The 75th Dayton Audubon Christmas Bird Count was held on Sunday, January 2. Seventy species of birds were seen, and 15,232 individuals were counted.

Highlights included an adult Bald Eagle and a Double-crested Cormorant. Each of these species had been recorded only once before in our 75 Christmas counts.

Record high numbers of eight species were recorded. Those were 21 Pied-billed Grebes, 90 Great Blue Herons, 43 Gadwalls, 14 Northern Shovelers, 99 Hooded Mergansers, 1,203 Ring-billed Gulls, 14 Pileated Woodpeckers, and 55 Eastern Bluebirds. There were unusually low numbers of Song Sparrows and Dark-eyed Juncos, probably due to the windy conditions.


A Peregrine Falcon was seen in downtown Dayton during the count period.

To report rare, unusual, or first-of-the-season bird sightings in the Dayton area, you may call Betty Berry at (937)836-3022 or Charlotte Mathena at (937)433-2167.

This Dayton Audubon Rare Bird Alert is updated periodically as warranted. For last-minute updates, call the Dayton Audubon Hotline at (937)640-BIRD(2473).
Sightings along the Great Miami River in downtown Dayton on January 22 included two Wood Ducks, a Common Snipe, and Hooded Mergansers. These were seen just north of the Stewart Street bridge. Another Wood Duck was seen at the confluence of the Great Miami and Mad rivers, while a Lesser Scaup and a couple of Killdeer were also seen along the river.

In the fields west of Germantown, two Eastern Meadowlarks were seen on the 22nd, while at the Germantown Nature Center feeders this weekend, Fox Sparrows were present, as well as a male Oregon Junco.

Three Rusty Blackbirds were observed at a feeder near Spring Valley Wildlife Area on the 22nd.

A Long-eared Owl was seen briefly near Bruckner Nature Center on the 23rd.

The last noted migrating Sandhill Cranes were a group of 20 to 30 seen on the 16th flying over Englewood MetroPark.

On the 17th, a male Black Scoter made a brief appearance at the Eastwood Hydrobowl.

Ducks observed at C. J. Brown Reservoir on the 16th included Common Goldeneyes, Hooded Mergansers, Northern Shovelers, and Gadwalls.

Birding in a Preble County cemetery this week turned up Red-breasted Nuthatches, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, and Golden-crowned Kinglets.

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Approximately 20 Sandhill Cranes were observed on the late date of January 29 as they flew over the south edge of Dayton.

Sightings along the Great Miami River, along West River Road on January 29, included 9 Redheads, a pair of American Wigeons, numerous Hooded Mergansers, 5 Common Goldeneyes, 3 Mute Swans, and Pied-billed Grebes.

Three Lapland Longspurs were noted in with a flock of Horned Larks on January 30. They were on Farmersville-Gratis Road just 1.6 miles east of Preble County Line Road.

Sightings at the Caesar Creek Visitor Center feeders on the 29th included a Fox Sparrow, 2 Purple Finches, and a Red-breasted Nuthatch.

No further reports were received.

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A Shrike was seen at Spring Valley Wildlife Area on February 6. The bird was seen from the
north dike on the south side of the trail towards the observation deck. It was identified as a
Loggerhead Shrike, and was heard vocalizing as it sat in the top of a tree. Reports on any further
sightings of this bird would be appreciated.

Two Long-eared Owls were seen at Eastwood Park on the 8th. They were observed sitting in a
pine tree not far from the road.

Fox Sparrows seem to be more common than usual this winter. Four were observed at Englewood
MetroPark this week, and two were observed at Caesar Creek. Other sightings of interest at
Caesar Creek included a Hermit Thrush and Yellow-rumped Warblers.

Sightings on the 5th along the Great Miami River from Sunwatch on West River Road north to
Franciscan hospital included Mute Swans, Redheads, Green-winged Teal, Northern Shovelers,
Common Goldeneyes, Black Ducks, Gadwalls, Hooded Mergansers, Mallards, Coots, and Pied-
billed Grebes.

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the Dayton Audubon Hotline at (937)640-BIRD(2473).
A shrike was seen at Spring Valley Wildlife Area on February 6, and was also seen there on the 12th and 13th. The most recent sightings were from the observation deck, and scope views provided better details for identification. It is a Northern Shrike, and is most often observed sitting on the tops of trees as it makes large circles around the observation deck. The shrike was seen tail-wagging and heard vocalizing.

Sightings from Caesar Creek at the Fifty Springs location on February 17 included Northern Pintails, Redheads, Ring-necked Ducks, Common Goldeneyes, Bufflehead, Red-breasted, Common, and Hooded Mergansers, and Black Ducks. At the Caesar Creek Visitor Center feeders, there have been Purple Finch, a Fox Sparrow, and Red-breasted Nuthatch.

Sightings at Huffman MetroPark on the 18th included one Common Merganser, Redheads, Common Goldeneye, Hooded Mergansers, a Bufflehead, and some Coots.

