

BIRDS OF MAGEE MARSH
WILDLIFE AREA AND 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 2,200 acres, but together with the protected marshes that surround it, about 11,400 acres of coastal wetlands are owned and managed by the Ohio 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 1,850-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 10 of North American birding locales, and with good reason. This checklist includes 348 species; 82% of all bird species ever spotted in Ohio. Also, the proximity of Lake Erie causes migrating birds to gather 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 mile-long boardwalk that bisects a 34-acre patch of swamp forest at the end of the causeway road.

Spring is the premier birding season here; of the 348 species so far recorded in the area, 310 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 forty-one species have been documented nesting in this area; that's over 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 three species with only one record to date were discovered here.

CHECKLIST KEY

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

COVER ARTWORK: Jennifer Brumfield

	SU	FA	WI
DUCKS, GEESE, AND SWANS			
— Fulvous Whistling-Duck	X	X	
<i>Two records, October 19, 1962 and June 5, 1994.</i>			
— Greater White-fronted Goose	O	O	R
<i>Usually singles or small groups in flocks of Canada geese.</i>			
— Snow Goose	U	X	U U
<i>Both color morphs occur, blue morph more common. Some overwinter.</i>			
— Ross's Goose	X	X	X
<i>First state record from this region, March 18-21, 1982. Several records since.</i>			
— Brant	X	X	X
<i>A few records, most likely along the Lake Erie shoreline.</i>			
— Cackling Goose	R	O	R
<i>Split from Canada goose in 2004; singles or small groups occasionally seen.</i>			
— Canada Goose*	A	A	A A
<i>Abundant year round; both resident "Giant" and Arctic-nesting subspecies occur.</i>			
— Mute Swan*	U	U	O U
<i>Nonnative and increasing; still a rare to uncommon nester locally.</i>			
✓ — Trumpeter Swan*	U	U	U U
<i>Establishment efforts began in 1996; a number of nesting pairs now present.</i>			
— Tundra Swan	C	X	C C
<i>Huge flocks can occur; several hundred overwinter most years.</i>			
— Wood Duck*	C	C	C R
<i>Nests throughout the area; numbers increase greatly in migration.</i>			
— Gadwall*	C	O	C U
<i>Has nested on occasion; small numbers linger into winter.</i>			
— Eurasian Wigeon	R	X	X
<i>Almost all records of this rarity are from spring; usually found with American wigeon.</i>			
— American Wigeon*	C	O	C O
<i>A rare nester in the marshes; small numbers sometime overwinter.</i>			

- ✓ (1)
- **American Black Duck*** SP EU EA WI
C O C C
 A rare nester in the marshes; can be very common in migration.
 - ✓ **Mallard*** A A A A
 Easily found year round; numbers swell tremendously during migration.
 - **Blue-winged Teal*** C U C X
 One of our least hardy ducks. Most have departed by mid-October, and April is peak of spring passage.
 - **Cinnamon Teal** X X
 Three records. Most likely to be found with migrant blue-winged teal.
 - **Northern Shoveler*** C R C O
 A rare nester in the marshes; not hardy, although a few sometimes linger into winter.
 - **Northern Pintail*** C R C U
 A rare nester in the marshes; among our earliest spring migrants, appearing in February.
 - **Garganey** X
 The first Ohio record was documented at Mallard Club Wildlife Area, May 19-25, 2002.
 - **Green-winged Teal*** C O C R
 Often returns by early March; a rare nester in the marshes.
 - **Canvasback*** C X C C
 The Maumee Bay and vicinity harbors a regionally significant wintering population.
 - **Redhead*** C R C U
 Very rare breeder in the marshes; moderate numbers overwinter locally.
 - **Ring-necked Duck** C R C O
 Generally the least hardy of our diving ducks, but winter numbers may be increasing.
 - **Greater Scaup** U X U U
 Much less common than lesser scaup, most often seen in winter on Lake Erie.
 - **Lesser Scaup*** C R C C
 Only two nesting records, both prior to 1940.
 - **King Eider** X X
 Only a few records, from the open waters of Lake Erie.

- ✓ (2)
- **Harlequin Duck** W EA WI
X X
 Strictly accidental, only one or two records.
 - **Surf Scoter** R R R
 Most likely to be detected on the open waters of Lake Erie.
 - **White-winged Scoter** R R R
 Most likely to be detected on the open waters of Lake Erie.
 - **Black Scoter** R R R
 Most likely to be detected on the open waters of Lake Erie.
 - **Long-tailed Duck** R R R
 Formerly "oldsquaw"; most likely on open waters of Lake Erie.
 - **Bufflehead** C X U U
 Most birds seen on open waters of Lake Erie.
 - **Common Goldeneye** C U C
 Most birds seen on open waters of Lake Erie.
 - **Hooded Merganser*** C U C U
 Small numbers breed locally, often using wood duck boxes.
 - **Common Merganser** C X U C
 Normally the most numerous mid-winter merganser.
 - **Red-breasted Merganser** C X C C
 Huge numbers can congregate on Lake Erie in November and December.
 - **Ruddy Duck*** C O C O
 Rare breeder in the marshes; large flocks sometimes seen on Lake Erie.

