

THE



# OHIO CARDINAL

DEVOTED TO THE STUDY AND APPRECIATION OF OHIO'S BIRDLIFE · VOL. 35, NO. 4 SUMMER 2012





*The Orchard Oriole is the smallest oriole in North America, and a common breeder in Ohio. Doug Day caught the interest of this beautiful male on 14 Jun close to his nest in Armler Park, **Hamilton**.*

**On the cover:**

*Jerry Talkington obtained a stunning close-up of this Snowy Plover on the Conneaut sandspit. The Ohio rarity moved close to the gathering crowd of birders for good documentation on 02 Jun during its single-day visit.*

THE  **OHIO CARDINAL**

*Devoted to the Study and Appreciation of Ohio's Birdlife*

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## COMMENTS ON THE SEASON

By Craig Caldwell

This was a hot, dry summer in most of Ohio. Temperatures were above normal in June, part of a trend that made the month among the 10 warmest for the lower 48 states as a whole. On 28 and 29 Jun, 16 stations in the western third of the state tied or exceeded their previous daily records with readings up to 107°. July was the second hottest on record in Ohio and the hottest ever for the lower 48.

Statewide, June was among the driest 10% of the more than 100 years with data. Almost the whole state had below-average rainfall, with some areas having as little as 20% of the norm. Paradoxically, a few pockets had up to three times their normal June rain, but they were too few and too small to affect the statewide results. July was similar, though it was only (only!) about the 25<sup>th</sup> driest. A few counties in the central west had as little as 10% of their precipitation norms, and most of the rest of the state ranged from 50 to near 100% of normal. The Ohio Valley and parts of the inland northeast, however, had up to double their previous average rain. Nevertheless, no new rainfall records were set in either month, a marked contrast with last summer which saw many new highs. Weather data are from the National Weather Service (<http://water.weather.gov/precip/>) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/temp-and-precip/maps.php> and <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/extremes/records/>).

Several contributors commented that the season appeared to be a week or two advanced compared to what we consider usual. The spring vegetation timing was advanced and many species' migrations began and peaked earlier than normal, so summer was a continuation of that pattern. The heat and lack of rain quickly reduced our already minimal shorebird habitat; Rob Harlan noted that the Bellevue "sky ponds" were dry by mid-Jun. Shorebirds' dates of last departure northbound and first southbound arrivals, however, mostly followed their historical patterns.

A few more waterfowl than usual lingered to contradict the above trend. Common Mergansers have settled in as breeders in a couple of locations, a very recent addition to Ohio's list of regular nesters. James F. Yoder and Levi A. Yo-

der made separate pilgrimages to Mohican SP and SF in Jun and tallied large numbers of many thrush and warbler species. You will see them cited repeatedly in the Species Accounts. An area called The Bowl, in *Harrison*, hosted a fine variety of grassland birds; unfortunately public access is limited to its perimeter.

About 300 bird species are either residents, breeders, regular migrants, or regular winter visitors; I call this Ohio's Core List. Over 100 other species are infrequent visitors (some with only a single record). They, with all the species which have never appeared in the state, constitute the Review List, which is maintained by the Ohio Bird Records Committee (OBRC). The Committee and this editor urge birders to report all sightings of Review List species, of Core List species found at unusual times, of nesting by birds previously not known to nest in the state, and of course sightings of birds never before found in Ohio. Information on how to document rarities is available at <http://www.ohiobirds.org/records/documentation.php>.

The following section contains accounts for 238 species, one hybrid, and one genus. The OBRC received or downloaded documentation for seven review species. Records for three of them were accepted and reports of the other four are in process. Four review species (White-face Ibis, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Fish Crow, and Common Raven) had reports which were not documented for the Committee.

Taxonomic order and nomenclature follow the *Check-List of North American Birds*, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition (1998) as updated through the 53rd Supplement (2012). This document is published by the North American Classification Committee of the American Ornithologists' Union and is available at <http://www.aou.org/checklist/north/print.php>. County names are in bold italics. Locations whose counties are of the same name, for example Ashtabula (city) and Delaware Wildlife Area, usually do not have the counties repeated. County names for sites described in Cincinnati, Cleveland, and Columbus are also omitted. Shortened names and a few sets of initials are used for locations and organizations which occur repeatedly; these abbreviations are listed here. The term "*fide*" is used in some citations; it means "in trust of" and is used where the reporter was not the observer.

## Abbreviations:

BBS = the North American Breeding Bird Survey, a joint project of the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and the Canadian Wildlife Service.

The Bowl = a limited-access area near the **Harrison** airport.

CMNH = Cleveland Museum of Natural History

Conneaut = the mudflats on the west side of Conneaut Harbor, **Ashtabula**, unless otherwise noted

CP = County Park

CPNWR = Cedar Point National Wildlife Refuge, **Lucas**

CVNP = Cuyahoga Valley National Park, **Cuyahoga** and (mostly) **Summit**

Darby Creek = Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park, **Franklin**

East Fork = East Fork State Park, **Clermont**

eTT = eBird Trail Tracker data entry kiosk, usually at National Wildlife Refuges

Fernald = Fernald Preserve, **Butler** and **Hamilton**

Funk = Funk Bottoms Wildlife Area, **Ashland** and (mostly) **Wayne**

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

Holden Arboretum = **Lake**, except for its Stebbins Gulch unit in **Geauga**

Hoover NP = Hoover Nature Preserve, **Delaware**

Hoover Reservoir = the northern 80% is in **Delaware**, but the dam is in **Franklin**

Kelleys Island = Kelleys Island and adjacent waters, **Erie**

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

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

Lake Hope = Lake Hope State Park, **Vinton** (It's surrounded by Zaleski State Forest)

Lorain = the dredge spoil impoundment east of downtown, **Lorain**, unless otherwise noted

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

Maumee Bay = Maumee Bay State Park, **Lucas**

Metzger = Metzger Marsh Wildlife Area, **Lucas**, unless otherwise detailed

m. obs. = multiple observers

Mohican = Mohican State Forest and State Park. Many trails cross the boundaries so some reports include sightings from both.

Mohican SF = Mohican State Forest, **Ashland**

Mohican SP = Mohican State Park, (mostly) **Ashland** and (slightly) **Richland**

MP = Metro Park or MetroPark, depending on jurisdiction

NC = Nature Center

NF = National Forest

NP = Nature Preserve (except as part of CVNP)

Oak Openings = Oak Openings Preserve MetroPark, **Lucas**

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

Sandy Ridge = Sandy Ridge Reservation, **Lorain**

SF = State Forest

Shawnee = Shawnee State Forest, **Scioto**, unless otherwise noted

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

SNP = State Nature Preserve

SP = State Park

Springville Marsh = Springville Marsh State Nature Preserve, **Seneca**

WA = Wildlife Area

Winous Point = Winous Point Shooting Club, **Ottawa**

Zaleski = Zaleski State Forest, **Vinton**

## Errata:

The Golden Eagle account in the Spring 2012 issue erroneously included a **Richland** sighting.

The Lesser Black-backed Gull entry in the Spring 2012 issue omitted the date of the last sighting. It was 01 May.

## SPECIES ACCOUNTS

### By Craig Caldwell

#### **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck:**

One spent from 20 Jun to 09 Jul in a pond on Yauger Road near Mt. Vernon, **Knox**. The OBRC is sorting through the multiple reports.

#### **Canada Goose:**

Sixty-eight counties provided reports. The high count of 443 came from the 17 Jun Kelleys Island census by Tom Bartlett *et al.* Erin Schmidt found about 300 at Cleveland's East 55<sup>th</sup> Street on 07 Jul and Wes Hatch found the same number at Conneaut on 29 Jul.

#### **Mute Swan:**

The only double-digit count was 12, at Port Clinton, **Ottawa**, on 14 Jul (Justin Bosler). Jen Brumfield came close with three adults and six cygnets at the intersection of Routes 2 and 269, **Erie**, on 27 Jul. Reports came from 14 other counties as well.

#### **Trumpeter Swan:**

The 03 Jun ONWR census team counted 76 (Ed Pierce *et al.*, *vide* Douglas Vogus). The only other double-digit count was Ken Ostermiller's 10 at Metzger on 28 Jul. **Delaware**, **Geauga**, **Lorain**, **Marion**, **Muskingum**, and **Wyandot** also produced sightings.

#### **Wood Duck:**

Richard Counts tallied 114 in the **Hardin** Wetlands on 16 Jul. Su Snyder almost tied him with 110 at Killbuck on 28 Jul. Sixty-one counties produced reports.

#### **Gadwall:**

Rob and Sandy Harlan found a presumed northbound straggler in the ephemeral ponds west of Bellevue, **Sandusky**, on 06 Jun. It or a southbound pioneer showed up at Medusa Marsh, **Erie**, on 28 Jul (Ken Ostermiller).

#### **American Widgeon:**

One lingered at ONWR for Ed Pierce's census team to find on 03 Jun. The Bellevue ponds, **Sandusky**, held two males on 06 Jun (Rob and Sandy Harlan).

#### **American Black Duck:**

Only two counts exceeded nine. Rich and Karen Kassouf saw 16 at Sandy Ridge on 24 Jul and Terry Colvin found 10 in Schleman NP, **Medina**, on 26 Jul. Other reports came from **Delaware**, **Erie**, **Hardin**, **Lucas**, and **Ottawa**.

#### **Mallard:**

The Winous Point Horseshoe Unit hosted about 400 for Tom Bartlett on 07 Jun. Sandy Ridge held at least 300 on 23 Jul (Kristina Polk). Reports came from 65 counties.

#### **Blue-winged Teal:**

The highest of five double-digit counts came from Winous Point on 07 Jun (Tom Bartlett). Sixteen counties produced sightings.

#### **Northern Shoveler:**

A small marshy area near the Caesar Creek Flea Market, **Clinton**, held two on 28 Jul (Anna Wittmer). Three locations hosted single birds: Mill Creek Sanctuary, **Mahoning**, on 08 Jun (William Jones); Darby Creek on 10 Jun (Tracy Hammer) and 14 Jun (Bruce Simpson); and Slate Run MP, **Pickaway**, on 25 Jun (Gene Stauffer). One flew over Winous Point on 13 Jul (Justin Bosler).

#### **Northern Pintail:**

Rob and Sandy Harlan scored again with a male pintail in the Bellevue ponds, **Sandusky**, on 06 Jun.

#### **Green-winged Teal:**

Jen Brumfield saw four at Pipe Creek WA, **Erie**, on 27 Jul. Justin Bosler found the same number that same day at ONWR. Reports also came from **Cuyahoga** and **Sandusky**.

#### **Canvasback:**

The sole find was Justin Bosler's at Port Clinton, **Ottawa**, on 14 Jul.

#### **Ring-necked Duck:**

The four reports are:

One male at Wilbeth Road wetlands, **Summit**, on 02 Jun (Rob and Sandy Harlan)

One female at the Bellevue ponds, **Sandusky**, on 06 Jun (Rob and Sandy Harlan)

Two at the Barrett Paving ponds, **Montgomery**, 23 Jun to 30 Jul (Rick Asamoto)

A pair ("no nesting evidence") at the **Hardin** Wetlands on 16 Jul (Richard Counts)

#### **Lesser Scaup:**

Robert Hershberger found two in Wright Marsh, **Wayne**, on 07 Jun; they were last reported on 12 Jun. Rick Asamoto photographed one which he saw on multiple visits to the Barrett Paving ponds, **Montgomery**, between 23 Jun and 30 Jul.

**Common Goldeneye:**

Zeb Acuff saw an adult male on the Great Miami River in Hamilton, **Butler**, on 13 Jun; he stated that it had been seen in the area in late May but I found no other reports.

**Hooded Merganser:**

Joe Baldwin counted 17 at Big Island WA, **Marion**, on 04 Jun and 16 there on 21 Jul. Reports came from 18 other counties as well.

**Common Merganser:**

Bob Lane keeps track of Ohio's only regular breeding population. He discovered seven families along Little Beaver Creek, **Columbiana**, and two along nearby Yellow Creek, **Jefferson**. Four birds at Conneaut on 23 Jul (Craig Holt) grew to 12 on 29 Jul (Wes Hatch, Jeff Harvey). David Yoder saw one on the Tuscarawas River in **Coshocton** on 11 Jul.

**Red-breasted Merganser:**

The five reports are:

Two at Owl House, **Erie**, on 06 Jun (Ben Warner)

One on the Muskingum River at the Ohio, **Washington**, on 08 Jun (Kyle Carlsen)

One female at Buck Creek SP, **Clark**, on 01 Jul (Doug Overacker)

Three at Conneaut on 07 Jul (Richard Banish)

One possibly injured female at Huntington Reservation, **Cuyahoga**, on 13 to 19 Jul (m. obs.)

**Ruddy Duck:**

There were seven reports of singles and one of two birds scattered fairly evenly through the season. The sightings were in **Greene, Lorain, Lucas, Mahoning, Marion, Sandusky** (2 sites), and **Wayne**.

**Northern Bobwhite:**

Cory Chiappone saw one and heard as many as 10 in Crown City WA, **Gallia**, on 03 Jun. Reports of smaller numbers came from 18 other counties as well.