Sightings at Englewood MetroPark on the 18th included 6 Common Goldeneyes, 4 Northern Pintails, Black Ducks, and American Wigeon.

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Highlights of this week's report include:

- **American Woodcock**

  The first American Woodcock of the season, in this area, was observed on February 21 near Brookville on Clayton Road. On the 23rd, American Woodcocks were seen just north of Englewood MetroPark on Martindale Road.

  Another sign of spring migration was a Turkey Vulture seen along I-75 considerably south of Dayton on the 22nd.

  The shrike at Spring Valley Wildlife Area has not been seen recently, despite searches on the 19th, 20th and 21st. But Northern Harriers and Rusty Blackbirds are in that area.

  Sightings from Caesar Creek at the end of the road in the Fifty Springs picnic area on the 21st included Canvasbacks, Redheads, Ring-necked Ducks, Lesser Scaup, Common Goldeneyes, Bufflehead, Pintails, Wigeon, Red-breasted, Common, and Hooded Mergansers, and Black Ducks. At the Caesar Creek Visitor Center feeders, Purple Finch continue to be seen.

  Sightings at Huffman MetroPark on the 22nd included 2 Common Mergansers, a number of Redheads, Common Goldeneye, a few Ring-necked Ducks, Hooded Mergansers, a Bufflehead, and some Coots.

  Sightings at Englewood MetroPark recently included Ring-necked Ducks, Northern Pintails, Black Ducks, and a fair number of Eastern Bluebirds.
Spring migration is evident in the return of many birds. Six Sandhill Cranes were seen at Spring Valley Wildlife Area on March 7. A Common Snipe was present there, as well as many Red-winged Blackbirds, Killdeer, and some Rusty Blackbirds.

Turkey Vultures are widespread now, and American Woodcocks can be seen displaying in many local areas on calm evenings.

Eastern Phoebes have been reported from Caesar Creek Gorge, as well as a few other local areas.

Ducks are moving through in numbers. Sightings at C. J. Brown Reservoir on the 4th included a few Blue-winged Teal, Northern Pintail, Common, Red-breasted, and Hooded Mergansers, Gadwall, Shovelers, Green-winged Teal, Redheads, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, two Ruddy Ducks, and some Horned Grebes; and on the north mudflats, there were Lesser Yellowlegs and an American Pipit.

Ducks at Englewood MetroPark on the 7th included Bufflehead, Ring-necked, Red-breasted Mergansers, and Northern Shovelers.

A Double-crested Cormorant was seen at Huffman MetroPark on the 7th, and a Sharp-shinned Hawk and an Eastern Meadowlark were observed at Germantown MetroPark on the 6th.

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March 17, 2000

Compiled by Charlotte Mathena

A singing Field Sparrow was observed at Spring Valley Wildlife Area on March 15; and a few days before that at Spring valley, some Tree Swallows were observed flying very high over the lake.

Sightings at Eastwood Lake this week included 1 Common Loon, several Horned Grebes, Pied-billed Grebes, a few American Coots, a pair of Buffleheads, and a few Bonaparte's Gulls.

A flock of 6 Golden-crowned Kinglets were observed near Cricket Holler on the 15th.

Good numbers of Turkey Vultures continue to be seen moving through the area.

No further reports were received.

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Southwestern Ohio (Dayton) Rare Bird Alert

Dayton Audubon Society

Southwestern Ohio (Dayton)
Rare Bird Alert

March 24, 2000

Compiled by Charlotte Mathena

Three White-fronted Geese were observed at the Oxbow east of Elizabethtown on March 17.

Sightings at C. J. Brown Reservoir on the 18th and 19th included Common Loons, Red-breasted Mergansers, Double-crested Cormorants, Mute Swans, a Horned Grebe, Bonaparte's Gulls, and Cedar Waxwings.

Sightings at Englewood MetroPark this week included Blue- and Green-winged Teal, Wood Ducks, and Eastern Phoebes.

Sightings at Spring Valley Wildlife Area on the 23rd included 40+ Wood Ducks, a few Blue-winged Teal, Pied-billed Grebes, Barred Owl, and American Woodcock. Also, up to 12 Common Snipe were observed among the grasses in the marshy areas.

At Caesar Creek this week, there were Common Loons, Horned Grebes, Red-breasted Mergansers, and good numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls.

Tree Swallows were reported from many areas this week, and I would expect to hear of Barn Swallow and Rough-winged Swallow sightings by the end of next week.

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Dayton Audubon Society
Southwestern Ohio (Dayton)
Rare Bird Alert

April 10, 2000

Compiled by Charlotte Mathena

**Highlights** of this week’s report include:

- Blue-headed Vireo
- Pine Warbler
- Surf Scoters
- American Bittern

Some early migrants, such as **Blue-headed Vireo**, Broad-winged Hawk, and Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were noted on April 6 in the Aullwood-Englewood area.

