

Birds of Hancock County, Ohio

An annotated checklist of the 314 species known to have occurred in Hancock County, Ohio.
It follows the nomenclature and taxonomic sequence of the Fifty-fourth Supplement to American Ornithologists Union's *Check-list of North American Birds*.

A few terms that are used in this checklist: Hypothetical- No direct evidence exists, but present habitat in county and statewide patterns suggest that it could occur here.
Extirpated- No longer found in our county. Migrant- A species passing through our county on its way to or from breeding grounds.
Casual- Several years can go between records, but a pattern of occurrence still exists.

Legend		A species listed in bold has bred in Hancock County within the last ten years. A bird with an (hb) after its common name is a bird known to have bred at least once in the past century, but not in the past ten years.
Very rare, casual, or accidental; few records.	X	
Rare; not necessarily seen every year.	R	
Uncommon; not always seen but usually present.	U	In this checklist months are divided into four sections, each is roughly a week long.
Common; normally seen and widespread.	C	
Very common to abundant; found in numbers.	A	
Hypothetical or unconfirmed records.	?	Where a section is blank, there are no confirmed records of the species in Hancock County at that time. That doesn't necessarily mean it couldn't be present.

Greater White-fronted Goose	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	With few exceptions, our records of this species are from one of our area's reservoirs.		
<i>Anser albifrons</i>	X		R	X	X	X								R	R
					X	X	X	X							

Snow Goose	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Typically seen flying in flocks near one of our reservoirs.				
<i>Chen caerulescens</i>	X	X		X	X	X	R	X		X	X	R		R	R	U	U

Ross's Goose	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Several Findlay Reservoir records and one from the Meijer's store retention pond.			
<i>Chen rossii</i>				?	?	X	R							?	?	X

Caution: Snow and Ross's Geese are known to hybridize, and it is possible that most Ross's reported in Ohio are actually hybrids. These hybrids have been seen in Hancock County.

Brant	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Most records are from the Findlay Reservoirs.	
<i>Branta bernicla</i>											X	R		R

Cackling Goose	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Most records are from Lake Cascades, but look for this bird in any goose flock from fall through spring.						
<i>Branta hutchinsii</i>	U	R	R	R	R	R	X	X	X					X	R	R	R	U	U

Canada Goose	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	The subspecies that breeds in Hancock County is of the largest variety(Giant).						
<i>Branta canadensis</i>	C	C	C	C	C	C	A	A	A	A	A	A		C	C	C	C	C	C

There are many subspecies of Canada Geese. The smallest is nearly the same size as the Cackling Goose.

Mute Swan (hb)	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Highly erratic wanderer; may show up at almost any time. Has possibly bred in county. (records lost)						
<i>Cygnus olor</i>	R	R	R	R	X	X	X	R	R	?	?	X							X

Trumpeter Swan	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Most, maybe all, of our county records are of farm-raised birds that escaped.		
<i>Cygnus buccinator</i>	X	X	X				X	X						R	

Tundra Swan	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Our most common swan. Reservoirs and bigger flooded fields.												
<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>	R	X	X	R	U	R	R	R	U	U	R								R	U	C	R	U	U	U

Wood Duck	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Prefers our river, creeks, & smaller ponds. Will stay the winter if open water can be found in this county.																			
<i>Aix sponsa</i>	X	X	X	R	R	R	R	U	C	C	C	C		A	C	A	C	C	U	U	C	U	U	U	U	R	U	C	U	U	U	R

Gadwall	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Apparently increasing in numbers. Could be on almost any pond in migration; also on reservoirs.																
<i>Anas strepera</i>	R	R	R	X	X	R	U	U	U	U	U	R										R	U	U	U	U	U	R	R

