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# *The* OHIO CARDINAL

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





The  
**OHIO CARDINAL**

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

**On the cover:**

Charles Bombaci captured this image of a Prothonotary Warbler returning to its nest at Hoover Nature  
Preserve in Delaware County, Ohio, on 05 June 2008.

## Summer 2008 Overview and Reports

**By Aaron Boone**

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Summer 2008 was certainly eventful, and a substantial amount of reporting culminated in an impressive list of 247 species plus two hybrids, and 14 species on the Ohio Bird Records Committee's review list. No doubt, a high percentage of birders participating in the third field season of the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II (<http://www.ohiobirds.org/obba2/>) resulted in many Ohio counties that typically experience below-average birding effort during the period receiving more birding coverage. Survey efforts during the June–July reporting period have produced more than 70,000 breeding bird observations, and these data are likely an underestimate of total birding efforts, since not all data have been logged electronically. Hopefully, intriguing discoveries (e.g., an increase in Common Raven observations and tantalizing reports of Swainson's Warblers in far eastern

Ohio) will continue to bring renewed birding interest to diverse yet under-visited areas. In addition, many great finds during the period reinforce the fact that great birding is not always confined to those jewels of conservation and preservation.

An interesting group of species with a more westerly distribution (e.g., Burrowing Owl, Least Tern, Black Rail, Black-necked Stilt) materialized in Ohio during the period. Although it is difficult to substantiate, might unusual weather patterns and above-average precipitation in western regions of the Midwest be implicated? Flooding in agricultural areas around Bellevue (a "pothole" region on the **Sandusky/Seneca** county line) attracted several species of waterbirds, with many interesting species remaining to breed (for instance, a report of a Lesser Scaup hen with downy young). Historically, the hydrology of this area is well known and ornithological accounts reference notable concentrations of waterbirds from this area during years with abnormal precipitation patterns. Flooding in the summer of 1984 produced conditions that attracted many species of waterbirds and was thoroughly documented in Ohio's first breeding bird atlas (Peterjohn and Rice 1991).

Birding attention at the flooded Bellevue site throughout the period provided a large percentage of the reported shorebird observations. In addition, appropriate draw-down conditions at a few state wildlife areas in northern counties and reports from other well-birded locations (e.g., Conneaut Harbor, **Ashtabula**) resulted in 27 shorebird species for the period in Ohio. Summer patterns of shorebird occurrence in Ohio

are nicely illustrated by exploring data from eBird (Figure 1), further emphasizing the usefulness of citizen science data and valuable birder contributions to publications such as *The Ohio Cardinal* and *North American Birds*. (eBird [<http://www.ebird.org>] is a joint effort of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, the National Audubon Society, and the National Science Foundation, and represents a way for any birder or professional ornithologist to contribute birding observations to a comprehensive database [part of the larger Avian Knowledge Network, <http://www.avianknowledge.net/>]. eBird is enormous in scope and “citizen scientists” can contribute their birding data from any location in the Western Hemisphere. Plans to make this a truly global effort are now in the works.)

Mean temperatures across Ohio were in the low to mid 70’s F for June and July. Mean temperatures across the state consistently were warmer than normal in June, whereas mean temperatures in July deviated only slightly below the norm. The July mean temperature in southwestern Ohio was 2.0 degrees below the normal mean. The relatively mild July weather provided pleasant field conditions and may have encouraged increased birding coverage during a season that typically experiences below average birding efforts. The majority of Ohio experienced above average amounts of precipitation during June, especially in central and west-central counties. With the exception of extreme northeastern Ohio and a sliver of the northwest from Toledo

west to the Indiana border, the state was drier than average during July.

The following conventions are used throughout all seasonal reports. Common names that have been underlined are on the Ohio Bird Records Committee (OBRC) Review List, meaning that observers should send supplemental documentation of these species to the OBRC for consideration. County names are in bold and italicized. Taxonomic order and nomenclature follow published guidelines from the North American Check-list Committee of the American Ornithologists’ Union (1998: 7th edition), including published supplements complete through the 49th Supplement. The following abbreviations are used in these accounts:

*fide* = “on the authority of”; typically a record submitted by a third party

m. obs. = multiple observers

MP = Metropark

NP = National Park

NWR = National Wildlife Refuge

OBBA2 = Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II, 2006-2010

OBRC = Ohio Bird Records Committee

ODNR = Ohio Department of Natural Resources

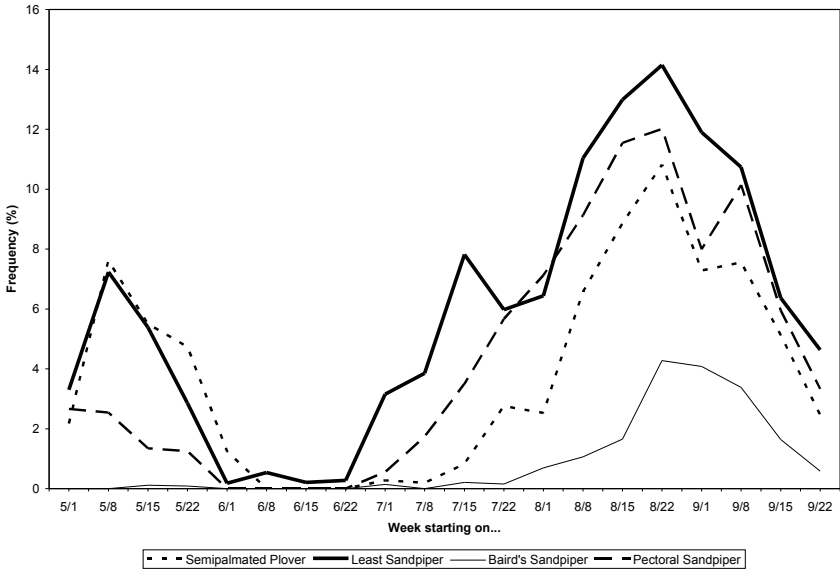
ODOW = Ohio Division of Wildlife

SNP = State Nature Preserve

SP = State Park

WA = Wildlife Area





**Figure 1.** Timing of occurrence in Ohio during spring and fall migration (2004-2008) for four shorebird species (Least Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, and Baird's Sandpiper). Data provided through voluntary citizen science efforts (eBird 2008).

**Canada Goose:** Detected on approximately 25% of all eBird checklists for the period (noted in 67 counties). As could be expected, Ohio's second breeding bird atlas shows the species present in all atlas regions (recorded in over 1,200 atlas blocks with a 78% breeding confirmation rate).

**Mute Swan:** Beginning in the 1980s, this introduced species spread throughout the Great Lakes region and first attempted nesting in 1987 at Cedar Point NWR, **Lucas** (Peterjohn and Rice 1991). The past two decades have seen a substantial increase in the species, and this period holds records from the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II in 21 separate Atlas blocks representing 14 counties. Most block records (81%) are located in northern counties. Mated pairs are occupying small farm ponds; one recently arrived pair turned up at a gravel quarry pond in **Clermont** (Robert Foppe).

**Trumpeter Swan:** The estimated 74% survival rate of fledged Trumpeter Swans is certainly contributing to the establishment of a viable breeding population after reintroduction efforts in Ohio. In 2008, the Division of Wildlife reported 28 nesting pairs but no known expansion of their distribution (Dave Sherman). Breeding bird atlas data reflect this established population with occurrence in 40 individual survey blocks to date. This reporting period produced records from nine counties: **Lorain, Marion, Muskingum, Portage, Ottawa, Richland, Sandusky, Trumbull,** and **Wyandot**. Trumpeter Swan is currently an OBRC review species, and care should be taken when differentiating between true vagrant and introduced individuals.

**Wood Duck:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 245 survey blocks (more than 40% representing observations



*Wood Ducks are familiar breeders throughout Ohio anywhere that nest cavities (whether man-made or natural) are available in proximity to water. This 05 Jul photograph by Dave Lewis provides breeding evidence for this species for North Chagrin Reservation in Cuyahoga.*

of fledged young). Observations of downy young spanned the entire reporting period; each of the 64 OBBA2 reporting regions has records.

**Gadwall:** Craig Holt reports a likely straggling male from the **Lorain** impoundments 05 Jun; possible breeders were observed at Sandy Ridge Reservation, **Lorain** on 04 Jun (Tim Fairweather). Breeding pair numbers in the marshes of the Lake Erie Western Basin were below average this year (*vide* Mark Shieldcastle); however, breeders were detected at Ottawa NWR, **Ottawa** on 07 and 19 Jul (Douglas Vogus, Chris Pierce). Robert and Sandy Harlan reported a pair at Dorset WA, **Ashtabula** on 08 Jun and a pair at Pickerel Creek WA, **Sandusky**, on 22 Jun. Of special note was a probable nesting pair during Jun at the very productive “pothole” region south of Bellevue, **Seneca** (Tom Bartlett).

**American Wigeon:** The flooded Bellevue “potholes” (York Township, **Sandusky** and Thompson Township, **Seneca**) held American Wigeon in early Jun where nesting was considered probable at best (Becky Cullen, Tom

Bartlett, Robert Harlan). A pair was also observed at Pipe Creek WA, **Erie** on 21 Jul (Ryan Steiner), which currently represents the second of only two probable OBBA2 block records.

**American Black Duck:** only three pairs of probable breeders were reported to the OBBA2; one pair on 10 Jun in **Sandusky** (Erin Cashion, Jake Straub); a second pair 11 Jun at Ottawa NWR, **Ottawa** (Mark Shieldcastle); and a third in **Erie** 16 Jul (Mark Shieldcastle). Chris Pierce reported three individuals 28 Jul at Sandy Ridge Reservation (**Lorain**). A pair at Conneaut, **Ashtabula**, on 19 Jun represented a possible breeding pair (Lukas Musher).

**Mallard:** Reported in every OBBA2 survey region to date; reported to the OBBA2 from 376 survey blocks during this period.

**Blue-winged Teal:** Downy young were reported from **Hancock**, **Lucas**, **Ottawa**, **Seneca**, and **Wood**. Remarkably, five nests were found, all on 07 Jun, in the recently restored wetlands in eastern **Hardin** (Richard Counts).

**Northern Shoveler:** Six individuals

(five males and one female) were observed at the Bellevue “potholes” (both **Sandusky** and **Seneca** sides) on 01 Jun (Robert and Sandy Harlan). One pair was found at the Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary, **Mahoning** on 02 Jun and apparently stuck around through the summer with unknown breeding status (William Jones). Atlas records show three pairs observed; one in **Hardin** (07 Jun; Richard Counts), another in **Sandusky** (10 Jun, Erin Cashion, Jake Straub), and a third in **Ottawa** (16 Jul; Mark Shieldcastle). Nesting appeared likely at the **Hardin** wetlands site, where the pair acted aggressively towards the observer upon detection; a male shoveler was seen a week later at this same location. Two birds were observed at Miami-Whitewater Wetlands, **Hamilton** on 07 Jun (Joe Kappa).

**Northern Pintail:** Five individuals (four males and one female) were observed at the Bellevue “potholes” (**Sandusky** and **Seneca** sides) on 01 Jun (Robert Harlan). Successful breeding was probable at best for this site but Ohio’s only confirmed breeding record came from the **Hardin** wetlands on 29 Jun; Richard Counts observed the species sporadically throughout Jun until eventually observing a pair with independent young. A single bird was observed in **Lucas** on 31 Jul (Doug English) and single birds were also observed 05 Jun and 19 Jul at Big Island WA, **Marion** (Charlie Bombaci) and on 30 to 31 Jul at Conneaut, **Ashtabula** (James E. and David H. Yoder).

**Green-winged Teal:** Recorded in **Ashtabula**, **Hardin**, **Lorain**, **Lucas**, **Ottawa**, **Sandusky**, and

**Seneca**, with nice totals reported from **Hardin** (17 individuals on 26 Jun) and **Ottawa** (12 individuals on 19 Jul) during the period. Breeding confirmations were practically nonexistent, with the only known successful breeding attempts coming, remarkably, from the famous eastern **Hardin** wetlands on 29 Jun: seven downy chicks were accompanied by one female—the second confirmed breeding record for the species at this site since frequent breeding bird surveys were initiated in 2006 (Richard Counts). Another group of young was found mid-Jun at the Bellevue “potholes” in **Seneca** (Tom Bartlett). In all, three pairs of teal were observed at this site. A likely early migrant was detected at Conneaut (**Ashtabula**) on 22 Jul (Craig Holt). **Note:** *Although missing the reporting period by just two days, a probable breeding pair of teal was observed at a Big Island WA wetland (Marion) on 30 May.*

**Canvasback:** A late migrant in **Hamilton** was rare this far south on 01 Jun at Miami-Whitewater Wetlands (Paul Wharton).

**Redhead:** Most exciting was a first county nesting record for **Hardin** obtained 19 Jul when Richard Counts observed nine chicks following a hen—Redheads were present at the wetlands since early Jun. A breeding confirmation also came from **Ottawa** on 16 Jul (Mark Shieldcastle). Probable breeding was suspected at Cedar Point NWR (**Lucas**) on 26 Jun (Mark Shieldcastle). One pair was present at the Bellevue “potholes” on the **Sandusky** (York Township) side on 01 Jun, with a single drake still present in exactly the same location 22 Jun (Robert and Sandy Harlan). An apparently injured bird



*Common Mergansers were first documented breeding in Ohio in 2006, and now are known from six different OBBA2 survey blocks. This hen with six grown young was photographed on Little Beaver Creek in Columbiana on 07 Jul by Jim Dolan, and was one of five family groups found during an OBBA2 “blockbuster” event.*

remained at a **Franklin** MP through the period (*vide* John Watts).

**Ring-necked Duck:** A pair remained at the eastern **Hardin** wetlands throughout the period and into early August (Richard Counts), but confirmation of nesting was never obtained.

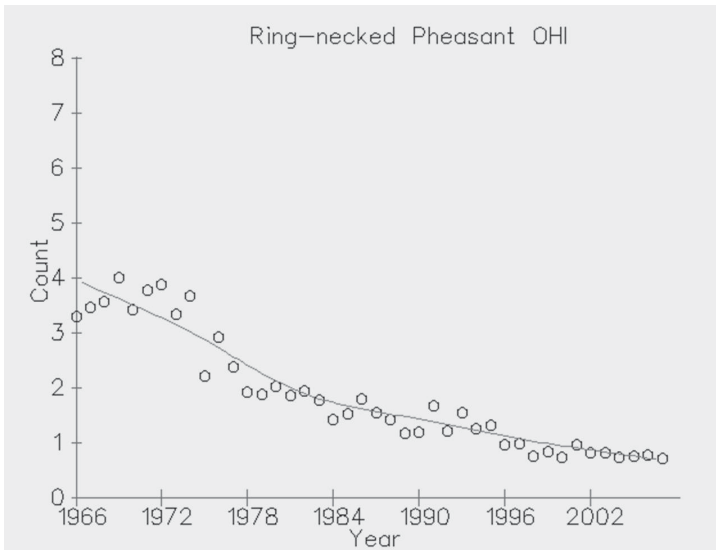
**Lesser Scaup:** A few reports of lingering individuals come from **Lucas**, **Hancock**, **Ottawa**, and **Sandusky**. Continuing with the theme of amazing records from the Bellevue “potholes” (**Sandusky/Seneca**), a hen with a brood was reported mid-Jun (Tom Bartlett). This is a new breeding record for **Seneca** and the first inland nesting record since 1954 when a hen with a brood was observed in **Carroll**.

**Bufflehead:** A straggler drake was present through Jun at the Bellevue

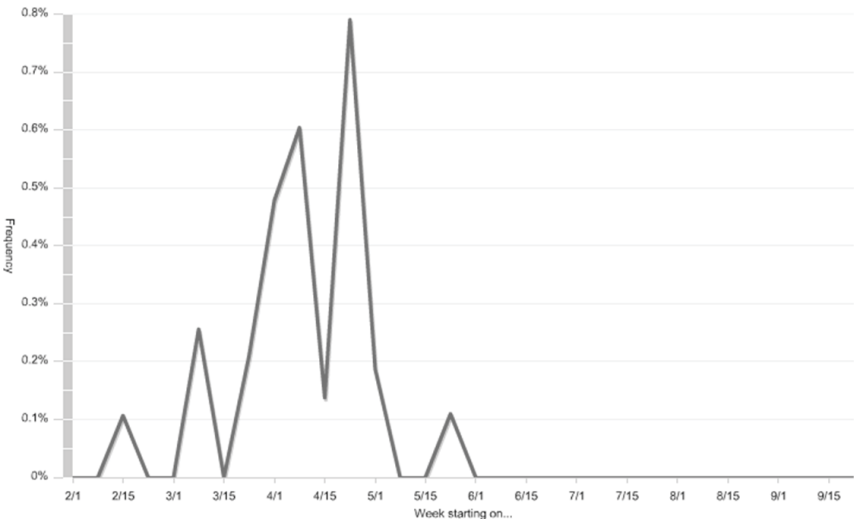
“potholes” (**Sandusky/Seneca**; Becky Cullen). A lone drake was also observed 11 Jul off Middle Bass Island, **Ottawa** (Lisa Brohl).

**Hooded Merganser:** Current OBBA2 data show the majority of Hooded Merganser records coming from the northern tier of counties, as expected (Peterjohn and Rice 1991). However, several breeding confirmations also come from central and southern counties (the most southerly breeding confirmation for the species came from southern **Wayne** in the 1980s). For the 2008 season, there were 25 block records with a noteworthy nesting confirmation from Circleville Canal WA, **Pickaway**, on 12 Jun (Melissa Santiago). Nesting Hooded Mergansers are rare in the unglaciated counties but they should be looked for in suitable habitats as they could turn up in unlikely regions of the state.





**Figure 2.** Ring-necked Pheasant count data from the USGS Breeding Bird Survey routes for Ohio since 1966. The species shows a steady decline since the mid-1960s. Graph courtesy of the USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center.



**Figure 3.** Frequency of detection for Ruffed Grouse in Ohio from February to September (2005-2008). This timeline of detectability frequency translates into generally low numbers of reports during the summer period after the peak of drumming displays (eBird 2008).



**Figure 4.** The distribution of Northern Bobwhite in Ohio from 1982-1987 and from 2006-2008. Effort data must be considered when viewing current OBBA2 distribution data but significant effort in northeastern counties should accurately reflect the current paucity of records in that region. Data courtesy of the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas (Peterjohn and Rice 1991) and the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II. Map images courtesy of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

**Common Merganser:** Birds persisted in the Little Beaver Creek watershed, **Columbiana**, and breeding confirmations now occupy six OBBA2 survey blocks within this unique region. A survey by paddle of the Middle Fork turned up a hen with eight chicks not far from Elkton (Elk Run Township, **Columbiana**), a new record for this stream and the westernmost record in the county to date (*vide* Jim Dolan). A brief sighting of a hen flying down Conneaut Creek, **Ashtabula** on 27 Jun (Craig Holt) is interesting, considering that they are nesting just to the east in **Erie**, Pennsylvania (*vide* Second Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas). A canoe survey of Conneaut Creek and other high quality streams in eastern Ohio may uncover additional merganser breeding populations.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** Stragglers were in **Hamilton** on 08

Jun (Neill Cade), **Trumbull** on 10 Jun at Mosquito Creek WA (Craig Holt), in **Sandusky** on 22 Jul (Mike Smith), and at Lorain Harbor, **Lorain**, 04 Jun and again on 17 Jul (*vide* Black River Audubon Society).