A singing **Pine Warbler** was observed on the 8th at the overlook at Germantown MetroPark.

For the Dayton area, the unusually large number of 11 **Surf Scoters** were seen at Eastwood Lake on the 7th. Also, there were Ruddy Ducks, Lesser Scaup, Common Loons, Pied-billed Grebes, and large numbers of American Coots. On the 6th, there were 7 female Greater Scaup on Eastwood Lake. And throughout the week there were swallows; Tree, Rough-winged, and Barn. Also, a few Purple Martins were seen there.

At Spring Valley Wildlife Area, an **American Bittern** was sighted on the 9th, and an Osprey was seen there on the 6th. Other sightings included a Great Egret, Blue-winged Teal, one Redhead, and lots of Wood Ducks.

At Caesar Creek Gorge on the 9th, there were 2 Louisiana Waterthrushes.

Most unusual was the find of a Northern Saw-whet Owl on the 7th along a railroad track near C. J. Brown Reservoir in Clark County. The owl was seen also on the 8th and 9th. A few American Pipits were observed feeding around a puddle in a flooded field near the reservoir on the 9th.
Dayton Audubon Society
Southwestern Ohio (Dayton)
Rare Bird Alert

April 17, 2000

Compiled by Charlotte Mathena

Highlights of this week’s report include:

- Sora and Virginia Rails
- Black vulture

Spring Valley Wildlife Area produced many interesting sightings this past week. Sora Rails were easily seen from the boardwalk, and an occasional Virginia Rail was spotted also. American Bittern, first reported at Spring Valley on the 9th, continued to be seen through the 16th. A Black Vulture was seen among the Turkey Vultures near Spring Valley on the 12th. Other sightings at Spring Valley included House Wren, singing Purple Finch, Rusty Blackbird, Yellow-throated Warbler, and Osprey.

Observations at Sugarcreek MetroPark on the 15th included Louisiana Waterthrushes, Northern Parulas, Yellow-throated Warbler, Hermit Thrushes, both Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Eastern Bluebird, Barred Owl, Pileated Woodpeckers, and lots of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers.

Sightings at, and around, Cowan Lake on the 15th included Palm Warbler, Blue-headed and Warbling Vireos; and, in a flooded field, Common Snipe and Pectoral Sandpipers.

Purple Martins and Chimney Swifts were seen at Eastwood Lake on the 13th; and Tree, Barn, and Rough-winged Swallows were seen there throughout the week, and occasionally an Osprey was present.

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April 24, 2000

Compiled by Charlotte Mathena

Highlights of this week’s report include:

- Hummingbird
- Warblers
- Sandhill Cranes

A fairly early **Hummingbird** was noted in a yard near Spring Valley Wildlife Area on the 24th. Noted at Spring Valley on the 20th to 22nd were **Prothonotary, Yellow, Hooded, Palm, Yellow-throated, and Yellow-rumped Warblers**, Eastern Kingbirds, Gray Catbird, White-eyed and Warbling Vireos, Green Heron, Sora and Virginia Rails, Osprey, Broad-winged Hawk; and Cliff, Bank, Rough-winged, Barn, and Tree Swallows. Also, Greater Yellowlegs and Solitary Sandpipers were seen. Then, on the 23rd, **2 Sandhill Cranes** were seen at Spring Valley Wildlife Area.

On the 23rd at Englewood MetroPark, Northern Waterthrush, **Palm Warblers**, and Warbling Vireos were seen; as well as Osprey, Green Heron, and nesting Eastern Phoebes.

A **Pine Warbler** and a **Black-throated Green Warbler**, along with many **Yellow-rumps** were seen at Eastwood MetroPark on the 24th.

Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were noted in a number of areas this week, and Chimney Swifts finally seem fairly common.

A Spotted Sandpiper and a Great Egret were observed at the north park ponds of Englewood MetroPark on the 20th.

Forster's Terns were seen on the beach at Caesar Creek on the 22nd.
**Highlights** of this week's report include:

- Willets
- Warblers

On the evening of April 29, eight **Willets** were seen on the beach at Caesar Creek State Park, but were not seen thereafter.

**Warblers** are increasing in number and variety. On May 3 at Englewood MetroPark, **Yellow-breasted Chat, Blue-winged, Palm, and Chestnut-sided Warblers** were seen. Indigo Buntings and a Great Egret were also noted there.

At Eastwood MetroPark on May 3, there were **Blackburnian, Cape May, Black-throated Green, Black-and-white, Nashville, Tennessee, Palm, Yellow, and Yellow-rumped Warblers.**

On May 1 in a yard near Cricket Holler, there was a mini-fallout that included **2 Blackburnians, 8 to 10 Nashville, Yellow Warblers, a couple of Magnolia Warblers, several Black-and-white, a Scarlet Tanager, and a Blue-headed Vireo.**

Baltimore and Orchard Orioles have been seen in multiple local birding spots, and also noted were Great Crested and Least Flycatchers, and Yellow-throated, White-eyed, Red-eyed, and Warbling Vireos.

