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Spring 2008

The OHIO CARDINAL

Devoted to the Study and Appreciation of Ohio's Birdlife

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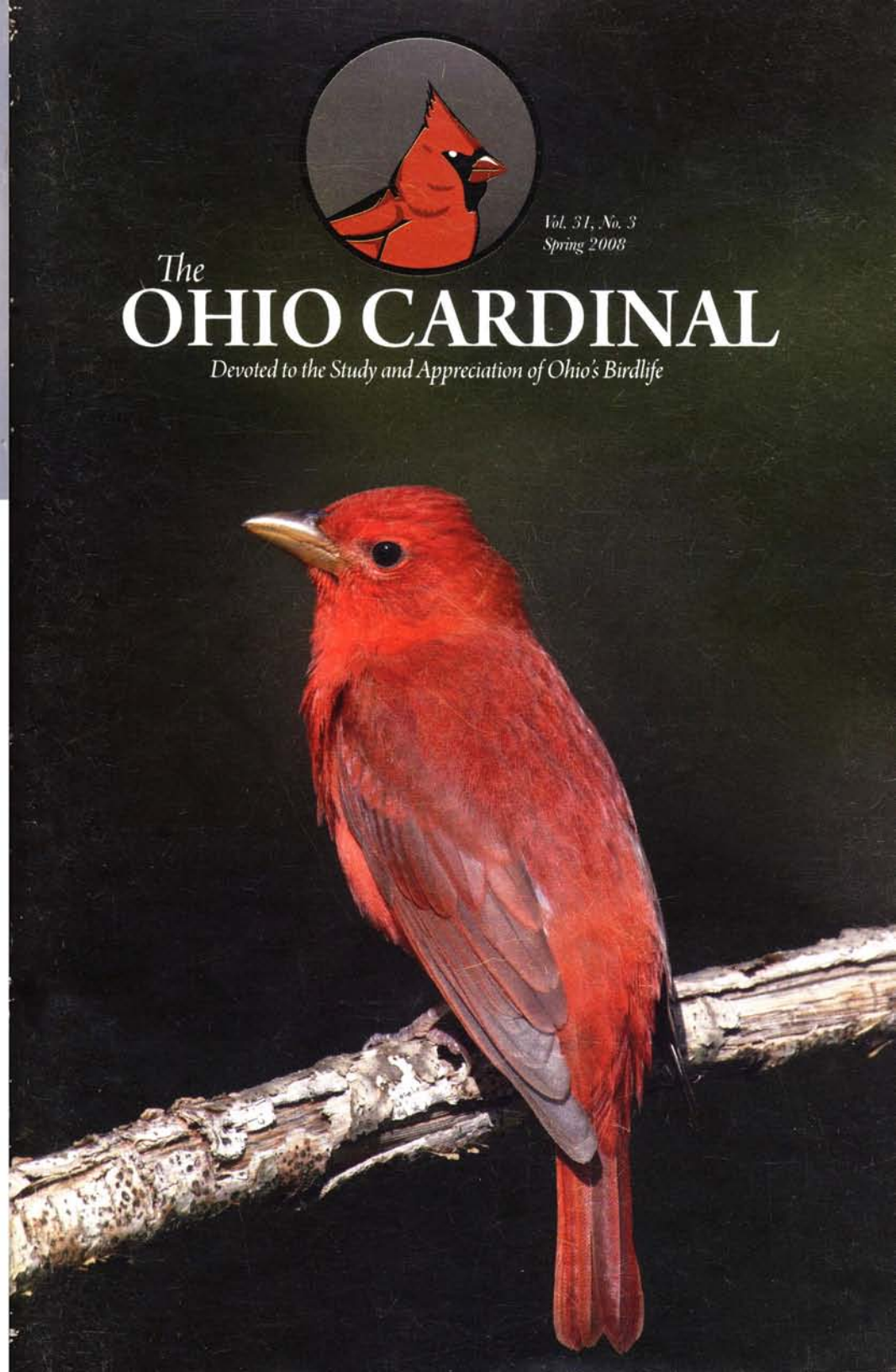
The First Nesting Record of Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) in Ohio

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The Ohio Cardinal is a quarterly publication devoted to the study and appreciation of Ohio's birdlife.

On the cover:

Summer Tanager is a common member of Ohio's bird fauna, and this spring included several overshoots to northern Ohio beyond their normal haunts in the state. This male was photographed by Robert Royse at Zaleski State Forest on 04 May 2008.

Spring 2008 Overview

By Gabe Leidy

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There is no such thing as a *typical* season, and if there were, these season reports would serve little purpose. It is the unpredictability as much as the predictability that makes birding such an entertaining and rewarding hobby. Spring 2008 served up a bit of both, being lackluster in some respects but phenomenal in others. For example, warbler migration was not characterized by impressive waves of arriving migrants, but waterfowl numbers set new records.

This March was a blustery one, with 18 days' highs not registering over 37 degrees in Cleveland. Overall the month was 3.5 degrees colder than usual in that city, with similar trends in the other major cities around the state. This left Lake Erie mostly ice-covered during March and into early April in some parts, bringing together immense numbers of bay ducks and waterfowl wherever open water was to be found. April had near average temperatures around the state, with just four snow days in the northern portion of the state (the last was on 14 April). Warm southerly breezes throughout the night accompanied the largest movements, most notably on 17 and 26 April. Below average precipitation during April was followed by May showers this year,

giving us what may have been the gloomiest May in recent memory. Weather records show rain on 20 days in Cleveland, including a memorable 12-day streak 07 to 18 May, and 16 days in the Toldeo area. The first fully sunny day of the month in Columbus was 23 May, and the sun shone all day a total of five times in the northeast. Showers are eagerly anticipated during spring migration, because they have the ability to ground tremendous numbers of birds and cause fallout conditions. Few nights this year presented ideal migratory conditions, so many warblers and other migrant landbirds ended up trickling through the state. Perhaps the strongest flight this season came 26 May, when skies cleared, southerly winds billowed, and Black Swamp Bird Observatory (BSBO) banders at Navarre Marsh in northwest Ohio banded their highest total of the season.

Twelve review species were reported this season. Many, such as Glossy Ibis, White-faced Ibis, and Mississippi Kite, we have come to expect in recent years. Perhaps the most exciting rarities came from Buck Creek State Park in Clark County, where Brown Pelican and Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (photographed), were spotted two days apart, though neither proved to be trackable. Ohio Bird Records Committee (OBRC) decisions on all review species are forthcoming.

The March waterbird passage was phenomenal compared with recent years, especially for diving duck species. The following high counts tell the story quite nicely:

16 Mar, 5,100 Redhead at Metzger Marsh; 17 Mar, 8,297 scaup off Kelleys' Island, 1,117 of which were Greater; and 09 Apr, at least 16,000 Red-breasted Mergansers from Lake County. Geese (other than the expected Canada Goose) were around in above average numbers during March, with many Greater White-fronted Geese reported further south, while thousands of Tundra Swans paused to rest in the northern part of the state. Among our longest-legged waders, Snowy Egrets were scarce in the northwest this spring, and birders were instead focused on a White-faced Ibis, multiple Glossy Ibises, and a Tricolored Heron.

Amish birders once again reported spectacular hawk flights from Conneaut on favorable days, furthering the notion that the eastern shoreline may hold more potential than the Western Basin for such movements. This was especially true for Broad-winged Hawk; BSBO recorded 473 Broad-wings for the season, while one-day totals at Conneaut exceeded this count three times, including 918 seen on 21 Apr. On the flip side, BSBO counters tallied a record 255 Bald and four Golden eagles this year, numbers with which Conneaut cannot compete.

Shorebird reports were highlighted by some above average numbers this year. Reports of shorebirds using unusually good habitat came in from ONWR, Big Island, and Funk Bottoms wildlife areas, Lorain Impoundment, Hardin County

wetlands, Ellis Lake, and Bellevue. The latter two were "skyponds," with those in Bellevue, Sandusky County, being caused by the flooding of underground caves and caverns that lie in the limestone beneath the surface of the town. The temporary lakes that sprang up in cornfields and front yards around the area, and the number of waterfowl and shorebirds using them, gave the whole region the feel of the prairie potholes of the Great Plains. Abundant habitat within the state led to sightings of rare spring migrants including Black-necked Stilt (4), Marbled Godwit, Western Sandpiper, and Stilt Sandpiper, along with unprecedented numbers of Wilson's Phalaropes and a new state record count of Willets from Lake Logan beach in Hocking County. Overall numbers of gulls and terns were average, though with more Lesser Black-backed Gulls reported inland than along the lake, and with Iceland and Glaucous gull reports also coming from reservoirs far south of Lake Erie.

Four individual Eurasian Collared-Doves were reported, including a copulating pair. Migrant Long-eared and Short-eared owls were present in above average numbers in April in northeast Ohio. Common Nighthawks were once again reported in low numbers, and no large concentrations of any sort were mentioned. A pair of Common Ravens decided that Ohio was a suitable place to raise a family, and the first nesting in over 100 years took place in Jefferson County.

Red-breasted Nuthatches were commonplace at feeders all around the state.

Early migrant warblers (typically those that breed in Ohio) arrived on schedule, but later migrants (typically those breeding north of Ohio) arrived later than expected due to unseasonably late prevailing north winds, cooler temperatures, and excessive precipitation. Breaks in this weather produced some nice flights, such as on 26 Apr, when many migrant landbirds made their first appearances around the state, and again on 26 May, when many of the latest warblers and flycatchers finally moved north in numbers. Songbird migration was delayed about a week in most areas. Birders at Magee Marsh in northwest Ohio in the second week of May found themselves still searching through hordes of Yellow-rumps for other species, instead of sifting through Magnolias, Chestnut-sideds, Redstarts, and other warbler species.

Lark Sparrows continue to be reported from new areas now that the birding population has realized this species' affinity for abandoned gravel pits. Lapland Longspurs and Snow Buntings were reported in healthy numbers from the interior, but no movements were noted along the lake. In the grasslands, few Dicksissels were noted, plenty of Blue Grosbeaks were around, and two singing male Western Meadowlarks were discovered in Wood County. Redpolls and Pine Siskins carried over from the winter season in higher than average

numbers, with some lingering quite late.

Though not a bird sighting, another highlight from the spring season was the news that Crane Creek State Park's management will be transferred from Ohio State Parks to Ohio Division of Wildlife (ODOW). Under ODOW, the beach area will be closed to swimming and picnicking, and some of the area will be allowed to revert to natural habitat, providing even better birding potential for this gem of a birding spot.

Spring 2008 Season Report

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The following conventions are used throughout all seasonal reports. Common names that have been underlined are on the Ohio Bird Records Committee (OBRC) Review List, meaning that observers should send supplemental documentation of these species to the OBRC for consideration. **County names** are in bold and italicized. Taxonomic order and nomenclature follow published guidelines from the North American Check-list Committee of the American Ornithologists' Union (1998: 7th edition), including published supplements complete through the 48th Supplement. The following abbreviations are used in these accounts:

Bobolink area = an area encompassed by 12 counties: Ashland, Carroll, Coshocton, Guernsey, Harrison, Holmes, Knox, Muskingum, Richland, Stark, Tuscarawas, and Wayne. This area is named for the quarterly ornithological journal

of the same name that serves this area.

Conneaut = Conneaut Harbor,
Ashtabula

CVNP = Cuyahoga Valley National Park, **Cuyahoga/Summit** *fide* = "on the authority of"; typically a record submitted by a third party

Funk Bottoms WA = Funk Bottoms Wildlife Area **Ashland/Wayne**

Headlands = Headlands Beach State Park and Headland Dunes State Nature Preserve, **Lake**

Hoover = Hoover Reservoir and Hoover Nature Preserve
Delaware/Franklin

Killbuck = Killbuck Marsh Wildlife Area, **Holmes/Wayne**

Killdeer Plains = Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area, **Wyandot**

m. obs. = multiple observers

Magee = Magee Marsh Wildlife Area, **Lucas/Ottawa**

MP = Metropark

Navarre Marsh = a portion of the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, **Lucas**

Oak Openings = a region composed of multiple parks, including Oak Openings WA, spanning **Lucas, Henry, and Fulton**

ONWR = Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, **Lucas/Ottawa**

Shawnee SF = Shawnee State Forest, **Scioto**

Shawnee Lookout = Shawnee Lookout County Park, **Hamilton**

SP = State Park

WA = Wildlife Area

Zaleski = Zaleski State Forest, primarily **Vinton** and partly in **Athens**

Ruffed Grouse: Reported at Shawnee SF 25 Mar to 27 Apr, with some individuals drumming (Jay Lehman, Robert Royse, Brad Sparks). The only other one reported was flushed by Tracy Morman's dog in **Meigs** 09 Mar. Are birders overlooking this bird, or has it truly disappeared from much of its former range?

Wild Turkey: A bit of country birding turned up 46 in **Mahoning** 09 Mar for Craig Holt. Not-so-country was a single bird at Lower Shaker Lake, **Cuyahoga**, 14 Apr (Laura Gooch).

Northern Bobwhite: Game birds apparently have a knack for finding Tracy Morman, because two visited her **Meigs** property 28 Mar. Two other reports were submitted: one was heard at Pickerel Creek WA, **Sandusky**, 05 Apr (*fide* Paul Gardner) and another at Caesar Creek SP, **Warren**, 27 Apr (Phillip Ware).

Greater White-fronted Goose: About 60 reported, all in March. High counts of 12 at Funk Bottoms WA (15 to 16 Mar, Kevin Kline) and ten at Buck Creek SP, **Clark**, (02 Mar, Doug Overacker). The latest report came from Grand Lake St. Mary's, **Auglaize/Mercer**, with three on 31 Mar (Jill Bowers).

Snow Goose: About 50 reported in the state with single-digit reports from **Ashtabula, Clark, Erie, Hamilton, Paulding, Stark, Summit**, and **Wayne**, with a high count of 24 at ONWR during their monthly census on 02 Mar. A blue morph remained in **Summit** as late as 08 May (Gregory Bennett).

Ross's Goose: Two were in **Paulding** on 16 Mar (Doug and Micki Dunakin) and Gregory Bennett had a very late bird at Summit Lake on 24 May.

Cackling Goose: This spring brought an increase in records, all in March. The Clear Fork bird remained from winter to 09 Mar (John Herman). Rick Asamoto had six on 01 March at Cowan Lake, seven were at Pine Lake on 05 Mar (Craig Holt), and Robert Foppe had one at Indian Lake on 12 Mar.

Mute Swan: This species continues to increase, most notably in the northern counties, but it is being reported less frequently due to its regularity. Craig Holt had 14 in **Erie** on 27 May as the (not-so-high) high count.

Tundra Swan: All reports came from March, with the latest report of at least 90 at Killdeer Plains on 29 Mar (Bill Shively). The ONWR monthly census found 899 on 02 Mar, Jim Lucas had at least 600 at Mosquito Lake on 16 Mar, and Gary Meszaros had 600 at Pickerel Creek and 400 at ONWR on 17 Mar.

Wood Duck: First reported in **Mahoning** 05 Mar (Craig Holt), with high counts of 57 at Sandy

Ridge Reservation, **Lorain**, 22 Mar (Tim Colborn) and 79 at the same location the following day (Gabe Leidy).

Gadwall: The ONWR monthly census recorded 162 on 02 Mar. Kenn Kaufman had a high count of about 500 at Metzger on 13 Mar, and 20 remained between Maumee Bay State Park, **Lucas**, and Magee on 11 May (Doug Overacker).

Eurasian Wigeon: A single male was at Pine Lake, **Mahoning**, 12 Mar (Robert Lane). John Pogacnik had one on Stange Rd, ONWR 16 Mar. On 24 Mar, Ben Warner and Dan Sanders had one at Pleasant Hill Lake, and Kevin Kline had one at Funk Bottoms WA on 05 Apr.

