

A Field Checklist



BIRDS *of* MAGEE MARSH



Cover Artwork by Jennifer Brumfield

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

Ohio Department of Natural Resources

BIRDS OF MAGEE MARSH WILDLIFE AREA & VICINITY

Welcome to the marshes of western Lake Erie, one of the most productive areas of biodiversity in the state of Ohio. The Magee Marsh Wildlife Area covers about 2,000 acres, but together with the protected marshes that surround it, about 8,000 acres of coastal wetlands are owned and managed by the Division of Wildlife and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Additionally, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Recreation, owns the 1,300 acre Maumee Bay State Park located at the western end of the region covered by this checklist. The map on the back of the checklist depicts the area covered by this list.

Magee Marsh is known throughout Ohio and far beyond as an excellent birding spot. In 2000, *Wild Bird Magazine* ranked Magee in the top ten of North American birding locales, and with good reason. This checklist includes 338 species; 82% of all bird species ever spotted in Ohio. Also, the proximity of Lake Erie causes migrating birds to queue up in this area, sometimes in mind-boggling numbers. One of the best spots in North America to observe spectacular numbers of migrant songbirds is the Magee Marsh "Bird Trail," the ½-mile long boardwalk that bisects a seven-acre patch of swamp forest, at the end of the causeway road.

Spring is the premier birding season here; of the 338 species so far recorded in the area, 305 have been found from March through May. Birding is interesting at any season, though, and the marsh region is vital for breeding birds. One hundred and thirty-three species have been documented nesting in this area; that's nearly 75% of all species that nest in the entire state each year! Finally, birders love to find rarities, and Magee Marsh and vicinity have a fantastic track record in that regard. Seventeen species with five or fewer Ohio records have been found, and four species with only one record to date were discovered here.



SEASON

SP – Spring (March through May)

SU – Summer (June through July)

FA – Fall (August through November)

WI – Winter (December through February)

ABUNDANCE

A = Abundant; large numbers and shouldn't be missed

C = Common; easily seen in suitable habitat

U = Uncommon; probably present but not certain to be seen

O = Occasional; only detected once to a few times each season

R = Rare; occurs only every few years

X = Accidental; only one to a few records

***** = Nests locally

SP SU FA WI

ANATIDAE: Ducks, Geese, and Swans

• **Fulvous Whistling-Duck**

Two records, Oct. 19, 1962 and June 5, 1994

• **Greater White-fronted Goose**

Usually singles or small groups with Canada goose flocks

• **Snow Goose**

Both color phases occur, blue phase more common. Moderate numbers overwinter.

• **Ross's Goose**

A few records; first state record from this area on March 18-21, 1982.

• **Brant**

A few records, most likely along Lake Erie shoreline.

• **Cackling Goose**

Split from Canada goose in 2004; singles or small groups mixed with Canada goose flocks.

• **Canada Goose***

Abundant year round; both resident "Giant" and arctic nesting ""Interior"" subspecies occur.

• **Mute Swan***

Non-native and increasing in Ohio; very uncommon nester in the area.

• **Trumpeter Swan***

Establishment efforts began in 1996; several nesting pairs present.

• **Tundra Swan**

Huge flocks can occur; several hundred overwinter most years.

• **Wood Duck***

Nests throughout area; numbers greatly increase in migration.

	SP	SU	FA	WI
Fulvous Whistling-Duck		X	X	
Greater White-fronted Goose	O		O	R
Snow Goose	U	X	U	U
Ross's Goose	X			
Brant	X		X	X
Cackling Goose	R		O	R
Canada Goose*	A	A	A	A
Mute Swan*	U	U	O	U
Trumpeter Swan*	U	U	U	U
Tundra Swan	C	X	C	C
Wood Duck*	C	C	C	R

- **Gadwall***

Has nested occasionally; small numbers linger into winter.

- **Eurasian Wigeon**

Far more likely in spring; usually found in association with American wigeon.

- **American Wigeon***

A rare nester in the marshes; small numbers occasionally overwinter.

- **American Black Duck***

A very rare nester in the marshes; can be very common in migration.

- **Mallard***

Easily found year round; numbers swell tremendously in migratory periods.

- **Blue-winged Teal***

One of our least hardy ducks. Most have departed by mid-October.

- **Cinnamon Teal**

Three records. Most likely to be found with migrant blue-winged teal.

- **Northern Shoveler***

A rare nester in the marshes; not hardy, although a few may overwinter some years.

- **Northern Pintail***

A rare nester in the marshes; small numbers regularly overwinter.

- **Garganey**

The only Ohio record was documented at Mallard Club Wildlife Area, May 19-25, 2002.

- **Green-winged Teal***

Often returns by early March; a rare nester in the marshes.

- **Canvasback**

The Maumee Bay region harbors a regionally significant wintering population.

- **Redhead***

Very rare breeder in the marshes; moderate numbers overwinter in the area.

- **Ring-necked Duck**

The least hardy of our diving ducks, occasional in winter.

- **Greater Scaup**

Much less common than lesser scaup; normally only in winter on Lake Erie.

- **Lesser Scaup***

Only two nesting records, both prior to 1940.

- **King Eider**

Only a few records, from the open waters of Lake Erie.

- **Harlequin Duck**

Strictly accidental, only one or two records.

- **Surf Scoter**

Most likely to be detected on the open waters of Lake Erie.