Scarlet Tanagers and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks have been seen, but still are few in numbers.

The American Bittern at Spring Valley Wildlife Area was seen both on the 29th and 30th of April.

Ruby-throated Hummingbirds are increasingly being spotted in the area. Wood thrushes appear to be widespread, and a few Swainson's Thrushes have been reported.
Dayton Audubon Society

Southwestern Ohio (Dayton) Rare Bird Alert

May 10, 2000

Compiled by Charlotte Mathena

Highlights of this week's report include:

- Sandhill Cranes
- Alder Flycatcher

On May 5 and 6, two adult Sandhill Cranes were observed in a plowed field on the west side of Wilmington-Dayton Road just south of Spring Valley Road. The cranes blended in with the plowed dirt.

On May 7 at Spring Valley Wildlife area, an Alder Flycatcher was located. Other observations there included Northern Waterthrush, Marsh Wren, Willow Flycatchers, and Swamp Sparrows.

Migrants continue to pour through the Miami Valley. On the 9th at Englewood MetroPark, sightings include warblers such as Blackpoll, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, Northern Waterthrush, Black-throated Blue, Common Yellowthroat, and Yellow Warblers. Both Summer and Scarlet Tanagers were seen there, as well as Black-billed and Yellow-billed Cuckoos. There were also Swainson's and Wood Thrushes, Red-eyed Vireos, and Acadian Flycatchers. Sightings there a few days earlier included Blue-winged Warblers, Black-throated Green Warblers, and Tennessee Warblers. There were Great Crested Flycatchers and Indigo Buntings. The Baltimore Orioles are quite numerous around the lake.

Sightings around Caesar Creek on the 9th included Kentucky and Hooded Warblers, Louisiana Waterthrush, Black-throated Blue Warbler, and Scarlet Tanager.

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Southwestern Ohio (Dayton) Rare Bird Alert

May 15, 2000

Compiled by Charlotte Mathena

Highlights of this week's report include:

- California Gull
- Laughing Gull
- Franklin's Gull

Saturday, May 13, at Caesar Creek State Park on the beach, a California Gull, a Laughing Gull, and a Franklin's Gull were observed. These three gulls were still present on the beach on the 15th. Other observations on the beach during this time period included 2 Willets, 10 Short-billed Dowitchers, Black Tern, Common and Forster's Terns, and Caspian Terns. A bird hike at Caesar Creek on the 13th revealed 71 species, including Summer and Scarlet Tanagers. Warblers seen included Blue-winged, Tennessee, Northern Parula, Wilson's, American Redstart, Prairie, Yellow, Common Yellowthroat, and Yellow-rumped. A fairly late Red-breasted Nuthatch was also observed.

Sightings at the Cowan Lake spillway on the 15th included 10 Spotted Sandpipers, 3 Least Sandpipers, and 3 Semipalmated Plovers.

On the 13th, a Little Blue Heron was seen at Phillips Park on Dayton-Xenia Road. Also present there were 6 Semipalmated Plovers and a Spotted Sandpiper.

The Dayton Audubon Field Trip to Spring Grove Cemetery on the 13th turned up the following warblers: Tennessee, Magnolia, Blackburnian, Northern Parula, Palm, Bay-breasted, Blackpoll, Canada, American Redstart, and Yellow. Swainson's Thrushes and Cedar Waxwings were also observed.

At Englewood MetroPark on the 15th, Semipalmated Plovers, Solitary Sandpipers and Green Heron were seen, as well as Blue-winged Warblers, Great Crested Flycatcher, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Eastern Phoebe, and Eastern Bluebird.

Sightings along Hodge Road near C. J. Brown Reservoir on the 15th included 4 Bobolinks and numerous Savannah Sparrows.
Highlights of this week’s report include:

- Franklin's Gulls

A Franklin's Gull was still on the beach at Caesar Creek State Park on May 22. Three Caspian Terns were there on the 20th.

Another Franklin's Gull was seen on the beach at C. J. Brown Reservoir on the 19th. Other sightings on that beach on the 19th included Common Tern, Spotted and Least Sandpipers, and Semipalmated Plovers.

Rare for the Dayton area was a Blue Grosbeak, which made a 1-day appearance at Aullwood Audubon Center on May 17.

Sightings at the Cowan Lake spillway on the 20th included 8 Semipalmated Sandpipers and 3 Spotted Sandpipers.

Sightings at Englewood MetroPark on the 20th included Prothonotary and Blue-winged Warblers, Summer Tanagers, Yellow-billed Cuckoos, many Baltimore Orioles, Eastern Bluebirds, White-eyed and Red-eyed Vireos, and numerous Cedar Waxwings.