**Ring-necked Pheasant:**

Angelika Nelson counted six along her BBS route near New Dover, **Union**, on 03 Jun. Twelve other counties also provided sightings.

**Ruffed Grouse:**

Bruce Simpson saw three young of the year in Zaleski on 09 Jul. One report of two birds and six reports of one came from other sites in **Vinton** as well as locations in **Adams** and **Harrison**.

**Wild Turkey:**

The high count of 40 came from Blendon Woods MP, **Franklin**, on 24 Jul (Grace Daenen). There were several counts in the 20s there and at other locations. Forty-one counties provided reports.

**Common Loon:**

Five sites hosted this species:

Findlay Reservoirs, **Hancock** – one on 24 Jun (Jeff Loughman) and four on 04 Jul (Jeff Loughman and Robert Sams)

Kilby Road gravel pits, **Hamilton** – one on 20 Jun (Paul Krusling) and 22 Jun (Joe Kappa); two on 10 Jul (David Brinkman)

LaDue Reservoir, **Geauga** – one on 17 Jul (Bob Faber)

Piedmont Lake, **Belmont** – one on 28 Jul (Michelle Skolmutch)

Smith Tract CP, **Hamilton** – two on 15 Jul (Leslie Houser)

**Pied-billed Grebe:**

Dave Slager and Jack Stenger noted “several broods” among the 77 grebes which they counted in Big Island WA, **Marion**, on 22 Jul. Several other double-digit counts came from there, Killdeer, and Metzger. Reports came from 20 counties overall.

**Double-crested Cormorant:**

Elliot Tramer wrote, “A count of 1100+ at CPNWR on June 26 was the highest we’ve had since wildlife personnel instituted control measures several years ago.” The highest inland count was 101 “all non-breeding immatures” at Hoover NP on 16 Jun (Charles Bombaci). Forty-two counties had sightings.

**American White Pelican:**

Jane Robinson provided the sole report, of four birds (two apparent pairs) on Berlin Lake, **Portage**, on 04 Jun.



A familiar whistling call alerted photographer Irinia Shulgina to the location of a Northern Bobwhite in Homestead Park, **Franklin**, on 22 Jul. 125

**American Bittern:**

The seven reports are:

One near Danville, **Knox**, on 03 Jun (Emily Teel)

Two during the ONWR census on 03 Jun (Ed Pierce *et al.*, *vide* Douglas Vogus)

One heard at Fernald on 05 Jun (Mark Gilsdorf and Brian Wulker)

One flyover at Heritage Trail MP, **Franklin**, on 22 Jul (Irina Shulgina)

One flyover at ONWR on 27 Jul (Tom Bartlett *et al.*)

One in ONWR on 30 Jul (Tom Bartlett *et al.*)

One in Winous Point's Metzger unit, **Sandusky**, on 31 Jul (Tom Bartlett *et al.*)

**Least Bittern:**

Reports of two birds came from Prairie Oaks MP, **Franklin**, on 16 Jun (Samantha Stoklosa) and the Winous Conservancy's Metzger Unit, **Sandusky** (Justin Bosler). Dave Slager found one near the **Vinton** airport on 18 Jun and noted, "\*\*\*rare. Singing from the tiny cattail pond SW of the main pond. Not seen, but got sound recording. Farther southeast than any Least Bittern record in the 1st or 2nd Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas". Reports also came from **Ashtabula**, **Cuyahoga**, **Hamilton**, **Lucas**, **Mahoning**, **Ottawa**, **Trumbull**, and **Wayne**.

**Great Blue Heron:**

Ed Pierce's ONWR census team counted 146 on 03 Jun and 142 on 01 Jul. The only other triple-digit count was Rick Asamoto's, 127 in Englewood MP, **Montgomery**, on 07 Jul. Seventy-one counties provided reports.

**Great Egret:**

The 03 Jun ONWR census again provided the highest count, 158 (Ed Pierce *et al.*, *vide* Douglas Vogus). The mouth of Sand Creek, **Sandusky**, hosted 105 on 23 Jul (Justin Bosler). Sightings came from 33 counties.

**Snowy Egret:**

Josh Haughwout counted 23 from ONWR's Crane Creek Estuary Trail on 20 Jul; two other **Lucas** sites provided counts of up to 15 during Jul. The species isn't common far from Lake Erie but two stayed at Lost Bridge, **Hamilton**, on 27 and 28 Jul (m. obs.). Sightings also came from **Butler**, **Erie**, **Medina**, **Ottawa**, and **Wayne**.

**Little Blue Heron:**

These were rather more plentiful than usual. Margaret Bowman found six at Dillon Reservoir, **Muskingum**, on 31 Jul. Charles Bombaci

saw four in Hoover NP's Area M on 27 Jul. **Clinton**, **Erie**, **Hamilton**, **Hancock**, **Lucas**, **Mahoning**, **Portage**, **Preble**, and **Wood** also hosted at least one. Curiously, none were reported in **Ottawa**.



*Rick Asamoto photographed a Little Blue Heron gracing the shallows at Caesar Creek on 29 Jul.*

**Cattle Egret:**

Reports came only from **Erie**, **Lucas**, and **Ottawa**, and the only "twofer" sighting was across from the McDonald's on the Cedar Point Road, Erie, on 27 Jul (Jen Brumfield *et al.*).

**Green Heron:**

Reports came from 58 counties. Jeff Harvey made the high count of 10, at Mill Creek Sanctuary, **Mahoning**, on 21 Jul.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:**

David Gesiki counted 30 during an official visit to West Sister Island, **Ottawa**, on 27 Jun. (That's the restricted-access sanctuary visible from the Magee beach). ONWR provided the only other double-digit counts, 24 on 01 Jul (Ed Pierce *et al.*, *vide* Douglas Vogus) and 25 on 27 Jul (Tom Bartlett *et al.*). Fifteen counties had sightings.

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:**

The Preston Road site in Columbus had two adults and five almost-fledged young on 07 Jun (Craig Caldwell); the last sighting there was of three birds on 01 Jul (Wes Hatch). Eric and Merle Carr saw one in Eastwood MP, **Montgomery**, while kayaking on 09 Jun. Killbuck hosted one on 02 Jun (Michael Hershberger) and two on 14 Jun (Aden A. Yoder).

**White-faced Ibis:**

One spent 15 to 17 Jul at Pickerington Ponds MP, **Franklin**, and its visit was documented by Dave Slager.



***Plegadis* sp. Ibis:**

Two ibis accompanying the White-faced Ibis at Pickerington Ponds could not be conclusively identified at the species level.

**Black Vulture:**

Margaret Bowman counted 56 at a farm south of Danville, **Knox**, on 05 Jun. The second highest count was 21, by William Hull at the Milford Technology Center, **Clermont**, on 01 Jun. Reports came from 23 counties as far north as **Ashland** and **Lake**. This last was a single bird at Headlands on 05 Jun (m. obs.).

**Turkey Vulture:**

Cole DiFabio estimated that 150 streamed past him at Conneaut on 27 Jul. Charles Bombaci counted 86 while monitoring Prothonotary Warbler nest boxes along the northeast shore of Hoover Reservoir on 24 Jun. Seventy-nine counties provided sightings.

**Osprey:**

The north shore of Hoover Reservoir hosted eight on 02 Jun (Charles Bombaci). Elsewhere, there were a few counts of six but most were of three or fewer birds. Reports came from 30 counties.

**Northern Harrier:**

Most of the reports, from 15 counties, were of single birds. However, Scott Pendleton often saw two or three harriers at The Bowl and on 14 Jul saw four there.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:**

Jacob McCartney saw two in Strouds Run SP, **Athens**, on 21 Jul. That was the only report having more than one bird. Nineteen counties had sightings.

**Cooper's Hawk:**

John Moore found 10 in Englewood MP, **Montgomery**, on 03 Jul. Five sites in **Cuyahoga**, **Franklin**, and **Summit** hosted three birds apiece and there were many reports of two. Sightings came from 43 counties.

**Bald Eagle:**

Two adults and 17 immature birds passed by or lingered at Conneaut on 15 Jul (Jeff Harvey). There were two other double-digit reports from Conneaut and one from Winous Point. Forty-two counties provided reports; of them only **Butler**, **Hamilton**, **Highland**, **Scioto**, and **Warren** are south of Columbus.

**Red-shouldered Hawk:**

Diana Steele found an adult and three juveniles at their nest in the Oberlin Arboretum, **Lorain**, on 02 Jun and last saw all of them there on 14 Jun. Reports came from 39 counties.

**Broad-winged Hawk:**

Draw a line from **Hamilton** to **Ashtabula**. Twenty counties on or southeast of that line provided sightings; only single reports from **Lucas**, **Miami**, and **Montgomery**, where corn and soybean fields far outnumber forests, were outside that zone. Two counts of three were the highest. They were from Hoover NP on 02 Jun (Charles Bombaci) and Zaleski on 09 Jun (John Shrader).

**Red-tailed Hawk:**

Jen Brumfield counted 10 at and over the Rocky River Reservation's Aerospace Field, **Cuyahoga**, on 03 Jun. The second highest count was six, by Charles Bombaci at Killdeer on 03 Jun and Hoover Reservoir's north shore on 24 Jun. Seventy-one counties produced sightings.

**King Rail:**

Joe Baldwin found one at Big Island WA, **Marion**, on 02 Jun.

**Virginia Rail:**

Aden A. Yoder found six in Killbuck on 14 Jun. All of the many other reports of two or more birds came from the Honda Wetlands, **Union**, where they have bred the last couple of years. Irina Shulgina saw five there on both 15 and 24 Jun. **Ashtabula**, **Franklin**, **Harrison**, **Lorain**, **Summit**, **Trumbull**, and **Wayne** hosted singles.



*Irina Shulgina photographed the normally reclusive Virginia Rail with two adorable young in the Honda wetlands on 07 Jun.*

**Sora:**

The seven reports are:

One on 03 Jun at Clear Fork Reservoir, **Richland** (Gary Cowell)

Two on 11 Jun at Mosquito Creek WA, **Trumbull** (William Jones)

One on 12 Jun at Metzger (Loren Hintz)

Two on 14 Jun at Killbuck (Aden A. Yoder)

One on 23 Jun in the Honda Wetlands, **Union** (Charles Bombaci)

One on 16 Jul near Port Clinton, **Ottawa** (Jacob Guettler)

One on 16 Jul at the Winous Conservancy Metzger Unit, **Sandusky** (Justin Bosler)

**Common Gallinule:**

Dave Slager and Jack Stenger found 13 at Big Island WA, **Marion**, on 22 Jul. Two more double-digit reports came from there, and another from the **Ottawa** section of ONWR. Other sightings were in **Geauga**, **Lucas**, **Sandusky**, and **Wayne**.

**American Coot:**

Metzger hosted the season's high count of 22 for Kenn Kaufman on 04 Jun. Nineteen counties produced sightings.

**Sandhill Crane:**

Susan Jones and Clyde Witt counted 30 at Killbuck on 04 Jun and Ken Ostermiller topped them with 35 at nearby Funk on 01 Jul. Brian Zwiebel watched one of a group of three dancing and tossing corn husks into the air by Corduroy Road, **Lucas**, on 17 Jun, evidently a bonding ritual. Reports also came from **Ashtabula**, **Fairfield**, **Geauga**, **Knox**, **Lorain**, **Muskingum**, **Ottawa**, **Pickaway**, **Richland**, and **Trumbull**.

**Black-bellied Plover:**

The three reports are:

- One at Magee on 02 Jun (Kenn Kaufman)
- Two in ONWR on 03 Jun (Ed Pierce *et al.*, *fide* Douglas Vogus)
- One at Pipe Creek WA, **Erie**, on 15 Jul (Jen Brumfield)

**Snowy Plover:**

The OBRC has several reports of one at Conneaut on 02 Jun.

**Semipalmated Plover:**

The last northbound migrants were seen on 07 Jun. Robert Hershberger found one in Wright Marsh, **Wayne**, and Tom Bartlett *et al.* counted 14 in the Winous Point Horseshoe Unit. The latter report had the season's highest number. Southbound birds arrived at Conneaut and Sheldon's Marsh SNP, **Erie**, on 03 Jul (Craig Holt and Andrew Mashburn, respectively). Nineteen counties provided reports.

**Killdeer:**

The mudflats of Berlin Lake, **Portage**, were "covered with Killdeer" on 12 Jul, when Jeff Harvey estimated 350 were there. Reports came from 70 counties.

**American Avocet:**

Counts of three were at Conneaut on 03 Jul (Craig Holt), Hoover NP on 27 Jul (m. obs.) and on TH108, **Wyandot**, on 29 Jul (Peter Johantgen). **Auglaize**, **Cuyahoga**, **Darke**,

**Erie**, **Lorain**, **Lucas**, **Paulding**, and **Wayne** also yielded sightings.



*Full shorebird migration was in full swing on 31 Jul at Conneaut, where Bob Lane photographed Whimbrel, American Avocet and Short-billed Dowitcher.*

**Spotted Sandpiper:**

The 20 which Charles Bombaci saw on the Pelican Island, **Delaware**, mudflats on 30 Jul were probably a mix of local nesters and migrants. Several of the reports, from 45 counties in total, included juveniles too young to have flown far.