American Wigeon: The high count of about 1,000 came from Pickerel Creek on 17 Mar (Gary Meszaros) and Kevin Kline had at least 250 at Funk Bottoms WA the day before. Two lingered between Maumee Bay State Park, **Lucas**, and Magee on 11 May (Doug Overacker).

American Black Duck: Robert Poppe had 65 at East Fork State Park on 03 Mar and an early high count of 150 came from Delaware WA on 06 Mar (Sean Williams). A single bird remained at CVNP 09 May (Dwight and Ann Chasar).

Mallard: The ONWR monthly census counted 253 on 02 Mar and Sean Williams had about 800 at Delaware WA on 06 Mar.

[Mallard x American Black Duck]: A male paired with a Mallard was at Orwell Marsh,

Mahoning, on 23 Apr (Craig Holt).

Blue-winged Teal: The first notable count came from Mosquito Lake, with 38 on 16 Mar (Carole Babyak). On 13 Apr, Mike Busam had 150 at Gilmore Ponds, **Butler**, and Rick Counts counted 112 at Hardin County Wetlands on 16 Apr. The high count of the season came from Big Island WA, **Marion**, with about 300 on 24 Apr (Jack Stenger).

Northern Shoveler: Reported in modest numbers except for 127 at Big Island WA, **Marion**, and 108 at Killdeer Plains on 29 Mar (Charles Bombaci). A single male lingered in **Richland** 25 May (John Herman).

Northern Pintail: Funk Bottoms WA was home to impressive high counts of at least 1,000 on 15 Mar and 1,138 the following day. One very late bird lingered at the same location until 31 May (Kevin Kline). Other high totals include 300 to 400 at Pickerel Creek on 17 Mar (Gary Meszaros), 800 at Big Island WA, **Marion**, and 400 at Killdeer Plains on 29 Mar (Charles Bombaci).

Green-winged Teal: Arrived on 02 Mar, with 20 to 25 at Deer Creek (Eric Reiner) and six at Englewood Metropark (Ed and Bev Neubauer). Killbuck had 72 on 05 Mar and Hardin County Wetlands had the high count of 214 on 16 Apr (Rick Counts). A highly noteworthy record of a 'Common Teal' came from near Station Road, CVNP, **Cuyahoga**, on 13 Apr (Joe Woznarowski *vide* Ben Winger) and remained until 20 Apr (Ethan Kistler); there was no sign of it on 22 Apr (Mike Sandy). 'Common Teal' (*Anas crecca*



An individual of the Eurasian subspecies of Green-winged Teal (known as 'Common Teal' throughout much of the world) was found consorting with typical American birds at Station Road in Cuyahoga Valley National Park (Cuyahoga County). Photograph by Andy Jones on 20 April 2008.

crecca) is the Old World subspecies of Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca carolinensis*), and they differ in several plumage features. Most of the world's ornithological organizations recognize it as a different species, called either 'Common Teal' or 'Eurasian Green-winged Teal.' If the American Ornithologists' Union Check-List Committee changes to conform with common global usage, this will become one of the few 'Common Teal' records for Ohio.

Canvasback: Around 200 were at Metzger on 12 Mar (Karl Overman). Robert Lane observed 450 at Berlin Reservoir on 17 Mar and 200 on 20 Mar. A straggler was at Spring Valley WA, **Greene/Warren** on 06 Apr (Doug Overacker).

Redhead: Unparalleled numbers

were reported this spring. Metzger had 2,000 on 12 Mar (Karl Overman), 2,800 on 13 Mar (Kenn Kaufman), and a whopping 5,100 on 16 Mar (Eric Tramer). D. Overacker had one lingering between Maumee Bay State Park, Lucas, and Magee on 09 May.

Ring-necked Duck: Diving ducks were represented in large numbers this spring, with large totals observed of Ring-necked Duck. Funk Bottoms WA had 1,500 on 13 Mar (Kevin Kline), Metzger had 1,750 on 16 Mar, Jack Stenger estimated 1,350 at Delaware WA on 17 Mar, and Su Snyder observed 1,100 at Funk Bottoms WA on the same day. Lake Milton had 1,500 on 22 Mar and Kevin Kline had a lingering female on 31 May at Killbuck.



No major storms preceded the arrival of this Brown Pelican at Buck Creek State Park in Clark County; this individual apparently appeared under its own terms and departed in the same fashion on 09 May 2008 (photographed by Larry Jeanblanc). Only a handful of records exist for the Buckeye State.

May (Doug and Micki Dunakin).

Pied-billed Grebe: Craig Holt observed 10 in **Mahoning** on 03 Apr. Buck Creek SP, Clark, hosted 15 on 05 Apr (Doug Overacker). A single bird was still present at Conneaut on 08 May (Craig Holt).

Horned Grebe: High counts include the following: 52 at Pleasant Hill Lake (15 Mar, Kevin Kline and Allen Troyer), 180 at Lake Milton and 130 at Hamilton Lake (22 Mar, Craig Holt). One was still present at Conneaut on 23 Apr (Craig Holt).

Red-necked Grebe: Five reported: 20 Mar at Hoover (Sean Williams and Jack Stenger), two at Pleasant Hill Lake on 24 Mar (Robert Hershberger and Levi Yoder), 05 Apr at Eastwood Lake (Greg Spahr), and 07 Apr off North Perry (John Pogacnik).

Eared Grebe: One was at Hoover

20 Mar (Al La Sala) through 24 Mar (Dan Sanders). Other singles were seen at Pleasant Hill Lake on 24 Mar (m. obs.), Mogadore Reservoir on 02 Apr (Janet Wertz and Phyllis Devlin) and Funk Bottoms WA on 12 Apr (Kevin Kline). Two were at the latter location on 15 Apr (Allen Troyer) with one remaining as late as 19 May (Su Snyder). Only one other May report came on 01 May at Magee (Mary Warren).

American White Pelican: First reported on 22 Mar at Winton Woods (Jerry Lippert) and four in Wayne (Jen Brumfield). Brian Menker observed three at Buck Creek SP, **Clark**, on 24 Mar that remained until 29 Mar (Rob Lowry and Dan Sanders). Hawk counters on the Magee observation tower recorded one on 15 Apr, five on 17 Apr, and another one on 30 Apr (Mary Warren). The three individuals Kevin Kline observed at Rocky Fork on 15 Apr were still present on 19 Apr (Ned Keller and Kathy McDonald).

Brown Pelican: A single bird appeared 09 May at Buck Creek SP, **Clark**. This is one of a handful of records for Ohio, and quite unexpected on this date since no major storms occurred before its arrival.

Double-crested Cormorant: While doing lake watches off North Perry, John Pogacnik counted 177 on 06 Apr, 234 on 12 Apr, 871 on 13 Apr, and 569 on 04 May. Other high counts include 240 at Berlin Reservoir (11 Apr, Robert Lane), 300 at Buck Creek SP, **Clark**, (12 Apr,

Doug Overacker), and 358 at Funk Bottoms WA (17 Apr, Su Snyder).

American Bittern: Reports came from nearly a dozen counties throughout the state this spring with a high count of five at ONWR on 10 May (m. obs.).

Least Bittern: First reported on 10 May at ONWR (Gabe Leidy). Two birds were seen at Spring Valley WA, **Greene/Warren**, on 13 May (L. Gruber), and all other reports were of single birds (**Butler, Hamilton, Hardin, Lorain, Richland, and Wayne**).

Great Blue Heron: The ONWR monthly census counted 20 on 02 Mar. Jill Bowers observed 100 at Mercer WA on 29 Mar and the CVNP spring census counted 171 on 10 May (Dwight and Ann Chasar).

Great Egret: Dan True reported the first of the season at Big Island WA, **Marion**, on 17 Mar. Birds reported in late May away from breeding sites included 15 at Sandy Ridge Reservation, Lorain, on 14 May (Craig Caldwell), five in **Mahoning** on 22 May (Craig Holt), and 15 at near Bellevue on 24 May (Rob and Sandy Harlan).

Snowy Egret: Only a dozen or so reported this spring. The earliest was a flyover at Magee on 26 Apr (Mary Warren). Curt Dusthimer had the high count of three at ONWR on 10 May. A single bird at Deer Creek on 31 May was noteworthy because of location and timing (Rick Asamoto).

Little Blue Heron: Four reported: 15 Apr at the Hebron Fish Hatchery (Curt Dusthimer), 02 May at Lake



This Little Blue Heron treated Toledo area birders to an extended stay 28 May through the end of the spring reporting season at the urban Detweiler Marsh. This photograph was taken 28 May by Mark and Sherry Plessner.

Logan (John Watts), a flyby off **Lake** on 04 May (John Pogacnik), and 27 to 28 May at Detwiler Park, **Lucas**.

Tricolored Heron: One was reported NW of Bellevue, **Sandusky**, on 24 May and was seen off and on into June.

Cattle Egret: Surprisingly only one was reported this spring; Caesar Creek on 30 Apr (Larry Gara).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: Rob Thorn had a high count of eight on 23 Mar in **Franklin**. Up to four were at Conneaut between 22 Apr and 08 May (Robert Lane and Craig Holt). Single reports also came

from **Clermont, Erie, Licking,** and **Lucas**.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:

First reported from Greenlawn Cemetery on 07 Apr (Richard Cressman), perhaps representing one of the individuals from the traditional breeding spot in Columbus. Three returned for the 12th consecutive spring on 08 Apr, and two more joined them a day or so later (Bill Whan).

Glossy Ibis: Henry Burton had a likely candidate at Sandy Ridge Reservation, **Lorain**, on 18 Apr. Two were along Benton-Carroll Road, **Ottawa**, on 09 May (m. obs.). Steve Landes observed one at Pipe Creek on 11 May and Gabe Leidy had two at the same location on 17 May. The last report came from Custer Road, **Wood**, on 19 May (Chuck Anderson).

White-faced Ibis: One was found in early May in ONWR. One or two were seen at the same location during the ONWR Auto Tour on 10 May (m. obs.).

Black Vulture: High counts include 23 at Lake Buckhorn, **Holmes**, (03 Mar, Bruce Glick), 25 at Hoover (12 Mar, Bill Heck), and 40 in Addyston, **Hamilton**, (30 Mar, Paul Krusling and Joe Kappa). A single bird in Geauga was north of its normal range on 17 May (Inga Schmidt).

Turkey Vulture: During hawk counts at Conneaut, Bruce Glick and others counted: 1,826 on 25 Mar; 669 on 26 Mar; 461 on 31 Mar; 1,302 on 07 Apr; 365 on 11

Apr; 120 on 21 Apr; 62 on 22 Apr; and 100 on 26 Apr. The CVNP spring census recorded 40 on 10 May (Dwight and Ann Chasar).

Osprey: The first report came on 20 Mar, with five pairs at Berlin Reservoir, Alliance, and Walborn Reservoir (Ben Morrison). Bruce Glick and others counted six on 07 Apr, 18 on 11 Apr, 12 on 21 Apr, seven on 22 Apr, and 19 on 26 Apr during their hawk counts at Conneaut.

Mississippi Kite: On 20 May, the Brass Ring Golf Course manager notified Jim McCormac that one of the kites had returned for the second year in row. A nonbreeder flew over Oak Openings on 24 May (Rick Nirschl).

Bald Eagle: Now widespread in Ohio and continuing to increase in numbers. ONWR had 12 on 15 Mar (Chris Pierce). A total of 17 were counted during hawk counts this spring at Conneaut (Bruce Glick). 2007 had a record number of nests in Ohio, totaling 164, and this number increased by 20 in 2008.

Northern Harrier: Six remained at ONWR on 02 Mar for the monthly census. Hawk counters at Conneaut counted a total of 218 migrants this spring with a high count of 75 on 11 Apr (Bruce Glick). Craig Holt observed likely nesters in **Ashtabula** on 02 May and 12 May.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: Migrants totaled 1,087 over Conneaut during hawk counts this season, with a high count of 304 on 26 Apr (Bruce Glick).

Cooper's Hawk: Migrants totaled 61 over Conneaut during hawk counts this spring, with a high count of 13 on 11 Apr (Bruce Glick).

Northern Goshawk: An immature continued in an Englewood backyard on 02 Mar (Ed and Bev Neubauer). Singles were observed in **Franklin** (08 Mar, Jessica Lowery) and Lake (24 Mar, Suzanne Wagner). The hawk counters at Conneaut observed singles on 25 Mar, 31 Mar, 11 Apr and 22 Apr (Bruce Glick).

Red-shouldered Hawk: Hawk counters at Conneaut counted 356 this spring, with a high count of 112 on 26 Mar (Bruce Glick). Carole Babyak observed nesting as early as 27 Mar in **Trumbull**.

Broad-winged Hawk: Bruce Glick and others counted five on 11 Apr; 918 on 21 Apr, 351 on 22 Apr, 727 on 26 Apr, and Willis Brubaker had 755 on 19 Apr, all at Conneaut. By 06 May, Dwight Chasar had found four nests in Brecksville Reservation.

Red-tailed Hawk: A total of 563 were counted during hawk counts this spring at Conneaut, with a high count of 120 on 31 Mar (Bruce Glick). The CVNP spring census recorded 22 on 10 May (Dwight and Ann Chasar).

Rough-legged Hawk: Ten birds remained at Killdeer Plains on 02 Mar (Charles Bombaci). Many reports came from the Lorain County Airport, including the high count of 15 on 10 Mar (Mike Sandy). The Conneaut hawk

counters recorded 30 migrants this spring, with the last report of two on 26 Apr (Bruce Glick).

Golden Eagle: Five reports this spring: 13 Mar at Lorain County Airport (Liz McQuaid), 16 Mar at The Wilds, **Noble** (Andy Sewell), 23 Mar in **Erie** (Rita Schneider and Laura Alldridge), 19 Apr in **Ashtabula** (Larry Rosche), and 25 Apr in **Champaign** (Jackie Brown).

American Kestrel: Mike Sandy observed five at the Lorain County Airport on 10 Mar. A total of 489 migrants were counted this spring during hawk counts at Conneaut (Bruce Glick).

Merlin: Birds continued from the winter at Greenlawn Cemetery until 20 Mar and until 03 Apr at Calvary Cemetery (Lou Gardella). The hawk counters at Conneaut counted 20 migrants this spring, with a high count of eight on 26 Apr (Bruce Glick). Single reports also came from: **Erie, Hamilton, Lake, Lucas,** and **Ottawa**.

Peregrine Falcon: Karl Overman had two at Bayshore Power Plant on 12 Mar. Burke Lakefront Airport, **Cuyahoga**, hosted three on 13 Mar (Hans Clebsch). The hawk counters at Conneaut recorded eight migrants this spring, with a high count of three on 26 Apr (Bruce Glick). Other reports came from **Holmes, Lorain, Ottawa, Richland, Summit,** and **Trumbull**.

King Rail: Earliest reports came on 07 May with one near Wright Marsh (Kevin Kline) and another at Killbuck (Bobolink Rare Bird

Alert). Rob and Sandy Harlan had two at Metzger on 10 May and Sean Williams heard two calling back and forth at Big Island WA, **Marion**, on 23 May. Reports of singles also came from **Hancock** and Mallard Club Marsh, **Lucas**.

Virginia Rail: Mary Warren reported the first for the season at Magee on 16 Apr. The CVNP spring census had a high count of eight on 10 May (Dwight and Ann Chasar).

Sora: The earliest report came from Spring Valley WA, **Greene/Warren**, with two calling on 07 Apr (Cindy Beckman). The season's high count was eight at Mallard Club Marsh on 10 May (Doug Overacker).

Common Moorhen: First noted on 20 Apr at CVNP (Dwight and Ann Chasar). High counts include five at ONWR on 10 May (Doug Overacker) and six at Big Island WA, **Marion**, on 23 May (Sean Williams).

American Coot: Metzger had 300 on 12 Mar (Karl Overman), Jill Bowers reported tens of thousands of individuals at Grand Lake St. Mary's, **Auglaize/Mercer**, on 22 Mar, and Doug Overacker estimated 400 at Buck Creek SP, **Clark**, on 23 Mar. A late or possibly nesting bird remained at Conneaut on 16 May (Craig Holt).