	C	O	C	U
	SP	SU	FA	WI
	R		X	X
	C	O	C	O
	C	O	C	C
	A	A	A	A
	C	U	C	X
	X		X	
	C	R	C	O
	C	R	C	U
	X			
	C	O	C	R
	C	X	C	C
	C	R	C	U
	C	R	C	O
	U	X	U	U
	C	R	C	C
			X	X
			X	X
	R		R	R

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White-winged Scoter Most likely to be detected on the open waters of Lake Erie. 	R		R	R
	SP	SU	FA	WI
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black Scoter Most likely to be detected on the open waters of Lake Erie. 	R		R	R
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-tailed Duck Former “oldsquaw”; most likely on open waters of Lake Erie. 	R		R	R
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bufflehead Most birds seen on open waters of Lake Erie. 	C	X	U	U
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common Goldeneye Most birds seen on open waters of Lake Erie. 	C		U	C
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barrow’s Goldeneye One record, February 1987 on waters of Lake Erie. 				X
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hooded Merganser* Small numbers nest, often using wood duck boxes. 	C	U	C	U
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common Merganser Normally the most numerous mid-winter merganser. 	C	X	U	C
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red-breasted Merganser Huge numbers can occur on Lake Erie in November. 	C	X	C	C
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ruddy Duck* Rare breeder in the marshes. 	C	O	C	O
PHASIANIDAE: Pheasants				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ring-necked Pheasant* Irregular year to year, depending on stocking. 	O	O	O	O
GAVIIDAE: Loons				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red-throated Loon Very few records, all from waters of Lake Erie. 			X	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common Loon Most are seen on offshore waters of Lake Erie. 	U	X	U	R
PODICIPEDIDAE: Grebes				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pied-billed Grebe* Fairly common nester in the marshes. 	C	C	C	O
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Horned Grebe Most are seen on offshore waters of Lake Erie. 	U	X	U	O
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red-necked Grebe The very few records are from open waters of Lake Erie. 	X		X	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eared Grebe Very few confirmed records; often confused with horned grebe. 	X			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Western Grebe One record, March 22, 1997, on Lake Erie near Metzger Marsh. 	X			
SULIDAE: Gannets				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Gannet One record of this very rare vagrant. 				X

PELECANIDAE: Pelicans

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • American White Pelican Very rare, but seems to be increasing in Ohio. 	R	X	R	
	SP	SU	FA	WI
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brown Pelican One record of a bird that frequented this area of Lake Erie, September 2002. 			X	

PHALACROCORACIDAE: Cormorants

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Double-crested Cormorant* Can become abundant in fall; nests on West Sister Island. 	C	C	C	O
--	---	---	---	---

ARDEIDAE: Herons, Bitterns, and Allies

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • American Bittern* Small numbers nest in marshes; rarely will attempt to overwinter. 	O	O	O	X
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Least Bittern* Small numbers nest in marshes; prefers dense cattail stands. 	U	U	U	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great Blue Heron* Large nesting colony on West Sister Island; small numbers overwinter. 	A	A	A	U
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great Egret* Large nesting colony on West Sister Island; rarely lingers into winter. 	A	A	A	X
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Snowy Egret* Uncommon nester on West Sister Island. 	U	U	U	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little Blue Heron* Very rare nester on West Sister Island. 	O	O	O	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tricolored Heron Very rare visitor, not recorded annually. 	R	R	R	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cattle Egret* Has bred on West Sister Island in very small numbers. 	O	O	O	X
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green Heron* Not a colonial nester like other herons; nests singly in shrubs by water. 	C	C	C	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black-crowned Night-Heron* Common nester on West Sister Island; hardy and will overwinter in small numbers. 	U	U	U	R
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yellow-crowned Night-Heron Very rare and irregular visitor; not recorded annually. 	X	X	X	

THRESKIORNITHIDAE: Ibises

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glossy Ibis Rare and irregular; non-breeding plumaged birds hard to separate from white-faced ibis. 	R	X	R	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White-faced Ibis Only two records; non-breeding plumaged birds hard to separate from glossy ibis. 	X			

CATHARTIDAE: New World Vultures

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black Vulture Only a few records, but increasingly seen north of usual range. 	X			
--	---	--	--	--

	SP	SU	FA	WI
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turkey Vulture* Numbers swell significantly in spring migration; otherwise not common in the area. 	C	U	O	X
ACCIPITRIDAE: Hawks, Kites, Eagles, and Allies				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Osprey Numbers of this fish-eater are increasing; may someday nest in this area. 	U	O	O	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mississippi Kite Two records, May 11, 1985, and May 19, 1996. 	X			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bald Eagle* In 2004, there were more than 15 active nests in this area. 	C	C	C	C
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Harrier* Rare and irregular nester; numbers peak in spring and fall migration. 	C	O	C	U
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharp-shinned Hawk Peak numbers occur in late March and April. 	C	X	U	O
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooper's Hawk* Uncommon in migration; numbers apparently increasing at all seasons. 	U	U	U	U
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Goshawk Most confirmed sightings are of adults; most likely in March/April. 	O		R	R
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red-shouldered Hawk Common migrant, especially in March and April. 	C	R	O	R
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broad-winged Hawk Large flights may occur in April/May, fall peaks are in mid to late September. 	C	X	U	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swainson's Hawk Two records; July 1-August 17, 1983, and April 6, 1991. 	X	X		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red-tailed Hawk* Numbers swell in spring and fall migration; peaks in March and late October/November. 	C	C	C	C
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rough-legged Hawk Most numerous in winter months; small numbers of migrants early spring and November. 	U	X	U	U
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Golden Eagle Very small numbers pass through, March/April and October/November best months. 	R		R	
FALCONIDAE: Falcons				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • American Kestrel* Local populations bolstered by migrants in spring and fall. 	C	U	U	C
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Merlin Most likely in late March/April; hawk tower is a good place to watch for them. 	O		O	R
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gyr Falcon Only a few verified records; probably most likely in late fall and winter. 	X		X	X