**Solitary Sandpiper:**

None were seen until 30 Jun, when small numbers appeared at ONWR (eTT) and Mosquito Lake, **Trumbull** (*fide* Craig Holt). The high count of 19 came a month later, on 30 Jul at Caesar Creek SP, **Clinton** (Larry Gara and Bob Powell). Thirty-eight counties had sightings.

**Greater Yellowlegs:**

Tom Bartlett *et al.* found two northbound stragglers in the Winous Conservancy Horseshoe Unit on 07 Jun. The first southbound birds were reported on the ONWR eTT on 30 Jun. Numbers built during the next month to a high of 25 on 22 Jul, also at ONWR (Gene Stauffer). Twenty counties provided reports.

**Willet:**

The six reports are:

- One at Boater's Beach, **Erie**, on 30 Jun (Glenn Seeholzer)
- Eighteen at Conneaut on 13 Jul (William Jones)
- One at Pipe Creek WA, **Erie**, on 14 Jul (Jen Brumfield)
- Fifteen at Buck Creek SP, **Clark**, on 26 Jul (Rick Asamoto)
- One at Darby Creek on 27 Jul (Doreene Linzell and Dan Sanders)
- One at Conneaut on 29 Jul (Jeff Harvey and Wes Hatch)

**Lesser Yellowlegs:**

As they did with their larger cousins, Tom Bartlett *et al.* found two northbound Lessers in the Winous Conservancy Horseshoe Unit on 07 Jun. Josh Haughawout reported the first southbound birds, two at Farnsworth MP, **Lucas**, on 24 Jun. The mouth of South Creek, **Sandusky**, hosted 200 on 23 Jul (Justin Bosler), and there were several other counts in triple digits. Thirty-two counties produced sightings.

**Upland Sandpiper:**

Scott Pendleton wrote on 14 Jun, “**Harrison** County is host to no less than 11 pairs of Upland Sandpipers this season.” They were on private land, but as they dispersed post-breeding, some spent time where the general public could view them. Sightings continued to the end of the season. The reports away from **Harrison** came from **Paulding**, where Doug and Micki Dunakin saw one on a power line on 05 Jul, and **Tuscarawas**, where Ed Schlabach had a “farm first” flyby on 28 Jul.

**Whimbrel:**

The four locations with sightings are:

Winous Point, three on 05 Jun (Keith Norris)

Boater’s Beach, **Erie**, one on 30 June (Glenn Seeholzer)

Conneaut, two on 18 Jul (Margaret Bowman), one on 23 Jul (Craig Holt), and one on 27 Jul (*file* Cole DiFabio)

Burke Lakefront Airport, **Cuyahoga**, three on 31 Jul (Jen Brumfield)

**Marbled Godwit:**

One, probably northbound, was at Lorain on 11 Jun (Joel McNeal). One southbound bird was briefly at Conneaut on 15 Jul (Jeff Harvey *et al.*)

**Ruddy Turnstone:**

The five reports follow. I assume that the Jun birds were heading north and the Jul ones south.

Two at Magee on 02 Jun (Kenn Kaufman)



*The beach at Buck Creek State Park, Clark, boasted 15 Willets on 26 Jul, counted in this photo by Rick Asamoto.*

Two at Conneaut, also on 02 Jun (Richard Banish)

Nine at Maumee Bay, on 04 Jun (Kenn Kaufman *et al.*)

Two at the Bellevue ponds, **Sandusky**, on 06 Jun (Rob and Sandy Harlan)

One in Crane Creek viewed from the ONWR Estuary Trail on 22 Jul (m. obs.)

One at Wendy Park, **Cuyahoga**, on 30 Jul (Jen Brumfield)

**Red Knot:**

Richard Banish filed the only report, of one at Conneaut on 02 Jun.

**Sanderling:**

The last spring migrants, and the highest number, were the 14 which Kenn Kaufman found at Maumee Bay on 04 Jun. Jen Brumfield and Bev Walborn saw the first southbound bird at Huntington Reservation, **Cuyahoga**, on 13 Jul. Reports also came from other **Lucas** sites and **Ashtabula**, **Clark**, **Delaware**, and **Wayne**.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:**

Tom Bartlett’s crew at the Winous Point Horseshoe Unit saw 30 on 07 Jun. The next sighting was of southbound birds, at Sandy Ridge on 25 Jun (BRAS). Justin Bosler estimated 500 were at the mouth of South Creek, **Sandusky**, on 23 Jul. Twenty-two counties contributed sightings.

**Western Sandpiper:**

Five northbound birds at Conneaut on 02 Jun were lifers for Cole DiFabio. His sighting was also summer’s high count. Six weeks later, on 15 Jul, Lost Bridge, **Hamilton** and the Upper Sandusky Reservoir, **Wyandot**, hosted the first birds going the other direction (Leslie Houser and Cody Kent, respectively). **Franklin**, **Seneca**, and **Wayne** also had sightings.

**Least Sandpiper:**

The Winous Point Horseshoe Unit said goodbye to the last 12 northbound birds on 07 Jun (Tom Bartlett *et al.*). Fall migrants appeared 01 Jul, five at Conneaut (Jeff Harvey and Wes Hatch) and one in **Darke** (Ethan Kistler). Tom Bartlett’s banding crew made the high count of 75 in both the Crane Creek and South Creek estuaries on 23 Jul. Most of the 37 counties with sightings were well to the north, but they ranged to **Hamilton**.

**White-rumped Sandpiper:**

These trickled north through Lorain until Joel McNeal’s sighting on 11 Jun. Jeff Harvey and Wes Hatch reported the first of fall on 29 Jul at

## The Ohio Cardinal, Summer 2012

Conneaut. Keith Norris, part of a banding crew at Winous Point, counted 45 on 05 Jun for the high. **Auglaize, Butler, Darke, Franklin, Hamilton, Lucas, Sandusky,** and **Wayne** also contributed reports.

### Baird's Sandpiper:

The six reports are:

One at Wright Marsh, **Wayne**, on 11 Jul (Margaret Bowman, James Coots)

Two at Killbuck on 21 Jul and one on 28 Jul (Aden A. Yoder and Atlee A. Yoder)

One at Lost Bridge, **Hamilton**, on 22 Jul (Mark Gilsdorf; Jay and Paula Stenger)

Two at Armleder Park, **Hamilton**, on 25 Jul (Brian Wulker)

One along Wilderness Road, **Wayne**, on 28 Jul (*fide* Su Snyder and Sue Evanoff)

### Pectoral Sandpiper:

Rick Asamoto saw the last one of spring migration on 03 Jun along Woods Road, **Darke**. Conneaut hosted the first one of fall on 01 Jul (Jeff Harvey). The mouth of South Creek, **Sandusky**, held an impressive 110 on 23 Jul for Justin Bosler; the next highest count was 50, shared by three locations in late Jul. Twenty-four counties in the northern half of the state, plus **Hamilton, Montgomery,** and **Preble**, produced sightings.

### Dunlin:

Joel McNeal found a straggler at Lorain on 11 Jun. The same site hosted a rare 15 Jul bird for Jen Brumfield, the only one of the month. Keith Norris provided the high count of 27 while banding at Winous Point on 05 Jun.

### Stilt Sandpiper:

The first three of these arrived a little early, at Mosquito Lake, **Trumbull**, on 01 Jul (Jeff Harvey). The next weren't seen until 12 Jul, on Old Sunbury Road, **Delaware** (Charles Bombaci). The several counts in the 10s and 20s were topped by Justin Bosler's 30 at Medusa Marsh, **Erie**, on 21 Jul. **Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Erie, Franklin, Hamilton, Ottawa, Sandusky,** and **Wayne** also had sightings.

### Short-billed Dowitcher:

The first showed up on 01 Jul, a total of 18 at four Lake Erie-side locations (m. obs.). Kyle Carlsen found the next one on 06 Jul all the way down near The Wilds, **Muskingum**. Justin Bosler noted 250 at the South Creek mouth, **Sandusky**, on 23 Jul; he also had the second-highest count, 65, at Pickerel Creek

WA, **Sandusky**, on 16 Jul. Seventeen counties, most in the north but including **Hamilton** and **Montgomery**, had sightings.



Allan Claybon photographed a Short-billed Dowitcher 16 Jul at Lost Bridge, **Hamilton**.

### Long-billed Dowitcher:

Jen Brumfield and her Cleveland MP field trip participants found one very early bird with several Short-billed Dowitchers on 27 Jul; they were all visible from the Crane Creek Estuary Trail, **Lucas**.

### Wilson's Snipe:

The six reports are all of single birds at these locations:

Darby Creek on 02 Jun (Irina Shulgina)

River Road, Madison, **Lake** on 15 Jun (Mitzi Smetters)

Metzger on 09 Jul (Cory Chiappone)

Irwin Prairie SNP, **Lucas**, on 10 Jul (Todd Crail)

ONWR on 27 Jul (Justin Bosler)

Winous Point Horseshoe Unit on 28 Jul (Tom Bartlett *et al.*)



This Stilt Sandpiper was still in handsome breeding plumage 14 Jul at Pickerel Creek WA, **Sandusky**. Photo by Dave Galvin.

**American Woodcock:**

The last sighting of the season was on 18 Jul at ONWR (Justin Bosler); none were seen again until mid-Aug. Members of a Columbus Avid Birders field trip noted a family of five on McGhee Road, **Harrison**, on 09 Jun. Tom Bartlett's banding crews also saw five at Springville Marsh on both 16 Jun and 01 Jul. Fourteen counties in all produced reports.

**Wilson's Phalarope:**

Bob Lane and Andy Avram teamed up to discover and identify one at Conneaut on 01 Jun.

**Red-necked Phalarope:**

Jen Brumfield winkled one out of a mass of other shorebirds in the mudflats northeast of the intersection of Routes 2 and 269, **Erie**, for participants in her 27 Jul workshop.

**Bonaparte's Gull:**

Every county bordering Lake Erie except **Lake**, plus inland **Richland**, had sightings. The last significant count of spring was 83 at Maumee Bay on 04 Jun (Kenn Kaufman) and the first large flock of fall, 86, was around Kelleys Island on 20 Jul (Tom Bartlett). Between those dates were a half-dozen reports of up to 12 birds at Lake Erie sites. The highest count of the season was Ken Ostermiller's 150 from the Crane Creek Estuary Trail on 28 Jul.

**Laughing Gull:**

One showed up at Headlands on 03 Jun (Ray Hannikman) and a second joined it on 04 Jun (m. obs.).

**Ring-billed Gull:**

Almost every large body of water in 38 counties from Lake Erie to **Preble** hosted some of these. The high count of 3380 came from the 20 Jul Kelleys Island census (Tom Bartlett *et al.*), and there were a few other counts in the thousands.

**Herring Gull:**

The only four-digit counts came during the 17 Jun (2175) and 20 July (1964) Kelleys Island censuses (Tom Bartlett *et al.*). Reports came from 21 counties as far south as **Highland** and **Warren**.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:**

Jen Brumfield found one at Huntington Reservation, **Cuyahoga**, on 15 Jul.

**Great Black-backed Gull:**

**Ashtabula**, **Cuyahoga**, and **Erie** produced a few reports; the high count was four at Conneaut on 01 and 02 Jun (Bob Lane, Cole DiFabio).

**Caspian Tern:**

Reports continued from spring until 04 Jun, then began again on 16 Jun and grew through Jul. The high count of 35 was at Pipe Creek WA, **Erie**, on both 14 and 15 Jul (Jen Brumfield). The highest inland number was a close second at 33, at the Pelican Island mudflats, **Delaware**, on 30 Jul (Charles Bombaci). Twenty counties all the way to **Hamilton** produced sightings.

**Black Tern:**

Up to three graced Metzger for most of Jun, and nearby Maumee Bay, ONWR, and Winous Point produced Jun and Jul sightings of one or two. Inland reports came on 01 Jun (six at Darby Creek, Joe Baldwin), 02 Jun (one at Funk, James E. Yoder), 16 Jul (one in the **Hardin** Wetlands, Richard Counts), and 22 Jul (one at Killdeer, Dave Slager and Jack Stenger).

**Common Tern:**

Justin Bosler estimated 300 at the Crane Creek Estuary Trail on 22 Jul. They may have included the 50 (the second highest count) which Craig Caldwell found along the **Lucas** section of the ONWR auto tour that same day. Reports also came from **Ashtabula**, **Clark**, **Delaware**, **Erie**, **Franklin**, **Lorain**, **Mahoning**, **Muskingum**, and **Ottawa**.

**Forster's Tern:**

Reports were frequent until 09 Jun, and then there were only two until 01 Jul after which they increased through the end of the period. The high count of 200 was from the Estuary Trail on 28 Jul (Justin Bosler). Most of the reports came from **Ashtabula**, **Erie**, **Lucas**, and **Ottawa**, but Pleasant Hill Lake, **Ashland**, held four on 05 Jun (Gary Cowell), and Su Snyder found one at Funk on 12 Jul.