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Long-tailed Duck <i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Seldom encountered, almost always at the Findlay Reservoirs																									
		X	X	X	X						X	X	X																									
Bufflehead <i>Bucephala albeola</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Seen in a wide variety of ponds and reservoirs here, but shows a preference for the "point" on the center dike at the Findlay Reservoirs.																									
	R	R	R	R	R						R	U	C	C	C	C	U	U	U																			
Common Goldeneye <i>Bucephala clangula</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Most often seen at the Findlay or Fostoria Reservoirs. In winter, can be found along the Blanchard River.																									
	R	R	R	R	R	X	X	X					R	U	U	U	U	U	U																			
Hooded Merganser <i>Lophodytes cucullatus</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	This bird prefers the river, smaller ponds, and the Clay Pits. Casually breeds in the county.																									
	R	R	R	R	R	U	U	C	C	C	U	U	R	R	R	X			X	?		R	R	R	U	U	U	U	R	R	R	R						
Common Merganser <i>Mergus merganser</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Shows a strong preference for Findlay Reservoirs. Not as common here as the Red-breasted Merganser.																									
	R	U	U	U	U	U	R	R	U	U	U	U	U	X										U	U	U	C	C	U	U	U	U						
Red-breasted Merganser <i>Mergus serrator</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Findlay Reservoir #1 seems to be a favorite location for this species. Rafts of 100+ are not uncommon.																									
	R	R	R	R	U	C	C	A	A	C	C	C	C	C	U	R	R	X					X	R	R	U	U	C	C	U	U	R	R					
Ruddy Duck <i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Very common at the Findlay Reservoirs, common at McComb and Fostoria Reservoirs.																									
	U	U	U	R		R	U	C	C	C	C	C	U	R	R	R	R	X	X	X	X	X	X	R	R	R	U	C	C	C	C	C	C	U	U			
Many species have escaped from captivity in our county. Some of these oddballs include: Black Swan, Swan Goose, Greylag Goose, Bar-headed Goose, Chinese Goose, Muscovy, Helmeted Guinea-Fowl, Peafowl, and Ringed Turtle-Dove. In addition to these species, domesticated varieties of Mallards are occasionally encountered.																																						
Northern Bobwhite (hb) <i>Colinus virginianus</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Extirpated. Subsequent sightings are probably private releases. Could become reestablished.																									
					X	X	X						X																									
Ring-necked Pheasant (hb)	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>		Extirpated as a wild breeding population. All recent sightings are of hunting birds or private releases																																			
Ruffed Grouse	<i>Bonasa umbellus</i>		Extirpated. Historical records indicate it was present in pre-settler days, but was eradicated by the mid-19 th century.																																			
Wild Turkey <i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	First introduced in 1997, has since become well established in this county.																									
	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U			
Besides Bobwhite, Pheasant, and Turkey, Chukars and Gray Partridges have been released for hunting purposes occasionally. Gray Partridges even bred here 60+ years ago.																																						
Red-throated Loon <i>Gavia stellata</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Five records, all from the Findlay Reservoirs. (Dec, 1982; Nov, 2012; Nov, 2013; Apr, 2014; Apr 2015)																									
					?	X	X																	X	X	X	X											
Pacific Loon <i>Gavia pacifica</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Two records from the Findlay Reservoirs: May 2012 and April 2015.																									
					X	?	?			X																												
Common Loon <i>Gavia immer</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Can be seen virtually year round at the Findlay Reservoirs, if they don't freeze up. Summer birds are non-breeding juveniles.																									
	X	X	X		X		R	R	U	C	C	C	C	C	C	U	R	R	R	U		R	R	R	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	R			
Pied-billed Grebe <i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Present on most bodies of water during migration, but typically only one or two individuals.																									
	R	R	R	R	R	R	U	U	U	C	C	C	U	U	U	U	R		R	R		R	R	U	U	U	C	C	C	C	U	U	U	U	U			
Horned Grebe <i>Podiceps auritus</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Uncommon to rare at best away from the Findlay Reservoirs. There they can number 20+ at times.																									
	R	R	R	R		R	U	C	C	C	C	C	C	U	U	U	R							R		R	U	U	C	C	C	C	U	U	U	U	U	
Red-necked Grebe <i>Podiceps grisegena</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	All Hancock County records are from the Findlay Reservoirs																									
					X	X	X	X					X	R	R	X										X	R	R	X									

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Eared Grebe <i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Most records are from Findlay and Fostoria Reservoirs																									
Western Grebe <i>Aechmophorus occidentalis</i>				R	R	R	X						R		X			One record (Nov 25, 1984) at Findlay Reservoir #2.																				
Wood Stork <i>Mycteria americana</i>								X	X	X								Two records: June 28- July 12, 1966 & July 14, 1998.																				
Double-crested Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>				R	U	C	C	C	C	U	U	U	U	U	?	R	R	R	U	U	U	C	C	C	U	U	U	U	U	R	R	R	R	R		In the spring, usually seen at one of our reservoirs, while in the fall will spread out to smaller ponds. Casual breeder at Lake Mosier.		
American White Pelican <i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>					X	X				X																										Three records (May 2012, Apr 2014, April 2015) from the Findlay Reservoirs.		
Brown Pelican <i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>										X																										An individual was documented flying over the barrow pond along SR 15 at Vanlue.		
American Bittern <i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>						R	R	R	U	R		R	X		R		R	R	R	R																Probably breeds every year in the Clay Pits area. Hypothetical in late winter there.		
Least Bittern <i>Ixobrychus exilis</i>							X	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R		X	X			X															Probably more common; its small size and retiring nature help them to easily hide in cattail marshes.		
Great Blue Heron <i>Ardea herodias</i>	U	U	U	U	U	U	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	U	U	U	The common big heron in our county. There are at least six known heron nesting colonies in the county.
Great Egret <i>Ardea alba</i>							R	U	U	U	U	U	R	X			R	R	U	U	U	C	U	U	R	R	X									Riverside Park and the conservation areas east of Riverbend usually host this bird in migration.		
Snowy Egret <i>Egretta thula</i>									X																												A May 11, 1991 record exists of this bird. Should be a casual migrant.	
Little Blue Heron <i>Egretta caerulea</i>						X			X		X	X	X	X																							Five separate records exists of this species in Hancock County: 1946, 1949, 1962, 2003, 2013	
Tricolored Heron <i>Egretta tricolor</i>										X																											Shane Myers observed and photographed an individual on May 31, 2013 on Lye Creek, from TR 205, west of the Findlay Reservoirs.	
Cattle Egret <i>Bubulcus ibis</i>						R	R	R	X		X																	X	X							? X	Six records (1968, 1973, 1989, 1992, 1996, 2007), may be a casual migrant. Look in flooded fields.	
Green Heron <i>Butorides virescens</i>							U	U	C	C	C	C	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	C	C	U	R	R	R	R		X		Prefers rivers, streams, and woody ponds. Easily overlooked.		
Black-crowned Night-Heron <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>				R		R	U	U	U	R	R		R	R	R		R	R	U	U	R	R	R	X	R				X							Nocturnal, so easily overlooked. The Clay Pits area is a good location to look.		
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron <i>Nyctanassa violacea</i>													X	X	X																						One record at the Camp Berry spillway on Eagle Creek. Possible as a late summer wanderer from breeding colony in Columbus.	

