198). Specimen 5/11/1956 OSUM #9460.

Common Yellowthroat *Geothlypis trichas**. A fairly common migrant and nester, vocal into August where habitat remains in dense brush near wet areas. There are local records in each month of the year, rarely after December. They are fond of our much-diminished cattail marshes, especially in winter, when they may overstay the cold season—such as near Columbus 1/1-3/28/1924 (Walker 1928b, Hicks 1935c) and 12/24/1924-3/2/1925 (*Auk* 45(2):232)—when males may sing occasionally on sunny days. Among warblers its CBC numbers in winter finish a distant second to those of the yellow-rumped warbler, but exceed them near wetlands. They may also be found in overgrown fencerows, weedy fields, and forest margins. They seldom appear high in trees on territory, and nest in brush on or close to the ground. Nests are large and composed of numerous materials, and at times many may be found in a given area when the preferred habitat is small; they are frequently parasitized by cowbirds. The males are flashy, vocal, and nervous, though not much bothered by a cautious approach. High migrant count 15 at Green Lawn Cemetery 5/8/1943 (Borror, MS OSUM). An early date was 4/7/1974 at Blendon Woods (*WCB* 1(19):53); most yellowthroats arrive late in the month. The great majority undertaking the migration south are generally gone by the end of October. Specimen 5/8/1875 OSUM #1443.

Hooded Warbler *Setophaga citrina**. Wheaton (1882:275) called it a rare and localized summer resident; Dawson (193) saw it here but twice. An uncommon migrant locally, and an uncommon nester in dense undergrowth and tangles in extensive mature wooded areas, regular in small numbers in only a few such well-preserved spots such as in Blendon Woods. The male distinctively flashes its hole-card, rapidly flirting white outer tail-feathers. A. B. Williams (Bent 203:611) described its ideal nesting sites near Cleveland as dimly-lit and sheltered from wind, with a relative humidity of 80-90%. The compact nests are composed of dead leaves and placed low, in the first fork of small sapling or bush. One male was detected in a fairly large OSU woodlot 6/29/2008 (*OC* 31(4):42), but not verified as a nester. Markedly early was a male found dead in Columbus 3/30/1950, now OSUM #15626, which was followed by two reported alive in the state on 4/2 that same spring (*AFN* 4(4):245). Records of local southbound departures were noted as early as 8/20/2007 (*OC* 31(1): 25), and as late as 11/13/2015 (*OC* 39(1):24). Specimen 5/8/1875 OSUM #1448.

American Redstart *Setophaga ruticilla**. Wheaton (1882:283) called it abundant as a summer resident in in “rather extensive or retired woods,” and among the most numerous breeding warblers. Davie (1898:456) reported “[a]bout four miles east of Columbus, in a thick damp woods of about 15 acres in extent, I counted no less than 27 nests in a single day,” in “woods which are the favorite haunts of the Oven-bird.” Later, Hicks (1935a:174) was to call redstarts “common in swamp forests near the large inland reservoirs,” with nesting recorded in 68 counties, but rather rare as a breeder here. Following further draining of forested wetlands, they are still common migrants though less often found nesting here today, but restorations of such habitats may attract more once again. Trautman (1940:377) had predicted it might be extirpated near Buckeye Lake as a nester with the eradication of local swamp forests. Arrives in late April, with migrants passing southbound through September. It is responsive to pishing, and not shy.

Thirty were found on 9/16/2012 at Three Creeks MP (36(1):22). Late was a male 11/20/2001 (*OC* 25(1):26), and a female reported in Columbus 12/22/2001 was record-late for the state (*OC* 25(2):69) and remained unique among Ohio CBCs until another was discovered in Clintonville for the 12/18/2011 count. Specimen 5/10/1879 OSUM #1458.

Kirtland's Warbler *Setophaga kirtlandii*. Rare in migration, with all spring reports in May. Arguably more numerous in fall, but silent at that time and less often in adult plumage (Bent wrote in his account of its southbound journey that “[f]ew observers have ever seen a Kirtland’s Warbler later than July”); more importantly, its limited fall movements probably more often cause it to overfly Ohio in favorable weather (Mayfield 1988); Wheaton (1882:263) wrote that it was “known only as a spring migrant in the United States.” First recorded in the region 5/21-23/1917 (Jones 1917), with more than fifteen reports recorded since; Thomas (1926) offers six local records during the period 1920-1925 (*WB* 38(2):119), with single birds 5/20/1920, 5/17/1921, two on 5/23/1924, and another elsewhere on 5/24/1924 (three Kirtland’s over two days is probably a unique Ohio report), plus a more unusual fall record 9/11/1925, observed by Trautman in Columbus along Alum Creek, one in town 5/5/1966 (*WCB* Sept 1966), and another 9/17/1989 in Dublin (Petrucha et al.). Trautman wrote (1968:316) that the species was “formerly recorded more frequently despite fewer observers,” and in his Buckeye Lake study that “[i]t is particularly surprising that Kirtland’s Warbler was not found, for between 1922 and 1933 various members of the Wheaton Club saw at least six individuals elsewhere in central Ohio,” which presumably includes 5/11/1930 and 5/13/1927 (Walker 1928:21). As a migrant, this species tends to stay fairly low rather than in treetops, with males singing lustily at this latitude in spring; its frequent tail-jerking is a prominent behavior. Many apparently migrate from the West Indies wintering grounds as far as Ohio before pausing more than briefly, then proceed to the breeding grounds; hence, Ohio apparently has more records of the passage of these rare birds as migrants en route than any other state, including Michigan (Mayfield 1988, Dawson 1903:162, Petrucha et al. 2013). Attentive stewardship of its Michigan breeding grounds, as well as small new populations found then sustained in Wisconsin and Ontario, have led to substantial recoveries in its numbers over recent decades. Our latest spring migrant was reported from 5/29/1949 (Borror 1950:26), and the earliest reported 5/4-7/2011 near the OSU campus (m. obs.) and 5/5/1966 (*WCB* 11:47) at Green Lawn Cemetery (a sighting followed by another there 5/8-10 of the same year, perhaps the same individual, though a six-day stay in spring would be record-long). Bent (1953:428) gives another early Columbus-area date of May 8. There are no known local specimens, thank goodness.

Cape May Warbler *Setophaga tigrina*. Wheaton (1882:258) reported having collected only two, and regarded it as among the rarest migrant warblers here. According to Bent (203:212), neither Wilson, nor Audubon, nor Nuttall had ever seen a living example, only specimens. Today it is uncommon, more often found in the drabber plumage held during its protracted fall movements, especially after summers in which spruce budworm infestations had been extensive in northern coniferous forests. As a spring migrant this insectivore is fond of flowering trees, especially the topmost parts of conifers, and proliferations of ornamental plantings may explain additional records here. In fall they seem just as likely in deciduous trees; Trautman (1940:355) regularly observed increased numbers in the second half of September. An early northbound record comes from 4/23/1992 (*OC* 15(3):84), and an early southbound individual was found 8/13/1937 (*BL* 39(5):395). One was late enough to count in the 12/23/1961 Columbus CBC (*WCB* 6:13), and this fairly scarce species has Ohio records in eleven months of the year. High counts nine, on 5/10/1944 (Hicks, MS OSUM) and on 9/21-22/2000 (*OBNH* 1(2):78). Specimen 5/8/1875 OSUM #1370.

Cerulean Warbler *Setophaga cerulea**. Wheaton (1882:249) reckoned it central Ohio’s second-most common nesting parulid, next to the yellow warbler. He never examined a nest—admittedly a difficult task—but related it bred “in retired woods in all parts of the State.” He collected one in town on 5/15/1887 (#1385, San Diego Museum). Davie (1898:440) called it “an abundant summer resident in central Ohio,” ruefully observing that “the nest is built in the higher horizontal branches of forest trees, always at some distance from the trunk.” There are only two skins at from the county at OSU, but many more in museums across North America. Half a century later, Hicks (1935a:170) described it as breeding in all 88 counties, adding “in many sections this is the most numerous warbler of the forested areas.” In 1940, Trautman (p. 359) wrote it was found at the time “in many remnant forests in central Ohio, especially in such forest types as the wooded bottomlands along the Scioto River south of Columbus, other swamp forests of Franklin and Licking counties, and remnant upland forests in Fairfield and Licking counties,” remarking

that it had been far more numerous when the forests were more extensive. Now an uncommon migrant and scarce nester here, insisting upon intact mature hardwood forest in good-sized tracts, where it elusively favors the highest branches, especially in canopy gaps over ravines, streamsides, or even roadways. In the 1920s Walker *et al.* (p. 54) wrote of it in Franklin County, “where its numbers are decreasing due to the growth of Columbus, we have found it nesting at Rocky Fork, Big Darby, Red Hills and Flint.” Found in only three parks in the city during the summer of 2002 (*OC* 25(4):177). Likely nested in Columbus recently in an old oak over Walhalla Ravine, a small example of appropriate urban habitat, in 2005-6 (pers. obs). Its global numbers are estimated to have shrunk by nearly 75% since the 1960s, likely due to habitat loss here as well as on the wintering grounds in South America. It is seldom detected as a migrant, especially in the fall. It has a small Canadian presence, nearby mostly in southern Ontario. One was early here on 4/13/2001 (*OC* 24(3):139); freakishly late was a banded female collected in Columbus 11/11/1944 (OSUM #7728). A specimen from 1873 is NMNH #202829 (Wheaton, one of two).

Northern Parula *Setophaga americana**. Wheaton (1882:239) deemed it a “not common migrant” here, supposing it might occasionally nest; at any rate, he observed one in his Columbus garden 6/30/1879 (1882:239). Davie (1898:433) called it “a summer resident in Northern Ohio, but not common”; today it remains a nester in the southern counties as far north as our area. Hicks (1935) had not found it in Franklin County, relegating it almost entirely to hemlock ravines to the south. It is now an uncommon early spring migrant there in larger trees, and an infrequent nester in damp forest sites, especially riparian settings; ten were detected during a float trip along Darby Creek 6/22/2012 (*fide* R. Thorn). Trautman (1940:352) noted this species seemed especially partial to pin and shingle oaks—species tolerant of wet terrains—though he found no nests in his study area. The *Usnea* lichens it prefers for nesting material south of here are not easily found here these days, and its nests here may contain other epiphytes or flood debris, skeletonized leaves, etc. Vocal but often difficult to observe, this tiny warbler tends to forage actively and nest high in the canopy: four reported 6/12/2000 could not be verified as breeders (*OC* 23(4):156), nor six 21-22 June 2001 (*OC* 24(4):177), nor one on 6/12/2006 (*OC* 29(4):170); nevertheless the latest Breeding Bird Atlas has confirmed a record number of nestings here (2016:377). An early migrant arrival comes from 4/2/2007 (*OC* 30(30):113), and six late from 10/4/2015 (*OC* 39(1):25). Specimen 5/16/1936 (OSUM #9917).

