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

The Ohio Cardinal exists to provide a permanent and timely record of the abundance and distribution of birds in Ohio; to help document the occurrence of rare species in the state; to provide information on identification of birds; and to provide information on birding areas within Ohio. *The Ohio Cardinal* invites readers to submit articles on unusual occurrences of birds, bird distribution within the state, birding areas in Ohio, identification tips, and other aspects of ornithology. Bird reports and photographs are welcome from any area of the state. Report forms are not a necessity but will be supplied upon request. Unusual species should be documented, and forms to do so are available upon request from the Editor, Publisher, and Records Committee Secretary.

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On the Cover:

Lana Hays took this photo of a banded piping plover at Conneaut on 25 Jul.



Summer 2006 Overview and Reports

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The summer season lasts but two months, and because it represents the breeding season for so many species in Ohio home ranges we do not expect many extralimital rarities. Still, six review species – anhinga, swallow-tailed kite (2), Mississippi kite, piping plover (2), scissor-tailed flycatcher, and loggerhead shrike – were reported (half with photographs); all but the shrike were presumably post-breeding migrants or wanderers. Though both the plovers had nested in Michigan, and the shrike was local, the rest came with distinctly southern accents. Rarities are seldom inexplicably random occurrences, and each comes with lessons to learn.

Why have loggerhead shrikes become rare? Certainly, much of their favored habitat has disappeared, but a lot remains. Though it may not answer this particular question, the new Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas got off to a good start and will greatly expand our knowledge of our nesting avifauna. Increased coverage across the state as a result of OBBA surveys resulted in some interesting new records reflected in the Reports: thanks to the Atlas folks for digging out these data for us. Some very interesting contrasts with the existing Atlas are emerging already, and it will be important to determine whether they reflect distributional changes among birds or merely improved coverage. We will be offering regular reports on the progress and findings of the second OBBA, and encourage every reader to participate: if you cannot take on some blocks of your own, it is almost as much fun to help others with theirs. See the OBBA pages on the OOS web site ohiobirds.org for details, or use mail and telephone contacts in this issue's *Further Afield*.

As noticed this spring, migratory movements seemed a bit delayed, and a few extraordinary late records were established as a result (an American tree sparrow on 7 June was an all-time record, and a blackpoll warbler on 17 June was at least as rare, though nowhere near as high, as a kite). The number of stragglers found was remarkable. To have reports of 31 warbler species in June and July in Ohio is unusual; last summer it was 23, in 2004 it was 24, and 26 the year before. No doubt the extra scrutiny encouraged by Atlas work led to records of late stays, and of nesting in some new areas. As for the most habitat-sensitive summer migrants, a good showing of shorebirds (in variety, if not in numbers, especially considering only six species breed in the state) veteran observer Craig Holt summarized the situation in this way: "By my reckoning, 23 species put in appearances during June and July [at Conneaut]. I believe five more species were found elsewhere in the state, bringing the total to 28. That's darn good for an Ohio summer season. Imagine how many shorebirds would show up if we had more good habitat." Scan the shorebird reports below to see how important that little scrap of habitat in the NE corner of the state (the only locale for reports of eight shorebird species, and the principal one for many others) remained this season, threatened as it may be in so many ways.

In mid-state, June averaged 1.9 degrees cooler than usual, and July 1.4 degrees warmer; both months were wetter than average, June by .22 inches and July by 1.15. Warm summer air makes for extreme local rainfall, however: Lake County had ten inches of rain on 28 July, with horrific flooding as the Grand River crested 11 feet above flood stage, recreating perforce a lot of prehistoric habitat at Mentor Headlands. The Toledo area marinated in 9.19 inches of rain during July, 6.39 inches more than average. Inconveniences farther south more often involved uncomfortable heat and humidity. Lest readers take hot summers for granted, heed these surprising words from the pen of Ohio's first ornithologist J. P. Kirtland, writing in Cleveland during late June over a century and a half ago:

White-headed sparrow: This migratory bird has appeared here for the past month in unusual numbers and is prolonging its visits to the present time (27th of June). We noticed in a former article the tardiness of the white snow-bird in departing for the North and stated that it had remained here until it had passed its vernal moult, an occurrence we never before observed.

The Red Polls were equally slow in taking their departure for the North, and now the white crowned, and the white throated finches are still lingering about our gardens and fruit trees and are enlivening the dreary and remarkable season by their pleasant songs.

All the species seem to know that the state of the weather North of the Lakes is not adapted for their customary reception [The Family Visitor, Vol. 1, #19, 13 June 1850].

In the 47th Supplement to its Check-list (Auk 123:926-936), the American Ornithologists' Union revised the official taxonomic sequence among North American bird species, resulting in changes in the Ohio list in the order of Scolopacidae shorebirds, terns, jaegers vs. gulls, and cuckoos. These changes are reflected in the Reports below. Additionally, research has required that changes be made in the generic names of certain North American species; notes appear in the Reports in the two cases affected here, willet and Caspian tern. Too many pay as much attention to the AOU's non-scientific pronouncements, such as those involving the ungrammatical capitalization of English names, rather than to research-based nomenclatural changes such as these. The revised AOU Check-list is available on the internet at <http://www.aou.org/checklist/index.php3>; an Ohio version from the OOS can be found at <http://www.ohiobirds.org/birdingnews/Ohio%20list%20taxonomic.pdf>, or write to the Editor. We seem to be in a period of yearly refinements in ornithological nomenclature, and should not be surprised by further changes next July.

The Reports follow the nomenclature and taxonomic order of the 7th edition of the AOU Check-list of North American Birds (1998), including the 47th Supplement (July 2006). Underlined names of species indicate those on the OBRC Review List and documentation is needed to add reports of these species to official state records, or to attributions (i.e., reporters' names) in the Reports. Where supplied, county names appear *italicized*. Unless numbers are specified, sightings refer to single birds. Abbreviations, conventions, locations, and symbols used in the Reports should be readily understood, with the possible exceptions of the following: ad=adult; alt=alternate (breeding) plumage; BCSP=Buck Ck SP in *Clark*; BIWA=Big Isl WA in *Marion*; BSBO=Black Swamp Bird Observatory; CCE=Crane Ck estuary in ONWR; CPNWR=Cedar Point NWR in *Lucas*; CVNP=Cuyahoga Valley Natl Pk in *Cuyahoga* and *Summit*; Dike 14=the Gordon Park impoundment in *Cleveland*; EFSP=East Fork SP in *Clermont*; eop=end of the period, in this case 31 July 2006; EHSP=East Hbr SP in *Ottawa*; fide="in trust of," said of data conveyed on behalf of another person; Funk WA is in *Wayne*; Gilmore Ponds is in *Butler*; GLSM=Grand Lk St Marys in *Mercer/Auglaize*; HBSP=Headlands Beach SP in *Lake*; HBSNP=Headlands Beach SNP in *Lake*; HWSP=Hueston Wds SP (*Butler/Preble*); imm=immature; Killbuck=Killbuck Marsh WA in *Wayne/Holmes*; KPWA=Killdeer Plains WA in *Wyandor*; LSR=Lakeshore Reservation (MP) in *Lake*; Magee=Magee Marsh WA in *Ottawa/Lucas*; MBSP=Maumee Bay SP in *Lucas*; MP=Metropark; m obs=many observers; MWW=Miami-Whitewater Wetlands in *Hamilton*; NWR=National Wildlife Refuge; OBBA=Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas, second edition; OBRC=Ohio Bird Records Committee; ODO=Ohio Division of Wildlife; ONWR=Ottawa NWR in *Ottawa/Lucas*; ONWRC=monthly bird census at ONWR, reported by E. Pierce; PCWA=Pickerel Ck WA in *Sandusky*; ph=photograph, Res=Reservoir; Res'n=Reservation; SCBC=Greater Akron Audubon Society Summit County Bird Count of 16-25 June; SF=State Forest; SNP=State Nature Preserve; SP=State Park; SVWA=Spring Valley WA in *Greene/Warren*; WA=Wildlife Area.

The Reports, Summer 2006

Snow goose: Perhaps its recent population surge has brought the occasional Ohio summer report. One flying with Canada geese over **Ottawa NWR** 13 Jun seemed uninjured (R. Hinkle).

Canada goose: 636 tallied by the 4 Jun ONWRC were almost certainly of the established introduced *maxima* population, as was a flock of 350 at **BCSP** 29 Jul (D. Overacker). The US Fish & Wildlife Service promulgated guidelines this summer that exempt local resident Canada geese (*B. c. maxima*) from protection afforded to migratory wildfowl, relaxing controls on lethal management measures.

Mute swan: Increasing, but not yet at so alarming a rate as in some nearby Great Lakes states. R&S Harlan reported eight adults and four downy young at **Nimisila Res (Summit)** 5 Jun; the SCBC later in the month tallied an uncomfortable 35 in the county. D. Overacker saw seven including one young bird at **BCSP** 9 June.

Wood duck: The high count of 68, at **Ottawa NWR**, included 14 downy young 4 Jun (ONWRC).

Gadwall: J. Lehman noted four at **ONWR** on 17 Jun; a rare annual nester in Ohio, breeding went unconfirmed in this case.

Mallard: The high count was 434, on the 4 Jun ONWRC, with 315 there on 2 Jul.

Blue-winged teal: Among scattered summering birds were 13 for the 4 Jun ONWRC, one near **Hudson** 17 Jun (D. Chasar), four pairs in a **Hardin** wetland 7 Jul (R. Counts) with a family elsewhere in the county 5 Jun (C. Hoagstrom), three in **Hancock** 11 Jul (B. Hardesty), and 10 in **Ashtabula** 31 Jul (C. Holt).

Northern shoveler: An adult male visited **Conneaut harbor**, with reports from 24 (M. Vass) and 28 Jun (C. Holt).

Green-winged teal: Four drakes were around for the 4 Jun ONWRC, and a pair present through the season in **Hardin** revealed a nest 2 Jul (R. Counts). The 2 Jul ONWRC found twelve at the refuge.

Canvasback: An adult drake found 13 Jun off **Kelleys Isl** may well have been the one present there last summer (T. Bartlett).

Redhead: A male in **Portage** 28 Jun-12 Jul appeared territorial, but no hen was located (K. Miller).

Ring-necked duck: The SCBC of 16-25 Jun turned up one in **Summit** for the only report of the summer.

Lesser scaup: The 4 Jun ONWRC observed a drake at **Ottawa**.

Hooded merganser: June brought additional reports of hens with young across the state. One with seven chicks on 30 Jun in **Williams** was of local interest (J. Grabmeier).

Common merganser: On 23 Jul, a hen with a half-grown young bird was photographed in **Columbiana** (J. Dolan, m obs).

Red-breasted merganser: Quite unusual inland in summer, a hen or imm plied **West Branch SP** in *Portage* on 19 Jul (G. Bennett).

Ruddy duck: A few ruddies turn up each summer around the state, but actual breeding is a far rarer event. This year, a drake spent Jun and Jul in *Hardin* and was found with a hen 19 Jul (R. Counts), another was present for the 4 Jun ONWRC along with four at the *Paulding* sewage ponds the same day (M&D Dunakin), and F. Frick noted a pair at *MWW* 12 Jun.

Wild turkey: Gaining a grip on habitable habitat everywhere, turkeys turned up—often with poults—in some surprisingly urban settings statewide.

Northern bobwhite: Breeding was confirmed, probable, or possible in *Adams, Athens, Ashtabula, Brown, Butler, Clermont, Clinton, Columbiana, Darke, Delaware, Greene, Hamilton, Hardin, Highland, Knox, Lorain, Montgomery, Muskingum, Perry, Scioto, Summit, Trumbull,* and *Warren* (OBBA data). The high count was 30+ in *Highland* 29 Jun (B. Foppe). The wild status of these birds is often open to question.

Common loon: As often happens, a few basic/immatures tarried at the **Findlay** reservoirs during the season, with two on 6 Jun, four on 20 Jun, and three through the eop (B. Hardesty). An imm/basic bird spent the summer at **Cowan Lk** in *Clinton* (L. Gara 11 Jun. K. Robinson 28 Jul). An adult in alternate plumage haunted **Alum Creek Res** (scene of rumored breeding in 2003), photographed 30 Jun (M. Romito).

Pied-billed grebe: Thirty-one were present for the 4 Jun ONWRC, and a hen with four young was at *MWW* two days later (F. Frick). At a new location were two nests in *Hardin* (R. Counts), where D. Overacker counted fifteen on 23 Jul.

Double-crested cormorant: Small numbers, nearly all imm, were seen at inland reservoirs as usual summer-long. The **Kelleys Isl** census tallied 462 on 17 Jun (T. Bartlett). C. Caldwell reported a minimum of 300 at **Turning Pt Isl** 9 Jul. The ONWRC counted only 26 on 4 Jun (vs. 132 the previous Jun), arguably a result of large-scale culling at nearby **West Sister Isl** this May. The official estimate of breeding pairs there was 2707 \pm 279, a significant decrease of 29.1% from last year's estimate of 3813 \pm 346 pairs, due in large part to the shooting of 4320 birds there by wildlife personnel. According to the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* (8/24/06), large-scale shooting of cormorants will continue (if approved) for the next few years, with goals next year of a 50-60% reduction at **Green Island** and an additional 30% at **WSI**. The reliability of this information may be compromised by the fact the *PD*'s star hook-and-bullet columnist called these birds "ducks."



If only we all were as quick with a camera as Judy Semroc, who caught this aninga flying overhead in southern Summit Co. on 26 Jun.