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Dayton Audubon Society

Southwestern Ohio (Dayton) Rare Bird Alert

May 30, 2000

Compiled by Charlotte Mathena

Highlights of this week's report include:

- Henslow's Sparrow
- Bell's Vireo
- Bobolinks
- Dickcissels
- Least Bittern

A singing Henslow's Sparrow was observed at Twin Creek MetroPark on May 29. The bird was seen from the trail to the right. Twin Creek MetroPark is on Eby Road off of State Route 4 a little south of Germantown.

A pair of Bell's Vireos were observed at Buck Creek State Park on the 28th and 29th. They are located near the 2nd intersection, which is before the turnoff to the marina. Please be reminded that parking along the road is prohibited.

Two Laughing Gulls made a short appearance on the beach at C. J. Brown Reservoir on the 29th, and 3 Sanderlings and 15 Semipalmated Sandpipers were seen there on the 28th. Bobolinks were observed on nearby Hodge and Yeazell Roads, as well as many Savannah Sparrows, a few Vesper Sparrows, and a Red-headed Woodpecker. Alder Flycatchers were noted on the nearby railroad tracks on the 29th.

Bobolinks have also been observed at Caesar Creek State Park in a field near the intersection of Middletown Road and Red Oak Road. An immature Bald Eagle was seen near the Caesar Creek saddle dam on the 30th, and on the 27th at the Caesar Creek beach there were 2 White-rumped Sandpipers, 12 Semipalmated Sandpipers, and 2 Semipalmated Plovers.

Dickcissels have been present at Spring Valley Wildlife Area since the 26th, and are being seen in the hedgerow along Pence-Jones Road about 20 to 30 yards north of the upper parking lot that leads to the boardwalk. On the 30th, a Least Bittern was seen from the observation tower at Spring Valley.
A Great Egret was seen at Huffman MetroPark on the 26th, and 6 were reported at the confluence of the Mad River and the Great Miami River last week.

At St. Marys Fish Hatchery on the 28th, sightings included 6 Forster's Terns, 1 Spotted and 8 Semipalmated Sandpipers, a couple of Semipalmated Plovers, and a female Greater Scaup.

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Southwestern Ohio (Dayton) Rare Bird Alert

Dayton Audubon Society

Southwestern Ohio (Dayton)
Rare Bird Alert

June 22, 2000

Compiled by Charlotte Mathena

Highlights of this week’s report include:

- Red-breasted Nuthatches
- Bell's Vireo

Two Red-breasted Nuthatches were observed feeding two young in Dayton on June 19. This is an exceptional nesting record for the Dayton area.

The Bell's Vireo at Buck Creek State Park was still singing occasionally on the 19th; but, unfortunately, the pair seem to have abandoned their nest.

A Sedge Wren was observed on the 11th south of Xenia along Union Road, about 1/4 mile north of Peterson Road. The Sedge Wren was on the west side of the road in the wheat field.

Sightings on the 22nd at the south park area of Englewood MetroPark included Orchard and Baltimore Orioles, a pair of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Eastern Bluebirds, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Common Yellowthroat.

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Southwestern Ohio (Dayton) Rare Bird Alert

July 16, 2000

Compiled by Charlotte Mathena

There have been few local reports for the last two weeks.

At Englewood MetroPark on July 14 and 16, the following were noted: Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Kingbird, Great Crested Flycatcher, Yellow-throated Vireo, Yellow-breasted Chat, Wood Thrush, Indigo Bunting, Spotted Sandpiper, Greater Yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpiper, Wood Ducks, Double-crested Cormorant, and Tree, Barn and Rough-winged Swallows.

At Stillwater Gardens on the 14th, Carolina Wren, Acadian Flycatchers, Baltimore Orioles, Warbling Vireo, and Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were observed.

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Highlights of this week’s report include:

- Sedge Wrens

Sedge Wrens are being sighted on the prairie at Carriage Hill MetroPark. At least five Sedge Wrens have been observed. From the parking lot, follow the board walk and then turn right, and then left, onto the trail to the prairie. Some of the birds have been quite close to the trail.

On July 22 at the beach at C. J. Brown Reservoir, a Franklin's Gull was observed. Also, on the beach were a Sanderling, a Least Sandpiper, and a Spotted Sandpiper. Toward the north end of nearby Baldwin Lane, a few Dickcissels remain.

At the Cowan Lake spillway, on the 26th, there were two Solitary Sandpipers and a Spotted Sandpiper.

Solitary Sandpipers and Pectoral Sandpipers are being sighted at Englewood MetroPark.

An adult and a young Summer Tanager were observed in Clinton County this past weekend.

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Southwestern Ohio (Dayton) Rare Bird Alert

August 13, 2000

Compiled by Charlotte Mathena

Highlights of this week's report include:

- White-rumped Sandpiper

Four White-rumped Sandpipers were seen at Englewood MetroPark on the 10th. Also seen on the mudflats there were Spotted, Solitary, and Pectoral Sandpipers, and Lesser Yellowlegs. Six or seven Great Egrets were also present, plus some Green Herons. Other sightings included Scarlet Tanagers, Nashville and Prothonotary Warblers, and White-eyed Vireos.