**Rock Pigeon:**

Fifty-eight counties, most of which have urban areas, produced sightings. However, the high count of 150 came from the Sycamore Plains Trail in Prairie Oaks MP, **Franklin**, which is rural-suburban (Irina Shulgina).

**Eurasian Collared-Dove:**

Up to five were reported in Port William, **Clinton**; Dave Shrader documented them on 16 Jun and Kathi Hutton did so on 23 Jun. Others not documented for the OBRC were reported in **Clark**, **Mercer**, **Preble**, and **Wayne**.

**Mourning Dove:**

Reports came from all but seven counties. The highest of several three-digit counts was Ed Schlabach's; he found at least 475 near

Sugarcreek, *Tuscarawas*, on 14 Jul. Hallie Mason noted 257 on a power line along Schilling Hill Road, *Tuscarawas*, on 25 Jun.

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:**

Tom Bartlett's census team counted six at Kelleys Island on 17 Jun. Kurk Dorsey and Bill Stanley each discovered five in different parts of East Fork on 23 and 24 Jul, respectively. Fifty-two counties produced sightings.

**Black-billed Cuckoo:**

Three parties each found two: Kenn Kaufman at Metzger on 03 Jun; Craig Holt at Berlin Lake, *Stark*, on 15 Jul; and Bernie Master at The Wilds' Lodge, *Muskingum*, on 28 and 29 Jul. Reports came from 20 counties in all.

**Barn Owl:**

Thomas Henry describes his banding project in a separate article in this issue; it includes a table of his results from this summer. Sightings from counties which he doesn't cover were a family of seven at Long Branch Farm, *Clermont*, on 02 Jun (Cincinnati Nature Center staff); one bird at Dawes Arboretum, *Licking*, on 14 Jun (Margaret Bowman *et al.*); and one near Glacier Ridge MP, *Union*, on 17 Jul (David Tan). Robert Hershberger reported that the Mel Miller farm, *Holmes*, hosted a banded bird that was 14 years old, "a state and maybe national record".

**Eastern Screech-Owl:**

Most of the reports were from July, and several were of two birds. Eighteen counties provided sightings.

**Great Horned Owl:**

Bill Stanley noted four along Bootjack Road, *Clermont*, on 31 Jul. Kirk Westendorf heard two males and a female counter-calling in Armleder Park, *Hamilton* on 06 Jul, and there were many reports of two birds. Reports came from 18 counties.

**Barred Owl:**

From his *Hamilton* yard, Mark Gilsdorf reported "6 individual birds heard calling from six distinct locations, from Bantry Ave. to Orchard Lane to Grand Vista simultaneously." Samantha Stoklosa found three immature birds in the *Franklin* section of Prairie Oaks MP on 16 Jun; Chris Zacharias found the same number in John Bryan SP, *Greene*, on 08 Jul. Twenty-six counties had sightings.

**Short-eared Owl:**

Scott Pendleton kept tabs all summer on an apparent pair in *Harrison*, hoping (without success) to confirm that they bred. Austin White

had a quick visit from one at his *Tuscarawas* home on 19 Jul.

**Common Nighthawk:**

Tom Fishburn reported hearing and seeing one all summer in Berea, *Cuyahoga*. Counts of up to six came from 23 counties during summer, and migration brought 55 to Burke Lakefront Airport, *Cuyahoga*, on 30 July (Jen Brumfield).

**Chuck-will's-widow:**

Five parties reported up to three birds calling near the Eulett Center, Waggoner Riffle Road, *Adams*, between 11 and 25 Jun.

**Eastern Whip-poor-will:**

Jack Stenger posted this to Ohio-birds.org on 13 Jun: "During the past week I took advantage of the bright moon to conduct road-based whip-poor-will surveys within the Vinton Furnace State Experimental Forest (Vinton County). I surveyed 30 road points over four nights, all of which were randomly selected and separated by one kilometer. I only surveyed on clear nights when the moon was above the horizon and >50% full. Thanks to Andrea Ball who helped survey on two nights. Whip-poor-wills did not disappoint. I detected a total of 82 Eastern Whip-poor-wills on 28 of the 30 points. I surveyed each point for six minutes." At one of his stops he heard at least six birds; Jay Lehman equaled that along FR 14 in Shawnee on 09 Jun. Reports also came from *Harrison*, *Lucas*, *Montgomery*, and *Tuscarawas*.

**Chimney Swift:**

Small numbers were seen all season. Margaret Bowman noted an early migratory concentration of about 250 entering a chimney in Newark, *Licking*, on the evening of 12 Jul. Reports came from 67 counties.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:**

Allen Chartier counted 68 in the Frazesburg area, *Muskingum*, on 15 Jul and banded 47 of them. He had banded 45 during a demonstration at Lake Hope the day before. The highest number simply seen was Ryan Eldridge's 13 at Sandy Ridge on 28 Jul. Sixty-five counties yielded sightings.

**Belted Kingfisher:**

Craig Moore found 15 while kayaking about five miles of lake and river in Dillon SP, *Muskingum*, on 29 Jul. Charles Bombaci noted 14 along the northeast shore of Hoover Reservoir on 24 Jun while surveying Prothonotary Warbler nests. The other reports, from 62 counties, were all of fewer than 10 birds.

**Red-headed Woodpecker:**

Oak Openings is a hot spot, especially at the south end of Girdham Road. David Gesicki counted 14 in the park on 12 Jul. Fifty-two counties provided sightings.

**Red-bellied Woodpecker:**

The only double-digit count was Bill Stanley's 23 along three miles of the Edge of Appalachia's Wilderness Trail, *Adams*, on 23 Jun. Reports came from 67 counties.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:**

Daniel Parsons saw a possible northbound straggler in Paine Falk MP, *Lake*, on 09 Jun. He also found up to three, including a nest with young, in Holden Arboretum between 16 Jun and 29 Jul. The Kickel Easement, *Ashtabula*, hosted up to three between 20 Jun and 04 Jul (CMNH Natural Areas staff).

**Downy Woodpecker:**

Tom Bartlett's crews counted 18 on two occasions, the 03 Jun Springville Marsh banding day and the 17 Jun Kelleys Island census. The high count by a single observer was Charles Bombaci's 14 in Delaware WA's Area N on 14 Jun. Seventy-one counties yielded sightings.

**Hairy Woodpecker:**

These must like the Dayton region. David Bernstein counted 12 in a small area near Beaver Creek, *Greene*, on 07 Jun, and Jessica Green found 10 at Aullwood Audubon Center, *Montgomery*, on 01 Jun. Fifty counties provided reports.



*The distinctive rattling call of the Belted Kingfisher signals one is nearby. Allan Claydon photographed this bird perched on a branch over the water at Caesar Creek Lake on 30 Jul.*

**Northern Flicker:**

Charles Bombaci counted nine in Hoover NP on 16 Jun. Greg Miller also found nine near Sugar Creek, *Tuscarawas*, on 17 Jul and commented, "All together in a loose flock feeding. All adults. Are flickers moving already? Or is this dry area just recently a great spot for ants?" Reports came from 65 counties.

**Pileated Woodpecker:**

This species' high count, five, was also shared. Robert Reed found them in Aullwood Audubon Center, *Montgomery*, on 10 Jun and Allen Chartier saw his at Lake Hope on 14 Jul. Both observers saw adults and young. Fifty-one counties provided sightings.

**American Kestrel:**

Jen Brumfield counted nine, probably a mix of locals and migrants, at Burke Lakefront Airport, *Cuyahoga*, on 30 July. Fifty-four counties yielded reports.

**Merlin:**

Scott Pendleton saw one near The Bowl on 02 Jun, 06 Jun, and 27 Jul. He hopes it was the same bird each time, which means it summered there, but can't be sure. Levi A. Yoder spotted a flyby near Trail, *Holmes*, on 07 Jun, as did Mark Miller outside Bowling Green, *Wood*, on 14 Jul.

**Peregrine Falcon:**

Scattered reports from 14 counties spanned the season and the state. Hope Orr saw both adults and three youngsters of a family in the Boston area of CVNP on 28 Jun and 12 Jul.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:**

Bruce Simpson found a latish bird in a Zaleski clear cut on 07 Jun, and it or another was there on 16 Jun.

**Eastern Wood-Pewee:**

There were five double-digit counts; of them two counts of 12 birds tied for the highest. The 06 Jul CVNP census tallied them (Douglas Vogus *et al.*), and Cole DiFabio found his in Geneva-on-the-Lake, *Ashtabula*, on 27 Jul. Reports came from 69 counties.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:**

The three reports, all of single birds, are:

- Springville Marsh on 03 Jun (Tom Bartlett *et al.*)
- College Hill, *Hamilton*, on 07 Jun (Steve Pelikan)
- Shawnee Lookout on 09 Jun (David Bernstein)

**Acadian Flycatcher:**

Dwight and Ann Chasar counted 16 along the Blue Hen Falls Trail in CVNP on 21 Jun. Fifty-four counties had sightings.

**Alder Flycatcher:**

Reports of one or two came from *Lorain, Lucas, Medina, Richland, Seneca, Stark, Summit, Wayne,* and *Wood*. Sightings spanned the season but were more numerous in Jun.

**Willow Flycatcher:**

The 03 Jun ONWR census tallied 30 (Ed Pierce *et al.*, *fide* Douglas Vogus). Dave Slager found 20 all by himself along the Heritage Trail, *Franklin*, on 17 Jul. Fifty-six counties provided reports.

**Least Flycatcher:**

There were few reports, but they were scattered throughout the season and from 12 counties. David Gesicki found two birds in Wintergarden/St. Johns NP, *Wood*, on 04 Jul. Tom Bartlett's banders caught two in Springville Marsh on 22 Jul.

**Gray Flycatcher:**

One was reported in *Lake*; the OBRC has documentation.

**Eastern Phoebe:**

Three reports were of 10 birds: along Hoover Reservoir's north shore on 24 Jun (Charles Bombaci), in *Scioto* on 24 Jun (Doug Overacker), and in the Seven Ranges Boy Scout Camp, *Carroll*, on 06 Jul (Fred Losi). Sightings came in 65 counties.

**Great Crested Flycatcher:**

Charles Bombaci continues to rack up numbers along Hoover Reservoir's north shore; he found 13 Great Cresteds there on 24 Jun, for the only double-digit count. Fifty-eight counties provided reports.

**Eastern Kingbird:**

The 20 Jul Kelleys Island census tallied 82, which no doubt included many southbound birds (Tom Bartlett *et al.*). ONWR census teams found 33 on 03 Jun and 37 on 01 Jul (Ed Pierce *et al.*, *fide* Douglas Vogus). Reports came from 68 counties.

**Loggerhead Shrike:**

The OBRC has reports from *Highland* and *Paulding*.

**White-eyed Vireo:**

Lake Hope and Zaleski were jumping on 09 Jun when John Shrader counted 30 there. The other double-digit report was Bill Stanley's 10 at East Fork on 30 Jun. Forty-three counties yielded sightings.

**Bell's Vireo:**

Irina Shulgina found two pairs along the Heritage Trail, *Franklin*, on 03 Jun; they've

nested there for years. Reports also came from *Butler, Champaign, Clark,* and *Hamilton*.

**Yellow-throated Vireo:**

Greg Hoeting found 10 in Salt Fork SP, *Guernsey*, on 09 Jun. Forty-three counties had sightings.

**Blue-headed Vireo:**

Levi A. Yoder found 13 while hiking Mohican on 08 Jun. Ben Warner counted five, the second highest number, in the Deep Woods of Hocking Hills SP on 21 Jul. Several other reports contained two, three, or four birds. *Ashland, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lucas, Montgomery,* and *Summit* contributed sightings.

**Warbling Vireo:**

ONWR censuses on 03 Jun and 01 Jul found 21 and 25, respectively (Ed Pierce *et al.*, *fide* Douglas Vogus). Fifty-three counties produced reports.

**Philadelphia Vireo:**

One straggler remained on Girdham Road in Oak Openings on 16 Jun (Paul Sherwood, Dick Lee, *et al.*).

**Red-eyed Vireo:**

Mohican SP's Hemlock Gorge Trail hosted 24 on 04 Jun for Shawn Kurtzman, the highest of many double-digit counts. Reports came from 67 counties.

**Blue Jay:**

Laura Gooch counted 31 along her BBS route in *Trumbull* on 17 Jun. The next highest count was 20, a total from several *Adams* sites on 23 Jun (Doug Overacker). Seventy-three counties produced sightings.

**American Crow:**

Two observers each found 60. Dave Slager's were at the OSU Waterman Farm, *Franklin*, on 18 Jun, and Doug Overacker's were distributed around *Scioto* on 24 Jun. Seventy-five counties yielded reports.

**Fish Crow:**

One member of the Rockland Road, *Cuyahoga*, family was last seen on 02 Jun (Andy Jones and Michelle Leighty).

**Common Raven:**

I gleaned four reports, none of which appear to have been submitted to the OBRC.

**Horned Lark:**

Charles Bombaci found 25 in Killdeer on 03 Jun. Reports came from 41 counties.

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow:**

Bev Walborn noted about 100 staging at Willow



Point WA, **Erie**, on 27 Jul. Fifty-three counties had sightings.