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peregrine Falcon Most likely in April/mid-May, and October. Often hunts shorebirds on mudflats. 	O	X	O	R
	SP	SU	FA	WI
RALLIDAE: Rails, Moorhen, and Coots				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yellow Rail Only two verified records, from 1936 and 1987, but very easily overlooked. 			X	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black Rail One record, from 1962, but one of the most secretive birds and easily missed. 	X			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • King Rail* Has declined tremendously, but still nests in larger marshes. Easily overlooked. 	O	O	R	X
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virginia Rail* Much more common than most would suspect; rarely lingers into winter. 	C	U	C	R
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sora* Most common nesting rail; numbers in May/September migrations can be staggering. 	C	U	C	X
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common Moorhen* Numbers swell in spring and fall migration; peaks in April/May and August/September. 	U	U	U	X
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • American Coot* Common nester in marshes, abundant migrant, and often lingers into winter. 	A	C	A	U
GRUIDAE: Cranes				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sandhill Crane Bred historically in western Lucas County but not in this area; migrant numbers increasing. 	O	X	O	R
CHARADRIIDAE: Lapwings and Plovers				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black-bellied Plover Can form large flocks in spring; often frequents freshly plowed fields in spring. 	U	R	C	X
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • American Golden-Plover Can form large flocks in spring; often frequents freshly plowed fields in spring. 	U	R	C	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Snowy Plover Four records, two each in 1993 and 1995. 			X	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilson's Plover Only Ohio specimen collected June 17, 1936, in Lucas County. 		X		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Semipalmated Plover Spring migrants remain into early June; first southbound migrants arrive in early to mid July. 	C	C	C	X
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Piping Plover Former nester; last breeding in area was in 1942. 	R	X	R	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Killdeer* Most common nesting shorebird; sometimes lingers well into winter. 	A	A	A	O
RECURVIROSTRIDAE: Stilts and Avocets				

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black-necked Stilt Only a handful of records, but reports of this bird are on the increase in Ohio. 	X	X	X	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • American Avocet Number of sightings have increased in recent years; often seen in small groups. 	O	O	O	
	SP	SU	FA	WI

SCOLOPACIDAE: Sandpipers, Phalaropes, and Allies

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater Yellowlegs Can return by early March, and has lingered into November. 	C	U	C	X
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lesser Yellowlegs Generally greatly outnumbers greater yellowlegs; two winter records. 	C	C	C	X
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solitary Sandpiper Widespread but never in large numbers; southward birds return by early July. 	C	U	U	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Willet Usually singles, occasionally small groups are seen. 	O		O	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spotted Sandpiper* Frequents streams and rocky riprap along dikes. 	C	C	C	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upland Sandpiper* Most have left by early August; very rare breeder in this area. 	O	R	R	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whimbrel Spring migration very abbreviated; mid to late May. July-September in fall, but scarce. 	R	R	R	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hudsonian Godwit Spring birds very rare; most are juveniles, from late September through October. 	R	X	O	X
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marbled Godwit Much more likely in spring than Hudsonian; most records of single birds. 	R	R	R	X
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ruddy Turnstone Most likely along Lake Erie shoreline beaches and rocky breakwalls. 	U	U	O	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red Knot Usually seen as singles or very small groups; largest flock seen was 49 birds. 	R	X	O	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sanderling Best sought on Lake Erie beaches; much more common in fall. 	U	O	U	X
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Semipalmated Sandpiper Numerically, probably the most abundant "peep". Rarely seen after September. 	C	C	C	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Western Sandpiper Very few spring records; peak occurs between mid-September to mid-October. 	X	R	U	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Least Sandpiper Along with the semipalmated sandpiper, among our most numerous "peeps". 	C	C	C	X
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White-rumped Sandpiper Spring peaks between 3rd week of May and early June; in fall, September/early October. 	U	O	U	

- **Baird's Sandpiper**

Spring birds strictly accidental; virtually all birds seen are juveniles in fall.

- **Pectoral Sandpiper**

Can appear by mid-March; very large flocks sometimes form. Fall migrants return by July.

- **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper**

One record, December 1st and 2nd, 1990, at Metzger Marsh. Second Ohio record.

- **Purple Sandpiper**

Two records, December 3, 1983 and October 2, 1985. Should be sought on rock breakwalls.

- **Dunlin**

Most common migrant shorebird, flocks can number into the thousands.

- **Curlew Sandpiper**

Three records. There have been only five Ohio records of this rare vagrant.

- **Stilt Sandpiper**

Very rare and not annual in spring; peaks in August into early September.

- **Buff-breasted Sandpiper**

Strictly fall and only in small numbers; prefers mowed, grassy fields and drier edges of mudflats.

- **Ruff**

Over a dozen records, mostly in May and late July/August.

- **Short-billed Dowitcher**

Generally much more common than long-billed dowitcher; mostly gone after mid-September.

- **Long-billed Dowitcher**

Rare in spring; dowitchers after September are much more likely this species than short-billed.

- **Wilson's Snipe**

Much more numerous than generally thought. May have nested in the area historically.

- **American Woodcock***

Often arrives by late February; much more common than thought but hard to observe.