Anhinga: A flyover anhinga was photographed by an alert observer in southern **Summit** 26 Jun; another observer reported what was almost certainly the same bird at the same location 7 Jul. Details for this sighting, which would be the first accompanied by physical evidence since a specimen taken in *Washington* in 1885, are with the **OBRC**.

American bittern: The ONWRC had one 4 Jun (and three 2 Jul), and D. Overacker a remarkable six at **BCSP** the same day. E. Tramer saw one at **CPNWR** 10 Jun. B&D Lane another over *Columbiana* 16 Jun, and C. Babyak reported one calling in *Trumbull* 1 Jul.

Least bittern: Likely breeders were birds found during the period in *Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Columbiana, Cuyahoga, Hamilton, Lucas, Portage, Summit, Trumbull,* and *Wayne* (OBBA).

Great blue heron: On 15 Jun, C. Babyak counted 418 nests at the **Lordstown** site in *Trumbull*. The annual nesting survey of **West Sister Island** reported 1267 \pm 200 breeding pairs. An established colony adjacent to the *Ashtabula* airport disappeared, along with the trees (C. Holt).

Great egret: The ONWRC tallied 164 on 4 Jun and 158 on 2 Jul. C. Caldwell reported ~12 at **Turning Pt Isl** 9 Jul. Single-digit reports away from the NW during Jun and early Jul came from *Ashtabula, Clermont, Franklin, Hardin, Lorain, Mahoning, Summit, Union,* and *Wayne*. As usual, larger numbers assembled in the interior counties later in Jul, with 12 in *Darke* 29 Jul (R. Schieltz) and 27 in *Butler* the next day (M. Busam). The big news was two new breeding sites inland, in *Mahoning* and *Franklin*, found during Atlas work (see short notes in this issue). Estimates of **West Sister Island** breeders showed 1067 pairs \pm 152.

Snowy egret: The 4 Jun ONWRC reported eight, and all subsequent reports during the period were of two to four birds in the **ONWR** area (m obs). Fifteen nests were reported from **West Sister Island**.

Little blue heron: B. Warner observed one on **West Sister Isl** 9 Jun, where one nest was confirmed. One was in **ONWR** 30 Jun (G. Links). P. Sherwood reported an imm near **ONWR** 22 Jul. Note: a pair nested at **WSI** last year as well, but did not appear in reports available to us until this year.

Cattle egret: Seven were found on **West Sister Isl** 9 Jun (B. Warner); four nesting pairs were reported there this summer, down from 10 last year. No onshore reports emerged of birds from the **Turning Pt Isl** colony, a coincidence one hopes. Unusual were two adults in breeding finery at **GLSM** on the Fourth of July (G. Dietz, ph), a presence that bears watching in the future.

Green heron: Seemed in normal numbers, with high counts of nine on the 4 Jun ONWRC, and 18 in J. Pogacnik's survey of the *Lake* MPs. The **SCBC** found 48 between 16 and 25 Jun in **Summit** alone.

Black-crowned night-heron: Whence came the imm birds at **Conneaut** 3 Jun (C. Holt) and at **Killbuck WA** 15 Jun (S. Weaver)? F. Renfrow counted six nests at **Spring Grove Cem** in **Cincinnati** on 6 Jun. Eight at **Pipe Ck WA** 9 Jul (C. Caldwell) were likely from the **Turning Pt Isl** colony. Subsequent dispersals probably accounted for 29 Jul reports of five imm in *Butler* (M. Busam) and ten birds at **Winton Wds** in **Cincinnati** (L. Brumbaugh). The official **West Sister Island** estimate came up with 480 \pm 94 nesting pairs this season.

Yellow-crowned night-heron: A fairly encouraging season overall. The small **Columbus** colony had two successful nests, but a high count of only three young (25 Jun, A. Paschall); on 7 Jul all had apparently departed (P. Gardner). Jay and Jack Stenger saw a young bird the next day at **Winton Wds** in **Cincinnati**. The species could not be relocated at **SVWA** (L. Brumbaugh). D. Kline (*vide* S. Snyder) located the nest of the **Wayne** pair 12 Jul; the birds and much of the nest disappeared shortly thereafter, according to m obs. A. Lindsay reported two birds calling in flight in **Athens** 18 Jul.

Black vulture: Reported from the usual areas, along with an unusual **Delaware** bird 15 Jun (C. Bombaci). B. Foppe was able to salvage a dead juv in **Clermont** 20 Jul, which will become the second Ohio museum specimen of this age class.

Osprey: The ODOW collected Ohio reports of 46 nests, with 75 young fledged (D. Sherman). J. Watts observed that the **Franklin** pair that fledged three 15 Jul was probably the first in a hundred years in the county. Does eagle competition discourage them from nesting, or even appearing in summer, in the **NW marshes** or **Conneaut**?

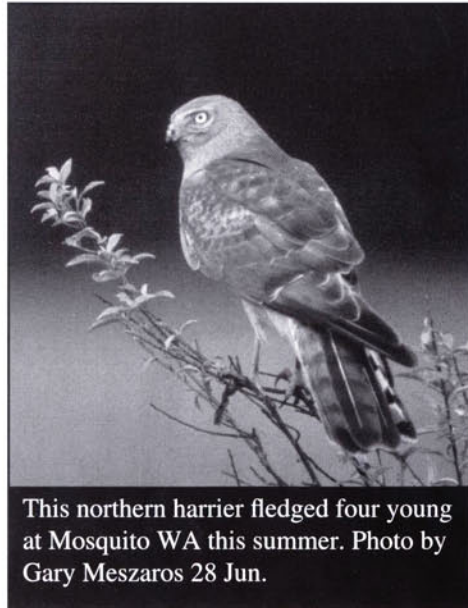
Swallow-tailed kite: A brief fly-over in **Ashland** on 3 Jun was rated by the observer as "possible." Another in **Mahoning** 31 Jul by an observer quite familiar with the species was observed for ten minutes.

Mississippi kite: An adult was reported 50' overhead in **Portage** 3 Jun; details should be with the OBRC.

Bald eagle: Some idea of their increasing numbers is exemplified by a sighting of seven perched along the breakwalls at **Conneaut**—not a hot spot for such numbers in the past—on 31 Jul (C. Holt).

Northern harrier: Reported were a male in **Clermont** 2 Jun (D. Morse) and one in **Holmes** the following day (R. Hershberger), one 9 Jun in **Miami** (T. Shively), one in **Lucas** 15 Jun (J. Dixon), a female in **Hardin** 20 Jun (R. Counts, m obs), another in **Hancock** 20 Jun (B. Sams *vide* B. Hardesty), a male in **Ashtabula** twice in Jul (C. Holt), a female at **The Wilds** 14 or 15 Jul (J. Larson), and one in **Paulding** 30 Jul (C. Busch). A nest at **Mosquito WA** had four hatchlings and two eggs 4 Jun (D&J Hochadel) with young fledged 28 Jun (G. Meszaros, ph). Another **Hardin** family produced at least three young 27 Jun (C. Hoagstrom).

Sharp-shinned hawk: OBBA results of interest included possible or confirmed nesting during the period in **Athens** (3), **Clinton**, **Columbiana** (3), **Cuyahoga**, **Delaware**, **Hamilton**, **Hocking**, **Holmes**, **Lucas**, **Stark**, and **Washington** (2). J. Pogacnik reported at least five possible nest sites in the **Lake** MPs.



This northern harrier fledged four young at Mosquito WA this summer. Photo by Gary Meszaros 28 Jun.

Red-shouldered hawk: Doing well in many locales. Of local interest was one in **Williams** on 20 Jun (J. Grabmeier), where seldom reported.

American Kestrel: High count a healthy nine, all at **Armleder Pk** in **Cincinnati** 13 Jul (B. Hull).

King rail: The 4 Jun ONWRC found three calling birds, and located but one on 2 Jul. The only report from the spring's pair at **Magee WA** was of one calling 23 Jul (P. Gardner, B. Whan).

Virginia rail: OBBA reports came from **Columbiana**, **Cuyahoga**, **Hardin**, **Lake**, **Mahoning**, **Medina**, **Portage**, **Richland**, **Stark**, **Summit**, **Trumbull**, and **Wayne**; reports from the NW marshes are no doubt lagging behind or not being shared.

Sora: Reports for the Breeding Bird Atlas came from **Columbiana**, **Darke**, **Hardin**, **Lake**, **Medina**, **Summit**, and **Trumbull**, and will emerge from elsewhere in the fullness of time.

Common moorhen: After some good spring numbers, reports emerged from many counties during the period: **Ashtabula**, **Butler**, **Columbiana**, **Cuyahoga**, **Darke**, **Delaware**, **Fairfield**, **Hardin**, **Highland**, **Holmes**, **Lake**, **Lucas**, **Marion**, **Ottawa**, **Pickaway**, **Portage**, **Summit**, **Trumbull**, **Warren**, and **Wayne**.

American coot: S. Snyder observed one at **Killbuck Marsh** 3 Jun, and the ONWRC had three the following day. Nested successfully for the first time at **Glacier Ridge MP** in **Union** (J. Watts).

Sandhill crane: The DOW assembled data on a record-tying 15 nesting pairs: nine in **Wayne**, two in **Holmes**, and single nests in **Geauga**, **Williams**, **Ashtabula**, and **Lorain**. Not included was a pair spending its second summer at **SVWA** in **Warren** (J. Hickman), and observers in **Williams** suspect more than one pair nesting there. High count was 21 on 23 Jul, with 16 at **Funk WA** and five more at **Killbuck WA** (P. Jones).

Black-bellied plover: Skimpily reported, with migrants on the **Magee** beach 17 Jun (J. Lehman) and at **Conneaut** 25 Jul (L. Hays).

Semipalmated plover: Hardly numerous, and mostly a visitor to **Conneaut Harbor**, with six on 3 Jun (C. Holt), another on 10 Jun (J. Pogacnik), one on 28 (Holt) and 29 Jun (M. Vass), and one there 3 Jul (Vass). Holt reasonably wondered if a bird might have summered at the site. Maximum was only nine, again at **Conneaut** 31 Jul (Holt)

Piping plover: Two were discovered on the beach at **Conneaut**: one on 10 Jul (B. Coulter), and another 25 (L. Hays) and 26 (Coulter) Jul. Both were marked; researchers reported that the first bird was a female that had nested and fledged all four young this season near **St. Ignace, MI**, and that the second was a male, probably (some doubt persisted at the time of compilation) sire of a nest that had also fledged all four young, in this case near **Grand Marais, MI**.

Killdeer: Ohio birders tend to take killdeers for granted, mostly because we live in a major migratory pathway for the species. Others are not so lucky. As it happens, the US Shorebird Conservation Plan reduced its estimate of their population by 50% between 2001 and 2005, and their numbers are apparently declining. Higher counts of July migrants came on the 2nd, with 50+ in **Harding** (R. Counts) then 120 there 23 Jul (D. Overacker), 194 the 5th at **Funk WA** in **Wayne** (S. Snyder), 150+ in **Wyandot** the 21st (Counts), then 709 at **Funk** 28 Jul (S. Weaver).

American avocet: All reports came from **Conneaut**, with one there 15 Jul (L. Hays), three the 18th (C. Holt), and singletons on the 19th (B. Roysel) and the 24th (Hays).

Spotted sandpiper: Present in normal numbers. High count, admittedly pre-migration, only four at **Cowan Lk** 26 Jul (L. Gara).

Solitary sandpiper: Once regarded as an Ohio nester because found throughout the summer here, witness one in **Hardin** 15 Jun (B. Warner), one in **Holmes** 6 Jul (R. Schlabach), and another at **Glacier Ridge MP** in **Union** 10 Jul (J. Watts).

Greater yellowlegs: Also seen often, with a late one at **Conneaut** 10 Jun (J. Pogacnik), and early birds in **Hardin** 3 Jul (R. Counts), and 4 Jul at **Conneaut** (C. Holt).

Willet (newly *Tringa semipalmata*): All reports came from **Conneaut** in Jul, with three there the 9th, one on the 17th (A. Morrison), then another on the 18th (C. Holt).

Lesser yellowlegs: One returned to **Hardin** 20 Jun (R. Counts) and another to **Conneaut** 28 Jun (C. Holt). At the former location there were 19 by 2 Jul and 23 on 7 Jul (Counts). **Funk** had 31 on 12 Jul (S. Snyder), and a flooded field in **Wyandot** 68 on 20 Jul (Counts). The first juvenile was noted at **Conneaut** 13 Jul (Holt).

Upland sandpiper: Breeders were scarce as usual, with the airport contingent represented by birds at **Springfield** 11 Jun (J. Karlson *vide* D. Overacker), where observers with spotting scopes were soon banned by local warriors against terrorism. One of the traditional pair along Krause Rd near **ONWR** was spotted 17 Jun by J. Lehman. Fall migration was underway 24-25 Jul, when M&D Dunakin reported as many as four in a **Paulding** pasture, S. Weaver one at **Funk** 28 Jul, while in **Hardin** R. Counts found one on the 30th, and B. Warner five the following day nearby.

Whimbrel: Just one reported, at **Conneaut** on 18 Jul (C. Holt).

Marbled godwit: One sighting, of three birds at **Conneaut** 9 Jul (A. Morrison).

Ruddy turnstone: Three sightings of this comparatively late fall migrant, with one on the 2 Jul ONWRC, one at **Funk** 28 Jul (S. Weaver), and two adults at **Conneaut** 31 Jul (C. Holt).

Sanderling: Two adults were early at **Conneaut** 11 Jul (C. Holt), and careful counts there of 23 (Holt) and 47 (B. Roysel)--both on 18 Jul--demonstrate the volatility of shorebird numbers at this site in migration. Two were found inland, one at **Funk** 21 Jul (S. Weaver), and on the **BCSP** beach 22 Jul (D. Overacker).