**Purple Martin:**

Tom Bartlett *et al.* counted 251 during the 20 Jul Kelleys Island census. Estimates of 200 came from Magee on 16 Jul (John Whitehead) and Holden Arboretum on 29 Jul (Daniel and Kevin Parsons). Sightings came from 52 counties.

**Tree Swallow:**

Seventy-four counties produced reports; three of them were of 300 birds:

Hoover Reservoir northeast shore on 24 Jun  
(Charles Bombaci)

Winous Point on 08 Jul (Justin Bosler)

Springfield Bog, **Summit**, on 13 Jul (Kent Miller)

**Bank Swallow:**

Matt Anderson found about 100 nesting pairs at a sandpit in **Fulton** on 03 Jun. At the other end of the season, estimates ranged from 600 to 1000 birds staging at Willow Point WA, **Erie**, on 27 Jul (m. obs.). Reports came from 42 counties.

**Barn Swallow:**

Kelleys Island hosted 405 and 328 on 17 Jun and 20 Jul respectively (Tom Bartlett *et al.*). Seventy-eight counties produced sightings.



Photographer Allan Clayton captured the aerial antics of Barn Swallows at Armleder Park, **Hamilton**, as they gathered insects and fed their young on 12 Jun.

**Cliff Swallow:**

Dave and Emily Slager found almost 100 birds in a colony under the Woody Hayes Drive bridge over the Olentangy River, **Franklin**, on 16 Jun. About 150, including young birds, were in that

area on 30 Jun. Charles Bombaci saw about 200 along the northeast shore of Hoover Reservoir on 24 Jun. Thirty-six counties contributed reports.

**Carolina Chickadee:**

The Hoover Reservoir northeast shore and Charles Bombaci also provided this species' high count, 33 on 16 Jun. Reports came from 53 counties.

**Black-capped Chickadee:**

The 20 Jul Kelleys Island census crew counted 56 (Tom Bartlett *et al.*). Dwight and Ann Chasar found 38 during a walk along the **Summit** Bike-Hike Trail on 19 Jun. Sightings came from 24 counties.

**Tufted Titmouse:**

Three-quarters of our counties provided sightings. The high count again came from northeast Hoover Reservoir; Charles Bombaci found 28 there on 16 Jun.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:**

Ann and Dwight Chasar noted four on the Tree Farm Trail in CVNP on 16 Jun; they nest in the conifers near the beginning of the trail. Other reports came from **Clermont**, **Cuyahoga**, **Geauga**, **Hocking**, **Lucas**, **Mahoning**, and **Medina**.

**White-breasted Nuthatch:**

Owen Rodewald's **Franklin** yard hosted 17 on 13 Jul. Sightings came from 72 counties in all.

**Brown Creeper:**

Greg Cornett found three at the north end of Hoover Reservoir on 08 Jun. There were about a dozen other reports, all in June. Three sites in **Summit** and one each in **Ashland**, **Ashtabula**, **Columbiana**, **Cuyahoga**, **Franklin**, **Harrison**, **Holmes**, **Lake**, **Mahoning**, and **Wayne** produced them.

**House Wren:**

Tom Bartlett's crew counted 38 on Kelleys Island on 17 Jun. Sixty-seven counties had sightings.

**Winter Wren:**

Observers found up to six on the Lyons Falls Trail in Mohican SP throughout the season (m. obs.); the high count included adults feeding young on 11 Jul (Margaret Bowman). Holden Arboretum's Stebbins Gulch, **Geauga**, yielded one during a 23 Jun survey (Tom Frankel). The CVNP Ledges/Octagon area had one or two on several dates (m. obs.).

**Sedge Wren:**

Searchers found up to five in the various wetlands

## The Ohio Cardinal, Summer 2012

of Darby Creek. One or two were seen at sites in **Coshocton**, **Erie**, **Geauga**, **Hamilton**, **Lucas**, **Ottawa**, **Sandusky**, and **Wayne**.

### Marsh Wren:

The 03 Jun and 01 Jul ONWR censuses tallied 33 and 25, respectively (m. obs.). The high count by single observers was eight, achieved by Joel McNeal at Sandy Ridge on 09 Jun and Kenn Kaufman at Metzger on 07 Jul. Twenty counties provided reports.

### Carolina Wren:

These cheeky guys and gals were found in 64 counties. The high count was 15, by John Shrader in Lake Hope and Zaleski on 09 Jun and by Kirk Dorsey in East Fork on 23 Jul.

### Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:

Fifteen was also the high gnatcatcher count. Bill Stanley found them in the Cincinnati Nature Center's Rowe Woods, **Clermont**, on 28 Jul. Reports came from 52 counties.

### Golden-crowned Kinglet:

Matt Anderson found one singing in Maumee SE, **Lucas**, on 02 Jun. Holden Arboretum hosted another on 18 Jun (Cole DiFabio).

### Eastern Bluebird:

Mike Watson of the Holden Arboretum passed on that Ohio Bluebird Society members reported 5923 fledged young statewide in 2012. His map showed that most of the reports came from a broad band spanning from Cincinnati to Cleveland, with some others in the northwest and a very few in the southeast. The high number of sightings was Reuben S. Erb's 44 near Walnut Creek, **Holmes**, on 29 Jul. Counts of 25 birds came from Oak Openings on 02 Jun (Oakland, Michigan, Audubon Society) and from Orchard Hills Park, **Geauga**, on 04 Jul (Christine Kelly). Christine noted that most of hers were young of the year. Overall, 64 counties provided sightings.

### Veery:

Reports decreased significantly after 15 Jul, probably due to the species' post-breeding silence. Mohican was swarming with them. James F. Yoder found 34 there on 02 Jun and Levi A. Yoder counted 62 six days later. Eighteen counties hosted them.

### Swainson's Thrush:

Two stragglers were singing in **Franklin**, in Lou Berliner Park on 02 Jun (Tracy Hammer) and on Walhalla Road on 05 Jun (Molly McDermott).

### Hermit Thrush:

One remained in Maumee SE, **Lucas**, on 02 Jun (Matt Anderson). **Hocking** provided several

reports including the next-to-highest count of five in the Rose Lake area on 10 and 12 Jun (Kyle Brooks). The highest tally was 11, in Mohican on 08 Jun (Levi A. Yoder). Single birds were also reported in typical breeding habitat in **Columbiana** and **Summit**.

### Wood Thrush:

Haans Petruschke found 30 in a wooded tract in **Geauga** near Holden Arboretum on 01 Jul. Craig Caldwell came in second with 24, counted along 14 miles of road in Shawnee on 22 Jun. Reports came from 59 counties.

### American Robin:

Two careful counts almost tied for the high number. Tom Bartlett's Kelleys Island census crew noted 166 on 17 Jun, but Angelika Nelson had already edged them by one along her New Dover, **Union**, BBS route on 03 Jun. Seventy-seven counties produced sightings.

### Gray Catbird:

Banders at Springville Marsh tallied 75 on 14 Jul (Tom Bartlett *et al.*). Dave Slager made the high single-observer count of 35 along the Heritage Trail, **Franklin**, on 17 Jul. Seventy-three counties provided reports.

### Northern Mockingbird:

Angelika Nelson again took the high-count prize with 10 during her 03 Jun BBS count in **Union**. Sightings came from 54 counties.

### Brown Thrasher:

Killdeer held seven for Charles Bombaci on 03 Jun and **Adams** hosted eight for Doug Overacker on 23 Jun. Reports came from 62 counties.

### European Starling:

Dave Slager estimated 2000 were in the Darby Creek wetlands on 10 Jun. He wrote, "Large flocks leaving roost in cattails. Conservative count. Seems unusual to get numbers this high as early as the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of June." It was the highest count of the summer; the next highest was 600 in VOA Park, **Butler**, on 03 Jun (Harris Abramson). Seventy-five counties yielded sightings.

### Cedar Waxwing:

The 17 Jun Kelleys Island census found 71 (Tom Bartlett *et al.*). The next highest count was 40, at Griggs Reservoir, **Franklin**, on 09 Jun (Ryan Eldridge). Sixty-six counties provided reports.

### Ovenbird:

In an understatement, *The Bobolink* reported, "Apparently a common nester at Mohican, where hikers counted 85 on 6/8 [Levi A. Yoder] & 55 on 6/2 [James F. Yoder]." Twenty provided

a chorus for John Shrader in Lake Hope and Zaleski on 09 Jun and for Craig Caldwell in Shawnee on 22 Jun. Reports came from 29 counties.

**Worm-eating Warbler:**

The dry oak ridges of Clear Creek MP, *Hocking*, hosted five for Craig Moore on 09 Jun. However, Mohican took the prize with Levi A. Yoder's 14 on 08 Jun. Ben Warner watched two adults feeding two youngsters along the Lyons Falls Trail in Mohican SP on 25 Jun. Reports also came from *Adams*, *Coshocton*, *Fairfield*, *Scioto*, *Summit*, and *Vinton*.

**Louisiana Waterthrush:**

Levi A. Yoder and James F. Yoder provided the one-two punch from Mohican with 24 on 08 Jun and 15 on 02 Jun respectively. The high count away from there was five; Kyle Brooks found them in the Rose Lake area of *Hocking* on 10 Jun. Twenty-six counties yielded sightings.

**Northern Waterthrush:**

A very few spend their summers in Ohio, and they have bred here. Jeff and Shawn Kurtzman and friends saw two in the hemlock gorge of Mohican SP on 04 Jun. CMNH Natural Areas staffers saw two in the Kickel Easement, *Ashtabula*, on 20 Jun and one in practically the same spot there on 04 Jun.

**Blue-winged Warbler:**

Alex Champagne, Anthony Fries, and Alex Hughes counted eight along Service Road 14 in Shawnee on 12 Jun. Most of the reports, from 27 counties, were in Jun.

**[Blue-winged X Golden-winged ("Lawrence's") Warbler]:**

Rob and Sandy Harlan discovered one on Scobe Road in CVNP on 03 Jun.



Bruce Wunderlich had his camera handy for a lovely photo-op of this Cedar Waxwing during a lunch outing in Marietta, *Washington*, on 06 Jun.

**Black-and-white Warbler:**

The numerous Jun sightings decreased during Jul. The high count was eight, from Lake Hope and Zaleski on 09 Jun (John Shrader). Two observers each found five, Craig Caldwell in Shawnee on 22 Jun and Kyle Carlsen along Leith Run, *Washington*, on 04 Jul. Twenty-one counties provided reports.

**Prothonotary Warbler:**

Charles Bombaci monitors golden swamp warblers in *Delaware*; he found 50 along Big Walnut Creek on 06 Jun and 33 to 49 at other sites, also during Jun. Reports came from 28 counties.

**Mourning Warbler:**

Jacqui Pressly of the CMNH Natural Areas staff found one in Mentor Marsh SNP, *Lake*, on 24 Jun.

**Kentucky Warbler:**

Twenty-one mostly southern counties provided report. Doug Overacker counted five while wandering *Scioto* on 24 Jun, and there were many reports of three birds. Mohican, though, hosted 24 for Levi A. Yoder on 08 Jun.

**Common Yellowthroat:**

Sightings were numerous all season, and from 70 counties. The 01 Jul ONWR census team counted 59 (Ed Pierce *et al.*, *vide* Douglas Vogus). The high count by single observers was three, shared by Ken Ostermiller in Tri-Valley WA, *Muskingum* on 27 Jun, Angela Freeman in Herrick Fen, *Portage*, on 09 Jul, and Chris Zacharias at Darby Creek on 14 Jul.



A curious Common Yellowthroat popped up for this nice image, taken by Allan Claybon on 04 Jun at Armlerder Park, *Hamilton*.

**Hooded Warbler:**

"A whopping 92 were tallied on a long hike at Mohican on 6/8 [Levi A. Yoder]," said *The Bobolink*. Fourteen miles of dirt road in Shawnee produced 21 for Craig Caldwell on 22 Jun, slightly edging the 20 which John Shrader found in Lake Hope and Zaleski on 09 Jun. Thirty-nine counties produced reports.

**American Redstart:**

David Bernstein counted 25 in Shawnee Lookout on 09 Jun. The second highest number was 13, from Carlisle Reservation, *Lorain*, on 10 Jun (Joel McNeal). Sightings came from 35 counties.

**Cerulean Warbler:**

David Bernstein's 09 Jun sojourn in Shawnee Lookout produced 30 of OOS's iconic species. John Shrader's 10 in Lake Hope and Zaleski, also on 09 Jun, was the second highest count. Reports came from 25 counties.

**Northern Parula:**

Reports were thin but steady throughout the season. Shawnee Lookout again provided the high count, 18, on 09 Jun (David Bernstein). Mohican hosted 14 on 08 Jun (Levi A. Yoder). Thirty-two counties had sightings.

**Magnolia Warbler:**

The season had a trickle of sightings throughout. Mohican produced 10 birds on 08 Jun (Levi A. Yoder) and many reports of one or two birds in Jun and Jul; *Hocking* and *Vinton* each had several reports of singles. Two *Geauga* sites and one in *Lucas* each hosted one bird.