Magnolia Warbler *Setophaga magnolia*. An abundant migrant for Wheaton, it remains common and familiar today. Vocal and active in passage, it tends to stay low in the canopy, thickets, and orchard-like settings in spring. A rare nester in or near dense groves of conifers in the region; the recent Breeding Bird Atlas verified nesting in Fairfield County. Wheaton (1882:258) reported one seen during the first week of June here, presuming it may have nested nearby; another seen in Dublin 6/1/2011 (*NAB* 65(4):628) was also very likely a late migrant. Early northbound on 4/22 (*Ohio Naturalist* 3(4):376) and 4/27/1990 (*OC* 13(3):11), with an early returnee 8/17/1979 (*OC* 2(3):22). Southbound migrants are most numerous in late September, and one collected 11/28/1976 in Columbus (OSUM #16802) was apparently an Ohio late record at the time. Specimen 5/3/1874 OSUM #1386.

Bay-breasted Warbler *Setophaga castanea*. A fairly common easy-going migrant in forest upperstory, especially in fall. Wheaton (1882:254) remarked on its irregular numbers in spring, versus abundance during its southbound return, a ratio which seems to prevail in the present day. Recorded are maximum daily flights of 80-100 spring migrants in Columbus and 100-150 in central Ohio (Peterjohn 447). Usually a May migrant, one was early on 4/21/1992 (*OC* 15(3):85). Another was found singing here as late as 6/17/2002 (*NAB* 56(1):444), with no further evidence of nesting detected. It can be abundant in its southbound migration: for example, “[s]everal hundred, and sometimes several thousand” were estimated to have been present at Buckeye Lake (Trautman 1940:361) during autumn; Trautman estimated that its apparent fall abundance might have been influenced by the advanced state of vegetation during its late spring movements. Fall migrants are generally most numerous in September; Peterjohn (2001:447) states there seem to be no published Ohio records after 30 October, but there is a sight record here from 11/1/1953 at Blacklick Woods (Schuer, MS OSUM, county uncertain). Specimen 5/5/1876 OSUM #1392.

Blackburnian Warbler *Setophaga fusca*. An abundant migrant for Wheaton (1882:253)—he recounts “large flocks” of them—but hardly so numerous here today. Forages high in trees, often conifers, where the male’s thin spring song helps a little in finding it. One here 4/8-9/1991 (*OC* 18(1):35) seemingly is the early state record; generally it arrives in numbers in mid-May, with early dates in mid-April. Tardy

northbound were one in Clintonville on 6/6/2013 and another at Battelle Darby Creek MP on 6/14 of the same year (*OC* 36(4):146), not to mention one lingering on 7/6/1079 at Blendon Woods, and another late in fall on 10/13/2007 (*OC* 31(1):24). A few pairs regularly nest as close as Hocking and Fairfield counties; one reported 7/6/1979 at Blendon Woods (*OC* 2(2):12) was intriguing. It is among the most important avian predators of spruce budworms on its northern breeding grounds, and the successes of its offspring may vary significantly with theirs. High counts include 45 at Green Lawn Cemetery 5/3/1941 (Borror, MS OSUM) with 46 there on the 10th (Hicks, MS OSUM). Specimen 5/20/1880 OSUM #1399.

Yellow Warbler *Setophaga petechia**. A common migrant and nester in sunny successional groves, especially near field margins or water. Apparently still more widespread in Wheaton's day, when he called it "quite at home in the shade trees of the city" (1882:246)—not so often the case today, when as nesters at least they favor damp thickets and nearby shrubby growth, such as willows. Less often seen in denser woodlands favored by many other migrant warblers. A few may be on territory the first week of April, and they often are among the first warblers moving south as early as mid-July. Such migrants have been reported as early as 7/13 in 1995 (*OC* 19(1):28), though a straggler was quite late on 10/5/2006 (*OC* 30(1):23). Specimen 10/1/1868 OSUM #1373.

Chestnut-sided Warbler *Setophaga pensylvanica**. Audubon (1832) wrote that he had quite seldom encountered this species anywhere; by Wheaton's day, clearing of old-growth forests had allowed it to be upgraded as "not very common" (1882:256) here as a migrant. This species of the north fairly soon began to rank as fairly common in passage, and quite scarce as a nester, off the ground in brushy edges and incipient second-growth vegetation, and Davie (1898:440) wrote it "breeds, but not commonly, in Central Ohio, more abundant in the northern portion." Confirmed as a rare breeder in recent times, e.g. with successful nesting at Battelle Darby Creek MP in the summer of 1997 (*OC* 20(4):164) and at least present there in multiflora in the summers of 2004 and 2005 (*vide* J. Watts). Early arrivals 4/24/1992 (*OC* 15(3):84) and 8/6/2010 as a returnee (*vide* R. Thorn). One was late on 10/9/1997 (*OC* 21(1):23). High migrant count 26 at Sharon Woods MP on 5/11/1988 (*OC* 11(3):23). Specimen 5/8/1975 OSUM #1390.

Blackpoll Warbler *Setophaga striata*. Kirtland (1838) reported only one encounter with this species in northern Ohio; forty years later Wheaton (1882:253) found it seemed irregular and rare in spring here, while abundant and regular in fall, an apparent ratio that persists, if less pronounced, today. Like their confusable companion species the bay-breasted warbler, blackpolls often move slowly fairly high in the forest canopy in fall, and are vociferous in late May, though the males' high-pitched songs can sound rather weak to human ears. This species undertakes the longest migrations among our regular warblers, ~5000 miles each way, with much of the southbound route often offshore over the Atlantic. Fanciers will not be surprised to hear that its song reaches the highest frequency among our warblers (Bent 203:403), resembling a squeaking bicycle brake. The same author (p. 390) observed that these night migrants are attracted by artificially-lighted habitats, and are often reported in the morning in public parks and gardens; on one occasion in New York City's Central Park, for example, their nocturnal numbers were estimated to exceed those of all other species counted together (*loc. cit.*). Early here on 4/22/2001 (*OC* 24(3):139), and quite late northbound on 6/19-20/2015 in Clintonville (*vide* J. Parrish). In fall, early here on 8/6/2010 (*vide* R. Thorn) and late on 10/16/2001 (*OC* 25(1):26), then still more so on 11/1/2009 (*NAB* 64(1):74); a bird was in Cleveland on this same record-late date (*Cleveland Bird Calendar* 105:4). A local specimen from 4/16/1875 (OSUM #1395, collector probably Jasper) is a state early date for this, usually among the latest of the northbound warblers; another specimen with an even earlier date of 4/10/1898 (OSUM #2608) appears to have a transcription of a non-standard dating system on its tag, as it is a juvenile, more likely collected on 10/4/1898.

Black-throated Blue Warbler *Setophaga caerulescens*. A fairly common migrant, most often seen moving north in the understory of woods in mid-May, though a few may join other migrants still straggling through during the first week of June. On an early date was one photographed 4/19/2012 at Blacklick Woods (*OC* 35(3):101). Like many warblers, in Wheaton's day seemingly more numerous, as he wrote (1882:248) it was "usually seen in small companies of from three to ten or twelve in woodland," an abundance seldom witnessed today. Trautman (1940:356) noticed that this and the Canada warbler were "close associates in migration and frequented the same habitat niches." Deliberate in its movements, it is among the least skittish of the family. Though presumably more numerous in fall, their passage is then

more extended over time and these mostly silent birds are less often noticed or reported, with one here record-early on 8/13/2007 (*OC* 31(10):24), five on 9/25/2009 at Blendon Woods MP (*OC* 33(1):34), and a quite late individual 11/19/1995 (*AB* 50(1):64). Rare among warblers, its fall and juvenal plumages differ little from those of spring adults. Specimen 5/8/1875 OSUM #1375.

Palm Warbler *Setophaga palmarum*. Today a fairly, in Wheaton's time a very, common migrant (1882:265). More often detected in spring than in fall despite an infrequent and (to most human ears) lackluster song; many winter in the southeastern U.S. and the Mississippi valley. Prefers open areas rather than woodlands, where it is seen, often wagging its tail, on the ground more often than other warblers, even actively associating with foraging sparrows. Approximately 30 were in Sharon Woods 5/11/1988 (*OC* 11(3):22). Dawson (1903: 169) first described an occurrence near Columbus of the locally much scarcer eastern form *S. p. hypochrysea*, with its much brighter yellow underparts, and it has occurred from time to time since; an eastern bird he mentions in his work is doubtless one of the five 1890s palm warbler specimens OSUM inherited from Oberlin. An early spring occurrence of the western form comes from 3/10 in 1881 (OSUM #1426), and Hicks found a record-early returnee at Buckeye Lake 8/9/1933 (Troutman 1940:364); southbound returns are to be expected in early September. Hardy, one wintered at Green Lawn Cemetery 12/19/1926-3/13/1927 (Walker 1928b) and it or another the following winter (*BL* 30(1):53); one was present 1/7-2/3/1947 (*AFN* 1(3):131), with three reported on the 1/3/1965 Columbus CBC, which may include a mid-winter specimen, said to have been a hawk or shrike kill, from the same date (OSUM #9408). Specimen 4/16/1875 OSUM #1428.

Pine Warbler *Setophaga pinus*. An uncommon migrant, with occasional winter appearances at feeders; most often associated with pines year-long, and a breeder, discontinuously, from Tennessee to Ontario; its regular confirmed Ohio breeding territory lies well to our south, most closely in Hocking County. They have arrived here in spring as early as 3/6/1961 (*AFN* 15(4):413). Walker (1928b:55) cited but one central Ohio nest, in Fairfield County; it has been found nesting in the region in recent years, with reports of singing males in season here but Franklin County nesting has been suspected but not conclusively confirmed, while Fairfield County nests have been. Winter records come from 12/9/2002 (*OC* 26(2):63) and 12/23/2009-1/19/2010 in Columbus (*NAB* 64(2):256), with reported wintering over three straight seasons in Worthington 1988-90 (*AB* 44(2):277), giving this warbler recorded occurrences in each month of the year here. Migrants may appear in early March, and regularly well into October. Wheaton reported collecting one on 5/8/1875 (1882:573), and called this species an uncommon migrant here, but no local specimen is known to persist, though undated OSUM #1424 *S. p. vigorsi* is perhaps most likely local and attributable to Jasper (Wheaton 1882:267), one of the county's prolific collectors of the era.

Yellow-rumped Warbler *Setophaga coronata*. A common-abundant migrant and uncommon winterer today, "abundant" as a migrant for Wheaton, who supposed most spent the cold months not far to our south (1882:251) in his day. The discovery of two wintering at Green Lawn 1922-23 led Thomas (1923) to call them "the first winter record for Ohio which has come to my attention." There is however a specimen from Cleveland 12 January 1883 (Williams 1950:132). Today it is at times during migrations the most numerous migrant *Setophaga* warbler, and always the most common in winter, when it seeks out fruit, especially relishing poison ivy berries. By October, often the most numerous warbler at our latitude. Davie (1898:437) erred, calling it a "rather common breeder" in central Ohio, adding that "Dr. Howard Jones has several times found it nesting in Pickaway County," though Jones does not confirm this in his work of 1886 on nests and eggs. Paradoxically, Davie in the same work correctly recognized the southern limits of its widely-known North American breeding range at the latitude of New England. Trautman reported 100 passing by in two hours during migration here 5/8/1962 (*AFN* 16(4):420), but the high day count of 395 comes from fall, on 10/11/1941 (Claugus, MS OSUM). Two migrants were late on 5/24/2006 (*OC* 29(3):128). Maximum 118 in 1979 for the Columbus CBC. Specimen 5/4/1876 OSUM #1378.