Sandhill Crane: At least 130 reported in the state this spring. High counts include: two flocks of 43 in **Paulding** (13 Mar, Scott Myers), 27 more in **Paulding** (14 Mar, Doug

and Micki Dunakin), 20 over Grand Lake St. Mary's, **Auglaize/Mercer** (22 Mar, Jill Bowers), and 14 at Funk Bottoms WA (30 Apr, Su Snyder). Migrants in northeast Ohio include: four on 03 Apr and three on 19 Apr over **Lake** (John Pogacnik), two over Parma Heights (6 Apr, J. Harlan), one over Summit (8 Apr, Rob and Sandy Harlan), two at Sandy Ridge Reservation, **Lorain**, (19 Apr, Sam and Bev Walker), and another single individual over Summit (29 Apr, Kathy Mock).

Black-bellied Plover: Singles were at Ellis Lake (26 Apr, Jay Lehman), Hancock (02 May, Betty Hardesty), and Conneaut (08 May, Craig Holt). Inga Schmidt had a high count of three at Frohring Meadows **Geauga** on 18 May.

American Golden-Plover: Arrived 26 Mar, with 10 at Deer Creek (Robert Royse). High counts were 270 at Hardin County Wetlands on 16 Apr and over 100 (680 a week earlier) in **Wyandot** on 24 Apr (Rick Counts). Last reported was one at Ellis Lake (26 Apr, Jay Lehman).

Semipalmated Plover: First reported this spring near New Holland, **Lucas**, (30 Apr, Robert Royse) and soon followed by high counts of 20 each at Kilby Road, **Hamilton**, (16 May, Jay and Jack Stenger and Jed Burt), and Ellis Lake (19 May, Mike Busam). Mark Vass had 14 at Conneaut on 26 May.

Piping Plover: One was present at Headlands between 22 May and 24 May (Ray Hannikman).



Two Willet appeared, and one was photographed by Rick Asamoto, at Caesar Creek State Park's beach in Warren County on 29 April 2008.

Killdeer: The ONWR monthly census counted 13 on 03 Mar and the CVNP spring census counted 14 on 10 May (Dwight and Ann Chasar). The high count was in the hundreds at Grand Lake St. Mary's, **Auglaize/Mercer**, on 22 Mar (Jill Bowers).

Black-necked Stilt: Two reports: one at a private pond near Wellington on 14 May (Jim McCarty) and three at Big Island WA, **Marion**, 25 May to 26 May (Sean Williams). One remained on 27 May and Tim and Laura Dornan reported zero on 28 May.

American Avocet: The only report this spring was 12 at Alum Creek (20 May, Ken and Julie Davis).

Spotted Sandpiper: First reported at Armleder Park, **Hamilton** with

two on 16 Apr (Kirk Westendorf). The high count of the season was 10 at the Lorain Impoundment (19 May, Rob and Sandy Harlan).

Solitary Sandpiper: First report came from Armleder Park, **Hamilton** on 08 Apr (William Hull). High counts were 12 in **Mahoning** on 04 May and 11 in **Ashtabula** 02 May (Craig Holt). The CVNP spring census counted seven on 10 May (Dwight and Ann Chasar).

Greater Yellowlegs: Two at Orwell Marsh, **Ashtabula**, were the first of spring (31 Mar, Craig Holt). Tied for high count were 50 at Benton-Carroll Road, **Ottawa**, (05 Apr, Craig Caldwell), **Darke** (15 Apr, Regina Schieltz), and Funk Bottoms WA (17 Apr, Su Snyder).



This photograph, capturing 47 Red Knots (count them!), represents Ohio's fourth highest count for this species. Taken 24 May 2008 at Big Island Wildlife Area in Marion County by Rick Asamoto.

Willet: At least 111 reported this spring, including a record high count of 83 at Lake Logan (01 May, Jim Fry). The next best count was 14 at Funk Bottoms WA (01 May, Kevin Kline). Other reports came from: **Clermont, Delaware, Franklin, Pickaway,** and **Warren.**

Lesser Yellowlegs: First reported at Shreve Fish Pond, **Wayne**, (13 Mar, Kevin Kline). High counts include 90 in **Darke** (15 Apr, Regina Schieltz), approximately 200 at Big Island WA, **Marion**, (24 Apr, Jack Stenger), and approximately 100 near New Holland, **Lucas** (30 Apr, Robert Royse).

Upland Sandpiper: One was at Hardin County Wetlands on 21 May (Rick Counts).

Whimbrel: At least 140 reported this spring: one at Buck Creek SP, **Clark**, (30 Apr, Doug Overacker), eight flyovers during the CVNP spring census (10 May, Dwight and Ann Chasar), 14 flyovers at Prairie

Lane, **Wayne**, (18 May, Kevin Kline), 39 at Frohring Meadows, **Geauga**, (22 May, Patricia Sampson), three flocks totaling 77 off North Perry (26 May, John Pogacnik), and one at Conneaut (28 May, Jen Brumfield).

Ruddy Turnstone: All reports came from May, with the first at Funk Bottoms WA on 01 May (Kevin Kline). High counts include 15 at Metzger on 16 May (Bill Shively) and 26 at Indian Lake on 26 May (Gabe Leidy).

Red Knot: One report: 47 at Big Island WA, **Marion** (24 May, Rick Asamoto).

Sanderling: Reported only inland, surprisingly, with two in **Hancock** (06 May, Betty Hardesty), one at Buck Creek SP, **Clark**, (12 May, Larry Gara), two at Hardin County Wetlands (21 May, Rick Counts), and 12 at Indian Lake (26 May, Gabe Leidy).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: The first report came on 28 Apr, with three in **Van Wert** (Shaune Skinner). High counts were 66 at Conneaut (Mark Vass) and 36 at Prairie Lane, **Wayne**, (Su Snyder) on 26 Apr. Surprisingly, the last reports came the following day with six in **Lorain** (Craig Holt) and one at Conneaut (Jen Brumfield).

Least Sandpiper: First reported at Ellis Lake on 13 Apr and the high count of 100 was at the same location on 04 May (Mike Busam). The last report was a single bird in **Lorain** on 27 May (Craig Holt).

White-rumped Sandpiper: One at Ellis Lake was the first reported this spring (16 May, Steve Bobinick) and was still there on 18 May (Mike Busam). High count of three was at Funk Bottoms WA on 26 May (Su Snyder). Other reports came from **Lake, Lorain, Marion,** and **Sandusky.**

Pectoral Sandpiper: First detected in **Hardin** on 16 Mar (Rick Counts). High counts were 75 at Funk Bottoms WA (22 Apr, Su Snyder), 140 at Big Island WA, **Marion**, (24 Apr, Jack Stenger), and another 80 at Funk Bottoms WA (1 May, Kevin Kline). One in Lorain was quite late on 27 May (Craig Holt).

Dunlin: All reports from May, with the first on 04 May at Ellis Lake (Mike Busam). High counts include 1,000 at ONWR (10 May, Bill Shively), 114 at Hardin County Wetlands (21 May, Rick Counts) and 112 in **Sandusky** (27 May, Craig Holt).

Stilt Sandpiper: Ellis Lake had 14 on 15 May (Jay Lehman and Steve Bobinick) and one remained on 19 May (Mike Busam).

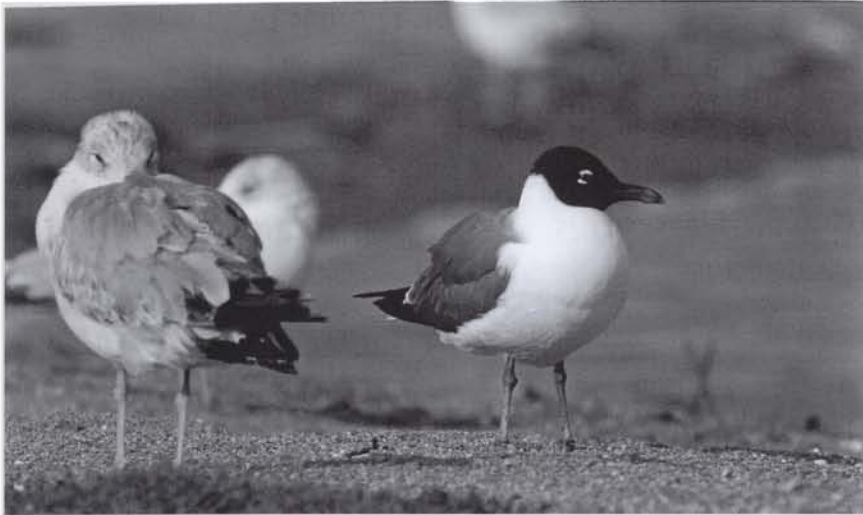
Short-billed Dowitcher: All reports from May. First were 40 at Funk Bottoms WA on 07 May (Kevin Kline). High counts include 50 at Pipe Creek (14 May, Craig Caldwell) and 40 at Ellis Lake (15 May, Jay Lehman and Steve Bobinick). The last two were in **Lorain** on 27 May (Craig Holt).

Long-billed Dowitcher: Two reports: five at Ellis Lake (14 May, Frank Frick) and "a mixed flock of 75 Dunlin and Long-billed Dowitchers" in **Clinton** (15 May, Ed Roush).

Wilson's Snipe: A few overwintered. Good numbers were 35 at Shreve Fish Pond (22 Mar, Su Snyder), 140 in **Clermont** (31 Mar, Robert Foppe), and 29 in **Darke** (15 Apr, Regina Schieltz).

American Woodcock: A few had probably overwintered, but migrants started to appear as early as February. The high count was only eight in **Mahoning** (17 Apr, Craig Holt).

Wilson's Phalarope: More than 30 were reported, all in May. The first appeared on 01 May at a private lake in **Lake** (John Pogacnik). A pair returned to Hardin County Wetlands on 21 May (Rick Counts). They have nested here in 2006. Up to 15 were at Big Island WA, **Marion**, between 25 May and 29 May (m. obs.). Low numbers were also reported from: **Butler,**



A Laughing Gull in breeding attire visited Buck Creek State Park's beach in Clark County on 30 April 2008 (Rick Asamoto).

Hardin, Lorain, Lucas/Ottawa, Mahoning, and Wayne.

Red-necked Phalarope: One report of two in **Warren** on 09 May (Robert Foppe and Bill Doss).

Laughing Gull: Four were at Medusa Marsh on 05 Apr (Bev Walker). Larry Jeanblanc observed one at Buck Creek SP, **Clark**, on 30 Apr and three adults were there on 03 May (Jene Stauffer); they were last seen the following day (Doug Overacker). One was at Headlands on 07 May and two on 22 May (Ray Hannikman). Other singles came from **Ashtabula, Logan, and Warren.**

Franklin's Gull: Reported were one at O'Shaughnessy Reservoir (01 Apr, Len Powick), three at Buck Creek SP, **Clark**, (10 May, Frank Frick), one at Conneaut 16 May

(Craig Holt), and 27 May (Walt and Dana Shaffer), one in **Hamilton** (17 May, Jay and Jack Stenger), and an immature in **Lake** (John Pogacnik).

Little Gull: Two reports of adults in March: one at E. 72nd St. on 27 Mar (Bret McCarty) and another off North Perry on 30 Mar (John Pogacnik).

Bonaparte's Gull: Between 23 Mar and 29 Mar, Doug Overacker estimated 200 at Buck Creek SP, **Clark**. Other high counts include 175 at Conneaut (9 Apr, Craig Holt) and at least 200 in **Sandusky** (14 Apr, Robert Morton).

Ring-billed Gull: On 02 Mar Bruce Glick and Ed Schlabach had a flock of 5,000 in Franklin. Berlin Reservoir had approximately 1,500 on 22 Mar (Craig Holt) and at least 8,000 on 28 Mar (Ben Morrison).

Herring Gull: The high count reported was at least 300 at Berlin Reservoir (28 Mar, Ben Morrison).

Iceland Gull: Four reported: E. 72nd St., **Cuyahoga**, (07 Mar, Hope Batchellar), Kelleys' Island (19 Mar, monthly census), Berlin Reservoir (24 Mar, Kent Miller and Ben Morrison) and North Perry (06 Apr, John Pogacnik).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: At least four individuals (two adults, one 2nd cycle and a 3rd cycle) were at Clear Fork between 09 Mar and 29 Apr (John Herman and Allen Troyer). John Pogacnik reported singles in **Lake** on 05 Apr, 12 Apr, and 04 May. Other reports came from: **Ashtabula, Hancock, Mercer, Richland, Stark, and Wayne.**

Glaucous Gull: Hancock had two on 17 Mar (J. Taber). A 1st cycle bird flew by North Perry on 06 Apr (John Pogacnik). Craig Holt had an immature on 06 Apr and a 1st summer on 16 May at Lorain Harbor and a first cycle at Conneaut on 08 May. Getting quite late were singles at Findlay Reservoirs (17 May, Robert Sams) and a bird in its second calendar year in **Lorain** (28 May, Craig Holt).

Great Black-backed Gull: Conneaut had 30 on 15 Apr; 62 on 24 Apr; 30 on 05 May; 40 on 07 May (Robert Lane); and 49 on 16 May (Craig Holt). Craig Holt also had a late bird at Lorain Harbor on 27 May.

Caspian Tern: The first report, of two birds, came on 26 Mar at Pleasant Hill Lake (John Herman).

High counts include 58 at Lorain Harbor (08 May, Craig Holt), more than 110 at Conneaut (15 Apr, Robert Lane) and 83 off North Perry (04 May, John Pogacnik).

Black Tern: Nearly 150 reported statewide, all in May. Lake Logan had the first on 08 May (Jim Fry). High counts include: 20 at Armleder Park, **Hamilton**, on 16 May (Allen Claybon) and 45 at Metzger on 19 May (Rob and Sandy Harlan). Other reports came from **Ashtabula, Delaware, Geauga, Hancock, Hardin, Lake, Logan, Marion, Ottawa, Wayne, and Wyandot.**

Common Tern: Reported in small numbers throughout the state, including 15 flybys at Killbuck on 20 May (Kevin Kline).

Forster's Tern: First reported on 09 Apr at Conneaut (Craig Holt). The high count was 74 at Mosquito Lake on 15 May (Carole Babyak).

Rock Pigeon: No specific highlights to report, though assumed to be thriving.

Eurasian Collared-Dove: Three reports of this now annual species. Most unusual was one from Lake 05 Apr, when John Pogacnik had a bird pass with migrant Mourning Doves, and then alight for scope views. One was also reported south of Baltic in Coshocton 09 May (*vide* Paul Gardner) and on 30 May, two were copulating on a telephone wire just south of Fort Seneca, **Seneca** (Joe Hammond).

Mourning Dove: Approximately 100 to 150 passed by North Perry, **Lake**, 05-06 Apr (John Pogacnik).

Black-billed Cuckoo: As was the trend this spring for Neotropical migrants, they were slow to arrive; Rob Thorn had the first at Tanager Woods Park, **Franklin**, on 02 May and one had reached Magee by 07 May (Rick Nirschl). Few reports overall.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: A bird was at Ault Park, **Hamilton**, 25 Apr (Eric Burkholder, Kirk Westendorf) and another at Lake Hope SP, **Vinton**, on 26 Apr (Bruce Simpson), but it was not reported again until 03 May at Magee (Chris Knolls). Rob and Sandy Harlan tallied seven at Magee on 26 May.

Barn Owl: These reports outside of this species' known breeding range were unusual: a calling migrant at Columbia Woods Park, **Summit**, the night of 24 Mar (Rob and Sandy Harlan), and one at Crooked Run Preserve, **Clermont**, 15 Apr (Chris and Suzanne Clingman).

Eastern Screech-Owl: Aaron Boone located this species in three of four atlas blocks in urban **Franklin**. All other reports consisted of singles and pairs from scattered locations statewide.

Great Horned Owl: Active nests were reported from many areas, including two at opposite ends of Medusa Marsh, **Erie** (Sheryl Young).