Two Broad-winged Hawks were seen near Mrs. Aull's garden on the 10th.

At the Cowan Lake spillway this past week, there have been Least, Spotted, Pectoral, and Solitary Sandpipers.

Birds seen in the fields surrounding the Germantown MetroPark Center on the 12th included lots of Northern Mockingbirds, Brown Thrashers, Gray Catbirds, Northern Orioles, Eastern Bluebirds, Indigo Buntings, Common Yellowthroats, Field Sparrows, and a Kestrel chasing a Cooper's Hawk.

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The highlight of this report is:

- Baird's Sandpiper

On August 24, A Baird's Sandpiper was seen at Englewood MetroPark, and an Osprey and a Blue Grosbeak were observed at Englewood MetroPark north park.

Over the past two weeks, seen on a regular basis at Huffman Prairie have been Upland Sandpiper, Sedge Wren, Dickcissel, Bobolink, and Northern Bobwhite.

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TERNS have been reported from a variety of locations. FORSTER’S TERNS were at Caesar Creek Beach on the 23rd; and on the 29th, there were 3 CASPIAN TERNS there. CASPIAN TERNS were also seen at St. Marys Fish Hatchery on the 19th, while 8 CASPIAN TERNS and 1 BLACK TERN were seen on the causeway at Metzger and Ferguson Reservoirs near Lima on the 19th. FORSTER’S and CASPIAN TERNS have also been reported at Englewood MetroPark recently.

At Cowan Lake along Lotus Trail, on the 30th, a few WARBLERS were seen, including BLACK-AND-WHITE, PRAIRIE, CANADA, and AMERICAN REDSTART. Also observed were GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHERS and a YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO. At the end of Lotus Trail, 2 STILT SANDPIPERS were seen and 4 LESSER YELLOWLEGS, and SOLITARY, LEAST, and a SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER. GREAT EGRETS were also present there.

At Englewood MetroPark on the 30th, reports included a WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER, LEAST SANDPIPER, YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT, BALTIMORE ORIOLE, and WHITE-EYED and WARBLING VIREOS. Hundreds of CHIMNEY SWIFTS were observed at Englewood on the 23rd, and GREAT EGRETS and GREEN HERONS have been seen there regularly over the past couple of weeks.

A dozen COMMON Nighthawks were observed in the early evening on the 28th near Route 48 and Whipp Road.

A RED-HEADED WOODPECKER was seen at Spring Valley Wildlife Area on the 26th.

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The fall migration of shorebirds and warblers is well underway.

Sightings at St. Marys Fish Hatchery on the 4th and/or the 5th included 2 Buff-breasted Sandpipers, a Willet, a Short-billed Dowitcher, 3 White-rumped Sandpipers, a Stilt Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpipers and Semipalmated Plovers, Least Sandpipers, Spotted Sandpipers, and Lesser Yellowlegs.

Sightings on the beach at C. J. Brown Reservoir on the 2nd included a Buff-breasted Sandpiper, 2 Sanderlings, a Ruddy Turnstone, a Semipalmated Sandpiper, and 2 Forster's and 2 Caspian Terns.

At Aullwood on the 7th, a few warblers were seen, including Black-throated Green, Nashville, Magnolia, Black-and-white, American Redstart, and Common Yellowthroat. Yellow-throated and Red-eyed Vireos were also noted there.

At Englewood MetroPark on the 3rd, a White-rumped Sandpiper was observed, plus lots of Cedar Waxwings, and a few warblers - Magnolia, Northern Parula, and Black-and-white.

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On the beach at C. J. Brown Reservoir on the 15th, a Buff-breasted Sandpiper was seen, plus 5 Sanderlings, a Spotted Sandpiper, a Least Sandpiper, and 3 Caspian Terns. An Osprey was also seen there. In other parts of Buck Creek State Park on the 15th, sightings included the following warblers: Tennessee, Nashville, Chestnut-sided, Palm, Blackpoll, Wilson's, and American Redstart. A Philadelphia Vireo was also seen.

On the 16th at Sugarcreek MetroPark, sightings included a Scarlet Tanager, and the following warblers: Black-throated Green, Nashville, Tennessee, Magnolia, American Redstart, Black-and-white, and Common Yellowthroat.

On the 9th, there were many good sightings around the extended Miami Valley, such as 4 American Avocets that were seen at Englewood MetroPark; the juvenile Laughing Gull, Willet, and Stilt Sandpiper seen at St. Marys Fish Hatchery; and the 25 Black Terns, 2 Caspian Terns, and 2 Black Vultures which were seen at Rocky Fork Lake.

Other local sightings include 2 Ospreys at Eastwood Lake on the 15th, and Sanderlings at Caesar Creek beach on the 13th and a Yellow-throated Warbler on the 9th.