[“Audubon's Warbler *Setophaga coronata auduboni*.” A report of a female of this western counterpart of the yellow-rumped warbler, found in Franklin County 5/4/2003 (*OC* 26(3):115), was accepted by the Ohio Bird Records Committee. In 2010 it was recognized as a separate species “*S. auduboni*” by the International Ornithological Congress (Brelsford & Irwin 2009); the AOU has not accepted this split, but awaits further published research. The AOU had recognized it as a full species until 1957.

See Oberholser (1921).]

Yellow-throated Warbler *Setophaga dominica**. Regarded as a “not rare” species in the late nineteenth century by Wheaton (1882:261), who studied our local form *S. d. albilora*, and found Ridgway’s description less than helpful (see Langdon 1878:113), saying “I have never seen a spring specimen which had no trace of yellow in the loreal line.” Just twenty years later, Dawson (1903:159-60) reported having seen only one in the state, and went on to caution that “[u]nless definite steps are taken to preserve large areas of the picturesque sycamores, the present generation must witness the passing of the Sycamore Warbler from its northern haunts.” A quarter of a century later, Walker et al. (*OSMSB*:54) reported only one nest found in the county, on 8/11/1925 along Alum Creek (a number of this warbler’s nests may now be found here, among large sycamores in which yellow-crowned night-herons have nested in recent decades). Trautman (1940:360) found only one in his twelve-year study at Buckeye Lake, and Borror (1950:25) called it “accidental in Franklin Co.” This warbler resumed nesting regularly if sparsely in Columbus about 1955; Trautman describes this unexplained recovery (1977:19). It most often nests high in sycamores, though a nest was found here in 1967 eighteen feet up in a Scotch pine, during a year in which sycamore leafing-out was delayed by a blight (*CD* 7/2/1967, *WCB* 14:29). Farther south in the state this species often resorts to pines for nesting. An uncommon migrant today, it is among the earliest warblers to breed in spring, nesting fairly commonly along riparian corridors and occasionally upland sycamores. Its presence as a breeder here has substantially increased in recent years, involving even narrow strips of streamside trees. It was found nesting in ten county parks in the summer of 2002 (*OC* 25(4):176). One was feeding a fledgling as late as 8/30/2010 (*fide* R. Thorn), suggestive of double brooding. Not easy to find in fall migration; late was one here 11/12/2009 (*OC* 33(1):34); there are a few wintering records elsewhere in the state—even well to the north—and Hicks (1933c) reported one had wintered in Columbus 1923-24. Quite early was an arrival on 3/23-24/2009 (*OC* 32(3):137). A specimen collected in Columbus by Elliott Coues, during a shotgun walk with Wheaton on 4/24/1864, the date on which he also married his first wife on his way to a post in the Southwest, is #202844 in the Smithsonian collection (Cutright & Brodhead 1981:66).

Prairie Warbler *Setophaga discolor**. Largely a bird of unglaciated Ohio farther south and east, scarce as a migrant today as it was in Wheaton’s time (1882:257), and now a very infrequent nester here at the limits of its Ohio range. Dawson (p.169) called it “[a]fter *D. kirtlandi* [sic]...with us the rarest of the genus.” Nests—very seldom here—in dry early successional habitats, such as abandoned brushy fields and recently cleared areas, especially fond of brushy hillsides and open thickets of small conifers, juniper stands, or tree farms (Nolan 1978). It is lively, and may hover in feeding; Dawson (170) wrote it “would twist and writhe like an Italian prima donna.” It can appear loosely colonial at times as a nester, quickly moving on later as habitat matures. In general, a few appear to benefit from certain human disturbances of forested landscapes here, as well as plantings in open areas. Chapman (1929) found a nest near Alum Creek on 6/6/1929. A singing male was tape-recorded in Blendon Township 6/21/1966 (Borror Lab #8575). A territorial male was found in Battelle Darby Creek MP June 2009 and at the same locality July 2010 (*fide* J. Watts), and another among red cedars on a freeway-margin slope in Westerville 6/5/2010 (D. Slager, ph.), with breeding probable but not confirmed. Even less often seen as a silent returning migrant, mostly in September; typical was one found in Columbus 9/9/2007 (*OC* 31(1):24). Early arrivals of spring migrants were recorded here on 4/11/1995 (*OC* 18(3):99) and 4/16/2000 (*OBNH* 1(4):169). OSUM specimen #1430 from 5/20/1876 is probably Jasper’s (Wheaton 1882:260).

Black-throated Gray Warbler *Setophaga nigrescens*. Accidental, with one record, the first among Ohio’s dozen or so reported occurrences, mostly since 1980, the majority found in November or December. OSUM specimen #7939, an immature female, was collected on the OSU campus near Mirror Lake after having been noticed by faculty on their way to lunch nearby on 11/15/1950 (*WB* 63(3):206). The account in a local newspaper (*CD* 11/26/1950), typically enough, relates only that after its discovery the bird was “found dead” later that day. It is likely the wood warbler of the west most commonly found as a vagrant in Ohio and elsewhere in nearby states.

Black-throated Green Warbler *Setophaga virens*. An abundant migrant for Wheaton (1882:247). Now fairly common as a migrant. Much prefers conifers in breeding spots elsewhere in the region, especially hemlock groves, as near as Fairfield County. Tame, it tends to forage high, and the insistent song is

distinctive. We have two March records, on 3/31/1945 (*Aud Sec II* 47(4):34), and the *Ohio Naturalist* 3(4):375 offered a record for 3/28 during the period 1897-1902 in Columbus. Still notably early was one on 4/9/1967 (*WCB* 13:60). Trautman (1940:358) witnessed notable second-wave movements during the third week of May, of females and yearling males at Buckeye Lake, when 50 to 125 were observed and “thousands were present.” One was singing in Columbus as late as 6/17/2005 (*OC* 28(4):150), and another in Westerville 7/17/2012 (*fide* L. Rowse) without further findings. Thirteen were still headed south on 10/2/1995 (*OC* 19(1):29), with one even later on 10/31 in Columbus (Bent 203:306). Specimen 5/8/1875 OSUM #1409.

Canada Warbler *Cardellina canadensis*. A rather common spring migrant for Wheaton; he reported (1882:281) having never seen one in fall, when however they return unobtrusively and on an early schedule. An uncommon migrant today, feeding actively rather low in brush in clearing edges and the understory of high woods, where Trautman (1940:375) observed it seemed especially fond of spicebush. It may be seen as a migrant in the region in cool damp heavy woods, but no local breeding records are known; one migrant was found here as late as 6/1/2008 (*OC* 31(4):42). Hicks (1935:173) reported its only Ohio nesting grounds were in Ashtabula County. Certainly one seen repeatedly 6/1-7/1/1982 at Blendon Woods MP was very suggestive (*OC* 4(2):5) of nesting, though ultimately unverified. Trautman (MS OSUM 5/6/1963) gave a quite early date for one on 4/21/1963 here, and Bent another on 2 May (203:655), but most spring records come much later, from the second half of May. Southbound early in fall 8/11/1979 (*OC* 2(3):24), and late 10/9/1997 (*OC* 21(1):25). Specimen 5/8/1875 OSUM #1456.

Wilson's Warbler *Cardellina pusilla*. A more common warbler out west, and an uncommon migrant in Ohio overall. Wheaton (1882:281) regarded it as abundant in fall, which is not the case today, though it is however often prolonged in its passage to its Canadian nesting grounds. Frequenting the understory, especially in brush in wetter spots, animated and quite vocal in spring. Calls attention to itself by flitting, tail-flipping, and hovering. It is also notably easy to approach, and susceptible to pishing. It moves north among the later migrant cohorts such as Canada warblers, peaking weeks after reported early dates of 5/4/2005 here (*OC* 28(3):110). Migrants were found in Blendon Woods as late as 6/3/2001 (*OC* 24(4):179), fairly typical of this late mover. Southbound birds typically appear early in September; extreme fall migration dates in Columbus are 8/23/1994 (*OC* 18(1):31) and 11/20/2004 (*NAB* 59(1):73). Specimen 5/8/1875 OSUM #1457.

Yellow-breasted Chat *Icteria virens**. Wheaton (1882:277) regarded it as a very common summer resident. He observed (1882:278) the species favors “upland thickets with a southern exposure.” Today it remains a furtive migrant, and a less than common local nester, usually in larger successional fields or clear-cuts where clumps of tangled vegetation such as multiflora rose hide the nest. It has grown rarer even more quickly than this sort of habitat has been erased, and is reliable only in a limited number of spots. Usually hard to spot, though near the nest site males can be distinctly vocal—even by night—but not so readily seen except during these otherwise shy birds’ extravagant spring displays, which Bent (203:591) described as “eccentric, ludicrous, almost clownish, behavior,” citing Wheaton’s memorable lengthy description (1882:277-8), wherein he abandons scholarly detachment in the effort. Reported as early as 4/26/1990 (*OC* 13(3):12), with an average arrival date of 5/2 (Bent 203:597). It may continue nesting rather late in the season, e.g., one with a fledgling 8/4/2006 (*OC* 30(1):25). Inconspicuous as a southbound migrant with an average departure around 27 August (Bent 203:598), but with at least one early-winter occurrence, a juvenal-plumaged female in Columbus 12/1/1942 (specimen OSUM #9606). Earliest county spring specimen 5/8/1876 (OSUM #1446).

Green-tailed Towhee *Pipilo chlorurus*. An accidental species from the west, with one lengthy local record, Ohio’s first: an adult male seen 12/29/1963 through 4/26/1964 while dedicated to a Clintonville feeder (*AFN* 18(3):360; Thomson 227; *CD* 6/7/1964; Trautman, MS OSU Archives 1/5/1970). Another rumor of a Clintonville occurrence in December 2013 was not adequately verified.

Spotted Towhee *Pipilo maculatus*. This species (once regarded as a subspecies “Arctic Towhee” *P. m. arcticus*, later split from the following species in 1995), was “reported seen along the Scioto River on 3/29/46 by Charles F. Walker, Gene Rea, and Nelson Thomson” (Borror 1950:11). In 2002 Thomson told the author that “Gene Rea found it, and I went to see it, up near the Leatherlips Memorial. It was around

for a couple of days. It was long ago, but I still recall the flashy spots.” The Memorial (as opposed to the larger Leatherlips Monument, dedicated in 1990) is in Franklin County’s Perry Township, not far south of the Delaware County line. This was a first record for Ohio. Any doubt was removed by the discovery of one later in Worthington on 4/13/1999 (*OC* 22(4):142, where an inaccurate date appears).