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Sora <i>Porzana carolina</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Marshes and wet grassy meadows. Probably breeds in the Clay Pits. Not as common as the Virginia Rail.
Common Gallinule <i>Gallinula galeata</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Significant decline in reports, now a very rare to casual migrant. Ponds.
American Coot (hb) <i>Fulica americana</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Common on the Findlay Reservoirs, where it forms small rafts that hug the shore.
Sandhill Crane <i>Grus canadensis</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Increasing in numbers, but still a rare bird and a spectacular sight. Most records are flocks seen flying overhead during migration.
With several exceptions, plovers and sandpipers (collectively called shorebirds) are most often seen at our reservoirs and muddy areas by ponds (mudflats). On the reservoirs, check the rocks from the waterline to the top. For the mudflats, check water's edge.													
Black-necked Stilt <i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	A sighting by A. Clagus for July 6, 1985 was submitted to Bruce Peterjohn.
American Avocet <i>Recurvirostra americana</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Probably present most years. Every record is from either the Findlay Reservoirs or Fostoria Reservoir #4 (Lake Mosier)
Black-bellied Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Most records are from the Findlay Reservoirs.
American Golden-Plover <i>Pluvialis dominica</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Seen at our reservoirs and grassy fields. Seen with regularity in fields west and south of Benton Ridge in the fall.
Semipalmated Plover <i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	The Findlay Reservoirs and Fostoria's Lake Mosier are where most of our sightings of this species occur.
Piping Plover <i>Charadrius melodus</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Federally endangered species.
Killdeer <i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Our noisiest and most common shorebird. Fields, lakes, yards, parking lots, anywhere it is open.
Spotted Sandpiper <i>Actitis macularius</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	In migration, often recorded on our reservoirs. During summer, it is recorded along our river, streams, and wooded ponds.
Solitary Sandpiper <i>Tringa solitaria</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Reservoirs, flooded fields, CRP ponds.
Greater Yellowlegs <i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Shows a preference for flooded farm fields, even more so than Lesser Yellowlegs.
Willet <i>Tringa semipalmata</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Most sightings come from the Findlay Reservoirs, although there is one record from the Clay Pits.
Lesser Yellowlegs <i>Tringa flavipes</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Shows a preference for flooded farm fields, but also frequently seen at our reservoirs.

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Upland Sandpiper (hb) <i>Bartramia longicauda</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Extirpated as a breeder, now a casual migrant at best. Historically most often seen at Findlay Airport.
Whimbrel <i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Four records from the Findlay Reservoirs. (May 30, 1981; Jul 23, 1993; Aug 27, 1996; May 20, 2014)
Hudsonian Godwit <i>Limosa haemastica</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Our two records are from the Findlay Reservoirs (1994), and from a field just west of there (2013).
Marbled Godwit <i>Limosa fedoa</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Three records (April 5, 1994, May 1, 2011, and Sept 2014), all from the Findlay Reservoirs.
Ruddy Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	The center dike between the two Findlay Reservoirs is the best location to spot this bird in Hancock.
Red Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Five records: one at Clay Pits, three around the Findlay Reservoirs, and one at Findlay Wastewater treatment plant.
Stilt Sandpiper <i>Calidris himantopus</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Few records, all recent. Probably a rare, yearly fall migrant.
Sanderling <i>Calidris alba</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Usually recorded on the dike between the two Findlay Reservoirs.
Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Most records are from the Findlay and Fostoria Reservoirs, although it will rarely show up elsewhere.
Baird's Sandpiper <i>Calidris bairdii</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Practically all records are from the dividing dike of the Findlay Reservoirs.
Least Sandpiper <i>Calidris minutilla</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Either our 1st or 2nd most common sandpiper, depending on year. Reservoirs and flooded fields.
White-rumped Sandpiper <i>Calidris fuscicollis</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Most records in Hancock County are from the center dike of the Findlay Reservoirs.
Buff-breasted Sandpiper <i>Calidris subruficollis</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	The center dike of the Findlay Reservoirs is one of the best spots in the state to see this rare species.
Pectoral Sandpiper <i>Calidris melanotos</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Seemingly more common in flooded fields than in any other location.
Semipalmated Sandpiper <i>Calidris pusilla</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Either our 1st or 2nd most common sandpiper, depending on year. Reservoirs and flooded fields.
Western Sandpiper <i>Calidris mauri</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Check in mixed flocks of Semipalmated and Least Sandpipers for this species.
Short-billed Dowitcher <i>Limnodromus griseus</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Most frequently seen at the Findlay Reservoirs and at Fostoria Lake Mosier (Reservoir #4)
Long-billed Dowitcher <i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Generally speaking, a more colder weather migrant than Short-billed.

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Identification between the two dowitchers is difficult; some records may be erroneous.

Wilson's Snipe	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.					
<i>Gallinago delicata</i>	X	X	X	R	R	U	R	R	R	X	X						

Typically seen in flooded fields and wet grassy areas.

When reservoirs are mentioned generically in this checklist, it refers to the Findlay, Fostoria, and McComb Reservoirs in Hancock County.

American Woodcock	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.					
<i>Scolopax minor</i>		X	R	R	R	U	U	U	R	R	R	R	R	R	X		

Declining. Grasslands with nearby cover and fairly open woods. Starts breeding before many shorebirds even begin migration.

Wilson's Phalarope	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.					
<i>Phalaropus tricolor</i>								X	X	X	X	?	X				

Mr. Phillips reported this bird as a nearly yearly migrant at the Clay Pits; it may still be a regular migrant there. Also flooded fields.

Red-necked Phalarope	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.					
<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>					X	X			R	R	X						

It appears all of our records of this bird come from around the Findlay Reservoirs.

Red Phalarope	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.					
<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>									R	R	R	X					

Species has been recorded from the Findlay Reservoirs and the Vanlue Lagoons. May be a regular migrant in the open water of our reservoirs.

Several species have been observed in nearby counties, but not yet in Hancock. A few of these include Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Mississippi Kite, California Gull, Bell's Vireo, Fish Crow, Mountain Bluebird, Smith's Longspur, Spotted Towhee, and Hoary Redpoll.

Black-legged Kittiwake	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.					
<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>											X						

There is a November 21, 1981 record of an immature bird around the Blanchard River near the Osborne Avenue bridge.

