

ohio waterfowl migration

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Ohio Waterfowl Migration

Ducks, geese and swans are the first passage of the year and the last, and they are the only guild on the bird chart that moves on ice rather than on daylight. The flight follows the thaw north in February and the freeze south in November, which is why waterfowl are the one group whose timing shifts by a fortnight between a mild year and a hard one.

Why this group has its own gauge

It holds its own seat because it peaks in the third week of February, six weeks before anything else on the chart is moving at all. The chart above carries 9 species, sliced out of the full 67-row bird chart.

The rows on this chart

Species	Northbound	Southbound	Winters
Tundra Swan	20 February – 31 March	25 October – 10 December	Chesapeake Bay and the mid-Atlantic
Snow Goose	15 February – 25 March	20 October – 5 December	Gulf coast and the Mississippi valley
Blue-winged Teal	15 March – 5 May	5 August – 15 October	the Gulf coast south to Peru
Northern Pintail	15 February – 10 April	10 September – 20 November	Gulf coast and Mexico
Northern Shoveler	1 March – 25 April	15 September – 25 November	the Gulf states and Mexico
Canvasback	20 February – 1 April	20 October – 15 December	the mid-Atlantic and Gulf coasts
Redhead	25 February – 5 April	15 October – 10 December	the Gulf coast, especially the Laguna Madre
Red-breasted Merganser	5 March – 5 May	25 October – 15 December	the Atlantic and Gulf coasts
Common Goldeneye	10 March – 10 April	1 November – 10 December	Lake Erie and the open rivers of Ohio

Where this sits

The full picture is on [Ohio bird migration](#), which carries every group on one chart. Each mark on the breadcrumb strip at the top of the site links to the page for its own group.