Eastern Towhee *Pipilo erythrophthalmus**. Wheaton (1882:350) called this towhee abundant in the vicinity of Columbus during his time. A nester in all Ohio counties according to Hicks (1935a:177), today it is a common migrant and uncommon localized nester on the ground or low in dense brushy cover beneath trees, in ravines and wooded parklands, most often detected by voice along their margins. Thomas once discovered a nest 15 feet high in a sapling (Wheaton Club Migration Data, 1922-33). It is a less common wintering bird in fairly heavy cover, regular in small numbers, with a tally of 31 for the 1957 Columbus CBC, with fewer reported in more recent years. It may visit feeders in cold weather, and most migrants arrive in March from the south and from the north in October. High count 125 spring migrants on 4/17/1963 at Green Lawn Cemetery (Thomson 227). Specimen 5/8/1875 (OSUM #1237).

[Hybrid spotted X eastern towhee *P. erythrophthalmus* X *P. maculatus*. An individual was photographed at Scioto Audubon MP that displayed a mixture of visible traits of both species, staying on site from 17-21 February 2015 (M. Horn, *OC* 38(2):69).]

Bachman’s Sparrow *Peucaea aestivalis**. Ohio’s first record of this southern species, a specimen from Columbus 8/18/1890 (Jones 1903:150), is now apparently lost. Brooks (1938) offers a good history of its rapid expansion into our region, supplemented for Ohio by Harlan (1988). Hicks (1935a) gave Franklin as among the northernmost of 32 Ohio counties with nesting Bachman’s at the time, with subsequent appearances in Fairfield and Delaware counties. Two subspecies may have been involved in the state, with *P. a. bachmani* in Franklin County (Hardin & Probasco 1983). Formerly a rare-uncommon nester here, now extirpated from the state as part of a general retreat southward from the Midwest beginning in the 1920s, with a few still persisting into the 1970s and 1980s at our latitude. Reclamations of hilly, eroded, and farmed-out landscapes are said to have hastened its extirpations. The habitats here preferred by this shy sweet-singing species were brush and woodland edge in hilly terrain. An early seasonal county record comes from 4/10/1925, a late one from 9/17/1931 (Bent 237(2):969-70). The most recent reports involve one found 6/4/1976 in Columbus (*AFN* 30(5):964) and another 6/20-24/1985 at Battelle Darby Creek MP (*OC* 8(2):16). A local specimen is an audiotaped record from just southeast of Columbus on 5/15/1955 (Borror Lab #1419).

American Tree Sparrow *Spizelloides arborea*. Once one of the state’s most numerous, if not familiar, wintering birds, their apparent numbers have fallen over the past 50 years, for which “clean” agriculture may be largely to blame, especially through local losses of fallow and rough open fields. Trautman (1952:8) noted that in the Buckeye Lake area this species outnumbered even the house sparrow in all but one year prior to 1936. It continues as a fairly common winter visitor here in straggling flocks in weedy fields, brushy fencerows, and rural roadside edges October-April, often singing just before their spring departure for the high Arctic. Flocks tend to be loosely territorial. They may resort to farmhouse feeders in severe weather. Trautman (1977:18) noted that its local numbers had declined even in favorable wintering habitats. The high count for the increasingly urban county CBC was 1374 for 1931; the 2011 count had dwindled to 45, with a rebound to 395 in 2013. Bent notes its latest recorded spring departure was 5/7, with a 40-year median of 4/20; the early fall arrival was 9/27, with a 40-year median of 10/20 (Bent 237(2):1163-4). Specimen 11/8/1874 OSUM #1196.

Chipping Sparrow *Spizella passerina**. A common migrant and nester, mostly in farmyards, orchard-like settings, mowed areas, etc.; tame and easily found in parks, rural lawns, and highway rest-areas in season. Formerly abundant: Wheaton (1882:334) wrote “perhaps no bird is more familiar”; he called it “especially abundant in cities.” Sixty were reported from the spring influx near Greenlawn Dam 4/16/2012 (*OC* 35(3):102). There are a number of winter reports, more than a few—but far from all—apparently valid; its presence in its less distinctive winter plumage, once dubious, now scarce, seems to be on the rise recently. All the same Trautman (2010) had reason to call it “probably the most often misidentified passerine species in Ohio CBC history.” The Columbus count has officially recorded 12 over the past quarter-century. One deep-winter specimen at OSUM comes from Columbus 2/17/1946 (#7770). The high

off-season count was seven at Green Lawn Cemetery 11/30/2008 (*NAB* 63(1):80). An early migrant record comes from 3/11, with a 40-year median arrival date of 3/31 and a corresponding departure date of 10/25 (*Bent* 237(2):1182-3). D. Borrer banded an albino bird on the OSU campus 10/24/1956 (*WCB* Vol 2 #1). Specimen 5/10/1873 OSUM #1197.

Clay-colored Sparrow *Spizella pallida**. Rare, and found only in recent decades, usually as early May migrant adults. These sparrows regularly nest as close as Michigan, and usually appear as migrants here, though there are at least four Ohio June-July records. One stopped at Green Lawn Cemetery 5/7/1986 (*WCB* 1(30):10). Another spent 5/2-5/1995 near Greenlawn Dam (*OC* 18(3):100 &105), with another found at the OSU farms 5/8/2011 (ph., *NAB* 65(3):438). They favor open brushy habitat: a nest here in an old field 6/6-7/24/1996 in Battelle Darby Creek MP (Watts & Albin 1996), though ultimately unsuccessful, apparently remains among few confirmed for the state. A singing male was found at Battelle Darby Creek MP 5/26/13 (*fide* J. Watts), where two birds were later reported 7/24/13 (*fide* J. Pontius). There are three fall county records, one 9/2/2014 (*NAB* 68(1):80), another seen at the MP Audubon Center 10/12/2014 (*fide* B. Master), and one late in town 10/27/2012 (*OC* 36(1):24). An individual spent Jan-Feb 2014 at a feeder in the county (*NAB* 68(2):217). OSUM has only one Ohio specimen, from Ottawa County.

Field Sparrow *Spizella pusilla**. Once abundant in prairie edges, now a rather common but diminishing migrant and nester in fencerows, brushy old fields, and sparse thickets; not now as often found near houses or at feeders, though Wheaton (1882:335, 586) wrote they had appeared in city gardens during the spring migration in his time. Small numbers now winter fairly regularly unless the weather is especially harsh; OSUM #12878 was collected 1/15/1963, and yearly counts as high as 24 came during the last fifty Columbus CBCs, though fewer than five have been found in any of the recent ten years. A high spring migrant count of 50 came from Green Lawn Cemetery (5/9/1978, Thomson 227). The forty-year median arrival was 3/12, with a median departure date of 10/30 (*Bent* 237(2):1234). Specimen 4/6/1894 Field Museum #15155.

Vesper Sparrow *Pooecetes gramineus**. Wheaton called it abundant. In 1886, Howard Jones (p. 169) of Pickaway County regarded the “Bay-winged Bunting” as “one of the commonest birds of the State...it has but recently become common.” Once deemed a widespread breeder on the OSU campus (Griggs 1901:43), it was found on the Oval as late as 4/15/1953 (*Condit*, MS OSUM). Borrer reported thirty, along with ten meadowlarks and twenty bobolinks, in a walk along the Scioto from downtown Columbus to Greenlawn Dam on 4/5/41 (MS OSUM). Hicks (1935a:178) briefly described it as “general and common to extremely abundant” at the time in all 88 counties. Trautman (1977:18), who earlier had reported as many as 400 pairs at Buckeye Lake (1940:413), called its later overall declines drastic, even though its habitat requirements may superficially have seemed satisfied. Price (32) wrote that they often nested beside tree stumps in cleared fields in the old days, perhaps exhibiting a highly adaptive reaction to human alterations. Today’s numbers however are much diminished, though its fairly barren habitats superficially seem not so greatly affected as those of other open-country species. Locally however the loss of rough open fields with grassy borders has itself been decisive, and agricultural chemicals have diminished its food sources. Its ground nests continue to be reported uncommonly in drier habitats such as in fencerows, meadows, and old-fashioned corn-stubble margins, as long as singing perches such as fences, shelterbelts, utility poles and wires, etc., are nearby. More often than other birds of its habitat, it will retreat up to a nearby tree or a power line when disturbed. One was seen late on 11/30/2014 (*OC* 38(1):28). Quite rare in winter, e.g. 12/29/1962 in Columbus (*AFN* 17(2):173), when it may appear at feeders; there are no records in the last 25 years for the Columbus CBC, and both the Breeding Bird Atlases displayed their striking scarcity in Franklin County on abundance maps, while good numbers persist in agricultural lands in neighboring counties. One was reported at Battelle MP 1/16/2015 (*NAB* 68(2):217). The 40-year median arrival date was 3/25, the median departure 10/29 (*Bent* 237(2):879, 881). Specimen 3/30/1895 Field Museum #15145.

Lark Sparrow *Chondestes grammacus**. Rare and sporadic recently, but according to Wheaton, who offered several anecdotes (1882:339), it was once a common summer resident here in his day; earlier, however, he had written (1861a:18) that only “[t]hree specimens of the Lark Finch have been shot in the vicinity of Columbus in the last year.” Hicks (1935a:178) reported nesting in 39 Ohio counties, including all the central Ohio counties, but from the 1960s through the ‘80s pairs had been found reliably only in Lucas and Adams counties (Peterjohn 2001:491). Hicks (*loc. cit.*) reliably warned it had “...been found

repeatedly to establish itself in new territory and then disappear after a few years.” After a lengthy period of absence, when present recently often found in open dry habitats such as abandoned quarries, weedy lots, and disturbed areas, where it proves fond of grasshoppers. Present on the OSU campus in 1901 (Griggs:43), where occasionally reported since that time, with a pair 5/11-15/2009 (*NAB* 63(3):428), then three birds on 6/7, and a pair seen copulating 6/15 (*OC* 32(4):170). Its breeding numbers have recently rebounded: pairs were found in a Columbus quarry in 1993 and 1994 (*OC* 18(1):35), though nesting was not confirmed. A pair with a likely juvenile was discovered behind a shopping center south of the city 7/23/2007 (*OC* 30(4):159). A male was found 5/11/2009 at Pickerington Ponds (*fide* J. Watts), with another there 5/1/2010 (*fide* S. Felker). Another was near Greenlawn Dam on 4/25/2011 (*fide* A. Champagne). An early arrival came on 4/18 in 1925 (MS Trautman OSU Archives). Forty-year median arrival 5/12, with a 40-year median departure 8/30 (Bent 237(2):899, 901); quite late was one 11/6/2011 in Dublin (*NAB* 66(1):81). Specimen 5/10/1876 Cincinnati Museum #21898.