Sabine's Gull	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.					
<i>Xema sabini</i>										X							

An individual was seen at the Findlay Reservoirs on Oct 5 & 6, 2014.

Bonaparte's Gull	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.																									
<i>Chroicocephalus philadelphia</i>	X			R	R	C	C	C	U	U	R	R	X	X	R	R		R	R	U	U	U	U	R	R	R	U	U	U	C	C	C	C	U	U	R	R

Third most common gull in county, though rather rare away from our reservoirs.

Little Gull	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.																																	
<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>											X																																		

Two individuals of this species were seen on Nov 2, 2014 at the Findlay Reservoirs.

Laughing Gull	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.																																
<i>Leucophaeus atricilla</i>				?		X		X		X		X		X		X																												

Look for the gull after strong storms from the east in the spring and fall.

Franklin's Gull	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.																																		
<i>Leucophaeus pipixcan</i>				R	R		X		X				X	R	U	U	U	R	R	R	X																									

The Findlay and Fostoria Reservoirs are where one is most likely to see this bird in the fall.

Ring-billed Gull	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.																																		
<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	C	C	C	U	U	U	U	C	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	C	C	U	U	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	C	C	C	C

Easily the most common gull in Hancock County. Summering individuals are non-breeders.

Herring Gull	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.																																			
<i>Larus argentatus</i>	C	C	C	U	U	U	U	U	C	C	C	C	C	C	U	U	U	U	C	X		R	R	R	R		R	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C

Second most common gull, will rarely outnumber Ring-billed Gulls. There is tremendous variation in plumage and size with this species.

Thayer's Gull	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.																																								
<i>Larus thayeri</i>		?																																													?	?	X	X	X	X

Studies of the huge gull flocks at the Findlay Reservoirs in late fall will possibly yield more individuals of this species.

Birds of Hancock County, Ohio

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.													
Iceland Gull <i>Larus glaucooides</i>		?		X							X	X	X	It appears we have had the Kumlein's variety of this species and it is probably a casual early winter wanderer to our county.											
Lesser Black-backed Gull <i>Larus fuscus</i>	R	R	R	R	X				X	X	R	R	R	R	U	U	U	R	U	U	Unrecorded in Hancock before 2004; probably our fourth most common gull now. Most records are from the Findlay Reservoirs.				
Glaucous Gull <i>Larus hyperboreus</i>		X	X	R	R	R	X	X								X		R	R	R	All records are from the Findlay Reservoirs. Is probably a very rare migrant and winter resident.				
Great Black-backed Gull <i>Larus marinus</i>		R		R	R	X	R	X						X		R	R		R	R	R	Most records are from the late fall and early winter at the Findlay Reservoirs. Size alone usually identifies this species. (Eagle-sized)			
While we have only a few documented records, it is known many species of gulls hybridize frequently. Also, there is a great amount of plumage variations in most species, as well as size variation among the larger gulls. Some gulls may not be identifiable.																									
Least Tern <i>Sternula antillarum</i>													X								We have a July 18, 2000 record from Fostoria's Lake Mosier.				
Caspian Tern <i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>				R	R	R	R	R	R	U	U	U	U	U	R	R	R	U	R		Increasing; small numbers are seen every migration at the Findlay Reservoirs and Lake Mosier.				
Black Tern <i>Chlidonias niger</i>					X	R	R	U	R			X	X	R	U	R	R	R	R		Decreasing. In Hancock County, it is usually only found at the Findlay and Fostoria Reservoirs.				
Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i>				X	X	R	R	R	R	R	X	X	X	R	U	R	R	R	X		Most often recorded at the Findlay or Fostoria Reservoirs.				
Forster's Tern <i>Sterna forsteri</i>				R	R	R	R	R	R	X	X	R	R	R	U	R	R	R	R		Usually more common in our county than the Common Tern.				
Royal Tern <i>Thalasseus maximus</i>													X								An individual of this species was seen on the center dike of the Findlay Reservoirs on September 3, 1985.				
Rock Pigeon <i>Columba livia</i>	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	The common pigeon, found in towns and farms.				
Eurasian Collared-Dove <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>				X	X		X	X													Two records in the county: June 14, 2009 and spring of 2015 in Vanlue.				
White-winged Dove <i>Zenaida asiatica</i>							X	X													Two records for this species: June 17, 2010 and May 23, 2015.				
Mourning Dove <i>Zenaida macroura</i>	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	One of our most common birds, found in a variety of habitats. Frequently seen at feeders.				
Yellow-billed Cuckoo <i>Coccyzus americanus</i>					R	U	C	U	R	U	U	U	U	C	C	C	U	R	R	R	R	R	X	X	While seldom seen, this bird is probably present in every woodlot with any size. Appears to be leaving earlier in fall.
Black-billed Cuckoo <i>Coccyzus erythrophthalmus</i>					X	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	X		?				Highly secretive. Recorded less often than Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Woodlots.