QUAIL

- **Northern Bobwhite** X X X X
 Formerly fairly common; no longer occurs naturally. Stocked birds may be seen on occasion.

PHEASANT AND TURKEY

- **Ring-necked Pheasant*** O O O O
 Irregular year to year, depending on stocking.
- **Wild Turkey*** R R R R
 Recent arrival to the region, although historically once common. Increasing.

LOONS

- **Red-throated Loon** X
 Very few records, all from waters of Lake Erie.

5

✓
— Common Loon U X U R

Most are seen on waters of Lake Erie, or as flyovers in migration.

GREBES:

— Pied-billed Grebe* C C C O

Fairly common nester in the marshes.

✓ — Horned Grebe U X U O

Most are seen on open waters of Lake Erie.

— Red-necked Grebe X X

The very few records are from open waters of Lake Erie.

— Eared Grebe X

Very few confirmed records; easily confused with horned grebe.

GANNET:

— Northern Gannet X

One record of this very rare vagrant to Ohio.

PELICANS:

— American White Pelican O R O

Very rare, but reports are increasing.

— Brown Pelican X

One record of a bird that frequented Lake Erie's Western Basin, September 2002.

CORMORANTS:

✓ — Double-crested Cormorant* C C C O

Numbers reach peaks in fall, when flocks of thousands can occur. Nests on West Sister Island.

BITTERNS AND HERONS:

— American Bittern* O O O X

Small numbers nest in marshes; occasionally found in winter.

— Least Bittern* U U U

Small numbers nest in marshes; prefers dense cattail stands.

✓ — Great Blue Heron* A A A U

Large nesting colony on West Sister Island. Variable numbers overwinter depending on open water.

✓ — Great Egret* C C C X

Large nesting colony on West Sister Island. Rarely lingers into winter.

✓ — Snowy Egret* U U U

Uncommon nester on West Sister Island.

4

✓
— Little Blue Heron* O O O

Very rare nester on West Sister Island.

— Tricolored Heron R R R

Very rare visitor, not recorded annually.

— Cattle Egret* O O O X

Has bred on West Sister Island in very small numbers.

— Green Heron* C C C

Not a colonial nester like other herons; nests singly in shrubs by water.

— Black-crowned Night-Heron* U U U R

Common nester on West Sister Island; hardy and will overwinter in small numbers.

— Yellow-crowned Night-Heron X X X

Very rare and irregular visitor, not recorded annually.

IBISES:

— Glossy Ibis O X O

Rare and irregular, but seems to be increasing.

— White-faced Ibis R

Only a few records; non-breeders difficult to distinguish from glossy ibis.

VULTURES:

— Black Vulture X

Only a few records, but increasingly seen north of its usual range.

✓ — Turkey Vulture* C U U X

Numbers swell significantly in migration, otherwise not very common in this region.

HAWKS, KITE, EAGLES, AND ALLIES:

— Mississippi Kite X

Two records, May 11, 1985, and May 19, 1996.

— Osprey U O U

Numbers of this fish-eater are increasing; may someday nest in this area.

✓ — Bald Eagle* C C C C

This region supports Ohio's greatest density of nesting eagles.

✓ — Northern Harrier* C O C U

Rare and irregular nester; numbers peak in spring and fall migration.

✓ — Sharp-shinned Hawk C X U O

Peak numbers occur in spring migration: late March and April.

- 1
- ✓ **Cooper's Hawk*** SF SU FA WI
U U U U
Fairly common migrant, but normally greatly outnumbered by sharp-shinned hawk. Nesters increasing.
 - Northern Goshawk** O R R
Most confirmed sightings are of adults; most likely in March/April in migration.
 - Red-shouldered Hawk*** C O U O
Common migrant, especially in March/April. A few pairs may nest locally.
 - Broad-winged Hawk** C X U
Large flights may occur in April/May; fall peaks are in mid- to late September.
 - ✓ **Red-tailed Hawk*** C C C C
Numbers swell in spring and fall migration; common breeder in the region.
 - Rough-legged Hawk** U X U U
Most numerous in winter months; small numbers of migrants pass through in early spring/late fall.
 - Golden Eagle** O R
Very small numbers pass through; March/April and October/November are peak times.

- FALCONS
- American Kestrel*** U U U U
Local populations bolstered by migrants in spring and fall; numbers seem to be declining.
 - Merlin** O O R
Most likely in March/April; numbers may slowly be increasing.
 - Gyrfalcon** X X X
Only a few verified records; probably most likely in late fall and winter.
 - Peregrine Falcon** O X O R
Probably best sought in fall, hunting shorebirds on large mudflats.
 - Prairie Falcon** X
One record, November 27, 2007, near Ottawa NWR.