- **Wilson's Phalarope***

Two nesting records. Normally rare, but occasional larger flights have occurred.

- **Red-necked Phalarope**

Normally single birds are seen, occasionally small groups. One winter record.

- **Red Phalarope**

Only a few records; most likely on waters of Lake Erie, near breakwalls.

X	R	U	X
C	U	C	X
SP	SU	FA	WI
			X
		X	X
A	U	A	O
X		X	
R	O	U	
		O	
X	X	X	
C	C	C	
R	R	C	X
C	R	C	R
C	U	U	X
R	O	O	
R	R	O	X
		X	X

LARIDAE: Skuas, Gulls, and Terns

- **Pomarine Jaeger**

Only about three indisputable records, all subadult birds.

			X
--	--	--	---

- **Parasitic Jaeger**

At least a few indisputable records, but many records clouded by identification issues.

- **Long-tailed Jaeger**

Three records. Normally the earliest jaeger to be seen in fall.

- **Laughing Gull**

A bird was paired with a ring-billed gull at a colony in nearby Bayshore, 1984 to 1987.

- **Franklin's Gull**

Occasional moderate flights can occur, such as in fall of 1998.

- **Little Gull**

Best sought in large flocks of migrant Bonaparte's gulls in late fall/early winter.

- **Black-headed Gull**

Very rare vagrant, with three records.

- **Bonaparte's Gull**

Most common in late fall/early winter, when enormous concentrations can form in the area.

- **Ring-billed Gull***

By far the most common gull; sometimes outnumbered by herring gull in mid-winter.

- **Herring Gull***

Common, but generally less so than ring-billed gull, except in mid-winter.

- **Thayer's Gull**

A few reports, none very convincing, but it should occur rarely in winter on Lake Erie.

- **Iceland Gull**

Rare winter visitor, most likely when Lake Erie is largely frozen.

- **Lesser Black-backed Gull**

A few records, but probably more birds in winter than have been detected.

- **Glaucous Gull**

Rare winter visitor, most likely when Lake Erie is largely frozen.

- **Great Black-backed Gull**

Becomes more common in winter; most likely on waters of Lake Erie.

- **Sabine's Gull**

Very rare; most likely on waters of Lake Erie in October/early November.

- **Black-legged Kittiwake**

Four, March 28, 1985 were very unusual. Blustery November days most likely to produce birds.

- **Caspian Tern**

Largest flock 175 birds on August 28, 1986. Young often accompany adults in fall migration.

			X	X
	X	X	X	
SP	SU	FA	WI	
X	X	R	X	
R	R	O	X	
		R	R	
	X	X	X	
C	O	A	C	
A	A	A	A	
C	C	C	C	
				X
X		X	R	
X		X	R	
X	X	X	R	
O	R	O	U	
		X		
X		R	X	
U	U	C		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common Tern* Nesting platforms have encouraged nesting in recent years. 	U	C	C	X
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forster's Tern Nests in SE Michigan, could possibly nest in this region someday. 	U	U	C	X
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Least Tern Only a few records of our smallest tern, most in late August. 			X	
	SP	SU	FA	WI
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black Tern* Has become a very rare breeder, and doesn't nest annually anymore. 	O	O	O	
COLUMBIDAE: Pigeons and Doves				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rock Pigeon* Most likely around farms, barns, and silos. 	U	U	U	U
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mourning Dove* Common year round, often forming flocks in fall. 	C	C	A	C
CUCULIDAE: Cuckoos and Anis				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black-billed Cuckoo* Migrants can be fairly common on occasion, but easily overlooked. Rare, local nester in area. 	U	O	U	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yellow-billed Cuckoo* Generally far outnumbers black-billed cuckoo, both in migration and as a nester. 	U	U	U	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groove-billed Ani One record, October 30, 1963. 			X	
TYTONIDAE: Barn Owls				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barn Owl* Formerly fairly common, has declined significantly in recent decades. 	R	R	R	X
STRIGIDAE: Typical Owls				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eastern Screech-Owl* Common but secretive; sometimes seen peering from wood duck nest boxes. 	C	C	C	C
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great Horned Owl* Common but secretive; nesters often utilize red-tailed hawk and other raptor nests. 	C	C	C	C
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Snowy Owl Very cyclical and irregular from year to year; at least one present most winters. 	R		R	O
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burrowing Owl One record, April 5 & 6, 1981. Second Ohio record. 	X			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barred Owl Very rare in this region due to limited habitat, and may not be present every year. 	R	R	R	R
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-eared Owl More common than thought but hard to detect; one nesting record, from 1942. 	O	X	O	R