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Barn Owl (hb)	<i>Tyto alba</i>												Extirpated. Could possibly be a casual wanderer into this county. Beware: young Great Horned Owls sound very similar to Barn Owls.			
Eastern Screech-Owl	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	The most common bird-of-prey in Hancock County, but seldom seen. Any tree with cavities could host this owl.			
<i>Megascops asio</i>	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C				
Great Horned Owl	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Found in most of our medium and larger woodlots, plus several suburban neighborhoods.			
<i>Bubo virginianus</i>	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U				
Snowy Owl	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Farm fields, usually near reservoirs or livestock operations. Not present every winter.			
<i>Bubo scandiacus</i>	R	R	X	X	R						X			R	R	R
Barred Owl	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Least common of the three breeding owls, but the most likely to be seen/ heard.			
<i>Strix varia</i>	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R		R	R	R
Long-eared Owl (hb?)	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Has usually been found in our larger pine plantings. May have bred in the county in early 20 th century.			
<i>Asio otus</i>		R	R	R	R	R	R	R								
Short-eared Owl	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Most commonly seen winter owl. Check our larger (40+ acres) grasslands towards sunset.			
<i>Asio flammeus</i>	R	R	R								R	R		R	R	R
Northern Saw-whet Owl	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Our smallest owl. Heavy brush and pine plantings are good places to look.			
<i>Aegolius acadicus</i>			R	R	R	R	R							R		
Common Nighthawk	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Downtown Findlay in summer at dusk is a reliable place and time to look for this bird.			
<i>Chordeiles minor</i>					X	R	U	U	U	U	U	U		U	U	U
Eastern Whip-poor-will	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Very few records, but may be a regular migrant. It's possible it may breed in this county at some point.			
<i>Antrostomus vociferus</i>				X		R	R							R	R	X
Chimney Swift	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Most often seen around towns and buildings with chimneys, its preferred roosting spot.			
<i>Chaetura pelagica</i>				X	R	R	C	A	A	A	A	C		C	C	C
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Our breeding hummingbird, edges of woods and neighborhoods.			
<i>Archilochus colubris</i>																
Rufous Hummingbird	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	One record in late 2012 in the SE part of Findlay, and another for November of 2014 near the Clay Pits.			
<i>Selasphorus rufus</i>														X	X	X
Belted Kingfisher	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Found along most stream sides and many reservoirs and ponds in our area.			
<i>Megasceryle alcyon</i>	R	R	R	R	R	U	U	U	U	U	U	U		U	U	U
Red-headed Woodpecker	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Some stay over-winter. The countryside between Williamstown and Jenera usually seems to have a few of these birds around.			
<i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i>	R		R	R	R	R	R	U	U	U	U	U		U	R	R
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	This woodland woodpecker will frequently visit suet feeders. Also peanuts, sunflower and cracked corn.			
<i>Melanerpes carolinus</i>	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C		C	C	C
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Woodlots, especially ones with Red Cedar or planted pines. Probably a casual winter resident.			
<i>Sphyrapicus varius</i>		R	R	R	R									R	R	R

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Downy Woodpecker	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	The most common woodpecker; found wherever there are a few trees. Frequents suet feeders.
<i>Picoides pubescens</i>	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	
Hairy Woodpecker	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Not as common as the Downy. Prefers slightly more mature woods and suburbs with bigger trees. Likes suet.
<i>Picoides villosus</i>	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	
Northern Flicker	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	While all woodpeckers spend time on the ground, this one does so the most. Dramatic decrease in numbers in the winter.
<i>Colaptes auratus</i>	R	R	R	R	U	U	U	C	C	C	C	C	
Pileated Woodpecker	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Our largest and rarest woodpecker. Litzenberg and Van Buren State Park have small populations.
<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	
American Kestrel	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Apparently decreasing in numbers. Driving county roads and looking on the wires for this bird is one's best bet to find it.
<i>Falco sparverius</i>	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	U	U	U	U	
Merlin	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Increasing. Prefers more open areas to hunt, but will come into town (especially Maple Grove Cemetery).
<i>Falco columbarius</i>		R	X	X	X	R	R						
Peregrine Falcon	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Probably present every year during migration, often around our reservoirs. One bird stayed the winter at the Marathon Building. (2009)
<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	X	X	X	R		
Prairie Falcon	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	One county record (Oct 2012) at the Findlay Reservoirs. Seen and photographed by many birders from around the state.
<i>Falco mexicanus</i>										X	X		
Olive-sided Flycatcher	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Seen in woody settings, perched on one of the most conspicuous and exposed branches. More likely seen in fall.
<i>Contopus cooperi</i>						R	R	R	X				
Eastern Wood-Pewee	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Woodlots, generally near water.
<i>Contopus virens</i>					?			R	U	C	C	C	
The following five species, of the genus <i>Empidonax</i> , are best identified by voice. They tend not to call in the fall and identification becomes quite difficult, impossible in many cases. Habitat is not a reliable identifying characteristic in migrating birds. Collectively <i>Empidonax</i> flycatchers are common in September.													
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Usually found low inside our woodlots.
<i>Empidonax flaviventris</i>					?		R	U	U				
Acadian Flycatcher	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Found in woodlots with larger trees. Appears to be increasing as a breeding species.
<i>Empidonax virens</i>						X	R	R	U	U	U	U	
Alder Flycatcher	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	The scarcest <i>Empidonax</i> . Only confirmed breeding location in this county is just east of Riverbend.
<i>Empidonax alnorum</i>						R	R	R					
Willow Flycatcher	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Our most common breeding <i>Empidonax</i> . Shrubby fields and railroad right-of-ways.
<i>Empidonax traillii</i>						X	R	U	U	C	C	C	
Least Flycatcher	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Most common migrating <i>Empidonax</i> flycatcher, seen in woods. Very rare breeder in county.
<i>Empidonax minimus</i>						R	R	C	A	C	R	R	