Snowy Owl: Only report was one video recorded atop a roof in West Toledo, **Lucas**, 18 Mar (Teresa Hagedorn).

Long-eared Owl: It was quite a year for migrants, especially in

the northeast. April winds brought three to Headlands on 01 April and four more birds on 07 April (Ray Hannikman). Nearby, John Pogacnik had singles at Lakeshore MP, **Lake**, on 21 Mar and 08 Apr, and two were reported farther west in **Darke** in mid-April (Robb Clifford). Five birds wintering at Killdeer Plains were last seen by Charlie Bombaci on 02 Mar.

Short-eared Owl: The high was 12 near Bunker Hill, **Holmes**, on 12 Mar (Kevin Kline), but most birds were reported from their wintering sites through mid-April. Paralleling the Long-eared trend, the high for migrants came 09 Apr, when four put on a show at Headlands (Ray Hannikman).

Northern Saw-whet Owl: Five reports: singles were at Magee 09 to 10 Apr (Karl Overman, Mary Warren) and 02 May (Sean Williams). An injured bird was found in Lakewood, **Cuyahoga**, on 16 Apr and rehabilitated and released later that month by the Lake Metroparks Wildlife Center. Kelly Williams-Sieg noted one behind her home in Chillicothe, **Ross**, and a late bird was at Headlands 18 May (Ray Hannikman).

Common Nighthawk: Another dismal season; some observers reported no sightings at all. Arrived 01 May in **Hamilton** (Paul Wharton) and 08 May in Toledo (Elliot Tramer), but there were NO reports of multiple birds.

Chuck-will's-widow: Reported from traditional **Adams** haunts only. Ben Warner had three there

on 27 Apr and talked to a local homeowner who said that they had been present for about a week. On a follow up visit, John Habig reported four birds 04 May.

Whip-poor-will: First reported 07 Apr down in **Hamilton** (Paul Wharton). On 20 Apr at Shawnee SF Jim McCormac observed a half-dozen vocal "Whips". The bulk of the migrant reports came from Magee, but also 20 Apr in **Cuyahoga**, when one responded to a tape (Lou Gardella) and 23 Apr in **Summit** (Dwight and Ann Chasar).

Chimney Swift: Arrived 07 Apr in **Hamilton** (Kirk Westendorf, Paul Wharton), but stalled, not reaching the northern counties until 16 Apr in **Portage** (Gregory Bennett). 1,000 were along the Little Miami River in **Hamilton** 29 Apr (William Hull).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: A bird in **Hamilton** 15 Apr was the first reported (Anne Clifford), followed by a feeder visitor 22 Apr in **Medina** (Dave Yoo).

Belted Kingfisher: On 11 Apr, hawk watchers at Conneaut counted 25 kingfishers moving fairly high with the vultures and hawks (Bruce Glick).

Red-headed Woodpecker: Continues to thrive in suitable areas; 14 were in the Oak Openings 15 Apr (Elliot Tramer) and six at Station Road, CVNP 29 Apr (Dwight and Ann Chasar).

Red-bellied Woodpecker: 79 were tallied on the CVNP Spring Census on 10 May (Dwight and Ann Chasar), far outpacing other



An injured Northern Saw-whet Owl was discovered at the intersection of Detroit Road and Lauderdale Avenue in Lakewood (Cuyahoga County) after an apparent window collision on 16 April 2008. After being stabilized at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, the bird was taken to Lake Metroparks Wildlife Center for further rehabilitation, and was released a few weeks later. The bird was photographed by Harvey Webster on 26 April.

woodpeckers.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Migration peaked in mid-April. High counts: 09 Apr six birds at West Creek Reservation, **Cuyahoga**, (Gabe Leidy) and five on 14 Apr at Shawnee Prairie Preserve in **Darke** (Robb Clifford). No news of nesting this season.

Downy Woodpecker: Doug Vogus's comprehensive surveys of CVNP birdlife turned up 13 on 19 Apr.

Hairy Woodpecker: A species all too infrequently reported; most accounts were of feeding station visitors, though a pair was observed trading places at a nest 30 Apr at Shaker Lakes, **Cuyahoga** (Laura Gooch).

Northern Flicker: Largest migrant concentration reported: 12 to 15 at Erie Street Cemetery, **Cuyahoga**, 11 Apr (Tim Colborn).

Pileated Woodpecker: The CVNP Spring Census tallied 24, a healthy number (Dwight and Ann Chasar), while in the northwest, where they are locally uncommon, birds were seen 04 May at Oak Openings and 19 May at Secor MP, **Lucas** (both Matt Anderson).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Quite the spring for this uncommon Ohio migrant, with at least 26 birds reported. A well-described individual 27 Apr near Mount Hope, **Holmes**, may well constitute the record early date for our state (Michael Hershberger). Peterjohn (2001) writes, p. 305: "No reliable April records exist, though a few early individuals return during the first week of May." Birds by separate observers (Elaine Snively, Pat Soehnen) 05 May in **Stark** are more what we are accustomed to seeing. The high count of two occurred three times – 15 May at Maumee Bay State Park, **Lucas** (Rick Nirschl), 25 May at Ravenna Arsenal, **Portage** (Jen Brumfield), and 26 May at North Perry, **Lake** (John Pogacnik).

Eastern Wood-Pewee: Arrived at Miami-Whitewater Wetlands,

Hamilton, 04 May (David Brinkman) and in **Franklin** two days later (Rob Thorn).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: First reported from the mist nets of Navarre Marsh 14 May (where 149 total were banded this season, down 30 from a year ago [BSBO]). They were not otherwise reported until 16 May at Spring Grove Cemetery, **Hamilton** (Jack and Jay Stenger), or from the rest of the state until 23 May, when birds arrived at Blendon Woods MP, **Franklin** (Robert McNulty) and Hogback Road, **Delaware** (Sean Williams).

Acadian Flycatcher: Bruce Simpson heard the first "peet-sah," in Zaleski, **Vinton**, 26 Apr.

Alder Flycatcher: Waited until 15 May to appear; that day, two were at Spring Grove Cemetery, **Hamilton** (Neill Cade), and another at Clear Creek MP, **Fairfield/Hocking** (Aaron Boone). Seven at Magee 26 May was a great migrant tally (Rob and Sandy Harlan).

Willow Flycatcher: Birds at Englewood MP, **Montgomery**, 25 Apr (Ed and Bev Neubauer) and at Killbuck 26 Apr were a shade early (Jen Brumfield, Gabe Leidy). High count was 12 at Buck Creek SP, **Clark**, 25 May (Doug Overacker).

Least Flycatcher: A bird shot up to Magee 23 Apr (Rick Nirschl); otherwise a routine migration. A bird was on territory in Coitsville, **Mahoning**, 15 May (Craig Holt).

Eastern Phoebe: The first barely made it into the spring reporting period 03 Mar in **Highland** (Bruce

Lombardo). They were not reported widely until 21 to 22 Mar. Twelve migrants found their way to Magee 07 Apr (Rick Nirschl).

Great Crested Flycatcher: One was quite early 13 Apr in Turcotte, **Hamilton** (Ned Keller). First at Magee was seen 23 Apr (Rick Nirschl).

Eastern Kingbird: Three were already in **Adams** 13 Apr (Lori Brumbaugh, Lou Gardella), but then were slowed down somewhere along the way, because it was not until 26 May that John Pogacnik had an incredible 174 pass by North Perry, **Lake**.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: A bird photographed at C. J. Brown Dam in Buck Creek SP, **Clark**, appeared 11 May 2008, two days after the Brown Pelican sighting from the same location. Brian Menker spotted the bird in the planted prairie while driving by and called Larry Jeanblanc, who arrived quickly and took some good photographs. It disappeared shortly thereafter. If accepted by the Ohio Bird Records Committee, this will become one of few records for Ohio, most of which have come during the month of May.

Loggerhead Shrike:

A cooperative bird was discovered hanging out on a wire along Route 19, just south of Route 2 and east of Magee Marsh, **Ottawa**, 17 May and remained the following day (Rob and Sandy Harlan, Gabe Leidy). The bird seemed oblivious to passing traffic and onlookers and was viewed by many who were in the area.



On 11 May 2008, Brian Menker spotted this attractive Scissor-tailed Flycatcher while driving by Buck Creek State Park (Clark County), and it was photographed soon thereafter by Larry Jeanblanc. A species prone to wandering, it had already vanished by early afternoon, but would constitute the eleventh state record.

Northern Shrike: Nine birds from the winter season persisted into March. With the exception of at least one bird at Killdeer Plains (Ed and Bev Neubauer, Steve Landes) and another 21 Mar at Voice of America Park, **Butler** (fide Paul Gardner), all reports came from traditional locales in the northern counties. Inga Schmidt had the latest, 01 Apr at her property on the **Geauga/Cuyahoga** line.

White-eyed Vireo: Arrived simultaneously 09 Apr in **Hamilton** (David Brinkman) and **Meigs** (Tracy Morman).

Yellow-throated Vireo: Jim McCormac had the first birds – five 19 Apr on a sweep through southeast Ohio, and Dwight and Ann Chasar found one at CVNP 22 Apr. The CVNP Spring Census racked up its highest numbers ever, 20 on 10 May, though the Chasars noted that they



A Bell's Vireo, our rarest and most diminutive vireo species, was photographed at Deer Creek Wildlife Area on 10 May 2008 by Robert Royse.

have been increasing in the park since 1995.

Blue-headed Vireo: On 10 Apr, there were 10 singing males at Shawnee SF (Robert Royse), and by 16 April, Aaron Boone witnessed a pair nest building there. This species' migration seemed prolonged this year, with greater than average numbers reported during May and many tarrying late into the month; last migrant reported 27 May at Magee (Mary Warren). Five were at Shaker Lakes, **Cuyahoga**, 27 Apr (Laura Gooch) and at West Creek Reservation, **Cuyahoga**, 04 May (Gabe Leidy).

Warbling Vireo: Brown (Bill Stanley) and **Clermont** (David Fankhauser) saw the arrival of this

species 19 Apr, but northern Ohio not until 25 to 26 Apr.

Philadelphia Vireo: One 26 Apr at Magee was a major overflight (Rick Nirschl). A bird in **Delaware** 01 May (Sean Williams) registered a more typical arrival date. High count was three along the Magee boardwalk 19 May (Bill Shively).

Red-eyed Vireo: Arrived in the southeast 19 Apr (Jim McCormac) and in northern Ohio 23 Apr at Magee (Rick Nirschl).

Blue Jay: Though they undoubtedly moved along the lakeshore in numbers, no reports were received exceeding the 43 seen in a five-minute span over South Bass Island 27 Apr (Lisa Brohl).

American Crow: A couple of large flocks were reported: 350 to 400 in **Cuyahoga** 01 Mar (Paula Lozano) and on 04 Mar, 1,000 in Boardman Township, **Mahoning** (Craig Holt).

Common Raven: After tantalizing reports of this species in **Jefferson** in recent years, Aaron Boone and Ethan Kistler investigated the situation more thoroughly on 25 Mar and provided us with perhaps the biggest news of the season. Upon arrival at their first stop they encountered a pair of agitated ravens and soon thereafter a nest that ended up fledging four birds. This is a species that is poised for expansion within Ohio eventually, and one that eastern Ohioans should keep an eye to the sky for.

Horned Lark: The March passage was about average. High counts: 01 Mar 350 in southwest **Lucas** (Elliot Tramer) and 31 Mar 300 in northern **Trumbull** (Craig Holt).

Purple Martin: The first scouts were spotted 24 Mar in **Holmes** (Steve Landes) and 31 Mar from the tower at Magee (Mary Warren).

Tree Swallow: 03 Mar brought six to Spring Valley WA, **Greene/Warren** (Paul Dubuc), and two over **Holmes**, a new early date for that county (Bruce Glick). By 12 Apr, 100 were at Buck Creek SP, **Clark** (Doug Overacker), and 217 showed up on the Kelleys' Island monthly census 20 Apr (Tom Bartlett).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: Eight were at Cowan

Lake SP, **Clinton**, 28 Mar (Frank Frick), but did not reach the northern tier until 09 Apr (m. obs.). Buck Creek SP, **Clark**, had the high count – 100 on 12 Apr (Doug Overacker).

Bank Swallow: Arrived a bit later than the other swallows. First reported at Armleder Park, **Hamilton**, 18 Apr (William Hull), and a day later at Killdeer Plains (Jay Lehman). Thirty were at Hardin County wetlands 21 May (Richard Counts) and there were "lots, everywhere" at Killdeer Plains 18 May (Ben Warner).

Cliff Swallow: On 07 Apr, a dozen or so had returned to a colony in Jasper, **Pike** (Robert Royse). Reports from Bacon Woods MP, **Lorain**, on 05 May (five individuals) and 15 May (one) are of local interest, as they may represent birds looking to colonize a new area (Craig Caldwell).

Barn Swallow: Kirk Westendorf had two in **Hamilton** 05 Apr and Karl Overman had three at Metzger 09 Apr.

Black-capped Chickadee: A pair nested on the Magee boardwalk trail for the first time (Chris Knoll).

Carolina Chickadee: Richard Counts reported both Carolina and Black-capped Chickadees at his **Hardin** feeders 09 Mar.

Tufted Titmouse: One on the Kelleys' Island monthly census 20 Apr was only the third or fourth record for the island in over 11 years (Tom Bartlett).

White-breasted Nuthatch: This species was present in expected numbers.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: A bumper crop of this species made it a hot topic on listserves and elsewhere this year. It seemed like every feeder had a bird or two throughout the winter; most of these birds carried over into the spring season — many of them well into May. Some of the last reports of migrants were 22 May at **Licking** (Curt Dusthimer), 23 May at Blendon Woods MP, **Franklin** (Robert McNulty), and 28 May at Magee (Mary Warren). High counts included eight at Horseshoe Pond, CVNP 07 May (Dwight and Ann Chasar) and seven at Magee 10 May (Bill Shively). In addition, nesting confirmation was received from Nimisila Reservoir, **Summit** (Jack Hickson).

Brown Creeper: Sharp-eyed observers discovered nests at Brecksville Reservation, **Cuyahoga** (Ethan Kistler), Killbuck (Craig Caldwell, Su Snyder), and Zaleski (Bruce Simpson). Sixty migrants were counted at Magee 07 Apr (Rick Nirschl) and the last bird passed through there on 20 May (Mary Warren).

Carolina Wren: Well reported around the state.

House Wren: An overflight was west of Holmesville, **Holmes**, 13 Apr (Kevin Kline). Two birds made it up to Magee a few days later, on 18 April (Kenn Kaufmann, Rick Nirschl). Thirty-two at Shawnee Lookout 03 May was a good count

(Jay Stenger), and BSBO captured 101 at Navarre Marsh, doubling last year's total.

Winter Wren: Twenty were at Magee 07 Apr (Rick Nirschl). An extremely late bird was banded in Tiffin, **Seneca**, by Don Plotts 28 May.

Sedge Wren: A migrant was at West Creek Reservation, **Cuyahoga**, 07 May (Gabe Leidy). Potential breeders: 05 May two at Killdeer Plains (Ben Warner); 06 May one at Irwin Prairie State Nature Preserve, **Lucas** (Rick Nirschl); 10 May two on the CVNP Spring Census (Dwight and Ann Chasar); 23 May one at **Clark** (Doug Overacker); and 29 to 30 May a bird singing at night in **Knox** (John Herman).