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short-eared Owl Numbers vary from year to year; as many as 50 have been seen in good years at favored sites. 	O	X	O	O
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Saw-whet Owl More common than thought but hard to detect; search grapevine tangles in April. 	O		O	R
CAPRIMULGIDAE: Goatsuckers				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common Nighthawk* Common migrant, but a rare nester and may not nest in this area annually. 	U	U	C	
	SP	SU	FA	WI
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chuck-will's-widow Only two documented records, May 17, 1992, and May 14, 2004. 	X			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whip-poor-will Very secretive and hard to detect, but small numbers regularly migrate through the area. 	O		R	
APODIDAE: Swifts				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chimney Swift* Uncommon summer resident; numbers swell significantly in migration. 	C	U	C	
TROCHILIDAE: Hummingbirds				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ruby-throated Hummingbird* Migrants can be common; check flowering red buckeye and autumn-olive for feeding birds. 	U	U	C	
ALCEDINIDAE: Kingfishers				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belted Kingfisher* Very hardy and birds will linger well into winter if open water is available. 	U	U	U	O
PICIDAE: Woodpeckers and Allies				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red-headed Woodpecker* Migratory peaks are in mid-May and September; watch for them on roadside phone poles. 	U	U	U	R
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red-bellied Woodpecker* Has increased significantly in recent decades; found in most larger woodlots. 	U	U	U	U
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yellow-bellied Sapsucker Peak movements in April and September/October; some may overwinter in milder winters. 	U	X	U	R
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Downy Woodpecker* Common permanent resident throughout the region. 	C	C	C	C
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hairy Woodpecker* Not nearly as common as the downy woodpecker; generally confined to larger woodlands. 	U	U	U	U
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Flicker* Stages impressive migrations in April/early May; most may depart in severe winters. 	C	C	C	U

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pileated Woodpecker Very few records, but this species is expanding and recently occupied Pearson Metropark. 	X	X		
TYRANNIDAE: Tyrant Flycatchers				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Olive-sided Flycatcher Has decreased significantly in recent years; very late spring and early fall migrant. 	O	X	O	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eastern Wood-Pewee* Common migrant, and nests in most of the area woodlands. 	C	C	C	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yellow-bellied Flycatcher Most numerous in spring migration, but easily overlooked. Can linger into early June. 	U	O	O	
	SP	SU	FA	WI
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acadian Flycatcher* Migrants rarely detected away from nesting sites; rare, localized breeder in this region. 	O	O	R	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alder Flycatcher Non-singing birds inseparable from willow flycatcher, obscuring true status. 	U	O	R	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Willow Flycatcher* Common nester, preferring wet shrubby thickets. Non-singers hard to identify. 	C	C	U	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Least Flycatcher This is our most common Empidonax flycatcher, and like the others can linger into June. 	C	O	C	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gray Flycatcher Photographed along the Magee Marsh bird trail, August 20-22, 1988. The only Ohio record. 			X	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eastern Phoebe* A few scattered breeders in the area; can be hardy and linger into winter occasionally. 	U	U	C	X
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vermilion Flycatcher One found at Ottawa NWR November 4, 2001 lingered until December 12. Third Ohio record. 			X	X
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great Crested Flycatcher* Exceptionally late birds should be carefully studied; ash-throated flycatcher very similar. 	C	C	C	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Western Kingbird A few records; Ohio's only breeding record comes from this area, in 1933. 		X	X	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eastern Kingbird* Can be quite numerous in migration, and is a fairly common breeder. 	C	C	C	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scissor-tailed Flycatcher Two records; May 24, 1988, and May 14-15, 1997. 	X			
LANIIDAE: Shrikes				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loggerhead Shrike Formerly bred in the area; no recent records of nesters or migrants. 	R	R	R	X

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Shrike Very small numbers regular in winter, late fall, and early spring. 	O		O	O
VIREONIDAE: Vireos				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White-eyed Vireo* Has recently increased in this area, and nesters should be watched for. 	O	R	R	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bell's Vireo Inclusion tentative; based on several reports along the bird trail, some may have been correct. 	X			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yellow-throated Vireo* Most common as spring migrant; nesters infrequent in this area. 	O	R	R	
	SP	SU	FA	WI
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blue-headed Vireo First of the vireos to arrive in spring, sometimes by mid-April. 	U		U	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warbling Vireo* Nesters have strong affinity for mature cottonwoods. 	C	C	C	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Philadelphia Vireo Can be very late spring migrant, sometimes lingering into June. 	U	R	O	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red-eyed Vireo* Common breeder in many woodlots, and common migrant spring and fall. 	C	C	C	
CORVIDAE: Crows and Jays				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blue Jay* Stages spectacular migrations along the lake shore in early to mid May. 	A	C	C	C
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black-billed Magpie Two historical records, 1937 and 1943, but the possibility of escapes cannot be eliminated. 	X			X
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • American Crow* Late winter/early spring migrations can be very conspicuous and involve large numbers. 	C	O	U	O
ALAULIDIDAE: Larks				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Horned Lark* Nests in large agricultural fields; pronounced late winter/early spring migrations. 	C	U	C	C
HIRUNDINIDAE: Swallows				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purple Martin* Easily found around Sportsmen's Center occupying martin houses. 	C	C	C	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree Swallow* The most numerous swallow in area. Sometimes lingers into early winter. 	A	A	A	X
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Rough-winged Swallow* Sometimes forms flocks in fall; one early winter record - December 12, 1999. 	U	U	U	X

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bank Swallow* Can form enormous late summer flocks; i.e. 1,000,000 at Cedar Point, August 8, 1931. 	U	U	C	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cliff Swallow* Rarest swallow, very localized nester in area. Most likely in fall migration. 	U	U	U	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barn Swallow* Second most numerous nesting swallow in area; hardy, and at least one early winter record. 	C	C	C	X

PARIDAE: Chickadees and Titmice

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black-capped Chickadee* Relatively rare nester in area; fall migrants occasionally invade from the north. 	U	O	U	U
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tufted Titmouse* Scattered nester in larger woodlots in the area. 	U	U	U	U
	SP	SU	FA	WI

SITTIDAE: Nuthatches

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red-breasted Nuthatch Cyclically irruptive, and varies in frequency greatly from year to year. 	U	X	U	O
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White-breasted Nuthatch* Scattered nester in larger woodlots in the area. 	U	U	U	U