- RAILS, GALLINULES, AND COOT
- Yellow Rail** X
Only two verified records: from 1936 and 1987, but very easily overlooked.
 - Black Rail** X
One record, from 1962, but one of the most secretive birds and easily missed.

- 2
- King Rail*** O O R X
Has declined tremendously, but still nests in larger marshes. Easily overlooked.
 - Virginia Rail*** C U C R
Much more common than most would suspect; rarely lingers into winter.
 - Sora*** C C C X
Most common nesting rail; numbers in May/September migrations can be staggering.
 - Purple Gallinule** X
One record, a bird near Magee Marsh on May 5, 2010.
 - Common Gallinule*** U U U X
Numbers swell in spring and fall migration; peaks in April/May and August/September.
 - American Coot*** A C A U
Common nester in marshes, abundant migrant, and often lingers into winter.

- CRANE
- ✓ **Sandhill Crane*** O X U R
Migrants, especially in fall, are increasing. Nests sparingly in the region.

- PLOVERS
- Black-bellied Plover** U R C X
Occasional large flocks in spring; sometimes frequents freshly plowed fields.
 - American Golden-Plover** U R C
Occasional large flocks in spring; often frequents freshly plowed fields.
 - Snowy Plover** X
Four records, two each in 1993 and 1995.
 - Wilson's Plover** X
Only Ohio specimen collected June 17, 1936, in Lucas County.
 - Semipalmated Plover** C C C X
Spring migrants remain into early June; first southbound migrants arrive in early to mid-July.
 - Piping Plover** R X R
Former breeder; last Ohio nesting was in 1942.
 - ✓ **Killdeer*** A A A O
Most common nesting shorebird; sometimes lingers well into winter.

1

STILT AND AVOCET

- **Black-necked Stilt** X X X
Only a handful of records thus far, but reports are on the increase in Ohio.
- **American Avocet** O O O
Number of sightings have increased in recent years; sometimes seen in small groups.

SANDPIPERS, PHALAROPE, AND ALLIES

- **Spotted Sandpiper*** C C C
Frequents streams and rocky riprap along dikes.
- **Solitary Sandpiper** C U U
Widespread, but never in large numbers; southward birds return by early July.
- ✓ **Greater Yellowlegs** C U C X
Can return by early March, and has lingered into early winter.
- **Willet** O O
Usually singles, occasionally small groups are seen.
- **Lesser Yellowlegs** C C C X
Generally outnumbers greater yellowlegs; two winter records.
- **Upland Sandpiper*** O O R
Most have left by early August; very rare breeder in this area.
- **Whimbrel** O R O
Spring migration very abbreviated; mid- to late May, July-September in fall, but scarce.
- **Hudsonian Godwit** R X O X
Spring birds very rare; most are juveniles from late September through October.
- **Marbled Godwit** R R O X
Much more likely in spring than Hudsonian; most records of single birds.
- **Ruddy Turnstone** U O O
Most likely along Lake Erie shoreline beaches and rocky breakwalls.
- **Red Knot** R X O
Usually seen as singles or very small groups; largest documented flock was 49 birds.
- **Sanderling** U O U X
Best sought on Lake Erie beaches; more common in fall.

2

SANDPIPERS, PHALAROPE, AND ALLIES

- **Semipalmated Sandpiper** C C C
Numerically, probably the most abundant "peep." Rarely seen after September.
- **Western Sandpiper** X R U
Very few spring records; peak occurs between mid-September to mid-October.
- **Least Sandpiper** C C C X
Along with the semipalmated sandpiper, our most numerous "peep."
- **White-rumped Sandpiper** U O U
Spring peaks between 3rd week of May and early June; in fall, September/early October.
- **Baird's Sandpiper** X R U X
Spring birds strictly accidental; virtually all birds seen are juveniles in fall.
- **Pectoral Sandpiper** C U C X
Can appear by mid-March; very large flocks sometimes form. Fall migrants return by July.
- **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** X
One record, December 1 and 2, 1990, at Metzger Marsh. Second Ohio record.
- **Purple Sandpiper** X X
Two records, December 3, 1983 and October 2, 1985. Should be sought on rock breakwalls.
- ✓ **Dunlin** A U A O
Most common migrant shorebird, flocks can number into the thousands.
- **Curlew Sandpiper** X X
Three records. There have been only five Ohio records of this rare vagrant.
- **Stilt Sandpiper** R O U
Very rare and not annual in spring; peaks in August through early September.
- **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** O
Strictly fall and only in small numbers; prefers mowed, grassy fields and drier edges of mudflats.
- **Ruff** X X X
Over a dozen records, mostly in May and late July/August.
- ✓ **Short-billed Dowitcher** C C C
Generally much more common than long-billed dowitcher; mostly gone after mid-September.