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Eastern Phoebe <i>Sayornis phoebe</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	The earliest migrating flycatcher. Frequently builds its nest under bridges and on buildings.													
				C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C													
Great Crested Flycatcher <i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	A large flycatcher of woods and woodland edges.													
				X	R	R	U	C	C	C	U	U	U	U	U	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	
Eastern Kingbird <i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Farm country fence rows are its favorite location.													
					R	R	U	U	C	C	C	U	U	U	U	U	U	C	U	U	R	R	R	R		
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher <i>Tyrannus forficatus</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	There is one May 18, 1962 record from around Arlington, plus a few other unconfirmed records.													
					X																					
Loggerhead Shrike (hb) <i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	Extirpated. An accidental migrating stray is very unlikely, but possible.																									
Northern Shrike <i>Lanius excubitor</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Small numbers are present most winters. Grassy fields with isolated trees bordering is ideal habitat.													
	R	R	R		R								R											R		
Any Shrike seen in this county, at any time of year, is more likely to be a Northern Shrike than a Loggerhead.																										
White-eyed Vireo <i>Vireo griseus</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Never common, loves heavy brush. Breeds near Aurand Run on the south end of Oakwoods.													
				R	R	R	U	U	R	R	R	R	R											X	X	
Yellow-throated Vireo <i>Vireo flavifrons</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Most often seen near the tops of trees in our woodlots. Increasing as a breeding bird.													
					R	U	C	C	R	U	U	U	U	U	U			R	U	R	R	R	X			
Blue-headed Vireo <i>Vireo solitarius</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Woods, from a few feet off the ground almost to the tops. Usually our first vireo in spring migration.													
					R	R	U	U	R	X								X	R	R	R	R	R	R		
Warbling Vireo <i>Vireo gilvus</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Common along forest/ field edges. Also where woodlots meet county roads. Many breed along the Blanchard River.													
					R	U	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	U	U	U	U	C	C	U	R				
Philadelphia Vireo <i>Vireo philadelphicus</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Woodlots and woody neighborhoods. Possibly under reported; sounds similar to Red-eyed Vireo.													
					R	U	U	R	R					?			R	U	R	R	R	R				
Red-eyed Vireo <i>Vireo olivaceus</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Woodlots are this species' home. Frequently the only bird singing midday in summer.													
					R	U	A	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	U	U	U	C	U	R	R	X				
Blue Jay <i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Typically in small family groups in our woods and suburban areas.													
	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	
American Crow <i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	While not rare, this bird doesn't seem as common in Hancock as it is in surrounding counties.													
	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	
Common Raven <i>Corvus corax</i>	Extirpated. Historical records indicate that this species was found in the county in the early 19 th century.																									
Horned Lark <i>Eremophila alpestris</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Open farm country is where this bird is found. Flocks of 5,000+ have been recorded in late winter here.													
	C	C	C	C	A	A	A	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	
Northern Rough-winged Swallow <i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Never seen in large numbers, this swallow is none-the-less seen in a wider variety of areas than any other swallow.													
				X		U	U	C	C	C	C	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	R	R	R	R	R	X		
Purple Martin <i>Progne subis</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Nearly completely dependent upon martin boxes for breeding.													
				X	R		R	R	U	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R					

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Bewick's Wren (hb) <i>Thryomanes bewickii</i>	There are no confirmed records of this bird in Hancock County in almost 50 years. Extirpated from this county and Ohio.																																																
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher <i>Poliophtila caerulea</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	A small, hyperactive bird of the woods.																																				
				R	R	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	U	U	U	U	U	U	R	R																													
Golden-crowned Kinglet <i>Regulus satrapa</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Small, active, woodland species. Typically less common than following species. Probably present every winter.																																				
	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	U	C	C	C	U	R	X																																			
Ruby-crowned Kinglet <i>Regulus calendula</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	A woodland species. May be most common bird in a woodlot in late April. Accidental winter resident.																																				
				R	U	C	C	A	C	C	R								X	R	C	C	C	U	U	R				X																			
Eastern Bluebird <i>Sialia sialis</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	In our county, mostly dependent upon bluebird boxes for breeding.																																				
	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	U	U	U	C	C	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	R	R	R	R	R	R	R													
Veery <i>Catharus fuscescens</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Not a frequently recorded migrant. Known to breed in the Clay Pits area.																																				
					X	R	R	U	C	U	R								R	U	R	R	R																										
Gray-cheeked Thrush <i>Catharus minimus</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Found on forest floors, seldom as common as the Swainson's Thrush.																																				
						R	R	U	U	U									X	R	U	U	U	R	R	X																							
Swainson's Thrush <i>Catharus ustulatus</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Our most common migrating brown thrush.																																				
					X	R	R	U	C	C	C	R								R	U	C	C	C	U	R	R	X																					
Hermit Thrush <i>Catharus guttatus</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Earliest migratory thrush, probably present most mild winters.																																				
	R	R	R		R	R	R	U	U	U	C	U	U	R																					R	R													
Wood Thrush <i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Declining as a breeder. Easily found in the woods by listening for its beautiful song.																																				
						X		R	U	C	A	A	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	U	?	R	U	U	R	R	X																						
American Robin <i>Turdus migratorius</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Woods, lawns, parks. Does not leave in the winter, but goes to areas of heavy brush with many berries, like Riverbend or Camp Berry.																																				
	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	C	C	C	U	U	U								
Varied Thrush <i>Ixoreus naevius</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	At least four confirmed records (latest 2001), coming from the Findlay Country Club and south Findlay.																																				
	X		X	X	X	X																														X	X	X	X										
Gray Catbird <i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Found anywhere there is extensive underbrush.																																				
				X			R	R	R	C	A	A	A	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	A	A	A	A	C	C	U	R	R	R	X					X												
Brown Thrasher <i>Toxostoma rufum</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Heavy brush, either in woods of fields. Some may stay the winter.																																				
		X		R		R	U	U	C	C	C	C	U	U	U	U	U	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	X					X		X												
Northern Mockingbird <i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Increasing. More common in southern Hancock County. Cemeteries and backyards are its favorite locations.																																				
	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R										
European Starling <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Found in almost every type of habitat. Can form huge flocks in the fall.																																				
	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A										
American Pipit <i>Anthus rubescens</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	A water-loving songbird. Most sight records are from our reservoirs.																																				
				R	R	R	R	U	U	U	R	X	X																									X	R	U	U	U	U	U	U	R	R	R	R
Bohemian Waxwing <i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Two records; from south Findlay and from Camp Berry. In Ohio, usually seen with Cedar Waxwings.																																				
					X																																									X			