Marsh Wren: Extremely early was one at Spring Valley WA, **Greene/Warren**, 07 Apr (Cindy Beckman). Two nesting pairs near Shiloh provided a rare **Richland** record (J. Herman). This species is thriving in the western Ohio marshes.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: One hundred were at Magee 07 Apr (Rick Nirschl). Birds at Horseshoe Pond, CVNP 20 May (Craig Caldwell) and Ravenna Arsenal, **Portage**, 25 May (Jen Brumfield) were at known breeding grounds. The latest migrant left Magee 20 May (Mary Warren).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: A bird at Greenlawn Cemetery, **Franklin**, 16 Mar, was early enough to make one wonder if it had overwintered (Gene Stauffer). The top count was of 45 at Firestone MP, **Summit**, 04

May (Brad Wilkinson), and the last reported bird was 21 May by Don Plotts, who banded one in Tiffin, **Seneca**.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Arrived 01 Apr in **Meigs** (Tracy Morman) and by the next day several were at Shawnee SF (Jim McCormac). Sixty-eight on the CVNP Spring Census was a healthy number (Dwight and Ann Chasar).

Veery: 26 Apr saw the arrival of birds from Miami-Whitewater Forest (Paul Wharton) and Winton Woods (Eric Baumgardner, Jerry Lippert), both in **Hamilton** — to Magee (Rick Nirschl). On 03 May, 15 were along the Magee boardwalk trail (Rick Nirschl) and on 25 May, at least eight breeders were seen at Ravenna Arsenal, **Portage** (Jen Brumfield).

Gray-cheeked Thrush: This species showed up with the rest of the thrushes 26 Apr, when a bird was in Columbus' Clintonville neighborhood (Andy Sewell). The next day, Sean Williams found one in nearby **Delaware** and Laura Gooch saw another at Shaker Lakes, **Cuyahoga**. High count was of five at Magee 19 May (Rob and Sandy Harlan).

Swainson's Thrush: Two were at Magee 25 Apr (Rick Nirschl) and by the next day they were fairly widespread around the state. No major concentrations were reported; the highest count anywhere was six or seven at Wildwood SP, **Cuyahoga** (Nancy Anderson).

Hermit Thrush: Some nice

concentrations this spring. Mentor Lagoons, **Lake**, saw 40 on 09 Apr (Ray Hannikman) and 100 were at Magee on the same day (Karl Overman). There were at least 60 at Magee on 18 Apr (Kenn Kaufmann). Late May brought reports of nesting activity from CVNP — a territorial songster was in a new spot along Scobie Road, 19 May (Rob and Sandy Harlan) and Jen Brumfield witnessed an adult carrying food at Ledges 29 May.

Wood Thrush: Quite early was an 11 Apr bird at Shawnee SF (Brad Sparks); this species did not arrive in the Cincinnati area until April 15 at Winton Woods (Jay Stenger). Twenty-three at Shawnee Lookout was a nice tally (Jay Stenger).

Gray Catbird: Steve Landes saw a bird (that most likely overwintered) at Killbuck 24 Mar. Returnees were at Grant Lake, **Brown**, 19 Apr (Bill Stanley) and Clear Creek MP, **Fairfield/Hocking**, the following day (Ann Cramer).

Brown Thrasher: One in Wooster, **Wayne**, 07 Mar probably made it through the winter (*vide* Su Snyder). High counts of six birds at Headlands 19 Apr (Gabe Leidy), and 11 at Sharon Woods MP, **Franklin**, 01 May (Charlie Bombaci).

European Starling: Thriving in the state, by all accounts.

American Pipit: A few nice flocks were reported: 150 in a **Brown** fallow field 12 Apr (Paul Gardner), at least 140 at Delaware Water Plant, **Delaware** (Bill Shively), and

87 at the off-limits Hardin County Wetlands 16 Apr (Richard Counts).

Cedar Waxwing: A massive 1,700 passed by North Perry, **Lake**, on 26 May (John Pogacnik).

Blue-winged Warbler: Returned to Shawnee SF on 17 Apr (Robert Royse). Plentiful in the northeast — 54 were on the CVNP Spring Census 10 May, on which they actually outnumbered European Starlings (47 – Dwight and Ann Chasar). At least 15 were on the 25 May Ravenna Arsenal, **Portage**, tour (Jen Brumfield).

Golden-winged Warbler: Plenty of these jewels passed through Ohio this spring, and all but one by 14 May – a female at Magee 21 to 22 May (*vide* Paul Gardner, George Sydlowski). The 20 reports were fairly well distributed throughout the state and all were of single birds. Males at Highbanks MP, **Delaware**, 25 Apr (Robert Lowry) and Mogadore Reservoir, **Portage**, 26 Apr (Gregory Bennet, Denise Powers Kissel) were the firsts.

[Golden-winged x Blue-winged Warbler]: Seven Brewster's and two Lawrence's were reported. Brewster's – all reports: 01 May at Magee (Mary Warren), 01 May at Mock Park, **Franklin**, (Rob Thorn), 05 May at Blendon Woods MP, **Franklin** (Robert McNulty), CVNP Spring Census 10 May (Dwight and Ann Chasar), 19 May another at Blendon Woods MP (Bruce Simpson), and two banded at Navarre Marsh (BSBO). As for Lawrence's – the rarer of the hybrids – one was widely viewed at Blendon

Woods MP 04 to 05 May (m. obs.) and the other was at Magee 14 May (Mary Warren).

Tennessee Warbler: This species invaded the state 26 Apr, with reports coming from Miami-Whitewater Forest, **Hamilton**, (Paul Wharton) to Magee (Chris Knolls, Dennis Vollmar), Kelleys' Island (Pat Hayes, Shane and Laura Roberts), and Mogadore Reservation, **Portage** (Denise Powers Kissell). Twenty-three were at Shawnee Lookout 17 May (Jack and Jay Stenger).

Orange-crowned Warbler: An awesome spring for this species. At least 39 birds were seen away from Magee – where this species was a nearly constant presence for a solid month – 23 Apr to 25 May (m. obs.). Arrived in BSBO's nets even earlier on 18 Apr and at Shawnee Lookout on 20 Apr (Jay Stenger). Two birds were at **Hancock**, 10 May (Betty Hardesty) and six were banded at Navarre Marsh, 18 May (BSBO).

Nashville Warbler: A pair of overflight birds was at Magee 17 Apr (Kenn Kaufmann, Rick Nirschl). By 01 May, 25 were there (Rick Nirschl) and 35 were in **Hancock** 03 May (Betty Hardesty) and 20 at Buck Creek SP, **Clark**, on 04 May (Doug Overacker).

Northern Parula: Firsts were seen 11 Apr at United American Cemetery, **Hamilton** (Kirk Westendorf), and Spring Valley WA, **Greene/Warren** (John Habig), and 17 Apr at Magee (Chris Knolls, Rick Nirschl).

Yellow Warbler: 17 Apr brought them to both **Licking** (Manon VanSchoyck) and Magee (Chris Knolls). On 10 May, the CVNP Spring Census tallied 166 (Dwight and Ann Chasar) and a similar effort in **Hancock** that date netted 141 (Betty Hardesty).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: Many observers reported the first at Magee 26 Apr, and 10 were there 06 May (Linnea Saukko).

Magnolia Warbler: Showed up around the state 01 May (m. obs.), with a total of 10 noted at Magee on 02 May (Rick Nirschl). Not a great showing for this species overall. Only a third of last year's total banded at Navarre Marsh (BSBO).

Cape May Warbler: First birds were reported 25 Apr at Highbanks MP, **Franklin** (Rob Lowry), 26 Apr at Armleder Park, **Hamilton** (Frank Frick), and 27 Apr at Cedar Point NWR, **Lucas**, (Elliot Tramer). Twenty individuals were at Magee on 07 May (Rick Nirschl).

Black-throated Blue Warbler: A bird at Magee 26 Apr was leading the pack (Chris Knolls). A partial albino bird wowed birders at Magee 07 to 09 May (Rick Nirschl).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: Staged a strong, more prolonged migration than usual – with typical April numbers remaining into May at many migrant traps. Peak counts: 100 on 26 Apr at Spring Valley WA, **Greene/Warren** (Jay Lehman), 100 on 29 Apr at Armleder Park, **Hamilton** (William Hull), and 300 at Magee/Metzger 03 May (Gabe Leidy). A 21 May bird at Spring

Valley WA was fairly late (Bob Powell, Bob Thobaben). BSBO could not keep them out of their nets, banding an all-time record 1,082 at Navarre Marsh, the last on 23 May.

Black-throated Green Warbler: Back at Shawnee SF 07 Apr (Robert Royse) and another added a dash of color at Magee 09 Apr (Karl Overman). Fifteen were at Magee's boardwalk 06 May (Linnea Saukko).

Blackburnian Warbler: Arrived with the 25 to 26 Apr crowd: at Alum Creek SP, Delaware (Sean Williams) and Magee (Mary Warren) 25 Apr, and then at Firestone MP, Summit (Greg Emmert) and Winton Woods, **Hamilton**, the following day (Eric Baumgardner, Jerry Lippert). Four were at Shawnee SF 27 Apr (Ben Warner).

Yellow-throated Warbler: 02 Apr brought them back to Shawnee SF (Jim McCormac) and Winton Woods in **Hamilton** (Jay Stenger). By the time one bird had made it up to CVNP (12 Apr – Doug Vogus), 46 had already been reported from Shawnee on 17 Apr (Robert Royse). Some interesting behaviors were also associated with this species this spring: both Bruce Lombardo and Robert Royse reported birds visiting their sunflower feeders and Lori Brumbaugh and Lou Gardella observed a bird feeding in a plowed field with a flock Chipping Sparrows in **Adams**. Obvious migrants were reported multiple times from Magee (m. obs.), Metzger (Kenn Kaufmann, Elliot Tramer), and West Creek Reservation, **Cuyahoga** (Gabe Leidy).

Pine Warbler: Showed up at a feeder in Lucas, **Richland**, 05 to 17 Mar (John Herman), at Oak Openings 06 Mar (Elliot Tramer), and 07 Mar at Jim Fry's **Hocking** property. High counts were six at Shawnee SF 07 Apr and 30 singing males at Zaleski the next day (both Robert Royse). Quite a few migrants were also detected during this species peak April passage, including four or five at Magee 18 Apr (Rick Nirschl) and seven at Ira Road, CVNP 28 Apr (Tom and Mary Anne Romito).

Prairie Warbler: Appeared on 12 Apr at Shawnee SF for Brad Sparks and 13 Apr in Adams for Lori Brumbaugh and Lou Gardella. At least 20 were on territory at Shawnee 27 Apr (Ben Warner) and five at Clear Creek MP, **Fairfield/Hocking**, 10 May (Charlie Bombaci). A few individuals showed up in northern areas: 25 Apr at Metzger (Rick Nirschl), 26 Apr at Killbuck (Jen Brumfield, Gabe Leidy), 03 May at Magee's beach (Gabe Leidy), and 07 May both at Magee (Rick Nirschl) and West Creek Reservation, **Cuyahoga** (Jen Brumfield, Gabe Leidy).

Palm Warbler: One rode the 18 Apr wave all the way to Magee, to be the first arrival (Rick Nirschl). Fifty birds were streaming through the treetops at West Creek Reservation, **Cuyahoga**, 02 May and 65 were present at Magee/Metzger WA the following day (both Gabe Leidy). Very bright birds of the eastern subspecies *D. p. hypochrysea* were at West Creek 22 Apr (Gabe Leidy) and Magee, again, 25 Apr (Rick Nirschl).

Bay-breasted Warbler: Arrived 29 Apr. at Magee (Karl Overman), but most observers felt they never truly "arrived." This was the only species universally regarded as down in numbers this spring; some regulars reported only one sighting. A quick look at the BSBO banding data backs this notion up: a mere 17 birds were banded at Navarre Marsh this spring versus last spring's 71. Doug Overacker did manage to find eight 18 May at Buck Creek SP, **Clark**, while Magee numbers topped out at only five 18 to 19 May (Rob and Sandy Harlan). Reports from the next few years will help us determine whether this was a weather-related phenomenon or a general decline in this species' overall population.

Blackpoll Warbler: The season's first Blackpoll was at Magee 25 Apr (Rick Nirschl). The high count of at least 18 came in from North Perry, **Lake**, 26 May (John Pogacnik).

Cerulean Warbler: Two singing males were at Zaleski 17 Apr (Bruce Simpson) and another returned to Secor MP in **Lucas** the following day (Luke Rosen). Counts of at least 20 at Shawnee SF 27 Apr (Ben Warner), 10 along Cemetery Ridge Trail at Clear Creek MP, **Fairfield/Hocking**, 21 May (Bill Shively), and 25 from **Holmes** and northern **Coshocton** 25 May (Kevin Kline) were encouraging.

Black-and-white Warbler: First appearances nicely progressed from south to north: one was at Shawnee Lookout 30 Mar (Frank Frick), four at Shawnee SF 07 Apr (Robert



This male Cerulean Warbler came down from the canopy to pose for Brian Zwiebel's lens at Zaleski State Forest in Vinton County on 05 May 2008.

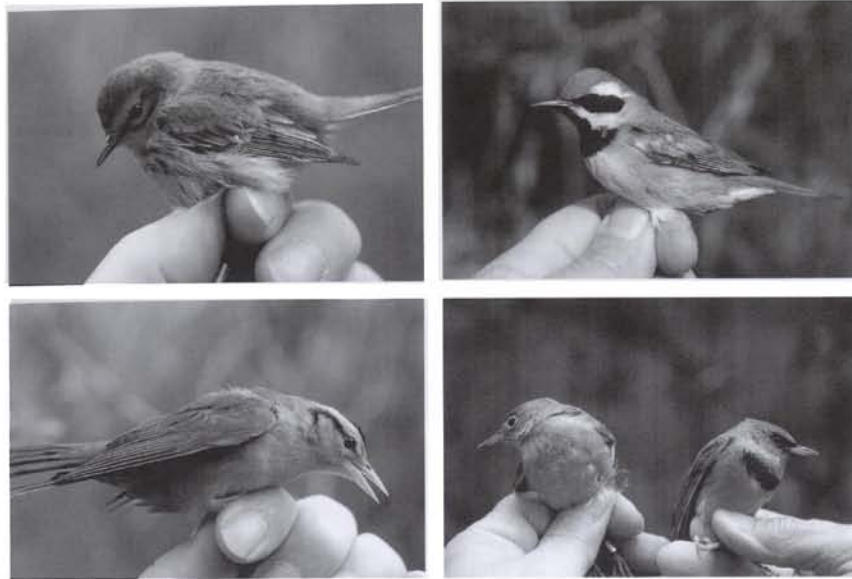
Royse), one at Veteran's Park, **Lake**, 13 Apr (Ray Hannikman), and two or three at Magee 17 Apr (Chris Knolls, Rick Nirschl). By 21 Apr, 21 were counted at Zaleski (Robert Royse).

American Redstart: Returned to Shawnee SF 12 Apr (Brad Sparks), while one at Magee 17 Apr was exceptionally early for the area (Chris Knolls, Rick Nirschl). Thirty-one were on breeding grounds at Clear Creek MP, **Fairfield/Hocking**, 10 May (Charlie Bombaci) and another 35 or more were at Ravenna Arsenal in **Portage** 25 May (Jen Brumfield).

Prothonotary Warbler: Quite early was one at Crooked Run

Preserve, **Hamilton**, on 09 Apr (Suzanne Clingman). The next reports came from Magee, where one was present 17 Apr and two the following day (Chris Knolls, Rick Nirschl). BSBO banded 11 at Navarre Marsh, including six on 02 May and another migrant was at Pipe Creek WA, **Erie**, 17 May (Gabe Leidy). On 26 Apr, 44 singing males had returned to Hoover Nature Preserve, **Delaware**, but it was not until 30 Apr that the first females appeared (Charlie Bombaci). Seven were at Killbuck the last day of the period (Su Snyder).