This sanderling shows the relatively briefly-held deep red colors of breeding birds. Photo by Lana Hays 25 July at Conneaut

Semipalmated sandpiper:

Five stragglers were at **Conneaut** 3 Jun (C. Holt), and eight on the 10th (J. Pogacnik), while one lingered on the beach at **BCSP** 4 Jun (D. Overacker). The first reported returnees were a duo in **Hardin** 6 Jul (R. Counts). The high count was 71 on 28 Jul at **Funk** (S. Weaver).

Western sandpiper: Their migration, never well detected, was bracketed by adults found at **ONWR** 4 Jun (T. Bartlett) and 23 Jul at **Conneaut** (J. Pogacnik).

Least sandpiper: Late to depart were ten at **Pipe Ck WA** 5 Jun (J. Lehman). Four in **Hardin** 20 Jun were probably returnees, followed by three 24 Jun at **Conneaut** (M. Vass), and single birds there (C. Holt) and in **Lorain** (G. Leidy) the 28th. High counts 30-40 at **Conneaut** 9 Jul (A. Morrison) and 55 at **Funk** 26 Jul (K. Kaufman *vide* B. Glick). An early juv arrived at **Conneaut** 18 Jul (Holt).

White-rumped sandpiper: Usually lingers, this summer with two in **Hardin** 5 Jun (C. Caprette) one at **Conneaut** 10 Jun (J. Pogacnik), and a bird at **Killbuck WA** as late as 20 Jun (S. Weaver), then a returnee 15 Jul at **Conneaut** (Pogacnik); adults continued there through 23 Jul (Pogacnik).

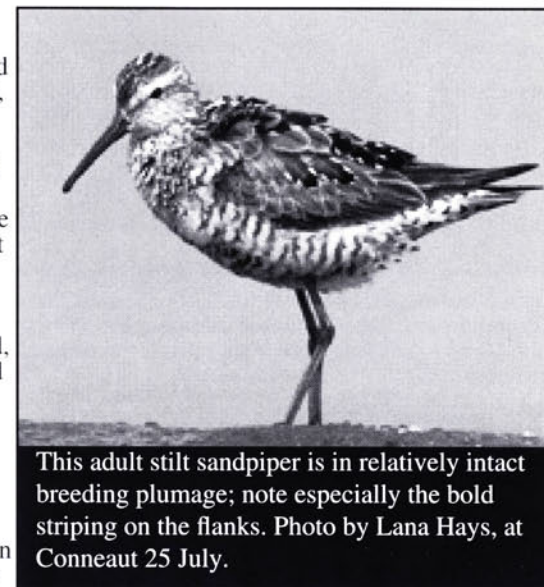
Baird's sandpiper: Only a few. A bird at **Conneaut** 29 Jul was identified as an adult (G. Malosh), and presumably so were single birds in **Hardin** 21 Jul (R. Counts) and near **ONWR** 28 Jul (K. Kaufman).

Pectoral sandpiper: No Jun reports, with the first coming 6 Jul in **Hardin** (R. Counts). Numbers at **Funk WA** grew to the high count of 245 on 26 Jul (K. Kaufman *vide* B. Glick).

Dunlin: Late departures on 4 Jun were two at **BCSP** (D. Overacker) and 11 for the ONWRC. As usual in recent years, an adult in alternate plumage frequented the **Ottawa NWR** area very early, first reported this year by K. Kaufman 21 Jul.

Stilt sandpiper: Adults trickled in during late July, the first the 15th near **ONWR** (K. Overman), then three at **Conneaut** the 18th (C. Holt), two in **Wyandot** (R. Counts) and two in **Conneaut** the 20th, where another showed up the 23rd (J. Pogacnik).

Short-billed dowitcher: First detected was a single bird in **Hardin** 3 Jul (R. Counts), then at **Conneaut** four the next day (C. Holt) and 14 on 9 Jul (A. Morrison), and five at **Funk WA** the 12th (S. Snyder). A wave of 250 touched down near **ONWR** 15 Jul (K. Overman). C. Holt reported one of the locally very scarce eastern *griseus* race at **Conneaut** 18 Jul. No reports of juveniles were received, as is normal for the period.



This adult stilt sandpiper is in relatively intact breeding plumage; note especially the bold striping on the flanks. Photo by Lana Hays, at Conneaut 25 July.

Long-billed dowitcher: A single report of this later-migrating dowitcher, an alternate adult, came from **Conneaut** 26 Jul (B. Coulter, m obs, ph).

Wilson's snipe: One was winnowing 4 June for the **ONWR** census team, interestingly enough. Still more unexpected was one at a **Pickaway** wetland 11 Jun (B. Whan et al.). One 2 and 3 Jul in **Hardin** was earlyish for a migrant (R. Counts). Apparently southbound were birds 16 Jul near **ONWR** (K. Kaufman) and in **Hancock** 18 Jul (B. Hardesty). J. Pogacnik reported one possible nesting in the **Lake** MPs this year, and more from the NE doubtless went unreported.

Wilson's phalarope: Ohio's fourth nesting locale for this species was recorded at a **Hardin** wetland. R. Counts noted a pair there 4 Jun, where G. Stauffer found three 13 Jun. A female, a male, and two juveniles were observed there 16 Jul (Counts). Elsewhere, a migrant juv was near **ONWR** on the latter date (K. Kaufman).

Laughing gull: A hatch-year bird visited **Kelleys Isl** 17 Jul (T. Bartlett).

Franklin's gull: One visited **BCSP** 4 Jun (D. Overacker), and another/others a **Findlay Res** 20 Jun and 11 Jul (immature, B. Hardesty).

Bonaparte's gull: A few non-breeding birds hung around the Lake. An ad was at **Kelleys Isl** 11-16 Jun (T. Bartlett), while at **Conneaut** two apparent summering birds were present 3 Jun (C. Holt), then seven on 10 Jun (J. Pogacnik), nine on 24 Jun (M. Vass), and 11 on 3 Jul (Vass).

Ring-billed gull: C. Holt reported the first juvenile out on its own at **Conneaut** 28 Jun, and R&S Harlan found two in a flock of 45 in **Medina** two days later. A flock of 150 at **Caesar Ck SP** on 19 Jul included three juveniles (L. Gara). By 29 Jul, 300 ring-bills were at **BCSP** (D. Overacker).

Herring gull: First reported as juveniles 18 Jul, at **Conneaut** (C. Holt).

Lesser black-backed gull: At **Conneaut**, a second-year individual was present 15 Jul (J. Pogacnik), and a first-summer on 31 Jul (C. Holt). P. Chaon reported this species 30 Jul from the **Kelleys Isl** ferry.

Great black-backed gull: After 10 on 3 Jun (C. Holt), seen as singletons at **Conneaut** during Jun, with one there the 3rd (Holt) and another the 10th (J. Pogacnik). T. Bartlett reported a second-year bird at **Kelleys Isl** 17 Jul.

Caspian tern (newly *Hydroprogne caspia*): Unusual were two adults seen at **BCSP** 9 (C. Schooley) and 16 Jun (D. Overacker). Two at **Conneaut** on 3 Jul were ahead of schedule (M. Vass), and may have been non-breeders. The first juvenile was found there 31 Jul (C. Holt).

Black tern (note new position in taxonomic order): At **Metzger Marsh**, scene of recent nestings, J. Lehman noted two on 5 Jun and C. Spagnoli 3-4 on 10 Jun; C. Caldwell had the high count of eight there 15 Jul. Unusual were three at **Killbuck Marsh** 3 Jun (S. Snyder) and another bird 9 Jun (R. Counts) in **Hardin**, where M. Studebaker found three on 20 Jun. At **CPNWR**, another sometime nesting spot, one was seen 10 Jun (E. Tramer), but none on two subsequent visits. Post-breeding movements went mostly unnoticed this summer, with single birds at **BCSP** 22 Jul (D. Overacker) and **Kelleys Isl** 30 Jul (P. Chaon)

Common tern: The 4 Jun **ONWRC** found 110 at the supported nesting colony there; production numbers were not available at press time, but apparently predation by great horned owls affected them significantly (R. Huffman). Lowering Lake levels may expose offshore islands and bars that were this species' natural breeding areas in days gone by. A dispersing individual was at **Funk WA** by 22 Jul (S. Snyder).

Forster's tern: The 4 Jun **ONWRC** found one, and C. Spagnoli three over **Metzger** on 10 Jun, where C. Caldwell found two 15 Jul. One touched down at **Conneaut** 18 Jul (C. Holt). Inland, four were at **Funk** 28 Jul (S. Weaver).

Yellow-billed cuckoo (note new position in taxonomic order): By all accounts spottily numerous around the state this year. On 28 Jun, C. Holt reported his first ever for **Conneaut**, and double-figure counts came from **Jaite** in **Cuyahoga** 12 Jun with 10+ (D. Chasar) and **Kelleys Isl** 17 Jul with 10 (T. Bartlett). On the latter date R. Thorn reported this species as "common in narrow riparian strips south of **Columbus**."

Black-billed cuckoo: Less common than yellow-billed (the SCBC's ratio of 31 to 7 was typical), and similarly patchy in distribution, it still did not experience a bad year.

Common nighthawk: E. Tramer's remark about its status in the **Toledo** area, "absent from formerly reliable nesting sites," applied to many other areas as well. Eleven found in all of **Summit** 16-25 Jun by the SCBC, for example, is not encouraging, and Holt called his findings in the NE "pitiful." Increasingly, it seems our migrant nighthawks, their numbers still fairly strong, are Canadian birds.

Chuck-will's-widow: No surprising occurrences were reported this year. Chucks nest in perhaps half a dozen southern counties, but usually go unreported except in **Adams**, where observers are used to seeking them. The new OBBA should, one hopes, further clarify their breeding range.

Whip-poor-will: Declining in once-productive areas like the **Clear Creek Valley** in **Hocking**, where veteran observer J. Fry heard but one this summer, on 29 Jun; little obvious habitat change has occurred at this location, except perhaps maturation of forest edge.

Chimney swift: Having noticed 1000+ in late May at a building in **Wadsworth**, R&S Harlan found unusual numbers there later: 365 on 6 Jul, and 425 on 26 Jul, surprisingly large roosts for those dates. See *Further Afield* for more details.

Yellow-bellied sapsucker: This regular NE breeder went under-reported as usual, but G. Leidy did find three breeding pairs in **Ashtabula**, two on 12 Jun and one on 15 Jun; also reporting **Ashtabula** pairs were J. Pogacnik (three) and N. Barber (one). D. Cole reported a **Trumbull** bird, and Pogacnik eight in the **Lake** MPs during the period.



One of the least flycatchers Gabe Leidy found nesting near Hiram in Geauga Co. Photo by Gary Meszaros, 25 Jun.

Yellow-bellied flycatcher: One touched down at **CPNWR** as late as 10 Jun (E. Tramer).

Acadian flycatcher: High counts included eleven in the **Cuyahoga Falls** area 20-21 Jun (T&M Romito), and seven in a small park in **Wadsworth** 6 Jun (R&S Harlan).

Alder flycatcher: Well-represented in the north, with high counts of six in **Ashtabula** 15 Jun (G. Leidy) and eight probable territories in the **Lake** MPs (J. Pogacnik). Seen in migration as late as 7 Jun in **Columbus** (R. Thorn), with—as last year—southerly outposts at **Cedar Bog** in **Champaign** (several pairs 20 Jun, J. McCormac), and **Clear Ck MP** in **Hocking** (two 2 Jun and one 22 Jun, J. Watts).

Willow flycatcher: Also a bit slow to arrive, numbers quickly swelled, with 38 seen on the 4 Jun ONWRC. D. Chasar observed “a good showing all period” at the **CVNP**.

Least flycatcher: Well-represented in the NE, with multiple reports from **Ashtabula**, **Medina**, **Portage**, **Geauga**, **Trumbull**, and **Cuyahoga**, with J. Pogacnik also noting 11 likely territories in the **Lake** MPs. Well outside the usual strongholds were at least four males in a **Williams** woodlot 20 Jun (J. Grabmeier, E. Tramer), one in **Coshocton** 19 Jun-25 Jul (L. Deininger), one at **Clear Ck MP** in **Hocking** as late as 22 Jun (J. Watts), and another in **Pickaway** 25 Jun (M. Gallaway).

Great crested flycatcher: The high count of nine came with the big early Jun wave of flycatchers on the 4th at **Ottawa** (ONWRC).

Eastern kingbird: The 4 Jun ONWRC tallied 34. Never prone to linger, by mid-Jul staging was underway, with 15 in a field in **Miami** the 13th (T. Shively) and 51 at **Kelleys Isl** the 17th (T. Bartlett). Some good observers regarded their overall numbers as depressed this year.

Scissor-tailed flycatcher: An adult of this species was well described from **Battelle-Darby MP** in **Franklin** 10 Jul. Several subsequent undocumented reports from this location were not wholly satisfactory. Details are with the OBRC. There is only one previous summer record of this species in the state, a male collected in **Adams** 16 Jun 1970.

Loggerhead shrike: One was spotted and photographed 15 Jun in **Highland**, where two were determined to be present later that day. An adult was verified carrying food 24 Jun, for our first shrike nesting in three years. Details with the OBRC.

White-eyed vireo: With few records in **Williams**, three were found there 20 Jun (J. Grabmeier).