- ✓ **Long-billed Dowitcher** (b)

SP	SU	FA	WI
R	R	C	X

Rare in spring; dowitchers after September are much more likely this species than short-billed.
- **Wilson's Snipe***

C	R	C	R
---	---	---	---

Much more numerous than generally thought. May nest on occasion.
- **American Woodcock***

C	U	U	X
---	---	---	---

Often arrives by late February; more common than thought, but hard to observe.
- **Wilson's Phalarope***

R	O	O	
---	---	---	--

Two nesting records. Normally rare, but occasional larger flights have occurred.
- **Red-necked Phalarope**

R	R	O	X
---	---	---	---

Normally single birds are seen, occasionally small groups. One winter record.
- **Red Phalarope**

		X	X
--	--	---	---

Only a few records; most likely on open waters of Lake Erie.

GULLS AND TERNS

- **Black-legged Kittiwake**

X		R	X
---	--	---	---

Blustery November days with north winds most likely to produce birds.
- **Sabine's Gull**

		X	
--	--	---	--

Very rare; most likely on waters of Lake Erie in October/early November.
- **Bonaparte's Gull**

C	O	A	C
---	---	---	---

Most common in late fall/early winter, when large concentrations can form in the area.
- **Black-headed Gull**

X	X	X	
---	---	---	--

Very rare vagrant, with three records.
- **Little Gull**

		R	R
--	--	---	---

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

X	X	R	X
---	---	---	---

Rare vagrant. A bird was paired with a ring-billed gull at a colony in nearby Bayshore, 1984 to 1987.
- **Franklin's Gull**

R	R	O	X
---	---	---	---

Occasional moderate flights can occur, such as in fall 1998.
- ✓ **Ring-billed Gull***

A	A	A	A
---	---	---	---

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

- ✓ **Herring Gull*** (3)

SP	SU	FA	WI
C	C	C	C

Common, but generally less so than ring-billed gull, except in mid-winter.
- **Thayer's Gull**

			X
--	--	--	---

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

X		X	O
---	--	---	---

Rare winter visitor, most likely when Lake Erie is largely frozen.
- **Lesser Black-backed Gull**

X		X	R
---	--	---	---

A few records, but probably more birds in winter than have been detected.
- **Glaucous Gull**

X	X	X	O
---	---	---	---

Rare winter visitor, most likely when Lake Erie is largely frozen.
- **Great Black-backed Gull**

O	R	O	U
---	---	---	---

Becomes more common in winter; most likely on waters of Lake Erie.
- **Least Tern**

X		X	
---	--	---	--

Only a few records of our smallest tern, most in late August.
- ✓ **Caspian Tern**

U	U	C	
---	---	---	--

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

O	O	O	
---	---	---	--

Has become a very rare breeder; no longer nests annually.
- ✓ **Common Tern***

U	C	C	X
---	---	---	---

Nesting platforms have encouraged nesting in recent years.
- **Arctic Tern**

			X
--	--	--	---

One record, August 11 and 12, 2010, Maumee Bay State Park.
- **Forster's Tern**

U	U	C	X
---	---	---	---

Has bred in southeast Michigan, could possibly nest in this region someday.

JAEGERS

- **Pomarine Jaeger**

			X
--	--	--	---

Only about three indisputable records, all subadult birds.
- **Parasitic Jaeger**

		X	X
--	--	---	---

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

③

	SP	SE	FA	WI
Long-tailed Jaeger	X	X	X	

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

PIGEONS AND DOVES

- Rock Pigeon* U U U U
Most likely around farms, barns, and silos.
- Eurasian Collared-Dove X X
A few recent reports from vicinity of Ottawa NWR.
- White-winged Dove X
Two recent records from Ottawa NWR.
- Mourning Dove* C C A C
Common year round, often forming flocks in fall.

CUCKOOS AND ANI

- Yellow-billed Cuckoo* U U U
Generally outnumbers black-billed cuckoo, both in migration and as a nester.
- Black-billed Cuckoo* U O U
Migrants can be fairly common on occasion, but easily overlooked. Uncommon and local nester in area.
- Groove-billed Ani X
One record, October 20, 1963.

BARN OWL

- Barn Owl* R R R X
Formerly fairly common, has declined significantly in recent decades.

TYPICAL OWLS

- Eastern Screech-Owl* C C C C
Common, but secretive; sometimes seen peering from wood duck nest boxes.
- Great Horned Owl* C C C C
Common, but secretive; nesters often use red-tailed hawk and other raptor nests.
- Snowy Owl R R O
Very cyclical and irregular from year to year; at least one present most winters.
- Burrowing Owl X
One record, April 5 and 6, 1981. Second Ohio record.
- Barred Owl R R R R
Very rare in this region due to limited habitat, and may not be present every year.