Lark Bunting *Calamospiza melanocorys*. An accidental stray from the west, with a few records. A female was discovered near Greenlawn Dam 4/28/1962 (Thomson 1983, *WCB* 16:39). Remarkably, during this same year a male spent January through May about 15 miles east, molting into alternate plumage, for Fairfield County’s only record, leading E. S. Thomas (*CD* 5/16/1971) to speculate they may have been a separated vagrant pair. A male spent time at a Licking County feeder January 1971 through early 1972. Two females were observed along a Pickaway County roadside on 4/24/1977 (Peterjohn 2001:494).

Savannah Sparrow *Passerculus sandwichensis**. More common to the north, now an uncommon nester in damp grassy fields and road margins away from wooded areas; tends to stay near the ground. It is far more numerous as a migrant, in April-May and September-October, when as many as five subspecies may be involved (Aldrich 1940). Wheaton (1882:325) had only one June record, and offered no evidence of nesting, though he called it a “very common” migrant. Two decades later, Dawson was to report he had seen the species only twice here, in March and April. Still later, Hicks (1935a:177) reported it breeding in 32 northern Ohio counties, including Franklin, Licking, and Delaware, and suggested it might be an instance of a northern species extending its range to the south; the bobolink and the rose-breasted grosbeak are other examples. It is common now, even dominant in spots, in the grasslands of Battelle Darby Creek MP. Winter records here are sparse, e.g. 1/3/1981 (*OC* 3(4):23), three in Columbus 12/18/2005 (*OC* 29(2):67), and another 1/29/2009 (*NAB* 63(2):258), including a specimen 2/13/1971 (OSUM #15949); there are single-digit reports from 12 of the past 25 Columbus CBCs. Forty-year median arrival 3/23, average departure 10/27 (Bent 237(2):694-5). Specimen 1877 Univ. Mich. #202879.

Grasshopper Sparrow *Ammodramus savannarum**. Wheaton (1882:327) called the “Yellow-winged Sparrow” very common in the region, though not always easy to detect. This inconspicuous grassland bird once nested in all Ohio counties (Hicks 1935a:177), and possibly may still do so, in numbers considerably diminished by many obliterations of meadows and pastures. Trautman (1977:18) called its population drop “drastic” since 1930, suggesting modern farming practices and crop choices were to blame. A ground nester in larger grassy fields without much woody growth, it may be found breeding sparingly in remaining appropriate habitat, where males sing from conspicuous perches, even at night, atop sparse brush or fence wires. Recent maxima in one location 10+ on 5/14/2004 (*OC* 27(3):111) and 12 at Darby Creek 8/14/2012 (*OC* 36(1):25). An early record came from 3/26/1939, with a 40-year median arrival date of 4/17 and an average departure on 9/15 (Bent 237(2): 743-4). One was quite late here on 12/18/2005 (*OC* 29(2):68), among only seven CBC records for the state. Specimen 5/21/1897 (Univ. Mich. #191835); on 5/28/1889 four eggs were collected in Franklin County (Davie 1898:372, specimens lost).

Henslow's Sparrow *Ammodramus henslowii**. Recognition of this widespread (each of the central Ohio counties) but localized and undemonstrative species’ presence developed slowly, so its early status is unclear. Trautman (1963b) examined Wheaton’s only major published misidentification (1882:328), which involved this species. Wheaton seems to have been unaware that Jasper had collected the state’s first record at Buckeye Lake 5/6/1872 (OSUM #1171); see Walker (1928:45) and Trautman (1940:412). Hicks (1935a:178) had it breeding and on the increase in 46 of the more northern counties in the ‘30s, including Franklin, Fairfield, Madison, and Delaware. Walker (op. cit.) cited a study finding summer-resident colonies in three Franklin County townships “in rich timothy and clover fields” during the 1920s. Thomas (*CD* 6/26/1966) called a population in Blacklick Woods (county uncertain) in July 1922 the first in central

Ohio, and reported a number of birds there later (*CD* 5/14/1961). It has become harder to find, but continues to nest uncommonly in loose colonies here, favoring hayfields or large unmowed grassy habitats with scattered shrubs and forbs rather than much woody vegetation, a setting where they are more reliably found elsewhere, such as in reclaimed strip-mines. Its weak—at least to human ears; see Borror & Reese 1954—song may be more easily detected by night, when these sparrows are quite vocal, at times into October. Recent county high count 11 on 7/11/2000 (*OC* 23(4):159). Forty-year median arrival 4/21; median departure 10/3, late 10/25 (Bent 237(2):777-8). A singing male was tape-recorded on territory here as early as 4/14/1967 (Borror Lab #8782). One of only five Ohio CBC records comes from the Columbus count of 12/19/2004. Hicks (1933c) reported Trautman had seen one in Union County in December of 1932.

Le Conte's Sparrow *Ammodramus leconteii*. A rare migrant, detected in Ohio almost entirely in fall (OSUM has only one spring specimen, #4941 from 4/16/1916), when it tends to be silent. Skulking and difficult to glimpse, they may often be overlooked. During their fabled statewide “invasion” of fall 1936, Hicks found six “in an old weedy red-clover meadow” a mile east of Worthington on 31 Oct, then two there 7 Nov, later detecting two on 10 Nov “in a swampy area covered with sedges and common rush” nearby; he collected three birds, two of which (#s 7303 and 11576) remain at OSUM (*Auk* 54(4):546); others were observed in Delaware and Licking counties at the time. Land in ritzy outlying suburbs is priced too high to allow many wet weedy areas today, so there are fewer recent records, but Le Conte’s has not often been painstakingly sought by the state’s observers; 17 of 25 Ohio skins at OSUM are from 1936 or 1937, and sightings, now annual, come from but a few locations. One record comes from Pickaway County on 10/9/1991 (Peterjohn 2001:501. One was found and photographed 5&8 October 2009 in wet smartweed (*Polygonum* spp.) at Pickerington Ponds (*OC* 33(1):38), with occurrences witnessed at Battelle Darby Creek MP hunting areas on such a schedule since. The local late date was established during Hicks’s study when one was observed on 11/23/1936, but this species has been detected into January elsewhere in the state.

Nelson’s Sparrow *Ammodramus nelsoni*. A fairly rare and elusive migrant, now most often reported in October-November. Trautman (1940:412) regarded it as a rare spring transient in his Buckeye Lake study, but in his annotated state list (1968:306) acknowledged its more regular presence September-October. In spring, Hicks found two near Westerville 5/7/1933 (*Auk* 51(3):402) and one-two were less remarkable near Columbus 5/24/1993 (*OC* 16(3):93). One was collected in Fairfield County 5/26/1928 (OSUM 3479). Its favored marsh-border/wet-meadow habitat is increasingly accessible mostly in parks, and may serve the prereceding species as well. Illustrative more recent records come from Pickerington Ponds 10/16/2003 *CD* 27(1):19), with one captured and released in Columbus 10/24/2005 (*OC* 29(1):24), 3-7 discovered in fields there 9/30-10/12/2009 (*OC* 38(1):39), and up to three at the Battelle Darby Creek MP wetlands 10/9-11/2011 (ph. R. Silvey), where it has become a scarce but regular migrant accompanying the restoration of habitats, with half a dozen sightings in October 2013. One was documented not far south in Ross County for the 1/1/2007 CBC; this species may winter along the Atlantic coast at our latitude, so sightings here in milder winters are not out of the question; one was photographed at Battelle-Darby MP 2 Dec 2013 (*NAB* 68(2):217). One specimen collected by Trautman 5/26/1928 in Fairfield County was confirmed by Oberholser (OSUM #3479).

Fox Sparrow *Passerella iliaca*. An uncommon migrant, mostly in March/April and October/ November, less likely or numerous in winter; Wheaton (1882:342) regarded it as common in migration long ago; it does not nest in the eastern U.S. Often gregarious but shy, it may attract attention in woodland thickets by noisily scooting leaf litter with its feet to find food, with low damper settings more to its liking. Small flocks often leave such excavations behind them. May arrive early, and sing at our latitude in spring. A few uncertain identifications of the rarer and often easily discriminated western forms of this species, good candidates for taxonomic splitting, are reported from time to time, and worthy of notice. Reported in ten of the past 25 years by the Columbus CBC. Rare in midwinter, seven were at Green Lawn Cemetery 1/7/2006 (*OC* 29(2):68), and four elsewhere in the county on 12/29/79 (*OC* 2(4):11); at least 13 were distinguishable among birds photographed 2-20 December of 2009 at a Worthington feeder (*OC* 33(1): 65). High count 48 migrants on 4/3/1989 at Green Lawn Cemetery (*OC* 12(3):13). Forty-year median spring arrival 3/13, latest spring departure 5/20, fall arrival 40-year median 10/12 (Bent 237(3):1412-14). Specimen 10/28/1896 Field Museum #15139.

Song Sparrow *Melospiza melodia**. Found easily year-long, less abundant (predominantly local males and others from nesting sites farther north) in winter, occurring in a variety of open habitats along edges of clearings, brush piles, and weedy spots, where and when it is often the most conspicuous, visually and vocally, of sparrows. It adapts to urban settings such as overgrown fields, thus becoming the subject of Nice's classic studies (1937, 1943) undertaken along the east bank of the river just north of the OSU campus. In 1930 (p. 140), she reported "censuses of the fifty or so acres of low land between West Lane Avenue and Doddridge [sic] St., east of the Olentangy River, from March 1st to 6th revealed 64 males, mostly unmated." Usually the sparrow most easily, and certainly most often, attracted by "pish" sounds. It remains the native sparrow least disadvantaged by urbanization here. High single-observer count 135 in Columbus on 10/31/1995 (*OC* 19(1):31), with 133 tallied for 2011's Columbus CBC. Specimen 11/10/1874 OSUM #2217.

Lincoln's Sparrow *Melospiza lincolnii*. An uncommon migrant nesting in Canada, apparently seen less often than formerly, favoring as a migrant woodland undergrowth and weedy fields, especially damp areas, where generally quiet and retiring, stalking the ground. Trautman (1940:427) reported it was very numerous in fall at Buckeye Lake, but secretive, and its numbers could most accurately be estimated by imitating screech-owl whistles; he attracted as many as 42 at a time in this way. Fairly unusual at an urban backyard feeder were single birds in Clintonville during the spring of 1978 (*WCB* 1:20-21) and in Worthington 5/10/1994 (ph. B. Master). An extraordinarily early arrival was reported here on 3/24/2012 (*AB* 66(3):482); still early was another on 4/16, given a 40-year median arrival of 5/5 and median departure of 5/20; fall arrival median was 9/23, median departure 10/6 (Bent 237(3):1464-7). In fall, as many as ten were seen at Pickerington Ponds on 10/5/2009 (*OC* 33(1):39), with a late migrant 11/30/2014 (*OC* 38(1):28). Quite rare in the colder months, with one here as late as 12/22/1984 (*AB* 39(4):589), and one probably overwintering on the OSU campus 12/10-12/2013 then re-found 2/25/14 (*NAB* 67(2):269). Specimen 5/15/1873 OSUM #2220.