Bell's vireo: Not found at once-traditional nesting sites near **BCSP**, where D. Overacker suggested vegetation may have matured enough to make sites there less inviting. The **Columbus** pair from the previous season nested, with three eggs observed 13 Jun (B. Warner). A single sighting came from **Campbell Ponds** in **Hamilton** 3 Jun (Neill Cade). A male showed up in **Darke** the same day, and after much serenading had attracted a female by 17 Jun (R. Schieltz). One of another pair found in **Greene** 11 Jun (J. Karlson *vide* Overacker) was carrying nesting material.

Yellow-throated vireo: Widely reported. D. Chasar remarked it had put on its “best showing in years” in the **CVNP**.

Blue-headed vireo: Likely the new Atlas will extensively redraw the map of this as a nesting species. Reports emerged from northeastern strongholds to be sure, where J. Pogacnik reported as many as 37 territories in the **Lake** MPs. C. Chasar reported “an outstanding year” for the **CVNP** (plus 4-5 singing males in **Brecksville Res'n** in **Cuyahoga**), and J. Dolan 10+ territories in a single walk in **Columbiana**. The **Hocking Hills** breeders are well known, but **Franklin**, **Delaware**, **Morgan**, **Scioto**, **Vinton**, and **Washington** reports this summer are new to the existing maps.

Purple martin: Large migratory flocks were reported in late Jul in the SW, with 200-300 at **Winton Wds** 27 Jul (J&J Stenger), and 2000+ in **Butler** the 30th (M. Busam).

Tree swallow: E. Tramer et al. witnessed flocks numbering “well over 4000” at **CPNWR** on 22 Jul.

Bank swallow: An early migrant was in **Holmes** 2 Jul (E. Schlabach). At **Conneaut** ~200 swarmed on 10 Jul (C. Holt), and S. Snyder noted 300+ staging at **Funk WA** two days later. By 22 Jul, 2700+ were to fly by **CPNWR** for the census team (E. Tramer).

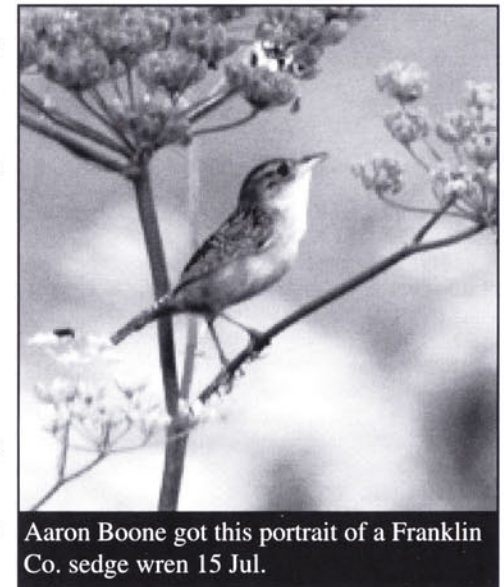
Cliff swallow: P. Yoder's farm was again the site of numerous warmly-welcomed breeders, with 400+ nests on his farm buildings in **Holmes** on 10 Jun (S. Snyder); nearby, his rival A. Troyer had approximately as many in **Wayne**: we're not taking sides.

Barn swallow: Not as prone as other swallows to move en masse, ~100 nevertheless gathered over the **VOA** site in **Butler** 12 Jul (M. Busam)

Red-breasted nuthatch: Though missing from some expected spots, nested sparingly across the NE, with a high count of seven at **Horseshoe Pond** in the **CVNP** 8 Jul (G. Leidy). In the NW, nested in **Oak Openings MP** in **Lucas**, and observed in the **Maumee SF** in **Henry** in June (T. Kemp).

Brown creeper: Atlas work resulted in nesting reports ranking from possible to confirmed from **Ashland** (three at **Mohican SF**), **Ashtabula**, **Cuyahoga**, **Delaware**, **Greene** (“several”), **Lake** (3 in MPs), **Mahoning**, **Portage** (2), **Summit** (2), and **Trumbull** (2). High count seven at **Killbuck** 20 Jun (S. Weaver).

Winter wren: The spring's lonely male in **Dublin** last sang 1 Jun (G. Fluke). At least one territory was located in the **Mohican SF** during the period (B. Glick), and from the **Lake** MPs J. Pogacnik reported six possible nesting sites, 13 probable ones, and three confirmed, most commonly in hemlock bluffs.



Aaron Boone got this portrait of a Franklin Co. sedge wren 15 Jul.

Sedge wren: The high count of migrants was 21 for the 4 Jun ONWRC. Vigilance on behalf of the Atlas produced records of singing males from at least *Ashtabula, Darke, Franklin, Geauga, Hardin, Holmes, Huron, Lake, Logan, Lorain, Lucas, Medina, Miami, Muskingum, Paulding, Portage, Trumbull, Van Wert, Wayne, Williams,* and *Wood* during the period.

Marsh wren: Again, the 4 Jun ONWRC provided the high count, including migrants no doubt, of 21, but also reported 20 at the Refuge on 2 Jul. At least four pairs at the small marsh at **Jaite** in *Cuyahoga* was a nice concentration (D. Chasar), as were the same number at **Conneaut** (C. Holt). C. Caldwell noted the species' ability to adapt to *Phragmites* in reporting six at **Medusa Marsh** 15 Jul. Other reports emanated from marshes in *Ashland, Columbiana, Erie, Lorain, Ottawa, Richland, Sandusky, Summit,* and *Wayne*.

Golden-crowned kinglet: P. Coy reported a male in the **CVNP** 11 Jun. One was singing in the **Mohican SF** 6 Jul (B. Glick). One was reported during the 16-25 Jun SCBC. J. Pogacnik reported probable nesting during the period at **Chapin Forest MP** in *Lake*.

Veery: In more southerly islands of habitat, large counts of 15 singing males were detected 30 Jun in the **Mohican SF** (B. Glick), and 20 in **Clear Ck MP** in *Hocking* (J. Watts). Intriguing reports of single birds from still farther south came from near **Cowan Lk** in *Clinton* 8 Jun (B. Powell) and in *Greene* 17 Jun (T. Spahr).

Swainson's thrush: Bringing up the rear was one singing in *Montgomery* 3 Jun (D. Dister).

Hermit thrush: Two birds were in **Brecksville Resn** 21 and 23 Jun (D. Chasar). J. Pogacnik found one nest, and suspected five others, in the *Lake* MPs during the period. Three singing males were found in **Mohican SF** 3 Jun (B. Glick). From *Hocking*, J. Watts reported five in the MPs, and four others were reported in the SPs there (m obs).

American pipit: Two were still on their way exceptionally late on 4 Jun, found by the **Ottawa NWR** census team (E. Pierce).

Cedar waxwing: The 4 Jun ONWRC produced 151 migrants. The high mid-summer count was ~40 in **Clermont** 24 Jun (B. Hart).

Blue-winged warbler: Some veteran observers reported them down in numbers. We do not know how Katrina may have impacted southbound trans-Gulf migrants last fall. G. Leidy reported one mated with a "Brewster's" warbler in **Summit** 10 Jul, with two hybrid young noted.

Golden-winged warbler: A male singing at the end of Jun in **Morgan Swamp** in *Ashtabula* could not later be relocated (J. Pogacnik).

Northern parula: Birds north of the strongholds included: in the first week of Jun, one in *Logan*, three in *Miami*, and one in *Darke* (all T. Shively), one in **Columbus** 12 Jun (R. Royse), several at **Cedar Bog** in *Champaign* 20 Jun (J. McCormac), two heard in *Paulding* as late as 30 Jun where the species has been found for three years (M&D Dunakin), three singing at **Mohican SP** 26 Jun (R&S Harlan), a bird singing in the **Brecksville Res'n** 20 Jun and a pair that fledged young at **Station Rd** in the **CVNP** (D. Chasar).

Yellow warbler: Little **Kelleys Isl** hosted 153 on 17 Jun for the local census (T. Bartlett). R. Harlan noted the first southbound migrants in *Medina* 10 and 13 Jul, and C. Holt one at **Conneaut** 18 Jul; E. Schlabach noticed birds on the way south in *Holmes* on 20, 28, and 30 Jul.

Chestnut-sided warbler: Mostly a sparse nester in the north, out of the way reports came via a male singing at **Mohican** 3 Jun (B. Glick), a male Jun-long in Toledo's **Oak Openings** (E. Tramer), males at two *Medina* locations 10 and 25 Jun (R&S Harlan), one noted in *Coshocton* 19 & 20 Jun (L. Deininger), and two from **Clear Ck MP** in *Hocking* (J. Watts).

Magnolia warbler: J. Pogacnik noted 22 in the *Lake* MPs as possible, probable, or confirmed nesters. In the traditional **Hinckley MP** location in *Medina*, T. Martincic witnessed an adult carrying food 16 Jul. A male on territory for two weeks in **Toledo** was missed by 10 Jun (R. Nirschl). One was singing in **Mohican SF** 26 Jun (R&S Harlan). K. Ricks had one in **Akron** 12 June, and J. Dolan another in *Columbiana* the 15th. Three territories were in the **Clear Ck MP** in *Hocking* (J. Watts).

Cape May warbler: In **Toledo**, one was still singing in spruces on 2 Jun (M. Anderson).

Black-throated blue warbler: One singing in **Mohican** 3 Jun was not refound (B. Glick).

Yellow-rumped warbler: Quite late, one in *Holmes* 10 Jun (K. Kaufman *vide* B. Glick) was not refound.

Black-throated green warbler: In the *Lake* MPs, 34 were regarded as possible nesters or better (J. Pogacnik). Fifteen were tallied in **Clear Ck MP** (J. Watts).

Blackburnian warbler: No reports, positive or negative, were received on the traditional nesters in *Hocking*. One singing 3 Jun in **Mohican** could not be relocated (B. Glick).

Yellow-throated warbler: In unusual spots were two-three in *Logan*, four or more in *Miami*, and three in *Darke* the first week of Jun, too late for migrants (all T. Shively). Eight nests were located in **Mohican** during the period (B. Glick). One was singing in **Toledo** 8 Jun (M. Anderson). J. Pogacnik found eight possible or better nesters in the *Lake* MPs during the period.

Pine warbler: Mostly a southern species, one was near **Wilmot** 3 Jun (W. Sarno), with 4-6 singing in **Mohican** in Jun (B. Glick) along with 10+ males near **Nimisila Res** (R&S Harlan), three territories near **Meander Res** (C. Babyak), and three pairs probably breeding in the *Lake* MPs (J. Pogacnik).

Prairie warbler: L. Gardella counted 40+ while driving one road in **Adams** 12 Jun. Seven pairs were along one trail in **Clear Ck MP** in *Hocking* 2 Jun (J. Watts). Way out in very glaciated Ohio, two were in *Miami* during the first week of Jun (T. Shively).

Palm warbler: One lingered in Dayton's **Englewood MP** as late as 3 Jun (C. Schooley)

Blackpoll warbler: The usual laggards included birds in **Butler** 2 Jun (M. Busam) and **Conneaut** the next day (C. Holt), but a singing male at **Chestnut Ridge MP** in *Fairfield* on 17 Jun (E. Reiner) was a shock.

Cerulean warbler: Numbers seem healthy, knock on wood, and the Atlas will furnish some good ones eventually. In well-covered strongholds, 49 were in the **Lake MPs** (J. Pogacnik), and 39 at **Clear Ck MP** in **Hocking** (J. Watts).

Black-and-white warbler: Notable records included one in **Logan** 7 Jun (T. Shively), one in **Franklin** 6 Jun (C. Morrow), one 7 Jun and 7 Jul in **Coshocton** (L. Deininger), several in **Mohican** during the period (B. Glick), and 14 possible or better as nesters in the **Lake MPs** (J. Pogacnik).

American redstart: During the period, **Clear Ck MP** harbored 41 (J. Watts), **Mohican** two singing males (B. Glick), and **Kelleys Isl** seven on 17 Jun (T. Bartlett).

Prothonotary warbler: Showed up, but did not persist, at some odd places in Jun. Elsewhere, a ten-mile trip along the upper reaches of the **Cuyahoga R** yielded 15 for C. Pierce 10 Jun. C. Bombaci's efforts in southern **Delaware** along the upper shores of **Hoover Res** peaked at a remarkable record 141 territories 8 Jul, many with fledged birds by then; by 24 Jul none were to be found there (CB).

Worm-eating warbler: A male was found on **Kelleys Isl** the week of 11-16 Jun (T. Bartlett). Three were detected in **Mohican** 26 Jun (R&S Harlan). SCBC surveyors found one in **Summit** for the second summer in three decades.

Ovenbird: L. Gardella counted 30+ in **Adams** 12 Jun. Ten were heard in **Mohican** 22 Jun (B. Glick) during the summer. E. Schlabach noted an early migrant in **Tuscarawas** 30 Jul.

Northern waterthrush: E. Tramer spotted a straggler at **CPNWR** 10 Jun. More intriguing was a possible pair at **Rising Valley Pk** in **Medina** 18 Jul (G. Leidy). In the **Lake MPs**, J. Pogacnik found one probable and two possible nesting pairs during the period.

Louisiana waterthrush: Five were singing in **Mohican** 20 Jun (B. Glick). In the unglaciated western counties, T. Shively found two in **Logan** during the first week of Jun, and R. Nirschl one in **Williams** on the 20th.

Kentucky warbler: Seemed in normal numbers. Searchers in **Mohican** found a single nest (B. Glick). Two males in **Logan** 7 Jun were unusual (T. Shively).

Mourning warbler: In the belated category were three on the 4 Jun ONWRC, one in **Dayton** 9 Jun (J. Beale), and two 11-16 Jun on **Kelleys Isl** (T. Bartlett). A male in **Summit** 25 Jun was remarkable (D. Vogus). J. Pogacnik reckoned nesting probable in one case and possible in another in the **Lake MPs**.