④

	SP	SE	FA	WI
Long-eared Owl	O	X	O	R

More common than thought, but hard to detect; one nesting record, from 1942.

- Short-eared Owl O X O O
Numbers vary from year to year; as many as 50 have been seen in good years at favored sites.
- Northern Saw-whet Owl O O R
More frequent migrant than thought, but hard to detect; search grapevine tangles in March/April.

GOATSUCKERS

- Common Nighthawk* U U C
Can be fairly common in migration, but a rare nester and may not nest in this area annually.
- Chuck-will's-widow X
Only a few indisputable records, all from May.
- Whip-poor-will O R
Very secretive and hard to detect, but small numbers regularly migrate through the area.

SWIFT

- Chimney Swift* C U C
Uncommon summer resident; numbers swell significantly in migration.

HUMMINGBIRD

- Ruby-throated Hummingbird* U U U
Migrants can be common; check flowering red buckeye and autumn-olive for feeding birds.

KINGFISHER

- Belted Kingfisher* U U U O
Very hardy and birds will linger well into winter if open water is available.

WOODPECKERS

- Red-headed Woodpecker* U O U R
Migratory peaks are in mid-May and September; watch for them on roadside phone poles.
- Red-bellied Woodpecker* U U U U
Has increased significantly in recent decades; found in most larger woodlots.
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker U X U O
Peak movements in April and September/October; some may overwinter in milder winters.
- Downy Woodpecker* C C C C
Common permanent resident throughout the region.

(2) +1?

✓ **Hairy Woodpecker*** U U U U
Not nearly as common as the downy woodpecker; generally confined to larger woodlands.

✓ **Northern Flicker*** C C C U
Stages impressive migrations in April/early May; most may depart in severe winters.

— **Pileated Woodpecker** X X
Very few records, but this species is expanding and there are occasional local reports.

FLYCATCHERS

— **Olive-sided Flycatcher** O X O
Has decreased significantly in recent years; very late spring and early fall migrant.

— **Eastern Wood-Pewee*** C C C
Common migrant, and nests in most of the area woodlands.

— **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** U O O
Most often detected in spring migration, but easily overlooked. Can linger into early June.

— **Acadian Flycatcher*** O O R
Migrants rarely detected away from nesting sites; rare, localized breeder in this region.

— **Alder Flycatcher** U O R
Non-singing birds inseparable from willow flycatcher, obscuring true status.

— **Willow Flycatcher*** C C U
Common nester, preferring wet shrubby thickets. Non-singers easily confused with other flycatchers.

— **Least Flycatcher** C O C
This is our most common migrant Empidonax flycatcher, and can linger into June.

— **Dusky Flycatcher** X
Only Ohio record; a bird banded in Ottawa County in May 2005.

— **Gray Flycatcher** X
Photographed along the Magee Marsh bird trail, August 20-22, 1988. First of three Ohio records.

— **Eastern Phoebe*** U U C X
Uncommon and scattered breeder; can be hardy and linger into winter occasionally.

— **Vermilion Flycatcher** X X
One found at Ottawa NWR November 4, 2001 lingered until December 12. Third Ohio record.

(5)

— **Great Crested Flycatcher*** C C C
Exceptionally late fall birds should be carefully studied; ash-throated flycatcher very similar.

— **Western Kingbird** X X
A few records; Ohio's only breeding record comes from this area, in 1933.

✓ **Eastern Kingbird*** C C C
Can be quite numerous in migration, and is a fairly common breeder.

— **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** X
Two records; May 24, 1988, and May 14-15, 1997.

SHRIKES

— **Loggerhead Shrike** X X X X
Formerly bred in the area; no recent records of nesters or migrants.

— **Northern Shrike** O O O
Very small numbers regular in winter, late fall, and early spring.

VIREOS

— **White-eyed Vireo*** O R R
Has recently increased in this area, and nesters should be watched for.

— **Bell's Vireo** X
Inclusion tentative; based on several reports along the bird trail, some may have been correct.

— **Yellow-throated Vireo*** U O O
Most common as spring migrant; nesters infrequent in this area.

✓ **Blue-headed Vireo** C U
First of the vireos to arrive in spring, sometimes by mid-April.

✓ **Warbling Vireo*** C C C
Nesters have strong affinity for mature cottonwoods.

— **Philadelphia Vireo** U R U
Can be very late spring migrant, sometimes lingering into June.

✓ **Red-eyed Vireo*** C C C
Common breeder in many woodlots, and common migrant spring and fall.

JAY, MAGPIE, CROW

✓ **Blue Jay*** A C C C
Stages spectacular migrations along the lake shore in early to mid-May.

2

Black-billed Magpie X X

Two historical records, 1937 and 1943, but the possibility of escapes cannot be eliminated.

— **American Crow*** C U U U

Late winter/early spring migrations can be very conspicuous and involve large numbers.

LARK

— **Horned Lark*** C U C C

Nests in large agricultural fields; pronounced late winter/early spring migrations.