Worm-eating Warbler: The first arrival was at John Bryan SP, **Greene**, 19 Apr (Doug Overacker)



The bird banders from Black Swamp Bird Observatory process hundreds of birds every season, affording opportunities for in-hand study of Ohio's less common warblers. Highlights this season included Prairie Warbler (top left), Golden-winged Warbler (top right), Worm-eating Warbler (above left) and this rare opportunity to compare Mourning and Connecticut Warblers (above right). All photographs from Navarre Marsh, taken by Mark Shieldcastle.

and an overflight showed up at West Creek Reservation in **Cuyahoga** the next day (Gabe Leidy). Five at Zaleski 21 Apr provided the season's high count (Robert Royse). Quite a few migrants were detected this season: sightings from Magee marsh included one on 25 to 26 Apr, three on 30 Apr, and two on 08 May (Kenn Kaufmann, Rick Nirschl, Mary Warren), with another bird noted 26 Apr in **Holmes** (Kevin Kline) and another individual that lingered 17 to 19 May at Secor MP, **Lucas** (Matt Anderson, Elliot Tramer). A bird on the CVNP Spring Census 10 May at Kendall Lake may have been the same bird

that summered at nearby Wetmore Road last year (Dwight and Ann Chasar).

Ovenbird: One was at Shawnee SF 11 Apr (Brad Sparks) and a strong flyer at Magee the same day (Rick Nirschl). Seventy-four were at Zaleski 21 Apr (Robert Royse) and 20 at Magee 02 May (Rick Nirschl) and 06 May (Linnea Saukko).

Northern Waterthrush: This species lived up to its name, appearing in the northern parts of the state first – 18 Apr at Magee (Rick Nirschl) and 19 Apr at CVNP, **Cuyahoga** (Doug Vogus). Seven were at Magee 25 Apr (Rick Nirschl)

and 10 on 03 May (Gabe Leidy). A late bird was at Miami-Whitewater Forest, **Hamilton**, 25 May (Steve Pelikan).

Louisiana Waterthrush: First was at Nine Mile Valley, **Clermont**, 20 Mar (David Fankhauser), then Lancaster, **Fairfield**, 27 Mar (Dawn McCoy), Highlands Nature Sanctuary, **Highland**, 29 Mar (Bruce Lombardo), and finally, the boardwalk at Magee the week of 31 Mar to 04 Apr (Mary Warren). Twenty-three were tallied at Shawnee SF 07 Apr (Robert Royse). Birds at **Paulding** 17 Apr (Doug and Micki Dunakin) and Oak Openings 07 May (Matt Anderson) were unusual for the region.

Kentucky Warbler: First located 19 Apr on a broad sweep through **Jackson, Lawrence, and Vinton**

(Jim McCormac). By 27 Apr, 10 males were vocalizing at Shawnee SF (Ben Warner). Not many migrants detected; three were banded at Navarre Marsh (BSBO) and birds were seen in different areas of Magee 14 to 15 May (Mary Warren). Breeders and potential breeders included one singing from a wooded ravine in Oak Openings MP 04 to 17 May (Matt Anderson, Elliot Tramer) and two males that returned to the Ledges at CVNP, **Summit** (Jen Brumfield, Craig Caldwell).

Connecticut Warbler: An awesome spring for this species. At least 19 birds were seen away from Magee, with eight more banded at Navarre Marsh (BSBO). Two birds showed up on 06 May – one in **Hancock** (Betty Hardesty) and another at Magee (Elliot Tramer)



Rarely seen so well, or by so many, this Connecticut Warbler was singing along the road at Magee Marsh Wildlife Area in Lucas County. Photographed 18 May 2008 by George Sydlowski.

– but then, due to unusual weather patterns, no more were reported until 15 May at Blendon Woods MP, **Franklin** (Robert McNulty). Two birds were reported on three separate occasions – 20 May at Taylorsville MP, **Montgomery** (Brian Menker), 21 May at Oak Openings (Elliot Tramer), and two females 26 May at Magee (Kenn Kaufmann).

Mourning Warbler: Plentiful throughout the latter half of May. Similar to Connecticut, birds arrived 07 May in **Ottawa** (BSBO), 08-09 May in **Franklin** (Nathaniel Nye) and also in **Holmes** 09 May (K. Kline), but then none were reported until 14 May at Magee (Craig Caldwell). When the weather broke and the south winds let loose 26 May, 10 birds were seen at Magee (Kenn Kaufmann) and BSBO banded 17 at Navarre Marsh.

Common Yellowthroat: Arrived 13 Apr in **Adams** (Lori Brumbaugh, Lou Gardella), 18 Apr at East Fork SP, **Clermont** (Bill Stanley), and 19 Apr in **Ottawa** (BSBO). Twenty-two were seen at Shawnee Lookout 03 May (Jay Stenger) and at least 30 at Clear Creek MP, **Fairfield/Hocking**, 10 May (Charlie Bombaci).

Hooded Warbler: Arrived 15 Apr at Zaleski (Robert Royse) and 18 Apr at Wintergarden Green, **Wood** (Becky Cullen) and Magee (Kenn Kaufmann, Rick Nirschl). Twenty-six were at Zaleski 21 Apr (Robert Royse) and at least 20 at Clear Creek MP, **Fairfield/Hocking**, 10 May (Charlie Bombaci). A singing male

at Wildwood SP **Cuyahoga** 31 May was quite late (Nancy Anderson).

Wilson's Warbler: The only bird reported before May was at Magee 27 Apr (Lisa Romaniuk). No high counts received other than the 24 banded on 17 May at Navarre Marsh (BSBO).

Canada Warbler: Always arriving late in the spring, the first birds appeared at Magee 07 May (Rick Nirschl) and 09 May (Chris Knoll), and one at Wildwood SP, **Cuyahoga**, 12 May (Nancy Anderson). By 30 May, there were “many” at the Magee boardwalk (Mary Warren).

Yellow-breasted Chat: Reported from four locations in the Cincinnati area 26 Apr (*vide* Ned Keller), as well as at North Perry, **Lake** (John Pogacnik). Migrants were seen at Magee 30 Apr – 15 May (Gabe Leidy, Rick Nirschl, and Mary Warren), with two present 02 May (Rick Nirschl). Other migrants included one at Sheldon's Marsh State Nature Preserve, **Erie**, on 05 May (Craig Caldwell) and a quite late bird 26 May at North Perry (John Pogacnik). Top counts were eight at Shawnee Lookout 03 May (Jay Stenger) and six at Clear Creek MP, **Fairfield/Hocking**, 10 May (Charlie Bombaci).

Summer Tanager: Returned to East Fork SP, **Clermont**, 24 Apr (Robert Foppe) and John Bryan SP, **Greene**, the next day (Greg Spahr). On 26 Apr, an ambitious young male was photographed at Rocky River Reservation, **Cuyahoga** (Phil Chaon), and another out-of-range

male took such a liking to Kathy Mock's offerings of sunflower seeds and sugar water that he spent 30 Apr to 02 May on her **Summit** property. Good numbers at traditional spots – 11 at Highbanks MP, **Franklin**, 22 May (Sean Williams) and they were reported back at multiple locations within Oak Openings (Matt Anderson, Rick Nirschl). Rob Thorn reported seeing three second-year birds at new locations around Columbus in mid-May and theorized that they were setting up new territories, as the established birds had been in place for several weeks.

Scarlet Tanager: Robert Royse had the first at Zaleski 21 Apr, and by 23 Apr they were along the lake – at Wildwood SP, **Cuyahoga** (Nancy Anderson), and Magee (Rick Nirschl). Thirteen were at Shawnee Lookout 03 May (Jay Stenger).

Eastern Towhee: At least 40 were at Salt Fork SP, **Guernsey** (Su Snyder), and 33 at Shawnee Lookout 03 May (Jay Stenger).

American Tree Sparrow: Elliot Tramer counted 105 at Cedar Point NWR, **Lucas**, on 01 Mar and the ONWR monthly census on 02 Mar tallied 191 (Doug Vogus). That number diminished to 70 on the 06 Apr census (Doug Vogus), and the last was reported at Maumee Bay State Park, **Lucas**, 09 Apr (Karl Overmann).

Chipping Sparrow: Earliest reports: 02 Mar at a **Highland** feeder (Bruce Lombardo), 03 Mar in New Richmond, **Hamilton** (Donald Morse Jr.), and 08 Mar



Only a handful of Clay-colored Sparrows appeared this season; this one showed up at John Pogacnik's feeders in North Perry, Lake County, on 04 May 2008.

at Dayton, **Montgomery** (Phillip Ware). A county-wide census of **Hancock** 10 May turned up 194 (Betty Hardesty) and 117 showed up on the Kelleys' Island monthly census 20 Apr (Tom Bartlett).

Clay-colored Sparrow: Few reports: 01 May at Tom Kemp's Wood residence, 02 to 04 May in North Perry, **Lake**, (John Pogacnik), a singing male at Quail Hollow SP, **Stark**, 16 May (Kent Miller), and one bird discovered on the first Bobolink area Big Day 17 May (*vide* Bruce Glick).

Vesper Sparrow: First reported were two 24 Mar in **Fairfield** (Greg Emmert). Not mentioned again until 07 Apr outside the Dike 14 fence in **Cuyahoga** (Ben Winger). The next day, Robert Royse reported them back in their usual haunts near Deer Creek Reservation, **Fayette**. On 25 Apr, Doug Overacker had 10 in **Fayette**.

Lark Sparrow: Expanding quite rapidly, not only within the Oak Openings region, but statewide as well. The traditional Girdham

and Reed Road birds were the first back 20 Apr (Matt Anderson), and on 13 May Rick Nirschl reported them from three other areas within the Oak Openings. On 03 May, Paul Wharton discovered these striking sparrows at three gravel pits in western **Hamilton**, including three singing males at a particular pit on Kilby Road. Other sightings included a bird at Oak Quarry, **Greene**, 13 May (Marie Schatz), another near Mohawk Dam, **Coshocton**, 17 May (*vide* Bruce Glick), and two at Taylorsville MP, **Montgomery**, 20 May (Brian Menker). Coming soon to a gravel pit near you!

Savannah Sparrow: On 16 Mar, 13 were at Armleder Park, **Hamilton** (William Hull), and 01 Apr one in a Lakewood, **Cuyahoga**, backyard. Thirty-two at the Hardin County Wetlands 21 May was the high (Richard Counts).

Grasshopper Sparrow: The first reports were at Hardin County Wetlands 16 Apr (Richard Counts) and **Darke** Apr 18 (Regina Schieltz). Only a moderate number of sightings this spring, probably because warblers garner so much of the attention. Birds on territory were reported at Kramer Nature Preserve, **Licking** (Curt Dusthimer), Hardin County Wetlands (Richard Counts), Ravenna Arsenal, **Portage** (Jen Brumfield), Big Island WA, **Marion** (Charlie Bombaci, Jack Stenger), and Glacier Ridge MP, **Franklin** (Nathaniel Nye, Rob Thorn).

Henslow's Sparrow: Again few reports, first from **Vinton** just north

of Zaleski 16 Apr (Robert Royle). All accounts of single birds: 23 Apr at Highbanks MP, **Franklin** (Rob Lowry), 24 Apr at Voice of America Park, **Butler** (Mike Busam), 29 Apr through end of period at Sager Road west of Toledo Airport, **Lucas** (Karl Overman, Elliot Tramer), 04 May at Miami-Whitewater Forest, **Hamilton** (David Brinkman), 21 May at Hardin County Wetlands (Richard Counts), and 24 to 30 May at the former Richfield Coliseum site, now CVNP (Craig Caldwell, Robert Jackson).

Le Conte's Sparrow: Spring reports of this species are always a treat, and this year there were four birds: 11 Apr at Mentor, **Lake** (Suzanne Wagner), two at Miami-Whitewater Forest, **Hamilton**, 26 Apr (Jay Stenger), and 07 May at Headlands (Ray Hannikman).

Fox Sparrow: Near the beginning of the spring reporting period, these large, colorful sparrows were already pushing north. On 02 Mar, Bruce Lombardo saw the firsts – two at his **Highland** feeder. A bird showed up on the ONWR monthly census the following day (Doug Vogus). Migration peaked in early April, with more than 20 noted at Magee (Karl Overman) and 18 at West Creek Reservation, **Cuyahoga**, on 09 Apr, and 14 more in **Cuyahoga** the following day (both Gabe Leidy).

Song Sparrow: Migration was evident 06 Apr, when the ONWR monthly census tallied 131 birds (Doug Vogus).

Swamp Sparrow: Fifty at Hueston Woods SP, **Butler/Preble**, 22 Mar



Another highlight from the spring banding activities of Black Swamp Bird Observatory was this opportunity to compare two subspecies of White-crowned Sparrows. The Gambel's subspecies (*Zonotrichia leucophrys gambelii*; right) breeds in the high Arctic west of Hudson Bay and into Alaska, and has pale lores. Most White-crowned Sparrows seen in Ohio are of the nominate subspecies (*Zonotrichia leucophrys leucophrys*; left), coming from northeastern or north-central Canada or the Rocky Mountains, and have black lores. Photograph from Navarre Marsh by Mark Shieldcastle.

probably included both migrants and wintering birds (Jack and Jay Stenger).

White-throated Sparrow: Maximum abundance: 250 at East Fork SP, **Clermont**, 18 Apr (Bill Stanley) and 200 at feeders in **Lake** 25 Apr (John Pogacnik). One was banded in Tiffin, **Seneca**, 28 May (Don Plotts) and another singing at Headlands, where they seem to linger yearly, 30 May (Craig Caldwell).

Harris's Sparrow: Vernon Kline hosted a full breeding-plumaged bird at his feeders west of Holmesville, **Holmes**, 27 Apr to 05 May (Kevin Kline).

White-crowned Sparrow: Lingering winter birds were reported during Mar (m. obs.). Greg Emmert saw "hundreds" at Firestone MP, **Summit**, 26 Apr, while 20 were at Erie St. Cemetery, **Cuyahoga**, 01 May (Steve Cagan) and 18 at Conneaut 08 May (Craig Holt). One was in **Lorain** 25 May (Gregory Bennet).

Dark-eyed Junco: Erie St. Cemetery, **Cuyahoga**, hosted 50 to 75 on 11 Apr (Tim Colborn, John and Ann Edwards). Birds at Magee 19 May (Mary Warren) and Ohio and Erie Canal Reservation, **Cuyahoga**, 29 May (Jo Ann Kubicki) were running late. Bob Hinkle reported active nests at

Cleveland Metroparks Brecksville and South Chagrin Reservations, **Cuyahoga**, and Jen Brumfield saw a bird at Ledges, CVNP 29 May.

Lapland Longspur: No reports along the lake (nor were any Smith's Longspurs reported). **Wyandot** once again had the highest longspur count; Richard Counts reported that several hundred were staging at CH-112 and Jay Lehman found 120 at Washburn Road near Killdeer Plains 19 Apr. Fifty were at Miami-Whitewater Forest near Cincinnati 09 Mar (Andy Bess).

Snow Bunting: Decent numbers reported this spring. Peak counts: at least 100 on 02 Mar in **Wyandot** (Charlie Bombaci), 60 on 02 Mar at Hayes Road, **Geauga**, (Dave and Sally Isaaco), 110 on 05 Mar over Parma, **Cuyahoga**, (Jen Brumfield), and 30 on 07 Mar in rural **Lucas** (Elliot Tramer).

Northern Cardinal: Doug Vogus counted 34 in CVNP 19 Apr.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Arrived in **Hamilton** (Jeff Rowe) and southeast OH (Jim McCormac) 19 Apr and showed up at **Mahoning** 23 Apr (Craig Holt) and **Summit** 25 Apr (Patrick Coy). Twelve were at Whetstone Park, **Franklin**, 01 May (Paul Gardner).

Blue Grosbeak: A very early feeder bird in **Montgomery** 13 Apr was much photographed, as was another backyard bird in the same county 19 Apr (*fide* Ed and Bev Neubauer)! One at Gilmore Ponds, **Butler**, 26 Apr exhibited a more typical arrival date (Jay Lehman). Migrant males were at Magee 04 to

05 May (Troy Shively, Mary Warren) and The West Woods, **Geauga**, 07 to 09 May (Linda Gilbert, Ethan Kistler, Suzanne Wagner), though others reported from **Columbiana** 04 May (Jay Salem), **Trumbull** 11 May (Arthur Foreman) and one on the first Bobolink area Big Day 17 May (*fide* Bruce Glick) were harder to categorize. Perhaps a northern range expansion is underway? Most established breeding birds were reported back at their traditional haunts.