Common yellowthroat: Fifty-two passed through **Ottawa** for the census team on 4 Jun.

Hooded warbler: B. Glick reported 15 singing in **Mohican** 3 Jun. Very scarce in the unglaciated area, but T. Shively found three in **Logan** the first week of Jun, one in **Paulding** 17 Jun was a first summer record there (D&M Dunakin), and J. Grabmeier found two males way up in **Williams** 20 Jun.

Wilson's warbler: Last reported passing through was one in **Darke** 3 Jun (R. Schieltz).

Canada warbler: In customary haunts, **Clear Creek MP** had seven (J. Watts),

Mohican five (B. Glick), and the **Lake MPs** as many as 11 singing males (J. Pogacnik).

Yellow-breasted chat: High count was 11 at **Shawnee Lookout** in **Cincinnati**, 3 Jun (D. Brinkman).

American tree sparrow: R. Hannikman found one at **Mentor Lagoons** 7 Jun for a new late Ohio record.

Clay-colored sparrow: K. Miller discovered a singing male in **Stark** 30 Jun, last seen 19 Jul. L. Gooch reported a territorial male in **Summit** 3&4 Jul. There is only one Ohio nesting record, but trends seem up for this species.

Field sparrow: Fifty-one poured through **Ottawa** during the 4 Jun census.

Vesper sparrow: Hangs on in the little habitat afforded it in agricultural areas. T. Shively reported it in "every field" he visited in **Van Wert** in June, and we may grant him the license of enthusiasm. J&J Stenger found eight 4 Jul in **Brown**, Ohio's southernmost outpost for this species (adjacent Kentucky has no confirmed breeding records in recent years). R&S Harlan reported seven on a BBS route in grasslands spanning **Lorain**, **Huron**, and **Ashland** counties 4 Jun.

Lark sparrow: In mid-Jul, birds were reported at a park in **Greene** close to **Dayton** (*vide* M. Busam). As for the **Oak Openings** colony, 12 birds flushed off Girdham Rd on 27 Jul (E. Tramer), arguing for a successful breeding season there.

Henslow's sparrow: Perhaps their inconspicuous song went undetected in years gone by, or perhaps they have genuinely established new breeding areas, but it seems work for the new Atlas will draw a much larger map of their presence.

Swamp sparrow: Perhaps one down in **Clinton** on Jun 8th was just passing through (B. Powell). The 4 Jun ONWRC counted 17, and R&S Harlan 15 around **Chippewa Lk** in **Medina** 30 Jun.

White-throated sparrow: E. Tramer found a straggler at **CPNWR** 10 Jun.

Dark-eyed junco: Unexpected but not unprecedented was one as late as 5 Jul down in **Columbus** (D. Snapp). D. Chasar called several pairs in **Brecksville Res'n** their "best year ever." R. Rickard observed a pair with three young in **S. Chagrin Res'n** 24 Jul. R&S Harlan had a singing male in **Mohican** 26 Jun. **Summit** birds were reported by K. Miller 11 Jul and G. Leidy 21 Jul. Numbers increased farther north, capped by 107 (possible, probable, and confirmed) territories in the **Lake MPs** (J. Pogacnik).



Kent Miller took this portrait of a clay-colored sparrow that spent at least 30 Jun-19 Jul singing in a Stark Co field.

Rose-breasted grosbeak: This northern species nested about as far south in the state as you can get, with a nest at **Shawnee Lkout** in **Cincinnati** 3 Jun (D. Brinkman), one in **Scioto SF** 2 Jul (D. Overacker), and an imm west of **Cincinnati** 23 Jul (N. Keller).

Blue grosbeak: Present in good numbers at the usual locales, including Toledo's **Oak Openings** at the northernmost point, where as many as five were reported. The only new frontier seemed to be **Logan**, where T. Shively found a pair 28 June and a pair at another location the following day.

Dickcissel: A heavy incursion this year, with reports from 39 counties and doubtless present in many more, appearing as far east as **Lake, Gallia,** and **Muskingum**. G. Links reported 17 pairs in a 3.5-acre field in **Wood**, with some nests only 70 meters apart.

Bobolink: More widely reported than usual, perhaps because of increased scrutiny of fields by Atlas participants. S. Snyder reported migrants were already staging by 19 Jul, with 35 at **Funk WA**.

Eastern meadowlark: Encouraging were 100+ in nw **Williams** 18 Jun (E. Tramer).

Western meadowlark: The male singing in **Wayne** since 16 May was joined by a female, with up to five young fledged from the nest. The female was judged to be of the same species (K. Kaufman *vide* B. Glick), a fairly remarkable coincidence in eastern Ohio. Fewer than usual reports came from the NW, with a bird in **Perrysburg** present since 12 Jun (P. Chad).

Yellow-headed blackbird: Beginning with the 4 Jun ONWRC, reports of single males emerged sporadically from the **Ottawa/Cedar Pt** area through the period, and it was thought a few birds had returned to the cattail patch in ONWR where they nested last year.

Orchard oriole: Leading the way were two southbound migrants detected in **Holmes** 29 Jul (E. Schlabach).

Purple finch: Twenty-seven apparent nesting pairs were reported from **Lake, Geauga,** and **Ashtabula** (OBBA). Farther south, two singing males were found in **Mohican** during the period (B. Glick), C. Holt had one in **Mahoning** 5 Jun, and B. Evans reported an out-of-the-way encounter with a male in **Muskingum** 11 Jun.

Pine siskin: Two seen well at a feeder in **Brown** 11 Jul were surprising but not unprecedented (B. Stevenson).

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Barb Keykens captured this amazing photograph on 14 June. She was able to witness and video tape a nest of killdeer eggs hatching at her home in **Logan**.

Further Afield

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Some Summer Conundrums

or

Block-busters, Roosters, and Floaters

The right way...the best way...the only way...we like to think we know the answers, but in truth, these are often questions best left for the future to decide. I cringe at the blathering of instant experts, and masters with all the answers. Birding, like just about everything else in life, is seldom an exact science, or defined by clear-cut black and white. Let's leave black-and-white to *Mniotilta varia*. Let's instead attempt to shed some light on a few gray-shaded topics where the right answer isn't always obvious, or known, or knowable--where only time, and maybe a little research, will tell.

Our first topic is the new Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II, scheduled to run from 2006 through 2010. And no, I don't have the answers, only questions. It's hard to believe that 19 years have passed since the first Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas (now out of print, but on line at www.ohiobirds.org/obba2/pdfs/pdfselect.php) shut its doors back in 1987. Experiences gained while surveying for the first Atlas still remain vividly etched in my mind, and I learned so much in the process. Considering that I didn't get involved until its second-to-last year, I'm almost envious of the young birders now deftly taking advantage by becoming involved in the inaugural year of the new Atlas. Get out and explore places you would otherwise never go—both the unusual and the ordinary. Only then will you begin to appreciate what too many birders overlook, and are all the poorer for as a result—that birding is not just migration periods and Christmas Bird Counts—birding is all year long. Let the summer birds sing, and from now on let's listen.

But what is the right way, or the best way, to accomplish a task as herculean as a statewide breeding bird atlas? I have my own ideas and feelings, but in truth I don't know the best way. I also don't envy the responsibilities taken on by Paul Rodewald (OBBA II Project Director) and Aaron Boone (Project Coordinator), but I trust they will skillfully address whatever conundrums come their way. You can view their progress online at www.ohiobirds.org/obba2/, and read it here over years to come.

First off, it is immediately apparent that OBBA II planners have carefully studied atlas projects elsewhere, in addition to the first atlas project here in Ohio (1982-87), in order to capitalize on successes and to minimize shortcomings. A great deal of thought has obviously gone into formulating the OBBA II *Atlas Volunteer Handbook*, which is about as informative and complete as one could expect, given that gray areas are always bound to develop. Some fun gray areas are considered in the Atlas's online discussion forum, at www.ohiobirds.org/obba2/forum/index.php.

My primary focus here deals with how the new Atlas differs from the original. As one might expect, the goals of both projects run nearly parallel: to document the status and distribution of all birds nesting in Ohio during their

Harlan

respective survey periods; to provide accurate and detailed information on rare nesters; to identify habitats supporting significant birdlife; and to provide baseline data to help better gauge future changes in status and distribution. The original Atlas listed two additional goals—to provide data for the development of environmental impact statements, and to involve Ohio birders in a cooperative effort of scientific value.

OBBA II adds four more goals of its own—to survey all blocks in the state; to assess changes in the distribution of Ohio nesters since the conclusion of the first Atlas; to provide new measures of abundance of nesting birds across the state; and to collect data on species difficult to survey, such as owls and wetland species.

I find it curious that both projects place distinct emphasis, and channel significant effort, towards upgrading breeding status (from Possible, to Probable, to Confirmed in the original, and from Observed, to Possible, to Probable, to Confirmed in OBBA II), but neither project specifically lists this function as one of its primary goals. As time ran short for the first Atlas, the desire for confirmation took a back seat to the more fundamental goal of ensuring adequate coverage for each priority block—a basic prerequisite which proved difficult to secure, despite the efforts of 632 atlasers who supplied over 30,000 hours to survey 764 priority blocks.

Given the enthusiasm of OBBA II to survey all blocks in the state (numbering 4584, or 4437, or 4434, depending on which source is consulted), I think we can expect a shift in focus away from confirmation towards adequacy of coverage as the project nears completion. Even if we use the lowest published total of blocks (4434) to be covered, this still amounts to surveying *over 5.8 times* the number of blocks surveyed in the original Atlas. This will take a massive and well-focused effort, although four years worth of hired atlas workers and intensive localized “block-busting” weekends should help greatly.

Fortunately, OBBA II has several other advantages over the original that will also assist in this goal. The original Atlas had 632 volunteers over the course of the project, while as of 1 September 2006, OBBA II already had 401 registered participants. Hopefully, this number will continue to grow as each year passes.

OBBA II has another huge advantage—its presence on the internet. The internet played no role for the original Atlas, which took place in the prehistoric period of 1982-87. Not only does the OBBA II web site provide quick and easy access for on-line birders, it allows volunteers to view continuously updated maps of Ohio, which depict “owned” blocks, coverage of overall species per block, and coverage of individual species per block. A quick look at the map of “owned” blocks reveals that coverage is already committed (but not necessarily already provided) for most large urban areas and their close surroundings, and that huge gaps in coverage exist in most rural areas, especially in the northwest and southeast quarters of the state. With this data available, an OBBA II volunteer can easily see where efforts are most needed. The original atlas never had this luxury—instead of being instantly available, results were not accessible until the hard copy of Bruce G. Peterjohn & Daniel L. Rice's *The Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas* appeared in 1991. My understanding is that folks at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Cincinnati's Ned Keller deserve special kudos for their work in making the internet functionality of OBBA II possible and practical.

I wonder, though, if this focus on internet accessibility has “left behind” some original atlasers, despite efforts to avoid this possibility. According to 2005 statistics, about 22% of American adults have never accessed the internet, or sent an e-mail (see www.pewinternet.org/pdfs/PIP_Digital_Divisions_Oct_-

5_2005.pdf for details). Does this same statistic accurately reflect original Ohio atlasers? I don't know, but I do get the impression from several original atlasers that the new Atlas, with its focus on the internet, holds a lesser appeal for them.* They miss the mailed hard-copy Atlas newsletters, and question whether enough effort has been made to directly contact original atlasers to seek their input and assistance, in order to provide continuity between the two projects. I can't answer these questions, but I do note that of the 38 Regional Coordinators listed for OBBA II, only 15 (39.5%) even participated in the original Atlas. This seems like quite a turnover, especially in a leadership position. Based on the quality of the birders listed, however, I think that leadership is solidly in place.

Another fundamental difference between the two projects is the concept of block ownership. Not addressed at all in the original Atlas, OBBA II allows for volunteers to sign up to "own" blocks, thereby agreeing to commit time and effort to adequately cover these blocks, to confirm as many species as possible, and to regularly submit data.

Although I understand the logic of block ownership, I must sheepishly confess that I am nevertheless uneasy with the idea. I attempted to sign up for ownership of four blocks this season—one was a priority block which I had heavily surveyed for the original Atlas, and another was a block that I have birded intensively all my life. I was hoping to work these blocks for the sake of familiarity and continuity; however, block ownership is apparently conferred on a first-come, first-served basis, and others were assigned ownership before I applied. I received ownership for the other two unassigned blocks, and have worked on these this past season.

But I didn't even visit my first two choices—blocks with which I am very familiar, but are now owned by others. Why? In order to avoid some vague sense of "poaching" on someone else's territory, I suppose. I also felt some indefinable sense of encroachment when others turned in data for the blocks I did own. Is this logical? Hardly. Is this foolish? Maybe. Do others feel the same way? I'll bet they do, knowing how frequently human nature intrudes on scientific endeavor. Or maybe I'm just illogical and foolish. Don't answer that....

Only time will tell how successfully OBBA II achieves its goals. But we can all help it do so.

My second conundrum of the summer actually began on the evening of 23 May, when my wife Sandy and I counted over 1000 chimney swifts *Chaetura pelagica* entering the tall brick chimney at the old Wadsworth Post Office in southeastern Medina County, a site known for its roosting swifts. Returning there the next night, we counted 600 birds going to roost.

* For those without internet access, here are other ways to contact OBBA leaders: Project Coordinator Aaron Boone, School of Environment and Natural Resources, Ohio State University, 210 Kottman Hall, 2021 Coffey Rd., Columbus, OH 43210-1085 (phone: (614) 247-6458; Project Director Paul G. Rodewald, School of Environment and Natural Resources, Ohio State University, 2021 Coffey Rd., Columbus, OH 43210-1085 (phone: (614) 292-9795.