Swamp Sparrow *Melospiza georgiana**. Wheaton (1882:329) called it a common migrant locally, but retiring in its habits, mostly favoring wilder wet places with stable water levels, where it tends to conduct brief low flights. It is less numerous these days, perhaps because of losses of substantial cattail-marsh habitats. Hicks (MS OSUM) added Franklin to the Ohio counties with nesting records as he began updating his work of 1935, but this more northern species apparently remains scarce as a breeder here, and it has been found nesting in several counties of the region (OBBA II:421). Peterjohn (2001:507) cites summer occurrences in Pickaway and Licking counties. Newly restored marshlands seem likely to invite more in the future, at least as migrants. Reported for 23 of the past 25 Columbus CBCs, including a high count of 24 in 2007. Many winter; 24 were found on 1/10/2004 (*OC* 27(2):65), and Peterjohn (2001:508) offers, without further details, winter counts of 50-60 near Columbus. Exceptional were flocks of 100+ reliable at Deer Creek WA in smartweed fields in Pickaway County during the winter of 2014-5 (*OC* 38(2):70). Skulking, but responds readily to pishing. Fairly early was one tape-recorded in song 3/31/1952 (Borror Lab #265). Specimen 9/29/1874 OSUM #1228.

White-throated Sparrow *Zonotrichia albicollis*. A common to abundant migrant; not known to overwinter in Wheaton's day (1882:336), but uncommon and even often vocal now at that season, usually in small flocks, found in field margins, brush piles, or clearings in woods, often with other sparrows, staying on or close to the ground. Two distinguishable forms are seen: one with white, far less often another with tan, superciliary stripes. A county record number of ~800 spring migrant white-throated sparrows comes from Green Lawn Cemetery on 5/6/1975 (Thomson 231). There are scattered records of nestings in northern parts of Ohio, but it is not a known breeder here; still, Borror (1950:28) recorded one singing as late as 6/11/1948 on the OSU campus. Trending upward in fall/winter numbers over the past thirty years, according to CBC results, with an all-time high count of 918 in 2006. Spring migrant arrival 40-year median 4/1, with median departure of 5/24 (Bent 237(3):1389-90). One arrived here as early as 8/30/2012 (*OC* 36(1):25). Specimen 5/15/1878 OSUM #1190.

Harris's Sparrow *Zonotrichia querula*. A rather rare visitor from mid-continent, often as immature or basic-plumaged birds in winter and spring, typically associating with other sparrows in brush or on the ground nearby. There are many documented Ohio records, at least 20 in Franklin County. Davie

(1898:377), Dawson (p. 65), and Jones (1903:219)—who misquotes Davie as giving the date as 29 April, thereby probably misleading Peterjohn (2001:511)—reported one collected from a group of five or six found two miles north of Columbus on 4/28/1889 (*Auk* 65(2):342, Davie 1889:377); this old specimen of Ohio's first record has apparently been lost with much of Davie's collection. Trautman collected one at Buckeye Lake, Licking County, on 10/20/1928 (OSUM #3253). Columbus had another 11/11-12/1921 (Thomas 1926), one on 4/1/1923 (*CD* 12/31/1967), two on 1/15/1925 (Thomas 1925), another 4/27/1925 (Thomas 1926), two on 3/15/1926 (Thomas 1926), one 3/30/1965 at Blacklick Woods (*CD* 4/18/1965), yet another 3/21-5/12/1967 (*CD* 12/31/1967) molting eventually into alternate plumage, and in 1979 one in near-adult plumage stayed February 5-20 (*AFN* 33(3):287). In 1987 one wintered into early March (*OC* 10(1):29), and a breeding-plumaged adult appeared near Greenlawn Dam as late as 5/6 in 1995 (*OC* 18(3):101, 105). One had been recorded in the region as late as 5/14/1925 (Wheaton Club Migration Data 1922-1933). Another was photographed 12/11/2007 in a Columbus back yard (*OC* 31(2):65), and one spent at least 1/1-4/27/2013 at a faithfully-tended feeder at Pickerington Ponds MP (ph., m. obs.) until the feeder was routinely taken down at the end of April.

White-crowned Sparrow *Zonotrichia leucophrys*. A fairly common migrant, seemingly less numerous than in Wheaton's day, when wintering however was apparently unknown (1882:338). Now winters, often as small flocks, in or near brushy cover, and often seen on or near the ground. They may break into song late in the spring season. In the mild fourth week of December 2011, a loose gathering of a remarkable 200-250 was found in Walnut Woods MP (*vide* J. Watts); Peterjohn proposed (2001:512) that such gatherings may represent very late migrants. Recent Ohio CBC data reveal its numbers to average less than a tenth of those for its cousin the white-throated sparrow, but it may appear in more impressive numbers earlier in October-November. Spring arrival 40-year median 4/18, median departure 5/20, with a late record 5/29/49 (Borror 1950), and a 40-year median of fall arrival 10/6 (Bent 237(3):1289-90); an early fall date was 9/28/2006 (*OC* 30(1):26). The field-identifiable subspecies *Z. l. gambelii* of the west, which in a banding study of 1197 white-crowned sparrows occurred only 16 times in northern Ohio (Skaggs 1973), was captured and banded on the OSU campus by Borror 5/13/1943 (Thomas, MS OSUM) for the only known local in-hand record; sightings are reported occasionally by alert observers, such as one 10/27/2013 at Pickerington Ponds (*vide* K. Lott). Trautman (1935b) collected Ohio's first specimen of *gambelii* at Buckeye Lake on 10/18/1928 (OSUM #3485). The first local specimen of *Z. l. leucophrys* was collected 10/28/1896 (Field Museum #15139).

Dark-eyed Junco *Junco hyemalis*. A variably common migrant and winterer; prefers dense brush and edges of wooded areas. May linger well into May, but without local breeding records; a lonely male did spend the summer near Greenlawn Dam in 1994 (*OC* 17(4):14), and another celibate tarried as late as 7/5/2006 (*OC* 29(4):173). It is a fairly common nester in certain localities in NE Ohio, wintering here regularly and often seen at feeders. Having arrived in the latter part of September and early October, they are usually gone early in May; Peterjohn (p. 514) cites a stay through the end of May here. Its local numbers seem to be trending down, despite some triple-digit counts for the CBC in recent decades. On 4/3/1989, as many as 350 spring migrants were estimated in Green Lawn Cemetery (*OC* 12(3):13), a number seemingly unmatched since that time. A specimen from Columbus on 4/4/1946 (OSUM #7766) is identified as *J. h. cismontanus*, the "Cassiar junco," and #7735 as *J. h. cismontanus* X *J. oregonus montanus* (E. S. Thomas), indicative if nothing else of this junco's vexed taxonomic history, which enthusiasts are always welcome to explore. Specimen 11/2/1877 Field Museum #15176; five of the OSUM specimens, identified as from the Wheaton collection, lack other data. A locally rare photo of the brown-plumaged form was taken in Worthington 2/5/2010 (*vide* B. Master).

[Other *Junco* forms: OSUM has specimens from elsewhere of five other *Junco* taxa formerly recognized as full species by the AOU (1957), including five of the form "Oregon Junco *J. oregonus*." The latter has over a dozen local reports, mostly in winter, predominantly in the period (1931-1973) during which the AOU regarded it as a species in its own right. Such reports can be questionable, and there are only two Franklin County specimens identifiable in the hand as "*J. oregonus*" at OSUM, #7730 of 1/2/1946, and #15338 of 12/14/1968; the Columbus CBC proclaimed four seen during the 1/3/1965 count (*AFN* 19(2):199)].

Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra**. A rare-uncommon migrant and nester. Wheaton reported having collected only one example of this southern species in the county by 1860 (1882:284), and four decades later Lynds Jones (1903:158) regarded our area as the northernmost outpost of its central Ohio range; in 1935 Hicks echoed the latter observation. Now somewhat more familiar, with recent known maxima of a few pairs apiece in protected areas with mature trees. Howard Jones (1906:119) stated all the many nests he had found in Pickaway County were in hickory trees, but it haunts oaks and pines here as well. Davie remarked the rather flimsy nests observed in Ohio often made the eggs visible from below (1898:409). It relishes hornets and wasps as prey, but is also fond of fruit. Young males in early spring, and even some adult females, may show irregular patches of red feathers. Compared to the scarlet tanager, for territory it seems to prefer park-like groves, savannas, or edges rather than deeper unbroken woods. An early arrival came on 4/24/1952, a male found dead at a Columbus golf course, now OSUM #S1091; most arrive two weeks later. Fall departures typically take place in mid-September, and Bent (211:506) gives a late date of 10/7 for central Ohio. This tanager can be hardier than its congener below; in winter an aberrant individual was observed in Columbus during a stay late Dec 2005-1/8/2006, Ohio's third January record at the time, though not its latest (*OC* 29(2):67). Specimen 5/6/1950 OSUM #10580.

Scarlet Tanager *Piranga olivacea**. Wheaton (1882:284) regarded it as a very common summer resident. Henninger (*WB* 14(30:88), reporting on birds not far south in Pike and Scioto counties, reckoned this species much less common there than the summer tanager. Today it is a fairly common migrant and as a nester uncommon here, chiefly because of losses of the "retired woods" Wheaton called its favored breeding habitat, and it can most reliably be found in parklands with large tracts of mature forest trees—especially oaks—and even atop large roadside trees in favorable settings, where it is more likely to overlap with the previous species. Its territories tend to be extensive. Surprisingly visually inconspicuous at times and a deliberate feeder, but a tireless vocalist in season, with a distinctive *chip-purr* call most often heard. A quite early local record comes from 4/17, and a late one from 10/11 (Bent 211:490). One was tape-recorded in song in Blendon Township on 4/27/1957 (Borror Lab #2482). A few of these tanagers stay into mid-October, with a female quite late in Columbus 11/20/2000 (*NAB* 54(1):60). A high spring migrant count was 20 found in Green Lawn Cemetery 5/14/1988 (*OC* 11(3):24). Specimen 5/7/1956 OSUM #10070.

Western Tanager *Piranga ludoviciana*. Accidental, with one record of a calling bird feeding on fruits of non-native shrubs, mostly Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera* sp.), in a quiet urban neighborhood in Grandview Heights 12/4-20/2006 (*OC* 30(2):63). Observed by hundreds, this unexpected record coincided with an extraordinary number of occurrences in eastern North America during that winter by this species.