Indigo Bunting: First noted in **Hocking** 20 Apr (Ann Cramer), but not until 27 Apr in **Lorain** (Dorothy and Doug Dawson-Sheldon). Jay Stenger counted 24 at Shawnee Lookout 03 May.

Dickcissel: Only four reports; hopefully the summer issue will bring more. One bird was reported 06 May at Armleder Park, **Hamilton**, (Eric Burkholder), multiple birds 09 May at Seip Earthworks, **Ross**, (Bruce Lombardo), one on 20 May at **Darke** (Regina Schieltz), and another single 26 May at **Clinton** (Bob Powell).

Bobolink: A bird was at CVNP grasslands 21 Apr (Bob Faber) and two at Voice of America Park, **Butler**, 24 Apr (Mike Busam). Twenty were at the Coliseum field, CVNP 20 May (Craig Caldwell) and 18 at Hardin County Wetlands 21 May (Richard Counts).

Red-winged Blackbird: High counts: 477 on 06 Apr ONWR monthly census (Doug Vogus) and 668 at Kelleys' Island during the 20 Apr census (Tom Bartlett).



Evening Grosbeaks are uncommon in Ohio any time of year, and this female that appeared at the Black Swamp Bird Observatory's feeders by Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge on 04 May 2008 was a real surprise. Photograph by Hugh Rose.

Eastern Meadowlark: Jim Moore reported their return to **Highland** 05 Mar and Dorothy Dawson-Sheldon saw her first on 12 Mar in Wakeman, **Lorain**. No large counts received; 10 wintering birds were still at The Wilds, **Noble**, on 17 Mar (Andy Sewell) and 15 at the Hardin County Wetlands 20 Apr (Richard Counts).

Western Meadowlark: Returned to **Wood** 06 Apr, where this year there were two singing males to choose from, approximately 6.5 miles apart off Cygnet Road (Becky Cullen, m. obs.).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: Many observers were able to see one or more of at least four that frequented Krause Road near ONWR 17 Apr to 17 May. Likewise, multiple parties reported up to two males on the ONWR driving tour 10 May.

Other reports came from the Magee causeway 05 May (Mary Warren) and Carol Cartaino's property on the **Highland/Adams** line 13 Apr.

Rusty Blackbird: Two-hundred at Rocky Fork Lake, **Highland**, 15 Mar (Ron and Tim Kolde) far outshone other reports. Elsewhere, 74 were on the ONWR monthly census 06 Apr (Doug Vogus) and at least 60 at Wingfoot Lake, **Portage**, 10 Apr (Gregory Bennet). Peaked at only 20 on the Magee bird trail 18 Apr (Kenn Kaufmann), where the last bird was seen 03 May (Mary Warren).

Brewer's Blackbird: Hard to come by this year; three reports of three individuals: 13 Mar along the Metzger entrance road (Kenn Kaufmann), 16 Mar among a huge blackbird flock in Ryan Steiner's yard in Smithville, **Wayne**, and a female

at Delaware WA, **Delaware**, 20 Mar (Jay Stenger, Sean Williams).

Common Grackle: The ONWR monthly census had the top count 06 Apr with 966 (Doug Vogus). Charles Bombaci, however provided the most memorable observation. He observed a grackle wade into the water, and spear a five-inch fish; it smacked the fish's head on a log, and took off with its aquatic prey.

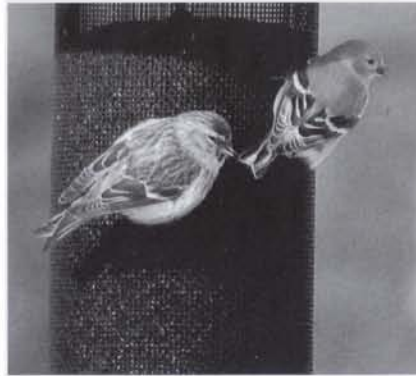
Orchard Oriole: Ann Cramer had birds in **Hocking** 20 to 21 Apr and Jay Stenger one at Shawnee Lookout 20 Apr, where he encountered a total of 13 on 03 May. Bob Hinkle reported three nesting pairs at Jackson Road Picnic Area, **Cuyahoga**.

Baltimore Oriole: Back 17 Apr in **Clermont** (Chris Clingman), 19 Apr in the southeast (Jim McCormac), and by 26 Apr it was widespread across the northern part of the state. Twenty-seven were part of the 03 May fallout at Shawnee Lookout (Jay Stenger).

Purple Finch: Deep snow brought an incredible 65 to Bruce Lombardo's feeders in **Highland** 08 Mar. On 22 Apr, 13 visited Jim Fry's feeders in **Hocking** and 10 migrants were at West Creek Reservation, **Cuyahoga**, 04 May (Gabe Leidy). A singing male at CVNP's Oak Hill 29 May was a probable nester (Jen Brumfield).

House Finch: Eighty-nine on the Kelleys' Island monthly census 20 Apr was the high count (Tom Bartlett).

Red Crossbill: This species



This Hoary Redpoll (left) continued from the winter season through 15 March 2008 in Holmes County. Thanks to Levi Yoder's hospitality, many Ohio birders were able to tick this species on their state/life lists. Photograph by Nancy Anderson.

was involved in one of the most unexpected sightings of the season. On 24 May, the Big Day team of Aaron Boone, Josh Kuenzli, Steve Landes, and Paul Rodewald had great looks at a bird of this species feeding *alongside* a White-winged Crossbill on Girdham Road in Oak Openings. They watched both feed at the top of a lone conifer for several minutes, before they took flight together and headed for a different pine stand. How many May Big Day teams can claim both crossbills?

White-winged Crossbill: One was seen in the company of a Red Crossbill 24 May at Oak Openings – see Red Crossbill account (Aaron Boone, Josh Kuenzli, Steve Landes, Paul Rodewald).

Common Redpoll: Plenty of birds remained from the late fall/winter invasion. The vast majority of reports consisted of small groups

at feeders in the northern part of the state, though birds were found as far south as **Delaware** (Tom Bain) and **Auglaize** (Jill Bowers). Two dozen was the high count at Barb Partington's feeders in **Geauga** 05 Mar, while John Pogacnik had a dozen in **Lake** 12 Apr, Sally Isaaco 11 in Chardon, **Lake**, 03 Apr, and Mike Sandy had 10 at his Rocky River, **Cuyahoga**, residence 30 Mar. A few birds stayed record late, including one in Toledo through 22 Apr (Greg Links), a bird in **Mahoning** until 25 Apr (Bob Lane), and the final bird left Pogacnik's home 27 Apr.

Hoary Redpoll: The bird that visited Levi Yoder's feeders near Trail, **Holmes**, was last reliably reported 15 Mar (Jay Lehman).

Pine Siskin: Widely reported this spring, with scattered reports coming in through the end of May. Will this translate into a banner nesting season? The high count was 80 at Oak Openings 01 Mar, where nesting was later suspected but had not been confirmed (Elliot Tramer). Likewise, Jay Lehman observed a bird at Rowe Arboretum near Cincinnati with a feather in its bill, stripping bark off a cedar tree, but could not locate a nest. Jim McCormac had a late migrant at the ODNR headquarters in Columbus 23 May.

American Goldfinch: Several hundred accompanied a redpoll and two siskins at John Pogacnik's feeders in **Lake** 27 Apr.

Evening Grosbeak: Four females present at a private residence near

Mohican SP, **Ashland**, dwindled to one on 03 Apr for Ryan Steiner, though the owner reported that all four birds were still visiting daily. John Pogacnik had four at North Perry, **Lake**, 19 Apr, one 19 May, two on 21 May, and one on 26 May. Big news was a female that dropped by BSBO headquarters at Magee 04 May and was viewed and photographed by many that day (Kenn and Kim Kaufmann).

House Sparrow: Did not make it onto any reports, but this species is undoubtedly thriving in the state.

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Bogosian, Mark	Davis, Julie	Harlan, Robert	Hull, William	Powell, Bob	Troyer, Albert
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Brubaker, Willis	Doss, Bill	Hickson, Jack	Lowery, Jessica	Romito, Mary Ann	Walker, Bev
Brumbaugh, Lori	Dubac, Paul	Holt, Craig	Lowry, Rob	Romito, Tom	Walker, Sam
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The First Nesting Record of Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) in Ohio

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Abstract

The Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) is a Neotropical migrant that breeds in North America and winters in the Amazonian basin of South America. Ohio's first documented record of this raptor dates from 1978. There have been 23 documented reports since the first record, with the majority from the past 10 years. The overall breeding population of Mississippi Kite has been steadily

increasing since the 1960s, and many new regions have been occupied by nesting pairs.

Some evidence suggests that Mississippi Kites are reclaiming parts of their historical breeding range. Limited archaeological evidence has been given as evidence for this species' occurrence in Ohio yet definitive evidence of breeding was not obtained for Mississippi Kite until August 2007 when an adult was observed feeding a recently fledged bird in Hocking County, Ohio.

Introduction

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) is a relatively recent addition to Ohio's avifauna. The first record for the species dates to 1978, when one was documented at Green Lawn Cemetery in Columbus, Franklin County on 13 May (Peterjohn 2001). There have been 23 additional documented records including the nesting occurrence reported in this paper (Table 1; Figure 1). With few exceptions, these records were brief sightings of soaring birds that did not linger.

Of the 23 records cited in Table 1 (one reliable yet undocumented record from Scioto County on 01 May 05 is not listed), eight (35%) come from Lucas and Ottawa counties. Additionally, all of these



Figure 1. Mississippi Kite records in Ohio since 1978, by Stephen Matthews.

observations come from May or early June when the Western Lake Erie Basin experiences a heavy influx of birding activity. The spate of records there may reflect the disproportionate number of observers who are afield in that area at that time of year (increasing the odds of detecting vagrant birds, such as raptors, that are unwilling to cross Lake Erie [Kerlinger 1995]) rather than a true geographic and temporal pattern. A similar situation occurs

at Point Pelee in Ontario, Canada, on the other side of Lake Erie, which is only 39 miles from Magee Marsh Wildlife Area on the border of Lucas and Ottawa counties in Ohio. Point Pelee is a well-known migrant trap, and also attracts scores of birders. There have been more than 30 records of Mississippi Kite from Point Pelee (Alan Wormington, unpublished manuscript).

Ohio's Mississippi Kite records



Figure 2.

One adult of the pair of nesting Mississippi Kites, Hocking County, Ohio. Photograph by Michael Packer.



Figure 3.

A recently fledged Mississippi Kite from a newly discovered nesting location in northern Illinois (Winnebago County). Note the heavy markings to the underparts and the long tapered appearance of the wings. The developing tail feathers of this juvenile lack the distinctive white banding but this characteristic is typically evident on hatch-year birds. © Vic Berardi.

span 30 years and show a trend of increasing numbers of records during recent years. In the first third of this period (1978-87), there were five sightings. From years 1988 to 1997, there were only four records. In the years between 1998 and 2008, at least 14 reports of Mississippi Kite have been documented. Sightings in 2008 made it the best year on record, with one probable nesting pair, another possible nesting pair, and three observations of single birds (Lucas, Geauga, & Wood counties). Key identification points for both juvenile and adult Mississippi Kites should be thoroughly reviewed by Ohio birders, especially in the all-too-common event of brief flyover appearances. Quick assessment of a few critical field marks could be

crucial for adding substantially more to the overall knowledge of this species' status in Ohio.

Field Identification

Mississippi Kites are medium-sized raptors, about the size of a male Cooper's Hawk, with an average wingspan of 31 inches and a length of 14 inches (Sibley 2000). Average weight for males is 245 grams and 311 grams for females (Parker 1999). Mean weights for eastern Cooper's Hawk populations are 338 grams for males, and 556 grams for females (Curtis *et al.* 2006). Mississippi Kites are noted for their buoyant, acrobatic flight, due in part to the light body weight compared to their overall size. A Mississippi Kite gives the impression in soaring flight of

flapping only when it must, similar to the "reluctant" flapping behavior of a soaring Turkey Vulture (Dunne *et al.* 1988). The kite's wing beat is "stiff," which becomes particularly important when similarly shaped Peregrine Falcons (*Falco peregrinus*) are being considered in the identifications of distant birds. Dunne *et al.* (1988) put it best when they state that (p. 121), "most apparent is the difference between the wing beats of the two birds." Falcon wing beats are much more powerful and rapidly delivered, unlike the weaker, hesitant flapping motions coming from a Mississippi Kite.

Adult Mississippi Kite plumage is striking and unmistakable, if seen well. Plumages are similar for males and females; separating the sexes in the field may be possible only when simultaneously considering size, coloration of the head and nape (paler in males), and the presence of white along the inner webs of tail feathers in females (Parker 1999). Adult plumage is acquired in the second calendar year and is characterized overall by light gray body plumage, dark tail, very pale whitish head, gray wings with blackish primaries, and

Table 1.

Acceptably documented records (as determined by the authors) of Mississippi Kite in Ohio; all are of single birds unless otherwise noted.

DATE	COUNTY
1978 May 13	Franklin
1982 May 16	Lucas
1985 May 11	Lucas
1987 June 3	Shelby
June 23-24	Delaware
1989 May 4	Ottawa
1992 June 7	Ashtabula
1996 May 19	Lucas
1997 May 17	Ottawa
1999 July 4	Summit
2000 July 5-6	Clermont
2002 May 2	Franklin
June 3	Lucas
2004 May 16	Lucas
May 17	Hamilton*
May 31	Hamilton*
June 4	Hamilton*
2007 June 4 to	Hocking
September 3	Vinton
September 20	(adult and juvenile)**
2008 May 20 to July 8	Hocking
May 24	Lucas
June 7	Geauga
June 7	Wood
June 21	Athens & Morgan
	(pair of adults)

*2004 records from Hamilton County may represent the same bird, which was reported as a juvenile.

**Vinton County record may represent the same birds breeding in Hocking County.

conspicuous whitish upper surfaces to the secondaries (Wheeler 2003). Primaries show a variable amount of reddish-brown (Parker 1999). Subadults are similar in body plumage to after-second-year birds but retain juvenile flight and tail

feathers (Clark and Wheeler 1987). The transition from subadult to adult plumage is complete after birds arrive on the winter grounds for their second winter (Wheeler 2003). Juveniles are much browner overall, with heavy rich reddish streaking on the underparts. Upperparts are prominently marked with large white scallops or spots on the ends of feathers, and the brownish tail is prominently banded with three or four narrow white bands, although some individuals may have only partial banding (Wheeler 2003). This brownish, blotchy appearance on the underside, along with the banded tail of a soaring juvenile, might initially evoke Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*), but close attention to a few key field marks should quickly rule out this small Buteo. The kite wing is slender and pointed, whereas longer secondary feathers on the Broad-winged Hawk give its wing the bulging appearance that its name suggests. The thickness of the body and wings of a Broad-winged Hawk imparts a stockier appearance while a bird is in soaring flight. The combination of these characteristics should impart a different impression than that given by Broad-winged Hawk in flight. In all plumages, Mississippi Kites show a diagnostic shortened outer primary (P10) that is obvious in flight (even from great heights) and unlike other Midwestern raptors (Figure 2 & 3; Wheeler 2003). Structurally speaking, Mississippi Kite is probably closest to Peregrine Falcon (Clark and Wheeler 2001). Any soaring or

gliding raptor, falcon-like in shape and with plumage reminiscent of Broad-winged Hawk, should be studied very carefully and for as long as possible, especially if encountered from May through August.

Ohio Breeding Record

On 04 June 2007, Rick Perkins was playing a round of golf at the Brass Ring Golf Course in Hocking County, Ohio (Figure 4). An unusual raptor hawking for insects over one of the fairways caught his attention. He identified the bird as an adult Mississippi Kite, and shortly thereafter observed a pair of adults copulating. Word quickly spread out to the Ohio birding community, and soon many additional observations had been made. Because the golf course is heavily used, observers were confined to perimeter roads where observations were still possible.