Presumably, we're all familiar with the roosting behavior of chimney swifts in the fall, which often begin to accumulate in unused chimneys and air vents in mid-August. But I certainly wasn't as familiar with roosts in the spring. We again checked the Post Office on July 6, and tallied 365 birds heading to roost between 9:15 and 9:35 p.m., and again on July 26, when 425 swifts turned in between 9:02 and 9:17 p.m. So, mid-summer roosters were present as well.

Just how typical are spring and mid-summer chimney swift roosts in Ohio?

Peterjohn's *The Birds of Ohio* (2001) states nothing specifically about spring or mid-summer roosts, although he does mention large "concentrations" of 1000+ birds in Findlay, Cleveland, and Toledo during the first half of May. This didn't provide precise assistance, so further digging in the historical record revealed that these concentrations were indeed chimney roosts, and not simply large groups of diurnal migrants passing through these areas.

Despite being poorly documented, spring roosts do certainly occur in Ohio, especially between late April and mid-May. Some examples include 1000 roosting at the Toledo State Hospital 5/10/33; 1000+ entering the chimney at the old Phoenix Hotel in Findlay on 5/8/67; 1000 at the Willoughby Junior High School 5/23/70; 500+ at a school in Dublin 5/1/01; and 1000+ at a Chillicothe roost 5/2/05. Mid-summer roosts are harder to locate; in fact, the largest I have seen listed contained 400 birds entering a Dayton chimney 7/22/22.

It was time to consult Ohio's chimney swift authority, Ralph W. Dexter. Dexter (1912-1991) taught biology at Kent State University for 45 years, and studied the long-term life histories of the swifts nesting and roosting in the air vents at the KSU Biology Building from 1944 to the end of his life. In honor of Dr. Dexter, chimney swift emblems still adorn the KSU campus to this day.

Between 1944 and 1983, Dexter found 15 roosting flocks of 23+ swifts in the spring, but just one such roost in July. Spring roosts ranged from 26-305 birds (mean 68.6), and all were tallied between 2-20 May. Eight roosts occurred between 1945 and 1958, whereas seven occurred between 1975 and 1980, possibly indicating an increasing tendency to form roosts here in the spring. The only July roost consisted of 28 birds on 7/22/66. [For more details, see *The North American Bird Bander*, 1940, 15(2):53-56]

But what about spring and mid-summer roosts beyond Ohio? Paul & Georgan Kyle's book *Chimney Swifts: America's Mysterious Birds above the Fireplace* (2005) barely acknowledges the existence of spring or summer roosts. The extensive *Birds of North America* account by Calvin L. Cink and Charles T. Collins (2002) isn't of much help either, stating that soon after arriving in North America in March and April, swift pairs quickly separate from migrant flocks and head to their nest sites, although some non-breeders may remain in communal roosts throughout the summer. However, this account cites a maximum of only 40 birds comprising such a roost, a total that seems dwarfed by the numbers roosting at Wadsworth. According to Cink and Collins, summer roosts have apparently led to the mistaken idea that swifts may nest in colonies of many pairs, when actually only one pair (occasionally with the aid of helpers) nests in any given chimney or shaft.

Although these otherwise useful sources weren't of much specific value to us, there is substantial evidence of spring roosts in the ornithological literature. In one example, a study by John B. Calhoun and J.C. Dickinson, Jr. at Charlottesville, Virginia, swifts were found to roost there with about equal frequency in both spring and fall; the authors also noted that at many banding operations elsewhere, spring flocking was rarely detected. Operations at Charlottesville in spring 1938 banded 3874 swifts between 21 April and 15 May, while in spring 1939, 7512 swifts were banded between 27 April and 14 May. Individual swifts Calhoun and Dickinson, Jr. had banded were later recovered in Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, New Jersey, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, Ontario, and Quebec, indicating a wide range of dispersal. [See *Journal of Field Ornithology*, 1942, 13(2):57-69].

So, just how normal, and how common, are spring and mid-summer chimney swift roosts here in Ohio? We don't know. They certainly occur, but

we really don't have enough data to come to any definite conclusions. We are left with another conundrum—but one that could be resolved with a concerted group effort. Fall swift-watching projects are becoming quite popular—why not expand this coverage to include spring and mid-summer as well?

We offer one final summer conundrum for your consideration. We are all familiar with the notion that birds form and defend territories. These include feeding territories, winter territories, and of course, nesting territories.

Passerine birds typically use song to advertise their nesting territories, and to attract a mate. Many of our standard nesting season surveys use song to help gauge the populations of breeding birds, since it is generally easier for us to detect birds by song than by sight. But not all singers are equal. I have personally encountered this particular enigma here at our apartment complex in Norton, in southern Summit County. We have floaters. Lots of them.

Not those annoying little spots of vitreous debris that dart across your vision, or those buoyant bodies hauled ashore from the East River by the NYPD. No, I speak specifically of singing, but *non-territorial* males; unattached individuals who lurk on the sidelines, eagerly licking their chops in hopes that some tragedy should befall an attached male, causing a territorial opening to appear. Floaters seem to like it here in Norton.

Actually, floaters are probably present everywhere, but are simply not easily detected as such. They are, however, readily detected in the not-so-rich habitat surrounding our apartment, which consists of a thin strip of wet, dying woods behind us (about 25 yards deep), and a one-tree-wide border of large trees across the parking lot. I can sense your envy.

Typically, our floaters sing only once or twice, and then are never heard from again, as they wander past. Some are probably failed nesters, or late spring or early fall migrants, but most appear to be opportunistic ne'er-do-wells, awaiting their big chance to hit it big with a female on the rebound.

Even if no one else finds this interesting, I do, and therefore I will happily supply you with our entire June floater list. Behold: white-eyed vireo, 6/1/04; white-eyed vireo, 6/1/06; swamp sparrow, 6/6/06; wood thrush, 6/7-10/06; tree swallow, 6/10/04; rose-breasted grosbeak, 6/11/02; willow flycatcher, 6/11/05; brown thrasher, 6/12/04; yellow-throated vireo, 6/13/05; eastern wood-pewee, 6/15/02; great-crested flycatcher, 6/15/04; common yellowthroat, 6/17/02; scarlet tanager, 6/19/06; brown thrasher, 6/24-25/03; eastern wood-pewee, 6/28-30/05; blue-winged warbler, 6/28/06; Baltimore oriole, 6/29/06; and common yellowthroat, 6/30/05. I won't bother you with our July floaters. You can thank me later.

In a way, floaters represent a seldom detected, but viable contingency plan for nesting populations. A number of floater studies appear in the literature; a prominent example is provided by Robert E. Stewart and John W. Aldrich in their examination of a 40-acre plot of spruce-fir forest in northern Maine in 1949. First, the authors mapped the territories of males of all species between 6 June and 14 June, and determined that territorial males numbered 148. They then spent 130 hours removing, with 16-gauge shotguns, as many birds as possible from the area between 15 June and 8 July. By the end of the period, they had collected 302 territorial males from the plot, indicating that over twice as many males were ultimately removed as were present initially. "The rapid influx and establishment of new territorial males, following the removal of the former occupants, account for the large number of males collected..." report Stewart and Aldrich [see *The Auk*, 1951, 68:471-482].

That's a lot of floaters, or at least it was, before their abrupt "removal." Since I don't own a 16-gauge shotgun, I'd like to reassure any Norton-area floaters that they are welcome in my neighborhood. After all, what could be

Historical Status of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker *Campephilus principalis* in Ohio

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Abstract: Ohio presents a unique problem in assessing the former range of the ivory-billed woodpecker *Campephilus principalis*. There are four pieces of archaeological evidence for the occurrence of the species in the state, but historical records of the species are lacking in the ornithological literature. One is left to determine the validity of the archaeological evidence for its past occurrence, and to continue the search for historical evidence in the early settlement literature. This paper assesses archaeological and written evidence for the occurrence of the ivory-billed woodpecker in Ohio – more specifically the three areas of Ohio with evidence (Cincinnati, Muskingum County, and the Scioto River Valley) and concludes that the bird was most likely present in the state during the early days of European colonization.

Introduction: A variety of evidence is adduced to support the past occurrence of the ivory-billed woodpecker in Ohio. Most comes from archaeological discoveries in Native American sites in the state. Other evidence appears in records of the species from neighboring states. The state of the evidence leaves the issue incompletely resolved, although the species does appear on the official state checklist (Ohio Bird Records Committee 2005). Peterjohn (2001) accepts the species to the Ohio avifauna based solely on archaeological finds. Jackson (2006) accepts the species for Ohio, but appears more hesitant about the value of the archaeological evidence.

Records of historical occurrences of non-game bird species are not always easy to recover. Succeeding in such a search requires a number of coincidences, most beyond the modern researcher's control. First, few early explorers or settlers had enough interest in wildlife to identify correctly various species, making credible records of many birds understandably difficult to find and evaluate. Second, a reporter had to have noticed an encounter with a species of current interest, rather than the edible game in which early visitors were usually most concerned. Third, in order for it to enter the historical record, the witness had to write the encounter down or tell someone who would record it. Fourth, and perhaps most unlikely of all, a modern reader with an interest in birds must have the good fortune to find and report such a written reference to a particular species. With all these eventualities separating the modern ornithologist from historical events, one should not be surprised that early records are difficult to find and, once found, often unclear. Those problems grow still more difficult when investigating a species' status at the edge of its known range.

Even with records in hand, evaluating the historical record of the ivory-billed woodpecker in Ohio remains a fascinating puzzle. In considering the historical occurrence of a species, it is useful to have a plan of what constitutes admissible evidence and what weight can be granted to each of at least eight kinds of evidence that can be entertained in a discussion of ornithological records from the past (both prehistorical and historical):

1. A well documented specimen held in an accredited institution—this is the standard for scientific physical evidence. Hahn (1963) located 413 specimens of ivory-bills in collections around the world, 13 of them in Ohio. A distressing number of these specimens, nearly all skins, lack adequate documentation. None is known to have originated in Ohio.

2. Other modern physical evidence - documented and curated photographs or sound recordings serve the purpose of physical evidence as well. However, as the history of the ivory-bill demonstrates (such as George Lowery's photographs in 1971 [see Jackson 2006] and the current debate), photographs and recordings can sometimes be hotly debated and therefore of little value in establishing a record.
3. An acceptably documented sight record - This is the strongest kind of anecdotal evidence, and requires peer review to verify a rare sighting for the state. Among other things, a clear indication of date, observer, habitat, and a thorough description of the species are necessary to constitute this level of evidence.
4. Archaeological evidence - This category of evidence needs to be applied carefully because of the difficulty in knowing how archaeological evidence arrived at its current position in the record. In the case of birds with religious significance, parts may have been acquired in trade from neighboring areas. The main difficulty arises in ascertaining which body parts had this sort of value. Evidence from non-ritual uses (i.e. food), such as remains found in a midden, constitutes a strong reference to past local occurrence. The context in which the evidence was found must guide ascertainment of its value.
5. A sight reference--This is still strong historical evidence, and it might include a description of the species (even if lacking the in-depth quality one would require of a modern sight record) or a simple statement that the species occurred in a given location, without data and without description (clearly a poorer kind of evidence than a personal description). Vagueness in this sort of evidence often makes it less than convincing.
6. Sight record in a neighboring area - This category demands the same information as 3, but in this case comes from a neighboring state.
7. Reference in a neighboring area - This category demands the same level of information as 5, but comes from a neighboring state.
8. Habitat suitability - In the case of species with very specific habitat needs, this can be a powerful factor in inferring past occurrence. The ivory-billed woodpecker's habitat needs are incompletely known, apparently ranging from relatively open old growth forest (Tanner 1942), to thick swamplands (Audubon 1842), to Cuban upland pine forest (Dennis 1948; an additional complication arises because the Cuban form of the ivory-bill may constitute a distinct species [Fleischer et al. 2006]). Dennis, complicating the issue, claims this woodpecker was a "disaster species" (1967) and tended to wander to sites with a sufficient supply of food. Prehistoric Ohio would have had large areas of mature forests, which could feasibly have supported ivory-billed woodpeckers. However, without more consistent and reliable information on the species' preferred habitat and more specific descriptions of pre-colonial forests, this category is not useful to the present study and will not be included in later discussions.

A combination of more than one of the above eight categories for a single location lends greater weight to a claim of past occurrence there. An area with a claim from only a single category, unless from the first four categories, does not constitute a very sound historical claim of past occurrence. In the following, evidence (both historical and prehistorical) from Cincinnati, Muskingum County, and the Scioto River valley is reviewed. As a quick reference point, the above category number(s) best describing the kind of evidence from a given area is provided.

Cincinnati and vicinity (7): The presence of the ivory-billed woodpecker on the list of Ohio birds depended for many years upon reports of the species in adjacent Franklin County, Indiana. The fullest report of the species' status in

Indiana comes from Butler (1892):

Dr. Haymond notes it as a former resident of Franklin County, but says "none have been seen for many years." ...He informed me they formerly were found in the swampy woodland in the eastern part of the county about what were called the 'Beaver Ponds.' Prof. Evermann informs me that they were formerly found in Monroe County, also having been identified many years ago by the late Louis Bollman.

This record from Franklin County has a long history in the literature (Haymond 1869, Langdon 1879, Wheaton 1879, Butler 1885, Butler 1886, Hasbrouck 1891, Butler 1892, Dawson 1903, Jones 1903). In addition, Audubon (1842) and Baird et al. (1874) make enigmatic reference to the species nesting in Indiana, but raising only one brood in that northern part of their range.