**Blackburnian Warbler:**

*Ashland* hosted all five sightings:

Mohican SF and SP, up to five on 02 and 08 Jun (James F. Yoder, Levi A. Yoder)

Mohican SP, unspecified area, one on 06 Jun (Rob and Sandy Harlan)

Mohican SP, covered bridge, one on 23 Jun (Hallie Mason)

Mohican SF, Hickory Ridge, one on 07 Jul (Gary Cowell)

**Yellow Warbler:**

The whole summer provided frequent sightings; 63 counties contributed. The 03 Jun ONWR census team counted 209 (Ed Pierce *et al.*, *fide* Douglas Vogus). Elliott Tramer found about 90 in CPNWR on 26 Jun and commented, "This species is probably as abundant around the Lake Erie marshes in summer as anywhere else in North America." Several individual observers found 25 to 30 at Magee and ONWR in Jul.

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:**

Levi A. Yoder found 10 in Mohican on 08 Jun. Kelleys Island hosted three, the second highest count, on 17 Jun (Tom Bartlett *et al.*). There were about a dozen reports of one or two birds (mostly in Jun) in *Erie*, *Fulton*, *Geauga*, *Henry*, *Jefferson*, *Lucas*, *Medina*, *Montgomery*, *Ottawa*, *Seneca*, and *Summit*.

**Blackpoll Warbler:**

Tom Bartlett *et al.* banded one at Springville Marsh on 03 Jun and Ben Warner saw one on Kelleys Island the next day.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:**

Tom Bartlett *et al.* found a singing male on Kelleys Island on 17 Jun. That same day, Paul Wharton watched one singing "an atypical song" in Colerain Township, *Hamilton*. Tom Frankel and Haans Petruschke found up to four on territory in Holden Arboretum's Stebbins Gulch, *Geauga*, on several Jun and Jul dates.

**Pine Warbler:**

The Mohican Discovery Forest provided the last sighting, on 15 Jul (Gary Cowell), though surely the species didn't vacate the state that early. The high count also came from Mohican, 17 on 08 Jun (Levi A. Yoder). Reports also came from *Adams*, *Clermont*, *Columbiana*, *Franklin*, *Harrison*, *Hocking*, *Lucas*, *Portage*, *Scioto*, and *Summit*.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:**

From *The Bobolink*, "Not known to nest in Ohio so the 2 found at Mohican on 6/8 [by Levi A. Yoder] were probably just very late migrants, though Mohican would be a likely place for the first nesting record."

**Yellow-throated Warbler:**

Sightings were fairly uniform throughout the season. Thirty-five counties provided reports. In Mohican, Levi A. Yoder's 13 on 08 Jun slightly edged James F. Yoder's 12 on 02 Jun. Matt Anderson found a nest and two nearby singing males in *Lucas* for the third year in a row; it's the only breeding site he knows in that county.

**Prairie Warbler:**

Doug Overacker's southern Ohio trek produced eight on 23 Jun in *Adams*. Twenty mostly southern counties had sightings, though *Lucas*, *Medina*, and *Richland* each had one.

**Black-throated Green Warbler:**

The Rose Lake area, *Hocking*, hosted five for Kyle Brooks on 10 Jun. Other reports came from that county and also from *Ashland*, *Cuyahoga*, *Franklin*, *Geauga*, *Richland*, *Scioto*, *Summit*, *Tuscarawas*, and *Vinton*.

**Canada Warbler:**

Most of the reports were from various parts of the gorge in Mohican, including the high count of 19 on 02 Jun (James F. Yoder). *Geauga*, *Jefferson*, *Lake*, and *Lucas* each contributed one sighting.

**Wilson's Warbler:**

Magee hosted a straggler on 02 Jun (Kenn Kaufman) as did a *Lorain* residence on 06 Jun (Joel McNeal).

**Yellow-breasted Chat:**

The Rehoboth mine reclamation area in *Perry* must be a noisy place – Joe Faulkner found 12 chats there on 30 Jun. *Adams*, *Clermont*, and *Hamilton* each had sites with counts of six or more. Robert Hershberger reported “two nesters at a new summer location” in *Holmes*. A sprinkling of reports also came from *Erie*, *Lucas*, *Lorain*, and *Medina* though most of the 35 counties with sightings are in the southern half of the state.

**Eastern Towhee:**

John Shrader's seven hours in Lake Hope and Zaleski on 09 Jun yielded 30. The second highest count, 17, was Craig Caldwell's in Shawnee on 22 Jun. Reports came from 64 counties.

**Chipping Sparrow:**

Angelika Nelson counted 51 along her BBS route in *Union* on 03 Jun. Laura Gooch found 25 in *Trumbull* on 17 Jun, also along a BBS route. Seventy-two counties provided sightings.

**Field Sparrow:**

Big Darby Headwaters CP, *Logan*, hosted so many that the two highest counts came from it. Steve Jones found 30 on 06 Jun and Chris Zacharias 25 on 14 Jul. Sixty-eight counties had sightings.

**Vesper Sparrow:**

Scott Pendleton counted 35 in the Second Reclaim District, *Harrison*, on 01 Jul. He quipped, “25 of these birds came from one short stretch, young present, likely an undercount as one of my compatriots thought we should estimate the number as ‘filthy with vespers.’” Every count greater than five were from this site and another in *Harrison*. Reports came from 16 other counties as well.

**Lark Sparrow:**

Oak Openings hosts Ohio's only substantial breeding population. All but one count higher than three came from it; the highest was 11 on 04 Jun (Jeremy Ross). A relatively recent colony at Leighly Hill, *Tuscarawas*, held at least three

pairs and a youngster on 24 Jun (James F. Yoder). *Butler*, *Greene*, *Hamilton*, and *Lorain* also contributed sightings.

**Savannah Sparrow:**

The Bowl provided 30 for Scott Pendleton on 29 Jul. Two Jun counts of 15 in *Cuyahoga* were the second highest (Jen Brumfield). Forty-one counties had sightings.

**Grasshopper Sparrow:**

The high count was 75, on 27 Jul again at The Bowl (Scott Pendleton). That and every other count greater than 10 came from *Harrison*; 28 other counties also contributed reports.



*Jerry Talkington captured this Grasshopper Sparrow in mid-song in Fernwood SE, Jefferson, on 10 Jun.*

**Henslow's Sparrow:**

These much-sought birds occurred in 19 counties. Ten to 25 were at each of The Bowl and Tri-Valley WA, *Muskingum*, on several dates (m. obs.). The Second Reclaim District, *Harrison*, held 30 on 01 Jul (Scott Pendleton).

**Song Sparrow:**

Sandy Ridge provided the high count of 65 on 28 Jul (Ryan Eldridge). CVNP censuses had the next two in line, 61 on 06 Jul and 44 on 02 Jun (Douglas Vogus). Reports came from 74 counties.

**Lincoln's Sparrow:**

Tom Bartlett's crew banded one at Springville Marsh on 03 Jun.

**Swamp Sparrow:**

Springville Marsh also provided counts up to 25 on several summer dates (Tom Bartlett *et al.*). The only other double-digit report came from Sandy Ridge, 11 on 09 Jun (Joel McNeal). Twenty-seven counties yielded sightings.

**White-throated Sparrow:**

One lingered, and sang, in Marcia Rubin's *Geauga* yard on 11 Jun.

**White-crowned Sparrow:**

One of these lingered as well. Diana Evans photographed it on the road in Sheldon's Marsh SNP, *Erie*, on 07 Jun.

**Dark-eyed Junco:**

A trickle of reports in Jun became drops in Jul. Haans Petruschke's *Lake* yard hosted eight on 11 Jun. *Franklin* and *Highland* each had a single unexpected sighting, and multiple reports came from the localized breeding areas (usually hemlock gorges) in *Ashland*, *Cuyahoga*, *Geauga*, *Lake*, *Medina*, *Portage*, and *Summit*.

**Summer Tanager:**

Three reports of three birds arrived: in Shawnee Lookout on 15 Jun (m. obs.), in East Fork's Williamsburg Ledges on 25 Jun (Bill Stanley), and in Hannan Park, *Pickaway*, on 19 Jul (Kyle Brooks). Nineteen counties had sightings.

**Scarlet Tanager:**

John Shrader counted 15 during his 09 Jun sojourn in Lake Hope and Zaleski. And again Craig Caldwell trailed him (numerically and temporally) with the second highest count of 13 in Shawnee on 22 Jun. Reports came from 51 counties.

**Northern Cardinal:**

The 17 Jun Kelleys Island census tallied 71 (Tom Bartlett *et al.*). The next highest count was 41, by Charles Bombaci while monitoring Prothonotary Warbler nests along the north shore of Hoover Reservoir. Seventy-six counties provided reports.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:**

Douglas Vogus' census crew counted 10 in CVNP on 02 Jun. Forty-four counties yielded sightings.

**Blue Grosbeak:**

Brian Wulker found 11 at Fernald on 04 Jun, and five on each of the next two days. Reports came from 18 counties overall; of them only *Holmes*, *Lucas*, and *Tuscarawas* are north of *Franklin*.

**Indigo Bunting:**

Kelleys Island hosted 51 on 17 Jun (Tom Bartlett *et al.*). The second highest count was Bill and René McGill's 32 in Armeleder Park, *Hamilton*, on 29 Jul. Seventy-six counties had sightings.

**Dickcissel:**

Reports were numerous ("Another knockout year" according to *The Bobolink*) and evenly distributed in time. Distribution was not even, however: The 34 counties with reports did not include any in the heavily wooded southeast nor



*This beautiful Blue Grosbeak posed nicely for Allan Claybon on 13 Jun in Armeleder Park, **Hamilton**.*



*This vibrant Indigo Bunting caught the eye of photographer Laura Keene at Fernald Preserve, **Hamilton**, on 26 Jul.*



*Ron Sempier focused his camera on this Dickcissel declaring its territory on 06 Jun in **Wyandot**, near **Hardin**.*

the far northwest. The high count of 32 came from Jackson Township, *Hardin*, on 03 Jun (Charles Bombaci). After noting at least 30 at Fernald on 04 Jun, Brian Wulker commented, "After today, I will be hearing Dickcissel in my sleep."

**Bobolink:**

The Jackson Township, *Hardin*, area which produced the high Dickcissel count did the same for Bobolinks. Charles Bombaci found 61 there, also on 03 Jun. Scott Pendleton and Steve Landes counted 50 in The Bowl on 09 Jun. Thirty-five counties provided reports.

**Red-winged Blackbird:**

Justin Bosler found what he called a "mega-flock" of at least 5000 in ONWR on 27 Jul as they were staging for their journey to the south. Other northwestern marshes had smaller four-digit counts during the last two weeks of Jul. Reports came from 78 counties.

**Eastern Meadowlark:**

Scott Pendleton found 35 to 45 in The Bowl throughout Jul. A count of 30 came from VOA Park, *Butler*, on 03 Jun (Harris Abramson). Fifty-six counties yielded sightings.

**Common Grackle:**

About 950 staged at Charles Mill Lake, *Ashland*, on 31 Jul (Gary Cowell). Springfield Marsh hosted 500 on 01 and 14 Jul (Tom Bartlett *et al.*). Seventy counties provided reports.

**Brown-headed Cowbird:**

Tom Bartlett noted 50 at Springville Marsh on 01 Jul. There were several counts in the 25 to 35 range in the 70 counties with sightings.

**Orchard Oriole:**

Harris Abramson found 12 at Fernald on 17 Jun, as did Andy R. Troyer near Apple Creek, *Wayne*, on 13 Jul. Tom Bartlett counted 11 on both Kelleys Island on 17 Jun and North Bass Island on 28 Jun. Reports came from 50 counties.

**Baltimore Oriole:**

Kelleys Island census takers found 40 on 17 Jun (Tom Bartlett *et al.*). Charles Bombaci noted 18 along the north shore of Hoover Reservoir on 02 Jun. *Lucas*, *Delaware*, *Summit*, and *Wyandot* all produced double-digit counts, and 65 counties provided sightings.

**Purple Finch:**

A *Lorain* feeder hosted six on 10 Jul (Randy Lindsey) and two pairs were regular visitors all summer at Carole Babyak's feeders in *Trumbull*. *Ashland* was the southernmost of the 13 counties with sightings.

**House Finch:**

Kirk Westendorf found 26 in Armleder Park, *Hamilton*, on 02 Jul and 30 on 13 Jul. Sixty counties produced reports.

**European Greenfinch:**

This bird visited Ken Ostermiller's *Medina* feeder from 25 Jun to 03 Jul. I know, I know – it was released or escaped from captivity, and Ken knows that too, but it was no doubt fun to watch.

**Pine Siskin:**

One or two were irregular visitors to several feeders in *Lake*, one in *Holmes*, and one in *Medina* during early Jun. Non-feeder sites in *Cuyahoga*, *Hardin*, and *Hocking* provided brief views in Jun, Jul, and Jul respectively.

**American Goldfinch:**

A field near Millersburg, *Holmes*, held 46 on 24 Jun for Rueben S. Erb. The fields south of Hopkins Airport, *Cuyahoga*, held about 40 on 10 Jun (Jen Brumfield). Seventy-six counties had sightings.