SWALLOWS

— **Purple Martin*** C C C

Easily found around Sportsmen's Center occupying martin houses.

✓ **Tree Swallow*** A A A X

The most numerous swallow in the area. Sometimes lingers into early winter.

— **Northern Rough-winged Swallow*** U U U X

Sometimes forms flocks in fall; one early winter record - December 12, 1999.

— **Bank Swallow*** U C C

Can form enormous late summer flocks; e.g., 1,000,000 at Cedar Point, August 8, 1931.

— **Cliff Swallow*** U U U

Rarest swallow, very localized nester in area. Most likely in fall migration.

✓ **Barn Swallow*** C C C X

Second most numerous nesting swallow in area; hardy, and at least one early winter record.

CHICKADEE AND TITMOUSE

— **Black-capped Chickadee*** U O U U

Uncommon nester in area; fall migrants occasionally invade from the north.

— **Tufted Titmouse*** U U U U

Scattered nester in larger woodlots in the area.

NUTHATCHES

— **Red-breasted Nuthatch** U X U O

Cyclically irruptive, and varies in frequency greatly from year to year.

— **White-breasted Nuthatch*** U U U U

Scattered nester in larger woodlots in the area.

3

CREEPER

— **Brown Creeper** C X C O

Can be surprisingly numerous, but numbers vary year to year, and they are easily overlooked.

WRENS

— **Carolina Wren*** U U U U

Brutal winters can reduce populations in this area.

— **Bewick's Wren** X X X X

Formerly a rare visitor; hasn't been seen in several decades.

✓ **House Wren*** C C C X

By far the most numerous wren in this area; one early winter record.

— **Winter Wren** U X C O

Peak flights in April and October; one summer record. Inconspicuous and easily missed.

— **Sedge Wren*** O O O X

Erratic in numbers and locations from year to year; one winter record.

— **Marsh Wren*** C C C R

Prefers cattail-dominated marshes; can be hardy and may linger well into winter.

GNATCATCHERS

✓ **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher*** C U U X

Increasing as a breeder in area; one winter record.

KINGLETS

— **Golden-crowned Kinglet** C C U

Can be very numerous migrant; winter numbers vary considerably year to year.

✓ **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** C X C R

Later spring migrant than golden-crowned kinglet; rarely will linger into early winter.

THRUSHES

— **Northern Wheatear** X

One record, an individual present from January 4-21, 1988. First Ohio record.

— **Eastern Bluebird*** U O U R

Not a common nester; best detected as flyovers in March/April and October in migration.

✓ **Townsend's Solitaire** X

One record, May 24-25, 1970.

- 6
- ✓ **Veery*** C O U
Generally uncommon migrant; rare nester in larger tracts of swampy woodlands.
 - **Gray-cheeked Thrush** U X U
Least common of the migrant thrushes; most numerous in September migration.
 - ✓ **Swainson's Thrush** C R C
Most numerous migrant thrush; peaks in May and September.
 - **Hermit Thrush** C C R
Can return by late March; surprisingly hardy and occasionally attempts to overwinter.
 - **Wood Thrush*** C U U X
Less common in fall migration than spring; nests in larger woodlots; one early winter record.
 - ✓ **American Robin*** A A A O
One of the most common songbirds in region; wintering numbers vary greatly year to year.

MIMICS

- ✓ **Gray Catbird*** C C C R
The most common of the three mimics; occasionally a bird lingers into winter.
- **Northern Mockingbird*** R R R R
Rare; harsh winters may temporarily eliminate or greatly reduce population.
- **Brown Thrasher*** U U O R
Most numerous in April/May; rarely lingers into winter.

STARLING

- ✓ **European Starling*** A A A C
A blight upon the landscape; this introduced species displaces native cavity nesters.

PIBIT

- **American Pipit** U U R
Easily overlooked; flyovers best detected by flight call in March/April and October.

WAXWINGS

- **Bohemian Waxwing** X X
Two records; December 26, 1931 and March 11-12, 1978.
- **Cedar Waxwing*** C C C O
Can be very numerous in May and September migration; winter flocks erratic year to year.

- 6
- #### LONGSPURS AND SNOW BUNTING
- **Lapland Longspur** U U R
More numerous than thought, but most are migrant flyovers. Peaks in March/April and November.
 - **Smith's Longspur** X
One old record, but should be watched for in corn stubble fields with foxtail grass.
 - **Snow Bunting** U U U
Many are flyover migrants in February/early March and November.