CERTHIIDAE: Creepers

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brown Creeper Can be surprisingly numerous, but numbers vary year to year, and they are easily overlooked. 	C	X	C	U
---	---	---	---	---

TROGLODYTIDAE: Wrens

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carolina Wren* Brutal winters often reduce populations in this area. 	U	U	U	U
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bewick's Wren Formerly a rare visitor; hasn't been seen in several decades. 	X	X	X	X
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • House Wren* By far the most numerous wren in this area; one early winter record. 	C	C	C	X
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winter Wren Peak flights in April and October; one summer record. Inconspicuous and easily missed. 	U	X	C	O
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sedge Wren* Very erratic in numbers and locations from year to year; one winter record. 	O	O	O	X
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marsh Wren* Prefers cattail-dominated marshes; can be hardy and may linger well into winter. 	C	C	C	R

REGULIDAE: Kinglets

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Golden-crowned Kinglet Can be very numerous migrant; winter numbers vary considerably year to year. 	C		C	U
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ruby-crowned Kinglet Later spring migrant than golden-crowned kinglet; rarely will linger into early winter. 	C	X	C	R

SYLVIIDAE: Gnatcatchers

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blue-gray Gnatcatcher* Increasing as a breeder in area; one winter record. 	C	U	O	X
TURDIDAE: Thrushes				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Wheatear One record, an individual present from January 4-21, 1988. First Ohio record. 				X
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eastern Bluebird* Not a common nester; best detected as flyovers in March/April and October in migration. 	U	O	U	R
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Townsend's Solitaire One record, May 24-25, 1970. 	X			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Veery* Uncommon migrant; nests sparingly in larger tracts of swampy woodlands. 	U	O	U	
	SP	SU	FA	WI
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gray-cheeked Thrush Least common of the migrant thrushes; most numerous in September migration. 	U	X	U	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swainson's Thrush Most numerous migrant thrush; peaks in May and September. 	C	R	C	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hermit Thrush Can return by late March; surprisingly hardy and occasionally attempts to overwinter. 	C		C	R
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wood Thrush* Less common in fall migration than spring; nests in larger woodlots; one early winter record. 	C	U	U	X
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • American Robin* One of the most common songbirds in region; wintering numbers vary greatly year to year. 	A	A	A	U
MIMIDAE: Mockingbirds and Thrashers				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gray Catbird* The most common of the three mimics; occasionally a bird attempts to overwinter. 	C	C	C	R
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Mockingbird* Rare and numbers vary somewhat seasonally; harsh winters may eliminate them temporarily. 	R	R	R	R
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brown Thrasher* Most numerous in April/May migration; has declined significantly as a nester; rarely winters. 	U	U	O	R
STURNIDAE: Starlings				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European Starling* A blight upon the landscape, this introduced species displaces native cavity nesters. 	A	A	A	A
MOTACILLIDAE: Pipits				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • American Pipit Easily overlooked; flyovers best detected by flight call in March/April and October. 	U		U	R
BOMBYCILLIDAE: Waxwings				

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bohemian Waxwing Two records; December 26, 1931 and March 11-12, 1978. 	X			X
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cedar Waxwing* Can be very numerous in May and September migration; winter flocks erratic year to year. 	C	C	C	U
PARULIDAE: Wood-Warblers				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blue-winged Warbler* Not particularly common migrant; nesters rare and not annual. 	O	R	R	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Golden-winged Warbler Has declined considerably, and only a few detected each season. 	O		R	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tennessee Warbler Late spring migrant, and can linger into early June. Fall birds can return by late July. 	C	R	C	
	SP	SU	FA	WI
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orange-crowned Warbler Occurs in very small numbers; one early winter record. 	O		O	X
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nashville Warbler Can be fairly numerous; peaks in first half of May and September. 	C	X	U	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Parula Never common; the peak one-day number of individuals was eight. 	U	X	O	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yellow Warbler* The most numerous breeding warbler; almost all depart by September. 	A	A	C	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chestnut-sided Warbler* A few territorial birds have been found in summer, and probably nests occasionally. 	C	O	U	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Magnolia Warbler One of the most numerous migrant warblers; occasionally lingers into early June. 	C	O	C	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cape May Warbler Can be numerous, but numbers can vary widely from year to year. 	U	X	C	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black-throated Blue Warbler Not seen in big numbers; one-day high is 40 birds. Late spring migrants can linger into June. 	C	X	U	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yellow-rumped Warbler The most common migrant warbler; rarely overwinters. Western Audubon's race possible. 	A	X	A	R
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black-throated Green Warbler One of the more numerous warblers, and can occur in fairly large numbers. 	C	X	C	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Townsend's Warbler One record, April 7, 1973. First Ohio record; has been only one additional record. 	X			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blackburnian Warbler Fairly common but never abundant; peaks in mid-May and September. 	U	X	U	

• **Yellow-throated Warbler**

Expanding northward, but still only rarely detected here. One fall record.

• **Pine Warbler**

More likely in spring, but only small numbers pass through. Can appear by late March.

• **Kirtland's Warbler**

Best chance in Ohio is along the Magee bird trail or close vicinity. One fall record, 1929.

• **Prairie Warbler**

One of the rarer migrant warblers; only a few records annually.

• **Palm Warbler**

The bright yellow eastern subspecies hypochrysea has occurred a few times.

• **Bay-breasted Warbler**

Can be quite common but variable year to year; has lingered into June.

• **Blackpoll Warbler**

Can become locally abundant in fall; spring birds have lingered into June.