In late June, McCormac contacted Chad Galloway, superintendent of Brass Ring Golf Course, and arranged to visit the interior of the golf course to search for evidence of nesting. Mr. Galloway and his grounds crew were quite familiar with the kites, and reported seeing them daily since late May or early June, coinciding with Rick Perkins' initial identification of these birds. On 26 June 2007, McCormac and Ohio Division of Wildlife employees Mark Hemming, Mike Reynolds, and Dave Swanson visited Brass Ring and were allowed into the interior of the golf course. Chad

Table 2. Likely or confirmed breeding birds within Brass Ring Golf Course and associated habitats. Much of these data are courtesy of the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II (<http://www.ohiobirds.org/oba2/>), as accessed 15 September 2008. Brass Ring Golf Course is located in Atlas Block 69D6SE (Logan 6), and all species in this table were recorded within this survey block. The breeding status abbreviations are: OS=Observed, PR=Probable, CO=Confirmed, T1, T7, PO, and VS are categories of Probable status, and ON is a category of Confirmed status (see website above for additional details).

SPECIES	BREEDING STATUS	SPECIES	BREEDING STATUS	SPECIES	BREEDING STATUS	SPECIES	BREEDING STATUS	SPECIES	BREEDING STATUS
Canada Goose	PO	Red-bellied Woodpecker	PR	Barn Swallow	PO	Pine Warbler	T7	Northern Cardinal	CO
Mallard	PO	Downy Woodpecker	PR	Carolina Chickadee	PR	Cardinal Warbler	T7	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	OS
Wild Turkey	OS	Hairy Woodpecker	T1	Tufted Titmouse	PR	Black-and-white Warbler	PR	Indigo Bunting	PR
Northern Bobwhite	PR	Northern Flicker	PR	White-breasted Nuthatch	CO	American Redstart	OS	Red-winged Blackbird	T7
Great Blue Heron	PO	Pileated Woodpecker	OS	Carolina Wren	PR	Worm-eating Warbler	PR	Eastern Meadowlark	T7
Turkey Vulture	PO	Eastern Wood-Pewee	PR	House Wren	PR	Overbird	PR	Common Grackle	VS
Mississippi Kite	CO	Acadian Flycatcher	PO	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	PR	Louisiana Waterthrush	T7	Brown-headed Cowbird	PR
Bald Eagle	PO	Eastern Phoebe	PO	Eastern Bluebird	CO	Kentucky Warbler	T7	Orchard Oriole	CO
Sharp-shinned Hawk	PR	Great Crested Flycatcher	T7	Wood Thrush	PR	Common Yellowthroat	PR	Baltimore Oriole	T7
Rod shouldered Hawk	PO	Eastern Kingbird	OS	American Robin	PO	Hooded Warbler	PR	House Finch	T7
Broad-winged Hawk	PO	White-eyed Vireo	CO	Gray Catbird	PO	Yellow-breasted Chat	T7	American Goldfinch	PO
Red-tailed Hawk	PO	Yellow-throated Vireo	PO	Northern Mockingbird	PR	Summer Tanager	T7	House Sparrow	PO
Killdeer	PO	Warbling Vireo	T7	Brown Thrasher	PO	Scarlet Tanager	PO		
Mourning Dove	CO	Red-eyed Vireo	PR	European Starling	CO	Eastern Towhee	PR		
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	OS	Blue Jay	PR	Cedar Waxwing	PO	Chipping Sparrow	PR		
Chimney Swift	PO	American Crow	PO	Yellow Warbler	T7	Field Sparrow	PR		
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	OS	Tree Swallow	ON	Yellow-throated Warbler	PR	Song Sparrow	CO		

Galloway took us to an area of the course that the kite seemed to frequent, and within short order the kite appeared and perched in a tree where course personnel had often seen it. We observed the kite for one-half hour. No evidence of nesting was noted, nor did we see a second kite. We did observe the kite engage in an antagonistic encounter with a Broad-winged Hawk, which the kite chased from the area that Galloway had previously identified as a source of frequent observations.

Sightings continued from multiple observers throughout July and August, as evidenced by numerous postings to the more than 1,200-subscriber Ohio Birds e-mail discussion list sponsored by the Ohio Ornithological Society. McCormac maintained contact with Chad Galloway throughout the summer, and received periodic updates about the kite. On 27 August 2007, Galloway reported that there were definitely two kites present, and that one of them appeared to be feeding the other. Aaron Boone, Scott Albaugh, and McCormac traveled to the Brass Ring course, arriving at approximately 8 a.m. on 31 August. Within minutes of the group's entering the area of primary kite activity a soaring adult affording diagnostic views was detected high overhead. This bird disappeared from sight over the treeline, but soon afterward, a two-noted whistle call, reminiscent of a portion of the call of Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Contopus cooperi*), was detected near where the adult had disappeared.

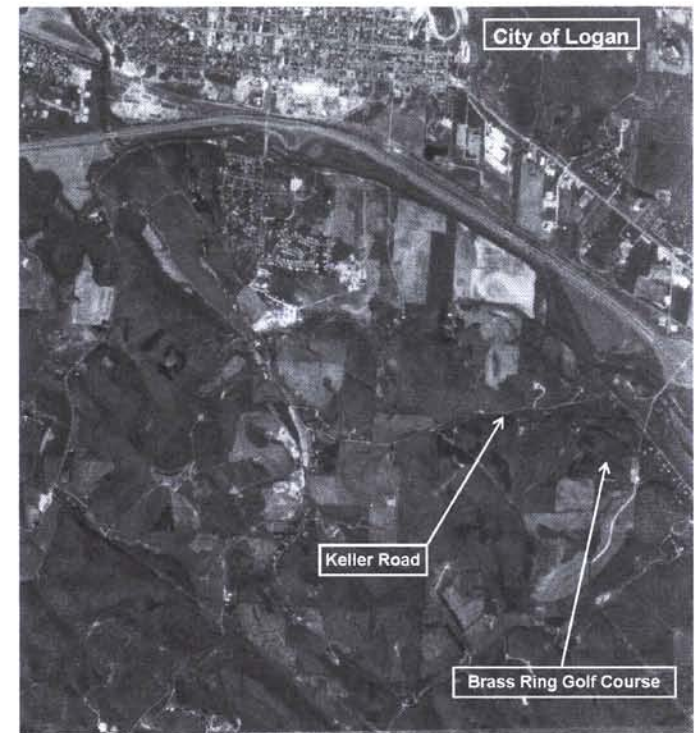
We observed the calling bird, a juvenile Mississippi Kite (Figure 5) high in the dead limbs of a Shagbark Hickory (*Carya ovata*). This bird had down feathers protruding from several feather tracts. The bird's calls increased in intensity, signaling the arrival of an adult kite, which swooped in and quickly delivered a cicada to the juvenile (Figure 6). We observed the juvenile for about an hour, and it was fed twelve times by the adult within that span (about one feeding every five minutes.)

Nearly every food item was a cicada, and large numbers of Linne's Cicada (*Tibicen linnei*) were present in the wooded areas, as well as small numbers of Scissor-grinder Cicadas (*T. pruinosus*). The adult kite was observed coursing low over the forest canopy, picking off cicadas as they flew from the treetops. There were also numerous Green Darner dragonflies (*Anax junius*) about, and other observers reported the kites catching those on the wing, although we did not see any provided to the youngster. The young kite was seen attempting to grab a large butterfly, but failed even though the young bird was capable of strong flight.

The last date that Galloway or any of his staff observed the birds was either 02 or 03 September, and Art Osborn saw three birds and photographed one of them on 03 September, apparently the last birder to report the kites. Interestingly, there was a sighting of a pair of Mississippi Kites – an adult and a juvenile together – on 20 September in Vinton County, about 25 miles

Figure 4.

Aerial view of OBBA2 survey block (69D6SE; ~10 sq. mi. area) that includes the southern portion of Logan, Ohio and the Brass Ring Golf Course. Most sightings came from birders along Keller Road, on the north side of the golf course. Image courtesy of the USGS.



from the Brass Ring Golf Course.

Habitat of Ohio Breeding Locality

Despite a concerted effort, the nest was never discovered, although we have a good idea as to the approximate location. In general, the center of kite activity was near the middle of the Brass Ring Golf Course, section 33, Green Township, Hocking County (Figure 4). The golf course is situated just above the floodplain of the Hocking River, a large stream that drains into the Ohio River at Hockingport in Athens County.

The golf course is a mosaic

of open fairways and greens, interspersed with copses of mature trees. Unlike many golf courses, Brass Ring is very heavily wooded in places, especially towards the higher, better drained western end. The area where the kite was most often seen and where the nest was suspected to be is dominated by oak-hickory associations on the highest ground (Figure 7), mostly Black Oak (*Quercus velutina*), White Oak, (*Q. alba*), and Shagbark Hickory (*Carya ovata*). Forest communities grade into American Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*), Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*), and Tuliptree



Figure 5.

Juvenile Mississippi Kite recently fledged from Brass Ring Golf Course (Hocking County, Ohio). Note the heavy markings on the underparts and the noticeably banded tail, which in combination during soaring flight may superficially resemble Broad-winged Hawk. Also note that the tips of primaries extend past the tip of the tail. Photograph taken by Aaron Boone 31 Aug 2007, shortly after the birds' discovery.



Figure 6.

Adult Mississippi Kite, presumably the male, feeding a cicada to the fledgling at Brass Ring Golf Course. When the fledgling sounded its two-note call, the adult appeared within seconds to deliver food. Photograph by Aaron Boone.



Figure 7.

The habitat at Brass Ring Golf Course where the Mississippi Kite nest was thought to be. Photograph by Aaron Boone.

is minimized in many areas, and the diversity of flowering plants is noteworthy, including many native species. Forested areas have largely been maintained with fairways and greens being built around them. These factors likely have created better conditions for the kites, as well as many other breeding birds. At least 85 probable nesting species have been recorded on golf course property; an impressive list for an Ohio golf course (Table 2).

Mississippi Kite Breeding Distribution

The core breeding range is in the central and southern Great Plains and along the lower Mississippi River and eastern Gulf states. There are outlier breeding populations in

Arizona and New Mexico in the west and western Tennessee, eastern Missouri, and southwestern Illinois to the east. Additional breeding groups have been described from northeastern Virginia, North Carolina, southwestern Indiana, Nebraska, and Colorado (Parker 1999). Polk County, Iowa possesses the most northerly of these outlier breeding populations (Jackson *et al.* 1996).

Historically, Mississippi Kite was probably a common breeder throughout the Mississippi River valley, north to Illinois and Nebraska, and ranging up the Ohio River valley to southern Indiana and possibly Ohio (Parker and Ogden 1979). The only evidence of historical breeding in Ohio comes from two humeri found in a Jackson County sandstone rock shelter (Wetmore 1932). These remains were in association with skeletal remains of several other bird species, as well as human artifacts and skeletons. Such evidence cannot confirm breeding, in our view, as native peoples were known to trade goods and transport them over considerable distances. It is impossible to ascertain with certainty that the Jackson County specimen was in residence as a local breeder.

Discussion

Parker and Ogden (1979) were prophetic when they stated "there is no apparent reason why population increases should not continue in both the East and West." The surge in Ohio records during recent decades reflects an overall increase in the Mississippi Kite population.

It was not entirely unanticipated that the species would eventually nest in Ohio; an article in the inaugural issue of the newsletter for the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II predicted that the species might be found breeding during this five-year project (McCormac 2007).

This confirmed Mississippi Kite breeding record is not only a first for Ohio, but is part of a larger pattern of expansion of Mississippi Kites that will likely continue into the Ohio River Valley and its northern tributaries. Continued maturation of Ohio's forested communities coupled with overall increases in kite numbers may be creating conditions that will allow Mississippi Kites to re-colonize former parts of their breeding range, or expand into new territory. This species has adapted to human-modified environments, and is well-known for nesting on golf courses with forested habitats (Parker 1999).

Summer 2008 has proven to be an interesting year for extra-limital nesting records of Mississippi Kites. This season, adult kites maintained a presence in far north-central Illinois (Winnebago County), and subsequent searching showed that they were indeed breeding locally (Figure 3) with a second nesting pair suspected soon after the original discovery (Daniel Williams, personal communication). Mississippi Kites do nest in Illinois, but the closest breeding stronghold is far to the southwest in the floodplains of the Mississippi River (Wheeler 2003). Even more remarkable was the discovery of an active

nest in Rockingham County, New Hampshire (Retter 2008). This is the first nesting record for the northeastern region of the United States, and the most northerly breeding record for the species (the colony of kites in central Iowa is approximately 1.5 degrees of latitude south of this New Hampshire pair). Similar to the Illinois records, a second nest was discovered nearby but then confirmed, soon after the discovery of the first nest (Tony Vazanno, personal communication). Connecticut was also discovered to be harboring a pair of nesting kites this summer (Hartford County). Interestingly, this same location was frequented by a pair of kites in 2005 and 2006 (Roy Harvey, personal communication). This year's discoveries of extra-limital nestings recalls the initial range expansion of Mississippi Kites into the Great Plains once habitat became available there in the mid-1900s (Parker 1999).

A pair of Mississippi Kites returned to the Brass Ring Golf Course again in 2008, and indications are that they continue with nesting at this site. It also seems possible that the pair of kites reported at Burr Oak State Park in Athens County in 2008 (Table 1) are also nesting, but this has yet to be confirmed. Given the pattern of extra-limital breeding records followed by discoveries of additional nearby nests, it would not be surprising if the pair of kites found at Burr Oak were also nesting. The habitat in this area is appropriate

and not dissimilar to that found at Brass Ring Golf Course; these two sites are only about 19 miles apart. We anticipate increased records of Mississippi Kites in Ohio in coming years, both of wandering individuals and breeding pairs, with the Brass Ring pair perhaps founding an eventual breeding colony in central Ohio.

Acknowledgments

We wish to thank Chad Galloway, superintendent of the Brass Ring Golf Course, for allowing us access, and to him and his staff for taking an active interest in the kites and reporting their observations. Rick Perkins deserves major credit for first discovering these birds and making them known. Brian Wheeler made helpful comments about Mississippi Kite distribution and plumages. We are grateful to the birders that shared their observations of the Mississippi Kites as well as the other species that they found while in the area. Finally, we thank the Ohio Division of Wildlife for supporting our research, and the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II for making resources available.

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Brian Zwiebel was fortunate enough to find and photograph this Blue-headed Vireo attending to its nest at Shawnee State Forest in Scioto County. The photograph was taken 18 April 2008, more than a month before the safe date for this species, but this unequivocal evidence of breeding trumps the safe date and makes this a valuable addition to the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II.

Instructions for Contributors

The Ohio Cardinal would not exist without contributions from readers. We solicit contributions, including sightings, brief notes on unusual observations, in-depth scientific articles, historical accounts, book reviews, essays, artwork, and photographs, from all observers. All contributions must be directly related to Ohio and its birdlife.

Reports of bird sightings for each season are requested. Although individual season editors compile the reports, all reports should be submitted directly to the editor (contact information on inside front cover). Reports may be sent by e-mail or via postal mail. Deadlines are as follows:

Winter (Dec, Jan, Feb) - 25 March

Spring (Mar, Apr, May) - 25 June

Summer (Jun, Jul) - 25 August

Fall (Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov) - 25 December

Please refer to previous issues of *The Ohio Cardinal* and to our website (www.ohiobirds.org/publications/cardinal/aboutcardinal.php) for general guidelines on style and formatting.

Back cover:

Alternate-plumaged Red Knots, bathed in salmon, are rarely seen in Ohio, especially not in larger flocks. These birds were singled out of a flock of 47 at Big Island Wildlife Area in Marion County, where Rick Asamoto photographed them on 24 May 2008. See the season report for a photograph of the complete flock, one of the largest recorded in Ohio in recent memory.