**House Sparrow:**

Mike Busam found about 200 in a fallow field in *Butler* on 20 Jun. Angelika Nelson's BBS route in *Union* produced 161 on 03 Jun. Reports came from 71 counties.

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# THE BARN OWL PROJECT

By Tom & Jack Henry

Barn Owls (*Tyto alba*) are a threatened species in Ohio. Barn Owl population size is believed to be limited primarily by the lack of foraging habitat. The availability of secure (predator free) cavity nesting sites or nesting boxes and the importance they play in determining annual levels of barn owl productivity is also poorly understood. An abundance of secure nesting sites close to quality foraging habitat appears to be essential for Barn Owls to establish a self-sustaining population.

The Division of Wildlife (DOW), Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), accumulated 14 years of productivity data on Barn Owls from 1990 through 2003. This information was obtained through capture and banding at Barn Owl nest and roost sites; in that period over 1600 chicks and 250 adults were banded. In 2003 the Division reduced its banding activities due to manpower constraints. The current Barn Owl banding project was started in 2007 to supplement that reduced effort. The project collects data on Barn Owls in a portion of their breeding range which had earlier been identified as having high to medium productivity. During the six study years to date (2007 - 2012), we have banded a total of 1251 barn owl chicks and 189 adults (119 females, 69 males, and one of undetermined sex). We have also recaptured an additional 213 adult owls (96 females, 116 males, and one of undetermined sex) which had been banded in previous years. Table 1 gives the yearly results.

TABLE 1

Year	Chicks Banded	Adults Banded	Sex (F - M - ?)	Adults Recaptured	Sex (F - M - ?)
2007	174	22	11 - 11 - 0	8	4 - 4 - 0
2008	242	43	28 - 15 - 0	31	15 - 16 - 0
2009	247	42	26 - 15 - 1	30	13 - 17 - 0
2010	234	29	18 - 11 - 0	57	25 - 31 - 1
2011	161	24	12 - 12 - 0	43	21 - 22 - 0
2012	196	29	24 - 5 - 0	44	18 - 26 - 0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1251</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>119 - 69 - 1</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>96 - 116 - 1</b>

Sex, age, and other data were recorded for the newly banded birds, and longevity and geographic distribution information were obtained from the recaptured ones. We provide an annual data report to the ODNR Olentangy Wildlife Research Station, the DOW District 3 Wildlife Management Section, and the USGS Bird Banding Laboratory in Patuxent, Maryland, for their "Bandit" program. Our project, which has monitored from 62 to 111 nest boxes per year so far, has allowed wildlife management personnel at the Olentangy Research Station and Wildlife District 3 to concentrate monitoring efforts at more nest boxes in other counties across the state.

Additionally, banding of Barn Owls by experienced biologists in the study area has also provided a service to concerned landowners who seek information about the Barn Owls on their properties.

Table 2 presents the results of the 2012 monitoring season. We inspected 109 nest boxes for Barn Owl activity in portions of seven counties in north-central and northeast Ohio. We found 83 active nests (nests with either eggs or chicks), representing an active nest box rate of 76%. Eighty-one of these active nests were successful in hatching chicks. This is the highest nest success rate we've seen in Ohio since we've been banding Barn Owls. We found four nests which had been abandoned; two contained a total of five dead hatchlings and two had a total of four unhatched eggs. This is a much lower number of abandoned nests with eggs or chicks than in previous years.

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*Brothers Tom and Jack Henry each hold a BS in Wildlife Management and an MS in Zoology from The Ohio State University. Tom has worked as a wildlife biologist for the U.S. Forest Service and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Wildlife. He retired in 2006 as an Assistant Wildlife Management Supervisor with ODNR. Jack worked as the Upland Research Leader at the Olentangy Wildlife Research Station, and retired in 2005 as an Organizational Unit Leader with the ODNR. In addition to their volunteer Barn Owl Project both are active members of and have served in leadership roles in several wildlife-oriented organizations.*

# THE BARN OWL PROJECT

Table 2

County	Active Nest Sites	Nests	Un-hatched Eggs	Banded Young	Un-banded Young	Adults Banded		Adults Recaptured	
						Male	Female	Male	Female
Carroll	2	3	0	0	4	0	0	0	0
Coshocton	1	2	3	7	0	0	1	1	0
Knox	2	2	0	0	6	0	1	1	0
Holmes	44	46	5	119	88	4	14	17	14
Mahoning	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	1
Tuscarawas	8	9	0	3	29	0	0	1	1
Wayne	20	20	2	62	43	1	8	5	2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>18</b>

We banded 193 chicks in 42 of the 81 successful nests. We noted an additional 170 chicks in the other 39 active nests but did not band them. We captured 73 adult owls (31 males and 42 females). We banded 29 of them (40%); the others were recaptures of owls banded in previous years.

During our 2012 banding activities we found five chicks and one adult female which needed medical care or rehabilitation. Two of the chicks had leg injuries. One chick from Holmes County had to be euthanized while the other, from Wayne County, was fostered into another active nest in Wayne County following treatment. The other 3 chicks, from a Holmes County nest box, apparently had been abandoned by the adults. They were recovered dehydrated and starving after they fledged prematurely; they did not respond to treatment and died while in rehabilitation. The adult female, a 14 year old bird in Holmes County, had a leg injury that caused swelling around her original leg band. The band was removed and the injury successfully treated. She was rebanded and replaced into the nest box with her clutch of two chicks. This female was originally banded as a chick in 1998 from a nest in Berlin, Ohio. This 14 year old female is the oldest wild Barn Owl documented in Ohio. She has been recaptured a total of 13 times over the last 11 years at two nest sites in the Holmes County Amish community.

Table 3 details the clutch sizes in the study area.

TABLE 3

County	Clutch Size Range	Average Clutch Size
Carroll	0 to 4	4
Coshocton	0 to 7	7
Holmes	1 to 9	4.5
Knox	2 to 4	2
Mahoning	2	2
Tuscarawas	2 to 6	3.6
Wayne	1 to 8	5.25
<b>Seven County Study Area</b>	<b>0 to 9</b>	<b>4.3</b>

The largest clutch we found in 2012 was in Holmes County, where one nest successively fledged 9 chicks. (The largest successful clutch that I have recorded in Ohio fledged 10 chicks.) However, in 2008 we had a nest in Wayne County where one female barn owl laid a clutch of 14 eggs, but only succeeded in hatching and fledging four. This unusually large clutch of eggs and low hatch rate probably resulted from disturbance at the nest box which repeatedly flushed the female during the egg laying period.

As we continue this project, we expect our data will assist efforts to maintain or increase Ohio's Barn Owl population.

RETURN OF THE EXILE: WHOOPING CRANE *GRUS AMERICANA*

By Bill Whan

*Every spring a prodigious number of storks come to visit these plains; they are at least six feet high, and more than seven feet from tip to tip of wings. I have never seen them come to feed but that they were not surrounded by sentinels who watch around them to prevent the approach of enemies. Sometime before their departure they assemble in great flocks, and the day being fixed they all rise, turning slowly, and preserving always the same order, they describe long spirals until they are out of sight. – Hector St.-Jean de Crèvecoeur, French Consul to America (1787, *Lettres d'un cultivateur américain adressées à W. S. Ecuier*. III:394).*

The above words are included in an account of a trip down the Ohio River in April, 1787, regarding the plains along the Scioto River some miles north of its entry into the Ohio. This passage was translated into English in *Ohio in 1788: A description of the soil, productions, etc. of that portion of the United States situated between Pennsylvania, the rivers Ohio and Scioto and Lake Erie*. (Columbus, Ohio, 1888: pp. 63-4). Crèvecoeur's words are not of course those of an ornithologist, but as a European his use of the term "stork" analogizes with the overall appearance of the familiar white stork of western Europe—absent here of course, but resembling the Whooping Crane more than anything else in North America. The skittish behavior of the "storks" matches that reported by observers of flocks of whoopers in the old days.

Records of Ohio birds from centuries ago can be obscure. Avian taxonomy was then in a comparatively primitive state, and scientific ornithologists were very few, with most descriptions and reports left to others. Specimens were collected, but efforts toward their preservation were not always effective; think of how few of Audubon's thousands of skins and mounts still exist. Until the late nineteenth century there were very few institutions able to house them in a permanent way, and with time most specimens deteriorated enough that they were eventually discarded. Many of Kirtland's specimens from the mid-nineteenth century, for example (at least those that didn't go to the few American museums like the Philadelphia Academy or museums overseas – the Swedish national museum has quite a few) were destroyed by vermin in Cleveland.

These conditions don't matter as much for birds that remain relatively common today. Specimens collected in later years suffice to verify them, and they can be refound today in the wild. But species that are now extinct, or extirpated from Ohio, the inadequacies of specimen preservation in the past are critical obstacles to our knowledge of them.

Collecting bird specimens was a popular hobby in the old days among educated enthusiasts, particularly rural physicians who traveled a lot in the outdoors

and had expertise in anatomy and dissection. Very few of their collections have been preserved, even in part. Even when collectors carefully protected them, their heirs usually had no great interest in ornithology. Few bothered to pass bird specimens along to museums, and most were eventually thrown away, or given to schools, where they later met the same fate. (Egg collections, popular in the late nineteenth century, were more often saved, probably because they were relatively compact and more immune to infestations; they also had market value.) To make matters worse, most specimens were not preserved as scientific study skins, but rather as mounts, which appealed to many collectors because they more closely resembled living birds and more prominently displayed their taxidermic skills.

Mounts, however, were real dust-catchers and space-eaters, more exposed to vermin, and too easily became separated from paper records that indicated data like place and date of collection. To better preserve both the specimens and precious space, during the twentieth century many museums made a practice of de-mounting ("relaxing") skins which were accompanied with data, adding them to the drawers of study skins. Mounts today may still be seen in museums, but more often in educational displays in places like nature centers; most are old ones very likely to lack any attached data at all. Many come from old Carnegie Library collections of the late nineteenth century, which usually were accompanied only by species names.

Oliver Davie of Columbus, the most prominent American taxidermist of his day, had advice for preparators which often went unheeded: "In preparing specimens for scientific purposes it is not worth while to make a collection of mounted birds, although they may be very desirable for ornamental purposes. To the student of ornithology it takes too much time which may more profitably be devoted to field work, and again, mounted birds take up too much room and are not so easily handled and examined as skins." (Davie, 1882:92).

The residual effects of all these practices has had a great effect on our records of Ohio birds extirpated, extinct, or much reduced in numbers today. Take the Common Raven, for example, which 200 years ago was said to far outnumber the crow in Ohio. Edgar Allan Poe was hardly the only custodian of a stuffed raven, but today there remains no documented raven specimen from Ohio, except for a few bones discovered in middens hundreds of years old. Documented raven specimens have been cited by recognized authorities, including recently Trautman, but they have all disappeared or been lost in museum mishaps. Peterjohn accepts the raven to the Ohio list based on no old sightings or existing speci-

RETURN OF THE EXILE: WHOOPING CRANE *GRUS AMERICANA*

mens, and does not cite the archaeological evidence, relying instead mostly on sightings accepted by the OBRC as part of apparent recent range expansions.

The Passenger Pigeon, once present in Ohio in uncounted millions, remains now in only a few specimens with data, even though there are plenty of unlabeled mounts and study skins. The Trumpeter Swan has a place on the Ohio list based only on a specimen collected over a hundred years ago, which apparently disappeared soon thereafter; one can easily imagine the fate of a stuffed version of this, North America's heaviest bird, once in the hands of the collector's heirs. The Ohio State Museum has seven Carolina Parakeet skins, none with Ohio data; Trautman includes it in his Ohio list based only on archaeological material. Only a single specimen of the Eskimo Curlew from Ohio remains. Peterjohn (2001:) seems unaware of it, citing only another specimen no longer extant in support of his decision to include it in the Ohio list, nor does he offer specimen evidence for the Carolina Parakeet in the wild in Ohio. What written Ohio documentation for any of these species, except for recent reports of ravens, exists that would satisfy today's records committee if it will not accept the Whooping Crane?

Ironically, Trautman in his 1968 checklist, based solely upon "species represented by at least one preserved specimen in some accredited museum," accepts the Common Raven (1962:316) based upon an old Paulding County specimen at the time preserved in the Fort Wayne and Allen County Historical Museum in Indiana. That specimen was later destroyed in a fire. Another specimen, cited by Wheaton (1882) and earlier by Langdon (1880) has not been located in the modern era. Presumably Trautman would have removed the raven from his Ohio checklist upon receipt of this news of its destruction, but apparently he did not hear of the loss of the specimen.

What about another interesting species from our past, the oft-reported Whooping Crane? The only remarks Peterjohn has published about it appear in 1987, when he and the Ohio records committee dismiss it from the list thus: "Although several historical accounts have attributed this species to Ohio, there are no confirmed specimens or sightings from the state. While Whooping Crane formerly had a larger range and conceivably could have occurred in Ohio, there is insufficient evidence to include it in the state list." (Peterjohn et al. 1987:30).