• **Cerulean Warbler**

Occasional spring migrant; not reported annually in fall.

• **Black-and-white Warbler**

One of the earlier fall warbler returnees, sometimes appearing in late July.

• **American Redstart**

More numerous in spring, when one of the more common warblers; rarely lingers into June.

• **Prothonotary Warbler***

Small numbers breed in the area; most seem to depart by September.

• **Worm-eating Warbler**

Only a few birds seen annually; often spring overflight birds in mid to late April.

• **Ovenbird***

Most numerous in spring; a few nest in the larger woodlots.

• **Northern Waterthrush**

Never abundant, but small numbers reliably found in spring; two winter records.

• **Louisiana Waterthrush**

Very rare spring overflight in early spring; many reports are misidentified Northern waterthrushes.

• **Kentucky Warbler**

Only a few birds are detected most springs; two or three fall records.

• **Connecticut Warbler**

More numerous than thought; late May migrant, lingering into June. Fall birds mostly overlooked.

	SP	SU	FA	WI
Yellow-throated Warbler	R		X	
Pine Warbler	O		O	
Kirtland's Warbler	R		X	
Prairie Warbler	R		X	
Palm Warbler	C		C	X
Bay-breasted Warbler	C	R	C	
Blackpoll Warbler	C	R	C	
Cerulean Warbler	O		R	
Black-and-white Warbler	C	O	C	
American Redstart	C	O	C	
Prothonotary Warbler*	U	U	R	
Worm-eating Warbler	O		X	
Ovenbird*	C	O	U	
Northern Waterthrush	C	R	U	X
Louisiana Waterthrush	R		X	
Kentucky Warbler	O		X	
Connecticut Warbler	O	R	O	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mourning Warbler Similar in timing and skulking habits to Connecticut warbler; somewhat more common. 	U	O	O	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common Yellowthroat* Only yellow warbler is a more numerous nesting warbler. Sometimes stays into winter. 	C	C	C	R
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hooded Warbler One of the least numerous spring warblers; very rare in fall migration. 	O		R	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilson's Warbler Late spring migrant, often lingering into June. Seldom numerous; one day high is 30 birds. 	C	O	C	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada Warbler Very similar to Wilson's warbler in timing and frequency, but generally less common in fall. 	U	O	O	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yellow-breasted Chat* Occasional spring migrant; may no longer nest in the area annually. 	O	R	R	
	SP	SU	FA	WI

THRAUPIDAE: Tanagers

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer Tanager Very few are detected, almost all in spring migration. 	O		X	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scarlet Tanager* Common spring migrant, much less so in fall. A few pairs nest in the largest woodlots. 	C	O	U	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Western Tanager One record, May 16, 1996. One of only two documented Ohio records. 	X			

EMBERIZIDAE: Sparrows and Allies

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eastern Towhee* Migratory peaks are April and October; small numbers nest in the area; rarely overwinters. 	U	U	U	R
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • American Tree Sparrow Arrives by late October; mostly gone by mid-April. Can be quite common in winter. 	C		C	C
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chipping Sparrow* Most numerous during migratory peaks in April/May; rarely attempts to overwinter. 	C	U	U	R
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clay-colored Sparrow This area is the best Ohio locale to find this rare visitor; one to three reports annually. 	O	X		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field Sparrow* Migratory peaks in April and late September/October; nesters now uncommon and localized. 	C	C	C	R
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vesper Sparrow* More common than thought; easily overlooked. Nesters occupy heavily agricultural areas. 	U	U	U	X
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lark Sparrow One fall record at Ottawa NWR, October 1987. 			X	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Savannah Sparrow* Migratory peaks in April/May, late September/October; nesters prefer grassy fields. 	C	C	C	X

• **Grasshopper Sparrow***

Often found in association with Savannah sparrow; but usually less common.

• **Henslow's Sparrow***

Very rare, irregular visitor; very localized breeder and doesn't nest annually.

• **Le Conte's Sparrow**

Rare, but likely more frequent than thought. Most likely in May and late September/October.

• **Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow**

Similar to Le Conte's sparrow in timing and frequency, but may be somewhat more frequent.

• **Fox Sparrow**

Most frequent during late March/early April; rarely overwinters.

• **Song Sparrow***

Most common nesting sparrow; numerous year round.

• **Lincoln's Sparrow**

Narrow migratory peak in mid-May; secretive, easily missed. Has lingered into June, and winter.

• **Swamp Sparrow***

Common marsh nester, particularly where cattails dominate; small numbers winter in marshes.

• **White-throated Sparrow**

Most numerous migrant sparrow; a few have lingered into summer; small numbers overwinter.

• **Harris's Sparrow**

Only one or two old records of this vagrant from the western U.S.

• **White-crowned Sparrow**

Migratory peaks in late April/May and October; winter numbers always small, vary yearly.

• **Dark-eyed Junco**

Spring peak late March/April; fall birds arrive by late September. Winter numbers vary annually.

• **Lapland Longspur**

Much more numerous than thought, but most are flyovers. Peaks in March/April, and November.

• **Smith's Longspur**

One old record, but should be watched for in corn stubble fields with foxtail grass.

• **Snow Bunting**

Many are flyover migrants in February/early March, and November.

U	U	O	
R	R	X	
R	R	R	
R		R	
C		U	R
A	C	A	C
SP	SU	FA	WI
U	X	U	X
C	C	C	U
A	X	A	O
		X	
C	X	C	O
C		C	C
U		U	R
		X	
U		U	U

CARDINALIDAE: Cardinals and Allies

• **Northern Cardinal***

Common year round resident; has increased greatly over the past several decades.