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Cedar Waxwing <i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Nomadic; may be absent from county for weeks, then suddenly appear in large numbers. Eats fruit.									
	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R									
Lapland Longspur <i>Calcarius lapponicus</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Not as common as the Snow Bunting or Horned Lark, the two species it is typically seen with.									
	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	X			R	R									
Snow Bunting <i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Often seen in mixed flocks with Horned Larks and Lapland Longspurs in winter. Also in small flocks along a reservoir's rocks.									
	U	U	U	U	R	R	R	R			U	C	C	C	U	U	U					
Ovenbird <i>Seiurus aurocapilla</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Significant decline in breeding population; in danger of being extirpated in county as such. Look for Ovenbirds on forest floors.									
					R	U	C	U	U		R	R		?		U	U	U	R	R		
Worm-eating Warbler <i>Helmitheros vermivorum</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	The outlet stream just north of the prairie at Oakwoods has been the best location to find this rare migrant.									
					R	R	U	X					R	R								
Louisiana Waterthrush <i>Parkesia motacilla</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Wooded swamps and wooded streams, generally in more open areas than following species.									
				R	R	R	R	U	R	X				?								
Northern Waterthrush <i>Parkesia noveboracensis</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Brushy areas adjacent to streams or standing water. Far more common of the two waterthrushes.									
					R	U	U	U	U	R				R	U	R						
Golden-winged Warbler <i>Vermivora chrysoptera</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Declining, may be almost considered casual/accidental in occurrence.									
					X	R	X						X									
Blue-winged Warbler (hb) <i>Vermivora cyanoptera</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Seen in young woods. Oakwoods and Riverbend are usually good locations.									
					R	R	C	C	U				R									
Blue-winged and Golden-winged Warblers hybridize (Brewster's & Lawrence's Warblers). Both are very rare, but may be more common in our county than the Golden-winged Warbler.																						
Black-and-white Warbler <i>Mniotilta varia</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Found in woods, almost always hugging tree trunks and branches.									
					R	U	C	C	U	R		?	X			U	C	C	U	R		
Prothonotary Warbler <i>Protonotaria citrea</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Prefers swampy areas with many dead trees. The Clay Pits area is the best location in the county to see this bird.									
					X	R	R	U	R			R		R								
Tennessee Warbler <i>Oreothlypis peregrina</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	A rather common, but not often seen, migrant of the woods.									
					R	U	U	C	C	R				R	U	U	R	R	R	R		
Orange-crowned Warbler <i>Oreothlypis celata</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Typically found in weedy brush. At least one or two records every year.									
				R					R	R				R	R	R	R					
Nashville Warbler <i>Oreothlypis ruficapilla</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	A common migrant of the woods. More often heard than seen.									
					R	U	C	C	C					R	R	U	U	U	U	R	R	
Connecticut Warbler <i>Oporornis agilis</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	One of the latest and scarcest migratory warblers. Almost always on forest floors. Beware of misidentifying Mourning Warbler as this species.									
					X	R	R							R	R	X						
Mourning Warbler <i>Geothlypis philadelphia</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Nearly always at or near ground level in woods, often close to water. Probably more common than reported.									
					R	U	U	R						R	R	R	R					

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We have recorded two subspecies of Palm Warbler in the county: a western one and a more yellow eastern. The western subspecies is far more common here.

Pine Warbler <i>Setophaga pinus</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Early migrant, seen in pine trees as well as deciduous trees.																						
				R	R	R	U	R	R	R	R		X																						
Yellow-rumped Warbler <i>Setophaga coronata</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	By far the most common warbler in migration.																						
	R	R	R	R	R	U	U	C	A	A	A	C	R	U	U	C	A	A	A	C	C	U	U	R	R	U	R								
Yellow-throated Warbler <i>Setophaga dominica</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Often seen on Sycamore trees during migration. Breeds in small numbers at Camp Berry.																						
					R	R	U	U	R	R	X	R	R	R			R																		
Prairie Warbler <i>Setophaga discolor</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Typically not found in prairies; its preferred habitat is very young tree stands in former grassy areas.																						
					R	R	X										?																		
Black-throated Green Warbler (hb) <i>Setophaga virens</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	A warbler that is often seen at the edges of tree branches, about mid-level of the trees.																						
					R	U	C	C	U	R							?				R	U	U	R	R	R									
Canada Warbler <i>Cardellina canadensis</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Wooded understories near water is usually the best place to look for this bird.																						
						R	U	U	R											R	R	R	R												
Wilson's Warbler <i>Cardellina pusilla</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Most records are of birds not far off the ground, usually near the edges of woods.																						
						R	U	U	R											U	U	R	R	R											
Yellow-breasted Chat <i>Icteria virens</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Declining, scarce. It's preferred habitat is old fields.																						
						R	R	R												R	R	R	R												
Eastern Towhee <i>Pipilo erythrophthalmus</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Woods with thick brush for understories. Rarely visits bird feeders.																						
	R	R	R		R	R	U	U	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	U	U	U	U	U	R	R	R	R	R	R		R			
American Tree Sparrow <i>Spizella arborea</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Very common visitor to bird feeders in the winter.																						
	C	A	A	A	A	C	C	C	U	U	U	U	U	U	R	R																			
Chipping Sparrow <i>Spizella passerina</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Our most common sparrow in summer. Present at least some winters.																						
	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	U	C	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Clay-colored Sparrow <i>Spizella pallida</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	A northern species of grassy areas with scattered trees. Hypothetical casual breeding species.																						
					X																		X	X											
Field Sparrow <i>Spizella pusilla</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Contrary to its name, it actually prefers edges of fields, close to trees. Possibly declining.																						
	R	R	R	R	R	R	U	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	U	U	U	U	U	R	R	R	U	U	R	R		R		
Vesper Sparrow <i>Poocetes gramineus</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Possible in winter. Highly under-reported species. In fact, one of our more common sparrows. Found in open fields.																						
						R	U	U	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	R					?		
Lark Sparrow <i>Chondestes grammacus</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	One 2007 record for this species. Breeds in the oak savannahs of Oak Openings Metropark near Toledo.																						
																							X												
Savannah Sparrow <i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Common out in the country; grassy roadsides will often host this species. Will rarely visit feeders.																						
	R	X	X	X	X		R	R	U	U	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	R							
Grasshopper Sparrow <i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Declining. Scarce everywhere, except at Hancock County Sanitary Landfill where it can be abundant.																						