**Ruddy Duck:** In keeping with the trend of firsts for waterfowl species breeding at the eastern **Hardin** wetlands, Richard Counts reported a dozen males courting three females on 07 Jun, with nesting confirmation following on 29 Jun. At least two broods were documented and five mated pairs were noted at one time within this prized wetland. Ruddy Ducks were also confirmed as breeders at the Bellevue “potholes” (**Sandusky/Seneca**; Tom Bartlett); on 26 Jul, 24 individuals were recorded in the area (Rob Lowry). Single birds were reported from **Hardin**, **Paulding**, **Portage**, **Sandusky**, and **Summit**.

**Ring-necked Pheasant:** USGS Breeding Bird Survey data show a steady decline over the last several decades in Ohio (Figure 2). Atlas records in 2008 came from 29 reporting regions. Current OBBA2 data roughly reflect their statewide distribution from Ohio's first atlas and it will be interesting to examine final analyses for changes in the species overall distribution.

**Ruffed Grouse:** Most OBBA2 records for are from the spring when males are readily detected during drumming displays. Viewing eBird data since 2005 demonstrates the frequency of yearly detection for this species in Ohio (Figure 3). Young grouse were seen in **Adams** on 09 Jun (R. McCarty), in the Ravenna Arsenal on 06 Jun in **Trumbull** (Judy Semroc), and the Division of Wildlife reports broods from six expected southeastern counties (*vide* Mike Reynolds). Doug Overacker reported a brood from **Scioto** on 06 Jul. Additional detections came from **Brown**, 10 Jun (Pete Whan), **Columbiana**, 26 Jun (Ryan Steiner), **Vinton** on 11 Jun (Robert Scott Placier) and 27 Jun (Bruce Simpson), and **Monroe**, 22 Jul (Ben Warner).

**Wild Turkey:** Away from their stronghold in the Unglaciaded Plateau, turkey broods were reported in **Ashtabula**, **Brown**, **Clermont**, **Crawford**, **Defiance**, **Franklin**, **Fulton**, **Greene**, **Hancock**, **Lucas**, **Richland**, **Summit**, **Trumbull**, **Wood**, and **Wyandot**.

**Northern Bobwhite:** Of 169 total OBBA2 survey block records, only 5% of those provide evidence of confirmed breeding. Away from the species' stronghold in the southwestern



*A single American White Pelican appeared in Ohio this summer, and was photographed 24 Jul by Patty Stultz at Old Reid Park in Springfield (Clark).*

counties, a noteworthy observation was of a covey with young crossing a road in **Stark** on 17 Jul (Chuck McClaugherty). Ohio's second atlasing effort apparently reflects the declining trend for this quail species, especially in the northeastern counties where it is absent despite intensive survey effort (Figure 4).

**Common Loon:** two summering birds in basic plumage were at Findley Reservoir, **Hancock** throughout Jun and into late Jul (Robert Sams, Robert Harlan). A single bird was seen on the Maumee River, **Defiance** on 10 Jun (David Rankin). An injured bird on 19 Jun was photographed in **Stark** before being taken to rehabilitators (Tim and Laura Dornan).

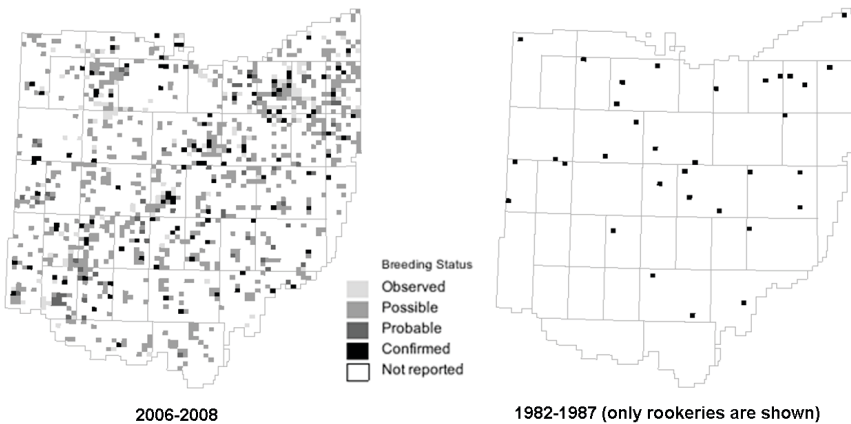
**Pied-billed Grebe:** By 04 Jul, Robert and Sandy Harlan tallied eight nests at the York Township side of the Bellevue "potholes" (**Sandusky**). The eastern **Hardin** wetlands had a loose group of approximately 30 recently fledged on 26 Jul (Richard Counts). In areas away from the western Lake Erie marshes, fledged young were

observed in the recently restored wetland at Wellington Reservations in **Lorain** (Aaron Boone), at Mosquito Creek WA wetlands in **Trumbull** (Carole Babyak), in **Marion** (Michael Bailey), in **Richland** (John Herman), and at Highbanks MP, **Franklin** (Julie Davis). On 11 Jun, Aaron Boone briefly heard a grebe call from an agricultural area with no noticeable wetlands in **Delaware**. Atlas records in recent years indicate that Pied-billed Grebes will utilize agricultural ponds with minimal emergent vegetation, so this species should be sought after in areas with marginal wetland habitat.

**Eared Grebe:** An alternate plumaged adult, originally found by Robert and Sandy Harlan 24 May, was still present at the Bellevue “potholes” (**Sandusky**) 01 Jun. Two birds were present 11 Jun but on separate ponds (Becky Cullen).

**American White Pelican:** Unusual for Jul, a single bird photographed 24 Jul by Patty Stultz and documented 25 Jul in **Clark** by Doug Overacker (and apparently present since a week prior) persisted through the end of the reporting period.

**Double-crested Cormorant:** Flightless young were reported from a thickly vegetated island in Lake Mosier, **Hancock**, on 28 Jun; cormorants are regular here throughout the summer months and future efforts will hopefully confirm the presence of a rookery (Robert Sams). Cormorants were detected across the state throughout the period and observers should remain vigilant for nesting birds at inland locations. Cormorants nested for the second year in a row at a rookery in western Columbus, **Franklin** (Marcia Brehmer); this site produced several young from four nests.



**Figure 5.** Maps show block records with confirmed nesting evidence for Great Blue Heron submitted by volunteers of both Ohio Breeding Bird Atlases. Take note of the increase in confirmed detections in the southwestern counties. Data courtesy of the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas (Peterjohn and Rice 1991) and the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II. Map images generated by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.



**American Bittern:** A calling bird was present at the eastern **Hardin** wetlands through the entire period (first detected in April) with a pair finally detected on 19 Jul. This record is the first from this very productive 130-acre wetland; unfortunately no breeding confirmation was obtained (Richard Counts). A remarkable record comes from an obscure marsh in northern **Belmont** on 23 Jun (Sean Williams). This record coupled with an observation from The Wilds, **Muskingum**, on 08 Jun (Bill Stanley) represents a rare summer occurrence of this bittern from the Unglaciated Plateau. American Bittern was also reported from expected locations in **Ottawa** (Mark Shieldcastle). The species has currently been reported to the OBBA2 from 11 counties, though as expected, no direct evidence of nesting has been obtained.

**Least Bittern:** A nice showing for our smallest Ardeid. Twelve records during the period represent usual haunts in the western Lake Erie marshes of **Erie**, **Lucas**, **Ottawa**, and **Sandusky**, whereas remaining records are from **Columbiana**, **Hamilton**, **Hardin**, **Lake**, **Mahoning**, **Medina**, **Pickaway**, **Richland** (two separate records), **Summit**, and **Wood** (interestingly, not reported during Ohio's first atlas, 1982-1987, in **Columbiana**, **Hamilton**, **Hardin**, **Mahoning**, **Medina**, **Pickaway**, or **Wood**). Richard Counts comments that the Least Bittern at the eastern **Hardin** wetlands was new for this productive restoration; the species was first detected in late May and was last observed without evidence of breeding on 26 Jul.

**Great Blue Heron:** Rookeries were reported to the OBBA2 in 14 survey blocks. Ohio's first breeding bird atlas shows no rookeries in the southwestern counties (those from **Adams** in the south north to **Fayette** and west to **Preble**). Current OBBA2 data certainly show a breeding presence in this part of Ohio (Figure 5), with at least 19 rookeries in the region. Most rookeries are reported during spring (Wayne Wauligman reported on the massive **Butler** rookery along Four Mile Creek as having an active nest count of 205 on 22 April). With a bit of searching, active rookeries are fairly noticeable during the summer period; Dave Slager found a 30-nest rookery along Deer Creek in southeastern **Madison** on 02 Jun. [*Please report any potential rookeries, even if inactive, to the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II: [ohiobba2@gmail.com](mailto:ohiobba2@gmail.com)*]

**Great Egret:** A superb find was that of an incubating Great Egret in a **Harrison** Great Blue Heron rookery during early Jun (Daniel Kramer), likely a first county nesting record. Previously discovered egret nests in **Franklin** and **Mahoning** rookeries returned again to nest this year. The rookery in **Franklin** has increased to three active nests. The rookery in **Mahoning** was up to six active egret nests this year with each producing young (Leslie Warren). Jeremy Ross reports "numerous" birds feeding in the Maumee River on 21 Jun with at least one individual seen perching in the trees on Grassy Island, **Wood**. From Lake Erie Islands, nests were also reported from Green Island (**Ottawa**; Amy Miller) and Turning Point Island (**Erie**; Mark Shieldcastle) for the first time during the Atlas period. On 03 Jul in **Seneca**, Brad Sparks had a good total of 60 throughout the county, while Gabe Leidy photographed a concentration of



*Turkey Vultures are familiar to all birders, but how many of us can claim to have seen one in this plumage? Paula Lozano photographed this fledgling in Cuyahoga on 27 Jul.*

at least 35 birds at Pickerel Creek WA, **Sandusky** on 16 Jul.

**Snowy Egret:** A high count of 15 was reported from Pike Creek WA, **Erie**, on 16 Jul (Gabe Leidy). Noteworthy, was one bird reported from Deer Creek WA, **Pickaway**, on 31 Jul (Rick Asamoto).

**Little Blue Heron:** A Big Day team had a bird at Pipe Creek WA, **Erie**, on 01 Jun (Bill Whan, Troy Shively, Ethan Kistler, and Gabe Leidy) that remained at this location through Jul (m. obs.). Another adult was reported again from Detwiler Park in Toledo, **Lucas**, on 02 Jun (*fide* Paul Gardner).

**Tricolored Heron:** First reported on 24 May (Becky Cullen), this individual

continued at the Bellevue “potholes” (**Sandusky**) and was reported on 02 Jun (*fide* Paul Gardner). A few days later, John Pogacnik reported a bird from Perry Township, **Lake**, on 05 Jun and again the next day from **Lake** a few miles to the south in Leroy Township.

**Reddish Egret:** An amazing find of an immature at Conneaut, **Ashtabula**, on 05 Jun by Craig Holt represents Ohio’s first state record of this species. The egret reportedly made another appearance at Conneaut on 14 Jun, though this second sighting was not accepted by OBRC..

**Cattle Egret:** Two reports of single birds in **Erie**: One from a reliable spot south of Sandusky on 21 Jul (Jeffrey Cullen) and one from Pipe Creek WA on 26 Jul (Carl Ball).

**Green Heron:** OBBA2 volunteers reported over 160 records for the species, which resulted in 15 breeding confirmations (9% of total records), each from a different county (mostly from the northern portion of the state.) Secretive behavior of nesting herons contributes to low breeding confirmation rates, but the current 12% confirmation rate is nearly double the rate from the first atlas. An interesting observation of an adult collecting white pine needles came from **Wayne** on 20 Jul (Sue Hackett). The **Summit** County Census recorded a total of 73 birds countywide from 13 to 22 Jun (*fide* Greater Akron Audubon Society). Charlie Bombaci reported 27 birds from Hoover Nature Preserve, **Delaware** during a 14 Jun survey.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:**

Fledged birds reported from Turning Point Island, **Erie** on 01 Jun (Mark Shieldcastle). A very young bird possibly representing local nesting was near the Cedar Point causeway, **Erie** on 16 Jun (Jeremy Ross). The Spring Grove Cemetery colony (**Hamilton**) ended up with nine active nests this year (Frank Renfrow).

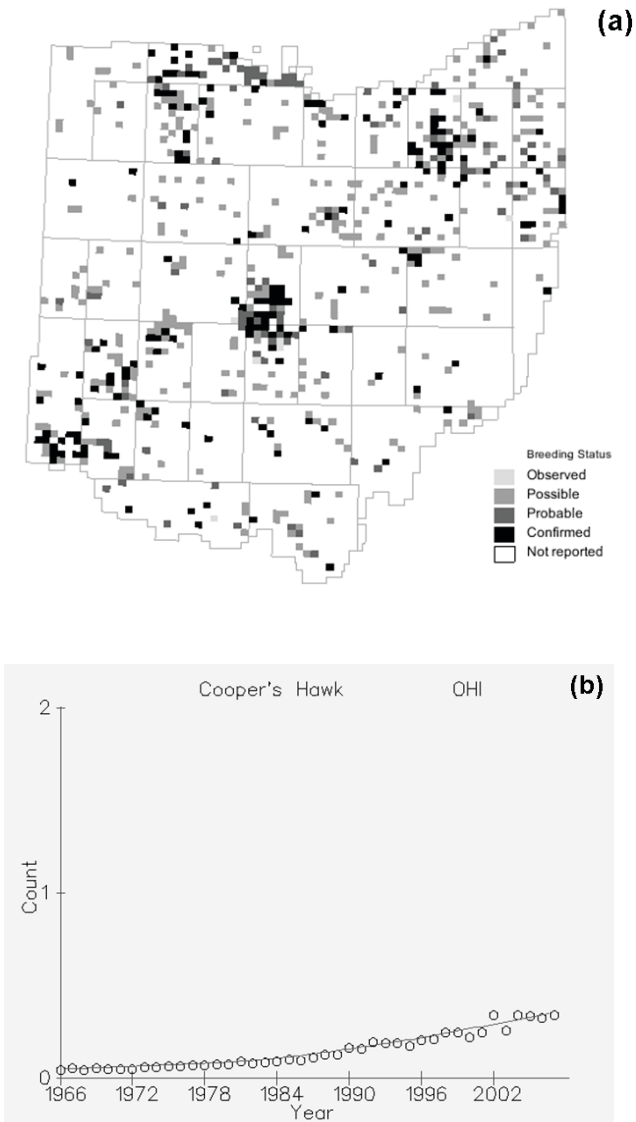
**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:**

The regular Bexley, **Franklin**, nesting location had one nest with four young on 02 Jun (Robert and Sandy Harlan, m. obs.) and a follow-up report on 20 Jun indicated that there were two nests with nestlings (Bill Whan). Observers hypothesized a re-nesting attempt this year because one nest remained active as late as 26 Jul; locals comment that the birds usually depart by 04 Jul (*fide* Bill Heck). Whetstone Park in Columbus, near a previously known

nesting site, hosted a single foraging adult mid-Jun (*fide* Bill Whan). A report of an adult (first found during May and photographed by Alicia Elmer) at the reservoir complex east of Norwalk, **Huron** is an interesting record (*fide* Jim McCormac). A review of satellite imagery for this complex of reservoirs shows a lot of surrounding forest that could potentially yield nesting activity. John Pogacnik reported an adult at a buttonbush wetland in **Lake** on 29 Jul.

**Black Vulture:** Nests were reported in **Highland** on 15 Jun and in **Ross** 06 Jul (Bruce Lombardo). A third nest for the period was reported from Harrison Township, **Knox** during mid-Jul (Kim Marshall, Howard Gratz) ; Harrison Township is not far from northeastern **Licking** where a small population was likely breeding during the 1950s but disappeared by the start of the first breeding bird atlas (Peterjohn 2001). Of special note, an adult was photographed in **Columbiana** on 04 Jul and observed for several days in the company of Turkey Vultures (Bob Lane).

**Turkey Vulture:** Numerous OBBA2 records for the species yielded only 10 nesting records, which is on par with the nesting confirmation rate since the start of OBBA2 in 2006. The species is notoriously difficult to confirm because nest sites are either inconspicuous or they are in places difficult to access (e.g., barns, abandoned structures). Conversations with several farmers in eastern **Champaign** have revealed that they commonly nest in a variety of structures throughout this portion of the county (*fide* Aaron Boone) so chatting with locals may significantly advance our understanding of where the species is nesting.



**Figure 6.** (a) Map showing current data (2006-2008) from Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II for Cooper's Hawk showing noticeable concentrations around urban centers. (b) Graphs showing increasing detection trends of Cooper's Hawk during the breeding periods. Images and data courtesy of the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, National Audubon Society, and USGS Breeding Bird Survey.



**Osprey:** OBBA2 volunteers have reported nests in an amazing 52 survey blocks (up from ZERO during the 1980s!). An ODOW report indicates that there were 20 nests from 14 counties that fledged young (*vide* Dave Sherman). Brad Bond reported an incidental flyover observation in **Washington** on 01 Jul near known nesting locations of Ohio River islands on the West Virginia side.

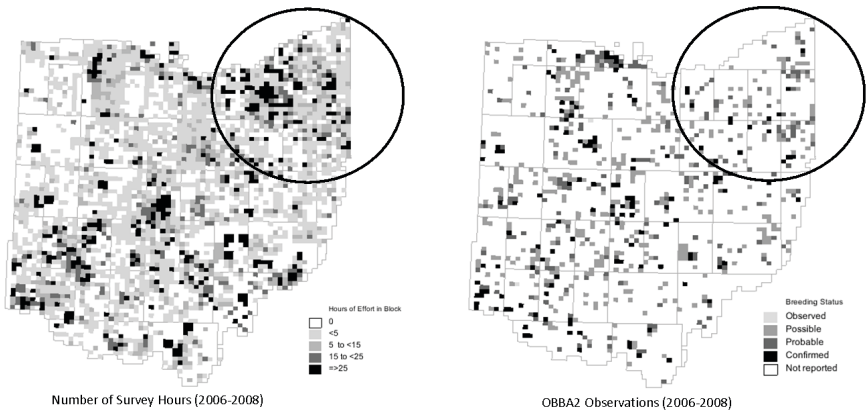
**Mississippi Kite:** A remarkable period for this raptor in Ohio with records in four counties. Gabe Leidy obtained photographs of an adult at Brass Ring Golf Course, **Hocking**, where a pair successfully nested in 2007; reported from Brass Ring on 18 Jun (Allen Elberfeld) and 21 Jun (Rob Lowry). Ethan Kistler watched an adult hunting over the Burton Wetlands Nature Preserve, **Geauga**, on 03 Jun for a potential first county record. **Wood** was added to the list on 07 Jun when a bird was discovered during OBBA2 surveys (Chuck Anderson). On 29 Jun, a Burr Oak SP naturalist described an observation of a single Mississippi Kite from the **Morgan** side of the park (*vide* Glen Crippen). This area should be watched for future kite activity; it would not be surprising to discover that kites are also breeding in this area. Extralimital nesting records this year from n. Illinois, New Hampshire, and Connecticut include subsequent discoveries of additional nest sites; Burr Oak is only 18 miles from the **Hocking** nesting site.