Observers should keep their eyes peeled this week for migrating Broad-winged Hawks, as this should be the best time this fall.

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The annual fall migration of Broad-winged Hawks during the 3rd week of September was in evidence on the 19th when about 30 were seen at Englewood MetroPark, and nearly 100 were seen at the Aullwood Center.

A Bald Eagle, nearly a full adult, was seen at Huffman MetroPark on the 27th.

On the beach at C. J. Brown Reservoir, on both the 23rd and 24th, a Franklin's Gull was seen, plus a Semipalmated Plover, Sanderling, and Least Sandpiper. On the 17th and 18th, a Buff-breasted Sandpiper was present at C. J. Brown Reservoir, plus Forster's Terns.

At Englewood MetroPark on the 28th, a few warblers were seen, including Nashville, Cape May, Tennessee, Magnolia, Black-throated Green, and American Redstart. Also seen were Ruby-crowned Kinglets, and Red-eyed and Yellow-throated Vireos. Blue-winged and Green-winged Teal were present, plus Northern Shovelers and an Osprey.

At Wegerzyn Garden Center on the 27th, a Rose-breasted Grosbeak and 4 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were seen.

Ospreys have been seen at Eastwood Lake throughout the past week.

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Two Franklin's Gulls were observed on the beach at Caesar Creek State Park on October 8. The previous day, there had been a juvenile Laughing Gull on the beach, which had also been sighted there on September 30.

Reports from St. Marys Fish Hatchery on October 7 indicate the habitat is good, but only a few shore birds were present, including Pectorals, Dunlin, and Least Sandpipers. A blue phase Snow Goose was observed on the 7th at the Mercer Waterfowl Refuge along the south edge of St. Marys Lake.

On October 1 at Sycamore State Park, a few Red-breasted Nuthatches were observed, along with Ruby-crowned Kinglets and a few warblers: Cape May, Nashville, and Black-throated Greens, and White-throated Sparrows.

At Spring Valley Wildlife Area on the 2nd, a Marsh Wren was observed, and also noted at dusk were thousands of blackbirds settling into the marsh, which included a good mix of Red-wings, Grackles, and Cowbirds. Warblers around Spring Valley included Nashville, Tennessee, and Black-throated Green.

At Englewood MetroPark, a Connecticut Warbler was seen on October 1, and a Yellow-billed Cuckoo was observed there on the 7th. On the 8th, there were Ruddy Ducks, and Blue- and Green-winged Teal on the lake.

At Island Park in Dayton on September 29, six Black-crowned Night-Herons were seen.

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Dayton Audubon Society

Southwestern Ohio (Dayton) Rare Bird Alert

October 25, 2000

Compiled by Charlotte Mathena

On October 20, a juvenile Franklin's Gull was still present at Caesar Creek beach, but it was not seen on the 22nd. But a Dunlin was there on the beach.

On the 21st at C.J. Brown Reservoir, there were mudflats at the north end. Sightings there included one Greater and three Lesser Yellowlegs, Least and Pectoral Sandpipers, one Stilt Sandpiper, a Dunlin, and two Common Snipe.

Sightings around Cowan Lake on the 21st and 22nd included an Osprey, Red-shouldered Hawk, one Eastern Phoebe, Brown creepers, and lots of Yellow-rumped Warblers.

General fall birding in our area now includes Brown creepers, Hermit Thrushes, Golden-crowned Kinglets, White-throated Sparrows, and numerous Yellow-rumped Warblers.

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On November 12, an adult California Gull was seen at St. Marys Lake. The bird was sighted at a pier near the marina on the east end of the lake. It was observed there for about two hours.

Sightings at Englewood MetroPark this past week included one Purple Finch, Eastern Bluebirds, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Hooded Mergansers, Green-winged Teal, and a few Ring-necked Ducks and Lesser Scaup.

At Caesar Creek Lake on the 11th, there were 10 Common Loons and a few Ruddy Ducks, plus over 100 Bonaparte's Gulls. A Surf Scoter had been seen at Caesar Creek from Harveysburg Road on the 4th.

Last week in the Huffman and Eastwood Lake areas, Red-breasted Mergansers, Lesser Scaup, and American Coots were seen.

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Highlights of this week's report include:

- Snowy Owl
- Sandhill Cranes
- Bald Eagle
- Red-throated Loon

On November 24, a Snowy Owl was seen sitting on a phone pole south of Wilmington, at the intersection of Accommodation Road and Farmers Road. The bird has reportedly been present since November 20. To reach this area, take State Route 73 to Wilmington. Go south on U.S. Route 68 to the edge of town, then bear left on State Route 134. Continue several miles to Farmers Road, go left on Farmers for a few miles, then the second road to the left is Accommodation. Look on the phone poles in this area.