\* \* \* \* \*

Up until the 1960s the Whooping Crane was universally recognized by acknowledged authorities as among Ohio's birds. Trautman & Trautman's 1968 list seems to have been the first to deny it a place, based presumably on the lack of a known specimen

or parts thereof deposited in an accredited institution. This despite M. B. Trautman's stated conviction in at least four publications that whoopers must have occurred regularly in Ohio in the past. It was omitted from the first published Ohio records committee checklist (Peterjohn et al. 1987) and subsequent ones, presumably on the same grounds, as well as on the lack of acceptable written documentation of an occurrence.

Nineteenth-century bird records are especially unlikely to be documented by photographs or extensive field descriptions, but rather by specimens. Then, and even today, specimens are very seldom accompanied by detailed descriptions of the bird's appearance in the field, and cameras and field optics were in a comparatively primitive state. Specimens (accompanied by standard tag data) are often the only – or at least the best available – evidence we possess as to the local occurrence of species extirpated long ago. In such cases even the testimony of reputable informants, published in reputable venues, takes second place, especially since it almost never includes careful descriptions, or even photographs of the mounted specimens. Understandably, collectors believed their specimens would speak for themselves, and except in the case of holotypes, regarded detailed descriptions as unnecessary. For example, Ohio's first record of Swainson's Warbler, and the first of only two documented by specimens, in 1947 contained only this unsatisfactory field description: "...scarcely 20 feet away, where the distinctive characters of Swainson's Warbler were plainly visible." (Green 1947). Why, one might ask, laboriously describe what anyone can easily verify in collections? Well, what if the specimens later disappear?

One may well be skeptical, especially in cases of first state records, of field identifications made by anyone. Still, what are we to make of records, such as those of the Whooping Crane or Trumpeter Swan or Common Raven or Carolina Parakeet, for which specimens – attested to by reputable persons in reputable publications to have been collected and retained – cannot be found 125 years later? It was the same authority, W. F. Henninger (1902), who reported in the *Wilson Bulletin* Ohio specimens of both the swan and the crane, including Ohio's only one of the former and one of several for the latter. Surely this sort of evidence, even though these specimens cannot be found, is superior to never having had a specimen at all, especially for a bird like the crane, with such obvious and unique characteristics in the hand. Mengel, in his well-regarded monograph on the birds of Kentucky, stated on its first page that he regarded a record as reliably recorded "when a specimen from the state has at some time been examined in the hand of someone capable, in my opinion, of

RETURN OF THE EXILE: WHOOPING CRANE *GRUS AMERICANA*

accurately identifying it” (Mengel 1965:1).

An adult Whooping Crane in flight might be mistaken for a White Pelican, a Snow Goose, or a Sandhill Crane by an inexperienced observer or under difficult viewing circumstances; after all, cranes regularly migrate at altitudes from 1000 to 6000 feet, and often at night. But it seems highly unlikely that any of the reputable authors and observers reported as collectors, or others who later examined them, could have misidentified a Whooping Crane in the hand. Further, it seems incredible that published misidentifications could have been occurred again and again in the case of a species of such unique appearance. I will argue that this species should finally, after all these years, be admitted to Ohio’s official list.

\* \* \* \* \*

Kirtland, Wheaton, Jones, and Dawson, Ohio’s pre-eminent nineteenth-century ornithologists, regarded the Sandhill Crane and the Whooping Crane alike as rare migrants, with roughly similar numbers of records and specimens. Others, reporting from earlier eras, may have regarded the whooper as more abundant. After 1850, whoopers’ numbers seemingly dropped far more rapidly than those of sandhills, and eventually their close brush with extinction (by the 1930s, estimates of their numbers were as low as 14) endowed them with an aura of great rarity thereafter. But respected observers of the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries – Lawson, Catesby, Bartram, Wilson, Audubon, Nuttall – had not treated it as a rare bird. The narratives of Wilson, Audubon, and Nuttall describe, later than the first three observers, large flocks and an extensive range. Confusion with the sandhill crane (both Audubon and Wilson, but not Nuttall, had considered it probably the young of the Whooping Crane) may have made whoopers seem more abundant than they actually were, however. Crane expert Paul Johnsgard (1991:65) states, “Probably never very common, the Whooping Crane population numbered perhaps less than 2,000 at the time of European settlement, but its breeding range probably extended broadly across the grasslands and marshes of interior North America”, but the old accounts, seem to suggest much larger numbers in the old days. Johnsgard told the author he derived this estimate of 2,000 from R. P. Allen’s *The Whooping Crane* (1952). Such a population would have probably made it North America’s rarest regularly breeding bird before Europeans arrived. He does not assert this in his major monograph *Cranes of the World* (1983). At any rate, only beginning in the 1860s and ’70s – among authorities like Coues, Baird, Ridgway, and Brewster, et al., and long after general confusion of the crane species had ended – was the word “rare” usually applied to it,

and attention drawn to its rapidly decreasing numbers and range.

Johnsgard more confidently describes this period – that in which nearly all known Ohio reports occur – in this way: “The last three decades of the nineteenth century were especially disastrous, for during this period not only were they killed by market hunters, but also collectors and taxidermists became aware of the great value of Whooping Crane eggs and skins to museums and other collectors. It has been estimated that as much as 90 percent of the entire population was destroyed during this relatively brief period...nesting in Illinois was eliminated by 1880, and during the next ten years the birds were lost as breeders in Minnesota and North Dakota. During the 1890s the birds were also eliminated from Iowa, which represented the last known breeding record for the United States.” (1991:66). During the last quarter of the nineteenth century, Whooping Cranes were routinely regarded in Ohio and elsewhere as rare and rapidly growing rarer, with records probably more carefully kept of occurrences during a period in which scientific ornithology had begun to play a larger role. As was the custom of the age, even though mere reports of sightings were sometimes published, most of these records were verified by specimens alone.

\* \* \* \* \*

Whooping Crane study skins are large, ungainly objects. In my small experience at least, no other North American species is dimensionally taller or more difficult to store in conventional museum drawers in a satisfactory way. Several hundred sparrow skins take up less room than a single crane skin, and collection objectives have always been far more easily met by accumulating more sparrows than more cranes. Mounts, far more popular 125 years ago than today, are considerably more representative than the clumsy-looking and usually much-folded study skins, but they are more difficult to care for, being even bulkier and far more fragile. These characteristics made them more likely to be among the specimens first discarded through the generations as too bulky, or damaged, or less presentable than most others, even as accumulations of other specimens made space evermore precious. As for crane mounts in private collections, where scientific concerns did not always come first, a collector’s heirs might be far more likely to keep a bell-jar with mounts of brightly-colored warblers and finches than a dusty, ungainly ~1.5-meter-tall crane still teetering on the large base necessary to keep it upright.

An alarming proportion of rare nineteenth-century specimens mentioned in the literature cannot be located today. Additionally, any museum curator will attest that, among mounts of such rarities, those

RETURN OF THE EXILE: WHOOPING CRANE *GRUS AMERICANA*

accompanied by tags with standard data are distinctly in the minority. Collections of mounts have diminished with the years, as museum displays have evolved from eye-candy to curated scientific specimens. In view of this, there is little wonder that so many mounted crane specimens, even those whose existence had been published, have become nonetheless difficult or impossible to locate a century and a quarter later. Whooping Crane specimens cited in the literature cannot be relocated, but not because they never existed. Additionally, it seems likely that some of the specimens are still in museum collections, but have been mistakenly stripped of their data.

The 1987 Ohio records committee authors explain that, since conservation ethics have slowed the accumulation of specimens, the Committee would also accept records verified through “new rigorous procedures involving photographs and/or sight records.” What fell through the cracks were records involving seemingly perfectly valid specimens that can no longer be located, even if identified by acknowledged authorities and published in reputable venues. Because at one time it was anticipated that mounted specimens would be maintained, accompanied with documentary data, in perpetuity no one thought to document them otherwise beyond announcing their acquisition.

Estimates of the former range and numbers of Whooping Cranes come from the distant past, when bird taxonomy was in an earlier stage, and revered early authorities regarded sandhills as the young of whoopers. This has cast some uncertainty over various early reports, but less so since the mid-nineteenth century. Even in the relatively recent past (Allen 1952), they were discovered still to nest in Louisiana, greatly expanding their imaginable range. Whoopers were widely described as undertaking regular long migrations, with the main flyway along the Mississippi River, fanning out to include coastal states from Delaware to Texas until the decisive depredations of the later nineteenth century. A lesser flyway is said to have originated near Hudson Bay, in part accounting for many records east of the plains. Wilson and Audubon independently mention indubitable migrants in 1810 near Louisville, a hundred miles from Cincinnati, and no Ohio ornithologist until recently appears to have failed to mention, as a matter of experience and common sense, that these birds probably passed through the state during migrations, at least occasionally.

Based on this and other documentation, the Ohio Bird Records Committee has determined that the Whooping Crane deserved inclusion on the official Ohio list.

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[This is an abbreviated version of the documentation which Bill presented to the OBRC in 2009 which resulted in the Whooping Crane's being added to the Ohio Checklist the next spring. He will provide on request the exhaustive annotated bibliography of publications on the occurrences of this species in Ohio which accompanied the submission – Ed.]

*Bill Whan often writes about birds. He lives in Columbus.*

## YEARS AGO

**10 Years Ago**, *The Ohio Cardinal*, Summer 2002, Vol. 25 No. 4 (Bill Whan, Editor), contained these items:

Nineteen Osprey nests were reported by the Ohio Division of Wildlife.

The 31 shorebird species reported included a Red-necked Stint and a Ruff.

A Western Kingbird was in **Butler** on 20 Jul.

The only Bell's Vireos reported were singing in Buck Creek SP, **Clark**.

Twenty-five warbler species were reported.

Dickcissels were found in 13 counties.

**20 Years Ago**, *The Ohio Cardinal*, Summer 1992, Vol. 15 No. 4 (Rob Harlan, Editor), contained these items:

The first successful Double-crested Cormorant nests in the state since about 1880 were on West Sister Island. (Nesting, begun there in 1987, had failed until 1992.)

Only 24 shorebird species were mentioned.

A Northern Saw-whet Owl was vocalizing in the Mohican SP gorge during much of Jun.

John Pogacnik documented an extremely rare summer sighting of an American Pipit, on 26 Jul at Conneaut.

**30 Years Ago**, *The Ohio Cardinal*, Summer 1982, Vol. 5 No. 2 (Ed Pierce, Editor), contained these items:

Fourteen Upland Sandpipers were found at the Findlay, Hancock, airport.

The (first) Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas had just begun, and participation was urged.

An article about Bald Eagles described the locations of all nine nests in the state, which produced eight young that year.

Chuck Hocesvar wrote about his 1991 Ohio Big Year, during which he tallied 292 species. He visited 72 counties, drove 30,000 miles, and spent \$2500 on gas.

The *Bird Bulletin* (later to be the *Cleveland Bird Calendar*) did not publish a summer 1912 edition, so no "100 years ago" is available.



## OOS MEMBERSHIP

Welcoming backyard birdwatchers and researchers in the field alike, the Ohio Ornithological Society is the largest statewide organization specifically devoted to fostering a deeper appreciation of wild birds, fellowship and collaboration in advancing our collective knowledge about them, and our ability to speak with one voice to preserve Ohio's bird habitats.

We encourage and support important research on birds. We provide educational resources to members, the public, and the news media. We unite individuals and constituencies interested in birds, and provide means and reasons for them to cooperate. Our activities are not conducted independently, but in concert with local organizations whenever possible and when mutually beneficial

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The Counties of Ohio



Allan Claybon photographed this delightful family of Green Herons at Spring Grove Cemetery, **Hamilton**, on 18 Jun.

### **Instructions for Contributors**

*The Ohio Cardinal* would not exist without contributions from Ohio birders. We solicit sightings, notes on unusual observations, in-depth scientific articles, historical accounts, book reviews, essays, artwork, and photographs related to Ohio and its birdlife. Please refer to our website ([www.ohiobirds.org/publications/cardinal/aboutcardinal.php](http://www.ohiobirds.org/publications/cardinal/aboutcardinal.php)) for general guidelines on style and formatting.

Reports of bird sightings for each season are requested and should be submitted directly, by email or postal mail to:

**Craig Caldwell, 1270 W. Melrose Dr., Westlake, OH 44145**

***craig\_caldwell@sbcglobal.net***

Send digital photo files or links to Laura Keene:

***laurakeene@cinci.rr.com***

Deadlines are as follows:

**Winter** (Dec, Jan, Feb) - 21 March

**Spring** (Mar, Apr, May) - 21 June

**Summer** (Jun, Jul) - 21 August

**Fall** (Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov) - 21 December

### **Back cover:**

*The reclaimed grasslands at Byers Woods, **Ashland**, boasted a cheery song from breeding Dickcissels.  
Photo by Su Snyder 04 Jun.*

# THE OHIO CARDINAL

The Ohio Ornithological Society  
PO Box 2432  
Westerville, OH 43086

## Contents

### Comments on the Season

*By Craig Caldwell*..... 122

### Species Accounts

*By Craig Caldwell*..... 124

### The Barn Owl Project

*By Tom & Jack Henry*..... 144

### Return of the Exile: Whooping Crane *Grus americana*

*By Bill Whan*..... 146