**Bald Eagle:** An official report from ODOW lists a phenomenal total of 184 known nests, with 64% of those known to have produced young.

Continued success of the species in Ohio prompted ODNR to down-list the species to “threatened” status this year. Twenty-three nests were considered new; these were located in **Ashland, Belmont, Columbiana, Erie (2), Geauga, Highland, Lorain, Lucas, Mahoning, Morgan, Ottawa (2), Pickaway, Richland, Ross, Sandusky (2), Trumbull, Tuscarawas, Wood, and Wyandot (2).**

**Northern Harrier:** A remarkable number of observations were submitted to OBBA2; a two-fold increase from 2006 and a three-fold increase from 2007. Twenty counties are represented by 28 survey block records. The largest portion of records (48%) comes from the northwestern counties of **Darke (2), Hardin (2), Morrow (1), Sandusky (1), Seneca (1), Williams (2), and Wood (5).** Remaining survey block records are from **Ashtabula, Carroll, Clinton, Columbiana, Coshocton, Cuyahoga, Greene, Jefferson, Madison, Mahoning, Pickaway, Preble, and Trumbull.** Harriers of both sexes were present 04, 09, and 15 Jun in the mine reclamation areas of Woodbury WA, **Coshocton** (Aaron Boone, Laura Dornan, and Robert Harlan). Woodbury WA may represent the first documented breeding area for **Coshocton** where the species was not reported during the first atlas project. This species should be sought in the summer months at any mine reclamation sites with extensive grassland habitat.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** The only nests reported were from **Delaware** (30 Jun; Charlie Bombaci) and from



**Figure 7.** American Kestrels were widely distributed in northeastern counties during Ohio's first breeding bird atlas (Peterjohn and Rice 1991). Despite significant atlasing effort in the region since spring 2006 (a), a sparse distribution appears to be emerging (b).

**Tuscarawas** (01 Jul; Daniel Kramer). Noteworthy records away from the Unglaciated Plateau come from **Henry** on 25 Jun, **Lucas** on 10 Jul (Craig Nilsson), **Butler** on 07 Jun (Michael Minium), and **Hamilton** on 26 Jul (Charlie Saunders).

**Cooper's Hawk:** Relatively early nesting phenology of the species resulted in several nesting records from the spring period, but the species was well represented from around Ohio during the summer period. OBBA2 volunteers submitted 205 observations for all but 10 of the 64 OBBA2 reporting regions. Recently fledged young were reported as late as 28 Jul from both **Fulton** and **Lucas** (Mark Shieldcastle), while nests with young were reported as late as 14 Jun in **Meigs** (Janet Duerr) and 15 Jun in **Franklin** (Al La Sala). OBBA2 data show breeding confirmations clustered around urban centers (Figure 6a); USGS Breeding Bird Survey Data also reflects an increase in detections

beginning around the mid-1980s (Figure 6b).

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** Of 131 observations submitted, 10 records represent confirmed breeding (**Clinton**, **Crawford**, **Hamilton**, **Hancock**, **Mahoning**, **Stark**, and **Trumbull**). The **Hancock** breeding record (Robert Sams) is especially noteworthy as this little-known breeding population was not recorded during the first atlas. The Oak Openings raptor survey tallied an impressive seven nests in the region (*vide* Steve Lauer). The nesting pair on west campus of Ohio State University near Upper Arlington, **Franklin**, persisted through the period although a nest was not located (Les Murray, Jacob Straub). The Mosquito Creek flood plain (**Trumbull**) had four known nests (Heather Merritt *vide* Carole Babyak).

**Broad-winged Hawk:** USGS Breeding Bird Survey indicate that

Broad-winged Hawk detections are on the upswing in Ohio. Dwight and Ann Chasar reported four active nests in the Brecksville Reservation, **Cuyahoga** (three produced young and one failed). The Oak Openings raptor survey documented the presence of the species in the region but an active nest was never located (*vide* Steve Lauer). In east-central **Pickaway**, an adult was observed soaring west of the Scioto River on 18 Jul (David Slager).

**Red-tailed Hawk:** OBBA2 volunteers submitted 557 observations, which helped boost the breeding confirmation rate to 46% of total survey blocks with observations. Relatively robust data from the USGS Breeding Bird Survey point to a steady increase for the species in Ohio.

**American Kestrel:** Encouragingly, OBBA2 volunteers submitted observations from 310 survey blocks (from 83% of reporting regions). The true status of the kestrel breeding population in Ohio may be difficult to assess at this point; however, USGS Breeding Bird Survey data indicate a gradual decline in detection for Ohio. Concern for the species stems from significant declines at hawk watches across eastern North America. American Kestrels were widely distributed in northeastern counties during Ohio's first breeding bird atlas, but despite significant atlas effort in the region since spring 2006, a sparse distribution appears to be emerging (Figure 7).

**Peregrine Falcon:** of 27 territorial pairs, 25 were confirmed as having produced eggs (<http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/wildlife/dow/falcons/sites.aspx>). The I-80 Turnpike Bridge over the Cuyahoga River was suspected

of harboring a new nesting pair; the probable nest was observed 22 Jun (Dwight and Ann Chasar). A new nesting location was also reported from **Scioto** on the Ohio River at Sciotoville.

**Black Rail:** on 01 Jun, a Big Day team had the incredible good fortune of coming across a single calling Black Rail (only the second species recorded so far that day!) at Charlie's Pond, **Pickaway** (Bill Whan, Troy Shively, Gabe Leidy, Ethan Kistler). At least one bird continued to call from this location through 23 Jun (*vide* Paul Gardner). Many observers reported hearing at least two calling birds with some speculation about there being a third bird (a female, based on descriptions of the gender's vocalizations). Breeding was never confirmed for the **Pickaway** birds but another exceptional report came from a recently restored sedge meadow in **Pike** after a bird was first heard in early Jun and then was flushed on 27 Jun (Dave Minney *vide* Peter Whan). Follow-up efforts confirmed the presence of at least two birds on 29 Jun (Pete Whan). Nesting status also remained uncertain for the **Pike** birds; a single male was last heard on 05 Jul (Bob Scott Placier).

**King Rail:** **Wayne** had two calling birds this season, both in Jul. Kevin Kline reported a single bird that responded to call playback at Funk Bottoms WA on 05 Jul; Bruce Glick reported a single calling bird from Wright Marsh at Killbuck Marsh WA on 15 Jul.

**Virginia Rail:** Confirmed as nesting in part of the **Muskingum** Watershed Conservancy District in far northwestern **Belmont** when Sean Williams came across seven calling birds and one adult with chicks on 23

Jun. Other nesting confirmations are from **Portage** on 01 Jul (David and Judy Hochadel) and **Summit** on 02 Jun (Mary Anne Romito). In total, the OBBA2 received observations from 32 survey blocks in 22 counties (**Ashland, Belmont, Columbiana, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Hancock, Lorain, Lucas, Mahoning, Marion, Medina, Montgomery, Ottawa, Portage, Preble, Richland, Sandusky, Summit, Trumbull, Warren, Williams, and Wood**). Noteworthy records from **Preble** and **Montgomery** represent first county records for either Ohio breeding bird atlas (Melissa Santiago). The value of wetland restoration was evident 11 Jul at Wellington Reservation, **Medina** when a total of three pairs was heard vocalizing in the middle of the day (Aaron Boone, Ethan Kistler). The species apparently does not need expansive wetland habitat; a pair (along with a pair of Sora) was heard in a tiny 1.5-acre wetland in **Williams** on 01 Jun (Aaron Boone, Paul Rodewald).

**Sora:** 91% of the records submitted to the OBBA2 (22 total) were from the northern tier of counties. Richard Counts had a high count of five calling birds at the eastern **Hardin** wetlands on 19 Jul. A single Sora was present on 15 Jul in a **Pike** sedge meadow (Aaron Boone and Dave Minney). A. W. Marion SP (**Pickaway**) had a calling bird on 09 Jun (Melissa Santiago). Three birds at the Miami-Whitewater Wetlands in **Hamilton** on 01 Jun were noteworthy (Paul Wharton). A bird at Conneaut, **Ashtabula**, on 21 Jul may represent a local breeder (Bob Krajewski).

**Common Moorhen:** The monthly Ottawa NWR census on 06 Jul reported a total of 36 birds, 16 being juveniles. Adults with young were also reported from **Richland** on 18 Jun (John Herman) and Metzger Marsh WA (**Lucas**) on 20 Jul (Brian Zwiebel). Moorhen were present throughout the period at the Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary (**Mahoning**), Spring Valley WA (**Warren**), Big Island WA (**Marion**), and Pickerel Creek WA (**Sandusky**). Birds were also observed at the Bellevue “skyponds,” **Sandusky**, on 24 Jun (Becky Cullen) and 04 Jul (Rob and Sandy Harlan).

**American Coot:** The bird was scarce in southwestern counties; birders turned up potential nesters 01 Jun at Miami-Whitewater Wetlands, **Hamilton** (Paul Wharton) and at Westchester Wetlands, **Butler** (Mike Busam). Four broods were reported from the eastern **Hardin** wetlands, 07 Jun through 26 Jul (Richard Counts). Coots also successfully nested at the Bellevue “skyponds” (**Sandusky** and **Seneca**; m. obs.). A bird was heard briefly from a small wetland in **Lake La Su An WA, Williams**, on 01 Jun (Aaron Boone, Paul Rodewald). Late-season birds were found at Deer Creek WA (**Pickaway**) and Rocky Fork SP (**Highland**) both on 31 Jul.

**Sandhill Crane:** The ODOW report includes nesting records in **Geauga, Holmes, Knox, Lorain, Morrow, Ottawa, Trumbull, Wayne, and Williams** (*vide* Dave Sherman). A remarkable six nests were reported from Killbuck Marsh WA, **Wayne**, a record high for the area. In all, a statewide total of 19 fledged young was included in the





*Nancy Anderson captured this image of an American Avocet on 05 Jul in **Sandusky**. This species occurs in the summer in Ohio infrequently and is considered a non-breeding summer visitor; 2008 was a particularly strong year for summer visitors.*

report. During the time of Ohio's first breeding bird atlas, a crane breeding population was essentially nonexistent but one nest was discovered in **Wayne** during 1987, the first since their disappearance from Ohio during the early 1900s (Peterjohn and Rice 1991). Another breeding confirmation not included in the ODOW report came from atlasing efforts in western **Williams**, when a pair with two colts was discovered on 02 Jun (Aaron Boone, Paul Rodewald).

**Black-bellied Plover:** Single late migrants were present both at the Findley Reservoirs, **Hancock** (02 Jun, Robert Sams) and the Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary, **Mahoning** (02 to 04 Jun; Jeff Harvey and William L. Jones).

**Semipalmated Plover:** Late migrants were seen in small numbers in **Ashtabula** (08 Jun, Robert and Sandy Harlan; 10 Jun, Craig Holt),

**Hamilton** (01 Jun; Paul Wharton), **Lorain** (04 Jun; fide Black River Audubon Society), **Mahoning** (02 Jun, Jeff Harvey), and **Richland** (01 Jun; Gary Cowell). The highest tally of seven birds was in **Sandusky** on 01 Jun (Robert and Sandy Harlan). These birds, presumably southbound migrants, began appearing in the state during mid Jul; a single bird was seen at the Lorain Impoundment, **Lorain**, on 18 Jul (Robert **Jackson**). Other Jul records came from **Ashland, Fayette, Mahoning, Marion, Mercer, Montgomery, Sandusky,** and **Seneca**.

**Killdeer:** With 2008 OBBA2 data, the species has now been recorded in 1,495 survey blocks and noticeable gaps in distribution reflect gaps in survey effort. Craig Holt reported a concentration of an estimated 100 birds on 08 Jul at Pickerel Creek WA, **Sandusky**.

**Black-necked Stilt:** First reported at the Bellevue “skyponds” from the **Sandusky** side on 22 Jun (Robert and Sandy Harlan), several birds were reported from this location through the end of the period (m. obs.). The presence of multiple birds in this area was well documented, but the complex nature of dozens of observations makes it difficult to say exactly how many stilts were present throughout the period. At least two nest sites were documented based on observed behavior indicating the exchange of incubation duties (one in York Township, **Sandusky**, and one in Thompson Township, **Seneca**). The pair in **Seneca** was observed copulating and subsequently arranging grasses on 03 Jul (Robert Sams). Birds of the **Seneca** pair were seen exchanging incubation duties on 04 Jul (Robert and Sandy Harlan) and again on 08 Jul (Aaron Boone, Dave Slager). The expansive nature of this flooded site indicates it may have harbored multiple nesting attempts (Tom Bartlett indicated the possibility of at least *eight* birds present on 05 Jul). Nesting success was hard to gauge but young may have successfully fledged in at least one instance, in which birds in supposed juvenile plumage were observed on a few occasions during early Jul (Tom Bartlett, Dave Dariano).

**American Avocet:** A nice showing of single individuals came from seven counties. Chris Pierce located a bird at Pickerel Creek WA, **Sandusky**, on 29 Jun, remaining through 13 Jul (Jay Lehman). Similar conditions at Pipe Creek WA, **Erie**, also encouraged the presence of an avocet on 16 Jul (Gabe Leidy). Robert Sams found one at the Findley Reservoirs, **Hancock**, on 03 Jul. A lone bird was at Conneaut, **Ashtabula**, on 10 Jul (Bob Krajeski).

The species was present on 26 Jul at the Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary, **Mahoning** (William L. Jones). On 27 Jul, the Bellevue “skyponds”, **Seneca**, managed to attract another bird (Andy Sewell, m. obs.). Cincinnati, **Hamilton**, provided another sighting on 31 Jul (Frank Renfrow). The only record of multiple birds came from James A., Adam H., and David H. Yoder on 30 Jul when they recorded two birds at Conneaut, **Ashtabula**.

**Spotted Sandpiper:** Volunteers submitted 89 total observations to OBBA2, bringing the total to 204 survey blocks with detections. Southeastern counties continue to lag behind but this likely represents differences in survey effort. From 13 Jun to 22 Jun, the Greater Akron Audubon Society Summit Census tallied 24 individuals (*fide* Dwight Chasar, Douglas Vogus). Fifteen individuals at the Findley Reservoirs, **Hancock**, on 15 Jul was the high count for the period (Robert Sams).

**Solitary Sandpiper:** Up to four birds were present near Perrysville, **Richland** from 17 to 31 Jul (John Herman). The high count for the season was 11 birds on 26 Jul at the eastern **Hardin** wetlands (Richard Counts). The only Jun record was from 28 Jun at Sandy Ridge Reservation, **Lorain** (Fred Losi). The majority of records were from Jul (**Ashland**, **Cuyahoga**, **Darke**, **Erie**, **Fayette**, **Hancock**, **Hardin**, **Lorain**, **Mahoning**, **Marion**, **Montgomery**, **Sandusky**, **Seneca**, **Summit**, **Union**, and **Wyandot**).

**Greater Yellowlegs:** Jun records involve two birds at Pipe Creek WA, **Erie** on 01 Jun (Robert and Sandy Harlan), one at Lorain Harbor,

**Lorain**, on 04 Jun, one during the Ottawa NWR census on 01 Jun (*vide* Doug Vogus), and a likely early migrant at Pickerel Creek WA, **Sandusky**, on 29 Jun (Chris Pierce). Numerous Jul records were from **Ashtabula, Darke, Erie, Hardin, Lorain, Lucas, Mahoning, Marion, Ottawa, Sandusky**, and **Seneca**.

**Willet**: The season's first Willet was spotted at Headlands Beach SP, **Lake**, on 05 Jul (Ray Hannikman). One Willet arrived at Conneaut, **Ashtabula**, on 09 Jul and one was seen again on 13 Jul (Robert Krajewski). Three individuals hung around Conneaut on 30 Jul for James E., Adam H., and David H. Yoder. John Pogacnik had a flyby at Lorain Harbor, **Lorain**, on 14 Jul as did Jennifer Brumfield on 26 Jul. A single bird was also found at Pipe Creek WA, **Erie**, on 18 Jul (Sally Isacco).

**Lesser Yellowlegs**: Reported from 16 counties during the period (**Ashtabula, Darke, Erie, Hardin, Lorain, Lucas, Mahoning, Marion, Mercer, Montgomery, Ottawa, Pickaway, Sandusky, Seneca, Union, Wyandot**). Early Jun records were of single birds at **Lorain** Harbor 04 Jun (Jan Auburn) and Killdeer Plains WA 05 Jun (Charles Bombaci). A possible early migrant was recorded 22 Jun in southeastern **Sandusky** (Robert and Sandy Harlan). An early arrival at Conneaut, **Ashtabula**, was tallied on 27 Jun (Craig Holt). The flooded Bellevue region had Lesser Yellowlegs as early as 02 Jul (Gene Stauffer) and by 26 Jul, 152 individuals were tallied for the

combined **Sandusky/Seneca** area (Robert and Sandy Harlan). Pickerel Creek WA, **Sandusky**, also had noteworthy concentrations of 75 individuals on 04 Jul (Robert and Sandy Harlan) and 95 individuals on 08 Jul (Craig Holt).

**Upland Sandpiper**: Birds were detected during the period at known nesting locations in **Franklin, Harrison, Marion**, and **Richland**. Ethan Kistler reported eight birds from the Mansfield Lahm Municipal Airport, **Richland**, on 04 Jul (previously reported during the spring period); one bird appeared to be sitting on a nest. An intriguing report of a single bird in **Madison** near a large retail distribution center on 12 Jul (Dave Slager) could have been an early migrant although the presence of expansive habitat may yield more conclusive evidence of nesting in the future. [*To date, the OBBA2 does not have evidence for nests or fledged young of this species anywhere in Ohio. Any records from this period or those from previous years should be submitted to the breeding bird atlas project.*]

**Whimbrel**: Two reports for the season; a flyover at Pickerel Creek WA, **Sandusky**, on 03 Jul (Bill Whan, Brad Sparks) and a flyover at Maumee Bay SP, **Lucas**, on 04 Jul (Greg Links).