Sandhill Cranes made a significant migration through southwest Ohio on the 21st and 22nd of November. Sightings included about 100 Sandhills over Route 68 between Urbana and Springfield on the 21st. Thirty-five Sandhill Cranes were reported at Cowan Lake on the same date, and 23 cranes were seen over Greenville, also on the 21st. On the 22nd, Sandhill Cranes were observed near Batavia in Clermont County, and appeared to be headed toward East Fork Lake.

An adult Bald Eagle was observed on the 23rd along the Great Miami River. It was seen chasing a gull between the Main Street and Riverside Avenue bridges in downtown Dayton.

On November 18, a Red-throated Loon was observed at Caesar Creek Lake from Harveysburg Road. There were also 65 Common Loons, about 20 Horned Grebes, and a few Red-breasted Mergansers.
Hooded Mergansers were observed on the Great Miami River near the Carillon Park on the 17th.

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Southwestern Ohio (Dayton) Rare Bird Alert

December 5, 2000

Compiled by Charlotte Mathena

Highlights of this week's report include:

- Snowy Owl
- Red-throated Loon

On December 4, the Snowy Owl near Wilmington in Clinton County was still being seen regularly. It is most often seen sitting on a phone pole south of Wilmington at the intersection of Accommodation and Farmers Roads. The bird has been present since about November 20. To reach this area, take State Route 73 to Wilmington, go south on U.S. Route 68 to the edge of town, then bear left on State Route 134. Continue several miles to Farmers Road. Go left on Farmers for several miles. Then, the second road to the left is Accommodation Road. Look in this area, but please cause as little disturbance to the owl as possible.

A Red-throated Loon was seen at Cowan Lake on the 3rd. It was seen from the boat ramp near the cabins on the north side of the lake. The loon was not found again on the 5th.

Sightings at Caesar Creek Lake on the 2nd included Hooded and Red-breasted Mergansers, Ruddy Ducks, Buffleheads, Common Loons, Horned Grebes, and lots of Bonaparte's Gulls.

A Rough-legged Hawk was reported on the 2nd in the area between Huffman MetroPark and Eastwood Lake.

A Hermit Thrush was observed at Germantown MetroPark near the spillway on the 3rd.
Sightings at Englewood MetroPark this past week included numerous Eastern Bluebirds, Northern Pintails, Ring-necked Ducks, Green-winged Teal, and Wood Ducks.

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This Dayton Audubon Rare Bird Alert is updated periodically as warranted. For last-minute updates, call the Dayton Audubon Hotline at (937)640-BIRD(2473).
Highlights of this week's report include:

- Bald Eagle
- Snow Geese

An adult Bald Eagle has been present at Englewood MetroPark for several days. It was first reported on December 8 and was still in the area on the 11th. The eagle is often seen around the lake, and occasionally seen along the Stillwater River by the dam.

Four Snow Geese have been reported just north of Yellow Springs. The geese have dropped into a small pond at the intersection of Cemetery Road and Yellow Springs-Fairfield Road. There are Canada Geese and some domestic geese at this pond also.

Hooded Mergansers continue to be present on the Great Miami River in downtown Dayton.

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Southwestern Ohio (Dayton) Rare Bird Alert

Dayton Audubon Society

Southwestern Ohio (Dayton)
Rare Bird Alert

December 21, 2000

Compiled by Charlotte Mathena

Highlights of this week's report include:

- Lapland Longspurs
- Bald Eagle

A flock of Lapland Longspurs and Horned Larks were observed on Dog Leg Road behind the Dayton airport on December 21. Also noted at a feeder north of Englewood MetroPark on the 21st were a couple of Fox Sparrows and a female Purple Finch.

An adult Bald Eagle has been present at Englewood MetroPark for a couple of weeks. It was first reported on December 8 and was still in the area on the 20th. The eagle is most often seen near the Englewood Dam spillway, but it has also been seen around the lake in Englewood MetroPark.

Unusual was the sighting of a flock of about 100 White-crowned Sparrows, which were seen at Gilmore Ponds on the 17th.

Three Northern Harriers were observed at Germantown MetroPark on the 15th.

The Hamilton County Christmas Bird Count on the 17th turned up a female Summer Tanager, which was coming to a feeder. Also of note on the Hamilton count were eight Tundra Swans.

A reminder - the Dayton Audubon Christmas Bird Count will be held on Sunday, December 31.

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December 28, 2000

Compiled by Jim Arnold

Highlights of this week's report include:

- Turkey Vultures
- Black Vultures

The following have been reported:

Twelve Turkey Vultures and two Black Vultures have been reported on the chimney of the lodge at Hueston Woods State Park. An additional six Turkey Vultures were seen in the trees, last seen on the 24th.

At Aullwood, at the feeders, they've seen Fox Sparrows and Carolina Wrens on the 28th.

At Bruckner Nature Center, they've seen Red-breasted Nuthatches.

In Cincinnati, at Spring Grove Cemetery near Plot 132, they've observed a Merlin, last seen on the 27th.

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