WOOD-WARBLERS

- ✓ **Ovenbird*** C O U
Most numerous in spring; small numbers nest in the larger woodlots.
- **Worm-eating Warbler** O X
Only a few birds seen annually; occasional spring overflight birds in mid- to late April.
- **Louisiana Waterthrush** R X
Rare overflight in early spring; many reports are misidentified Northern waterthrushes.
- **Northern Waterthrush** C R U X
Never abundant, but fairly common and easily found in spring; two winter records.
- **Golden-winged Warbler** O O
Has declined considerably, and only a few detected each season.
- **Blue-winged Warbler*** U R R
Not particularly common migrant; nesters rare and not annual.
- ✓ **Black-and-white Warbler** C O C
One of the earlier fall warbler returnees, sometimes appearing in late July.
- ✓ **Prothonotary Warbler*** U U R
Small numbers breed in the area; most seem to depart by September.
- ✓ **Tennessee Warbler** C R C
Late spring migrant, and can linger into early June. Fall birds can return by late July.
- **Orange-crowned Warbler** U U X
Occurs in very small numbers; one early winter record.
- ✓ **Nashville Warbler** C X C
Can be numerous; peaks in first half of May and September.

12

- ✓ **Connecticut Warbler** O R O
More numerous than thought; late May migrant, lingering into June. Probably largely overlooked in fall.
- ✓ **Mourning Warbler** U O O
Similar in timing and skulking habits to Connecticut warbler, but appreciably more common.
- **Kentucky Warbler** O X
Only a few birds are detected most springs; two or three fall records.
- ✓ **Common Yellowthroat*** C C C R
Only the yellow warbler is a more numerous nesting warbler. Sometimes stays into winter.
- S ✓ **Hooded Warbler** O R
One of the least numerous spring warblers; very rare in fall migration.
- ✓ **American Redstart*** C O C
More numerous in spring, when one of the more common warblers; rarely lingers into June.
- S ✓ **Kirtland's Warbler** O X
Best chance to see in Ohio is at Magee Marsh Wildlife Area and vicinity. One fall record, 1929.
- ✓ **Cape May Warbler** C X C
Can be numerous, but numbers can vary widely from year to year.
- **Cerulean Warbler** O R
Occasional spring migrant; fall records are quite scarce.
- ✓ **Northern Parula** U X U
Occurs in low numbers; most frequent in spring.
- ✓ **Magnolia Warbler** C O C
One of the most numerous migrant warblers; occasionally lingers into early June.
- ✓ **Bay-breasted Warbler** C R C
Can be quite common, but variable year to year; has lingered into June.
- ✓ **Blackburnian Warbler** U X U
Fairly common, but never abundant; peaks in mid-May and September.
- ✓ **Yellow Warbler*** A A C
The most numerous breeding warbler; almost all depart by September.
- ✓ **Chestnut-sided Warbler*** C O C
A few territorial birds have been found in summer and probably nests occasionally.

8

- ✓ **Blackpoll Warbler** C R C
Can become locally abundant in fall; spring birds have lingered into June.
- ✓ **Black-throated Blue Warbler** C X U
Not typically seen in large numbers. Late spring migrants can linger into June.
- ✓ **Palm Warbler** C C X
The bright yellow eastern subspecies hypochrysea has occurred a few times.
- **Pine Warbler** O O
More likely in spring, but only small numbers pass through. Can appear by late March.
- ✓ **Yellow-rumped Warbler** A X A O
The most common migrant warbler; rarely overwinters. One or two records of "Audubon's" subspecies.
- **Yellow-throated Warbler** O X
Expanding northward, but still only rarely detected here. One fall record.
- ✓ **Prairie Warbler** O X
One of the rarer migrant warblers; only a few records annually.
- **Townsend's Warbler** X
One record, April 7, 1973. First Ohio record.
- ✓ **Black-throated Green Warbler** C X C
One of the more numerous warblers, and can occur in fairly large numbers.
- ✓ **Canada Warbler** U O U
Very similar to Wilson's warbler in timing and frequency, but generally less common in fall.
- ✓ **Wilson's Warbler** C O C
Late spring migrant; sometimes lingering into June. Seldom numerous; one day high is 30 birds.
- ? **Yellow-breasted Chat*** O R R
Occasional spring migrant; may no longer nest in the area annually.

SPARROWS

- **Eastern Towhee*** C U U R
Migratory peaks are April and October; small numbers nest in the area; rarely overwinters.
- **American Tree Sparrow** C C C
Arrives by late October; mostly gone by mid-April. Can be quite common in winter.