**Marbled Godwit**: On 01 Jun, Robert and Sandy Harlan found a single godwit on the **Sandusky** side of the flooded Bellevue region. Bob Krajewski found a bird at Conneaut, **Ashtabula**, on 29 Jul and was seen again over the next two days (James E., Adam H., and David H. Yoder).

**Ruddy Turnstone:** Scattered reports involved six birds tallied during the **Ottawa** NWR census on 01 Jun (*fide* Douglas Vogus), two birds at the Findley Reservoirs, **Hancock**, on 02 Jun (Robert Sams), a single bird on 07 Jun at the eastern **Hardin** wetlands (Richard Counts), and a single bird on 26 Jun during the Magee Marsh WA (**Ottawa**) monthly census (*fide* Mary Warren).

**Sanderling:** A Big Day team nabbed one Sanderling on the beach at Metzger Marsh WA, **Lucas**, on 01 Jun (Bill Whan *et al.*). Conneaut, **Ashtabula**, had five birds on 22 Jul (Craig Holt) and six birds on 31 Jul (James E., Adam H., and David H. Yoder).

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** Early Jun had records of this sandpiper in **Ashtabula**, **Geauga**, **Hancock**, **Lorain**, and **Sandusky**; 11 individuals spent 03 Jun at Conneaut, **Ashtabula** (Craig Holt). Birds started arriving in early Jul with two birds on 03 Jul at the Findley Reservoirs, **Hancock** (Robert Sams), and one individual 08 Jul at Pickerel Creek WA, **Sandusky** (Craig Holt). Suitable shorebird habitat near Perrysville, **Richland**, began attracting small numbers of the species on 17 Jul and birds (as many as 15) remained through 31 Jul (John Herman). **Ashland**, **Erie**, **Hardin**, **Mahoning**, **Marion**, **Mercer**, **Seneca**, and **Union** also had Jul records; 15 birds were at Pickerel Creek WA, **Sandusky**, on 27 Jul (Mike Smith).

**Western Sandpiper:** There were no Jul records for this species, but the flooded Bellevue region (**Sandusky**/**Seneca**) attracted one bird on 01

Jun (Robert and Sandy Harlan). Craig Holt spotted four individuals associating with Semipalmated Sandpipers at Conneaut, **Ashtabula**, on 03 Jun.

**Least Sandpiper:** The species was still in Ohio early in the season with one each in **Richland** (Gary Cowell) and **Sandusky** (Robert and Sandy Harlan) on 01 Jun, and one bird at the Lorain lakefront, **Lorain**, on 04 Jun (Craig Holt). Six birds were in **Mahoning** at the Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary on 11 Jun (Jeff Harvey). Birds started trickling back in late Jun when one bird was seen 28 Jun in **Hancock** (Robert Sams). Jul held records from **Ashtabula**, **Clinton**, **Darke**, **Erie**, **Geauga**, **Hancock**, **Hardin**, **Lorain**, **Lucas**, **Mahoning**, **Marion**, **Mercer**, **Montgomery**, **Ottawa**, **Pickaway**, **Richland**, **Sandusky**, and **Seneca**; the season's highest total of 210 birds was at Pickerel Creek WA, **Sandusky**, on 04 Jul (Robert and Sandy Harlan).

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** Miami-Whitewater Wetlands, **Hamilton**, held eight birds on 01 Jun (Paul Wharton), which was one of only five reports for the season. Most impressive was a flock of 36 individuals that graced the flooded Bellevue region (**Seneca**/**Sandusky**) on 01 Jun (*fide* Becky Cullen). Robert and Sandy Harlan reported two birds at Conneaut, **Ashtabula**, on 08 Jun. Pickerel Creek WA, **Sandusky**, had one bird on 03 Jul (Brad Sparks).

**Baird's Sandpiper:** The only report was of a relatively early individual at the Findley Reservoirs, **Hancock**, on 06 Jul (Robert Sams).

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** The species had largely vacated the state by early Jun; however, birds were present in **Richland** on 01 Jun (Gary Cowell). Lorain Harbor, **Lorain**, had birds on 17 Jul (*fide* Harriet Alger). The flooded Bellevue region (**Seneca/Sandusky**) had as many as 41 individuals on 26 Jun (Robert and Sandy Harlan). Other Jul reports came from **Clark, Clermont, Darke, Marion, Pickaway**, and **Richland**.

**Dunlin:** An exceptional concentration of more than 450 birds staged at the flooded Bellevue region (**Seneca/Sandusky**) on 01 Jun (Robert and Sandy Harlan); that same day, the Jun census at **Ottawa** NWR recorded 91 (*fide* Douglas Vogus). Two birds stopped at Conneaut, **Ashtabula**, on 03 Jun (Craig Holt). Other Dunlin reports came from late-Jun until approximately 13 Jul (m. obs.).

**Stilt Sandpiper:** An early individual was at the flooded Bellevue region, **Sandusky**, on 03 Jul (Bill Whan, Brad Sparks); the area also hosted Stilt Sandpipers on 25 and 26 Jul with a high of six reported by Robert and Sandy Harlan. Pickerel Creek WA, **Sandusky**, had one bird on 06 Jul (Chris Pierce) and two birds on 08 Jul (Craig Holt). Five birds were detected at Pipe Creek WA, **Erie** on 10 Jul (Brad Sparks) and again on 18 Jul (Andy Sewell).

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** All records were from Jul except for one bird in the flooded Bellevue region, **Seneca**, on 01 Jun (Robert and Sandy Harlan) and a group of 12 birds at the Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary, **Mahoning**, on 02 Jun (Jeff

Harvey). The species was reported throughout Jul and reports came from **Ashtabula, Erie, Lorain, Lucas, Mahoning, Marion, Mercer, Ottawa, Sandusky**. An impressive concentration on 08 Jul at Pickerel Creek WA, **Sandusky**, consisted of more than 250 birds (Craig Holt).

**Wilson's Snipe:** No confirmations of nesting were reported this year but records represent nine counties (**Belmont, Fulton, Hardin, Lake, Lucas, Mahoning, Ottawa, Seneca**, and **Wood**). The only northeastern counties with records were **Mahoning** where one individual was seen on 09 Jun at the Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary (William L. Jones) and **Lake** where a single bird was flushed each day on 06, 10, and 11 Jun (Ray Hannikman, Jerry Talkington). Summering birds are known historically from a few east-central counties and exploration of an attractive wetland on 23 Jun in northern **Belmont** yielded many interesting wetland species, including a pair of foraging snipe (Sean Williams).

**American Woodcock:** Broods were reported from **Clark, Greene, Lucas, Ottawa, Trumbull, Warren**, and **Wyandot**. Most of these reports were from Jun, but **Ottawa** had fledged young present on 05 Jul (Mark Shieldcastle). The only report from the southern counties was of two birds flushed from private property in **Pike** on 15 Jul (Aaron Boone).

**Wilson's Phalarope:** Several birds at Big Island WA, **Marion**, continued into the early part of the reporting period; seven birds were observed on 02 Jun (Craig Caldwell)



and two were detected on 05 Jun (Charles Bombaci). The eastern **Hardin** wetlands attracted Wilson's Phalarope for the third consecutive summer. Richard Counts confirmed breeding on 19 Jul (eight individuals tallied), which represents the second nesting record for this site (previously confirmed in summer 2006). The flooded Bellevue region (**Seneca/Sandusky**) had several records of the species from throughout the period. Three phalaropes were present on the **Sandusky** side 01 Jun (Becky Cullen) and the area later held an adult female on 22 Jun. An immature bird accompanied an adult on the **Seneca** side 26 Jul that may indicate successful nesting from the area (Robert and Sandy Harlan). Jay Lehman reports a likely female from Pickerel Creek WA, **Sandusky**, on 13 Jul.

**Bonaparte's Gull:** Most reports came from Conneaut, **Ashtabula**; Bob Lane had 12 birds on 20 Jun. Nine birds were tallied at Magee Marsh WA, **Ottawa**, on 22 Jul (fide Mary Warren). Inland records included three birds at Mosquito Lake, **Trumbull**, on 10 Jun (Craig Holt), and three birds from 30 Jun to 03 Jul at the Findley Reservoirs, **Hancock** (Robert Sams).

**Laughing Gull:** Two records for the season; an adult at Alum Creek SP, **Delaware**, on 03 Jun (Rick Asamoto) and one basic-plumaged bird at Conneaut, **Ashtabula**, on 08 Jun (Robert and Sandy Harlan).

**Ring-billed Gull:** Jeremy Ross observed a chick on the north end of Gibraltar Island, **Ottawa**, on 04 Jul, which represents a new survey block record for OBBA2. The Cleveland

Industrial Flats colony, **Cuyahoga**, was evident all summer (Robert and Sandy Harlan). A colony at an industrial park in **Summit** also appeared to be productive, with at least five nests noted (fide Douglas Vogus). Good counts were 350 birds at Alum Creek SP, **Delaware** (03 Jun; Rick Asamoto); 155 at Mosquito Lake, **Trumbull** (10 Jun; Craig Holt); 200 at the Findley Reservoirs, **Hancock** (05 Jul; Robert Sams); 200 at Buck Creek SP, **Clark** (26 Jul; Doug Overacker); 1,000 at Magee Marsh WA, **Ottawa** (26 Jul; Carl Ball); 250 at Evans Lake, **Mahoning** (27 Jul; Craig Holt).

**Herring Gull:** Several nesting locations were reported from **Erie**, **Lucas**, and **Ottawa**. It is likely that Herring Gulls also nested in the gull colony in an industrial portion of **Summit**; eight adults were acting aggressively on 22 Jun (Douglas Vogus). The most southerly reports were of at least one bird flying along the Great Miami River, **Montgomery**, on 28 Jun (David Collopy), and a bird at Caesar Creek, **Warren**, on 07 Jul (Larry Gara).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** Traditionally scarce during summer in Ohio, the period brought two records. A first-summer individual was at the Headlands Beach SNP, **Lake**, on 28 and 29 Jun (Ray Hannikman). On 30 Jul, a well-described third-summer bird was at Conneaut, **Ashtabula** (James A., Adam H., and David H. Yoder).

**Great Black-backed Gull:** Gregory Bennett observed three birds at Lorain Harbor, **Lorain**, on 07 Jul. Lukas Musher had five individuals at Conneaut, **Ashtabula**, on 19 Jun and Craig Holt reports a handful of birds remained throughout Jul.

**Least Tern:** A single bird present on 04 Jul was a superb find at Funk Bottoms WA, **Wayne** (Kevin Kline, m. obs.).

**Caspian Tern:** Scattered Jun reports were from **Ashtabula** (15 at Conneaut on 19 Jun; Lukas Musher), **Delaware, Lorain, Lucas** (six at Maumee Bay SP on 21 Jun, Robert and Sandy Harlan), and **Sandusky** (four near Bellevue on 22 Jun, Robert and Sandy Harlan). The high count for Jul was 14 at Pickerel Creek WA, **Sandusky**, on 19 Jul (Chris Pierce).

**Black Tern:** The flooded Bellevue region (**Sandusky**) attracted a lone bird on 01 and 22 Jun (Robert and Sandy Harlan). Elliot Tramer reported

six birds from Cedar Point NWR, **Lucas**, on 07 Jul where the species regularly nests. Three birds were photographed at nearby Metzger Marsh WA, **Lucas**, causeway on 13 Jul (Arthur Osborn).

**Common Tern:** A lingering individual was at Alum Creek SP, **Delaware**, on 03 Jun (Rick Asamoto) as were five birds on 02 Jun at the Findlay Reservoirs, **Hancock** (Robert Sams). On 17 Jun, two birds were seen flying down the Maumee River, **Lucas**, about 10 miles from Lake Erie (Jeremy Ross). The Ottawa NWR census on 01 Jun tallied 81 individuals; the breeding colony there consisted of 193 pairs that experienced poorer production than average (*vide* Mark Shieldcastle).



*Black Terns construct nests out of floating vegetation by tethering them to marsh plants. Available nesting habitat along Lake Erie is in decline, recently diminished by invasive strains of the plant Common Reed (Phragmites australis). Arthur Osborn photographed this duo in **Lucas** on 13 Jul.*

**Forster's Tern:** A lingering bird was at the Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary, **Mahoning**, on 09 Jun (William L. Jones). Maumee Bay SP, **Lucas**, had eight birds on 21 Jun (Robert and Sandy Harlan). The highest tally of the season was 12 individuals at both Pipe Creek WA, **Erie** (Carl Ball), and along the Portage River estuary, **Ottawa**, on 26 Jul (Mike Smith).

**Rock Pigeon:** OBBA2 volunteers submitted 362 survey block records for the species. USGS Breeding Bird Survey data show a steady decline for this species in Ohio.

**Eurasian Collared-Dove:** One bird was still in Ft. Seneca, **Seneca**, on 22 Jun (Robert and Sandy Harlan). At least two birds were present near Baltic, **Coshocton**, throughout Jul (David L. Troyer, m. obs.). To date, birds have been observed copulating but more conclusive evidence of nesting in Ohio has yet to be found.

**Mourning Dove:** Detected in more than 1,000 OBBA2 survey blocks across the state.

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** OBBA2 volunteers submitted 420 records for the species, representing 92% of atlas reporting regions. An incubating bird in **Cuyahoga** on 19 Jun represented the only nest record for the period (Dwight and Ann Chasar). During the latter half of Jul, fledged young were observed in **Ottawa** (16 Jul; Mark Shieldcastle), **Hancock** (24 Jul; Robert Sams), and **Noble** (29 Jul; David Rankin). The Greater Akron Audubon Society Summit Census tallied 11 individuals from 13 to 22 Jun (*vide* Dwight Chasar and Douglas

Vogus). Bruce Glick noted that Yellow-billed Cuckoos were mainly noted in the greater **Holmes** region after 26 Jun.

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** USGS Breeding Bird Survey data show a decline in Ohio for this relatively secretive species, so records from 63 OBBA2 survey blocks were encouraging. Where most abundant, the majority of records came from 22 northern counties in the unglaciated region. Records in southern and central regions were from **Adams, Belmont, Brown, Champaign, Clermont, Clinton, Darke, Delaware, Hamilton, Highland, Meigs, Hocking, Muskingum, Noble, Pickaway, and Warren**. Birds were attending nests in **Carroll** (14 Jun; Lori Brumbaugh), **Ottawa** (15 Jun; Lois Harder), **Columbiana** (27 Jun; Jim Dolan), and **Jefferson** (12 Jul; Andy Sewell). A recently fledged bird was in **Darke** on 21 Jul (Regina Schieltz).

**Barn Owl:** A single bird was heard on the evening of 22 Jun in southern **Knox** (Jake Straub). Young were reported from a nest box on private property in **Pickaway** on 11 Jul (anonymous). Bob Lane reported a single adult on 04 Jul at the only currently known nesting location in **Columbiana**.

**Eastern Screech-Owl:** A nest with young was found 15 Jul in **Montgomery** (David Collopy), which is fairly late for active nests in Ohio. Fledged young were reported at three different locations in **Ottawa** (17 and 29 Jun and 06 Jul; Mark Shieldcastle), two locations in **Clark** (28 and 29 Jun;



Several western species made appearances in the state this summer, including one (possibly two) Burrowing Owls. Ohio currently has three accepted records for this species. This individual was photographed in **Darke** on 24 Jun by Robb Clifford.



Many people are concerned about the apparent decline of Common Nighthawks and cite a possible link for this decline to modern buildings being constructed without gravel roofs. Common Nighthawks do not construct a nest, instead they place their two eggs directly on the ground, or on the roof of buildings in urban areas, on a substrate that will camouflage their speckled eggs. This adult with a single nestling was photographed by Dan Adamski on the roof of the University Medical Center in Toledo on 28 Jul.



Mark Shieldcastle), **Greene** (27 Jun; Sue Tackett), and **Columbiana** (10 Jun; *vide* Jim Dolan). On the morning of 28 Jul, screech-owls were readily detected during daylight hours in Brush Creek Township, **Highland**, when four different individuals were calling in response to call playback (Aaron Boone and Dave Slager).

**Great Horned Owl:** Ryan Steiner discovered a nest with young on 10 Jul in **Ashland**. From 01 Jun to 06 Jul, OBBA2 volunteers submitted 17 records of fledged young (**Clark**, **Columbiana**, **Erie**, **Fulton**, **Hamilton**, **Lake**, **Lucas**, **Ottawa**, and **Wyandot**). Current atlas data show southeastern counties with sparse records for the species, a trend also evident in data from the first Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas (Peterjohn and Rice 1991).

**Burrowing Owl:** A landowner reported a Burrowing Owl on 24 Jun that had apparently been present at his soybean field in **Darke** since approximately 18 Jun (confirmed and photographed by Robb Clifford). The bird was not seen on 25 Jun despite much birding effort. Interestingly, an injured Burrowing Owl was turned in to rehabilitators in **Montgomery** three days after the **Darke** bird was documented. If both birds are accepted as separate individuals, they represent the fourth and fifth records for Ohio.

**Barred Owl:** 56 records submitted to the OBBA2 involved confirmation of breeding for **Lucas** (05 Jul, Debbie Johnson), **Lorain** (24 Jun; Terry Collins), **Hancock** (17 Jun; Dave Slager), **Cuyahoga** (13 Jul; Terri Martincic), **Summit** (19 Jun and

04 Jul, Dwight and Ann Chasar), **Columbiana** (27 Jun, Bob Lane), **Carroll** (03 Jul, Lori Brumbaugh), **Delaware** (03 Jun; Charles Bombaci), and **Hocking** (10 Jul; Erin Cashion).

**Common Nighthawk:** A quite different picture for this nightjar appears to be developing in Ohio. Current breeding bird atlas data are few and far between. Elliott Tramer lamented only seeing one bird in the greater Toledo area during the reporting period. A nest was photographed on a medical center rooftop in Toledo, **Lucas**, on 15 Jul (Dan Adamski). On 27 Jun, fledged young were reported from **Hamilton** (Wayne Wauligman). In all, the species was reported from only 45 OBBA2 survey blocks from across the state during the period. Adequate effort could easily explain the paucity of data; USGS Breeding Bird Survey data show a precipitous decline in Ohio since the mid-1960s. Notable concentrations were 12 birds flying over the beach at East Fork SP, **Clermont**, on 23 Jun (Sharon Cates) and seven birds over downtown Mansfield, **Richland**, on 26 Jul (Gary Cowell).

**Chuck-will's-widow:** A nest with eggs was found in **Adams** on 05 Jun, the first conclusive evidence of breeding submitted to the OBBA2, or for either Ohio breeding bird atlas in **Adams** (Peter Whan). Searches for nocturnal birds in Swan Township, **Vinton**, produced a calling bird on 14 Jun (Erin Cashion); follow up searches detected the bird again on 19 Jun (Ben Warner). Another singing bird to the north in **Hocking** was calling throughout the period; this is the second consecutive year the species has been observed at this location



(Paul Knoop *vide* Jim Fry). Two other records in **Adams** come from Meigs Township. on 07 Jun (Lori Brumbaugh) and Brush Creek Township on 15 Jun (Cindy Steffen). On 28 Jun, one bird was singing in Monroe Township, **Adams** (Jay Lehman).