Northern Cardinal *Cardinalis cardinalis**. A common resident today. Kirtland (1838) reported it as a southern species, "hardly known" in the Cleveland area earlier, but within three or four years "common" and a "winter resident." Such explosive growth in their numbers probably first occurred via shifts in human behavior, chiefly the fashion of keeping them in cages, then eventually releasing them. Wheaton wrote (1861a:17) that "[t]he Summer Red Bird is seldom seen in the central portions of the State. I have obtained but one specimen near Columbus." But it was, like the mockingbird and the robin, widely kept as a cage bird here later, and he related later (1882:349) "they are nearly always to be found in the markets of the city, where they sell at from one to two dollars per pair," a princely sum that might have paid for nearly five hundred live passenger pigeons, according to prices he reported from those same markets (p. 441). Moseley (1947) was to write that "between 1860 and 1900 most of the families of Columbus, Ohio are said to have had a caged Cardinal." Trautman (1963a) maintained that trapping of cardinals for this purpose reduced their local numbers in the wild until protections (and fashion) reversed the trend in the late 1890s, a rebound he felt was mistaken for an overall northward movement. CBCs revealed widespread further increases over the past fifty years for other reasons, such as artificial feeding, with a high count of 1105 for the 12/27/1980 Columbus CBC (*AB* 35(4):528); 80+ attended a Columbus feeder at once in March 1995 (*OC* 18(3):100). Pairs of this species show so much mutual fidelity that censusers are often tempted to record two whenever they see one. Specimen 4/20/1877 OSUM # 2238.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak *Pheucticus ludovicianus**. A fairly common migrant and rare-uncommon local nester where mature woods meet younger growth, especially in wet situations. Apparent spikes in its local numbers may be influenced by deficits in the food supply, such as when spring buds—a favorite

food—are nipped by April frosts, sending them more often to feeders at such times. Jones (1903:155) averred its breeding range extended south as far as Columbus, and Davie (1886:60) earlier had announced finding “several nests in one season on the banks of the Olentangy River, Ohio, placed in trees of dense foliage.” Wheaton himself (1882:347) had attested to finding a single nest near a sycamore grove along the Olentangy. After a reported retreat to the north in the early twentieth century, it has regularly if sparingly been found nesting well south beyond the Ohio River in recent decades, even in mountain habitats in Kentucky (Palmer-Ball 2003:152). There is a local migrant count of 101 on 5/13/1989 (*OC* 12(3):12). Early dates are 4/7/2011 (*fide* S. Gaunt) and 4/9/2001 (*OC* 24(3):143); the 40-year median arrival was 4/24, and the 40-year median departure 10/2 (Bent 237(1):52-3). Anomalous was one lingering 11/20-12/13/1976 at a feeder along the Olentangy (*WCB* 1(22-23):58, *AB* 31(2):185). An early local specimen 6/9/1867 NMNH #B37196.

Black-headed Grosbeak *Pheucticus melanocephalus*. There are three sight records of males of this rare western vagrant in distinctive breeding plumage, one at Whetstone Park on 5/21/1974 (*fide* D. Horn) and another in Columbus 5/14/1975 (Thomson 226). Another male on a similar schedule was reported by several observers in Fairfield County 5/6/1978 (J. Cairo, Peterjohn 2001:524). Individuals of this and the previous species can be difficult to separate in the field in other than breeding plumages, and there are records elsewhere of hybrids between them. OSUM possesses no Ohio specimen of this grosbeak.

Blue Grosbeak *Passerina caerulea**. Wheaton wrote of collecting one in 1875, but later rescinded the report (1882:347, see Jones 1903:15, 18, 227). Davie did not attribute it to Ohio. Nor did Hicks (1935) grant it breeding status in the state until 1945, when he confirmed it nesting in Adams County and subsequently collected the first Ohio specimen (Hicks 1945). More recently it has been reported as scarce in Franklin County, but with reports demonstrably increasing; a male had been observed 5/1-11/1957 at Blacklick MP (*AFN* 11(4):350, with a song recording #2524 at Borror Lab) and a pair there the following spring as well as at Green Lawn Cemetery (*WCB* June 1958), whereas earlier Ohio reports had been confined to a few of Ohio’s southernmost counties. One appeared at Minerva Park 4/27/1983 (*WCB* (27):16) with another late in Worthington 9/8/1991 (*OC* 15(1):29), followed by a few subsequent reports. Five apparent pairs and three additional singing males were found in MPs by June-July 2011 alone (J. Watts, R. Thorn pers. comm.). Found fairly routinely today as a rare but more or less yearly breeder, most often in successional fields in reclaimed areas, disused dry quarries, gravel pits, and tangles near roads, tracks, or similar openings. It is as fond of singing from a utility wire as a prominent branch high in a tree. A nest was first confirmed here 8/27/2007 (*NAB* 61(4):584). A pair fed young in Battelle Darby Creek MP as late in the year as 9/10/2011 (pers. obs.), with another doing likewise there 7/27/2013 till late September (m. obs.); a male was advertising there on 5/19/2014 (*fide* G. Stauffer). OSUM has no Franklin County specimen, but one was collected 8/19/1976 in Berne Twp, Fairfield County (OSUM #16996).

Indigo Bunting *Passerina cyanea**. A common migrant and nester, benefiting from thickets and weedy margins of wooded landscapes broken by fields, though now falling well short of “found almost everywhere” as Wheaton (1882:348) described it. It is seldom seen in dense forests. Its nests are favorites of cowbirds. While typically a warm-weather bird, this species nevertheless has regional records for each week of the year. It is quite rare in the cold months, but an alternate-plumaged male was observed here as late as 12/23-28/1924 (*BL* 27(1):47), and another bunting overwintered at a Columbus feeder, remaining until at least 4/9/2000 (*OC* 23(3):114). A spring migrant was found as early as 4/16 in 1981 (*OC* 4(1):36). Given the universal vanity of human wishes, observers are far more likely to mistake this species for the related but much rarer blue grosbeak than the other way around. Bent reported a 40-year median arrival date of 5/2 locally, with an average departure date of 10/1 (237(1):110). Specimen 5/5/1874 OSUM #1277.

Painted Bunting *Passerina ciris*. One local photographic record of an adult male--erroneously attributed to Franklin County in *NAB* 63(2):258—was accepted by the OBRC. The bird had in fact passed more than three weeks at a feeder well across the Delaware County line 12/14/2008-1/11/2009 (*OC* 32(2):74). This species seems to have well-scattered off-season records, even in mid-winter. Ohio had three other accepted records at the time.

Dickcissel *Spiza americana**. Langdon (*J. Cincinnati Nat. Hist.* 1#3, 1878:115) wrote: “Dr. Kirtland, in 1838, considered the occurrence of this bird in Ohio as ‘doubtful.’ It is now one of our most abundant

summer residents, and its monotonous song may be continually heard along fences and hedge-rows, from daylight to dusk, and occasionally even at midnight)." Wheaton (1882:344) reckoned it an abundant summer resident, "the characteristic summer bird of fields throughout Middle and Southern Ohio." He had collected one in his back yard downtown on 8/13/1877 (1882:586). Howard Jones (1906:109) reckoned its numbers comparable to those of the song and chipping sparrows, and reported it "not infrequent" on village lawns in Pickaway County. Lynds Jones (1903:156) put its core range extending east and north as far as Columbus, where it was "fairly common," but rare further upstate; since then, it occurs to the north, though its occurrences farther east remain much less frequent. This species of the western plains is now an uncommon and erratic nester here, seemingly loosely colonial; it may be seen in double figures in locations with favorable habitat, usually in substantial fields of clover or weeds with forbs tall enough for singing posts, most often in uncultivated open land. Davie (1898:406) remarked that he had never found its nest "in any other position than on the ground under the shelter of a tuft of grass or bush." Their summer appearances in larger numbers here often coincide with drought conditions in the Great Plains. Most arrive in mid-May; Wheaton has a local specimen from 4/15/1876 in the MCZ (#203029), and a quite early arrival occurred more recently on 3/17/1980 (*OC* 3(1):27). To the east, Trautman (1940:400) called it "a most erratic transient and summer resident." They migrate south beginning in August, with most birds gone by mid-September; a recent high fall count numbered 60 at Pickerington Ponds 9/24/2011 (*vide* B. Warner). There are at least six winter records from feeders, most recently a marathon stay by one 12/14/2008-3/15/2009 at feeders at Blendon Woods MP (*NAB* 63(2):257, *OC* 32(3):144), giving this species Franklin County records for each month of the year. Specimen 5/16/1875 OSUM #1288.

Bobolink *Dolichonyx oryzivorus**. Wheaton (1882:351) stated the bobolink was unknown to his predecessors, and he collected his first in May 1857 along Alum Creek, after which their apparent numbers increased until in the 1870s they were found nesting here, at the time new to an area this far south; he reported one in his Columbus yard on 5/18/1873 (1882:586). Hicks (1935b) tallied 77 pairs in the course of his ten-year study of a property near Westerville. Today a variably rare-uncommon and irregular nester in uncultivated fields with dense vegetation; like the dickcissel, it is not expected in appreciable numbers every year. Its local numbers are kept in check by urbanization, modern agricultural practices, and usurpation of some of its habitat by red-winged blackbirds. Recent numbers have included ~50 on the OSU farm fields 5/9/1980 (*WCB* 1(25):13), and 20-25 nesting pairs at Battelle Darby Creek MP in the summer of 1997 (*OC* 20(4):164). Migrants have arrived from South America as early as 4/21, in 1989 (*OC* 12(3):13); historically its average arrival date was 5/7, with a 40-year median departure date of 8/25 (Bent 237(1):189-90); some models predict this breeding species of the north will retreat as a nester if warming trends persist. Young fledge in late July, and adults gather and molt to drabber basic plumage before their migration south, disappearing quickly into September and sometimes early October. Specimen 5/24/1928 OSUM #E2493.

Red-winged Blackbird *Agelaius phoeniceus**. Today an abundant migrant and common social nester where habitat persists, less often wintering December-February in mostly rural flocks of mixed blackbirds. Some males may be seen displaying as early as late January, and 2000-3000 gathered at the OSU farms on 2/13/1965 (*WCB* 10:32). Loosely colonial as a nester, preferring wet sites. The maximum spring numbers reached ~500,000 daily along the Scioto south of town 3/4-15/1975 (Thomson 232), and this species often contributes the largest part of winter blackbird roosts. Historically a marsh dweller—Wheaton (1882:356) calls it the "Swamp Blackbird"—which Dawson (p. 18) regarded as "markedly decreasing in numbers because of the draining of the swamps." Many nesters begin to depart in late July. Over the past century it has successfully adapted to drier agricultural settings such as clover fields, as well as thicker cover near roadside drainage ditches, etc., and flourished (Trautman 1977:16). Specimen 5/1/1878 OSUM #1053.

Eastern Meadowlark *Sturnella magna**. Doubtless scarcer here two hundred years ago, this conspicuous species grew abundant after forest clearing, whereupon it was much favored as a game bird even more popular than the bobwhite (Trautman, MS OSU archives). It was certainly sought for food as well as for sport, as it is an easy target (Jasper 1873:24). Now much diminished as a migrant, nesting, and habitually flocking fall and wintering species here, mostly because of losses of the pasturelands, meadows, etc. to which it had resorted, and—even where these habitats exist—chick mortality from early haying. Migrants add to the winter numbers in April, and to mustering summer flocks in September. Trautman describes its habitat as "fields wherever vegetation is not too tall or dense" (1968:300), conditions increasingly hard to

find in the area. In new parklands west of town one observer counted a total of 46 on a July day in 2005 (OC 28(4):153), an encouraging number in recent years. Only two of the most recent 25 Columbus CBCs have reported this species, but its county numbers in winter are greater in certain areas well outside the circle; Wheaton (p. 357) had seen them weathering temperatures of -20 degrees F. Specimen 4/3/1875 OSUM #1062.