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Henslow's Sparrow (hb) <i>Ammodramus henslowii</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Few records of this highly secretive bird. Formerly bred, may still do so. Prefers older pasture land.
					?	X	X	X		R			
Le Conte's Sparrow <i>Ammodramus leconteii</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	May be more common than reported. The landfill may be the best location to search for this and the next species.
										R			
Nelson's Sparrow <i>Ammodramus nelsoni</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	May be more common than reported. Fields with water.
					X					X	R	X	
Our four <i>Ammodramus</i> sparrows are notoriously secretive, and can be very difficult to get a clean look at one. Focus on the head for coloration and plumage pattern, which are usually good clues to species identity. They are collectively uncommon from the last week of September through the second week of October. All prefer grasslands.													
Fox Sparrow <i>Passerella iliaca</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Woods with thick understories. Will rarely visit feeders.
	R	R	R	R	U	U	U	U	C	U	R	R	R
Song Sparrow <i>Melospiza melodia</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Found in woods, fields, backyards, fence rows; most areas have a few members of this species. Visits feeders.
	U	U	U	C	C	U	U	U	U	C	C	C	C
Lincoln's Sparrow <i>Melospiza lincolni</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Not frequently recorded. Anywhere one can find thick cover, this species may be lurking.
					U	U	C	C	R		X		
Swamp Sparrow <i>Melospiza georgiana</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Found in wetlands. Litzenberg and the Hancock County Sanitary Landfill are good locations.
	R	R	R	R	U	U	C	U	U	R		R	R
White-throated Sparrow <i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Thick brush is its favorite habitat, but is often seen at bird feeders. Probably some over-winter every year.
	R	R	U	U	U	U	U	R	U	U	C	A	A
White-crowned Sparrow <i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	In our county generally not as common as the White-throated Sparrow. Frequently seen at feeders.
	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	C	A	A	C		
Golden-crowned Sparrow <i>Zonotrichia atricapilla</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	One bird has returned to the same Biglick Twp yard for five winters (as of 2013-14). Only Ohio record.
	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X	X
Dark-eyed Junco <i>Junco hyemalis</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Our most common sparrow in winter, found at feeders and the edges of woods.
	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	C	C	U	R	
Many races and subspecies of juncos exist, three have been recorded in Hancock County: "Slate-colored" (most common), "Oregon", and "Cassiar's".													
Summer Tanager <i>Piranga rubra</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	A southern bird of wooded treetops. It is a possible casual breeder.
					X	R	R	R	X	X	X		
Scarlet Tanager <i>Piranga olivacea</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	A bird of the wooded treetops.
					R	C	C	C	C	R	R	R	R
Northern Cardinal <i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Found in a wide variety of locations: towns, farms, woods, marshes, bushland.
	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Rose-breasted Grosbeak <i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Seen in the woods, usually near the tops of the trees. Uncommon visitor to feeders.
					U	C	C	C	U	R	R	U	R
Blue Grosbeak <i>Passerina caerulea</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Probably a yearly migrant. Look in grassy field with bushes interspersed. Bred at Lake Mosier in 2014.
					X	R	X	X	X	X	X		

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Red Crossbill <i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	May be up to six different species. Less common in Hancock County than White-winged Crossbill. Found in basically the same habitat.																																		
		R	R										R	R	R	R					X																										
White-winged Crossbill <i>Loxia leucoptera</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Prefers spruces and White Pines laden with cones. Not present every year.																																		
	X	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	X	X	X	X	X											R	R		R	R	R	R																	
Common Redpoll <i>Acanthis flammea</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Most records are of birds visiting feeders in winter. Sometimes seen with American Goldfinches.																																		
		R	R	R	U	U	R	R					X			X	X									R	R	R	R	R	R	R															
Pine Siskin <i>Spinus pinus</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Usually our most common winter-visiting finch. Often seen with American Goldfinches. Frequents thistle feeders and Sweetgum trees.																																		
	R	U	U	U	U	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R											X							R	R	R	R	U	U	U	U	C	C	C	U					
American Goldfinch <i>Spinus tristis</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Present in almost any habitat except for deep woods. Frequently visits thistle feeders.																																		
	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	A	A	A	A	C	C	C	C	C	A	A	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C					
Evening Grosbeak <i>Coccothraustes vespertinus</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Declining. When present in winter, it is usually seen at bird feeders with sunflower seeds.																																		
	X	X	X	X	X	R	R	X	?	X	X		X	X																						X	X	X	R	R	X	X	X	X			
House Sparrow <i>Passer domesticus</i>	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Almost always near human habitation. Seemingly reliant upon bird feeders.																																		
	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C

Thanks and sources used in this checklist: www.eBird.org - For base chart data. Kaufman's Field Guide to Birds of North America.
 Richard S. Phillips's book The Birds of the Hancock County, Ohio Area, 1980. The field notes of Mr. Phillips, housed at the Center for Archival Collections at BGSU.
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