**Whip-poor-will:** An unexpected report of a single bird in northern **Montgomery** on 17 Jun (Daniel Seger) was the first OBBA2 report of the species in the far southwestern counties. Breeding confirmation in **Coshocton** and the Oak Openings, **Lucas**, provided the second and third of only three actual nest records for OBBA2; a nest with one chick was seen near Spring Mountain in **Coshocton** on 04 Jun (James F. Yoder) and a nest with chicks was found in the Oak Openings at the edge of a sand dune on 13 Jul (Warren Uxley). The species was heard singing as late as 21 Jul, when one was detected in **Hocking** (Erin Cashion). Overall, observations submitted by atlas volunteers were rather meager for the period. Highly coordinated efforts to detect this and other nightjar species are imperative for delineating their true distributions in Ohio.

**Chimney Swift:** OBBA2 volunteers submitted 704 survey block observations, further documenting their distribution in all quarters of Ohio. Actual nests were reported from **Athens, Brown, Clark, Columbiana, Cuyahoga, Fayette, Harrison, Holmes, Montgomery, Preble,** and **Summit**. An impressive concentration of 1,100 swifts was observed in Wadsworth, **Medina**, on 12 Jun (Robert and Sandy Harlan). **Cuyahoga** also had good

concentrations with 319 near Parma on 05 Jul (Claire Kluskens) and approximately 260 in Bedford Heights on 15 Jul (Dwight and Ann Chasar).

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:**

455 survey block observations were submitted to the OBBA2 during the period.

**Belted Kingfisher:** OBBA2

volunteers submitted 227 observations. Nests were found in **Butler** (11 Jun; John Habig), **Montgomery** (28 Jun; Scott Hackett), **Wayne** (21 Jun; Aden A. Yoder), and **Holmes** (21 Jun; Jeremy Ross).

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** This species was observed in 203 survey blocks throughout the state. Where more sparsely distributed, **Washington** was the only southeastern county with a record this summer (16 Jul; Becky Wright).

**Red-bellied Woodpecker:**

Reported to the OBBA2 from 625 survey blocks.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:**

Territorial Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were reported from northern (Singer Lake Bog on 07 Jun; Terri Martincic) and southern (24 Jun; Ethan Kistler) portions of **Ashtabula** and also from a forested residential area in **Lake** near where the species has nested for several years (14 Jun; Tim Lenz).

**Downy Woodpecker:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 676 survey blocks.

**Hairy Woodpecker:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 301 survey blocks.

**Northern Flicker:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 578 survey blocks.

**Pileated Woodpecker:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 228 survey blocks. A drumming bird in a large wooded area in far western *Williams* on 02 Jun (Aaron Boone, Paul Rodewald) confirmed the persistence of the species in this area after being recorded during the first breeding bird atlas more than 20 years ago. Rick Nirschl reported the species from Lake La Su An WA, *Williams*, on 04 Jun. An immature bird was seen in a large woodlot in *Hancock* on 15 Jul (Robert Sams).

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** A late individual was reported from *Lake* on 06 Jun (John Pogacnik). Even later was a bird recorded during the *Summit* County Summer Census on 13 Jun (Bill Osborne).

**Eastern Wood-Pewee:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 753 survey blocks.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** A migrant was in *Franklin* on 01 Jun (Rob Thorn). John Pogacnik reported a bird from his yard in *Lake* on 03 and 06 Jun.

**Acadian Flycatcher:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 450 survey blocks.

**Alder Flycatcher:** Reported to OBBA2 from *Ashtabula*, *Champaign*, *Clark*, *Coshocton*, *Erie*, *Fulton*, *Geauga*, *Hancock*, *Harrison*, *Hocking*, *Holmes*, *Licking*, *Mahoning*, *Medina*, *Morrow*, *Noble*, *Portage*, *Richland*, *Stark*, *Summit*, *Trumbull*, and *Tuscarawas*. Six pairs at the Ohio Bird Sanctuary,

*Richland* was a very good count for one location (John Herman). Detections of territorial Alder Flycatchers are increasing in counties farther south of their breeding distribution recorded during Ohio's first breeding bird atlas project. Alder Flycatchers continue in the Clear Creek valley, *Hocking*, with multiple pairs likely; Cedar Bog SNP, *Champaign*, continues to host the species (27 Jun, Ethan Kistler). A good find in central *Pickaway* was an apparently territorial bird heard through 14 Jun (Rob Thorn). Other interesting records were of single territorial birds in *Harrison* and *Noble* (18 Jul and 23 Jul respectively, David Rankin).

**Willow Flycatcher:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 458 survey blocks.

**Least Flycatcher:** A great find for the county, a bird was first heard and then a pair was seen copulating in *Fayette* on 26 Jul (Dave Slager), the most southern record during the period for Ohio. A singing bird at Fort Ancient SP, *Warren*, on 03 Jul was the southernmost record in the state (William McGill). A singing bird was in *Williams* on 21 Jun (Greg Links). Most observations submitted to the OBBA2 were from northeastern counties (15 records from *Carroll*, *Columbiana*, *Geauga*, *Holmes*, *Lorain*, *Mahoning*, *Portage*, *Richland*, *Summit*, *Trumbull*, *Tuscarawas*, ). Another record from *Holmes* on 01 Jun could have been either territorial or a late migrant (James E., Adam H., and David H. Yoder).

**Eastern Phoebe:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 492 survey blocks (representing 94% of all survey regions).

**Great Crested Flycatcher:**

Reported to the OBBA2 from 453 survey blocks.

**Western Kingbird:** A single bird on 22 Jul was a one-day wonder in *Hamilton* (Brian Wulker).

**Eastern Kingbird:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 455 survey blocks.

**Loggerhead Shrike:** A single shrike was discovered in a recently harvested hayfield in *Ashtabula* on 16 Jun but could not be relocated (Craig Holt).

**White-eyed Vireo:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 285 survey blocks. Craig Holt reported a single territorial bird from southern *Ashtabula* on 10 Jun where typically considered scarce as a breeder. In the northwest, territorial birds were reported from *Lucas* at Lou Campbell SNP (09 Jun; Ryan Schroeder) and the far eastern portion of the county on 26 Jun (Mark Shieldcastle); Elliot Tramer encountered a good count of four territorial birds at the Oak Openings Metropark on 02 Jul. Other noteworthy records for northwestern counties were single birds encountered in *Ottawa* on 16 Jul (Mark Shieldcastle), *Defiance* on 01 Jun (David Rankin), and *Wood* on 30 Jun (Tom Kemp).

**Bell's Vireo:** Another good season for Bell's Vireo in *Franklin*, with birds nesting again on campus of Ohio State University (m. obs.) and at least two birds to the northwest in Hilliard on 22 Jun (Brian Gara). Other records for Bell's Vireo include a territorial bird in *Lucas* on 01 Jun (Geoffrey Cottier), a persistently singing bird in *Allen* on 12 Jul (David

Rankin), a confirmed nest at the Ellis Lake Wetlands, *Butler*, on 14 Jun (Kirk Westendorf), and one on 22 Jun at Campbell Ponds, *Hamilton* (William Hull). A quick glimpse of what was likely a Bell's Vireo came from a scrubby reclaimed strip mine in central *Jefferson* on 25 Jun (Scott Albaugh); the species might start showing up more frequently in reclaimed strip mine areas with sufficient scrubby habitat.

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 332 survey blocks.

**Blue-headed Vireo:** Reported to the OBBA2 from an impressive twelve counties (*Columbiana, Coshocton, Cuyahoga, Hocking, Jefferson, Knox, Medina, Meigs, Ottawa, Richland, Summit, and Trumbull*). A bird banded on 01 Jun at Navarre, *Ottawa*, was likely a late migrant (Mark Shieldcastle). This attractive vireo appears to be cropping up as a likely breeder from areas not previously documented. Mohican SP, *Ashland*, hosted at least five territorial birds on 09 Jun (Robert and Sandy Harlan). At least two territorial birds in the Oak Openings region, *Lucas* (21 Jun and 12 Jul; Matt Anderson). A nesting pair in *Coshocton* was observed throughout the period and re-nested after cowbird parasitism, but this attempt apparently failed (Adam H. Yoder). Sean Williams found an adult carrying food in eastern *Meigs* on 17 Jul, which may represent a first nesting confirmation for that county. The Hocking Hills region, *Hocking*, tallied the most OBBA2 records with 12 being reported throughout the period. A territorial bird was found in the Yellow Creek watershed, northern

*Common Ravens have returned to Ohio as breeders, and records away from the nesting site near Fernwood suggest that additional pairs may be nesting. April Sterling captured this image on 11 Jul in **Monroe**.*



*Cliff Swallow nesting activity in Ohio has increased, even since the last Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas; see Figure 8. Dave Lewis captured this image of an adult feeding a nestling in **Cuyahoga** on 01 Jul.*



**Jefferson** on 08 Jun (*vide* Jim Dolan), a first for the county during either Ohio breeding bird atlas projects. This region may yield many more hemlock-associated species as the habitat is better surveyed.

**Warbling Vireo:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 478 survey blocks.

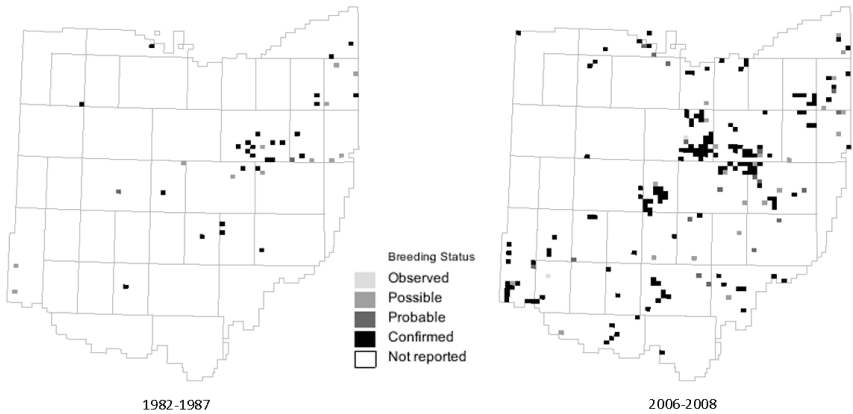
**Red-eyed Vireo:** Reported to the OBBA2 from an amazing 777 survey blocks. USGS Breeding Bird Survey data show a gradual increase in

detection for the species in Ohio since the 1960s.

**Blue Jay:** Reported from 828 survey blocks covering all OBBA2 survey regions.

**American Crow:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 667 survey blocks.

**Common Raven:** With the discovery of nesting ravens during spring 2008, subsequent searching in **Jefferson** provided additional observations of the



**Figure 8.** Maps showing Cliff Swallow distribution recorded during the first Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas (1982-1987) and that from the current breeding bird atlas (2006-2008). Data and images courtesy of the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas (Peterjohn and Rice 1991), the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

family group fledged from Fernwood State Forest (5-6 birds seen on 12 Jul, *vide* Brad Sparks). Earlier on 15 Jun, a single bird was seen in Island Creek Township, **Jefferson**, which is nearly seven miles north of the Fernwood nesting site (Robert and Sandy Harlan). Away from **Jefferson**, a single raven was photographed in **Monroe** on 11 Jul (Bill Murphy, April Sterling *vide* Jim McCormac). Photographs of a raven from neighboring **Washington** in April 2008 suggest that the species could be nesting in other regions of southeastern Ohio.

**Horned Lark:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 434 survey blocks. Relatively scarce as a breeder in southern counties; a good find was of a territorial bird in a **Brown** soybean field on 03 and 14 Jun (Madeline Schickel).

**Purple Martin:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 207 survey blocks that represent nearly every survey region.

**Tree Swallow:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 350 survey blocks.

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 329 survey blocks.

**Bank Swallow:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 64 survey blocks. Nest cavities and/or fledglings were found in **Adams, Carroll, Columbiana, Coshocton, Crawford, Delaware, Erie, Fairfield, Fulton, Hocking, Mahoning, Montgomery, Noble, Richland, Ross, Sandusky, Summit, Trumbull, Tuscarawas,** and **Wyandot**. An impressive colony of more than 150 pairs were near Benton, **Holmes** (Michael Hershberger). A bird entering an apparent nest hole in **Noble** on 23 Jul is one of just a handful of atlas records from the far southeastern counties. An estimated 2,000 birds were staging at Headlands Beach SNP, **Lake** on 16 Jul (Ray Hannikman).

**Cliff Swallow:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 57 survey blocks. Nests



or likely nesting locations were in **Butler, Coshocton, Cuyahoga, Fairfield, Fayette, Franklin, Hamilton, Harrison, Highland, Holmes, Knox, Mahoning, Meigs, Montgomery, Morgan, Ottawa, Pike, Richland, Ross, Trumbull, Vinton, Washington, Williams,** and **Wood**. Current data from the OBBA2 show a more extensive distribution than was recorded during the 1980s, especially in the southern and southwestern counties (Figure 8). An interesting record from 19 Jun was of the species nesting on a cliff face on West Sister Island, **Ottawa** (Mark Shieldcastle). The first OBBA2 record for **Williams** was of a group of birds was observed collecting mud along a road on 02 Jun; nests were later located under the eaves of a barn roof (Aaron Boone, Paul Rodewald). The largest reported colony comes from **Holmes**, which included an estimated 500 nesting pairs (Marty Schlabach). Brad Bond confirmed nesting for the species with adults carrying food to a likely nesting location in **Washington** on 01 Jul.

**Barn Swallow:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 741 survey blocks. Richard Rickard had a pair building a nest as late as 27 Jul in **Cuyahoga**.

**Carolina Chickadee:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 438 survey blocks. A pair north of the Blanchard River, **Hancock**, on 25 Jun contained one Carolina Chickadee while the other bird appeared to be a hybrid (Robert Sams).

**Black-capped Chickadee:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 230 survey blocks. A chickadee was singing a perfect black-capped song at Cedar Bog SNP, **Champaign**, on 28 Jun

(Ethan Kistler, Jim McCormac, m. obs.). Southern **Champaign** is approximately 50 miles from the supposed hybrid line between chickadee species.

**Tufted Titmouse:** With each OBBA2 survey region represented, the species was reported from 693 survey blocks. Current documented distribution closely reflects current distribution of atlas effort.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** It appeared that more Red-breasted Nuthatches were detected this summer, possibly the result of birds remaining after the large invasion Ohio experienced last fall and winter. An individual was detected in the Oak Openings, **Lucas**, on 21 Jun, with a pair seen on 13 Jul (Matt Anderson); west Toledo, **Lucas**, hosted a calling bird in an urban neighborhood on 07 Jul (anonymous report on rarebird.org). Other Ohio counties of note hosting Red-breasted Nuthatch were **Wood** (1 Jun; Mark Miller); two different areas in **Hancock** (25 Jun and 08 Jul; Robert Sams); one at a feeder in **Wayne** on 05 Jun (Linda Stoller); another at a feeder in **Ashland** on 24 Jul (Lloyd Wygant). Gregory Bennett had a good count of three individuals calling around the Barberton Reservoir, **Summit**, on 13 Jun. The most southerly record was in **Hocking** on 10 Jun when a mated pair was found (Eric Hall).

**White-breasted Nuthatch:** With each OBBA2 survey region represented, the species was reported from 616 survey blocks.

**Brown Creeper:** Birds seen repeatedly in the Oak Openings,

**Lucas**, likely nested (Rick Nirschl, Matt Anderson); other noteworthy records of the species were observations on 30 Jun in **Allen** (Linda Houshower) and a 03 Jul record from Fort Ancient SP, **Warren** (William McGill). Randall Carmel found a probable nesting pair in **Knox** on 12 Jun. Eastern **Columbiana** had three separate locations where the species was recorded during atlasing efforts (16 Jun by Jim Dolan; 19 Jun by Ethan Kistler; 01 Jul by Aaron Boone, John Kuenzli, and Paul Rodewald). The only confirmed record of nesting was the observation of fledged young in northern **Stark** on 18 Jun (Kent Miller).

**Carolina Wren:** USGS Breeding Bird Survey data show an increase for the species since the mid-1980s and current atlas data show many more detections of Carolina Wrens in the far northern counties. For example, Carolina Wrens were not detected in **Williams** during the first breeding bird atlas. On 02 Jun, territorial birds were found in both Northwest and Florence Townships (Aaron Boone, Paul Rodewald). Additionally, the species was reported to the OBBA2 from 31 survey blocks in the far northern survey regions (from **Williams** east to **Ashtabula**).

**House Wren:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 894 survey blocks.

**Winter Wren:** Expected at Mohican SP area, **Ashland**, a singing male was reported on 09 Jun (Robert and Sandy Harlan) and on 18 Jul (Bruce Glick); a nearby hemlock slope in **Knox** also had a territorial bird on 12 Jun (Randall Carmel). Southern **Columbiana** (07 Jun) and northern **Jefferson** (late Jun) also had Winter Wren observations where hemlocks

were present. Gabe Leidy confirmed breeding when fledglings were observed on 15 Jul in Cuyahoga Valley NP, **Cuyahoga**.

**Sedge Wren:** Reported to the OBBA2 in 25 survey blocks from 17 counties (**Champaign, Columbiana, Greene, Hardin, Highland, Knox, Marion, Ottawa, Pickaway, Portage, Richland, Ross, Summit, Tuscarawas, Union, Williams, Wyandot**). Nesting was confirmed in **Ottawa** during Jun and approximately 20 birds were seen in an 80-acre conservation reserve grassland at one point (*vide* Lois Harder). An additional record came from **Holmes** on 26 Jun (Allen Troyer). The southern most record from **Highland** included at least two territorial birds on 31 Jul (Dave Slager).

**Marsh Wren:** The colony at the eastern **Hardin** wetlands grew to more than 15 territorial males (Richard Counts) Apparently for the first time since the wetland restoration, territorial males showed up at the Wellington Reservation, **Lorain**; five territorial males were tallied on 11 Jul (Aaron Boone, Ethan Kistler). Seven individuals were tallied at the Firestone-Yeagley WA, **Columbiana**, on 15 Jun (Robert and Sandy Harlan), and 16 individuals were at Killbuck Marsh WA, **Wayne**, on 28 Jul (Adam H. Yoder). Other observations of the species were reported to the OBBA2 from **Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Erie, Lorain, Mahoning, Marion, Ottawa, Richland, Trumbull, Wood** (04 Jul record from **Jackson** Township; Chuck Anderson). eBird data indicate that the species was present at Pickerel Creek WA, **Sandusky**, throughout Jul. A

Marsh Wren lurking in backwaters at Hoover Reservoir, **Delaware**, on 02 Jun seemed out of place (Charlie Bombaci).