There is also an apparently unnoticed previous reference to the species from near Vernon in Jennings County, Indiana, southwest of Franklin County. S. A. Ferrall (1832) writes that just before fording the Muscatatuck River:

I was awoke [sic] at sunrise by a 'white-billed woodpecker,' which was making the woods ring by the rattling of its bill against a tree. This is a large handsome bird, (the picus principalis of Linnaeus), it is sometimes called here the wood-cock.

The names "white-billed woodpecker" and "wood-cock" are well represented in other early records (Catesby 1754, Filson 1784, Wilson 1828), suggesting the validity of this record. This reference also adds credence to those from Franklin County.

Opinion in the literature is split as to whether the species can be admitted to Ohio's list on these grounds. Hasbrouck (1891) includes this part of Ohio just barely within a map of the species' range, but Tanner (1942) and Jackson (2002) do not. While the Franklin County records do suggest the strong possibility that the species occurred across the current political boundary, no firm evidence of that has been obtained, and the species' occurrence in the vicinity of Cincinnati remains hypothetical.

Muskingum County (4): One tarsometatarsus from an ivory-billed woodpecker was recovered near Philo, in Muskingum County. The bone was found in the Fort Ancient component of the site, which the authors suggest dates from 1170 to 1320 CE (Murphy and Farrand 1979). While the authors are unclear regarding the exact location of the find within the site, a previous sample from the site suggests it was a midden, a stratum containing cooking remains and other refuse from the village (Shane and Barber 1976).

The authors claim the find indicates a past range record for the species based on Wetmore's (1943) conclusion about a similar bone from Scioto County. They argue the foot was of no known interest to Native Americans,



Fig 3. This woodcut illustration accompanied Butler's 1892 account of the ivory-billed woodpecker in Indiana

and it was unlikely the entire bird would have been carried far from the place where it was killed. More recent reviews of Native American use of ivory-billed woodpeckers agree with the conclusion that legs were probably of no particular significance to the native tribes (Leese in press, Jackson 2006). A tarsometatarsus in a midden thus suggests more strongly that the bird was killed locally.

However, it is still necessary to rule out other possible explanations. For instance, one could also argue that the frequency with which leg bones have been recovered—three metatarsals in Ohio (see below) and one in Illinois (Parmalee 1967, Parmalee 1958)—suggests an as yet undescribed religious significance for ivory-bill legs. However, while ivory-billed woodpeckers certainly had symbolic religious significance among some Native American tribes, a review of their uses of ivory-billed woodpecker body parts in religious and cultural ritual supplies no evidence supporting special significance for ivory-bill leg bones (Leese, in press). Furthermore, the bone's position in a midden argues strongly against its religious significance since it was treated as common garbage.

Furthermore, with definite sight records from Kentucky (Mengel 1965, Leese 2006) and less definite records from West Virginia (Parmalee 1967, Hall 1983), one could argue that entire, dried woodpeckers were transported to the sites from these localities as food and that chance or some unknown practice has dictated the preponderance of leg bones in middens. Studies of similar sites in the Ohio Valley, however, have revealed no evidence of long-distance trade in foodstuffs from that era, although luxury or ritual items were traded (Griffin 1978), a pattern common across the continent (Bell 1947, Bryan 1964, Trigger 1978, Ford 1979). Also, the preponderance of metatarsals in the archaeological record is not surprising given that it is one of the larger, more durable elements in the avian skeleton. The simplest explanation for their presence is that the ivory-bill was killed and consumed locally like the rest of the animals whose remains were found in the midden. The Muskingum County record of the species seems very likely legitimate evidence of the species' former occurrence.

Scioto River Valley (4, 5, 6, and 7): The Scioto River Valley supplies the greatest amount of evidence for the past occurrence of the ivory-billed woodpecker in Ohio. Three archaeological finds, sightings of the species in nearby areas of Kentucky, and reference in local histories combine to present a strong case that the species once occurred in the area.

Three osteological finds from the Scioto River valley include a metatarsus from the Feurt Village site in Clay township, Scioto County (Wetmore 1943, Goslin 1945, McPherson 1950), a premaxilla (see Figure 1) found deeper in the middens at the same site (McPherson 1950), and another metatarsus from the Cramer Village site in Ross County (McPherson 1951). All three finds seem to come from the Fort Ancient culture and time period (Wetmore in his 1943 work treated this as fifteenth to sixteenth centuries CE, but recent studies suggest a wider time frame of 1000-1600 CE, [Griffin 1978]). As mentioned above, the presence of these bones in middens suggests they are

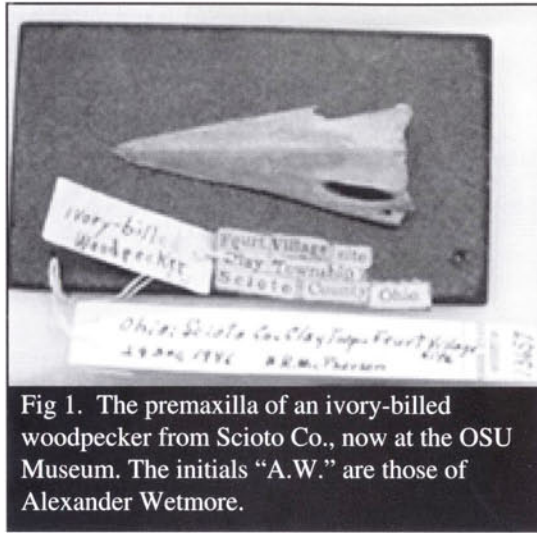


Fig 1. The premaxilla of an ivory-billed woodpecker from Scioto Co., now at the OSU Museum. The initials "A.W." are those of Alexander Wetmore.

the regular castoffs of local hunting rather than a highly valued trade item imported from the south (McPherson 1950). Although a premaxillary bone may represent a castoff from working a bill for ceremonial purposes, McPherson (1950) reports there "is no evidence that the mandible was ever used as an ornament" or that the bill was worked "for ceremonial or utilitarian purposes." In contrast, a cache of nine modified red-headed woodpecker *Melanerpes erythrocephalus* mandibles was discovered at an earlier Hopewell site (circa 50 BCE – 350 CE), Mound City in Ross County (Seeman 1988), where the position and modification of those bills indicates a value attached to them not apparent in the case of these ivory-bill remains. All three ivory-bill recoveries in the valley therefore suggest that the species formerly inhabited the Scioto River valley, at least as a vagrant. Three samples make a much stronger case for including the Scioto River valley in the species' Ohio range than does the single recovery from Muskingum County.

This conclusion is further supported by references and records from Kentucky. There is a clear ivory-bill record from Col. William Fleming, who saw two ivory-billed woodpeckers in March of 1780 in what is now Lincoln County (McKinley 1958; Schorger 1949), a county well away from bottomland swamp habitat often associated with ivory-bills. Filson (1784, see Leese 2006 for a full description) makes another early reference to the species, and his work's overall focus on the area of Kentucky bordering the Ohio River suggests that the ivory-bill may have been found in nearby areas as well. Like the records from Indiana, these Kentucky observations cannot be the last word on the species' status in Ohio, but they are at least suggestive of the species' wider range.

There are also some unsatisfying but still intriguing historical references to the ivory-billed woodpecker in the Scioto River Valley. Evans, in his history of Scioto County (1903), includes the "White Bill Woodpecker - *Picus Principalis*" on his list of "the birds and fowls found in the country when first visited by white men." The names, though out of date even when the volume was published, clearly refer to the ivory-billed woodpecker (Catesby 1754, Wilson 1828). Evans offers no documentation, but no archaeological remains had yet been recovered, so apparently he was privy to reports or stories of ivory-bills in the area even if he himself did not have direct experience.

Other references are more conjectural. Howard Jones, an ornithologist from Pickaway County, reports that the species "had left the Ohio country before the days of my boyhood" (1915). One might take Jones's report to mean only that he assumed the species had previously lived in the state, but he seems too scrupulous a reporter to simply make such a conjecture.

One of the earliest lists of southern Ohio birds, that of Rev. W. F. Henninger, does not include the species on his list of the birds of Scioto and Pike counties (1902a, 1902b, 1905a, 1905b). However, Henninger appears to have been presenting a list of birds he had personally observed, and may not



Three ivory-billed woodpeckers at the OSU Museum. The female in the center has been lying on its back for over a hundred years, and the crest, which should be pointing the other way, has been pressed flat.

have been interested in historical records from others.

The archaeological evidence in the Scioto Valley, combined with records from nearby areas and references in works covering the area, make a strong case that the ivory-billed woodpecker once lived in the area, at least as a vagrant species. While an early record from pioneer literature would strengthen the case further, the ivory-billed woodpecker should remain on the list of birds once found in the state of Ohio.

Conclusion: Of the three areas with possible ivory-bill records in Ohio, the Scioto River Valley presents the strongest case. Three sets of archaeological remains, reports and references from a neighboring area, and references in the area's historical literature (which merit further investigation) all combine to make a strong case that the species once lived there, possibly up to and including the early settlement era. The Cincinnati records are in consequence perhaps more likely given that the Scioto River Valley contains so much evidence, upstream from Cincinnati and presumably closer to the northern limit of the species' range. The Muskingum County evidence is also strong, but is supported by only one piece of archaeological evidence. While better evidence, a historical record with a description of the species within the state, remains elusive if non-existent, the species should remain on the list of Ohio birds with its place now more firmly established.

Acknowledgments and note: Paul Gardner provided very helpful comments on the archaeological dimensions of this paper. Eloise Potter read and commented on a draft of the manuscript, and Bill Whan did research in the Ohio Historical Society's library to help with this project.

Ohio's four pieces of archaeological evidence are held in a number of museums throughout the country. The tarsometatarsus from Muskingum County (Murphy and Farrand 1979) is at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City (AMNH 11016). The premaxilla from Scioto County (McPherson 1950) is held at the Ohio State University's Museum of Biodiversity (#13657) and is pictured in Figure 1. The metatarsus from Scioto County (McPherson 1950, Goslin 1945, Wetmore 1943) is at the United States National Museum at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. (USNM 346595). The author has not been able to find the current location of the metatarsus from Ross County (McPherson 1951).

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An Ohio Bird Specimens Database

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Avians may be the best known of the classes of animals, with nearly all its 10,000+ species taxa already described for science. Aided for centuries by the largest cohort of enthusiastic amateurs in biology, ornithologists have amassed an impressive body of knowledge about bird distributions, populations, movements, and natural history. Rare indeed is the well-informed birder without numerous opportunities to contribute to data-collection projects involving these aspects of bird study. Still, one source of knowledge largely contributed by non-professionals has withdrawn into relative obscurity: the museum collection.

There are said to be over five million bird specimens in North American museums. Data from these organized collections of birds are permanent, verifiable, and well documented; they also provide unique historical perspectives available nowhere else. University-based researchers, and those who fund them, have increasingly tended to ignore entire organisms in their natural environments in favor of narrower aspects of their biology, often ignoring the treasure-trove of information specimens represent. Long gone are the days when most ornithological work took place among orderly trays of study skins, but however the tides of academic fashion may shift, museums should have an important role to play in biological research.

One of the authors recently learned from the curator of an Ohio museum that in recent years researchers had rarely consulted its collection of birds' eggs—one of the twenty largest in North America—except when interested in changes in the thickness of eggshells over time. This interest had doubtless been aroused by concern over the effect of DDT and related chemical contaminants on certain species. Such data were available in no other kind of setting, and this and allied research resulted in domestic bans on DDT, and consequent recoveries of raptor populations.

A largely overlooked use of museum collections involves bird records. Collections provide verifiable physical evidence of the historical occurrence of species, subspecies, age classes, and hybrids, color morphs, and other variants. They can supply extreme dates of occurrence, distributional changes over time, accidental or even first records, and ways to verify modern reports. Collections grow in importance in the current era of "splitting" because they verify the historical occurrence of newly-recognized forms (the cackling goose is an example). Identification problems that can be solved by the timing of migration and molt—among several shorebird species for example—are best studied among specimens. Regrettably, until recently most institutions had no searchable inventories of specimens to enable a ready source for such data.

Peterjohn relied upon published data for bird records for *The Birds of*

Ohio (2001), supplementing them with personal observations and certain reports submitted during his tenure as regional editor of *American Birds* between 1981 and 1992. Though few of these data had been peer-reviewed in a formal sense, taken as a whole and vetted by Peterjohn they constitute a trustworthy store of knowledge as to the overall abundance and distribution of Ohio's birdlife over the past ~175 years. Though many surprises no doubt await us, this knowledge is quite impressive compared to that we possess for most organisms.

Peterjohn was the first major describer of Ohio's avifauna whose knowledge was not founded on a study of specimens. All his predecessors collected birds extensively, and relied heavily on the study of personal and museum collections to inform their work. In earlier days, knowledge of the abundance and distribution of birds, and the phenology of their reproduction and migration, was largely documented with specimens. Until the late 19th century, with the establishment of a collection at Oberlin, specimens documenting Ohio records remained either in the cabinets of private collectors (often lacking good documentation or curation, and with most eventually consigned to the rubbish heap), or went to institutions around the world prepared to accept them. The extensive cabinet of our first ornithologist J. P. Kirtland had no stable place in Ohio to go upon his death in 1877, and was largely dispersed elsewhere, often overseas. Whether any of his many specimens remain in Ohio is unknown at present.

We estimate that over the past century tens of thousands of bird specimens collected in Ohio have come to rest in accredited museums. Well documented and properly curated specimens are the gold standard of bird records: maintained in an environment to ensure their permanence, one can examine them to confirm identification, and their documentation with attached contemporaneous tags is, while not foolproof, preferable to any other.