- 4
- ✓ — **Chipping Sparrow*** C U U R
Most numerous during migratory peaks in April/May; occasionally found in winter.
 - **Clay-colored Sparrow** O X
This area may be the best Ohio locale to find this rare visitor; one to three reports annually.
 - **Field Sparrow*** C U C R
Migratory peaks in April and late September/October; nesters now uncommon and localized.
 - **Vesper Sparrow*** U U U X
More common than thought; easily overlooked. Nesters occupy heavily agricultural areas.
 - ✓ — **Lark Sparrow** X
One fall record at Ottawa NWR, October 1987.
 - **Savannah Sparrow*** C U C X
Migratory peaks in April/May, late September/October; nesters prefer grassy fields.
 - **Grasshopper Sparrow*** U U O
Sometimes found in association with Savannah sparrow; but usually less common.
 - **Henslow's Sparrow*** R R X
Very rare, irregular visitor; very localized breeder and doesn't nest annually.
 - **Le Conte's Sparrow** R X R
Rare, but likely more frequent than thought. Most likely in late September/October.
 - **Nelson's Sparrow** R O
Similar to Le Conte's sparrow in timing and frequency; but may be somewhat more frequent.
 - **Fox Sparrow** C U R
Most frequent during late March/early April; rarely overwinters.
 - ✓ — **Song Sparrow*** C C C O
Most common nesting sparrow; numerous year round.
 - ✓ — **Lincoln's Sparrow** U X U X
Narrow migratory peak in mid-May; secretive, easily missed. Has lingered into June, and winter.
 - **Swamp Sparrow*** C C C O
Common marsh nester, particularly where cattails dominate; small numbers winter in marshes.
 - ✓ — **White-throated Sparrow** A X A O
Most numerous migrant sparrow; a few have lingered into summer; small numbers overwinter.

- 6
- **Harris's Sparrow** X
Only one or two old records of this vagrant from the western U.S.
 - ✓ — **White-crowned Sparrow** C X C O
Migratory peaks in late April/May and October; winter numbers always small, vary yearly.
 - **Dark-eyed Junco** C C C
Spring peak late March/April; fall birds arrive by late September. Winter numbers vary annually.
- TANAGERS, CARDINALS, AND ALLIES**
- **Summer Tanager** O X
Very few are detected, almost all in spring migration.
 - ✓ — **Scarlet Tanager*** C O U
Common spring migrant, less so in fall. A few pairs nest in the largest woodlots.
 - **Western Tanager** X
One record, May 16, 1996. One of very few documented Ohio records.
 - ✓ — **Northern Cardinal*** C C C C
Common year round resident; has increased over the past several decades.
 - ✓ — **Rose-breasted Grosbeak*** C O U
Nests in a few of the largest woodlots; migratory peaks in May and September.
 - **Blue Grosbeak** X X
A few credible reports; species is expanding northward in recent years.
 - ✓ — **Indigo Bunting*** C C C
Very common migrant and nester throughout the region.
 - **Painted Bunting** X
A female was documented at Magee Marsh on May 13, 2000; second Ohio record.
 - **Dickcissel*** R O O
Very local and erratic nester, and may not be present every year.
- BLACKBIRDS**
- **Bobolink*** U U C X
Peak passage is late August/September; most birds detected as flyovers.
 - ✓ — **Red-winged Blackbird*** A A A U
One of the most numerous breeding birds; winter numbers vary widely year to year.

3

— Eastern Meadowlark* C U U R

Peak numbers in March/April and October, nesting population may be declining.

— Western Meadowlark* R R R X

Very rare and irregular nester; not reliably found in any locale from year to year.

— Yellow-headed Blackbird* O O O X

Very rare breeder; a few found most years. Occasionally found in large mixed blackbird flocks.

— Rusty Blackbird C X C O

Very early migrant, appearing in late February; frequents swampy woods.

— Brewer's Blackbird O X R

A few reports annually; best sought by searching through large blackbird flocks.

✓ Common Grackle* A A A U

Numbers vary greatly from winter to winter; easily found at all other seasons.

— Great-tailed Grackle X

One record, May 6-7, 1985. The only Ohio record.

✓ Brown-headed Cowbird* C C C U

Easily found and ubiquitous nest parasite; winter numbers vary greatly year to year.

— Orchard Oriole* U U O

In general an uncommon migrant and nester, although numbers may slowly be increasing.

✓ Baltimore Oriole* C C C

Very common spring migrant; nesters less so, but most big woodlots have breeding pairs.

FINCHES AND ALLIES

— Pine Grosbeak X

No recent records in this region, last confirmed Ohio record was in 2008.

— Purple Finch U U O

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

— House Finch* U U U U

Non-native, first detected in this region in 1978. Now year-round resident.

— Red Crossbill X X

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

1

— White-winged Crossbill X X

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

— Common Redpoll O O O

Extremely variable; may be absent some years, fairly common others.

— Hoary Redpoll X

There are a few records that are likely correct. Most likely during common redpoll invasions.

— Pine Siskin U U O

Numbers vary widely winter to winter; at least small numbers occur in migration annually.

✓ American Goldfinch* C C C U

Large movements in May of migrants; most may retreat in harsher winters.

— Evening Grosbeak X

Very erratic and unpredictable; has declined tremendously in Ohio and few recent sightings.

OLD WORLD SPARROW

— House Sparrow* C C C C

Mostly found around buildings and adjacent areas.



Map depicts region covered by checklist

Support the Friends of Magee Marsh!



friendsofmageemarsh.org