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** A pair of Golden-crowned Kinglets was found 12 Jun (Aaron Boone, Jim Dolan, Bob Lane) in a **Columbiana** spruce grove where nesting was first confirmed for the state several years ago. Suitable habitat in **Knox** had a territorial kinglet 12 Jun and again on 30 Jun (Randall Carmel). Two territorial males were at Hinckley MP, **Medina**, on 04 Jun (Robert and Sandy Harlan). Ethan Kistler had a single territorial bird in **Summit** while atlasing on 06 Jun. Two were found in **Cuyahoga** NP, **Summit**, on 21 Jun (Dwight and Ann Chasar). Calling birds were heard on 12 and 13 Jul in the Oak Openings MP, **Lucas** (Matt Anderson, Greg Links).

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** With all but three OBBA2 survey regions represented, the species was reported from a total of 402 survey blocks.

**Eastern Bluebird:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 525 survey blocks.

**Veery:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 16 northern counties (**Ashtabula**, **Columbiana**, **Cuyahoga**, **Fulton**, **Geauga**, **Hancock**, **Lucas**, **Medina**, **Morrow**, **Portage**, **Richland**, **Stark**, **Summit**, **Trumbull**, **Tuscarawas**, and **Wayne**). Atlas surveys in **Fairfield** and **Hocking** produced territorial birds (19 Jun; John Watts). While surveying a ravine preserve in **Delaware**, Tom Bain had a singing bird on 12 Jul, a first OBBA2 record from **Delaware**.

**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** A bird was banded in **Ottawa** on 07 Jun (*vide* Mark Shieldcastle). Other late dates for Gray-cheeked Thrush were from **Lake** as late as 03 Jun (Ray Hannikman) and also on 06 Jun (John Pogacnik).

**Swainson's Thrush:** John Pogacnik had a Swainson's Thrush at his **Lake** property on 06 Jun.

**Hermit Thrush:** A territorial Hermit Thrush was detected first on 12 Jun and again on 07 Jul in southwestern **Stark** (Ryan Steiner). Likely breeders were found in suitable habitat along Pine Run and near Sheepskin Hollow SNP, **Columbiana**, on 12 Jun (Aaron Boone, Jim Dolan). In southeastern Ohio, a Hermit Thrush was likely breeding in **Meigs** when observed on 16 Jul (Sean Williams). The species was well represented in **Hocking** with a total of six survey block records for the county; a survey of Crane Hollow, **Hocking**, tallied approximately 25 singing males along a two-mile stretch of the hollow (Aaron Boone, Dave Slager).

**Wood Thrush:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 680 survey blocks

**American Robin:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 1,053 survey blocks; this is the most commonly reported species for OBBA2.

**Gray Catbird:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 904 survey blocks.

**Northern Mockingbird:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 381 survey blocks. In the northern counties where the



*This Blue-winged Warbler was photographed by Brian Zwiebel in Williams on 14 Jun while it sang from a perch on a Multiflora Rose (Rosa multiflora).*

species is more sparsely distributed, mockingbirds were found in **Ashland** (one block record), **Cuyahoga** (three block records), **Defiance** (one block record), **Erie** (three block records), **Fulton** (four block records), **Hancock** (one block record), **Henry** (six block records), **Lorain** (one block record), **Mahoning** (three block records), **Medina** (one block record), **Ottawa** (three block records), **Paulding** (one block record), **Portage** (one block record), **Putnam** (one block record), **Sandusky** (one block record), **Summit** (four block records), **Trumbull** (seven block records), **Williams** (one block record), and **Wood** (18 block records).

**Brown Thrasher:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 467 survey blocks.

**European Starling:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 814 survey blocks.

**Cedar Waxwing:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 561 survey blocks.

**Blue-winged Warbler:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 134 survey blocks. Current atlas data show a noticeable lack of detections for this warbler in the northwestern counties, but below average survey efforts may account for this. In the northwest, reported to the atlas from **Logan** (fledged young observed on 21 Jun in Perry Township; Dave Slager), **Lucas** (Ryan Schroeder had a territorial male at Irwin Prairie SNP on 26 Jun; Geoffrey Cottier observed a breeding pair in the Oak Openings on 07 Jun), and **Wyandot** (a territorial male at Killdeer Plains WA on 29 Jun; Mark Shieldcastle). The species was also observed in **Williams** on 14 Jun (Pioneer Scout Reservation; Brian Zwiebel) and 21 Jun (Lake La Su An WA; Mike Gordon).

**[Golden-winged x Blue-winged Warbler]:** A territorial 'Brewster's Warbler' was reported to the OBBA2

on 25 Jun in **Wayne** (Randall Rowe).

**Golden-winged Warbler:** A

Golden-winged Warbler was in full song on 10 Jun in **Cuyahoga Valley NP, Summit** (Ethan Kistler). A territorial male was also present for at least two weeks in early Jun in **Hocking** (*fide* Jim Fry, Jim McCormac). Both of these males were presumed to be lone individuals.

**Tennessee Warbler:** A singing male was in **Huron** on 01 Jun (Robert and Sandy Harlan), and a late migrant was banded at Black Swamp Bird Observatory, **Ottawa**, on 04 Jun (*fide* Mark Shieldcastle).

**Nashville Warbler:** A migrant was banded at Black Swamp Bird Observatory, **Ottawa**, on 06 Jun (*fide* Mark Shieldcastle). An apparent male Nashville Warbler, seen foraging around a buttonbush swamp at Lawrence Woods SNP, **Hardin**, was a curious find on 19 Jun (Carl Hoagstrom).

**Northern Parula:** An entirely different breeding distribution for Northern Parula is emerging from current OBBA2 data. Parulas were represented in seven far northern counties (**Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Defiance, Hancock, Lorain, Lucas, and Wood**). From 24-30 Jun, **Shelby**, a county with apparently little nesting information for Northern Parula, had three different areas with territorial birds (Dave Slager).

**Yellow Warbler:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 589 survey blocks. In **Medina**, fledged young were noted as early as 07 Jun (Lisa Chapman).

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 22 survey blocks in northern counties (**Carroll, Columbiana, Coshocton, Geauga, Jefferson, Knox, Holmes, Mahoning, Medina, Morrow, Ottawa, Portage, Richland, Stark, and Wyandot**). Five individuals on 08 Jun in northern **Ashtabula** was a noteworthy count (Robert and Sandy Harlan). An adult male acting aggressively towards an Indigo Bunting on 05 Jun was a good find for **Delaware** (Jonathan Felix). John Watts had territorial birds at single locations in **Fairfield** and **Hocking** on 19 Jun. Elliot Tramer reported a male in the Oak Openings MP, **Lucas**, on 26 Jun; a male was observed again in the Oak Openings on 06 Jul. A great find for **Williams** during the reporting period was a single Chestnut-sided Warbler on 21 Jun (Greg Links).

**Magnolia Warbler:** This species was reported to the OBBA2 from a total of 13 different survey blocks from five counties (**Carroll, Columbiana, Hocking, Lake, Meigs, and Trumbull**). Singing birds were reported from a Cleveland Museum of Natural History property in northwestern **Trumbull** on 03, 10, 19, and 30 Jun (Laura Gooch). The species was finally recorded for the OBBA2 from **Columbiana** when up to three territories were documented along Pine Run Hollow on 08 Jun (Aaron Boone, Jim Dolan). Two noteworthy breeding records come from **Meigs**—a territorial male in Rutland Township on 16 Jul and a juvenile bird seen the next day farther to the east in Olive Township on 17 Jul (Sean Williams). These records emphasize



the value of surveying areas that are seldom birded. The *Meigs* records likely represent new breeding records for the county. From traditional nesting locations, the species was recorded in Mohican State Park (*Ashland*) on 09 Jun (Robert and Sandy Harlan) and 18 Jul (Bruce Glick). *Hocking* had several records representing six different atlas survey blocks; Crane Hollow, Laurel Township had at least eight territorial males along a two-mile transect (23 Jul; Aaron Boone, Dave Slager). Black Swamp Bird Observatory, *Ottawa*, was banding late spring migrants as late as 03 Jun (*vide* Mark Shieldcastle); an early fall migrant was detected along the lakefront at Headlands Beach SNP on 31 Jul (Emil Bacik *vide* Ray Hannikman).

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** A late migrant was in *Ottawa* on 02 Jun (Mark Shieldcastle). Although not an Ohio record, two territorial males were found a mere 100 yards across the state boundary into Pennsylvania along Pine Run Hollow, *Columbiana*, on 08 Jun and again on 12 Jun (Aaron Boone, Jim Dolan). Subsequent searching of suitable habitat on the Ohio side failed to turn up additional territorial individuals. Essentially absent as a nesting species in Ohio, Black-throated Blue Warblers could be lurking in little-known places in northeastern counties.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** A rather late migrant was at Headlands Beach SNP, *Lake*, on 02 Jun (Ray Hannikman). A calling bird was seen near New Philadelphia, *Tuscarawas*, on 08 Jun; this individual did not appear to be territorial and was likely a late spring migrant (Hallie Mason).

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** Twenty-nine records reported to the OBBA2 came from *Ashland*,

*Carroll*, *Columbiana*, *Coshocton*, *Hocking*, *Knox*, *Medina*, *Morrow*, *Richland*, *Summit*, and *Vinton*. A seemingly out-of-place report was of a singing male from a small woodlot in *Morrow* on 17 Jun (Michael Short). Robert and Sandy Harlan reported four territorial males from Hinckley MP, *Medina*, on 04 Jun. A territorial male was also in *Holmes* on 12 Jul (Ed Schlabach). Two separate records from *Carroll* (13 Jun; Chuck McClaugherty, 19 Jun; Randall Rowe) represent observations for a county without records during Ohio's first breeding bird atlas. At least two territorial males were reported from the Oak Openings MP, *Lucas*, on 22 Jun (anonymous).

**Blackburnian Warbler:** Several Blackburnian Warblers were reported during the period. A singing male was at the Oak Openings, *Lucas*, on 22 Jun (Matt Anderson). A singing bird on 04 Jun was at a traditional nesting location at the Hinckley Reservation, *Medina* (Robert and Sandy Harlan). A territorial bird in a large hollow on private land in northeastern *Knox* on 12 and 30 Jun was a superb find (Randall Carmel). The Hocking Hills region in southern *Hocking* had several territorial birds this season with one at Conkle's Hollow SNP on 02 Jun (Robert and Sandy Harlan); at least two singing individuals in Hocking Hills SP on 10 Jun; and another two territorial birds found in areas farther south in mixed deciduous-pine forests on 24 Jun (Eric M. Hall).

**Yellow-throated Warbler:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 144 survey blocks, mostly from central and southern counties. Noteworthy observations were of territorial birds in

**Lorain** on 11 Jun (Chris Grame) and in **Morrow** on 13 and 16 Jun (Gary Cowell and Aaron Boone, respectively). A singing male at Wildwood MP, **Lucas**, on 05 Jun was a great find for this Toledo preserve (Elliot Tramer). Matt Anderson had a male singing just north of Whitehouse, **Lucas**, on 04 Jun. A territorial male was in suitable habitat along the St. Joseph River, **Williams**, on 19 Jun (David Rankin).

**Pine Warbler:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 32 survey blocks. Records from the north include those in **Columbiana, Fulton, Geauga, Jefferson, Knox, Licking, Lucas, Portage, Richland,** and **Summit**. Elliot Tramer reports that pairs nested in several pine stands throughout the Oak Openings MP, **Lucas**. A bird was apparently on territory in Bridgewater Township, **Williams**, on 19 Jun (David Rankin). Robert Herschberger reported one at the Mohawk Dam, **Coshocton** on 10 Jul.

**Prairie Warbler:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 76 survey blocks. Two territorial Prairie Warblers were along the Sandusky River in **Crawford** on 08 Jun (Warren Uxley). A territorial bird on 14 Jun in southwestern **Licking** was noteworthy as it was west of its expected breeding distribution in the state (Gina Buckley).

**Palm Warbler:** Not typically on a summer report, one on 11 Jun at the Arcola Creek estuary in **Lake** was certainly intriguing (John Pogacnik).

**Blackpoll Warbler:** Two migrants showed up on the Ottawa NWR Jun census (01 Jun, *vide* Douglas Vogus); a bird was banded at Black Swamp Bird Observatory, **Ottawa**, on 05 Jun

(*vide* Mark Shieldcastle). One was in Cuyahoga Valley NP, **Summit**, on 01 Jun (Chris Pierce). John Pogacnik had a bird on his North Perry, **Lake**, property on 06 Jun.

**Cerulean Warbler:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 86 survey blocks. A bird was heard briefly from a woodlot in **Williams** on 02 Jun (Aaron Boone, Paul Rodewald). Noteworthy west-central records were on 21 Jun when a territorial male was detected from a woodlot in eastern **Logan** followed by an observation of a territorial bird in western **Champaign** on 25 Jun (Dave Slager). A territorial bird was a good find at Prairie Oaks MP on 21 Jun while canoeing the Big Darby Creek (on the **Madison** side; Carrie Morrow). A good count of five territorial males came from **Ashtabula** on 16 Jun (Craig Holt).

**Black-and-white Warbler:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 50 survey blocks, mostly from southern and southeastern counties. An exceptional record was of a pair carrying food to a likely nest at the north end of the Hoover Reservoir, **Delaware**, on 28 Jun (Charlie Bombaci). Paul Chad found a singing male on 04 Jun in **Henry** but follow-up efforts on 23 Jun did not turn up the bird. A good count for northern **Ashtabula** was three singing birds on 08 Jun (Robert and Sandy Harlan). A male was singing at the Magee Marsh boardwalk, **Ottawa**, on 06 Jul (John Sawvel). On 26 Jul, Dave Slager played a screech-owl recording, which subsequently lured in a single Black-and-white Warbler along an abandoned railway grade in **Fayette**; the bird began singing shortly after discovery.

**American Redstart:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 174 survey blocks. Noteworthy for west-central counties, territorial birds were reported in **Champaign** (29 Jun; Mark Shieldcastle), **Logan** (05 Jun; Troy Shively; 01 Jul; Dave Slager), and **Shelby** (18 Jun and 24 Jun; Dave Slager). An American Redstart tending a nest with young in southwestern **Greene** was also noteworthy (21 Jun; Sue Tackett). A single redstart was a good find on 01 Jul at Armleder Park, **Hamilton** (John Zahner).

**Prothonotary Warbler:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 39 survey blocks. The north end of Hoover Reservoir, **Delaware**, hosted at least 48 Prothonotary Warbler nests (Charles Bombaci). Interesting records of the species in the northwest include a singing bird on 15 Jun along the St. Joseph River, **Williams**, (Jeff Grabmeier) and another singing bird in a flooded woodlot also on 15 Jun in central **Fulton** (Craig Nilsson).

**Worm-eating Warbler:** A singing bird was a superb find in the Oak Openings, **Lucas** on 06 Jun (Elliot Tramer). The **Summit** summer census had one Worm-eating Warbler in mid-Jun (*fide* Dwight Charas and Douglas Vogus). Five singing males at Mohican SP, **Ashland**, was an impressive count on 09 Jun (Robert and Sandy Harlan). Overall, the species was reported to the OBBA2 from 26 survey blocks.

**Swainson's Warbler:** On 27 Jun, Jim Dolan stumbled on a singing Swainson's Warbler along the Little Beaver Creek, **Columbiana**; swift follow-up attempts failed to relocate the bird but the species' history in this area

and nearby northern **Jefferson** should encourage future searches of the area.

**Ovenbird:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 154 survey blocks. Noteworthy atlas records came from the northwestern counties of **Fulton**, **Henry**, **Lucas**, **Ottawa**, **Williams**, and **Wood**. Central Ohio records of note include birds in southern **Delaware** (08 Jun; Julie Davis) and southern **Marion** (28 Jun; Michael Short).

**Louisiana Waterthrush:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 69 survey blocks. Recently fledged young were reported as late as 25 Jul (northern **Clermont**, Robert Foppe).

**Kentucky Warbler:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 113 survey blocks. A territorial Kentucky Warbler was in the Oak Openings, **Lucas**, on 02 and 21 Jun (Elliot Tramer; Matt Anderson) in addition to a singing bird from an isolated woodlot in **Henry** on 02 Jul (Paul Chad).

**Connecticut Warbler:** The only Connecticut Warbler for the period was in **Lake** on 03 Jun (John Pogacnik).

**Mourning Warbler:** This species was banded at the Black Swamp Bird Observatory, **Ottawa**, as late as 05 Jun (*fide* Mark Shieldcastle). Reports of breeding Mourning Warblers were lacking this year from northern Ohio; a bird briefly sang at Lake La Su An WA, **Williams**, on 02 Jun (Aaron Boone, Paul Rodewald), and a bird in downtown Cleveland, **Cuyahoga**, was a surprise on 09 Jun (Michele Hendrick). A large ravine preserve in southern **Delaware** held a singing male on 12 Jul (Tom Bain).



*An impressive rarity is perched within what initially seems like merely a serene photograph of a backyard pond. With its back to the camera, a male Western Tanager is perched on the front left edge of the pond liner. Melinda Burdette took this photo on 08 Jul in her backyard in **Lorain**, capturing an identifiable photo of Ohio's 14th record of Western Tanager.*

**Common Yellowthroat:** Reported to the OBBA2 from an impressive 809 survey blocks.

**Hooded Warbler:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 259 survey blocks. Robert Sams reported a territorial bird near Findlay, **Hancock**, on 29 Jun. **Crawford** ended up with three records for the species—a territorial bird in **Jefferson** Township on 09 Jun (Warren Uxley), a male singing at Sears Woods SNP on 13 Jun (Warren Uxley) and a male singing in a wooded residential area in Lykens Township on 30 Jun (Aaron Boone). Dave Slager had a territorial male in southwestern **Montgomery** on 06 Jun. A territorial bird at Slate Run MP, **Pickaway**, was a good find on 07 Jun and 13 Jun

(Andrea Haslage, Paul Rodewald). A small wooded area on Ohio State University's west campus, **Franklin**, had a Hooded Warbler on 29 Jun was unusual (Andy Sewell).

**Wilson's Warbler:** A male was seen at Ottawa NWR during the Jun census (01 Jun *vide* Douglas Vogus). John Pogacnik had a bird in **Lake** on 06 Jun, and a late Wilson's Warbler was in **Summit** on 11 Jun (Gregory Bennett).

**Canada Warbler:** A late migrant was at Sharon Woods MP, **Franklin**, on 01 Jun (Rob Thorn); the Black Swamp Bird Observatory banded a migrant on 01 Jun (*vide* Mark Shieldcastle). This rare Ohio nester

was reported to the OBBA2 from three survey blocks—nesting was confirmed for the species in southern **Hocking** on 09 Jun (Eric M. Hall), which was only the third confirmation of breeding so far during the OBBA2. John Watts reported birds from traditional nesting locations at Clear Creek MP, **Hocking**, on 19 Jun. On 03 Jul, a bird was seen in **Geauga** (*vide* Linda Gilbert). On 09 Jun, an impressive tally of 12 singing males came from Mohican SP, **Ashland** (Robert and Sandy Harlan).