Peterjohn, however, apparently did not make direct use of specimen material in compiling data for *The Birds of Ohio*, relying instead upon reports of specimens in the published literature. We are not aware of any evidence, in fact, that he personally examined any specimens in preparing this work. In his account of the black-billed magpie, for example (p. 340), while he refers to extreme wear on the feathers of one specimen, this does not reflect examination of the skin (# 7425 at the Ohio State University Museum of Biodiversity [OSUMB]), but rather cites the collector's published observations. For Eskimo curlew (p. 183) he asserts no specimens are extant, but there is one at OSUMB. He states there are only sight records of burrowing owl for the state, but there is a Wood Co. specimen at Bowling Green State University. Many of the early and late migratory dates he gives, as well as odd out-of-season records, would have needed dramatic revision had data from specimens been obtained.

We are aware of numerous Ohio specimens in reputable collections whose tag data add considerably to our current knowledge of our avifauna. Because the baseline data for *The Birds of Ohio* were collected prior to its first edition in 1989, well before specimen data were easily available in electronic form, most were difficult to obtain. Who would have known that scores of early nineteenth-century specimens from Kirtland's cabinet had ended up in Stockholm, or that literally thousands of Ohio warblers lay in drawers in Pittsburgh? How could one go through the tens of thousands of Ohio specimens just in the state's institutions to find extraordinary records, such as a January

specimen of a wood thrush (Ohio University Museum), or the chuck-will's-widow found as a window kill in February (Cincinnati Museum Center [CMC])?

Museum collections grow much more slowly now than in the old days, and slower still is the acquisition of Ohio specimens, which has diminished to a trickle consisting mostly of salvaged window-kills and the like. The wholesale collection of birds is no longer in fashion, nor is it as often deemed necessary, principally because we have carefully preserved so many specimens from the past. Today specimen collection nevertheless continues, on the part of professionals with permits, in pursuit of focused studies of certain aspects of ornithology. To give but one example, it would be foolish to have extensive data about the thickness of raptors' eggshells before the banning of DDT without knowing how the data have changed since.

Other changes have made available enormous new resources to give us a much more richly detailed picture of our bird life. Museums are at last producing inventories of their specimen data and making them available on the internet to researchers. So much records information is becoming available from museum collections that we may not only be able to better understand the fringes of our knowledge---the rare species, the extreme dates, the out-of-range occurrences---but we may also be able through the sheer force of numbers to see overall abundances and distributions more clearly. Foppe has to date secured information on over 10,000 Ohio specimens in 64 collections around the world (37 additional collections reported no Ohio specimens), including 17 in Ohio. Fourteen other Ohio collections have yet to report or be explored. Ohio's three largest bird collections---the CMC, the OSUMB, and the CMNH---are now preparing electronic databases of their specimens, and the enormous collection at the Smithsonian Institution is promised in on-line form soon. Thirty-five other collections are networked in searchable form on the web at ornisnet.org. There is every reason to expect that within a few years all these databases will have been completed, and available for public study.

As is the case elsewhere, ornithologists have a body of information for Ohio, along with a historical perspective, envied by other biological disciplines. Students of Ohio birds will have the luxury of devoting effort to refinements at the frontiers of well-established knowledge. We will be able to afford to seek out the rare because we have a firm grasp of the common. In addition, with some relatively huge numbers of records we can increasingly achieve local population-scale views.

One example is the development of the official state list. Over 20% of its 419 species have 10 or fewer Ohio records, and 40% of these in turn derive from single records. To have so many satisfactorily documented rarities bespeaks a large and reliable record extending over a considerable period. It is possible a complete inventory of Ohio specimens may reveal new species for the list, add records of rarities, and increase our understanding of the distribution of many common species. The data becoming available establish numerous early and late records for arrivals and departures of migrants, unseasonal occurrences, unusual nesting records, etc. In some cases, such as an unpublished study of thousands of specimens from casualties at a television tower site in Ohio, interesting generalizations may be derived: surely the record of six Connecticut warblers from this small site on a single night during migration offers an unprecedented glimpse at its real local abundance. Among so many verified and

previously unexplored records, many interesting discoveries will be made.

Foppe will compile an Ohio Bird Specimens Database from these and other collections, and when projects among the major collections are complete it will be made available to scholars on the OOS web site. There could be as many as 100,000 sets of data available, derived from Ohio material found around the world: species, locations, dates, name of collector at a minimum, and in many cases complete tag data. We plan to publish an article summarizing new finds, discoveries that will alter the historical and record and in some cases improve the current understanding of Ohio's birdlife. We also commend similar projects to researchers in other states and provinces, so that a still more accurate picture of our bird life will emerge, as well as an enormous continent-wide database of specimen records available to all.

Acknowledgment

We owe a great debt to curators of over a hundred bird collections who were kind enough to supply us with Ohio records among their holdings, as well as to answer further questions. We are also grateful to Andy Jones, head of the Department of Ornithology at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, who supplied valuable comments on a draft of this paper.

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Nine thrushes from the OSU collection laid out for comparison. Several are misidentified, but the enduring nature of specimens makes this and possible future reassessments possible.

Short Notes: Inland Nests of Great Egrets

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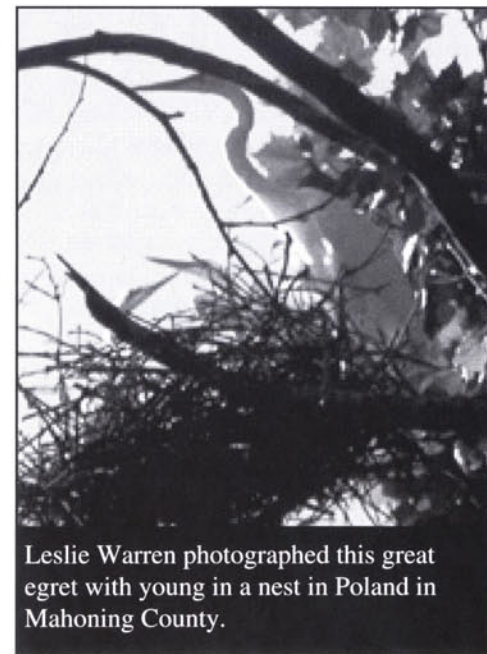
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J. P. Kirtland (1838) reported that the great egret had been "taken repeatedly in Ohio," and there are reports of nests at Grand Lake St Marys in the 1880s. After a dip in numbers corresponding to the legal slaughter of birds for the feather trade later in the century, they rebounded after 1930, staging some major post-breeding incursions into Ohio. In 1940 the first nests in the state were confirmed on the edge of Sandusky Bay, a few pairs nested at Grand Lake St Marys 1942-1944, and in 1946 the West Sister Island colony was discovered, and has flourished thereafter. No other breeding sites were confirmed away from the western Lake Erie marshes until 1996, when a nesting pair was discovered in Pickaway Co. -Ed.

MAHONING COUNTY: On July 16, 2006, I found a nest with four young great egrets, in the midst of a great blue heron rookery in Boardman Township, Mahoning County. The egrets looked almost like adults, but had a few feathers sticking up on their heads and grayish legs. The nest was in a sycamore tree, at least 50 feet high, and was much smaller than the great blue heron nests near it. There were still some herons nesting, but most had already left the rookery.

The egrets seemed to spend most of their time preening. They made no noise except when an adult flew in to give them food. Then all four began squawking loudly. On July 20, shortly after the young egrets had been squabbling over food, I heard the same noise coming from a different part of the rookery. Following the sound, I located a second great egret nest, about 200 feet away. It was also in a sycamore and about the same



Leslie Warren photographed this great egret with young in a nest in Poland in Mahoning County.

height. I was able to see three great egrets in the nest. They appeared to be younger than those in the first nest, having more spiky feathers on their heads.

I checked both nests regularly. The egrets at the first site were soon climbing out on limbs quite a distance from the nest, and taking short flights from branch to branch. It became harder to find them, and July 26 was the last date I saw all four young. August 4 was the last time I saw an egret at the first site. I believe there is a good chance they were all successful in fledging and leaving the tree.

The egrets at the second nest may not have been as fortunate. On July 30, I found small piles of white feathers on the ground beneath their nest, and did not see more than two egrets after that. Soon, I was seeing only one young egret, and after August 10, I was not able to find any egrets on or near the nest. Could the fact that all the great blue herons had left the rookery a week previously have affected the success of this nest? Do the herons provide some protection to the egrets? I have these and other questions to ponder as I anticipate the egrets return in the spring. ---Leslie Warren.

FRANKLIN COUNTY: A quarry in my Atlas block (Franklin Co.) has an island surrounded by water. A great blue heron rookery was on the island; I counted at least 12 heron nests. There may have been more, because I could not find a good spot to observe the opposite side of the island from Shrum Mound, my observation post. While looking at the rookery on 4 Jun 2006, I saw one great egret fly up to a nest. It was on the opposite side of the island from many of the great blue heron nests. With a spotting scope, I could see most of the nest through the trees, though some of the nest was obscured by trees. I did not see any other egret or egret nest. I returned at least four times to observe the rookery and the egret nest, the last time 15 July, when I found all the nests vacated. Until then, I saw an egret on the nest every time, but did not see any young ones. That doesn't mean there weren't any, of course. I didn't realize how unusual the great egret's nest was! I'm sorry about that, or I would have watched it more constantly and would have made arrangements to take photos. I might be able to pick out the nest even though it is now vacant. I hope egrets will nest there again next year so that I can take greater care to document whether the nest is successful. Although I have been birding (somewhat casually) for over 20 years, I am learning a lot by participating in the Breeding Bird Atlas. ---Marcia Brehmer

Recent Actions of the Ohio Bird Records Committee

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The Ohio Bird Records Committee reviewed 22 records in August 2006. Nineteen records were accepted by the committee, one was not accepted, and two (short-tailed hawk and lark bunting) will be recirculated. The accepted reports include a first state record, black-bellied whistling-duck. The Committee's decisions follow:

Records Accepted:

Black-bellied whistling-duck *Dendrocygna autumnalis*: 30 May 2004, Hamilton Co.; J. & H. Schlotman

Ross's goose *Chen rossii*: 19 March 2006, Pickaway Co.; R. Rogers

Ross's goose: 7 March 2006. Paulding Co.; D & M Dunakin, J. Yochum

Northern gannet *Morus bassanus*: 18 December 2005, Lake Co.; M. Gallaway, C. Rieker

Northern gannet: 3 January 2006; Cuyahoga Co.; B. Morrison

Brown pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis*: 4 May 2004; Greene Co., m. obs.

Glossy ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*: 1 May 2006, Pickaway Co.; G. Stauffer, S. Richards, B. Powell

Swallow-tailed kite *Elanoides forficatus*: 18 May 2005, Wood Co.; J. Phillips

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*: 19 April 2006, Lorain Co.; m. obs

California gull *Larus californicus*: 31 March 2006, Ashtabula Co.; C. Holt

Scissor-tailed flycatcher *Tyrannus forficatus*: 10 July 2006, Franklin Co.; A. Boone

Loggerhead shrike *Lanius ludovicianus*: 15 June 2006, Highland Co.; P. Gardner

Common raven *Corvus corax*: 28 January 2006, Jefferson Co.; S. Albaugh

Kirtland's warbler *Dendroica kirtlandii*: 21 May 2006, Lucas Co.; R. Harlan

Kirtland's warbler: 10 May 2006. Lake Co.; J. Pogacnik, m.obs.

Swainson's warbler *Limnothlypis swainsonii*: 20 May 2006, Lake Co.; H. Petruschke, m.obs.

Western tanager *Piranga ludoviciana*: 12 May 2006, Lucas Co.; P. Henry

Western tanager: 19 April 2006, Warren Co.; A. Arnold

Harris's sparrow *Zonotrichia querula*: 20 May 2006, Lucas Co.; M. Gallaway, C. Rieker, D. Yoo, B. Crow

Record Not Accepted:

White-winged dove *Zenaida asiatica*: 21 May 2006. Franklin Co.

Committee members felt that for such a rare bird in Ohio, the description was insufficient. The brief description provided did not rule out certain plumages of rock pigeon.

Records Recirculated:

Short-tailed hawk *Buteo brachyurus*: Mentor Headlands, 17 May 2006

Lark bunting *Calamospiza melanocorys*: Cedar Point National Wildlife Refuge, 20 May 2006

The Ohio Bird Records Committee exists to increase knowledge of Ohio's birdlife by validating records, maintaining archives for researchers of Ohio records of occurrences of rare bird species, and establishing the official list of Ohio's bird species. The Committee relies on help from field birders who send in details of their sightings of birds on the Review List (<http://www.ohiobirds.org/publications/OBRCList.pdf>), which includes all species encountered infrequently enough in the state as to require acceptable documentation (specimen, photo, sound recording, and full written description from witnesses) for inclusion in the scientific record. Helpful information on the Committee and on documentations can be found at <http://www.ohiobirds.org/records/aboutobrc.php>.

Current members of the seven-member Committee are: Tom Kemp, Secretary (Bowling Green), Dwight Chasar (Northfield), Rob Harlan (Norton), Tom Hissong (Dayton), Ned Keller (Cincinnati), Ben Morrison (Alliance), and Sue Tackett (Dayton). –Ed.



This breeding-plumaged long-billed dowitcher shows the diagnostic (but only briefly seen at our latitude) strong barring (vs. the spots of short-billed) on the sides of the upper breast. Great photo by Lana Hays, at Conneaut on 25 July



This breeding-plumaged-short-billed dowitcher (of our local *hendersoni* or "prairie" race) was photographed by Lana Hays at Conneaut 25 Jul. Note the spotting on the sides of the upper breast, the relatively wide white stripes on the upper tail, and the lack of molt on this bird.