Western Meadowlark *Sturnella neglecta*. Markedly rare this far east. An 1880 specimen at Harvard's MCZ, said to have been collected in northeastern Ohio (Stevenson 1931, Whan 2012) is misidentified as to location, and the species seems to have gone unrecorded in the state until 1930 in Lucas County (Campbell 1940:156). Hicks (1938b:545) estimated that even in its stronghold in the northwestern part of the state "a good observer will average less than one record in a thousand miles of field work by automobile travel." They have likely been more often found since, even here. First discovered on 5/5/1946 several miles south of Columbus (*Aud Sec II* 48(4):112). Borror tape-recorded one singing near Blendon Woods 5/6/1953 (Borror, MS OSUM) and another 5/13/1965 at the OSU Farms (*WCB*:10 June, 1965); Thomas (*CD* 4/1/1962) mentions two other occurrences, in 1958 and 1961, and in his newspaper column of 5/10/1964 stated this species had been confirmed on the OSU Farms in four of the previous six spring seasons. The Borror Laboratory has specimen audio tapes taken on nine dates 1953-1968, including an unexpected singing male in suburban Upper Arlington, probably in or close to the Farms. More recently the first of several was discovered near Bolton Field 4/20/1997 (OC 20(3):113), thereafter a favored spot until its landscaping was extended soon thereafter, and a male was detected at Battelle-Darby MP on 7/8/2016 by G. Stauffer. Best identified in the field by song, thus unaccompanied females are less likely to be detected. There seem to be no wintering or nesting records here. Recorded vocalizations from the county curated at the Borror Laboratory are #441 (5/6/1953), #4696 (5/29/1960), #s 5816 & 5774 (5/13-20/1962), #7447 (5/4-21/1965), and #9445 (5/2-4/1965).

[Hybrid Eastern x Western Meadowlark *Sturnella neglecta* x *S. magna*. A bird at Don Scott Field 5/29/1968 was recorded singing 70 eastern and 20 western meadowlark songs (OSUM Borror Laboratory of Bioacoustics recordings #9544 on 12 May, #9519 on 25 and 29 May, whereupon it was collected); the plumage of OSUM #13729 is intermediate, but was estimated to slightly favor western meadowlark. Research indicates that hybrids between these two species demonstrate a high level of sterility (Davis & Lanyon 2008).

Yellow-headed Blackbird *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*. A rare vagrant from the western U.S., or conceivably from the state's small known breeding populations in the western Lake Erie marshes, with most records here in winter. Wheaton (1882:356) recounted Ohio's first record, a curious report from the county of a pair "in a low meadow" in the county south of Groveport during the summer of 1873; breeding was presumed but apparently not authenticated. Hicks (1945d) reported six in Columbus 3/8/1931, remarking—without much evidence--that it "had shown a definite increase since 1930 as a migrant in Ohio." Adult males are scarce but of course conspicuous in mixed flocks of blackbirds, such as one consorting with cowbirds at Battelle Darby Creek MP 9/20/2011 (OC 35(1):24). There are many reported local winter occurrences, six summarized by Herman (1980) as from feeders; since that time reports have continued, with several in the warm months. Among others, an unusually late spring report came from 5/3/2010 of a calling male seen in Battelle Darby Creek MP (*NAB* 64(3):423). Subsequent records came from near Groveport on 1/2/2012 (*fide* D. Slager), another at Battelle Darby 4/12/2014 (*fide* P. Gardner), and one at Bolton Field on 5/7 of the same year (*fide* C. Winstead, ph.).

Rusty Blackbird *Euphagus carolinus*. During its better days, Wheaton (1882:360) declared the species a common migrant. Now a rare-uncommon and erratic migrant visitor most often appearing in small flocks in swampy areas, with less frequent winter appearances at puddled feedlots, flooded woods, and thickets along creeks. Its decline has been more than local, with much-depressed numbers reported across its range to the north. It may accompany other blackbird species in flocks in migration, when it may be more easily spotted by differentiation. Expected to be absent from mid-May through August, a state-record late spring migrant was collected for Columbus 5/31/1941 (OSUM #9127). High counts of ~2000 on 3/15/1988 (OC 11(3):26) and a robust ~2650 as recently as 1/2/2011 (*fide* D. Slager) are likely to be seldom encountered unless its plummeting numbers recover. The recent high count for the Columbus CBC was 711 in 1983, but

only 119 have been reported over the ensuing 30 years of that increasingly urban count. Specimen: a female from Columbus 10/13/1874 (OSUM #2148).

Brewer's Blackbird *Euphagus cyanocephalus*. A species of the North American west, with some nesting colonies as close as north-central Indiana; all OSU specimens come from Lucas and Ottawa counties, where wintering birds are fairly often seen. Quite rare here, and not straightforward as to field identification, with a handful of apparently valid late fall and winter casual appearances of males closely observed, mostly at feeders: 11/10/1968 (*WCB* 14:33) and another 11/14/1970 (*WCB* 16:38); one on 12/26/1977 (*AB* 32(4):631) was the sole Columbus CBC report accepted during the past sixty years. Two were early here on 10/21/1978 (*AFN* 33(2):184). No local specimens are known.

Common Grackle *Quiscalus quiscula**. An abundant migrant, and common from March to November according to Wheaton (1882:351), who had often seen nests in exposed urban settings before their persecution became accepted. From time to time the “bronzed grackle” *Q. q. versicolor* may be reported, but local grackles are seldom carefully identified as to subspecies. Much more numerous than formerly according to Trautman (1977:16), who observed that numerous conifer plantations established statewide over the previous 75 years had, among other factors, encouraged more widespread nesting by this species in settings both urban and rural. Nests singly or in small colonies April-July, often in or near wet places. Many birds migrate as far south as the Gulf states, but flocks in fall/winter here include one estimated at 50,000 on 1/22/1989 (*OC* 12(2):12); others in largely rural settings in nearby counties can be many times this size, with several winter flocks—mixed as to species, but mostly grackles—elsewhere in fields of rural central Ohio estimated in excess of half a million birds for the Kingston CBC (pers. obs., B. Conlon). By contrast the 2010 Columbus CBC found 24, and that for 2011 only three. Specimen 4/13/1879 OSUM #1092.

Brown-headed Cowbird *Molothrus ater**. Abundant as a migrant and a common nest parasite today. In 1838 Kirtland (180) grudgingly gave this species of the western plains a place in the Ohio list, “on rather doubtful authority”; by 1874 Christy (p. 88), was to call it “abundant, formerly rare” on the treeless plains Ohio agriculture had created. In 1882, Wheaton (1882:353-4) also called it “abundant,” and additionally “notorious” here, though conceding he had never found a cowbird egg in the nest of a swallow, wren, woodpecker, nuthatch, or titmouse—mostly cavity nesters. Cowbirds followed humans, foraging on lawns, croplands, and pastures, rather than in dense forests or taller grasslands. Congregating in large flocks at times in fall, in winter smaller numbers often loosely join mixed aggregations of blackbirds, while the rest move south, often only as far as Kentucky. Trautman (1940:392) reported that only a few then wintered at Buckeye Lake, but they have become more numerous at the season since on occasion; an unremarkable midwinter roost in Columbus numbered 1500 on 1/16/1993 (*OC* 16(2):45), and due to their tendency to flock the Columbus CBC high count was of 36,743 in 1977, but only one individual was tallied by the 2010 Columbus count, with none the following year. They arrive in numbers in March, and by early May in Trautman’s words “[s]olitary females, slinking about through the woodlands or brushy thickets, looking for nests in which to deposit their eggs, became a familiar sight.” Hicks has an informative article, “A summary of cowbird host species in Ohio” in *Auk* 31(3):385-6, in which over 13,000 nests were examined (~2740 in Franklin County), with 42 species parasitized; no cowbird eggs were found among those of swallows, titmice, woodpeckers, wrens, waxwings, catbirds, or robins. Specimen 9/2/1879 OSUM #1047.

Orchard Oriole *Icterus spurius**. Common in Wheaton’s day (1882:358), now an inconspicuous migrant and uncommon nester in open settings, tolerating human habitations in associated scattered shade trees, orchards, and stream- and roadside vegetation more often than the more urban settings allowed by *galbula*. Folklore has it that these orioles are among birds choosing nest sites close to those of eastern kingbirds in order to benefit from kingbirds’ more aggressive defenses against interlopers. Though not rare in good habitat; it has always been scarcer than the Baltimore oriole, and breeders may spend only ten to twelve weeks here in a given year. Peterjohn (2001:546) records one freakishly early in Licking County on 3/31/1965 (another was observed 4/13/2012 [*OC* 34(3):105]); Bent gives an average arrival date of 5/3. It is an unobtrusive early southbound migrant, usually in July-August, with an average departure of 8/19 (Bent 211:209) and one notably late on 9/12/1881 (specimen OSUM #1072). The earliest specimen dates to 5/2/1880 (OSUM #1070).

Bullock's Oriole *Icterus bullockii*. Accidental, with two records here. What was likely the same female appeared and passed the seasons at a feeder on the east side of Columbus during the winters of 1974-1975 from Thanksgiving day 11/28/1974 through 4/2/1975 (*CD* 12/21/1975, *WCB* 1[20-21]:43) and then 11/14/75-1/5/76 (*AB* 30(2):368). Decisions on this bird's identity were nearly but not entirely unanimous at the time: the Baltimore and the Bullock's forms were treated as eastern and western subspecies of the "northern oriole" during the era of these reports, but are now regarded as distinct species. Two males at OSUM, #s 1082 and 1083, date unrecorded but likely from the nineteenth century, came from Marysville in Madison County.

Baltimore Oriole *Icterus galbula**. A common migrant and less common nester in park-like settings with isolated trees, savannas, or road- and water-side situations, though no longer abundant and "found everywhere" as in Wheaton's day (1882:359). Its pouch-like hanging nest is distinctive, and often placed prominently, and gentle banding efforts prove the birds may revisit favorite sites for years. OSUM #7227 was a male which died entangled in its nesting material on 5/6/1936. The loss of its favorite urban American elms as nest sites caused some concern during the 1960s (*WCB* 10:29), accompanied by losses in its numbers evident since that time. The species is largely insectivorous, but its occasional winter visits are assisted by fruit provided at backyard feeders, such as 12/12-15/1969 in Columbus (*WCB*:15:34); one wintered 1975-6 (*AFN* 30(3):727) and another spent 12/21/2008-1/15/2009 near another feeder (*NAB* 63(2):258). The earliest recorded arrivals of spring migrants included one on 4/12/2000 (*OBNH* 1(4):174) and others 4/15/1941 (Geist, MS OSUM) and 4/22/2000 (*OC* 23(3):115), but it is most numerous by early May. The high count was 65 migrants counted northbound at Green Lawn Cemetery on 5/5/1985 (*OC* 8(1):33). Most head south in early September, and may be seen at times into October. Specimen 5/8/1880 OSUM #1076.

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