**Yellow-breasted Chat:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 218 survey blocks. USGS Breeding Bird Survey data indicate a dramatic declining trend for this species in Ohio. Current OBBA2 data show a relatively sparse distribution in the northwestern and northeastern counties but variation in survey efforts may account for some of this.

**Summer Tanager:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 62 survey blocks; as expected, most records came from the southern and southeastern counties. Noteworthy records include a male Summer Tanager along the Blanchard River, **Hancock**, on 14 Jun (Robert Sams). The Oak Openings, **Lucas**, population contained at least five territorial males on 07 Jun (Elliot Tramer). A singing male was in **Cuyahoga** on both 27 Jun and 02 Jul (Henry Fortlage, Dwight Chasar *vide* Mary Ann Romito). Mark Shieldcastle had birds on territory in **Fulton** (21 Jun) and at Killdeer Plains WA, **Marion** (29 Jun). In addition to several pairs nesting at Highbanks MP, **Delaware**, at least one (possibly two) pair was at a large ravine preserve in southern

**Delaware** on 12 Jul (Aaron Boone, Tom Bain). A Summer Tanager on 05 Jun in northern **Preble** was also noteworthy (Dave Slager). Doug Overacker observed a bird at George Rogers Clark Park, **Clark**, on 25 Jul. A first-year male came in to a screech-owl tape in central **Pickaway** on 18 Jul (Dave Slager).

**Scarlet Tanager:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 485 survey blocks representing 80% of atlas survey regions.

**Western Tanager:** A homeowner in **Lorain** did not recognize an unusual bird coming to a small pond on 07 and 08 Jul but her photograph clinches the identification of a male Western Tanager (Melinda Burdette *vide* James McCarty, Jim McCormac). This documentation provides Ohio's 14th record of the species.

**Eastern Towhee:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 598 survey blocks. The paucity of records from northwestern counties may reflect lower levels of survey coverage so it is difficult to determine if there is a true range contraction occurring.

**Chipping Sparrow:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 957 survey blocks. Nests with nestlings were being reported as late as 30 Jun (**Geauga**; Colleen Cousino).

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** A singing male turned up at Quail Hollow SP, **Stark**, in May but stayed on territory through at least 14 Jun (Kent Miller); the bird was apparently unmated. A singing Clay-colored Sparrow was in the Oak Openings, **Lucas**; first found on 22 Jun (Karen Menard) the





*A bird initially identified as a Clay-colored Sparrow in the Charlemont Reservation in Lorain turned out to be a rather extraordinary bird; it was captured in a mist net and in-hand observation (photograph by Andrew W. Jones, 16 Jul) revealed a bird with plumage intermediate to Field and Clay-colored Sparrow. This hybrid combination has been suggested for several odd sparrows elsewhere in the United States, but had never confirmed with in-hand photographs and measurements before.*

bird was still singing on territory as last as 27 Jul (Matt Anderson). Jim McCormac reported on 06 Jul that another sparrow was spotted lurking in the vegetation near the singing male that could have been its mate. Third (late May to 22 Jun; *vide* Bruce Glick) and fourth (06 Jul; James F. Yoder) Clay-colored Sparrows were on territory throughout the reporting period near Walnut Creek, **Holmes**. To date, the OBBA2 has yet to obtain breeding confirmation for this species.

**[Clay-colored x Field Sparrow]:**

On 03 Jul, a sparrow initially identified as a Clay-colored Sparrow was heard and seen (also associating with what was presumed a female) at Charlemont Reservation, **Lorain** (Ethan Kistler), but follow-up observations of the male on 11 Jul revealed plumage and song characteristics of both Clay-colored and Field sparrows (Aaron Boone, Ethan Kistler). On 16 Jul, the sparrow was mist-netted and photographed in the hand (Andy Jones, Aaron Boone), further revealing plumage characteristics similar to those of both sparrow species. DNA analyses will hopefully provide conclusive evidence of the bird's parentage, as this would likely be the first genetically confirmed specimen of this hybrid combination.

**Field Sparrow:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 746 survey blocks.

**Vesper Sparrow:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 285 survey blocks but mainly from western counties. Few Atlas records came from far northeastern counties; records were from **Ashtabula**, **Lorain**, **Medina**, and from northeastern **Trumbull** (5 survey block records) where they were reported as fairly abundant.

**Lark Sparrow:** The species represented in southwestern Ohio by two pairs in **Hamilton** (Paul Wharton, Frank Frick) and a single bird in **Butler** (John Hull). Lark Sparrows were found again at an old quarry in **Greene** when a pair was observed on 19 Jul (anonymous). Birds were first confirmed in western **Tuscarawas** (Wayne Township) in 2007 when a pair with young was observed; the sparrows returned to this location in 2008, and in late Jul



*Lark Sparrow is typically restricted to a handful of breeding sites mostly in the western half of Ohio, but 2008 saw a spate of interesting observations (including breeding reports) from other locations around the state. Nancy Anderson photographed this bird on 21 Jun in **Lake**.*

multiple pairs likely nested when a total of 14 birds, a mix of both juveniles and adults, were observed (Levi A. Yoder). Lark Sparrows wandered into northeastern Ohio with a bird in **Lake** on 21 and 23 Jun (Nancy Anderson) and an unconfirmed report from **Lorain** on 20 Jul (Dane Adams).

**Savannah Sparrow:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 440 survey blocks. Atlas records of note in the far south were in **Brown** (03 Jun; Madeline Schickel) and **Pike** (07 Jun; Paul Gardner).

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 250 survey blocks. Sparse reports in the northeast came from **Ashtabula** (Craig Holt had three

territorial birds singing from hayfields in Conneaut Township on 15 Jul), **Lake** (two records—a singing bird on 01 Jun found by Lisa Chapman; a nest with eggs found on 20 Jun *vide* Linda Gilbert), and **Summit** (a territorial bird found 13 Jun; Dwight and Ann Chasar). An excellent count of more than 60 singing birds was recorded on 06 Jun north of Sugarcreek, **Tuscarawas** (Levi Yoder).

**Henslow's Sparrow:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 60 survey blocks. Several males were on territory at a landfill site in southwestern **Lake** on 14 Jun (*vide* Linda Gilbert). Two birds were found on 02 Jun at **Cuyahoga Valley National Park** (Coliseum Grasslands), **Summit** (Dwight and Ann Chasar). Three singing males

were at the Charlemont Reservation, **Lorain**, on 08 Jul (Ethan Kistler). Brad Sparks reported a single bird from **Seneca** on 03 Jul. The species persisted on the grounds of the Toledo Express Airport, **Lucas** (Elliot Tramer, Matt Anderson). Jun reports indicated multiple locations throughout **Williams** having territorial birds (Aaron Boone, Paul Rodewald, Eric Durbin). A territorial bird in Liberty Township, **Mercer**, on 26 Jun was unexpected (Aaron Boone, John Kuenzli).

**Song Sparrow:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 1,013 survey blocks.

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** A well-described individual was hanging around a flower garden in **Lake** on 27 Jul (Eilleen Leskovec); this is apparently the first Ohio Jul record for this species. Another summer record came from **Cuyahoga** on 28 Jun (Robert Jackson).

**Swamp Sparrow:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 116 survey blocks. On 23 and 24 Jul, David Rankin had singing males in small cattail marshes in **Morgan** and **Noble**, respectively. In addition to these fairly southern records, a sizeable population of Swamp Sparrows in central **Fairfield** yielded at least two singing birds on 21 Jul (Dave Slager).

**White-throated Sparrow:** A handful of records for the period included late migrants in **Montgomery** on 02 Jun (Ed Neubauer) and a singing male in **Pickaway** that same day (Robert and Sandy Harlan). At least one singing male was present from 08 Jun through 05 Jul at Headlands Beach SNP, **Lake**

(Ray Hannikman, Emil Bacik, Jerry Talkington). On 09 Jul, Paula Lozano had a White-throated Sparrow singing in her **Cuyahoga** backyard.

**White-crowned Sparrow:** An adult White-crowned Sparrow was most unusual at Headlands Beach SNP, **Lake**, on 12 Jul (Ray Hannikman).

**Dark-eyed Junco:** A singing male at Conkle's Hollow SNP, **Hocking**, on 02 Jun was far south of the species' breeding population in extreme northeastern Ohio (Robert and Sandy Harlan). **Holmes** and **Coshocton** each had unusual mid-summer records—one near Holmesville on 17 Jun (Rufus Troyer) and one near New Bedford on 28 Jul (Adam H. Yoder). An eBird report shows one bird reported on 01 Jul in **Mahoning** (Evan Schwartz). Reports to the OBBA2 came from seven survey blocks scattered through **Lake** and **Geauga**. On 15 Jun, Gabe Leidy reported at least two pairs of juncos at **Cuyahoga** Valley National Park, **Summit**, with at least one pair feeding fledglings.

**Northern Cardinal:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 978 survey blocks.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 314 survey blocks. When surveyed during Ohio's first breeding bird atlas (1982-1987), Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were few and far between in the far southern counties—on 15 Jul, Sean Williams found the species in three different survey blocks in southern **Lawrence**. Other southern counties with Atlas records were **Adams**, **Meigs**, and **Washington**.

**Blue Grosbeak:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 36 survey blocks. Birds returned to an old quarried area in far western *Tuscarawas* since first appearing in 2006; nesting was confirmed this year, and on 06 Jun, at least four territorial males were noted in the area (Levi A. Yoder). A subadult male was not expected when found singing in Black Creek Township, *Mercer*, on 26 Jun (Aaron Boone, John Kuenzli). Pairs of Blue Grosbeaks were also found in *Licking* on 01 Jun (Margaret Bowman) and in *Muskingum* on 25 Jul (Bryce Adams). Bob Lane found a lone male in northern *Jefferson* on 20 Jul—other reclaimed strip mines in the county may be harboring additional territories; this is the second *Jefferson* record during OBBA2. An impressive concentration of at least 15 territorial males was tallied on 28 Jul in a single atlas survey block (about 10 square miles) in southern *Highland*; none were recorded in this area during Ohio's first breeding bird atlas (Aaron Boone, Dave Slager). As many as four birds were observed at Voice of America, *Butler* (15 Jun; Jeff Brown).

**Indigo Bunting:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 977 survey blocks.

**Dickcissel:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 134 survey blocks. John Herman recorded birds at four different *Crawford* locations in addition to three *Richland* locations (a total of six singing males near the Shiloh location on 24 Jun). A singing Dickcissel in *Lake* on 07 Jun (John Pogacnik) and one in *Trumbull* on 25 Jun (Craig Holt) represent rare northeast records. On 17 Jul, one Dickcissel was heard in eastern *Coshocton* (David Rankin).



*Brian Zwiebel took this superb photo of a female Bobolink with food in Williams on 14 Jun. Bobolinks are declining grassland nesters but remain plentiful in fields with appropriate vegetation cover (typically fields that are large, and have not been plowed for at least eight years).*

**Bobolink:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 184 survey blocks. More than 40 birds was reported from the Voice of America grasslands, *Butler* on 15 Jun (Jeff Brown).

**Red-winged Blackbird:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 876 survey blocks.

**Eastern Meadowlark:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 580 survey blocks.

**Western Meadowlark:** The state had at least six Western Meadowlarks this season. The pair first reported in 2007 returned to an area west of Cygnet, *Wood* (Chuck Anderson, m. obs.), as did a singing male in

**Williams** (02 and 17 Jun; Rick Nirschl, Jeff Grabmeier). A second meadowlark set up territory in **Wood** to the east of Cygnet in late May and was observed again on 21 Jun (Robert and Sandy Harlan). A third territorial Wood bird was found on 18 and 30 Jun near North Baltimore (Tom Kemp, Chuck Anderson). Farther east, a territorial Western Meadowlark was found in **Sandusky** on 29 Jun (Mark Shieldcastle). A bird in **Holmes** was not relocated after being found on 04 Jun (James E. Yoder).

**Yellow-headed Blackbird:** An adult and juvenile were seen at Metzger Marsh WA, **Lucas**, on 20 Jul (Brian Zwiebel). Only one bird was seen at Ottawa NWR, **Ottawa**, during the 06 Jul census (*vide* Douglas Vogus).

**Common Grackle:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 682 survey blocks.

**Brown-headed Cowbird:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 696 survey blocks.

**Orchard Oriole:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 324 survey blocks.

**Baltimore Oriole:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 569 survey blocks.

**Purple Finch:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 32 survey blocks in northeastern counties. Most unusual was a well-described female carrying food in a forested portion of Delaware WA, **Marion**, on 25 Jun (Jonathan Felix).

**House Finch:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 545 survey blocks.

**Pine Siskin:** Siskins nested in **Lake** but disappeared by late Jun (John Pogacnik). A single siskin visited a

feeder in **Coshocton** from 17 to 20 Jun (Adam H. Yoder).

**American Goldfinch:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 892 survey blocks.

**Evening Grosbeak:** A male was in John Pogacnik's North Perry yard, **Lake**, on 03 Jun.

**House Sparrow:** Reported to the OBBA2 from 843 survey blocks. USGS Breeding Bird Survey data show a dramatic decline for this species in Ohio, especially since the 1980s. The species was recorded in all but two of the blocks surveyed during Ohio's first breeding bird atlas; it will be interesting to see if population declines translate into a range contraction for this ubiquitous species.

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Cashion, Erin	Gingrich, Tami	Karlson, Julie
Cates, Sharon	Glick, Bruce	Keller, Ned
Chapman, Lisa	Gooch, Laura	Kemp, Tom
Chasar, Dwight & Ann	Gordon, Mike	Kestler, Ethan
Clifford, Robb	Grabmeier, Jeff	Kline, Kevin
	Grame, Chris	Kluskens, Claire

*The Ohio Cardinal, Summer 2008*

Knoop, Greg	Osborne, Bill	Steffen, Cindy
Knoop, Paul	Ostermiller, Helen & Ken	Stegner, Gary
Kramer, Daniel	Overacker, Doug	Steiner, Ryan
Kuenzli, John	Paul, Rick	Sterling, April
Kuns, Jean	Phillips, Brad	Straub, Jake
La Sala, Al	Pierce, Chris	Stultz, Patty
Lane, Bob	Placier, Robert Scott	Tackett, Sue
Lauer, Steve	Powell, Bob	Talkington, Jerry
Lee, Steven	Price, John	Thorn, Rob
Lehman, Jay	Pruden, Cathie	Tramer, Elliot
Leidy, Gabe	Rankin, David	Troyer, Allen
Leskovec, Eileen	Reed, James	Troyer, David L.
Lewis, Philip	Reinthal, Mary	Troyer, Rufus
Links, Greg	Renfrow, Frank	Uxley, Warren
Linzell, Doreene	Reynolds, Mike	Vogus, Douglas
Lombardo, Bruce	Rickard, Richard	Warner, Ben
Losi, Fred	Ritzenthaler, John	Warren, Leslie
Lowe, Betty	Rodewald, Paul	Warren, Mary
Lowry, Rob	Romito, Mary Anne	Watts, John
Lozano, Paula	Ross, Jeremy	Wauligman,
Manns, Steve	Rowe, Randall	Wayne
Marshall, Kim	Sams, Robert	Westendorf, Kirk
Martincic, Terri	Santiago, Melissa	Whan, Bill
Mason, Hallie	Saunders, Charlie	Whan, Pete
Mathena, Charlotte	Sawvel, John	Wharton, Paul
McCarty, James	Schickel, Madeline	Wheat, Tammy
McCarty, Richard	Schieltz, Regina	Wilkinson, Brad
McClagherty, Chuck	Schlabach, Ed	Williams, Sean
McCormac, Jim	Schlabach, Marty	Williams-Sieg,
McGill, William	Schroeder, Ryan	Kelly
Menard, Karen	Schwartz, Evan	Wootten, Judith
Miller, Amy	Seger, Daniel	Wright, Becky
Miller, Kent	Sempier, Ron	Wright, Gene &
Milliron, Sarah	Semroc, Judy	Sandy
Minium, Michael	Sewell, Andy	Wulker, Brian
Minney, Dave	Sherman, Dave	Wygant, Lloyd
Morrow, Carrie	Sherwood, James	Yoder, Adam H.
Morse, Donald, Jr.	Shieldcastle, Mark	Yoder, Aden A.
Mulkie, John	Shively, Troy	Yoder, David
Murphy, Bill	Short, Michael	Yoder, David H.
Murray, Les	Sidloski, Ted	Yoder, James A.
Musher, Lukas	Simpson, Bruce	Yoder, James E.
Neubauer, Ed	Slager, Dave	Yoder, James F.
Nilsson, Craig	Smith, Mike	Yoder, Levi
Nirschl, Rick	Smith, Price	Yoder, Levi A.
Ober, Roberta	Sparks, Brad	Zahner, John
O'Boyle, James	Stanley, Bill	Zimmerman, Bill
O'Connor, Penny	Stauffer, Gene	Zwiebel, Brian

## Recent Actions of the Ohio Bird Records Committee

By **Edward O. Keller**

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The Ohio Bird Records Committee has resolved 48 records since the last report. Of these, 39 records of 27 species were accepted; nine additional records were not accepted. Two first state records were approved: Reddish Egret and Dusky Flycatcher. A summary of those records is provided below.

This is my first report as Secretary of OBRC, so I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank my predecessor, Tom Kemp, for his years of service to the Committee and to the Ohio ornithological community. I would also like to thank departing committee member Dwight Chasar for his years of service, and to welcome our newest member, Jennifer Brumfield.

### Records Accepted:

**Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*):** one individual, **Auglaize** County; 18 November 2007, documentation by Andy Sewell; vote 6-1.

**Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*):** one individual, **Hocking** County; 16

September 2008, documentation by Jim Fry, Stephen J. Williams; vote 7-0.

### **frigatebird species (*Fregata* sp.):**

1 individual, **Stark** County; 16 September 2008, documentation by Gabe Hostetler; vote 6-1. The details of this record of an immature bird were not sufficient to conclusively establish the bird as a Magnificent Frigatebird.

### **Tricolored Heron (*Egretta***

**tricolor**): one individual, **Erie** County; 25 August 2008, documentation by Craig Caldwell; vote 7-0.

### **Reddish Egret (*Egretta rufescens*):**

one individual, **Ashtabula** County; 05 June 2008, documentation by Craig Holt; vote 6-1. **First Ohio Record.** Another documentation from 14 June was not sufficient to be accepted on its own, but suggests that this bird may have remained in the area.

### **White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*):**

one individual, **Ottawa** County; 10 May 2008, documentation by Laura Keene; vote 7-0.