C	C	C	C
---	---	---	---

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rose-breasted Grosbeak* Nests in a few of the largest woodlots; migratory peaks in May and September. 	C	O	U	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blue Grosbeak A few credible reports in May; species is expanding northward in recent years. 	X		X	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigo Bunting* Very common migrant and nester throughout the region. 	C	C	C	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Painted Bunting A female was documented at Magee Marsh on May 13, 2000; second Ohio record. 	X			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dickcissel* Very local and erratic nester, and may not be present every year. 	R	O	O	

ICTERIDAE: Blackbirds

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bobolink* Peak passage is late August/September; most birds detected as flyovers. 	U	U	C	
	SP	SU	FA	WI
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red-winged Blackbird* One of the most numerous breeding birds; winter numbers vary widely year to year. 	A	A	A	C
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eastern Meadowlark* Peak numbers in March/April and October; nesting population may be declining. 	C	U	U	R
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Western Meadowlark* Very rare and irregular nester; not reliably found in any locale from year to year. 	R	R	R	X
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yellow-headed Blackbird* Very rare breeder; a few found most years. Wintering birds possible in large blackbird flocks. 	O	O	O	X
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rusty Blackbird Very early migrant, appearing in late February; frequents swampy woods. 	C	X	C	U
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brewer's Blackbird A few reports annually; best sought by searching through large blackbird flocks. 	O		R	R
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common Grackle* Numbers vary greatly from winter to winter; easily found at all other seasons. 	A	A	A	U
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great-tailed Grackle One record; May 6-7, 1985. The only Ohio record. 	X			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brown-headed Cowbird* Easily found and ubiquitous nest parasite; winter numbers vary greatly year to year. 	C	C	C	U
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orchard Oriole* Never a common migrant or nester, although numbers may slowly be increasing. 	U	U	O	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baltimore Oriole* Very common spring migrant; nesters less so, but most big woodlots have breeding pairs. 	C	C	C	

FRINGILLIDAE: Fringilline and Cardueline Finches and Allies

• **Pine Grosbeak**

No recent records here; last confirmed Ohio record was in 1987.

• **Purple Finch**

Most likely in late April/early May peak; fall and winter numbers vary yearly, but can be common.

• **House Finch***

Non-native; first detected in this region in 1978. Now common year round.

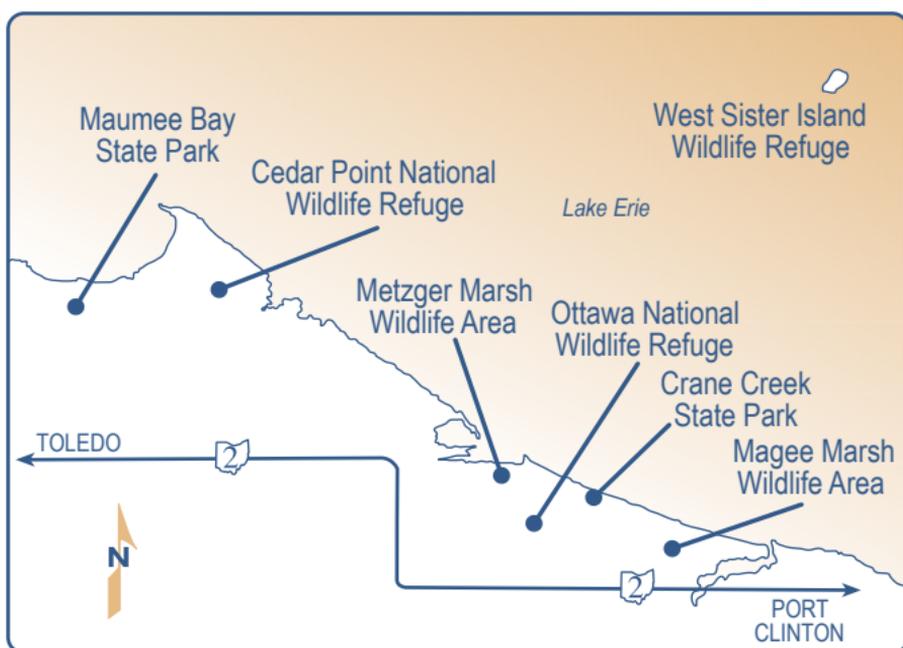
• **Red Crossbill**

Very few records of this notoriously erratic winter visitor; most likely detected as flyovers.

• **White-winged Crossbill**

Very few records of this notoriously erratic winter visitor; most likely detected as flyovers.

		X	
U		O	R
C	C	C	C
		X	X
X		X	



Funding for this publication was provided by donations to the state income tax checkoff program and sales of the Wildlife Conservation license plate.



www.ohiobirds.org



www.WildOhio.com

Thanks to the Ohio Ornithological Society for their technical assistance.

A Field Checklist
BIRDS *of*
MAGEE MARSH



Date(s): _____

Locations: _____

Observers: _____

Time Afield: _____

Weather: _____

Number of Species: _____

Field Notes: _____

Division of Wildlife

Ohio Department of Natural Resources

2045 Morse Road, Bldg. G

Columbus, Ohio 43229-6693

1-800-WILDLIFE • www.WildOhio.com

Ted Strickland, Governor • Sean D. Logan, Director
David M. Graham, Chief

An Equal Opportunity Employer

Publication 342
(R407)