**Plegadis ibis (*Plegadis* sp.):**

one individual, **Ottawa** County; 10 May 2008, documentation by Craig Caldwell; vote 7-0. (Note: Although seen the same day as the previous record, it was sufficiently far away that this might have been a different bird.)

**Wood Stork (*Mycteria***

**americana**): three individuals, **Coshocton** County; 30 August 2008, documentation by Craig Caldwell; vote 7-0.

**Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia***

**mississippiensis**): two records accepted:

a) one individual, **Hocking** County; 24 June 2008, documentation by Heather Nagy; vote 7-0.

b) one individual, **Geauga** County; 07 June 2008, documentation by Ethan Kistler; vote 7-0.

**Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops***

**noveboracensis**): two records accepted:

a) one individual, **Holmes** County; 24 September 2006, documented by James E. Yoder; vote 7-0.

b) one individual, **Wayne** County; 11 October 2008, documented by James E. Yoder; vote 7-0.

**Black Rail (*Laterallus***

**jamaicensis**): one to two individuals, **Pickaway** County; 01 June 2008, documentation by Bill Whan; 02 June 2008, documentation by Craig H. Caldwell, Rob Lowry, Bill Heck; 04 June 2008, documentation by Mike Yough; vote 7-0.

**Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*):** four records accepted:

a) one individual, **Lorain** County; 13 May 2008, documentation by Jim

McCarty, Bret McCarty; vote 7-0.

b) two individuals, **Sandusky** County; 22 June 2008, documentation by Robert N. Harlan, Sandra J. Harlan; vote 7-0.

c) four individuals, **Seneca** County; 30 June 2008, documentation by Jay Lehman; 8 July 2008, documentation by Aaron Boone; vote 6-1.

d) four individuals, **Ottawa** County; 12 August 2008, documentation by Michael R. Bolton; vote 7-0.

**Black-headed Gull**

**(*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*):**

one individual, **Cuyahoga** County; 20 December 2008, documentation by Rob Lowry; 09 January 2009, documentation by Craig Caldwell; vote 7-0.

**Least Tern (*Sternula antillarum*):**

two records accepted:

a) one individual, **Hamilton** County; 19 August 2007; documentation by Jay Stenger; vote 7-0.

b) one individual, **Wayne** County; 04 July 2008; documentation by Kevin Kline; vote 7-0.

**Eurasian Collared-Dove**

**(*Streptopelia decaocto*):** two records accepted:

a) one individual, **Tuscarawas** and **Coshocton** Counties; 21 April to 28 June 2008, documentation by Adam H. Yoder, James E. Yoder; vote 6-1.

b) two individuals, **Seneca** County; 01 June 2008, documentation by Bill Whan; vote 6-1.

**White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*):** one individual, **Holmes** County; 14 December 2007,

documentation by Jan Miller; vote 6-1.

**Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*):** one individual, **Darke** County; 24 June 2008, documentation by Robb Clifford; vote 7-0.

**Dusky Flycatcher (*Empidonax oberholseri*):** one individual, **Ottawa** County; 03 June 2005, documentation by Mark Shieldcastle and Luke DeGroot; vote 7-0. First Ohio Record. This bird was banded, and was measured and photographed in the hand.

**Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*):** one individual, **Holmes** County; 24 December 2008, documentation by Johnny Miller; vote 7-0.

**Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*):** one individual, **Hamilton** County; 22 July 2008, documentation by Brian Wulker; vote 6-1.

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*):** one individual, **Clark** County; 11 May 2008, documentation by Brian Menkeer; vote 7-0.

**Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*):** one individual, **Ashtabula** County; 16 June 2008, documentation by Craig Holt; vote 6-1.

**Common Raven (*Corvus corax*):** four records accepted:  
a) one to two adults at a nest that contained five nestlings, **Jefferson** County; 25 March 2008 to 30 April 2008; documentation by Aaron Boone, Ethan Kistler; vote 7-0.

b) one individual, **Jefferson** County; 15 June 2008, documentation by Robert N. Harlan, Sandra J. Harlan; vote 6-1. (note: Although in the same county, the location was sufficiently different from the previous record that this might have been a different bird.)

c) one individual, **Monroe** County; 11 July 2008, documentation by William L. Murphy, Martie Heins, Bob Heins, April Sterling; vote 7-0.

d) five individuals, **Jefferson** County; 12 July 2008, documentation by Andy Sewell, Bill Whan; vote 6-1. (note: This record was reviewed independently from the other Jefferson County birds; the committee made no attempt to guess whether these were the same birds.)

**Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*):** two records accepted:

a) seven individuals, **Cuyahoga** County; 09 November 2008, documentation by Larry D. Richardson; vote 7-0.

b) four individuals, **Hocking** County; 17 November 2008, documentation by John Habig, Rick Asamoto, Jay Lehman; vote 7-0.

**Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*):** one individual, **Lorain** County; 07 July to 11 July 2008, documentation by Melinda Burdette; vote 7-0.

**Harris's Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*):** two records accepted:  
a) one individual, **Huron** County; 18 to 19 May 2008, documentation by Dean Sheldon, Jr.; vote 7-0.  
b) one individual, **Coshocton** County; 27 January 2008 to 30 April 2008, documentation by James E. Yoder, Willis Brubaker; vote 7-0.



**White-crowned Sparrow**

(*Zonotrichia leucophrys*): one individual, **Hamilton** County; 01 August 2008, documentation by Mark Gilsdorf; vote 7-0. This bird was an adult. The documentation was not sufficient to accept a second bird, an immature, which would have been a truly exceptional date.

**Records Not Accepted:**

**Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*):**

one individual, **Cuyahoga** County; 14 December 2007; vote 2-5. The committee could not rule out a hybrid with Snow Goose (*C. caerulescens*).

**Reddish Egret (*Egretta***

**rufescens**): one individual, **Ashtabula** County; 14 June 2008; vote 3-4. See the notes under the accepted record, above.

**Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops***

**noveboracensis**): one individual, **Wayne** County; 14 October 2007; vote 5-2. Although a majority of the committee voted to accept this record, a vote of at least six to one is required. The primary issue with this record was the very brief view which the observer was able to obtain.

**Wilson's Plover (*Charadrius***

**wilsonia**): one individual, **Seneca** County; 11 July 2008; vote 2-5. Although the written description suggested Wilson's Plover, the supplied photograph was more consistent with Killdeer.

**Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus***

**mexicanus**): one individual, **Hardin** County; 07 June 2008; vote 3-4. This bird was probably a Black-necked Stilt, but the documentation was too sparse to be conclusive.

**California Gull (*Larus***

**californicus**): one individual, **Lucas** County; 13 May 2008; vote 0-7. The documentation consisted of a single photograph of the head, which was not sufficient to rule out Ring-billed Gull.

**Least Tern (*Sternula antillarum*):**

15 individuals, **Mahoning** County; 4 May 2008; vote 1-6. The description lacked detail, especially for a record of such an extraordinary number.

**Black-billed Magpie (*Pica***

**hudsonia**): one individual, **Highland** County; 6 November 2008; vote 0-7. The observer had only a brief look at this bird, from a moving vehicle.

**Swainson's Warbler**

(*Limnothlypis swainsonii*):

one individual, **Columbiana** County; 20 June 2008; vote 0-7. The documentation was not sufficient to rule out other species.

## Book Review

Smithsonian Field Guide to the Birds of North America (2008), by Ted Floyd. Collins (an imprint of HarperCollins), New York. 512 pages. 8 inches x 5-3/4 inches. Includes a DVD of 587 MP3s covering 138 species.

### **Reviewed by Mike Busam**

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West Chester, Ohio 45069

Like Darwin's Finches, contemporary field guides for birds have radiated outward from a common source in order to survive, compete, and reproduce in the varied niches of the evolving birding marketplace (Think a book can't reproduce? Consider the original *Sibley Guide to Birds* (Sibley 2000) and its Eastern and Western splits). There are guides that target every level of serious birder, from beginner to expert; guides for people who wish merely to separate passerines from non-passerines; and guides for people whose interest in birds begins and ends with figuring out the "red ones, the brown ones, and the yellow ones" at their feeders. We are not talking only about books, either. There are field guides for hand-held computers, web-based field guides, and guides on DVDs and CDs—on any platform or medium in existence. Most birders today accept that any interest in birds, and by association, conservation, is to be commended. Although that may be true, not every field guide for birds is to be equally commended. A visit to your local bookstore or wild bird feed

store will likely produce some sad field guide encounters for serious birders. There are many field guides in the marketplace, but only a handful are actually useful to those of us who are deeply interested in birds, regardless of our experience or skill level.

We know the field guides we use and trust; we know their strengths and weaknesses. Most of us have a number of these guides on our shelves, in addition to any number of books specializing in select groups of birds: shorebirds, warblers, gulls, and the like. A recent addition to the list of general all-encompassing field guides is the *Smithsonian Field Guide to the Birds of North America* (hereafter abbreviated as *Smithsonian Guide*), by Ted Floyd. Floyd is the editor of *Birding* magazine and also a regular contributor and sometimes sparring partner on the Frontiers of Identification list-serve, a public forum in which one can find almost any aspect of bird identification being pondered or debated by serious birders.

The "nuts-and-bolts" of bird identification is featured on any page one might open in Floyd's *Smithsonian Guide*, but at the same time the dark cloud of conservational pessimism that often obscures the silver lining of watching, identifying, chasing, and simply enjoying birds is not ignored.

The guide begins with interesting and clearly written introductory material covering the natural history of birds, bird identification basics, and a general explanation of the layout of the book. The section on plumages and molt is worth reading, because each species account in the *Smithsonian Guide* includes bullet-point descriptions of molt strategy as well as seasonal, and age- and sex-related

plumage differences. Floyd describes four molt strategies used by the birds covered in the Guide (page 22): “Simple Basic Strategy (one plumage per year). Complex Basic Strategy (one adult plumage per year, plus a second plumage in the first year of life). Simple Alternate Strategy (two plumages per year). Complex Alternate Strategy (two adult plumages per year, plus a third plumage in the first year of life).”

Where applicable, Floyd also uses the terms “breeding” and “nonbreeding” and “juvenile” and “immature” in an effort to simplify discussions of different plumages. Additionally, there’s a sidebar in the introductory section on plumages and molt to explain the concept of annual molt and plumage cycles among gulls.

In the introduction, Floyd says (page 2) “The *Smithsonian Guide* has two special emphases that reflect emerging trends in the field identification of birds. The first is a focus on natural variation within and among species, and the second is a ‘holistic’ view of the bird as the sum of its behavioral, ecological, and morphological parts.” The species accounts in the *Smithsonian Guide* do deliver what Floyd promises in the introduction, but I think there is some allowable skepticism as to the notion of “holistic” identification techniques being somehow new to bird identification or the contemporary field guide. Our best field guides all present information that could be argued as being “holistic” in nature. The holistic approach is certainly not new to field guides. However, the design, layout, and presentation of information in the *Smithsonian Guide* are excellent and clear, and it is fair to say that the book achieves Floyd’s goals,

however one might define “holistic.”

The *Smithsonian Guide* covers all the birds regularly occurring within the ‘ABA Area,’ (defined by the American Birding Association). ABA Checklist Codes are used in each species account, as well as in the beginning of the brief introductions to different orders or families of birds covered in the text. For instance, the beginning of the Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers section notes that in the ABA area there are within this group (page 183): “50 species: 25 ABA Code 1, 9 Code 2, 7 Code 3, 4 Code 4, and 5 Code 5.” The ABA Codes range from 1 to 6 and designate the status of a species from 1 (occurring widely) to 6 (extinct or not found in the wild). The codes are useful shorthand for a beginning birder trying to figure out the relative status of a given species in his or her area. It remains an imperfect rating system, though, since a given species can occur widely in one area, yet be a hotline-worthy rarity in another. In Ohio, for example, would any knowledgeable birder consider a Loggerhead Shrike a Code 1 species? It is probably asking too much of a field guide to cover all the nuances of range and distribution, and the codes have to be interpreted cautiously. One hopes that in addition to their field guide, serious birders also consult knowledgeable people in their area. Not everything can be learned from a field guide—even a good one.

Each order or family treated in the book begins with a one-page introduction covering general information on taxonomy, habitats, general physical characteristics, migration strategies, and conservation threats, followed by a line listing the ABA Codes for the group. One to

three species are covered per page, and more space is given to species with multiple well-marked plumages, regional variations, clearly marked subspecies, etc. Opening the book at random to the Western Kingbird account (page 297), we find one page with five photographs, each with captions explaining plumage points (“holistically” one assumes): one of an adult; one of an immature; two flight images, and one of a juvenile. The bird’s common and scientific names and its status as an ABA Code 1 bird are listed at the top of the page. In a clearly marked spot in the center left of the page is a line listing the average length, wingspan, and weight of Western Kingbird, followed by three bullet points covering plumage and molt, each on its own line. There are, we read (page 297): “two adult molts per year; complex alternate strategy / weak differences between juvenile and fall adult / feather wear significantly affects appearance of tail.” Below the bullet points are four sentences that describe preferred habitat (with brief comparison to typical habitat of Eastern Kingbird), behavior, and timing of migration. This block of text is followed by descriptions of its song and calls, which are compared to those of Eastern Kingbird. If there were sound files for Western Kingbird on the DVD that accompanies the text, there would be a blue speaker icon next to the song and calls descriptions.

Tucked in next to the descriptive text is a range map, roughly an inch square, showing winter, breeding, migratory routes, and areas in which the Western Kingbird is considered rare. There is no overlap in the breeding and wintering ranges in North America for Western Kingbird, but if there were, that would appear

on the map, too. Most of the range maps in the *Smithsonian Guide* show all of “North America,” or the United States, Canada, and northern Mexico. Mexico is not in the ABA Area, but the maps do cover the ranges of the birds as they occur in northern Mexico. The maps were prepared by Paul Lehman, and they are clear and seem accurate, insofar as the Ohio ranges of the species are treated. Given the size of the maps—an inch square on average—they are by necessity rather “broad-brush” in nature, which is why any Ohio birder ought to have Peterjohn’s (2001) *Birds of Ohio* or one of the good checklists or regional books dedicated to the birds of our state.

We are, for better and worse, in the technology age. Thus, the *Smithsonian Guide* is not just a printed book, but a vessel to carry cutting-edge technology to savvy birders. Tucked into the back cover of the book is a DVD containing 587 MP3 sound files of different vocalizations for 138 North American birds. Simple math reveals that there are a lot more than 138 species of North American birds. The benefit of the *Smithsonian Guide* DVD is not the breadth of coverage, but the depth of coverage. There are species one would like to hear that are not on the DVD, but the variety of songs, calls, and other sounds provides good examples of the variety of sounds that birds make from species to species as well as the variation within a species (this may be that “holistic” approach showing through, again.) I am a technology crab and have not yet been inspired to carry an MP3 player and speakers into the field to lure local birds, as some birders and photographers do. I do, however, have an MP3 player, and it was fairly easy to get the files onto

my off-brand machine. People with nicer MP3 players will find that a tiny picture of the appropriate bird will appear on their screen when they play its calls or songs. The sound files lack human voice-over, which is either a positive or a negative point, depending on how the files are used in the field or anywhere else one might listen to them. A booklet accompanying the DVD contains brief descriptions of each cut on the disk, plus information on where the songs were recorded if such information is pertinent. Birders with newer CD players in their homes or cars might even be able to play the MP3s on those machines, directly from the DVD, but do not count on that. If you are unsure whether your CD system can play MP3s, it probably cannot! Of course, if one lacks an MP3 player, the recordings can be played on most computers with DVD drives. If you lack a computer, the DVD would make a nice coaster or signaling device on a sunny day at Killdeer Plains.

Ted Floyd's *Smithsonian Field Guide to the Birds of North America* is a good addition to the higher quality guild of general field guides for North America. The book could be especially appealing to a new birder who, though seriously interested in birds, lacks the experience and knowledge of more learned birders. The introductory material covers much ground that serious birders need to know and points the reader in the right direction should he or she wish to learn more. There are 15 short essays scattered throughout the species accounts on various topics, ranging from vagrants to nocturnal migration to brood parasitism. The species coverage is detailed and concise, the photos are good, and the range maps

are clearly marked. The DVD is a nice complement to the book and offers a gateway into the study and appreciation of bird songs and calls. The *Smithsonian Guide* would make a great starter book for the serious beginner. It will not supplant either the *National Geographic Field Guide* (Dunn and Alderfer 2006) or *The Sibley Field Guide to Birds* (Sibley 2000) as guides of choice for more experienced birders, but it is still a solid resource for someone looking for an (or yet another) all-purpose North American field guide.

### **Literature Cited**

- Dunn, J. L. and J. Alderfer (Eds.). 2006. *National Geographic field guide to the birds of North America*. 5th edition. National Geographic, Washington, D. C.
- Peterjohn, B. G. 2001. *The birds of Ohio*. The Wooster Book Company, Wooster.
- Sibley, D. A. 2000. *The Sibley guide to birds*. Alfred A. Knopf, New York.



## Editor's Note

Thank you, readers of the *Ohio Cardinal*, for your patience over the past two years. The publication of the journal has been delayed for several reasons, but we are eager to get the journal back on track in 2010. My thanks to all of the current editorial team with the journal, to Ed Pierce and Bill Whan as well as all of the previous publishers and editors of the journal for all of their hard work to provide this journal. I hope to continue the journal's history of publishing material that is accessible and useful to an audience with varying levels of interest in birds, while offering occasional changes and improvements along the way.

In the process of producing the first few issues with the new editorial structure, we made a mistake that

affected the page number system that had been in place. Because the journal is published in four issues per volume, each issue within a volume continues the page numbering from the previous issue. We neglected to continue this in the Winter 2007-2008 issue and elected to continue using the different page numbering system for the remainder of this volume. The current issue represents the final issue in this volume; in the next volume, we will revert to the continuous page number system. For those citing material in Volume 31 of the *Ohio Cardinal*, it would be best to cite articles using both volume and issue number to avoid confusion.

I strive to continue producing a journal that makes information about Ohio's birds available to researchers and the birding public alike, and look forward to seeing your future contributions to the *Ohio Cardinal*.



*The Counties of Ohio*



*Common Moorhens require larger marshes with heavy vegetation, a habitat that is at a premium in the state of Ohio. Brian Zwiibel photographed this pair in Lucas County on 20 July 2008.*

### **Instructions for Contributors**

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

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

*Winter (Dec, Jan, Feb) - 25 March*

*Spring (Mar, Apr, May) - 25 June*

*Summer (Jun, Jul) - 25 August*

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

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

#### **Back cover:**

*Black-necked Stilts essentially disappeared from Ohio in the 1900s but have begun to rebound in the state. Several nesting attempts were documented in Sandusky and Seneca counties during this season. Terry Lutz photographed this individual in Seneca County on 14 July 2008.*

The Ohio Cardinal  
The Ohio Ornithological Society  
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Columbus, OH 43214

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